

**FACE MASKS STILL REQUIRED IN PUBLIC > PAGE 2**

# STRATEGY SHIFT

## PRAYUT REVEALS NEW 'SMILES' STRATEGY FOR THAI TOURISM RECOVERY

PM Prayut at the Thailand Tourism Congress 2022 in Kata on Monday (June 6). Photo: PR Phuket

**The Phuket News**  
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Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in Phuket on Monday (June 6) announced his strategy to rebuild, rebrand and recover the island's tourism industry into a sustainable model.

Under a new strategy given the acronym "SMILES" as a brainstorming framework, Thailand is ready to be an important tourism destina-

tion of the world in a balanced and sustainable manner, he said during his keynote address at the Thailand Tourism Congress 2022, held at the Beyond Resort Kata.

Present to support PM Prayut's policy announcement were, Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Minister of Labour Suchart Chomklin and Deputy Education Minister Kanokwan Wilawan, along with tourism business operators and the media.

"Tourism is an industry that does not require large investments, but requires close and understanding care, especially environmental care, which is an important component of Thai tourism," PM Prayut said.

"The government is ready to support the strategy of quality tourism and pay more attention to the quality of tourists than the number of tourists.

"It also places importance on responsible tourism that values the environment, to cultural values and

to the value of being Thai as well," he said.

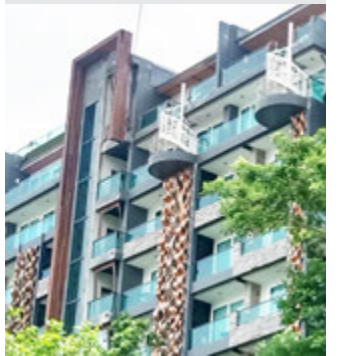
"This is something that tourism related parties throughout Thailand must work together to create a strategy, to have a clear and consistent action plan, and the important thing is to be a good role model," he added.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonchew noted, "This is a signal for many countries to be aware of the government's policy to coexist in balance with COVID. This is to build...

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# News



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## Quality rules in a volatile world

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...confidence among people in the countries that are the main customers of Thai tourism, for us to make a strategic move.

"It is also important for building morale among tour operators to collaborate in brainstorming and designing Thai tourism strategies by themselves," he said.

PM Prayut recognised the hardship suffered by tourism operators over the past two years, but also praised how the private sector had worked with the government in order "to move forward".

"This is for everyone involved in Thai tourism, but especially for the brothers and sisters of Phuket who have worked together to push the Phuket Sandbox to become a role model for many countries," he said.

Phuket's tourism industry was starting to show signs of recovery, PM Prayut noted. "From the statistics, the number of tourists entering the country has increased gradually and will gradually return to normal. When measures are relaxed, especially the conditions for entering the country that are more convenient for tourists, it will play an important role in enhancing Thailand's competitiveness in tourism as well," he said.

Of note, for the first time since the New Year, the number of international arrivals



Governor Narong Woonciew at the TTM 2022 on Monday (June 6). Photo: PR Phuket

landing at Phuket airport breached 4,000 last Friday, Saturday and Sunday (June 3-5). As this issue went to press, the trend was being maintained.

PM Prayut pointed out that the tourism industry needed to broaden its range of products to appeal to more types of tourists.

"The government is ready to push and find measures to promote tourism, especially new tourism products such as ecotourism community tourism. This will help to distribute income to the community and make tourism more sustainable," he said.

"However, the form of Thai tourism [domestic tourism] must be adjusted according to

the situation. A good tourism industry must be a tool to distribute income to the people, both directly and indirectly. This is an important intent of the government, which is determined to build strength to create and distribute income for the people in the tourism industry," he added.

### NEW 'VUCA'

PM Prayut also presented his "VUCA" model for coping with what he called "the rapidly changing future of world tourism on uncertainty and all kinds of challenges".

He defined VUCA was defined as: V – Volatile, U – Uncertainty, C – Complexity, A – Ambiguity

"In dealing with a VUCA

world it is imperative that all parties come together to design a strategy that is flexible and quickly adaptable, especially the fragile tourism industry, which is very sensitive to changes," he added.

"Therefore, it is admirable to jointly design a Thai tourism strategy to be able to cope with the changes of the world. The important trends that many countries are paying attention to are the environment, social issues, especially the issue of inequality and good governance in both the public and private sectors.

"If the Thai tourism industry uses these principles as a policy framework in strategic design, Thailand will have a good tourism strategy and

will be an important starting point for being a quality tourist destination of the world," PM Prayut said.

### SMILES

In developing tourism strategies, PM Prayut presented his "SMILES" framework, which he described as:

S – Sustainability: focuses on sustainability, from energy consumption to carbon footprint to food waste;

M – Manpower: focuses on human resources in the field of skilled tourism at an international level, but maintaining the "charming Thai identity";

I – Inclusive Economy: emphasis on creating a participatory economy, focusing on people of all genders, ages, designing tourist attractions to meet all groups of people and create opportunities to work in tourism for the underprivileged;

L – Localization: focusing on local identity in each area to highlight different strengths and string them together to support each other, with a connection between the regions that is compatible and can be coordinated;

E – Ecosystems: focusing on tourism ecosystems, both natural and business ecosystems related to the tourism industry, including reducing regulations and legal processes in order for the tour-

ism industry to be resistant to change; and

S – Social Innovation: placing emphasis on social innovations that will promote and support the tourism industry to be in line with the changing context of various environmental factors, including giving importance to people who care about the planet and the environment.

"The government is ready to support, promote and jointly solve problems by brainstorming ideas and jointly formulating Thai tourism strategies," PM Prayut assured.

"Today is an important opportunity to jointly define the pathways of the Thai tourism industry – to have a strategy, to be aware of trends and changes in the world in both demand and supply – in order to proudly pass on one of the main industries of the country to the next generation," he said.

"This is the best time for everyone to come together to shape the future of Thai tourism with the tourists themselves, and the government will accept conclusions or proposals from brainstorming strategies for Thai tourism for consideration and will act immediately on what can be done to jointly drive the country's tourism industry to move forward. It is an important force in stimulating the country's economy," PM Prayut concluded.

## Confusion as face mask rule remains

CONFUSION ENSUED as Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew issued a provincial order last week to mandate that face masks must still be worn in public areas, now with new exceptions.

The order, issued on May 31 and brought into effect on June 1, was vaguely worded and allowed for the misunderstanding that the face mask requirement had been dropped, which many news outlets openly reported.

The blitz of news reports erroneously announcing that the face mask rule had been dropped prompted Governor Narong to issue a revision of the order on June 2, replacing the key wording to make it clear that

the face mask rule in Phuket was still in effect.

The revision plainly stated: "Wear a mask or cloth mask to prevent the spread of disease, reduce the risk of infection and prevent unhygienic conditions to limit disease outbreaks when outside the dwelling, personal vehicle or when in public, except that the mask or cloth mask can be removed during eating or drinking or while exercising or to verify identity with government officials and comply with universal prevention measures."

In its report of the easing of face mask measures in Phuket, the *Bangkok Post* cited Don Limnathapisit, chairman of the Muang Kao Phuket community, saying he did not see anything new in the order,

except the exemptions.

Thanet Tantipiriyakit, chairman of the Phuket Tourism Council, said what was new in the latest order was that people were allowed to be free of masks at beaches, parks and stadiums if they were at least two metres apart.

Adding to the confusion were face mask patrols on Bangla Rd in Patong on June 1. Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan and Kathu District Chief Siwat Rawangkul led a sortie of Patong Police, Tourist Police, Kathu District officials, among other officers, along Bangla Rd to "remind" tourists and business operators that the face-mask rule was still in effect.

However, officials seem to be easing their enforcement

of the requirement. Despite foreigners and bar staff seen not wearing face masks on Bangla Rd, there were no reports of any fines or formal warnings for failing to do so.

### PHUKET TOWN

Nightlife venues in Phuket Town were also visited, with inspections by local health officials led by Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong.

The inspections, on June 2, were to ensure the venues comply with the COVID measures still required now that pubs, bars and karaokes have been officially allowed to re-open from June 1.

V/Gov Pichet led the assembly of health officials, Muang District officers and provincial security person-



V/Gov Pichet speaks with a nightlife venue operator in Phuket Town. Image: PPHO

nel at the Expo Night Market on Chanachaoren Rd before launching the inspections, focusing on the area around the Seahorse Circle in the southeast corner of Phuket Town.

V/Gov Pichet and accompanying officials conducted checks on several venues, including the popular Sound Up and Sharks & Chill bars.

The operators were checked for ensuring the venues comply with all measures

required under the Thai Stop COVID 2 Plus (TSC 2+) mandate, including all staff being vaccinated for COVID-19, temperature checks of all staff and patrons and appropriate seating arrangements with enough space between tables to comply with the measures.

However, the main focus was to ensure that all venues were well ventilated.

*The Phuket News*

# Woman dies in condo plunge

## National police join investigation, arrest warrants sought

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
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Senior officials from the national Royal Thai Police have joined the ongoing investigation into the case of a Russian woman who fell to her death at a condo in Patong last week.

Evgeniia Smirnova, 35, fell eight stories at The Emerald Terrace condo off Phra Barami Rd in Patong in the early hours of May 31. Police and emergency workers were called to the scene around 4:30am where they found the body of Ms Smirnova. It was confirmed that she had died of fatal head trauma owing to her fall.

