

Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation Newsletter



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Chairman's Message

At our Biennial Congress in Taipei last October, our President Eddie Tsuji from Japan retired and Kwangsoo Hur from Korea was unanimously voted in as the new President. Eddie received an ovation for his past services and the members present unanimously agreed to make him an Honorary President. I am confident that Kwangsoo Hur will follow in his father's footsteps and make an excellent

President and we can all look forward to his leadership. He has been Vice President and a Executive Committee member for some years and is very much part of the APGC spirit. Also at the Congress, Dr David Cherry from Australia was elected as Vice President, Mr Dilip Thomas from India remains the Secretary General and I remain Chairman of the Executive Committee.

In our previous September issue, I mentioned 5 events which would be taking place before the year end. These were the Nomura Cup Team Championships and the APGC Biennial Congress at Sunrise Golf and Country Club, Chinese Taipei from 2nd – 5th October, then the Asia-Pacific Golf Development Summit on November 13th – 15th in Singapore, followed by the APGC Senior Championship on 21st – 23rd November at Mt. Malarayat Golf & Country Club, Lipa City, Batangas, Philippines, and finally the Mission Hills Asia Pacific Open Amateur Championship in Shenzhen, China on 4th – 7th December.

All of the abovementioned events happened and were happily concluded and this issue is a report on them as compiled by our correspondent Dominic Wall. I was at all of them, except for the Seniors Championships, and enjoyed them very much. I think we had a good meeting at our Biennial Congress, and our hosts, the Taiwan Golf Association and the Sunrise Golf and Country Club were wonderful hosts.

I was also at Mission Hills in China to watch the players at our APGC Open and saw some very impressive young players, who I am sure will become well known. The pity was that we did not receive more entries due to the busy calendar, but everyone who was there said how much they enjoyed the tournament and how wonderful the event was. I expect the next time this event is held, which will be in January of 2009, we shall receive many more entries.

There were some very impressive speakers at the Asia Pacific Golf Development Summit in Singapore, and I think all who were there thought the papers and speakers were valuable for the golf industry. I believe that its inaugural success will lead to an even better one this year and this will be held at Mission Hills in China.

This coming April, we shall have the much anticipated Sir Michael Bonallack Trophy match between the best of the amateurs from the Asia Pacific and the best from Europe at the famous Valderrama Golf Club in Spain. It will be a wonderful showcase of top golf held at a great venue. I hope you will all read Dominic Wall's preview of this event.

Tommy Lee
Chairman



The winning Australian Team with APGC President (2001 – 2007) Eddie Tsuji

2007 NOMURA CUP Australia's 5th in a Row



Australia continued its dominance of the Asia-Pacific Teams Championship over recent years when they recorded their fifth straight victory at the 23rd Nomura Cup. The championship was played at Chinese Taipei's Sunrise Golf and Country Club from the 2nd – 5th October with a record 18 nations competing including teams from Fiji and Mongolia for the first time.

The Australia Team comprised Tim Stewart, Rick Kulacz, Rohan Blizzard and Andrew Dodt and on paper they looked hard to beat. They entered the championship as favorites but it took until the last nine holes of the championship for them to secure their victory. In fact Australia started poorly and was in equal fourth position with Thailand after the first round, 7 shots behind leaders Korea. They appeared to be still adjusting to the tough windy conditions at Sunrise and their late arrival compared to all other teams.

On day two Australia jumped ahead of Korea by one shot to be in second position, still trailing Japan by three shots. The third round proved to be decisive, not so much for Australia and Korea who recorded 218 and 217 respectively to go into the lead on the final day, but for overnight leaders Japan who crashed out of contention with a poor third round of 232. This saw Japan trailing the leaders in fifth position by 11 shots with Chinese Taipei recording the best total for the championship of 214 to jump into third position, 6 behind the leaders, with Thailand in fourth position, a further 3 shots adrift.

The final day shaped up to be a contest between joint leaders Australia and Korea and after nine holes when they were still tied it appeared the championship would come down to the wire. The Australian Team members however showed their experience over the last nine and pulled away for a comfortable 9 shot win. Japan bounced back from the third round to post the best final round of 219 which saw them jump into second position. Thailand also finished strongly collecting third position while Korea and Chinese Taipei finished in joint fourth position, 2 shots behind Thailand. Asian Games gold medalists Korea were particularly disappointed after being in such a strong position. Their players seemed to handle the pressure poorly over the last few holes, but will no doubt learn from this experience.

The individual title was won by Australian Andrew Dodt who finished with a two under 70 for an overall total of 4 over par 292. He finished three shots ahead of team mate Rohan Blizzard who finished with a final round of 77. In equal third position were Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat (74), Kiwi James Gill (76) and Chinese Taipei's Ming-Chuan Chen (79) who all finished on 297.

