

— DISCOVER —
PATTAYA

Issue 236/35 JUN 2023



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This Month in Discover Pattaya

Hi Everyone

Well at the time of going to press it remains to be seen if "The Future's bright the future's" - let's see how June unfolds. While we wait, there are some excellent features in this month's issue of Discover Pattaya for you to leaf through, from wonderful new restaurants and hotels opening in Pattaya to plenty of information from our growing education section for those of you in the process of choosing a school in the area.

Artificial Intelligence has also been a hot topic of late. I was pleased to be present at an Eastern Seaboard dinner recently when the guest speaker held forth on this exact subject (for the review go to page 48). Having had a cursory look myself I would say the speed of information you can get from the new services is quite astounding and certainly takes away much of the drudgery of searching out background information for writing articles. However, at present the content is not up to the minute and needs to be double checked and edited.

So dear reader you can rest assured that I am not a robot and I wish you all a very pleasant and humane month.

Gloria x
gloria@pattayatrader.com

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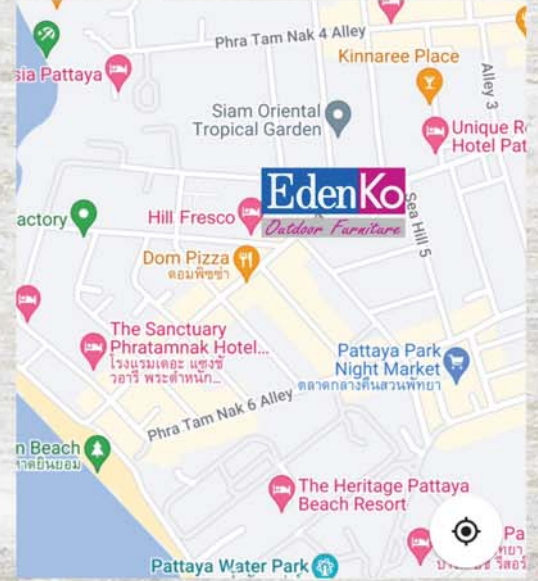
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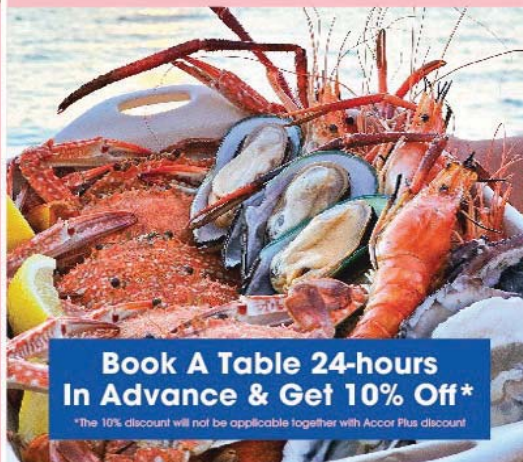


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FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE SPORTSMAN

Discover Pattaya went along to the Sportsman for their "All you can Eat Pizza, Pasta and Salad Buffet" to find out what you get for the price of 249 Baht. We sat down at the opening time of 6pm, (it goes through until 10pm) and the place was already busy with people who had come for the buffet. It would surely get busier later into the evening, and given what we discovered about the food on offer, that is no surprise.



The pizzas appeared on the dot at six to be as fresh as possible. Thin crust with various toppings including Margarita, Pepperoni, Meat Feast and the excellent BBQ Chicken, none were skimped on, and all were really full of flavour. The spaghetti and fusilli pastas were accompanied with a choice of Cheese, Carbonara, Bolognese, and Tomato sauces. We definitely recommend the cheese sauce because The Sportsman is always particularly good at that.



However, what really set the food apart for one of our party, was the quality of the salads and sides on offer. You can get a pretty poor show at some places with their so called "salad bars", but not here. The coleslaw, pasta and potato salads were excellent, plus garlic bread, olives and again well presented with a good selection of accompanying sauces. Of course, it's our job to advertise but I was personally quite taken aback by the quality of the food and the excellent, friendly service. Remember, this is just for a price of 249 Baht and really is all you can eat - it doesn't stop coming!



Another offer on Fridays is the 2 for 1 cocktail deal. Now, as I'm sure you know, you can come a serious cropper in Pattaya by ordering cocktails from a place that has no idea how to make them. So, we tried the Sportsman on two classics, a Margarita and a Bloody Mary. The Margarita was not too sweet (often a mistake) and the Bloody Mary thick, delicious and with all the accompanying essential extras of Tabasco, Worcester Sauce and pepper. As prices range from around 145 to 195 baht this is a great offer especially as they don't insist on you having to buy 2 the same.



All in all, we can thoroughly recommend the whole Friday night experience. The manager keeps right on top of things so the food is brought out fresh and in good time and the staff are great. I'm going again very soon and you should get along too!



Rugby School Thailand

Building a Community of Learners and Achievers

Nestled within the rolling countryside of Eastern Thailand, Rugby School Thailand began with a vision to bring genuine British independent boarding school education to Thailand. The School believes every day is an opportunity to develop intellectually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and culturally. Rugby School achieves this through an extended school day with most students finishing at 6pm, a flexible boarding programme, and a holistic approach that combines academic rigour with an award-winning enrichment programme.

“We aim to improve the outcome of every individual within our School,”- says Mr Bruce Grindlay, Principal at Rugby School.

Rugby School Thailand is privileged to enjoy a highly-resourced 80-acre campus with an additional outdoor education centre and surrounding facilities that include hiking and biking trails nearby. The School focuses on developing all facets of the person: in other words, a student who is not only academically able but also well-rounded, confident and extremely happy. Thus, the overarching ethos that informs all they do is *‘the whole person, the whole point’*.

Teaching Excellence

The School has a large team of experienced teachers and counsellors to help students attain A-Level qualifications, which are widely recognised as the gold standard for university entry worldwide, while also supporting individual applications no matter what goal has been set. All teachers are professionally qualified with at least two years of relevant experience, demonstrable through impeccable references. Almost all are UK degree holders with postgraduate certifications. Many teachers and leaders within the School hold Masters or Doctorate level degrees too.

Most classes are set by attainment and ability and are delivered by subject specialists throughout the School. This means that the teachers delivering each class are specifically knowledgeable, well-qualified, experienced, and, very significantly, super enthusiastic about the subject they teach, which helps not only with understanding but importantly with student motivation.

Creativity and Recognition

Rugby School Thailand encourages innovation and creativity in many ways, and the School has been repeatedly praised in inspection reports for how teachers integrate technology to enhance learning.

Recently winning the Innovation and Creativity in Learning award at the prestigious International Schools Awards (ISA) 2023. The School has also been recognised and accredited by several organisations, including The Council of British International Schools (COBIS), British Schools Overseas (BSO), Education Development Trust (EDT) and the International Schools Quality Mark (ISQM), Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA) and the International Schools Association of Thailand (ISAT).

Launch of Saturday English Programme

Rugby School Thailand wishes to support students who would benefit from an education at an International School but who currently cannot gain a place as they need the required English language levels. Mr Grindlay shares, ***“To help this group of students, we will launch an English for International Schools Saturday English programme.”*** This is not for students currently attending Rugby School but is for any student with beginner English aged 10 to 12 who may aspire to an international school education.

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Beaches to Books The Ultimate Guide to International Schools in Pattaya.

By James Kemp

Selecting the right international school for your child can be a daunting task, especially if you are relocating to Pattaya. With a plethora of options available, parents may feel overwhelmed and unsure of where to start. To help guide you through the process, we have compiled a comprehensive guide to selecting an international school in Pattaya.

Firstly, it is important to establish what you are looking for in a school. Consider your child's needs, interests and educational goals, as well as your own expectations for their schooling. This will help you to narrow down your options and focus on schools that meet your requirements.

One of the most prestigious international schools in Pattaya is Rugby School Thailand. Established in 2017, this co-educational boarding and day school offers the British curriculum and boasts state-of-the-art facilities including a sports centre, swimming pool and theatre. Rugby School Thailand is known for its academic rigour, strong pastoral care and emphasis on developing character. It is an ideal choice for parents who value a traditional British education and want their child to experience a traditional, British independent school in a modern setting.

Regents International School Pattaya is another popular choice among expat families. This co-educational day and boarding school offers both International Baccalaureate (IB) and international GCSE/A Level programmes. Regents is renowned for its commitment to a holistic education, with a focus on developing well-rounded individuals who are prepared to take on the challenges of the 21st century. Its outstanding facilities include a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) centre, performing arts centre and a 50m Olympic-size swimming pool.

St. Andrews Green Valley is a fully authorised IB PYP school that offers the Primary Years Programme (PYP) from the International Baccalaureate (IB), integrated with the British National Curriculum from nursery to Year 11, followed by an IB programme in Year 12 and 13. It is unique in offering an accredited Dutch steam for families from the Netherlands. It is located in a picturesque setting and has a reputation for academic excellence and a strong sense of community. The school prides itself on providing a supportive and nurturing environment, with small class sizes and individualised attention for each student. St Andrews Green Valley also offers a wide range of extracurricular activities, including sports, music, drama and community service projects.

Mooltripakdee International School is a Cambridge school that offers a unique blend of Eastern and Western educational philosophies. The school follows the English National Curriculum from Early Years Foundation Stage, culminating in IGCSE and IAS/A Level examinations in Key Stage 4 and 5. MIS is renowned for its focus on wellbeing, with an emphasis on developing ethical and responsible global citizens. The school offers a wide range of extracurricular activities, including Thai cultural activities, sports, music and community service projects.



When selecting an international school, there are several factors to consider beyond the curriculum and facilities. One important consideration is the school's accreditation status. Look for schools that are accredited by recognised international bodies, such as the Council of International Schools (CIS), Educational Development Trust (EDT) or the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO). Accreditation ensures that the school meets rigorous standards for educational quality and is committed to continuous improvement. Also, membership of the Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA) is a good indicator of a top school.

Another important factor to consider is the school's location and transportation options. Pattaya is a sprawling city, and traffic can be challenging during peak hours. Consider the proximity of the school to your home or workplace, as well as the availability of school buses or other transportation options.

The school's admissions process is also worth considering. Some schools have highly competitive admissions processes, while others are more inclusive. Schools may be more willing to accept students in year groups where there are many spaces still available and may be more selective in other age ranges, which is worth considering. Reflect on your child's academic and extracurricular achievements, as well as their personality and learning style, when assessing their likelihood of being accepted into a particular school.