Three other people who were in the company of Ms Smirnova at the condo prior to the incident were arrested the following day on drug charges after 1.1 grammes of finely chopped dried marijuana was found in a transparent plastic bag in the room where Ms Smirnova was staying, confirmed Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong.



Ms Smirnova (inset) fell from the eighth floor of the condo building. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Russian national Natalia Kosenkova, 35, US citizen Jamaal Antwaun Smith, 38, and Jordanian national Ahmad Radi Mustafa Alatoom, 28, were arrested on May 31 and taken to Patong Police Station where they were charged with possession of Category 5 drug.

Mr Alatoom was apprehended at Phuket International Airport on the night of May 31 as he was waiting to board a flight.

The three were also questioned further about the incident of Ms Smirnova's death but all had thus far been unwilling to cooperate, Gen Sermphan said.

National Police Com-

missioner Pol Gen Suwat Chaengyodsuk on June 3 confirmed he had instructed a team to conduct a thorough investigation into the case using reliable witness accounts and forensic evidence to draw a fast and accurate conclusion.

Royal Thai Police deputy spokesman Col Krissana Patanacharoen confirmed that Ms Smirnova had entered Phuket on May 25. Nothing was being ruled out as to whether Ms Smirnova fell accidentally or whether foul play was involved, he said.

Col Krissana explained that officers had inspected the crime scene and studied CCTV footage from the condo as part

of the investigation and that further potential witnesses near or around the scene at the time of the incident had been questioned.

He also confirmed that the three foreigners arrested on the drug charge who were present drinking and partying with Ms Smirnova on the evening of her death were also still being questioned.

On Monday, Col Krissana said in an announcement that officers investigating Ms Smirnova's death were expected to apply to Phuket Provincial Court for an arrest warrant on Tuesday (June 7).

Col Krissana assured that police had not been complicit

in their investigation of Ms Smirnova's death.

The warrant will request the arrests of the three people who were staying with Ms Smirnova at the condo at the time of her death, Col Krissana said.

The warrant is in order for police to press charges against all three, Col Krissana said in his announcement.

Forensic investigators and an autopsy of Ms Smirnova's body were important factors in the investigation, he said.

Regardless, Col Krissana noted that investigating officers "have not ruled out any issues of the case".

National police chief

Gen Suwat had previously explained that while the investigation was ongoing people should only trust official sources for updates on the case and not trust external sources that could cause confusion by sharing misinformation.

He added that it was important that confidence is instilled in local residents and tourists and that cooperation was therefore needed at that time.

Police stated that if anyone had any information on the case, they can report it to the Royal Thai Police call centre on phone numbers 191 or 1599, both of which are available 24 hours a day.



Jordanian national Ahmad Radi Mustafa Alatoom, 28, was arrested at Phuket airport while trying to leave the country. Photo: Royal Thai Police



Staff celebrate the closing of the field hospital. Photo: Phuket Rajabhat University

## PRU field hospital closes

THE FIELD HOSPITAL set up at Phuket Rajabhat University to provide care and accommodation to people who had tested positive for COVID-19 has finally been closed.

The end of the era was marked with a ceremony led by Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) Deputy Director Padungkiat Utokasenee at the university on May 31.

Joining the event were Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Somprat Prabsongram, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) Vice

President Thiwat Seedokub, Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Weerasak Lorthongkham and Phuket Rajabhat University President Asst Prof Dr Hiran Prasarnkan.

The university had provided a venue to provide care for a total of 3,195 COVID patients suffering minor symptoms from August 2021 to March 2022, said Mr Padungkiat.

The university made available its Khun Lert Phokarak Conference Room and Khunying Kanchana Na Ranong meeting hall, together providing 285 beds with a common area in two

zones, he added.

"The return of the area to PKRU [the university] at this time is a victory that Phuket people can overcome COVID-19 by relying on cooperation from all sectors – and above all the sacrifice and dedication of doctors, nurses, government officials and members of the private sector to perform their duties as a team, and all the volunteers who have helped the people of Phuket in a timely manner and return happiness to the people of Phuket," Mr Padungkiat said.

*The Phuket News*

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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT JUNE 11



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Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN JUNE 12



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON JUNE 13



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE JUNE 14



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED JUNE 15



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU JUNE 16



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Man dies amid theft from closed hotel

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
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A Myanmar national working on the construction of a large sewage treatment pond for Patong Municipality was found dead behind a small closed hotel near the construction site early last Friday morning (June 3).

The man had been electrocuted while attempting to steal power cables, or even a transformer, at the back of the hotel, said police.

Patong Police were called to the scene, behind the Patong Dynasty hotel, on the corner of Soi Rath-U-Thit 200 Pi 2 and Phra Metta Rd, at about 2am.

Officers at rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation arrived to find the body of the man, later identified as 23-year-old Min Min Ao, tangled in power cables at the bottom of a power pole that was also supporting a small transformer.

Power had to be shut off before Mr Min Min Ao's body could be recovered and taken to Patong Hospital.

The foreman of the construction camp where Mr Min Min Ao was staying said that the young man had not been seen at the camp since 7pm the night before.

Concerned for his whereabouts, two friends went searching for him. After initially failing to find him, the pair came across the body of their friend while returning to the workers' camp, located near the construction site of the sewage treatment pond near the Rath-U-Thit 200 Pi 2 Bridge, which crosses the Pak Bang Canal.

Pongphat Patongsap, owner of the



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Patong Dynasty hotel on the corner of Soi Rath-U-Thit 200 Pi 2 and Phra Metta Rd, where Mr Min Min Ao's body was found, said he did not hear the news until 9am that day.

"This morning [June 3] I brought flowers, incense and candles to tell the deceased that I offer my forgiveness, and to tell him that he is dead so let's not disturb each other. Let's go back to the home country to see relatives and find his wife and children at home," Mr Pongphat said.

## RISING CRIME

Mr Pongphat's Patong Dynasty hotel, a seven-story guesthouse, has been closed for about three years, and is not the only target of people stealing power cables and other items, he said.

The back of the hotel was sectioned off with the standard green cloth when the construction of the sewage treatment pond started some

three years ago, Mr Pongphat said.

The cloth obscured the view from the street giving thieves ample opportunity to steal what they wanted, mostly the hotel's electrical equipment, he said.

"The thieves break in at night and have stolen the property five times already, worth hundreds of thousands of baht," Mr Pongphat said.

Runrak Warittrakul, who is the owner of the Raha Gold Residence, or Sharaya Style Patong, a few doors down the street to the north, and the owner of the Raha Grand Hotel on the south side of the bridge, said her hotels had been targeted by thieves as well.

"While the hotel has been unable to open for three years, at least three burglaries have been carried out. Among the items stolen have been two elevators," Ms Runrak said.

"We have no income. The build-

ing does not have a transformer. The cooker has been stolen. There have been three reports of theft and about six people have been caught," she said.

"The hotel is now closed and using solar power because the transformer has been stolen. And if you want a new transformer, you need to spend about B300,000.

"We have had to endure this for years now. There is no entrance to the hotel because the road is closed. There is no definite date when it will be finished, because they keep pushing it back. We have asked for a streetlight in front of the hotel and they will not even give it," she said.

"I want the government to help alleviate our suffering. Give us some entrance to the hotel, and now the building is cracked because of the pile driving. I would like to ask the responsible agencies here to help us as well," said Ms Runrak.

## Shots fired as police pursue suspect in Rawai

POLICE SHOT OUT A fleeing suspect's tyres before the suspect fled on foot on Wiset Rd in Rawai last Friday afternoon (June 3).

One witness told *The Phuket News* that police blocked traffic at the U-turn near the Seashell Museum at about 1:50pm, presumably to prevent the suspect from evading police.

Traffic backed up and police moved in on the suspect's vehicle, a red Mazda 2 sedan.

As one officer moved in he fired twice at the vehicle, followed by three more shots followed by one



One of the officers moves in on the suspect's vehicle. Screenshot: Courtesy of Carsten Ritter

more final shot.

People at the scene reported that the suspect fled on foot through a small restaurant beside the road.

Police have yet to comment on the incident.

*The Phuket News*

## Fisherman falls from rocks, drowns

A MAN FISHING ON ROCKS AT BANANA Beach last Sunday (June 5) drowned after he slipped and fell into the water.

Cherng Talay Police were notified of the incident at 2:50pm last Sunday afternoon.

Officers arrived to be told that Sakrin Bulan, 47, had come to the rocks with his wife to go fishing.

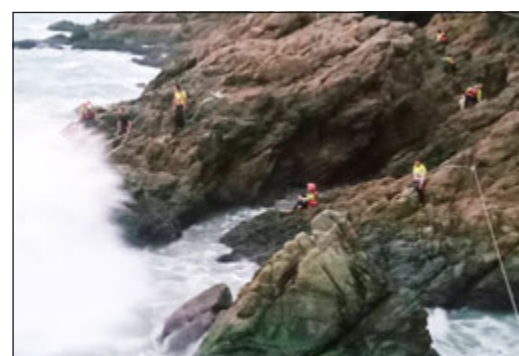
Mr Sakrin slipped on the wet rocks. He managed to reach out and grab his wife's hand, but his hand slipped and he fell into the water below.

