

## UK envoy makes secret visit to Samui

DANIEL Pruce, Deputy Head of Mission (DHM) at the British Embassy in Bangkok paid a quiet visit to Koh Samui early April of this year and met some of the members of British expatriates on island. This is according to a media release sent by the office of the British Honorary Consul.

The media release said Pruce visited Samui between 1 and 5 of April unannounced due to security reasons, noting that "his visit weren't made public until appropriate."

Pruce flew to Samui to enable him to learn the geography involved when consular

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assistance is needed in this southern part of the kingdom, the release mentioned, adding the need for the diplomat to meet with British expat community. The media release didn't give any details.

Pruce met with important individuals



L to R- BHC Dave Covey, DHM Danny Pruce, Rachael Morgan, and Liz Luxen at Elephant & Castle in Bang Rak.

at Breakfast @ BBC early on his itinerary on Samui. He spoke with British Honorary Consul Dave Covey, British Consular Agents Gary and Donna Hawkes from Koh Tao, Liz Luxen - a German freelance translator with considerable experience with legal affairs involving British nationals, and Bob Keen of fluid Asia-Pacific and founder of the British ex-services group living on the islands of Thailand, the media release reported.

On the second day of his stay, the British diplomat enjoyed some drinks and buffet with expats at the Elephant & Castle in Bang Rak, the media release said, pointing out that Pruce enlightened British expats "on recent changes to the way passports are issued in Southeast Asia," and reminded them to register with the embassy.

Accordingly, since March 2010 the issuing of British passports to holders in

Southeast Asia became the responsibility of British consular office in Hong Kong.

The office of the British Honorary Consul encourages its nationals to register with the embassy via the following website: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/Locate>.

During his short stay on Samui, Pruce also proceeded to Bophut & Nathon police stations, Samui Immigration Office, the Prosecutors office, and Samui Court.

"Mr. Pruce raised several matters with authorities at each department," the media release said, noting that Pruce will make a follow up visit later this year. The media release didn't provide any particulars concerning the issues he brought up with the said local government agencies.

Pruce is Britain's second highest diplomat in Thailand.