Finally, it is important to visit the schools you are considering and speak with current students, teachers and administrators. This will give you a sense of the school's culture, values and educational philosophy. Many schools offer open days or individual tours, and it is worth taking the time to attend.



My advice is to follow these steps:

1. Research the schools online and make a list of potential options.
2. Narrow down your list based on your child's needs, interests and educational goals.
3. Consider the accreditation status of each school, as well as its location and transportation options.
4. Look into the admissions process and assess your child's likelihood of being accepted into each school.
5. Schedule visits to the schools on your shortlist and speak with current students, teachers and administrators.
6. Evaluate each school based on its culture, values and educational philosophy, as well as its facilities, extracurricular activities and academic standards.
7. Make a final decision based on your research and visits, and enrol your child in the school that best meets your needs and expectations.



Remember that selecting an international school is an important decision that will have a significant impact on your child's education and future prospects. Take the time to research your options carefully and choose a school that aligns with your child's needs, interests and goals. You may wish to seek the support of an educational agency to assist you through this process - but do ensure that they are both reputable and experienced, such as the British Learning Centre. By following these steps, you can ensure that you make an informed decision and provide your child with the best possible education in Pattaya.

James Kemp is the Deputy Head of School at the British Learning Centre in Pattaya. James is a fully-qualified teacher with over a decade's experience of teaching in schools, both in the UK and internationally. He has recently been awarded a National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership and has delivered continued professional development for teachers in Asia, South America and the UK.



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HER Planet Earth Team Embarks on a Triple Challenge in Switzerland to put the Spotlight on Climate Action for Refugees.



In June 2023, a self-funded team of 12 women, under the banner of HER Planet Earth, will embark on a unique triple-challenge, which will incorporate mountain climbing, biking and stand-up paddle boarding across one of Europe's most challenging destinations, Switzerland. The expedition will include summiting an alpine peak at close to 3,000m in the Furka Pass, biking 100km across mountainous areas and crossing an icy lake on SUP boards. The objective of this is to raise awareness and donations for one of the most underfunded humanitarian crises in the world: the Rohingya refugee emergency.

The team which includes 3 ladies from Thailand: Cindy Sirinya Bishop, Nin Viraviadya and Pear Viracha, will aim to raise a total of \$50,000 USD to support a UNHCR Environmental programme in Bangladesh which includes reforestation, human-elephant contact management and youth-led climate action training activities.

Why Bangladesh?

Rohingya refugees fled the violence in Myanmar at a staggering rate in 2017 – and the numbers keep growing. Bangladesh is home to Kutupalong – the largest and most densely populated refugee settlement in the world.

Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Many of the refugees' makeshift shelters, are built on deforested, unstable hillsides, providing little protection against tropical storms of increasing intensity. Last year flooding and landslides forced 24,000 refugees to abandon their homes.



Also the refugee site lies along one of the Asian elephants' main migratory routes between Myanmar and Bangladesh. Behaviorally, elephants always follow their traditional routes and if they find any obstacles within it, they may charge when they feel threatened. This can be terrifying to those who encounter them. and since 2017, 14 people have died due to contact with elephants. To mitigate this issue, UNHCR and its partners have trained over 884 refugees and host communities to understand how to deal with elephants when they enter the camps.

The Team's Journey

For this expedition the team will begin the journey from Lugano and cycle from Coglio-Castlerotto, heading up through the small villages of Malcontone and Arosio. The women will then start the descent from Arosio and wind their way around the 19-hairpin bends to Agno. The next day the team will hike in Ticino in the Western Alps, from Monte Lema to Monte Tamaro. They will continue the next few days, on bikes to reach the Gotthard Pass, before continuing to Andermatt. In the last few days, the women will attempt to summit Chli Bielenhorn peak at 2,940m part of the iconic Furka Pass, in the Swiss Alps with deep valleys, and twisting hairpin turns to the oldest glacier in the Alps. This will all be challenging because of the complexity involved in hiking and mountaineering on rock, snow, and ice. Finally, the team will stand up paddle board across Lake Brienz and ride bikes from Interlaken to the Lauterbrunnen valley.

Founder and CEO, Christine Amour-Levar says “HER Planet Earth’s objective is to inspire people to go beyond their comfort zones for a certain period while pushing their limits to rally support for a worthy cause. At the core of our culture is a commitment to empowering underprivileged people, a passion for adventure and a deep respect and love of nature. HER Planet Earth seeks to take participants on pioneering expeditions around the world so that they can make new discoveries, flourish as individuals, and most importantly, contribute to society. The team hopes to bring international attention to the need for societies, governments, and corporations to get involved and help support climate action and women's empowerment,”



HER Planet Earth is a non-profit organisation that aims to empower women to mitigate climate change. For more information go to www.HERplanetearth.com



UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights, and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. For more information go to <https://www.unhcr.org>

To donate to the mission please visit the team's fundraising page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page.cindybishopforunhcr>
And to see pictures of the team's journey, 'LIKE' their Facebook page, and follow them on Twitter and Instagram:
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ASIAN OPTICAL

When did you last have your eyes tested?



Like regular trips to the dentist having your eye tested is something we often forget to do and yet we should get them checked at least once a year.

There are many opticians in Pattaya and quite often on our Facebook sites Pattaya Trader - Discover Pattaya and Pattaya Trader Expat Ladies Group we are asked to give recommendations. Asian Optical on Pratumnak Soi 4 is the only one we recommend. This is because unlike some other opticians that are little more than shops selling glasses in Pattaya Asian Optical can give you a proper eye test and they also have a fantastic selection of frames, lenses and contact lenses.



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RECORDING ARTIST TONY CHAMBERS

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AT THE JAZZ PIT, SUN SABELLA



TONY CHAMBERS

Hailing from Los Angeles, California Tony Chambers has now become a rising attraction on the music scene in Thailand. He began his career as a recording artist, releasing albums and several singles that showcased his exceptional songwriting and vocal talents.

Tony's music draws inspiration from a wide range of genres, including R&B, funk, jazz, and soul. In addition to his work as a recording artist, Tony has also made a name for himself as a radio personality. He has hosted several popular music shows, where he shares his love of music and introduces listeners to new and exciting artists.



Tony Chambers has also been an influential figure in the Los Angeles music scene, where he has collaborated with many renowned musicians and producers. His music has been featured in films, TV shows, and commercials, and he has performed at some of the city's most iconic venues.

As a new voice in town, Tony Chambers is quickly making a name for himself as a talented musician, effervescent personality, and influential figure. With his exceptional talent and passion for music, he is sure to continue making waves in the industry for years to come.



THOMAS REIMER

Self-taught from the age of 14 Thomas Reimer quickly gained a following as a popular guitarist. By 16 he had formed a band where he amazed fellow members by playing his guitar behind his head Jimi Hendrix style! After formally studying in Vienna he moved to Frankfurt and then Munich where he played at "Unterfahrt", a world renowned jazz club. Also, at "Nachtcafe" a popular hangout for celebrities such as Boris Becker and the American guitarist, singer, songwriter George Benson. Thomas invited George up on the stage so that they could perform together and afterwards George gave Thomas an autograph saying;

"TO THOMAS GREAT GUITARIST, THANKS GEORGE"

Another fantastic opportunity came when Thomas was invited to perform on a CD entitled Global Guitar alongside such important names as Al Di Meola, Scott Henderson, and Mike Stern.



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A NEW ERA FOR ASIAMARINE



As it celebrates its 10th anniversary, Asiamarine has added Swan and Silent-Yachts to a portfolio of brands including Galeon, Bali and Nimbus, while growing its regional network of Fraser superyacht brokers from Hong Kong to Singapore and Thailand. As excited as CEO Eric Noyel is about both new brands and moving into new sectors of the yachting market, he's clear that motor yacht powerhouse Galeon remains Asiamarine's flagship brand, as it has been since 2016. "Galeon remains our anchor brand, followed by Bali and Nimbus, while Swan and Silent are complementary because they're focused on different but growing segments," says Noyel, who founded Asiamarine in March 2013.

Asiamarine sold and delivered its first Galeon in the Philippines last year, with the 460 Fly followed by a 325 GTO later in the year. Thailand also welcomed its first 500 Fly, Galeon's iconic 'transformer' model that made the brand a household name, while Singapore welcomed its first new 500 Fly in late 2021. To date, Asiamarine has sold over 60 Galeon yachts in the region. Whilst still a new name in Asia, there are now enough clients who have shown they're happy to buy a Galeon motor yacht.

Galeon has collaborated with UK-based Tony Castro Yacht Design for over two decades and is best known for its iconic 'beach mode' models popularised by the 500 Fly and its drop-down wings, waterside bar and transformable outdoor areas. It was followed by the 460 Fly, 640 Fly, 400 Fly, the 440 Fly last year and the 560 Fly that debuted at this year's Miami International Boat Show. However, Noyel is most excited about the brand's new flagship, the 800 Fly, which debuted at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show last October.

The Frenchman has been aboard and believes the boat would make a strong impression in Asia. "The boat is massive, and the quality of the interior styling has gone up a lot. It's a really nicely executed 83ft yacht and competitively priced. It's also a Category A boat, so you can take it offshore, which makes it stand out from most of the competition in that size range," says Noyel, who believes the model is priced at least 20 per cent below competitors. "It's a great boat for Asia and a very good first 'regional' model for someone who wants a longer range and to explore other countries."

Asiamarine has also moved into the world of sailing monohulls with Swan, one of the industry's most iconic brands. Noyel, who grew up sailing in the south of France, is excited about the potential of the premium brand, "My hopes for Swan are huge. Firstly, because I think the sailing market is coming back to life very strongly. The ratio of sailing yachts versus motor yachts has increased for the first time in over a decade and that applies across all sizes including superyachts," he says. "Secondly, the Swan brand has an immense following among experienced sailors in Asia who know it from its international reputation. Swan has been a bit quiet in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, but I anticipate the brand will catch up in two to three years"

As if that wasn't enough, Asiamarine is also taking its first steps in representing Silent-Yachts in Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand. The first few units of the Silent 60 were built in Thailand and have been delivered to Europe and the US, and although other builders have moved or are moving into the sector, Asia is still awaiting its first solar-electric catamaran. That is until 2024, when Noyel says the first Silent 62 3-Deck will be delivered to this region. "I think solar-electric powercats are going to be very much in demand so in anticipation of that, we wanted to work with Silent-Yachts,"

As well as being CEO of Asiamarine, Noyel is Managing Director of Fraser Asia, whose sales have been spearheaded by Adam Blackmore, Asiamarine's Commercial Director and a Sales Broker for Fraser since 2018. "It really helps to have a team of Sales Brokers for Fraser, while all our other Asiamarine staff can help them when they have a lead or yacht to sell. A very positive development is the resumption of international charter "We did more charter bookings in January and February this year than we did across 2021 and 2022!"