His wife shouted out for help. Two people nearby rushed to render assistance, but were unable to due to the strong waves crashing into the rocks. The wife then called 191.

A search for Mr Sakrin was launched, but strong wind and waves restricted police and rescue workers to only scouring the shore for any sign of him.

Local lifeguards searched the waters by using two jet-skis.

The body of Mr Sakrin was reported to be seen being pushed up against the rocks,



Rescue workers search for Mr Sakrin last Sunday (June 5). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

but then disappeared from view. Later a pair of boots were found floating on the water.

The search was suspended as darkness fell due to the dangerous conditions, but was resumed the next day.

Search teams on Monday (June 6) found Mr Sakrin's body along the rocky coastline some 200 metres from where he fell into the water. Efforts took two hours to recover his body.

*Eakkapop Thongtub*

# Patong Tunnel inches forward

The Phuket News  
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Surachet Laophulsuk, Governor of the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT), in Phuket on June 1 said the Patong Tunnel project was on track for construction to begin in December 2023 and open for service in December 2027.

Mr Surachet explained the statuses of the Patong Tunnel project, officially called the Kathu-Patong Expressway Project, and the Muang Mai-Koh Kaew-Kathu Expressway Project at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 1 joined by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew, Vice Governor Pichet Panapong and a host of other officials.

Both expressways will be constructed as "Joint Investment" projects, Mr Surachet said.

For the Patong Tunnel project, EXAT on Mar 29 issued an order appointing a selection committee and on May 20 EXAT signed an 'Integrity Pact' with observers from the government corruption watchdog Anti-Corruption Thailand to participate as independent observers of



Construction of the Patong Tunnel project is expected to begin in December 2023 and the roads open for use in December 2027, Mr Surachet said. Photo: PR Phuket

the selection process, Mr Surachet said.

"Currently, the essence of the draft invitation announcement is being prepared, as well as the draft documents for private selection and draft investment contracts, as part of the preparation of investor interest assessment (Market Sounding) conducted during January 2023," he said.

"Construction is expected to begin in December 2023 and open for service in December 2027," he added.

Regarding the Muang Mai-Koh Kaew-Kathu Expressway Project, Mr Surachet

said that EXAT had signed a contract to hire a consulting group comprising M.A. Consultants Co Ltd, Asian Engineering Consultants Co Ltd, PSK Consultants Co and Pre-Development Consultants Co Ltd to conduct feasibility studies to research the engineering, economics, finance and environmental impact of the project.

The project will stretch some 30km, starting at the intersection of Thepkasattri Rd with Highway 4026, which leads to Nai Yang Beach, EXAT Deputy Governor Gardphajon Udomdhammahakdi

explained during a visit to Phuket in June last year.

The expressway will parallel Thepkasattri Rd all the way through Srisoonthorn and will provide a connection with the main intersection in Koh Kaew, then continue to run parallel with the bypass road to finally connect with Route 4029 in Kathu, which will allow motorists to use the Patong Tunnel, he said.

Mr Surachet on June 1 explained that the consulting group now hired began work on Apr 1 and had 450 days to complete their research,

"Currently, the feasibility

study is underway," he said. "According to the operational plan for the project, we have now completed 10.3% of the plan. Construction is expected to begin in December 2024 with the expressway opening for service in December 2027.

"The plan is to conduct a feasibility study for 15 months, which includes a plan to hold the first public hearing on project orientation, the second public hearing on the result of selecting an appropriate alternative model, and the third public hearing to present a summary of the project," Mr Surachet said.

The public hearings are to be held in July 2022, November 2022 and March 2023, respectively, he added.

"This is to ensure the project implementation is prudent, efficient and integrated. EXAT therefore arranged a meeting to discuss between EXAT and the Governor of Phuket and related agencies regarding details and plans to study engineering feasibility, economy, finance and environmental impact Muang Mai-Koh Kaew-Kathu Expressway Project in order for Phuket Province [the provincial officials] to be aware of EXAT's project develop-

ment guidelines, as well as to exchange ideas that will benefit the project further," Mr Surachet said.

Of note, not mentioned in reports of the meeting by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket), Radio Thailand Phuket or national state news agency NNT was that the Patong Tunnel project at last report is budgeted to cost B14.67 billion.

The Muang Mai-Koh Kaew-Kathu Expressway project at last report in 2020 was budgeted to cost B30bn, equating to roughly B1.4bn per kilometre for the then reported 22.4km route.

Also not mentioned were the costs of the feasibility studies already conducted into the two projects, or the amounts being spent on the current round of feasibility studies.

Of note, the report by PR Phuket did not recognise Governor Narong's presence at the meeting, despite the fact the Governor sat beside Mr Surachet all throughout the meeting. The PR Phuket report also avoided publishing any photos confirming that the Governor was present.

## Main reservoirs nearing capacity

PHUKET RECEIVED SO MUCH RAINFALL last week that the three main reservoirs on the island are now in danger of overflowing, Udomporn Kan, Chief of the Phuket Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM-Phuket), has warned

"The water volume at the three main reservoirs of Phuket has been increasing steadily. As of June 1, Bang Neow Dam reservoir in Thalang was 96.5% full. It is now holding 6.94 million cubic metres of water. The reservoir has a capacity at 7.19 million cubic metres," Mr Udomporn said.

Khleng Kratha reservoir in Chalong, with a capacity of 4.14mn cubic metres, currently has 4.05mn cubic metres of water and is 98% full, he added.

"Bang Wad reservoir in Kathu, has a capacity of 10.2mn cubic metres, and is currently holding 10.03mn cubic metres of water. It is 98.3% full and there will be more water during this period of heavy rain," Mr Udomporn said.

However, having the reservoirs full also bodes well for Phuket in its need to provide household water supply, Mr Udomporn added.

"From the amount of rainfall that has fallen, the amount of water in the three main reservoirs is considered good for water management in Phuket," he said.

### ON GUARD

Phuket disaster officials last week were tasked with keeping watch on water-soaked danger areas and local canals across the island to identify risk areas for landslips and flowing water bursting canal banks, Mr Udomporn also explained.

The heavy downpours required heightened safety measures, he said.



Phuket's three main reservoirs are nearly full, with more runoff yet to flow into the basins. Photo: PR Phuket

"DDPM-Phuket has notified the district and local government organisations and related agencies to monitor their areas and prepare to take action in case of flash floods, wild water flows, landslips and mudslides, and the risk of overflowing riverbanks and flooding," Mr Udomporn said.

"Local officials have been tasked with keeping watch on their areas and to closely monitor weather conditions 24 hours a day to keep an eye on the cumulative amount of rain, especially in risk areas at the bottom of hills, in lowland area and urban areas that may be affected," he said.

Despite the rains starting to ease at the end of last week, Mr Udomporn noted the risk remained while the runoff had yet to settle.

"Local [government] offices have been tasked with ensuring that the relevant staff and machinery are stationed at risk points across the island so they can respond to any incidents in a timely manner and coordinate with any departments necessary," he said.

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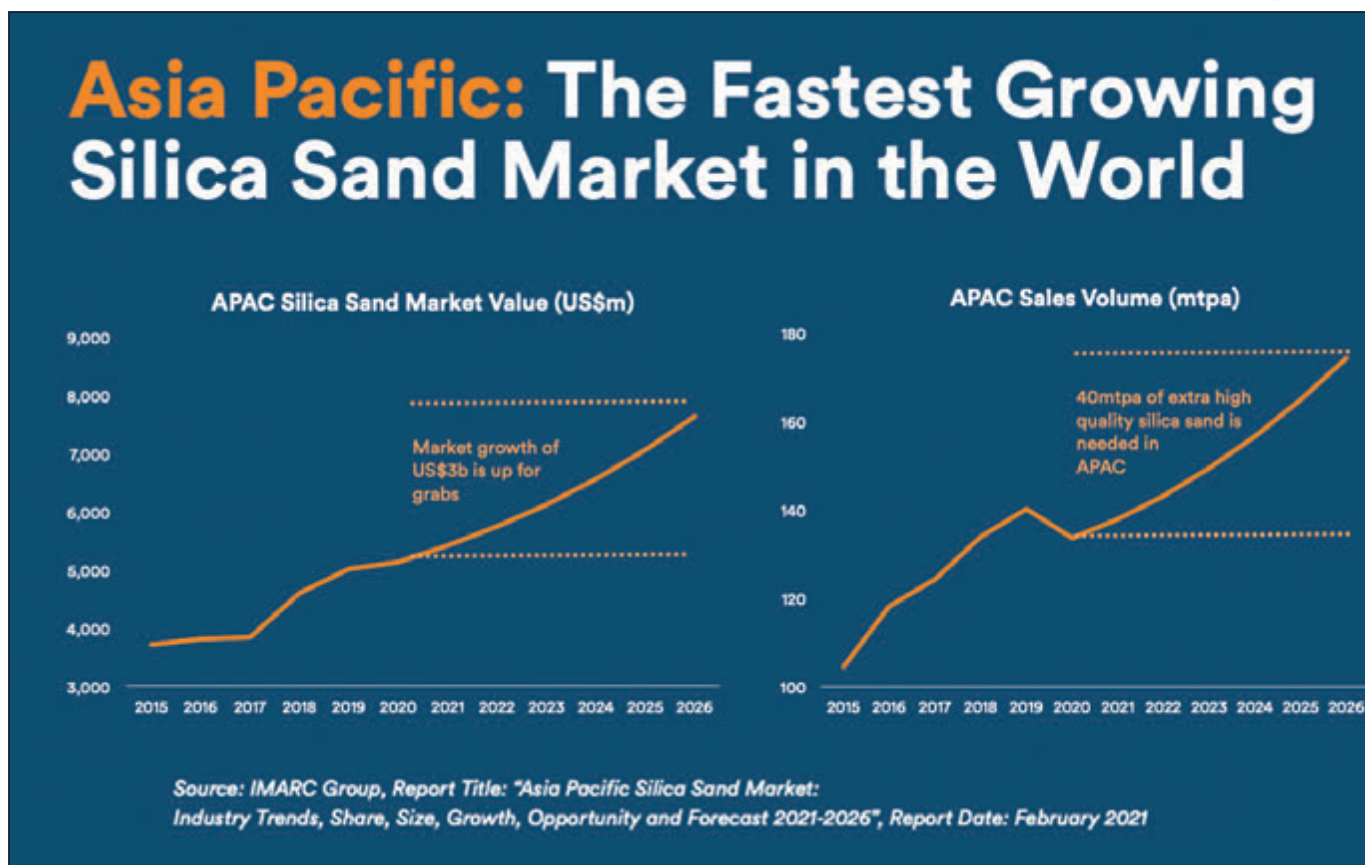
# Ever had a Ten Bagger?

