

## Golfplan busy in Malaysia

KUCHING, Sarawak, Malaysia — The Golfplan-Ronald Fream Design Group has completed conceptual planning and design studies for a 27-hole residential country club course being developed at Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia. Sarawak is on the tropical island of Borneo.

Playing lengths vary from around 3,300 yards to 2,500 yards for each of the par-36 nines. Golf is a new activity to Sarawak, and a heavy use by beginners is anticipated.

Coordinated planning introduces 450 homesites into the golf courses. About 3,500 oil palms, monkey pod, flamboy and other tropical trees are to be planted to create a lush tropical garden around the golf holes. Bermudagrass turf will be used throughout. The original site was a military storage area not far from the center of Kuching. Construction will begin after the end of the

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## GBI opens Asia practice facilities

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golden Bar International has announced the opening of two multi-million dollar teaching and practice facilities in Asia, the Jack Nicklaus Golf Center in Japan and the Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf in the Philippines.

The Jack Nicklaus Golf Center, the first ever in Japan, has opened in Tsukuba through an exclusive agreement between GBI and Mitsubishi Corp., and Suntory Limited for the country. In Manila, the first Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf opened under an exclusive agreement between Golden Bear and American Golf Centers, a subsidiary of AIA and American International Group, the New York-based insurance conglomerate and the Fil-Estate Group.

## Japanese debut for Graham/Panks

HAKODATE, Japan — David Graham and Gary Panks will design the new Hakodate Nikkatsu Golf Club in Hakodate, Japan.

"We have been searching for the right opportunity to make our appearance in the Japanese golf market, and now we've found it," Graham said. "The Hakodate Nikkatsu Golf Club is a great project."

The private golf club is being built by the Japanese conglomerate Nikkatsu Corp. The course is located in the historical port city of Hokodate on the southern coast of Hokkaido, Japan's northern-most island.

Construction crews are slated to break ground on the project in September clearing the land and creating the infrastructure of the golf course. Graham and Panks have begun the design work, and shaping will begin in May 1993, with an opening date set for the spring of 1995.

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## Nelson & Wright eye projects on Chinese Mainland

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gion. "They have to offer them something. They expect to sell a lot of memberships to the industries going in there. A lot of those memberships will be bought as investments."

Haworth added, "If two sites are vying for a manufacturing plant, the company will go to the site with the golf course."

Golf courses, land ownership and environmental controls are creatures of another persuasion in China.

"They treat golf courses as part of the infrastructure as they build roads, parks, water mains....," said Nelson. "I think there will be a flash boom [in golf course construction], then it will slow down."

Land ownership?

"The idea of owning land is a fairly new concept in China," said Haworth. "In one of our projects in China we got to choose the property lines. In new areas and out in the country, there are no real deeds or titles. The government is building an eight-lane highway that will run next to our site and they've asked us to tell them where to put it."

Environmental controls?

Haworth said if land for a manufacturing plant needs to be level, construction crews will take soil from nearby hills — without reparation.

Nelson said his firm will design two courses in Shenzhen — one a 36-hole facility and the other 27 holes. The third facility calls for 36 holes in Ghuanzhou. They will all be private clubs with housing developments.

Construction will begin in the first half of the year, he said.

Nelson added that he and Wright are also involved in one project in Vietnam and two others in China — one in the west and on the coast in the north.

Developers are adamant that a low profile be maintained until all government approvals are received.

"To get things done you have to know somebody in the government. So developers don't want others to find out about their ideas and 'steal' them," he said.