Asiamarine has a lot to look forward to in its second decade No wonder the company's annual party looked so much fun.

www.asiamarine.com





RORY MCILROY AND THE MAJORS

When Rory McIlroy won the fourth of his major titles in the US PGA championship at Valhalla in Kentucky in 2014, the great Jack Nicklaus said “Rory is an unbelievable talent. I think he can win 15 or 20 majors or whatever he wants to do if he wants to keep playing. I love his swing”.

Coming up to nine years later, and we’re still waiting for that fifth major. This question always arises after the Masters in April, when the spotlight falls on McIlroy because a win at the Masters would give him the “career grand slam”, meaning he would have won all of the four majors played each year at some stage in his career, putting him into some rare company indeed. Only Walter Hagen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods have completed the task of joining one of the most exclusive clubs in golf.

Rory’s record in the Masters looks good on paper, with 7 top ten finishes, including 5 top fives. Looking back on it though, he has never been in the hunt for the title and even when he finished 2nd in 2022 behind Scottie Scheffler he was running through beaten horses, with Scheffler never looking like he was going to be overhauled.

Going into the 2023 tournament, there wasn’t a golf pundit around who didn’t think that McIlroy wouldn’t be there or thereabouts for the title. He went into the tournament in good form and conditions were said to be perfect for his high ball style power hitting. But he was awful, and after battling through a distinctly average level par first round he capitulated on the second day with a 5 over par 77 to miss the cut. You have to remember that the Masters field is only 84 strong compared to the 144 or thereabouts that start in other majors, and about 30 of them have no chance. So missing the cut is a disaster for a player of Rory’s ability.

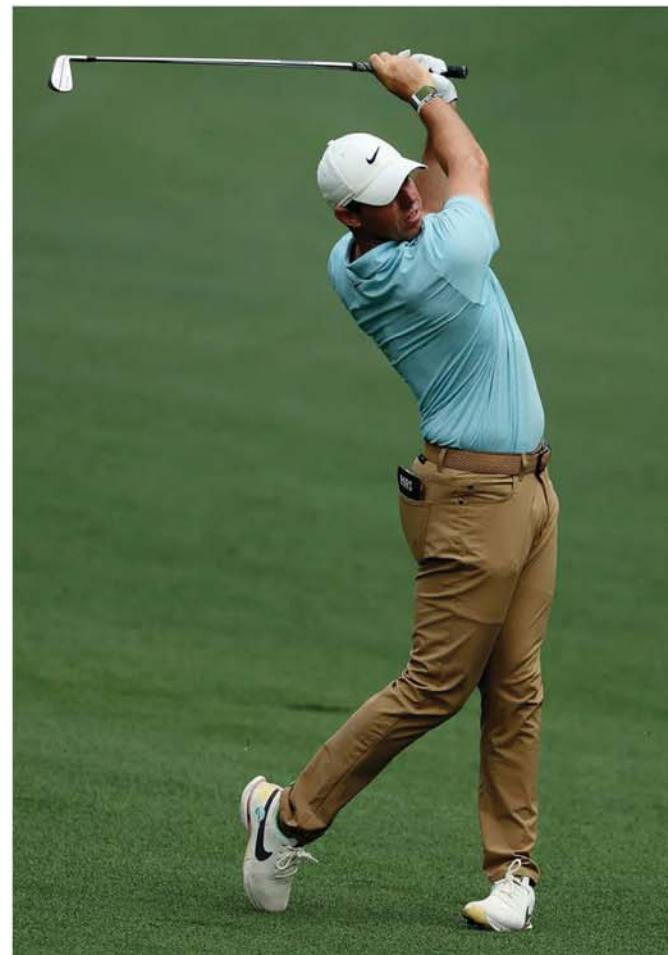
It may be that the huge amount of speculation in the press and on social media about Rory’s quest for the career grand slam may be taking its toll. This obviously adds to the pressure but the role that Rory has taken on, which is to be a sort of unofficial spokesman for the PGA players in its long running dispute with LIV Golf, may have also sidetracked him over the last two years.

This doesn't seem to stop him winning other high quality events though and only last year he became the first player ever to win three FedEx cups, surpassing even Tiger Woods on the way to an 18 million dollar bonus.

It just seems to be the major championships that give Rory problems and there is no doubt that a player of his talent should win more titles, especially given the four-in-three year stretch from 2011 until 2014 that kickstarted his career.

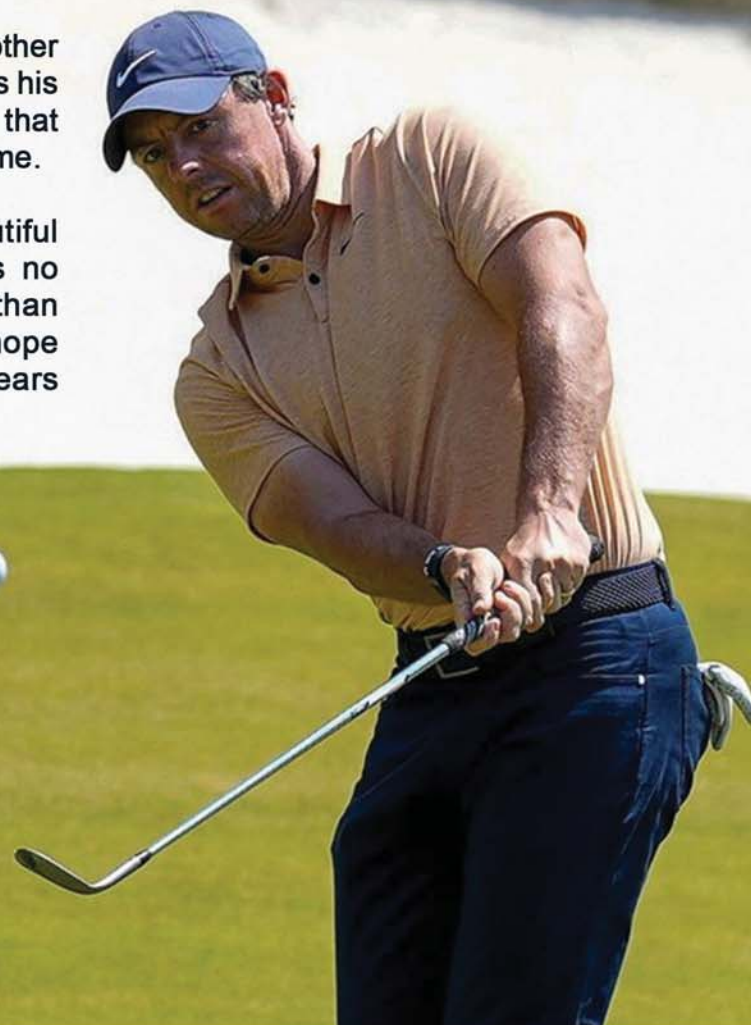
I think the Masters will always be a problem for him but I can see him winning at least one, especially as he gets older and the spotlight dims somewhat. Both Tiger and Jack have proved that great golfers, even as they age, can still plot their way around Augusta and win.

I also believe that the loss of the 2022 British Open to a magical Cam Smith last round after leading really hurt McIlroy and took some getting over.



I hope Rory does win another major or two and cements his place amongst the best that have ever played the game.

He has the most beautiful golf swing and there is no better sight in the sport than McIlroy on song. Let's hope it continues for many years to come.





THAILAND MOTORING NEWS



Discover Motoring is going to take a look at some of the new model vehicles that are, or will be, on sale in Thailand very soon. We'll start this month with the new power truck from Ford. A word of warning about the new Ford Ranger, if you're concerned about the environment, look away now!

FORD RANGER RAPTOR

Ford have two versions of their latest Raptor Ranger truck on the market. The diesel version, and the one that everyone wants, The turbocharged V6 petrol variant. The petrol edition is more expensive than the diesel and of course the diesel vehicle is better economically, but buyers don't care.

When details of the new range became public knowledge there was an outcry on social media about the environmental impact of such a vehicle, but not from anybody who wanted to buy it. This second generation V6 3 litre vehicle is officially the most expensive truck on the market, coming in at a hefty 1.9 million Baht. But that hasn't stopped the orders flying in. As far as the Thai market is concerned, bigger and faster is better.

The twin turbo V6 3.0 litre engine produces 397bhp and the drive is much smoother than any diesel powered vehicle can hope to be. But here's the problem. Ford are saying that the average fuel economy is around 11.5kpl. This sounds optimistic to me and probably is, judging by the comments from the first buyers of the truck, who are saying that you can drop to near supercar levels of consumption if you hit the throttle too often.



Some people have mentioned a figure of around 5kpl, which I think exaggerates the other way somewhat but still makes this a very expensive runner.

The new model has a host of high-tech features in the cab including a top quality Bang & Olufsen sound system and a full digital 12.4 inch instrument readout.

The brakes are discs all round and are considered the best on the market at the moment, especially for a near two ton truck. So, if you can work your way around the high fuel consumption and are willing to pay the high entry price, this is what you'll get



FORD RANGER DOUBLE CAB RAPTOR 3.0L V6

- Price: 1,919,000 Baht
- Maximum Power: 397bhp
- 0-100kph: 7.9 seconds
- Engine: 3.0L V6 twin-turbo
- Transmission: 10-speed automatic
- Top speed: 180kph (Capped)

In the next issue we'll take a look at the mini MPV market in the kingdom, including the new model from the leaders in the class, Mitsubishi and its popular Xpander.

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JUNE SPORTS UPDATE

By Steve Wade.

The football season is coming or has come to a close all over Europe and the fate of every team at either end of their respective tables will have been decided. But we still have one monumental match to look forward to, the Champions League final, being played in Istanbul on the 11th of the month. At time of writing the semi-finals have yet to be decided but with the Line up of Manchester City v Real Madrid in one and the two Milan teams facing off in the other, we can look forward to a great final whatever the results.