## ADVERTORIAL

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A “Ten Bagger” is an investment that goes up 10 times (1,000%) or more. The Ten Bagger Club is an international information-sharing club whose members try to identify stocks with 10 bagger potential. The latest promising stock identified by the club is a small company listed on the Australian stock exchange called Industrial Minerals Ltd (stock code IND.AX).

IND.AX are coming to Phuket on Sunday, June 12 to give a presentation to the Phuket chapter of The 10 Bagger club at Drinks & Co, the wine and drinks bar in Boat Avenue, Cherng Talay. The event will run from 3pm to 5pm and is open to everyone, drinks after. Beers and pizza will be served in a casual setting where you can meet fellow Phuket investors looking for exciting opportunities. This is just a social and information-sharing event, no investment advice is given in the club.



IND.AX owns large tracts of high-grade silica sand in Australia. Silica sand is needed for making glass, and there is currently a growing shortage of glass in Asia and globally. Alarming to many Phuketians may be the recent warnings by beer companies like San Miguel

and Heineken that they may not be able to produce enough beer bottles this year! Beer bottles aside, the main shortage for glass is due to the ever-growing construction industry in Asia, plus the world's fast-expanding need for solar panels, computer screens and mobile phones.

Silica sand is also needed in paints, iron foundries, water purification, ceramics, oil and gas and golf course bunkers!

The shortage has been exacerbated by new environmental policies in China, and Southeast Asian countries, limiting the increasingly ecologically destructive practice

used in the region of wide-scale dredging of silica sand in rivers. This is cutting supply drastically in Asia. Ocean sand comes from limestone, (sea shells and coral) not silica, so cannot be used for glass making.

Asian glass-makers are currently estimated to be

short of almost US\$3 billion of silica sand per year already, and Silica sand prices are rising, and are expected to keep rising considerably over the next years as the glass shortage should only grow as China, Korea, Japan and other Asian economies get back on track after their COVID lockdowns.

The easiest place for Asia to get this new supply is from the vast tracts of untouched high-grade silica sand in Australia. IND.AX owns 14 huge sites on private farmland and has been identified by the Ten Bagger club as one of the companies best placed to gain from this growing Asian demand deficit.

IND still only has a tiny market cap of under US\$17 million today, but that could appreciate greatly over the coming years as IND expects to take on more and more lucrative long-term sand-supply contracts from Asia to fill the growing shortfall.

For more information head along to this educational but casual event. There will also be a presentation by Firebird Metals Ltd (FRB.AX), a promising manganese producer in Australia.

## Vietjet resumes direct flights from Ho Chi Minh to Phuket

THE FIRST VIETJET Air flight from Ho Chi Minh City after the pandemic landed in Phuket on June 3, marking the comeback of the service of four flights per week, serving reviving travel demand between Thailand and Vietnam.

The inaugural flight from Ho Chi Minh City with 174 travellers on board landed in Phuket at 11:10am, welcomed in person by Phuket International Airport General Manager Monchai Tanode, Chief of Commercial and Financial Planning Department Wichitra Prateep Na Thalang and other relevant officials.

Vietjet was represented by Sutatta Thamchinda, Head of Corporate PR and Special Events at Thai Vietjet Air, the airport said in a notice on Facebook.

The Ho Chi Minh City to Phuket route will operate a return flight every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday with a flight duration of approximately two hours per leg.



Phuket welcomed Vietjet's first flight from Ho Chi Minh City on June 3. Photo: Phuket International Airport

Ho Chi Minh City flights VJ809 will depart at 9am and land at 10:55am, Phuket flights VJ808 will depart at noon and land at 1:50pm. So far these are the only flights operated by Vietjet to and from Phuket.

The resumed direct international service uses Airbus A320 aircrafts with

180 seats, with no business class available. Tickets start from B480 without taxes and fees and B2,000 with taxes and fees included.

According to Phuket Airport Immigration Daily Reports, the island welcomed just 118 Vietnamese travelers during May 1-31.

The Phuket News

## Novotel Phuket Kata Avista, PSU unite to give students experience

A MEMORANDUM OF Understanding was signed between Novotel Phuket Kata Avista Resort and Spa and the Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus on May 30 in an agreement to develop their academic and industry links under a principle of mutual understanding, mutual benefits and common interests.

The agreement was signed in a ceremony at the Kata Beach resort by General Manager Vineet Mahajan and the Dean of Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, Dr Pornpisanu Promsivapallop.

The agreement endeavours to promote links in teaching, training, internships and co-operative education, research and related joint activities.

“This partnership allows us not just to share knowledge and best practices from the hospitality industry but also provide students, who are the future hospitality leaders, to gain real life industry insights and experiences which will help further advance their academic and career growth,” said Mr Mahajan.

Dr Pornpisanu further



The MoU to provide hospitality students with real-life experience was signed on May 30. Photo: Supplied

elaborated, “The most important aspect of this agreement is that it gives our students opportunity to have real work experience, especially in an international hotel chain. The students will study at the university, but then have this opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills into real business practices.”

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding follows a similar such agreement with Avista Grand Phuket Karon-MGallery last month, further demonstrating the commitment of Avista Hotels and Resorts to forging advantageous partnerships within the local community.

The Phuket News

# No plan for fifth COVID shot

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Ministry of Public Health has yet to endorse a fifth COVID-19 jab for the general public over concerns about its efficacy and safety, the Department of Disease Control said on Monday (June 6).

DDC director-general Opas Karnkawinpong said those who believe they need to get a fifth shot should consult their physicians.

These include those who need to travel to China (which requires foreign visitors to have two Sinovac or Sinopharm jabs) or Japan (which mandates three shots – one of which should be an mRNA vaccine).

Those who have had four shots but suffer from low immunity against COVID due to underlying health conditions and/or other factors may also be recommended for a fifth shot by their doctors, though the recommendation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Separately, the chief of the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration's (CCSA) operations centre Supoj Malaniyom dismissed claims that the government will start rolling out the fifth shot as the vaccines it has in stock are about to expire.

"We ask people not to worry about expiration dates because we will not distribute expired vaccines. We have yet to allow everyone to get their fifth shot," he said.



The DDC has said any recommendation on a fifth shot will be made on a case-by-case basis by medical experts. Photo: AFP

Meanwhile, Dr Prasit Watanapa, dean of the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University has said Thailand is ready to treat COVID-19 as an endemic disease, largely thanks to decreasing daily infections, a falling death rate and better public health security.

In a keynote speech at a Forbes event in Bangkok on Monday, Dr Prasit said that figures released in April indicated that COVID-19 is now in decline globally.

The renowned doctor also noted that several countries now allow people not to wear face masks outdoors if they wish.

He said that the appearance of the Omicron variant had taught the country a valuable lesson in how to control a fast-spreading outbreak without consequence due to its relatively mild symptoms.

Any new variant that could derail the global recovery would have to spread

even more rapidly and also induce far more severe symptoms, which seems highly unlikely, if not impossible, at the moment.

"Whether classified as endemic or not, what we are ultimately concerned with are the two key qualities of 'predictability' and 'manageability'. Right now, I believe that the country is ready to treat COVID-19 as an endemic disease," Dr Prasit stressed.

He went on to warn that the country should prepare for the next pandemic and increase vaccine technology development and the available levels of medical equipment that are known to quickly fall into short supply.

"Further investment in mRNA-based vaccines is very important as it has the potential to facilitate the production of vaccines against newly emerging diseases within six months," he said.



Photo: AFP

# Bangkok celebrates first Pride parade in 16 years

## BANGKOK

THAILAND'S CAPITAL saw an explosion of glamour, gilt, and glitter on Sunday (June 5) as the country's LG-BTQ community celebrated their first Pride parade in almost 16 years.

"Naruemit Pride 2022" was organised by a coalition of non-governmental groups with the city's newly ratified governor Chadchart Sittiput also throwing his weight behind it.