While Australia won both the championship and individual title, the real winner was the Sunrise Golf and Country Club. The Robert Trent Jones Jr course was presented in outstanding condition and, combined with the strong winds, proved a tough challenge for the players. The fact that no player finished under par for four rounds is a testament to the course and conditions. Only three players (Ming-Chuan Chen 68, Rohan Blizzard – 68 and Rick Kulacz – 69) managed to shoot sub-70 scores.

2007 NOMURA CUP cont.

Not only did the course prove to be a worthy venue but the whole experience for the players and officials at Sunrise was enjoyable. The Chinese Taipei Golf Association were very generous hosts and presented a first class championship that will be long remembered by all that attended. Their attention to detail was outstanding and has set a high benchmark for future countries to achieve. The R&A must also be acknowledged and thanked for the support and funding they provided.

The 2009 Nomura Cup returns to South Korea's Nam Seoul Country Club. This is only the third occasion the championship will be played in Korea and the second time at Nam Seoul, with the two previous years being 1969 and 1983. With such a long gap between visiting Korea, players and officials are looking forward to the championship and anticipate another world class staging of the Nomura Cup.

2007 Nomura Cup Results

1. **Australia** 882 (225, 218, 218, 221)
2. **Japan** 892 (220, 220, 232, 219)
3. **Thailand** 894 (225, 222, 223, 224)
4. **Korea** 896 (218, 226, 217, 235),
Chinese Taipei 896 (230, 223, 214, 229)
6. **New Zealand** 904 (222, 230, 223, 229)
7. **Philippines** 924 (229, 236, 227, 232)
8. **Indonesia** 937 (236, 236, 230, 235)
9. **Malaysia** 942 (230, 229, 242, 241)
10. **India** 944 (232, 231, 243, 238),
Hong Kong 944 (231, 234, 238, 241)
12. **Singapore** 948 (238, 243, 237, 230)
13. **Pakistan** 973 (242, 246, 244, 241)
14. **Fiji** 1019 (261, 258, 255, 245)
15. **Guam** 1046 (258, 259, 273, 256)
16. **UAE** 1050 (259, 272, 256, 263)
17. **I.R. Iran** 1073 (267, 268, 275, 263)
18. **Mongolia** 1246 (314, 320, 315, 297)

Leading Individuals

1. 292 **Andrew Dodt** (Aus) 76, 71, 75, 70
2. 295 **Rohan Blizard** (Aus) 75, 68, 75, 77
3. 297 **Kiradech Aphibarnrat** (Tha) 74
77 72 74, **James Gill** (NZ) 70 77 74 76,
Ming-Chuan Chen (CT) 78 72 68 79
6. 298 **Naoyuki Tamura** (Jap) 72 75 79
72, **Varut Chomchalam** (Tha) 73 75 75
75
8. 299 **Shih-Chang Chan** (CT) 75 74 76
74
9. 301 **Rick Kulacz** (Aus) 78 80 69 74,
Yuki Ito (Jap) 73 74 80 74,
Bi-O Kim (Kor) 70 79 70 82



Andrew Dodt with Eddie Tsui

APGC Website

The Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation website is now operational and contains information about the organisation, events, members, news, Executive Committee and various other material.



Entry forms for APGC Championships are also posted on the site.

Go to: www.asiapacificgolfconfederation.com



Tommy Lee in Profile

If anyone was destined to make a major contribution to golf in Asia it was Tommy Lee. At an early age Tommy was introduced to golf by his father, the late Tun Sir Henry H. S. Lee, the first Finance Minister of Malaysia, who instilled in his son a life long passion for the game. Not only was Sir Henry the first Malaysian President of the Malaysian Golf Association, but he was one of the key persons responsible for bringing professional golf to the country by starting the Malaysian Open in 1961 as part of the Far East circuit.

The first 18 Malaysian opens were played at Tommy's home club, the Royal Selangor Golf Club, and even in the sixties, Tommy was already playing an active role in both promotional and operational areas of the Open.

During those years he developed a sound understanding about the requirements of running golf tournaments and he became a committee member of Royal Selangor Golf Club and the Captain when he was only in his early thirties. He was invited to join the Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) in 1974 where he would play a prominent role for over 30 years, being the MGA's Vice-President from 1974 – 1988 and the President from 1988 – 2007.