The summer season will be getting into full swing in the UK and one of the high points is the Royal Ascot race meeting. There will be added interest this year as this will be the first time that the newly crowned king will be in attendance. Whether Charles has the same interest in the sport of Kings as both his mother and grandmother is doubtful but the racing fraternity will be keen to put on a great show and continue an enthusiastic royal patronage.



Formula 1 continues with two legs in June. The first is the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona on June 4th and the show moves on to Canada on the 19th. It's been a controversial season so far but the end result, up until now, has been the complete domination by Red Bull in both the drivers and constructors championship. The dreaded words "becoming boring" have been uttered, even by some of the participants, and this is shaping up to be a crucial season for the sport in general.

The golf season is in full swing on both sides of the Atlantic but the big event is the 123rd US Open, being played at the Los Angeles Country Club from the 15th until the 18th of the month. The Englishman Matt Fitzpatrick defends his title.

Finally, the French Open tennis concludes on the 11th and will be the second of the four Grand Slam events to be decided this year. Wimbledon follows in July and the US Open at the end of August.

That's about it for June. I'll be following Royal Ascot and the golf but whatever your choice, get out to the many bars and sports bars across the city that show live sport and enjoy your viewing over a cold beer, time difference permitting!



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Location



KAREN SERVICES

VISA AND PROPERTY

Karen would like to tell you about

Karen Boating Service in Pattaya

Karen Service is not only for Visa Services or property Services but also do many other Services for the local people and foreigner. One of the Service Karen would like to introduce to you is "Boat Service Booking"

Deep sea Fishing trip For those who came here for holidays and like to experience fishing trip or want to buy fishing rods, hooks, and all fishing equipments, we provide it all.

The trip is a join group of 4 person per boat. That way, each person can share the cost of the trip or can charter boat. The trip will start leaving to the Ocean at 06:00 am and will return back to shore at 6:00 pm. For those who need to buy rods hooks and fishing equipments, there is a very good shop Call "Eva Fishing" You can call Eva direct at 089 680 8882 Mr. Bass.

Private Island Tour This is a speedy Boat for 4 person.

It is very clean, have shower room, kitchen, soft drinks, Ice, snack, JBL party box Bluetooth and Rod for squid fishing. On 2nd floor or roof top is a mall party area.

For further information or booking you can contact Karen Mobile phone 087 941 3986



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STEPS IN SETTING UP A BUSINESS IN THAILAND

By: Magna Carta Law Firm

1. DECIDE ON YOUR BUSINESS STRUCTURE

You may register a business as Limited Company, Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, or Board of Investment Promotions. Thai Limited Company is the most popular structure and ideally the first step in setting up a company in Thailand. A Thai Limited Company is majority-owned by Thai nationals, owning at least 51% of company shares.

2. IDENTIFY YOUR DIRECTOR(S) AND SHAREHOLDERS

A Thai limited company has to consist of 1 or more directors. They can either be Thai or foreigner. You should have a minimum of 2 shareholders to establish a Thai Limited Company and Partnership.

3. RESERVE A COMPANY NAME

The name you select for your business must be unique. It cannot be identical with any registered Thai company, whether it be in English or Thai. Be ready to provide 3 or more proposed business names.

4. REGISTER YOUR COMPANY

Prepare all the necessary registration paperwork and then register your business at the Department of Business Development (DBD).

5. OBTAIN SPECIAL PERMITS AND LICENSES

It is a requirement for some enterprises to secure a special license from other government agencies, depending on the nature of its business operation. These include: Food License, Alcohol and Cigarette License, Entertainment License, Import License, etc.

6. VISA AND WORK PERMIT APPLICATION FOR FOREIGN WORKERS

All foreign workers in Thailand must hold the proper visa and a valid work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor. There is a mandatory requirement for a minimum number of Thai employees per foreign employee, depending on the status of the company. The standard ratio is 4 Thai employees to 1 foreign employee. Moreover, a company can hire one foreigner for every 2,000,000 Baht registered paid-up capital.

7. CORPORATE INCOME TAX AND SOCIAL SECURITY FUND REGISTRATION

You need to make sure that your employees are registered in the Social Security Fund System and must therefore submit monthly contributions. You must apply for and get a business corporate tax ID card from the Revenue Department within 60 days of incorporation or the start of business operations.

8. OPENING COMPANY BANK ACCOUNT.

Companies can open a corporate bank account in Thailand.

9. MONTHLY ACCOUNTING

Accurate bookkeeping records must be maintained. Tax filings and employee social security contributions must be made on a monthly basis.

10. ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET

It is extremely important that companies prepare and submit the balance sheets at least once every twelve months. Such a twelve-month period constitutes the company's accounting period or financial year. A newly established company should, therefore, close accounts within 12 months from its registration. It is important that a qualified external auditor certifies the accounts and the officer must file with the Revenue Department and Department of Business Development every year. You must file the company balance sheet within 150 days after the end of its accounting period.

You should seek legal counsel for the precise actions that your company needs to undertake. We can help you from step 1 all the way to the last step when your business is up and running, whether you are establishing your company for TRADING PURPOSES or HOLDING PROPERTIES for foreigners desiring to purchase land and homes in Thailand.





What's on The Small Screen



Outlander Season 7

Imprisoned in Wilmington Clarie waits to be put on trial for the murder of Tom Christie's daughter.



The Walking Dead: Dead City

Post-apocalyptic spin-off series centered around Maggie and Negan characters from the original show.



The Witcher Season 3 Part 1

Geralt tries to hide and protect Ciri who is being hunted by mages, beasts, and monarchs.



The Lazarus Project

George has been constantly reliving the same weeks of his life again and again.



Our Planet II

Documentary mini-series narrated by David Attenborough following the billions of animals that migrate across the globe.



Manifest Season 4 Part 2

A plane lands years after it took off with the 191 passengers trying to reintegrate back into society.



What's on The Big Screen



Hypnotic

Ben Affleck, Alice Braga, Diana Cruz, Jeff Fahey

A detective tries to find his missing daughter and discovers a secret government program.



The Flash

Ben Affleck, Michael Shannon, Michael Keaton, Ezra Miller

The Flash uses his powers to travel back in time hoping he can change the events of the past.



Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny

Harrison Ford, Mads Mikkelsen, Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Indiana Jones is back for one last adventure and faces an old rival.



Transformers: Rise of the Beasts

Michelle Yeoh, J.Pete Davidson, Ron Perlman, Peter Dinklage

The Maximals, Predacons, and Terrorcons join the fight between the Autobots and Decepticons.



Elemental

Leah Lewis, Mamoudou Athie, Ronnie del Carmen, Shila Ommi

Adventure in a city where Air, Fire, Water, and land residents live together.



No Hard Feelings

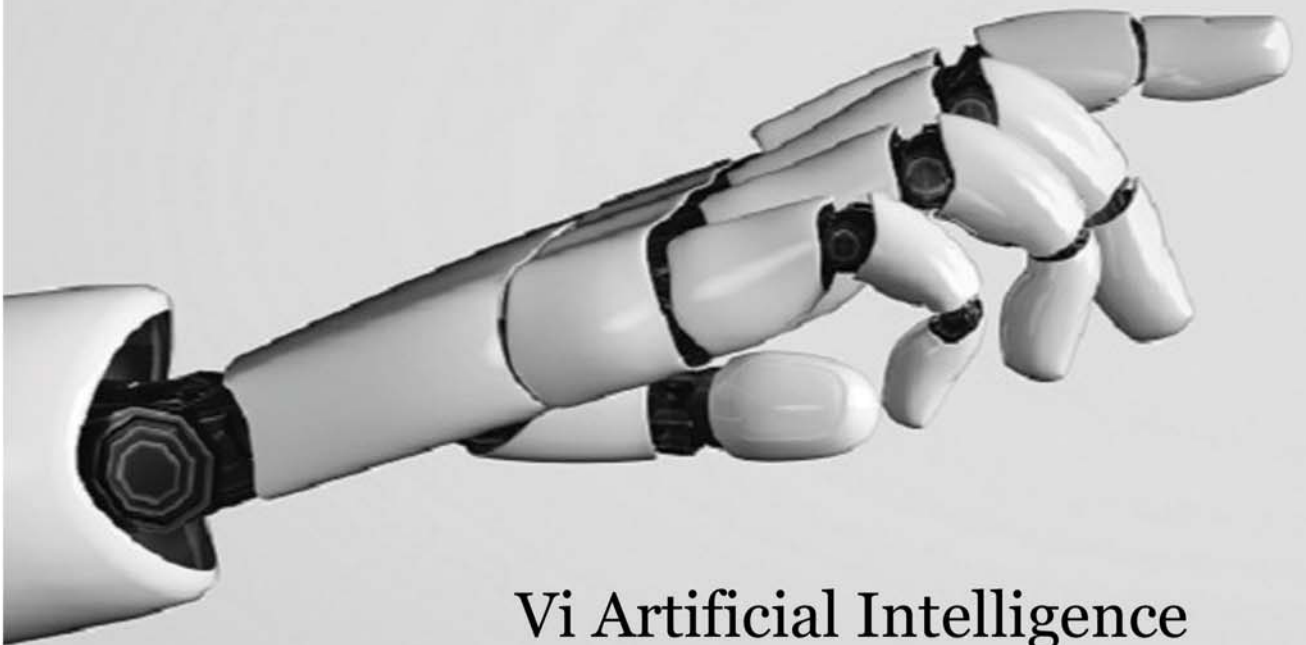
Jennifer Lawrence, Andrew Barth Feldman, Matthew Broderick

A delivery driver accepts a Craigslist ad from a couple who want someone to date their awkward teenage son.



Amazon Astro

Meet Amazon Astro, your personal home robot designed to make your life easier. It monitors your home, performs everyday tasks, and even entertains you. With built-in cameras, voice control, and advanced AI technology, it adapts to your unique needs and preferences. Experience the future of smart home technology and get your Amazon Astro today.



Vi Artificial Intelligence Personal Trainer

Meet Vi, your personal trainer powered by artificial intelligence. With Vi, you can get a personalized workout plan tailored to your fitness level, goals, and preferences. Vi provides real-time feedback and encouragement, keeping you motivated and on track. Whether you're running, cycling, or lifting weights, Vi is with you every step of the way, helping you reach your fitness goals faster and more efficiently. Get your Vi Artificial Intelligence Personal Trainer today and take your fitness to the next level.