Allies and people of all genders, including drag artists, sex workers, feminists and even a few furies – people who are interested in or dress up as animal characters with human personalities – bounded down one of the megalopolis's main thoroughways for the first official parade since 2006.

For engaged couple Anticha Sangchai and Vorawan Ramwan, the question of marriage equality was particularly pertinent.

The pair in diaphanous white gowns caught the crowd's attention – and later social media – with their wedding ceremony in the midst of the parade which Anticha called an "honour".

"My beloved friends walk together and gave us a special moment in our life," she said.

"I don't want people to think we are different," said Maysa Petkam, a competitor in transgender beauty pageant Miss Tiffany Universe.

"We don't want more rights than other genders, we only want basic rights," she said, noting how the community still faced daily discrimination.

While Thailand has a highly visible LGBTQ community, many still face major hurdles and discrimination in the conservative Buddhist-majority country.

Parliament has yet to legalise same-sex marriage, with the Cabinet in March pushing back a proposal recognising the unions equally. AFP

# Boom time for Thai cannabis

## BANGKOK

CANNABIS WAS SCHEDULED TO BE removed from the Category 5 narcotics list yesterday (June 9), allowing people to grow an unlimited number of plants at home.

The delisting of cannabis as a narcotic does not mean people can use it freely, especially for recreation. Homegrown cannabis is allowed only for health and medical purposes, and people have to register the cultivation first with provincial administrative organisations, or via the mobile application Pluk Kan, developed and operated by the Food and Drug Administration.

Despite the legal easing, extracts containing more than 0.2% of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive compound in cannabis, will still be recognised as a Category 5 substance and regulated under laws pertaining to narcotics control and suppression.

Anyone who intends to grow marijuana plants for commercial purposes will have to seek permission from the responsible authorities.

Sittichai Daengprasert, chief executive of JSP Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (Thailand), a medicine and nutritional supplements distributor, sees both villagers and businesspeople benefiting from the growth of the cannabis industry, with the potential for further development into various products.

Only oil extracted from marijuana with a THC content greater than 0.2% will be



Photo: Bangkok Post

categorised as a narcotic, meaning other parts can be legally planted and traded for medical purposes, health promotion and other businesses.

Mr Sittichai said the move should kick-start the development of cannabis in a range of industries, from medicine to cosmetics and food, marking a "new era" for the plant in Thailand.

While entrepreneurs will be able to set up new businesses, the public now has new medical treatment options that could help them save money, he said.

Cannabidiol (CBD) oil extracted from cannabis can be used for the treatment of many ailments.

The CBD oil market has an estimated value of B100 billion, according to JSP.

JSP and representatives of cannabis farmers and factory operators recently met Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul to discuss a proposal to reduce the legal procedures required to run cannabis businesses.

The easing of these rules should help community enterprises that plant marijuana and supply it to factories, said Mr Sittichai.

Bangkok Post

# One Phuket Sustainability Fair & Lean On Me Live Fest 2

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Moody Paul  
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Phuket News NEWS TV Новости Phuket LIVE 89.5



# Going Potty



Photo: Ceyda Ciftci / Unsplash

## Selecting containers for your plants



### GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

**Y**our choice of pots is as crucial as your choice of plants. Any professional horticulturalist will tell you that flexible black grow-bags are the cheapest plant containers available. They are light, durable and easy on the pocket. Substantial ones can even be buried in the soil wherein small palms and large shrubs can be contained and yet still draw on the surrounding nutrients and moisture.

Only slightly more pricey are rigid plastic pots which come in a huge range of sizes and shapes. Typically, they have lots of drainage holes, and both heat and cool quickly, so essential micro-organisms are not easily damaged, even when the pots are in sunny locations. The small sizes are especially convenient for seeds, seedlings and annuals. But as petroleum products, they are not environmentally friendly. And they are utilitarian rather than aesthetic. This is one reason why they are so often concealed inside so-called “cachepots”.

Unglazed terracotta containers are a step up. Visually appealing, they both look and are natural, and for those who like such ornamentation, can be bought with raised decorative patterns. But they do tend to break easily, especially during the tricky process of re-potting, so avoid large sizes. And they are porous, which means that they draw moisture from the potting mix, and consequently dry out more quickly. Evaporation is a real issue.

My preference, and that of most people, is for glazed ceramic pots. They are much stronger and have the important advantage of retaining moisture better than unglazed terracotta containers. Stacked high in most garden centers, the commonest type here in Phuket is khaki-coloured, with a rudimentary etched pattern. Personally I prefer plain pots with a dark brown matt finish. Prices vary from about



Photo: Bady Abbas / Unsplash

B120 to B400 for gigantic ones.

On the other hand you may feel it worth expending a few more pennies on pots fired in a range of colourful and glossy glazes – of which the blue ones are perhaps the most aesthetically appealing. They are considerably more expensive, but look elegant, especially indoors. Personally I avoid ceramic containers with garish designs: they threaten to upstage the flowers.

Rectangular concrete containers are elegantly slim and modernist. They are extremely solid, usually come in a muted and attractive shade of grey, and will not topple over in high winds. They can be purchased in much larger sizes too, so they are suitable for large shrubs and even small trees such as palms. Self-stacking, modular concrete planters are also available on the market. One drawback: they contain lime, which can be toxic to plants such as azaleas, heathers and hydrangeas. So wash them thoroughly before use.

Stores such as Index, or Home Pro and trendy nurseries may offer plastic or resin “faux” versions of these containers. These realistically simulate textured concrete without possessing its heaviness. If money is no object, you might even consider high-grade, imported stainless steel. Such containers

are tarnish-proof and indestructible. Personally I would consider wood only for “cachepots”, since the material deteriorates quickly in Phuket’s humid climate.

You need not be limited to circular or square shapes. Troughs are more suitable for narrow patios and balconies, along window sills, or lined up at the base of a wall. In general and because they hold less soil, they are best suited to smaller plants such as bulbs, annuals and herbs.

Two things are worth bearing in mind. Check to make sure your pots or troughs have a hole in the bottom – unless you are choosing a watery home for a lotus or a water lily. Plants require a balance between water retention and good drainage. Saturated by moisture, most will literally drown, or suffer root rot. Secondly, use a waterproof saucer or platen under each container. It will prevent any staining of your precious “sailang” or tiling, and will offer a rough pointer when the soil in your pot is getting dry. Plastic saucers, if you can find them, have certain advantages. Not only are they cheaper than ceramic ones, their slippery bases allow heavy pots to be easily moved around.

Since there is inevitably not much soil in a single pot, it needs to be of

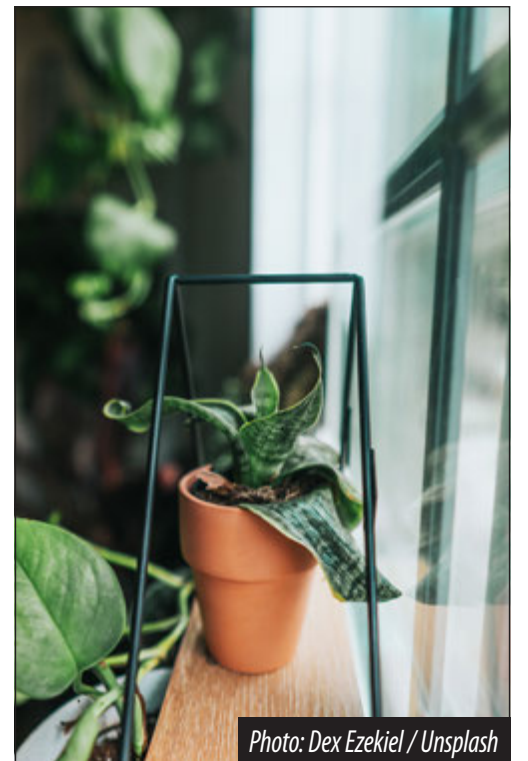


Photo: Dex Ezekiel / Unsplash

good quality. And as I know to my cost, most soil tends to compact when constantly watered, especially if it contains clay. So it is better to mix one part of ordinary loam with one part compost [the stuff in white bags] or one part of coconut husk or coconut fibre. Silica-loving cacti and succulents will need a dash of sand as well. Such potting mixtures retain more water, and, being both friable and porous, will allow the roots some freedom to expand in their new environment. A proprietary fertiliser can be applied at regular intervals (15-15-15 is OK), but it is important not to overfeed, especially when the soil is dry. Over-feeding and over-watering are anathema to most pot plants.

Don’t neglect them, but equally, don’t kill them with kindness.

*Dr Patrick Campbell can be contacted at his home Camelot, located at 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13; Rawai; Phuket 83130. Tel:66 076613227 (landline), 065-5012326 or 085-7827551 (mobile). His book The Tropic Gardener, an indispensable guide to plants and their cultivation in Thailand, is available from Seng Ho bookshop in Phuket Town or Delish in Rawai, or arrange a copy to be delivered by emailing him at drpaccampbell@gmail.com*

# Thank you, Donna Toon!

Chris Howson

breakfast@classactmedia.co.th

**A**s you may have heard, after more than 12 years in our community, Donna is packing up her Toons and heading back to the motherland. For a woman who has given her entire heart to Phuket for over a decade, it seems an impossible task to articulate how much she means to us... and frankly, it is. I'm not even sure her husband Scot himself can keep track of all her charities, events, committees, sports or Prime Minister's besties.

