

Successful Inaugural Thailand Yacht Show and Forum reported by Asia Pacific Superyachts

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[Asia Pacific Superyachts](#) have announced a great success for the recently held inaugural [Thailand Yacht Show](#) and Forum. Gordon Fernandes and co-owner JoJo of Asia Pacific Superyachts expressed his satisfaction with the first show, which took place at the [Ao Po Marina](#) in [Phuket](#), from 10th to 14th February, 2016: *“What a fantastic response to the country’s inaugural Thailand Yacht Show in Phuket.”*



Gordon Fernandes Asia Pacific Superyachts at Thailand Yacht Forum

APS Phuket & Myanmar were present at the show and Gordon Fernandes was panelist at the Thailand Yachting Forum on 10th February at the Indigo Pearl Hotel in Phuket.

The Forum’s afternoon session of ‘Leisure Marine Infrastructure in [Thailand](#)’ included an experienced panel of experts speaking about these topics: – New sites for Marina

developments; – Haul out / dry dock facilities; – Supporting Industries (supply chain); and – Yacht management and agencies. Other panel titles of the afternoon included 'Thailand Marina Hub of ASEAN' and 'Superyacht Charter Industry in Thailand'.

Perhaps the most important subject at the event was the status of the superyacht charter licences between government officials and members of the marine industry, facilitated by the Thailand Yacht Show at the Yachting Forum.



APS Phuket Jojo & Mr Anuchat Thong-Aporn – Acting in Capacity of Director of planning bureau

Though the regulations and rules with regards to the actual superyacht charter licence were hammered out on August 10, 2015 – a number of related issues remain as hurdles for

superyacht owners, explained Somchai Sumanuskajonkul, deputy director-general for the Thailand Marine Department.

“The two major remaining issues deal directly with immigration law and value-added tax [VAT],” said Mr. Somchai. “The relevant government agencies are working to create one-year-permission-to-stay approvals for superyacht crew members – linking their stays in the country with the ship’s stay. Additionally, progress is being made to create a VAT exception for superyachts.”

“The immigration issues are awaiting final approval by the Immigration Bureau commissioner, while the VAT exception needs to be enacted by royal decree”, Mr. Somchai said.

Gordon Fernandes and his APS team tightly collaborates with arriving superyacht clients from around the globe and have assisted in attracting more Superyachts to Phuket’s shores.

“Many of our clients base in Phuket and enjoy cruising throughout the Andaman waters with some continuing on to Myanmar and the Mergui Archipelago. Superyacht captains and owners have a great deal of interest in these issues, as evidenced at the Yacht Show and the many questions asking when the changing crew visa and VAT tax regulations will be finalised. Working closely with the government we are able to keep our clients advised of the most up to date news so they can plan accordingly”, Gordon stated

The very first Thailand Yacht Show showed every indication of a greatly successful event with show management reporting, “Boats on the docks. Visitors on the pontoons. Cold beer and cider. Panama hats. Parasails. Charter Brokers and Dealers. Sunshine and shade (when you need it). Today at the Thailand Yacht Show (TYS) it was very much ‘business as usual’ with dealers and brokers unanimously expressing satisfaction with the way the event is unfolding”.

As the show was ending and the sun setting, Gordon said people continued to crowd superyacht decks with lively parties throughout Ao Po Marina and all agreed it was an outstanding yachting event, setting a high bar for the future.