Dyson Pure Cool Tower Advanced Technology Air

The Ambi Climate AI Air Conditioner uses advanced AI technology, Ambi Climate learns your preferences and adjusts the temperature and humidity to optimize your comfort, while saving energy and reducing your carbon footprint. Control your air conditioner from anywhere using your smartphone or voice commands, and enjoy a comfortable and eco-friendly home with Ambi Climate AI Air Conditioner.



Chris Digital A Co-Driver

Introducing Chris Digital AI Co-Driver, the smart driving assistant that helps you stay focused on the road. With its advanced artificial intelligence, Chris can provide real-time updates on traffic, weather, and navigation, so you can arrive at your destination safely and efficiently. Say goodbye to distractions and hello to stress-free driving with Chris Digital AI Co-Driver.



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- Business owners use this credit to purchase products and services within the community to help their business grow "No Cash Outlay"

What's our commitment?

- We will continue to build the BBX Business community providing sustainable opportunities focused on business needs
- We will support business initiatives and partnerships, nurturing them in parallel with new ideas.
- We will provide a secure financial platform for transaction management

Your Commitment?

- Our business community transacts via business trade credits. A willingness to be part of this extra revenue stream
- Our community of business owners connects and supports each other via fair trading terms, an understanding that strong relationships prosper with respect

Reach out to us, we are here to help all business grow!

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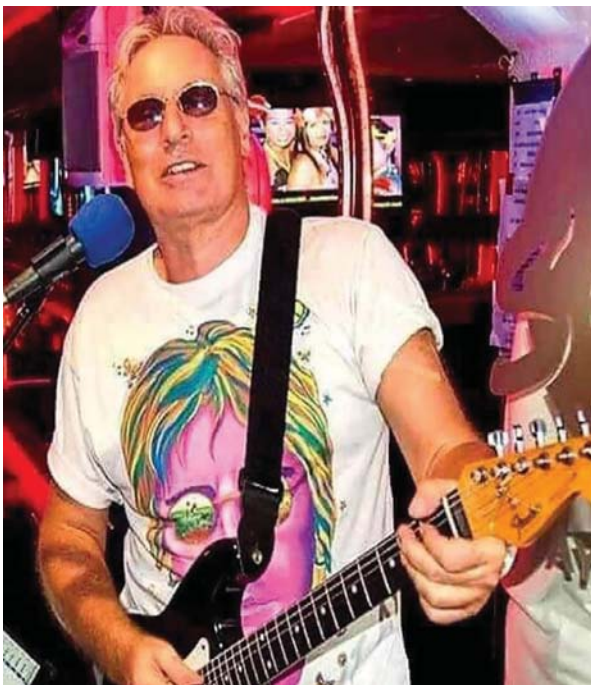
A.I. – THE FUTURE OF MUSIC?

When 'Napster', a peer to peer file sharing application, reared its ugly head on June 1st 1999, it heralded the demise of the music business as I'd known it. Throughout the following years, sales of CDs declined and illegal downloading increased to the point where the general public were, mistakenly, of the opinion they were getting bargains in the form of new free music. This led to established record labels merging and the number of 'majors' decreasing meaning small, or indeed, no investment in upcoming talent. Suddenly, many were complaining about the lack of new creative inventive music that they had grown up with. Today, the music business is completely different with revenue levels diminished and digital platforms ruling.

Myself, as a writer, can still receive 'performance' royalties as before but as far as 'mechanical' income goes (i.e. sales), as an artist, we have to look for alternative methods of music distribution.



Artificial Intelligence (A.I.), is right now the latest revolution for many industries including the music industry. A.I. has the potential to transform the way music is created, produced and consumed. It can generate music after analyzing vast amounts of data and identify patterns and create music that sounds like it was composed by humans.



Furthermore, A.I. is transforming the way streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music use algorithms to analyze user's listening habits. This means homogenising what you, the consumer, gets to hear and be offered in the guise of new and creative music. Some critics, including myself, worry that A.I. generated music will lack the emotional depth of music created by humans and that real musicians and artists will be replaced. This is already happening with A.I. creations sounding like new material from artists like Oasis and Drake, with a fake Drake track, according to Drake fans, sounding better than his originals. This then means his record label don't need him anymore and can save on paying him royalties (thoughts & prayers please).

I've always known a saying in the music business, 'where there's a hit, there's a writ'. I believe that music lawyers all over the world are now licking their lips at the amount of litigation that will be coming their way.

The loser in all of this will undoubtedly be us, the real creative artists and you, the consuming public who from now on will have no idea if what you are hearing is real or fake. We all already experience this on a daily basis with photoshopped images and filtered Instagram photos, especially from the females of our species...yes you know

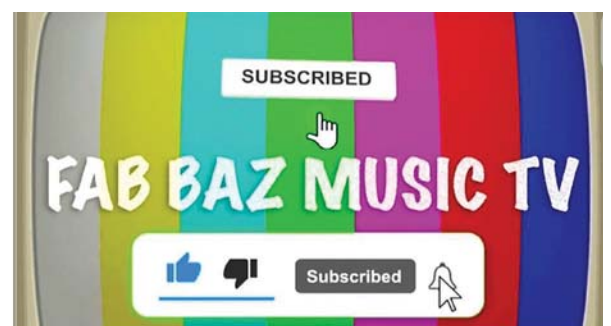
who you are. So, welcome to the new world of fantasy which will undoubtedly lead to job losses and an impossible grasp of what is real in the world.

To test the usefulness of A.I., I have utilized it for my next project. I fed in my original, creative title and asked it to write me some lyrics in the style of various artists from Ed Sheeran to Paul Simon to Joni Mitchell to Eminem. I was flabbergasted at the speed and quality of what was offered to me.

Now, as a successful songwriter of forty years, I've learned a thing or two about lyrics and can reveal that most of the lines A.I. gave to me were not useful. However, I can admit that there's a few ideas that might 'influence' my final composition.

I believe that using A.I. to help in the same way as Dictionaries, Thesaurus and Google have done, can only be a step forward. However, be very scared of the gradual take over of us as a human race by the devilishly evil higher power that is Artificial Intelligence. (cue – dramatic apocalyptic A.I. generated music).

*** Please check out all Barry Upton's recent, personal, non A.I. creative output on his dedicated YouTube channel – FAB BAZ MUSIC TV



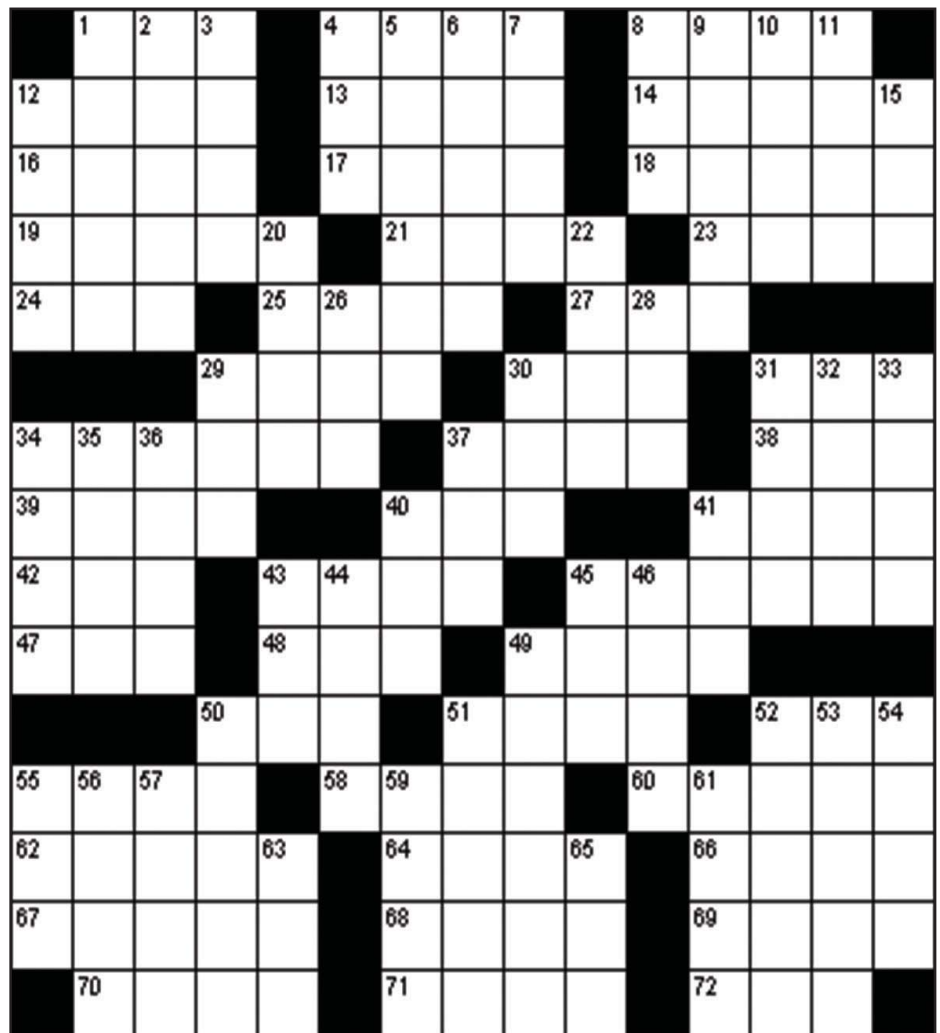
CROSS WORD JUNE 2023

Across

1. Spoil
4. Highly excited
8. Land measure
12. In this place
13. Starchy plant
14. Sedimentary rock
16. Exhort
17. Arab ruler
18. Heathen
19. Surly
21. Type of meat
23. Despatch
24. Optic
25. Object of worship
27. Prevarication
29. Iniquity
30. Long fish
31. Also
34. Intense dislike
37. Adverse criticism
38. Chafe
39. Finished
40. Seabird
41. Inventor of this pen
42. Trash can
43. Couple
45. Pass by, in time
47. Peculiar
48. Edge
49. Principal
50. Type of fish
51. Desperate
52. Appropriate
55. Celestial body
58. Level
60. Stately
62. Dart
64. Adjoin
66. Complain
67. Pretext
68. Replete
69. Redact
70. Facilitate
71. Woody plant
72. Mesh