Luckily, I don't really need to tell you what Donna means to us, you probably already know. Whether you are an island newbie, or an old salt like me, you have more than likely had a suspiciously pleasant encounter with this human incarnation of a sunflower. I mean... no one is really that lovely, are they?

## Let's see what Phuket has to say:

"From the moment Donna & Scot Toon stepped on the island 12 years ago, they embraced our community. Whether touch rugby, family football, ladies hiking, tennis tournaments, if Donna wasn't organising it, they were there to support it. Their children, Jackson and Oliver are each born two weeks after both our kids and became fast friends, which naturally brought our two families together.

"We adore Donna for her infectious laugh and her signature 'bubbles' in hand and the Toon's will be sorely missed on our rock! As I have said, 'Au Revoir' just means 'farewell until we next meet'. See you in Christchurch!"

– Chantal Fernandes, British Honorary-Consul for Phuket

"Donna, Scot, the Toons, you are an example to



us all, positive, caring and giving, showing us how to live a balanced life. You will be missed. Thank you for being part of the Live 89.5 and *The Phuket News* family. Best of luck on your new adventures, we'll see you soon, mates."

– Jason Beavan

"If you want something done, ask a busy person."

Donna Toon is surely the first person who comes to mind. For more than 10 years, if funds were needed for a worthy cause, no matter how many projects she was already working on, Donna would be there to help. She'd bring enthusiasm, professionalism and

fun to the party! In Phuket, Donna Toon is synonymous with charity... Her fundraising firsts include Ride4Kids and an annual International Women's Day Lunch. A founding member of One Phuket, during the pandemic she worked tirelessly to support those in desperate need... There are so many people who will miss Donna, Phuket's loss is undoubtedly Christchurch's gain. DT, it's not goodbye, we'll see you soon for a lemonade!"

– Tina Hall

"Donna and Scot Toon have been great pillars of the community here in Phuket. We've appreciated Donna's critical work on supporting important charities and advancing the recognition of women's critical role in society through her tireless work on International Women's Day. Scot has similarly been a critical voice in Phuket's economic resurgence over the past two years. Despite being our cousins from across the Tasman, the Australian Consulate-General will miss their contribution to life here on the island – and I think that says a lot! Best of luck with your next chapter. You have done NZ proud. Phuket will miss you."

– Matthew Barclay, Australian Consulate-General

And if somehow you missed all that, you surely know Donna as the undisputed Diva of FM Radio. Whether she made you bop along to her latest "Toon's Tunes", feel like a superstar on "Lounge at Live" or "DT on the Streets" or made you giggle with how she says "deck", Donna Toon is unquestionably a true talent. It has been my great pleasure to share not only a frequency, but also a friendship with DT all these years. I've never known a Phuket without the Toons, but there is no doubt Phuket is a better place for having them.

If you ever find yourself in Christchurch, swing by Brighton Beach House, knock back a few lemonades with Mrs Toon and send her our love.



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POP QUIZ

- 1. Which American territory is unofficially known as "Where America's day begins"?
- 2. How tall was Napoleon Bonaparte?
- 3. How many Academy Awards was the original Rocky movie nominated for?
- 4. Gilmore's Garden in New York City was renamed in 1879 and is now known by which name?
- 5. In which year did France last use the guillotine for capital punishment?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

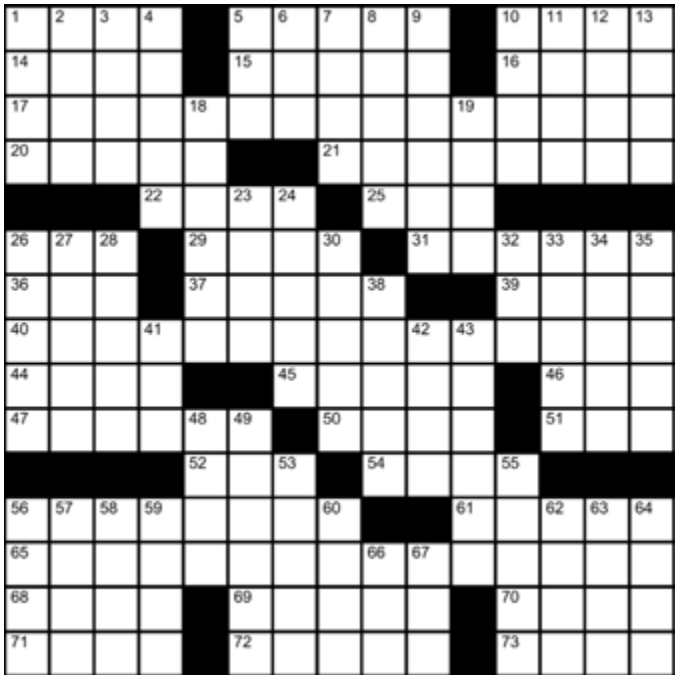
- Across

  - 1. Buddhist temples
  - 5. About
  - 10. Jackknife
  - 14. Touch
  - 15. Relating to a district
  - 16. Computerphile
  - 17. Real things
  - 20. Loose talk?
  - 21. Trial run, of a type
  - 22. Nip partner
  - 25. The facts of life?
  - 26. Island chain
  - 29. Nonpareil
  - 31. Woman's hat
  - 36. Fate
  - 37. Innocent
  - 39. Linen fabric
  - 40. Really
  - 44. Actor O'Shea
  - 45. Chinese zodiac animal
  - 46. Part of i.p.s.
  - 47. "Golf, \_\_\_?"
  - 50. Sojourn
  - 51. Cousin of calypso
  - 52. "\_\_\_ De-Lovely"
  - 54. Court attention-getter
  - 56. Turns into money
  - 61. Lively dance
  - 65. Witness stand requirement
  - 68. Cheat
- Down

  - 1. Witty ones
  - 2. Genesis brother
  - 3. Nickname for football coach Bill Parcells
  - 4. Dwarf
  - 5. Jail, slangily
  - 6. E.U. member
  - 7. Behind
  - 8. Chocolate substitute
  - 9. Language group
  - 10. Way in or out
  - 11. Archipelago part
  - 12. Flashed signs
  - 13. At a previous time
  - 18. Lizard
  - 19. Baal, e.g.
  - 23. Veneer
  - 24. Interlocks
  - 26. Pack animal
  - 27. Red dye
  - 28. "Enchanted April" setting
- 30. Ties up
  - 32. Broadway opening?
  - 33. Shows approval
  - 34. Diacritical mark
  - 35. Accessory
  - 38. Inspiration for poets and musicians
  - 41. Jersey call
  - 42. Sanction
  - 43. Most fairylike
  - 48. Like some decrees
  - 49. Italian, e.g.
  - 53. Musical notation holders, in the Middle East
  - 56. Impress clearly
  - 57. Handel opera
  - 58. Fast pace
  - 59. Priests' vestments
  - 60. Jar
  - 62. Break
  - 63. Greek portico
  - 64. Start of a break-in
  - 66. Sot's sound
  - 67. Numerical ending

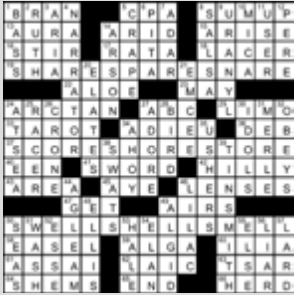
Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Guam; 2) about 1.68m (recorded as 5'2" in French inches at the time); 3) 10; 4) Madison Square Garden; 5) 1977 (abolished since 1981)



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

0.003

grams of marijuana detected in a man's shoe in Dubai in 2008 was enough for him to be arrested for drug possession.

10

trees must be planted by each high school and college student in the Philippines before they can graduate, according to the country's Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act.

90

percent of all the scientists that have ever existed are alive today.

18,879

US dollars is how much a businessman in Cangzhou, China paid for a car... in coins.

400 million

years is how long sharks have been around.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Happy to arrive, flying into Phuket (May 26). Photo: Ulrike Guelich

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

This week in history

June 10, 1782

King Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke (Rama I) is crowned King of Siam, establishing the Chakri Dynasty, which continues to rule Thailand to this day.

June 11, 980 AD

Vladimir the Great consolidates the Kievan realm from Ukraine to the Baltic Sea. He is proclaimed ruler (knyaz) of all Kievan Rus'.

June 12, 1994

Nicole Brown Simpson and

Ron Goldman are murdered outside Simpson's home in Los Angeles. Her estranged husband, O.J. Simpson is later charged with the murders, but is acquitted by a jury.

June 13, 1994

A different jury finds Exxon and Capt Joseph Hazelwood reckless in the Exxon Valdez disaster, allowing victims of the oil spill to seek US\$15 billion in damages.



Mug shot of O.J. Simpson, 1994.

June 14, 1949

Albert II, a rhesus monkey, rides a V-2 rocket to an altitude

of 134 km (83 miles), thereby becoming the first monkey in space.

June 15, 2012

Nik Wallenda becomes the first person to successfully tightrope walk directly over Niagara Falls.

June 16, 2010

Bhutan becomes the first country to institute a total ban on tobacco.

