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## JB VISITATIONS:

### April-Singapore

Presented a major half-day turf lecture organized by the Singapore National Parks Board, with Dr. Thai Wu Foong, Senior Research Officer, serving as host. Attendance was impressive.

Visited the Bukit Turf Club race track composed of cowgrass (*Axonopus compressus*). Also, toured several new golf courses under construction. The trend is to plant zoysiagrass (*Zoysia* spp.) rather than hybrid bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* x *C. transvaalensis*) on fairways and tees. Only time can determine the outcome.

### May-Hong Kong

Presented a half-day lecture on high-sand root zone specifications and a summary of the mesh element stabilization research. Visited both the Happy Valley and the Sha Tin horse race tracks of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club that have been reconstructed with mesh element inclusions. John Halliday (Chief Engineer) and Eric Lee (Tracks Manager) were the hosts. The mesh system continues its high performance level in combination with a high-sand root zone. They had 200+ mm (8 inches) of rain from 2:00 to 8:00 a.m. on race day. Yet, the track rated and performed "good" for a full race meet of eight races that day. Very impressive!

Next year Hong Kong will construct a major new sports stadium that will include the high-sand + mesh inclusion system. Note that the Urban Services Department has a number of soccer fields that average 90 to 100 games per month.

Also, observed some unique stabilization techniques for construction of very steep slopes for a new golf hole at the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club, where Gene Palrud is the golf course superintendent.

### May-Italy

Observed and evaluated the new-bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp.) cultivar study conducted by the Italian Golf Federation near Turin. Turf Agronomist Paolo Croce is providing the on-site leadership, and I'm pleased to be working with him on the research project. The study is progressing very well. A uniform dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) infection had just occurred. SR1020 and Cobra were showing substantially greater susceptibility than the others across all replications. Improved shoot density, based on actual counts, were shown by Putter, Providence, and several Penn State Univ. experimental selections.

Also, made a technical visitation to the Italian Golf Federation Two-Year Turfgrass Technical School on the LeQuerce Golf Course grounds. The students were enthusiastic. They enjoy good teaching laboratories, plus a golf course just out the door. This is due to the extraordinary leadership of Mr. Roberto Rivetti, who is an elected member of the Federation Board. Also, credit goes to the Federation Turfgrass Instructors Paolo Croce, Francesco Modestini, and Alesandro DeLuca. This school is a model for many others around the world to follow.

### June - Oregon

Participated as guest speaker at the Turf Seed Annual Field Day. Dr. Bill Meyer continues his leadership of an outstanding turfgrass breeding program, with the able contributions of Crystal Rose-Fricke. Hooking up with a 22 pound king salmon the next day capped a good trip.

### June - Kansas

Gave the invited address before the Lawn Seed Division of the American Seed Trade Associates on "Turfgrass Trends Around the World." Seed crops projected to be good for 1993.