Down

1. Festive
2. Debate
3. Coral ridge
4. Consumed
5. Frolic
6. Type of window
7. Bloodshed
8. Small snake
9. Pursue
10. Fury
11. Panache
12. Enormous
15. Conclusion
20. Basketball number
22. Insect
26. Carried out an action
28. Kind or sort
29. Stray
30. Moose
31. Journey
32. Belonging to us
33. Woodwind
34. Tramp
35. Eager
36. Keep watch
37. Animal coat
40. Target
41. Prohibition
43. In favor of
44. Assistant
45. Hearing device
46. Form of security
49. Unit of time
50. Traverse
51. Suspend
52. Dwelling
53. Twisted hair
54. Portable shelter
55. Droop
56. Genuine
57. Elaborate song
59. Immense
61. Portent
63. Small
65. Golf peg



SOLUTIONS ARE ON PAGE 49

SUDOKU JUNE 2023

SOLUTIONS ARE ON PAGE 58

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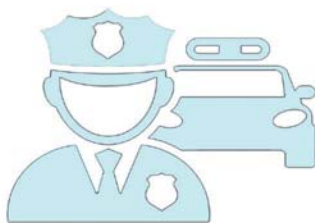
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IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS



POLICE

Emergency Hotline: 191
 Pattaya Police Station: Soi 9 Pattaya
 Phone: 038 420- 802, 038-420 805 0-3842-9325
 Banglamung Police Station, Sukhumvit Highway)
 Phone: 038 221 800, 038 221 331
 Tourist Police: Phratamnak Road
 Emergency Hotline: 1155
 Phone 03841 4669, 03842 5937,

AMBULANCE AND HOSPITALS

General emergency number 191 can be used or 1669
 Pattaya International Hospital
 PhoneTel: 038 428 374-5. Tel: 038-427 575
 Bangkok Hospital Pattaya
 PhoneTel: 038-259-999. 0-3825-9911
 Pattaya Memorial Hospital
 PhoneTel: 038 488 777. 038-429 422

FIRE

Emergency Phone: 199
 Fire Brigade Pattaya
 PhoneTel: 038-425-943,
 Fire Brigade Naklua
 PhoneTel: 038-221-000,

SEA RESCUE

Marine Police
 Phone. 038-423 666
 Sea Rescue
 Phone 038-488 134

ELECTRICITY

Electricity Pattaya
 Phone 0-3842-6463, 0-3842-8502
 Electricity Banglamung
 Phone 0-3822-1007

WATER

Water Works Banglamung
 Phone 0-3822-1463
 Water Works Pattaya
 Phone 0-3822-2462/5

WASTE DISPOSAL

Garbage Collection
 Phone 0-3842-9494

The Eastern Seaboard Business Dinner

The Eastern Seaboard Business Dinner is a monthly event and it brings together business leaders and professionals from various industries to network and exchange views, whilst enjoying an excellent sit-down dinner as you listen to a guest speaker. Established more than 20 years ago, the event is now organised by Frank and Elly of Ultimate Solutions Asia Co. Ltd which is a full corporate relocation service provider.



The dinner usually occurs on the last Thursday of the month and is held at the perfectly self-contained Sunset Lounge overlooking the Pullman Hotel's beautifully lit pool. Attendees are given free-flow beverages including wine and beer, to complement a sumptuous four-course dinner.



As well as the great food, a major benefit of attending the Eastern Seaboard Networking Dinner is the opportunity to meet with potential clients, partners, and collaborators. You can also explore new business opportunities and stay up-to-date on the latest industry trends and developments. The keynote speaker on the night I attended was Mr Andrew McBean from Grant Thornton Thailand and his subject was the very topical "AI Chat and how we use it in daily business".



A lively debate ensued on the pros and cons of this new technology. Everyone who has tried it agrees that AI chat responds very quickly and is cost-effective although Andrew advised that "the prompt" is all important when getting the best from ChatGPT, Bard and others that will quickly follow. Prompt engineers and courses in prompt engineering are now springing up in response to this.

Amongst the disadvantages discussed were: privacy concerns for customers' data, lack of nuance and up to the minute information (current cut-off date for ChatGPT is end 2021) so recent amendments or information will not be covered. Also, there is a real worry that through dependency and reliance on the ease of using this tool, users may take the text verbatim and not read through to make edits which is essential as the AI can make errors and repeat itself if not properly checked.

if you would like to attend an Eastern Seaboard Dinner to stay informed about industry trends in a relaxed, informal setting get in touch with Frank via his email frank.holzer@hotmail.com

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD PAGE 46

	M	A	R		A	G	O	G		A	C	R	E	
H	E	R	E		T	A	R	O		S	H	A	L	E
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HARD

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MEDIUM

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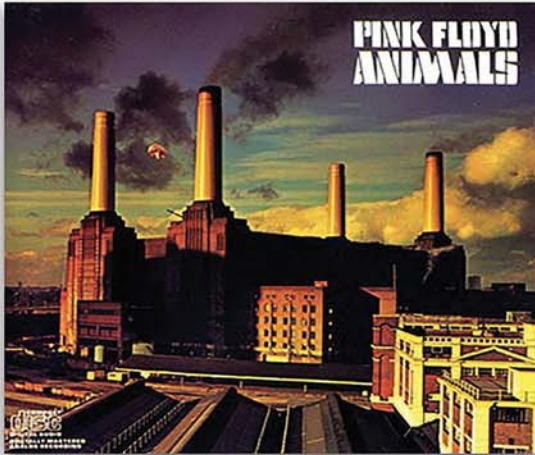
MEDIUM

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BATTERSEA POWER STATION 2023

Built during the 1930s, Battersea Power Station has long been an important London landmark. It was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who was responsible for Liverpool Cathedral and also designing the country's famous red telephone boxes.

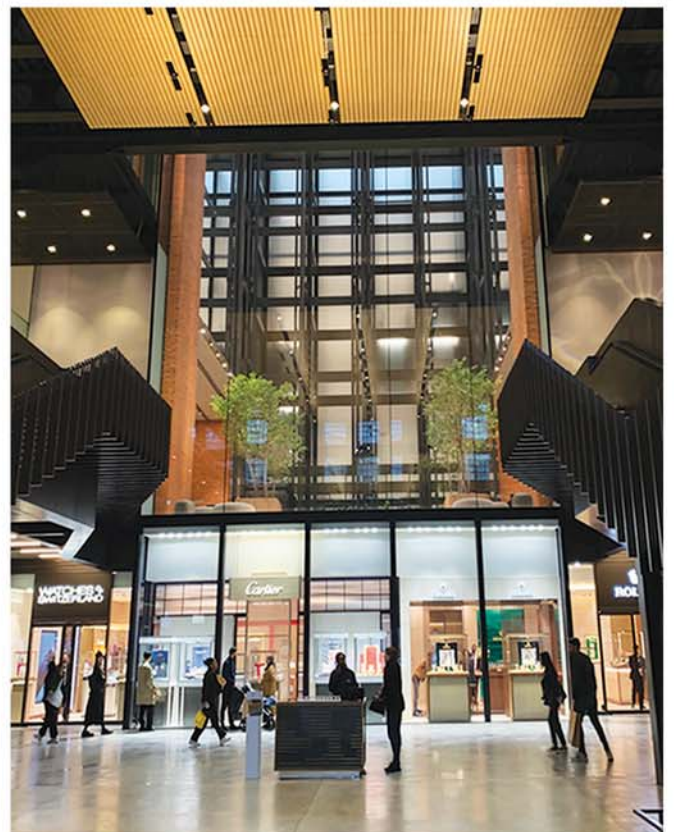
For nearly a century the decommissioned coal-fired power station, with its four towering chimneys, remained a fixture of the city's skyline. Made famous by Pink Floyd who used it on the cover of their seminal album "Animals" (complete with flying pig), it seemed that no one knew what to do with this iconic building.



That was until a consortium of Malaysian investors purchased it in 2012 and officially opened their new development a decade later. The total cost for this has been given as more than £9 billion with the centrepiece being the transformation of the power station itself. So now, after years of disuse, the power station has been transformed into a mixed-use development that is one of the capital's most exciting new areas.

During a recent trip to London, I decided to take a look for myself via the new purpose built Northern line extension linking Nine Elms to the new Battersea Power Station underground. Incidentally, this is the first new station to be built in London in over 20 years!

I was duly impressed at how the developers kept the Grade II listed exterior. This extended to appointing two of the companies who produced the original 6 million bricks when a further 1.75 million were needed. Using the same clay and hand-throwing techniques that they had last century, they were also required to match the new bricks perfectly to the shades of the originals.



The interior of the power station has been reimaged as "Electric Boulevard", which is in fact some rather high-end retail outlets. Notable brands include Ralph Lauren, Under Armour, Jo Malone, Hugo Boss, Abercrombie & Fitch, Rolex and Paul Smith. There are also the more expected retailers such as Marks and Spencer, Uniqlo and the most stunning Zara store ever.