Source: Wikipedia

# Trades & Services

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## FRIENDS COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF BEACH BUMS PATONG

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## QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN KATHU



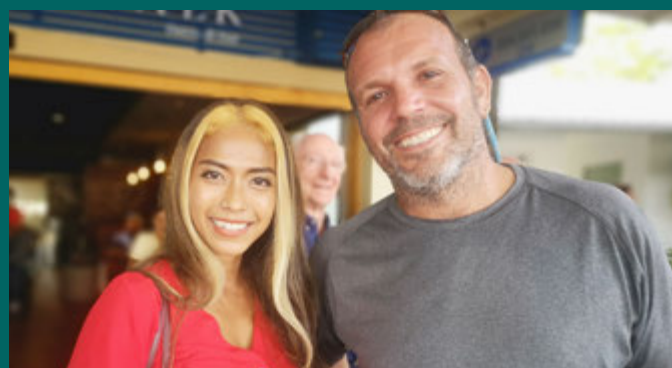
The Grumpy Old Men's Society (GOMS) organised a great event, on Saturday Jun 4, raising over B21,000 for the Good Shepherd in Phuket Town. Great food and drinks at the Long Doo restaurant and special performances from local musicians and children from Good Shepherd Phuket Town.



## VIVA L'ITALIA NIGHT AT THE NAKA ISLAND

The Naka Island, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Phuket, on June 3 held their first "Viva l'Italia Night", an epicurean event that celebrated the twin pleasures of fine food with premium beverages at their award-winning restaurant, My Grill.

'A celebration of twin pleasure', created by culinary experts Chef Vincenzo Sorrentino from JW Marriott Khao Lak and Daniele Pinto, an Italian Sommelier from The Naka Island.



## GROW BOATING NETWORKING EVENT - JUNE, 2022

Another well-attended event held at the Boardwalk Bistro at Phuket Boat Lagoon, sponsored by SEA property group, on Thursday, June 2. A stalwart in Phuket real estate, SEA property group has over 25 years of experience on the island. The next Grow Boating networking event is to be held at RPM on July 1.



Thailand's women celebrate their shock victory over China. Photo: Volleyball Association of Thailand

## Women's volleyball team upset China with big win

### VOLLEYBALL

THAILAND EDGED CHINA 3-2 last Sunday (June 5) in their biggest win of the opening week of the 2022 Volleyball Women's Nations League in Ankara, Turkey.

Thailand, led by captain Pornpun Guedpard, came from one set down to beat the Chinese team 3-2 (25-23, 13-25, 14-25, 25-23, 15-11).

"I would like to thank all the fans, the coaching staff, my teammates and everyone who is behind us for helping us play with such an amazing passion and attitude and win our last game in Turkey," the volleyballworld.com website quoted an elated Ajcharaporn Kongyot as saying after the match.

"Tonight we didn't play

for ourselves. We played for our country and all Thai people who support us."

After winning their first two games against Bulgaria (3-0) and Serbia (3-2), Thailand lost to 13<sup>th</sup> ranked Belgium 2-3 in Pool 2 on Saturday (June 4).

At time of press, Thailand, who are ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the world, were seventh in the 16-team standings with a total of eight points.

Their next four scheduled games are against Canada, Poland, Japan and the United States.

Held annually, this is the fourth edition of the Volleyball Women's Nations League, which runs from May 31 to July 3, with the finals taking place on July 13-17.

Bangkok Post

### TENNIS

AFP

Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek eased to victory in their respective finals at the French Open at Roland Garros last weekend.

Nadal won his 14<sup>th</sup> men's singles title at Roland Garros on Sunday (June 5) with a straight-sets rout of Casper Ruud to become the oldest male champion in the history of the tournament. The win also ensured a record-extending 22<sup>nd</sup> Grand Slam title for the Spaniard.

Nadal won 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 with victory coming 17 years to the day since he claimed his first French Open as a 19-year-old in 2005. He is now two Slams ahead of old rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer.

At 36, Nadal is the oldest winner in Paris since a 34-year-old Andre Gimeno in 1972, although he had not been certain of taking part after a chronic left foot injury, which has plagued him throughout his career, flared up again.



Rafael Nadal powers a shot on his way to victory in Sunday's French Open final against Casper Ruud. Photo: AFP

He said that taking anaesthetic injections in the nerves in his foot was the only way he could have got through the tournament.

He also needed the best part of a gruelling 12 hours to see off Felix Auger-Aliassime, Novak Djokovic and Alexander Zverev in the previous three rounds.

His two-hour 18-minute win on Sunday took his record at the tournament to 112 wins against just three losses and

also put him halfway to a rare calendar men's Grand Slam last achieved by Rod Laver in 1969.

Nadal had said on the eve of the final that he would rather lose Sunday's match in exchange for a new foot.

However, without needing to hit top gear, he was in complete control against Ruud, racing away to the title with three breaks in a third set which was over in 30 minutes.

In the women's final, played Saturday (June 4), Iga Swiatek cruised to her second French Open title by dominating teenager Coco Gauff in the final, as the world number one claimed her 35<sup>th</sup> successive victory.

The 21-year-old Polish star stormed to a 6-1, 6-3 win in only 68 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier, equalling Venus Williams' record for the longest winning run by a woman in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Swiatek, only the 10<sup>th</sup> woman to win multiple French Opens in the Open era, lost just one set in the tournament – against China's Zheng Qinwen in the fourth round.

She has now won all three of her career meetings with Gauff, who was playing in her first major final.

Swiatek expressed her support for Ukraine during the trophy presentation, despite saying before the final that she does not feel ready to speak about off-court issues.

"I want to say to Ukraine, 'Stay strong'. The war is still there," she said, to cheers from the stands. AFP

## Ruthless Minjee Lee on path to 'golf greatness' after US Open win

### GOLF

AUSTRALIAN MINJEE LEE WAS hailed as "on the path to greatness" after her composed victory at the US Women's Open on Sunday (June 5).

The 26-year-old from Perth raced to a four-stroke win in North Carolina to capture her second major following her breakthrough at last year's Evian Championship in France.

But it was the manner in which the world number four achieved the feat under huge pressure that won plaudits in her homeland, holding her nerve to finish with a 72-hole event record 13-under-par 271.

"Minjee Lee's ruthless US Women's Open victory proves this 'kid from Perth' is on the path to golf greatness," public broadcaster ABC said.

"Her performance in the final round... at Pine Needles must rank among the greatest in Australian golf history.

"Lee was brilliant in establishing her 54-hole lead, but the mental strength and physical skill required to close out the victory as she did is hard to quantify."

Lee, whose parents are from South Korea, captured her eighth LPGA title by holding off American Mina Harigae to claim a record US\$1.8 million (B62mn) top prize from a \$10mn purse, the richest in women's golf history.

Lee's brother Min Woo is also a professional golfer who plays on the European



Minjee Lee with the trophy after her US Open win. Photo: AFP

Tour, where he has posted two wins, and he too was in awe of his big sister.

"This one hits hard. Tears in my eyes," he tweeted alongside a picture of the pair as young children after phoning her during the trophy ceremony.

"So so proud. Just a kid from Perth. Two major wins to her name now."

The Sydney Daily Telegraph said Lee had earned the right to be recognised as "one of Australia's biggest sports stars".

"Minjee Lee's spectacular win in the United States Open should ensure her recognition level in Australia surges to a level appropriate for her exceptional performances," the newspaper said in an opinion piece.

Her hometown newspaper the West Australian agreed, saying she joined "Australia's all-time golf greats".

Only two other Australians – Karrie Webb (twice) and Jan Stephenson – have won the US Women's Open. AFP



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# Ukraine standing proud despite World Cup miss

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Ukraine's World Cup dream may be over after a cruel 1-0 defeat to Wales in their play-off final but the team exit with their heads held high having installed pride into a war-ravaged nation.

Heads bowed, the Ukrainian players were still saluted like heroes from the small band of visiting fans decked out in blue and yellow flags in one corner of the Cardiff City stadium on Sunday (June 5).

The manner of Ukraine's loss was cruel as Gareth Bale's free-kick in the 34th minute was inadvertently headed in by Ukraine captain Andriy Yarmolenko.

In the midst of wild celebrations as Wales clung on to secure their place at a first World Cup since 1958, Bale led the Welsh players over to applaud the Ukrainian support and team.

"We are fully aware of what is going on, we just wanted to show our appreciation to them," said Wales



Wales' Aaron Ramsey (left) fights for the ball with Ukraine's Andriy Yarmolenko. It was Yarmolenko's own-goal that gave Wales the win and broke Ukrainian hearts. Photo: AFP

manager Robert Page.

"They deserve a lot of credit for what they have done. We wanted to show them that respect."

After the Ukrainian players disappeared down the tunnel to a dressing room decorated with a flag sent by soldiers fighting on the frontline, the Welsh squad and crowd united for a chorus of the traditional folk song "Yma

o Hyd" (We're still here).

The same can be said of Ukraine's footballers, who in the week the war passed 100 days, gave some sense of normality to their people with proud performances on the pitch.

"We have war raging all over the country, women and children dying on a daily basis, our infrastructure ruined by the Russian barbarians,"

said Ukraine coach Oleksandr Petrakov.

"The Russians want to hurt us but the Ukrainians are resisting. We just want your support, to understand what is happening at home. God forbid it would touch you and you feel what we can feel deep inside."

Prior to the game Ukraine's Oleksandr Zinchenko explained how he had deliberated over whether to return to his homeland to fight, saying he had "one hand on the weapon" when war broke out before being convinced he could do more good by using his profile positively.

