



(Phuket, Thailand, August 5, 2008) – Phuket's first exhibition and conference center was launched today at Royal Phuket Marina, Thailand's most exclusive luxury lifestyle yachting community. The facility will be known as ROYAL PHUKET MARINA EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE CENTER.

The 2,500 square meter 'RPM Convention Hall' paves the way for a new era of large-scale conferences and expos on the island. Three times larger than any existing exhibition facility on the island, it envisages hosting one or two high profile events every month.

The exhibition center opens in December, in time to host "Asia's favourite boat show", the annual Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX).

The initiative is a joint venture between Royal Phuket Marina and Informa (www.informa.com), the largest publicly-owned organizer of conferences and courses in the world, staging over 10,000 events annually.

"We are delighted to extend our global business commitment and presence in Phuket," said Informa Yacht Group CEO, Will Morris.

"As one of the world's premier tourist destinations, this island paradise has the potential to become a leading international venue for conventions and expos."

On Phuket's eastern seaboard overlooking scenic Phang Nga Bay, Royal Phuket Marina is Thailand's first world-class luxury lifestyle community rivaling top marina resort communities in Europe and the Caribbean.

It was developed by tycoon Gulu Lalvani, founder of Binatone, the world's second largest manufacturer of digital cordless phones, who is on a mission to promote Phuket as a world class yachting hub in one of the world's most idyllic and accessible locations. Royal Phuket Marina has become an entertainment and lifestyle hub with open air restaurants and bars overlooking mega yachts moored in the Mediterranean-style marina.



"The launch of the ROYAL PHUKET MARINA EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE CENTER is an important milestone for Royal Phuket Marina as we continue to contribute to the social and economic fabric of the Phuket community," said Mr Lalvani. "Phuket's economy is booming, tourism is at an all time high, and the island is a natural magnet for growing international demand for conventions and exhibitions. I'm confident that Phuket will be placed firmly on the international convention and exhibition map."

Visitors to Phuket exceeded a record five million last year, up 11.25 percent from 2006. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) expects growth of another 20 percent in 2008, as the number of flights to Phuket reaches 120 per day.

Background:

Informa's international event organizer subsidiary, IIR Exhibitions Ltd, stages international events including the high-caliber industry forums, Adam Smith Conferences, and Monaco Yacht Show, the only international yacht show devoted exclusively to luxury yachting, featuring the biggest in-water display of super- and mega-yachts in Europe.

Following the successful completion and sale of Phase I, Royal Phuket Marina is now in Phase II of development, with luxury villas and Aquaminiums featuring unique, in-residence private yacht berths. More than half of the Royal Phuket Marina complex is devoted to leisure, shopping, recreation, and dining set amidst landscaped gardens overlooking the marina.

For more information about Royal Phuket Marina please visit www.royalphuketmarina.com

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