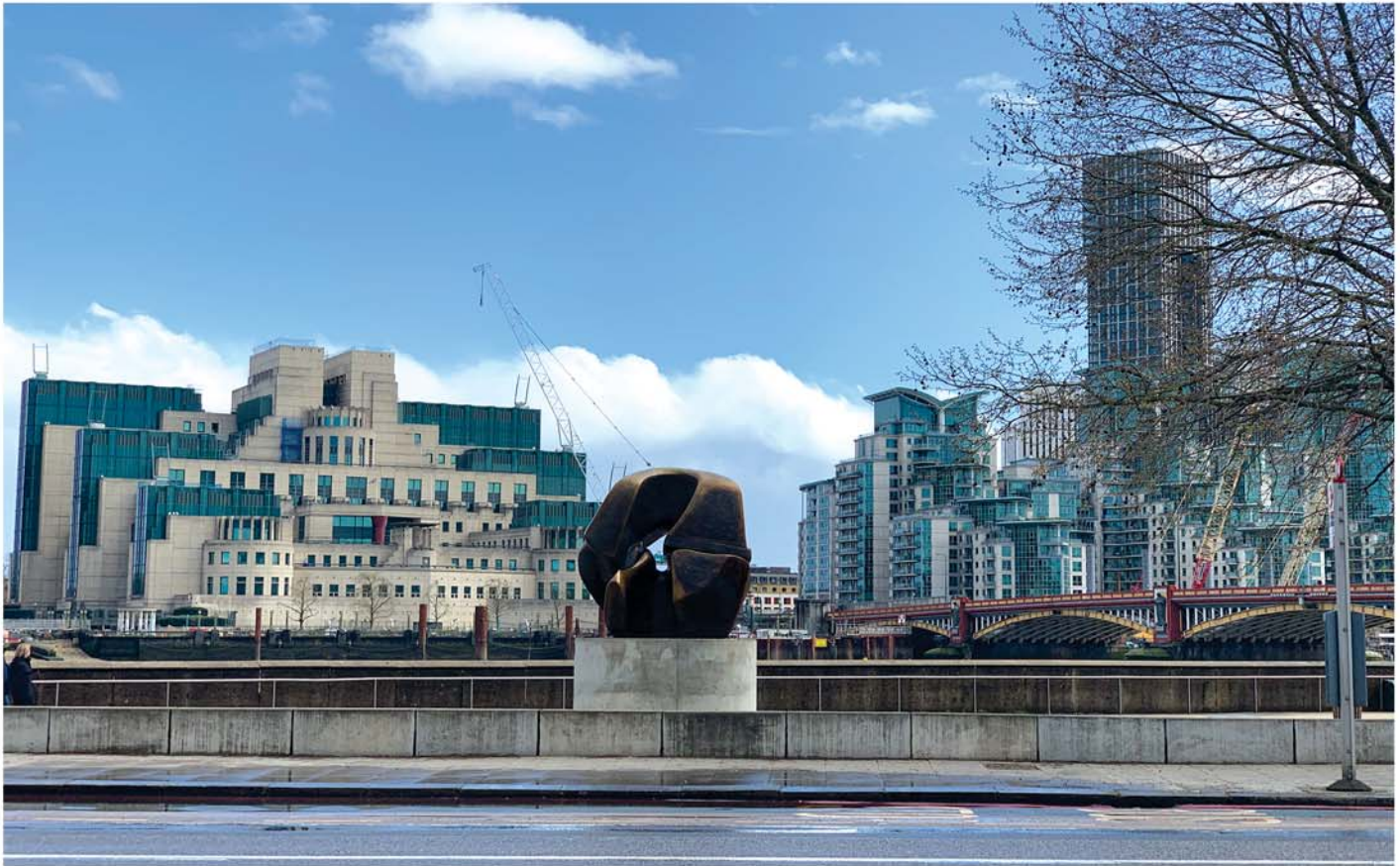
There is also a new park situated along the banks of the River Thames designed to be sustainable, inclusive, and diverse. Certainly, it is a haven for dog walkers - I have never seen so many Dachshunds in one place! Most of the popular dining destinations like Wright Brothers, Gordon Ramsay, Bread Street Kitchen, Street Pizza, Megan's and Fiume, to name but a few, have bowls of water inside and out for four-legged guests.



When you're next in London go take a look. The Power Station is open from 10am to 8pm Monday – Thursday, 10am – 9pm Friday and Saturday, and 12pm to 6pm on Sunday. As well as access via the new Northern Line extension you might also want to try getting there by using London's River Bus, operated by Thames Clippers.



LONDON CROWNED WORLD'S BEST CITY BRAND.



London has been named the best city brand in the world, followed by New York and Paris, by the inaugural Brand Finance City Index. The ranking is based on a global survey of close to 15,000 members of the public conducted in April 2023 in 20 countries on all continents to measure perceptions of the world's top 100 cities. With a score of 84.6 out of 100, driven by its high familiarity among respondents worldwide, London has recorded stronger brand perceptions than any other city in the study.

To arrive at a comprehensive assessment of the city brands in the ranking, alongside measuring familiarity, the survey asked the respondents about the general reputation and their personal consideration of each city as a place to live, work locally, work remotely, study, retire, visit, or invest in. The evaluation of preferences across these seven dimensions was complemented by perceptions of 45 underlying city brand attributes, grouped under seven pillars, such as Business & Investment or Sustainability & Transport.

Crowned as the overall winner, London ranks 1st in two of the seven key dimensions – study and visit – as well as in the top 4 in all other ones. London is ranked as the best city globally to study. The British capital hosts top universities – such as University College London, King's College London, Imperial College London, and the London School of Economics, while prestigious schools in and near London that prepare for university – like Eton and Harrow – attract students from around the world. It is no surprise that the city comes 1st globally for great universities and great private schools.

Thanks to iconic landmarks like the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, and the Tower of London, and renowned cultural institutions like the British Museum, National Gallery, and the West End theatre district, London is a prime tourist destination. London's top global ranking as the best city to visit, is supported by its 3rd place for great museums and art galleries and great theatres and music venues. The appeal of London can also be attributed to its strong identity and character, where London ranks 3rd globally.

New York City secured 2nd spot, with a Brand Finance City Index score of 83.0 out of 100. NYC also ranks 3rd globally in familiarity and boasts 2nd spot in three out of the seven key dimensions: invest, study, and visit. Ranking 1st for great shopping, restaurants and nightlife venues, home to Fifth Avenue shops and Broadway theatres, NYC lives up to its name as the 'city that never sleeps'. As a result, NYC ranks as the 2nd best city in the world to visit.



TOP 10 BEST CITY BRANDS 2023

1	  LONDON 84.6	2	  NEW YORK 83.0	3	  PARIS 79.7	4	  LOS ANGELES 78.6	5	  SYDNEY 77.9
6	  SINGAPORE 77.5	7	  TOKYO 77.0	8	  SAN FRANCISCO 76.3	9	  DUBAI 75.8	10	  AMSTERDAM 75.7

Brand Finance 

Source: Brand Finance City Index 2023

brandfinance.com

Paris rounds off the podium, coming 3rd in the ranking with a Brand Finance City Index score of 79.7 out of 100. Paris is also ranked as the world's 2nd most familiar city boasting an abundance of renowned attractions, including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, and the Moulin Rouge, Ranking 1st across the Middle East & Africa, Dubai comfortably makes the top 10 of the world's best-perceived cities. The 'City of Gold' is a major shopping destination for jewellery and has performed well across multiple Business & Investment attributes, ranking 1st for future growth potential, 2nd in strong and stable economy, and 3rd behind only New York and London as a city of global significance.

From Australia, Sydney ranks 5th overall, standing out as the best city to live in and 2nd best to work and retire in. Singapore, 6th in the ranking, and Tokyo, 7th, are the best perceived cities from Asia. Singapore boasting strongest perceptions globally for startups and innovations and Tokyo ranking 1st as the global leader in science and technology.

David Haigh, Chairman & CEO of Brand Finance, commented: "London's exceptional performance in the Index can be attributed to its global familiarity. Coming first on this particular measure, London has a huge advantage over its peers, leading to its success in ranking overall as the world's best city. Knowing a city allows the public to form positive perceptions about it – to recognise its reputation and to consider it as the preferred place to live, work, study, retire, visit, or invest."



High familiarity means a deeper understanding of its qualities and a broader reach of its appeal, allowing the city to draw significant economic benefits from inbound migration, investment, and tourism."

Brand Finance is the world's leading brand evaluation consultancy. Bridging the gap between marketing and finance for more than 25 years. To view the full list of 50 countries go to

<https://brandfinance.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/brand-finance-city-index-2023-Best-City-Brands-Table-4.pdf>

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, is a Hot, Fun Place!

PART 1 - Story and pictures by Jason Rupp and Carla Marie Rupp

You can easily make a holiday trip out of going to Phnom Penh. It's "hot" as in exciting! When we were there it was really hot though. We braved the heat by hydrating with sugar cane juice and fresh coconut water, from sellers dotted throughout the city. It's really a fun place to visit and just a short flight from Bangkok. During our week's stay, we never ran out of things to do in this magical Cambodian city along the Mekong River.



Phnom Penh isn't what it used to be, just a decade ago. No more dusty roads with a hint of danger; now it's a mix of old and new. You see tall buildings right beside the shorter, older ones. It feels safe, clean. Modern buildings, yet still plenty of street food, with parks and happier people than we remember from a visit some years ago. Walking around, we found lots of family food stalls with delicious food and beverages – as well as craft beer and cocktails in cozy cafes and bars. People are mingling and socializing everywhere. It felt good to see the world traveling again. Phnom Penh is a happening place, a paradise for food and drink choices. There are expats meeting at unique expat events and for those needing it, it is a perfect place for a visa run.

You can see heritage sites, such as the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda, take walks, enjoy comedy and other entertainment, or just have a beautiful ride on a sightseeing boat. It's a pleasure meeting people all over Phnom Penh, sometimes called "PP." We loved it all.

Arriving at the fully modernized Phnom Penh Airport (PNH) is convenient and easy from Bangkok, just over an hour's flight. Our adventure began with the tuk-tuk ride into the center of the city to our hotel. After settling in with our bags, we checked into our hotel, the Artist Residence, to explore and found much to see and do. We decided the rooms were so-so, but the coffee shop downstairs was worth being there. Taking tuk-tuks around in the lively streets is fun, and you can order them on Grab now, without any annoying haggling. You just order them and they come to you, with the price set. It's a wild and fun way to get around.





One of our first nights included lots of laughs in a comedy club called The Box Office Craft Beer Bar. We saw traveling expat comic Trevor Lock entertain in an interactive show, with the audience hailing from all over the world. The Box Office served up some great food, but we especially enjoyed the double IPA craft beer. Afterwards, just a short walk away, we found and tried bagels at Cambodia Bagels. We thought of our hometown in New York City as we ate them. They may as well just call them New York bagels, since they are the best we have had outside of N.Y.C. Wow, that was yummy.

Our favorite cup of coffee was at the little vintage lobby of The Artist Residence, where we ordered the delicious long black (or Americano). It's right near the impressive Hyatt Regency. And each time we sat here, we found expat travelers to have a chat with and get a few tips. One told us about some great Vietnamese coffee at the "Ha Noi Corner" where everything was authentic Vietnamese.

To eat we went to Soga Cafe, Bistro & School, open from 6 am to 10 pm where we ordered carrot ginger soup and a big, beautiful gourmet salad. In our salad were bok choy, pomegranate, corn, green and yellow zucchini, yellow squash, tomatoes, grilled red pepper, mango, and cooked pumpkin cubes. The Kobe dressing was a blend of cubed carrots, sliced ginger, soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic, white onion, black pepper and lime juice. The French chef and owner said he absolutely loves Phnom Penh, as we do now.