"We, as football players, need to still represent our country as much and as best as we can," said the 25-year-old Manchester City star. "We need to show the people everyone needs to live in peace and we need to stop the war all together because we don't know what is going to happen tomorrow."

"Today it's Ukraine but tomorrow Russians can be in your country, so we need to be united."

# Son given Korea's top sporting honour

## FOOTBALL

SON HEUNG-MIN WAS awarded South Korea's highest sporting honour last Thursday (June 2) after the Tottenham Hotspur forward became the first Asian player to win the Premier League Golden Boot.

The 29-year-old was given the Cheongnyong Medal by President Yoon Suk-yeol before South Korea's friendly against Brazil at Seoul World Cup Stadium.

Son, dressed in a dark suit, walked into the packed stadium as the crowd cheered, with a banner reading: "We are living in the era of world-class Son Heung-min."

Spectators roared as the president clipped the medal on Son's chest.

Previous recipients of the medal include two-time Olympic gold medallist figure skater Yuna Kim and golfer Pak Se-ri.

Son last month shared the Golden Boot with Mohamed Salah of Liverpool after both scored 23 Premier League goals in the recently concluded season.

However, the Korean's haul was all scored from open play



Top man: Son Heung-min. Photo: Jung Yeon-Je / AFP

without any penalty kicks, unlike Salah.

Yoon had congratulated Son for his achievement on Facebook, calling it a "joyous occasion to be celebrated by the entire Asian football community".

Son is viewed as a symbol of national pride in South Korea for his achievements, and was ranked 3rd in this year's Forbes Korea Power Celebrity 40.

The 29-year-old forward joined Tottenham in 2015 and has scored 93 goals in 232 appearances. His partnership at club level with England captain Harry Kane is one of the most lethal and feared in the Premier League. AFP

# Root stars as England beat New Zealand in first Test

## CRICKET

FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN JOE Root scored an unbeaten century to give successor Ben Stokes a winning start to his reign with a five-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first Test at Lord's on Sunday (June 5).

Root stood down as England skipper in April after five years and a record 64 games in charge.

But he remains far and away the team's best batsman, with this hundred at the 'Home of Cricket' paving the way for just England's second win in 18 Tests.

Victory, achieved with more than a day to spare, also put England 1-0 up in a three-match series against the reigning World Test champions.

England, set 277 to win, finished on 279 for five, with Root 115 not out – his first fourth-innings hundred at this level – after the hosts had slumped to 69 for four.

He received excellent support from wicketkeeper Ben Foakes (32 not out) in an unbroken stand of 120, with the pair denying New Zealand a breakthrough after England resumed Sunday on their overnight 216 for five.

Root became just the 14th batsman and only second from England to reach the landmark total of 10,000 career Test runs when he completed his 26th hundred at



Root celebrates his century. Photo: AFP

this level

Root was also the joint youngest player to score 10,000 Test runs, equalling retired England captain Alastair Cook's record of 31 years 157 days.

New Zealand were dismissed for just 132 in their first innings, only for England to struggle to 141 in reply.

"'Mr Dependable', Joe Root, stood up. Scoring 100 and 10,000 runs – what a player and what a man," said Stokes at the presentation ceremony.

Player of the match Root added: "Obviously it feels fantastic. More than anything, first of all, for us to have won this Test match after such a long time is the greatest feeling of all."

"I absolutely love the group of players that we play with and I couldn't wish for a better person to be leading this team."

The series continues at Nottingham's Trent Bridge today (June 10). AFP

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# Sport



**Roland Garros record delight for Rafa > p14**

## PARALYMPIC POISE

### Phuket behind LA Games Para Sailing push



The SV14 designed by Phuket-based Peter Jacobs is a unique, affordable boat designed for sailors with disabilities. Photo: Sven Jürgensen / NRV

#### PARA SAILING

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

This year is a critical one for Para Sailing as it strives to become reinstated for the Los Angeles Paralympic Games in 2028, having been dropped from the schedule in 2015 by the International Paralympic Committee.

The announcement caused widespread outcry at the time and spurred Phuket-based Peter Jacobs into action to ensure everything possible was being done to reinstate the sport into the Paralympic schedule.

The Belgian expat, an experienced marine surveyor

and boat builder who owns Blue Peter Marine in Thalang, founded Disabled Sailing Thailand (DST) in 2015, initially in Pattaya and then in Phuket, at the Royal Phuket Marina (RPM).

In March 2017 Peter conceived and helped build a prototype for the first SV14 boat in Thailand, a unique, affordable boat designed for sailors with disabilities. The project was funded by RPM Chairman Gulu Lalvani and further developed by Alex Simonis and Marten Voogd of Simonis Voogd Design.

Back to the present day and disabled sailing is flourishing in Phuket. DST now have three SV14 boats, two of which are sponsored by Rotary Club guru Arnaud Verstraete

with the other sponsored by the Masonic Lodge of Siam.

RPM have generously allocated one dock specifically for DST use where they have installed a crane which is used to lift para sailors in and out the boat and where a dedicated rescue boat is on hand.

The group have weekly sailing expeditions on Fridays and Saturdays where crews of locals and expats head out just before high tide sets in to navigate around the channel from RPM and Cape Yamu. A trip usually takes 90 minutes.

“Our vision is to bring sailing back to the Paralympics,” local volunteer Manu Alders told *The Phuket News*. “We do that by bringing awareness of the fact that disabled people can go sailing too.

We encourage people with a handicap to contact us and to enjoy a sailing trip.”

Volunteers are crucial to DST. They help operate the forklifts at the dock, help launch and clean the boats to ensure para sailors can enjoy the experience. However, attracting dedicated volunteers is a big challenge, admits Manu.

“I got involved through a friend who knew Peter well,” he says. “I was sitting at home during the COVID-19 pandemic not doing much so I thought, ‘Why not?’ There is now a team of us that thoroughly enjoy the whole experience.”

Their commitment is clearly paying off as DST is sending two of its team, Brit Paul Merry and Phuketian Kimmy Upatising, to repre-

sent Thailand at the Inclusion World Championship for Sailing on Aug 24 in Rostock, Germany.

The event is just one of many organised by the governing body World Sailing as it strives to grow the sport and ensure it is once again included at the Paralympics. Its 2023 strategic goal includes increasing worldwide participation to 45 nations on six continents, increasing youth participation (below the age of 30) to 20% of total athletes, and growing the number of female participants to 30% in order to, ultimately, achieve gender parity.

“In the last few years we have seen huge growth in Para Sailing in Thailand,” Peter Jacobs told World Sailing in

October last year.

“While beginners just a few years ago, Thai para sailors have since competed at World Championships and have themselves become an inspiration for a new generation of para sailors,” he added.

“We whole-heartedly support the reinstatement of sailing in the Paralympics and will continue to promote and grow inclusive sailing in Thailand.”

DST’s Phuket branch is proud that it is not only contributing to these efforts but also that any persons with disabilities can enjoy the freedom experienced in sailing in a safe, fun environment.

For more information please visit: [www.disabledsailingthailand.org/](http://www.disabledsailingthailand.org/)

## Celebrated national taekwondo coach visits Phuket

#### TAEKWONDO

THE COACH BEHIND THE athlete who won Thailand’s first ever Olympic gold medal in taekwondo, and who recently became a fully-fledged Thai citizen, was in Phuket last Friday (June 3) to oversee a development workshop for the sport.

Choi Young-Seok joined coaches from Dragon Gym and Thammawat Wongcharoenyos, President of the Phuket Sports Association, at the Vijitt Resort in Rawai for an interactive session aimed at introducing and honing specific techniques to help

grow the sport locally and produce future champions.

Coach Choi had helped Panipak Wongpattanakit to Olympic glory in Tokyo last year when the then 23-year-old from Surat Thani defeated Spain’s Adriana Cerezo Iglesias 11-10 with a dramatic, final-second kick, becoming the first Thai to win a medal at the Games. The celebrations between Panipak and her coach afterwards, both draped in Thai flags, is something that will be long remembered.

Panipak then won her third straight SEA Games gold medal in Hanoi, Vietnam on May 18 this



**Coach Choi (centre). Photo: Pramuk Thiphawimolmas**

year in the women’s 49kg class.

She was rightfully lauded on both occasions but she was quick to emphasise the importance and value of her coach in helping achieve her goals.

South Korean Choi was named

coach of the year for amateur athletes at the National Sports Awards in Bangkok last December and was granted Thai citizenship by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in February, helping him achieve a long-term dream.

“I want to be Thai and want to be known as a Thai Olympic medal-winning coach, not a Korean coach for the Thai national team,” he said prior to Tokyo 2020.

On receiving his citizenship, Choi was bestowed the Thai name Chatchai Choi by Chao Khun Thongchai, a senior monk at Wat Traimit in Bangkok.

Choi, 47, has been plying his trade in Thailand for 20 years now and the sport has flourished under his tutelage. In addition to Panipak’s Olympic gold, Thailand has won five golds at the Asian Games and 48 gold at the SEA Games.

He has also been instrumental in developing Phuket’s Thanakrit Yodrak, who won gold in the men’s 58kg category on his SEA Games debut last month.

Thanakrit previously won a bronze medal at the 2017 World Cadet Taekwondo Championships in Egypt and gold medals in both the Belgium Youth Open in 2018 and the China Youth Open 2019 in China. *Ben Tirebuck*