



The 8th hole at Glenmoor Country Club in Japan's Chiba Prefecture shows the handiwork of designer-builder Perry Dye of Dye Designs International in Denver, Colo.

Photo by J. Pettibone

American golf course architects designing more projects in Asia

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follow the so-called USGA bible."

Minchew said: "We pretty much stick to USGA specs for greens ... or at least 'modified' USGA specs."

He sees this as a necessity to avoid later disputes and being accused of not following the specifications put forth by the USGA. What is most important, he feels, is to have a good superintendent,

"... who knows how to grow grass."

For Garl, the particle size of the sand is the most critical aspect of greens construction.

"We're going to build USGA greens," he said, but added "modification" to his ultimate product. Because of the monsoons in Thailand, where he is working, his mix is high in sand and low in organic content, a mix of 90/10 or 95/5. Modifying the USGA specifications around the world, according to specific sites, will produce better greens, he feels.

GROWING KNOWLEDGE

All the architects enjoy working in the region and see a growing golf awareness in all the countries.

Garl finds not only course owners, but landowners who sell small parcels of land along with other small landowners to provide the whole of a golf course, are receptive to golf.

"It creates future jobs," he said of Thailand, where "it's not uncommon for one person to have three caddies (one to carry the clubs, one an umbrella, and sometimes another carrying something else)."

As the various nations develop their tourist industries creating more jobs, and as old local enmities subside — as appears to be happening in Vietnam and Korea — more tourist dollars will engender more golf courses. This will create more jobs and the potential for yet more courses.

If the Japanese experience is any example, the sun is just beginning to rise on Southeast Asian golf.

"It is the new 'boom' area," said Minchew.

Less than a generation ago, much of the region was engulfed in bitter war. The once bloody soils are giving way to a wave of green, with American course architects at the crest.

Asia, EPA form partnership

SINGAPORE — U.S. President George Bush has announced a U.S.-Asia Environmental Partnership in Singapore. The partnership is intended to bring together business communities, government agencies and non-governmental organizations to address environmental problems that constrain growth and to improve the environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will create the U.S. Environmental Training Institute to help fulfill the president's promises. The USETI will facilitate the transfer overseas of American environmental expertise, expanding eventually to Latin America and eastern Europe.



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