We felt so good eating healthy and fresh food here. It was one of the best salads we have had in a long time, with so many great ingredients. Chef Olivier Guerrapin chatted with us about his career, French fusion foods, and how he landed in the capital city and started this popular cooking school and restaurant. Another great place to eat is Padang Nusantara, an Indonesian restaurant by the river and full of Indonesian people. They told us that the food was as authentic as it can get. We had coconut rice, cassava green leaves, crispy tempe, and potato and vegetable fritters with red and green chile sauces.

Chef Olivier Guerrapin Owner of Soga





We then went back in fact walking, and tuk-tuks became our routine for getting around Phnom Penh. Anybody can order a tuk-tuk and know what the price is by using the apps. We would choose far-off destinations, just so we could sightsee along the way. We also took tuk-tuks to many wonderful restaurants during the week, in between reasonably-priced treatments (hair washes, hair cuts, ear cleanings, shaves, massages, etc.) for the various Jason Rupp travel & pampering YouTube channels

Find out more about Phnom Penh including, what was for Jason and Carla the absolute highlight of their Cambodian trip. In the travel section of next month's edition of Discover Pattaya

Jason Rupp and Carla Marie Rupp are freelance travel writers and journalists, who spend a lot of time in Pattaya, Thailand. They both run the YouTube channels: Jason Rupp; Jason Rupp Learning to Walk and Talk, and Jason Rupp Extras



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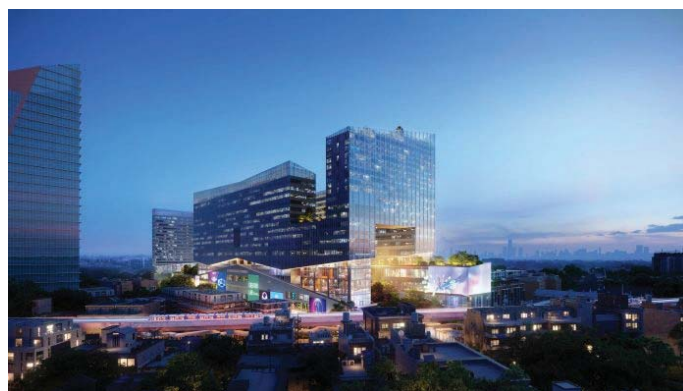


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A NEW BANGKOK INNOVATION DISTRICT SPRINGS UP IN AN UNLIKELY LOCATION

Cloud 11 is part of the South Sukhumvit innovation district near Udom Suk BTS station. Those who haven't ventured past the On Nut BTS station in a few years may be surprised to find out what's happening in this part of Bangkok.

A flurry of activity has seen new condominiums and a handful of office buildings pop up here in recent times. However, one developer is taking things a step further by establishing an innovation district in this unlikely location. The ever-ambitious MQDC recently unveiled Cloud 11 which is being positioned as Asia's largest hub for content creators. It is part of what is being dubbed the South Sukhumvit innovation district that also features the developer's True Digital Park. "We have always honoured our 'For All Well-Being' philosophy with our property projects that enhance the lives of all on a sustainable basis," Khun Visit Malaisirirat, Chief Executive Officer of MQDC, said. "Every MQDC project delivers benefits to local communities, the public, and the country, as it is developed with innovations, advanced technologies, and concepts in line with national development policies. We have invested in the Cloud 11 project to create an innovation cluster for new-gen and creative innovation in South Sukhumvit."



True Digital Park and Cloud 11 will essentially be across the street from one another as part of the innovation district that can be found between the Udom Suk and Bang Chak BTS stations. It's not the first place that springs to mind when people think of cutting-edge business, but these two mixed-use developments are changing that.

For MQDC, the key to its new project was ensuring it was complimentary to what was already available. So, while True Digital Park is billed as a startup ecosystem, Cloud 11 is focused on an "Empowering Creators" concept that centres around being a hub for the next generation of content creators.

"Cloud 11 not only has physical facilities to comprehensively fulfil the needs of content creation and new-gen lifestyles, but it will also give inspiration, knowledge and growth opportunities to creators, content-based enterprises, and related businesses," Khun Onza Janyaprasert, Project Director of Cloud 11, detailed. "We expect Cloud 11 to empower Thai creators and bring them to the global market. Also, we truly hope that our project will contribute to efforts to turn Thailand into a top global content provider." In addition to office and studio space, Cloud 11 will also contain two hotels, a retail zone, an event space and Bangkok's largest rooftop park. Work on the project began in 2022 and is slated to be finished by the end of next year.

The PropertyGuru Thailand Property Awards opens its 18th edition as the country sustains tourism recovery

The 18th PropertyGuru Thailand Property Awards 2023, presented by Mitsubishi Elevator (Thailand) and supported by JLL, are now calling for submissions from the kingdom's recovering resort markets and other dynamic locations in addition to Greater Bangkok. Awardees will receive the opportunity to stand beside Thailand's finest property developers, design practices, and developments—together raising the Gold Standard in real estate. Award categories open to competitors this year include recognitions for developments in locations as diverse as Chiang Mai, the Eastern Seaboard, Hua Hin, Khao Yai, Koh Phangan, Krabi, the Northeast, Phang-Nga, Phuket, and Samui.

Submissions are accepted online via: asiapropertyawards.com/nominations

The recovery of the tourism industry, driven in part by the reopening of China, is one of several positive indicators that the real estate market will recover from its slump in 2023, according to DDproperty.com, the official portal partner of the Awards. Phuket, among other bright spots throughout the country, has become a haven for international home buyers seeking refuge from conflict in Europe, and home buyers seeking working holidays have also flocked to Koh Pha Ngan, where they are fuelling a building boom for luxury properties.

The Price Index for residential properties in Phuket rose 8% QoQ in Q4 2022, buoyed by rising demand for townhouses (+4% QoQ and +25% YoY), according to DDproperty.com, the official portal partner of the Awards. A majority (32%) of residential properties in Phuket are priced greater than THB15 million.

Apart from the return of tourism, transport infrastructure developments are expected to continue galvanising the property market, according to the latest DDproperty Thailand Property Market Report. Fringe and outskirt areas of Bangkok with access to the SRT (Red Line), MRT (Blue Line) and BTS (Green Line) routes, in fact, recorded the highest Price Index growth in Q4 2022. Overall housing Demand Index in Bangkok in the fourth quarter of 2022 increased 47% from the pre-pandemic period (Q4 2019). The Price Index of residential property for sale in Bangkok is also likely to increase in 2023 while property seekers need to be ready for higher inflation and interest rates.

Jules Kay, general manager of PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards and Events, said: "We are delighted to be launching the 18th PropertyGuru Thailand Property Awards at a time when Thailand's property market is showing momentum. Market optimism is high, with domestic buyers showing a healthy appetite for real estate purchases, while international buyers and investors are returning on the back of a strong travel rebound. With their proven regional impact, well established credibility and an independent judging process the PropertyGuru Thailand Property Awards support this positive market sentiment by pushing the bar of quality upwards for Thailand's real estate industry."

Key dates for 2023:

16 June 2023 – Entries Close

3 July – 4 August 2023 – Site Inspections

9 August 2023 – Final Judging

1 September 2023 – The annual black-tie gala celebration of the 18th PropertyGuru Thailand Property Awards will take place at the Crystal Hall of The Athenee Hotel, a Luxury Collection Hotel, in Bangkok on Friday, 1 September 2023.

8 December 2023 – Regional Grand Final Gala Presentation in Bangkok, Thailand

**Nominations and entries are being accepted online until 16 June 2023:
asiapropertyawards.com/nominations**

Eligible entries are rigorously selected by the independent panel of judges, comprising experts in diverse fields such as real estate consultancy, architecture and interior design, and sustainable development. Supervised by HLB, the global network of independent advisory and accounting firms, the Awards programme makes full use of a professionally run and fully transparent judging system, with an established reputation for fairness and transparency.

ABOUT PROPERTYGURU ASIA PROPERTY AWARDS:

PropertyGuru’s Asia Property Awards, established in 2005, are the region’s most exclusive and prestigious real estate awards programme. The Asia Property Awards are recognised as the ultimate hallmark of excellence in the Asian property sector. Boasting an independent panel of industry experts and trusted supervisors, the Awards have an unparalleled reputation for being credible, ethical, fair and transparent.

In 2023, the Awards series is open to more than a dozen key property markets around the region. The exciting gala events welcome senior industry leaders and top media, as well as reach property agents and consumers via live streaming. Recognising excellence within each Asian market with a variety of categories, including green and sustainable development, each local awards programme will culminate in the PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards Grand Final, which takes place after the PropertyGuru Asia Real Estate Summit during ‘PropertyGuru Week’ in December 2023.

For more information, please visit AsiaPropertyAwards.com

ABOUT PROPERTYGURU GROUP:

PropertyGuru is Southeast Asia’s leading1 PropTech company and the preferred destination for over 41 million property seekers2 to connect with more than 63,000 agents3 monthly to find their dream home. PropertyGuru empowers property seekers with more than 3.2 million real estate listings4, in-depth insights, and solutions that enable them to make confident property decisions across Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

PropertyGuru.com.sg was launched in Singapore in 2007 and since then PropertyGuru Group has made the property journey a transparent one for property seekers in Southeast Asia. In the last 15 years, PropertyGuru has grown into a high-growth PropTech company with a robust portfolio of leading property marketplaces across its core markets; award-winning mobile apps; mortgage marketplace, PropertyGuru Finance; and a host of enterprise solutions now under PropertyGuru For Business, including a high-quality developer sales enablement platform, FastKey, DataSense, ValueNet, Awards, events and publications across Asia.



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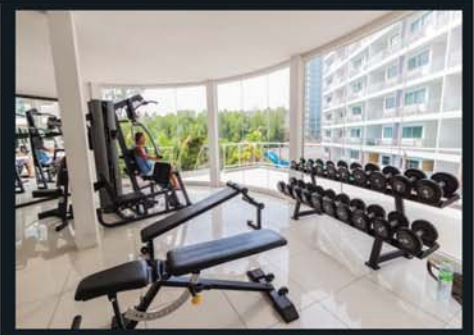
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