

ASIAN UPDATE

Business as usual in China, Daewoo's Vietnam track underway

BY ANDREW OVERBECK

CHINA

• **DALIAN** — Construction has begun here in this northeastern coastal city on the "Knight-Fairyland" entertainment complex, a joint venture between a local company and a Korean corporation. The \$70 million project will cover 1.2 million square meters and include a golf course, recreational grounds, villas and a shopping center. The project is expected to take two years to complete.

• **HAINAN ISLAND** — Colin Montgomerie's first Chinese design is beginning to take shape here along the azure waters of Hainan Strait at the Haikou Meishi International Golf Club. Montgomerie's design team has taken great care to preserve the large variety of tree life on the site and has routed the course around rich stands of casurina pines, deciduous and palm trees.

The 7,160 yard, par-72 course, which broke ground in February, is expected to be playable by mid-2000.

• **KUNMING** — The first nine holes of the Robert Trent Jones II-designed Lake Course have been completed at the Spring City Golf and Lake Resort. All 18 holes are due to open this summer.

Pictured below are the dramatically-contoured, 385 meter, par-4, third hole and the deceiving, downhill, down wind par-3, 205 meter, fourth hole.

• **SHENZHEN** — The reconstruction of the Shenzhen Golf Club is progressing quickly with the first nine holes already completed and open for play.

Builder, Stephen Alexander of Global Golf Engineering, has been hard at work implementing Robin Nelson & Neil Haworth's redesign that gives the formerly flat golf course some shape with new bunker work, green complexes and contoured fairways.

The course also features new lush sea-side Paspalum vaginatum turf in the fairways and Tifdwarf on the greens.

Alexander expects that the next nine holes of the Nelson/Haworth redesign will be finished by October, and that all 27 holes will be completed by mid-2000.



The reconstruction of the Shenzhen (China) Golf Club is progressing quickly, with the first nine holes already completed and open for play. The next nine holes of the Nelson/Haworth redesign is expected to be finished by October.



The dramatically contoured, 385-meter par-4 3rd hole and the deceiving downhill 205-meter par-3 4th hole at the Robert Trent Jones II-designed Lake course at Spring City in Kunming, China.

PHILIPPINES

• **CLARK FIELD** — Nick Faldo's True North Golf Club is one step closer to completion with nine holes currently grassed-in and six holes on the back nine rough-shaped. Faldo has been working with International Manage-

ment Group's lead designer, Brit Stenson, to minimize the earthwork on the challenging site that features spectacular views of the surrounding valley and dramatic elevation changes.

In addition to Faldo, Sacobia Hills Development Corporation has brought in LPGA star, Nancy Lopez, to serve as True North's "ladies consultant." Her rather unique role is to review all of the aspects of the course design and operation to ensure that the particular wants and needs of lady golfers are incorporated into their golf experience at True North.

All 18 holes at True North are expected to be finished by the end of this year.

VIETNAM

• **DONG ANH** — Following three years of delays, Korea's Daewoo Group finally broke ground on its \$14 million golf course complex 20 kilometers outside of Hanoi in early February.

Construction has been held up largely because of protests by local residents who claimed that government officials had pocketed their compensation money. The conflict, which was often marked by sporadic violence, has assumably been

resolved.

The Daewoo Group, which is Vietnam's largest investor with 20 projects totaling \$1 billion, is partnering with state-owned Hanoi Electronics to build an 18-hole golf course, 200 villas, a hotel and an office park on 320 acres of former farmland.

The project is expected to take two years to construct.



More golf planned for downtown Manila

MANILA, Philippines — President Joseph Estrada is moving forward with plans to build a sports village on 1,875 acres of reclaimed land on Manila Bay. The project, developed in cooperation with Centennial City Inc. (CCI), Amari Coastal Development (ACD) and the Public Estates Authority (PEA) is expected to fill a need for advanced sports facilities that will train Filipino athletes and allow the Philippines to host large scale sports events like the Southeast Asian games.

In addition to the sports village, the project will include an 18-hole golf course, a residential community, a marina and a financial and office district.

The golf course community, which is viewed as the project's anchor development, comprises the first phase of construction. CCI and ACD plan to start construction later this spring and begin selling golf shares by the end of 1999 in order to generate capital for further development at the site.

The entire project is due to cost P25 billion (\$64 million) and take 12 years to complete. President Estrada is pushing for the sports village and golf course to be finished in the next four years.

ACD has already begun preliminary work to relocate 300 families, obtain proper accreditation, pass an environmental impact assessment and source water, power and other utilities.

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