Tommy's involvement with the Malaysian Open and MGA resulted in him meeting many of the key people in Asian golf during the sixties and seventies. During one of the first Malaysian Opens he met one of the founders of the Asian Tour and the Japanese representative on the APGC, A. Kida, who made a prophetic comment to Tommy that one day he would play a prominent role in both the APGC and Asian golf. He also became a very good friend of Skip Guinto, the then Secretary General of APGC, even though Skip was much older, and Tommy was also a school friend of Edmund Yong, the successor to Skip.

Tommy attended his first APGC Biennial Congress in 1989 but by then, he was already familiar with many of the delegates. Within three years he became the President, a position he held when the 1993 Nomura Cup was played at Royal Selangor. (In those years the APGC Presidency was rotated every two years with the President being from the next country hosting the Nomura Cup.)

During all these years Tommy was very much part of the APGC and in 1996, when the APGC Secretary-General Edmund Yong sadly passed away, he became more actively involved in its day-to-day operation. Soon after Edmund's passing another Malaysian, the MGA's Vice-President David Lee and Tommy's cousin, took over as Secretary-General and sadly too became ill and in 1997 also passed away.

David Lee's passing meant Tommy played an even greater role in the APGC. This was a particularly busy period because the APGC was responsible for running the Asian Golf Circuit and had built up the tour to an extent as to attract the professional promoters. Tommy's legal background was of particular benefit to the APGC and he became involved in lengthy discussions about the future of the Circuit. But Tommy was fighting a losing battle when some of the golf associations comprising the Circuit allowed their tournaments to join the new tour of the promoters.

In 1999 the Asian Golf Circuit was discontinued and this effectively ended the APGC's involvement in professional golf which had commenced in 1967 when the Confederation assumed responsibility for running the Far East Golf Circuit. Although professional golf is now prevalent in Asia, it was the respective amateur golf associations, the people in them and the APGC that started and built up a tour for the professionals for over 40 years without being paid for it and entirely for the love of the game. Tommy recalls *"It was much more fun those days. The pros were not rich and were friendly and grateful. Everyone was a volunteer and loved it. Not only did we find the sponsors we also had to run the tournaments. No one ever asked for a reward or recognition. Professional golf today should be grateful to the people who ran the amateur golf associations and the APGC. It is worth highlighting that the APGC Far East Circuit eventually had 10 National Opens in it, and should always be remembered for its contribution to the professional game."*

When in 1999 the APGC needed a more effective management structure, a new constitution was adopted and the present executive committee was formed with Tommy appointed as its first chairman, a position which he still holds.

As a golfer, Tommy's lowest handicap was 5 and he won a number of major club events at Royal Selangor and was an active participant in annual interclub matches between his club, the Singapore Island Country Club, Royal Bangkok Sports Club and Hong Kong Golf Club. During his years as Captain at Royal Selangor, Tommy marks as one of the highlights his close friendship with the late Norman Von Nida who was the Pro at Royal Selangor for four years during the 1970s. *"The Von was a great man, extremely generous and a true professional. I consider it an honour that he regarded me as a friend,"* says Tommy.

Tommy is very proud of his overseas memberships of both the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and Pine Valley in the USA but marks his biggest achievement as putting the Malaysian Golf Association on the world map when they successfully hosted the 2002 World Amateur Teams Championships at Saujana Golf and Country Club. The 2002 event is considered by many people to be one of the best organized in the history of the Championships.

In addition to his golfing responsibilities and background, Tommy has enjoyed a very successful career as one of the principle partners at one of Malaysia's leading law firms. His legal and sporting background have also resulted in him being appointed to the international Court of Arbitration for Sport where he has attended events such as the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games as an arbitrator. He is also the Chairman of a Malaysian bank and a director of several companies.

Tommy's period as Chairman has seen the APGC achieve a number of goals and it is now not only financially secure but is responsible for running a number of major amateur tournaments throughout the region and is the international governing body for the Asian, South East Asian and South Pacific Games. New events such as the match between the best amateurs of Asia Pacific and Europe for the Sir Michael Bonallack Trophy and the APGC Amateur Open have an extremely promising future. Tommy feels that good leadership is essential for the future and is pleased that the APGC now has 29 member associations. He says that the APGC *"needs to have leadership and more good people to succeed but the spirit of volunteerism is not as strong as before and it is difficult to attract good people. To have stability the APGC needs a paid executive but this cannot be done unless the regular income of APGC can support the cost. The APGC is indeed very fortunate to attract so many outstanding people as its office bearers who give their time and money to the APGC for the love of it."* The APGC has indeed been fortunate to have Tommy Lee and will continue to benefit from his leadership.

2008 Sir Michael Bonallack Trophy



The Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation has selected a strong team to take on Europe for the 2008 Sir Michael Bonallack Trophy. The match will be played at Spain's Valderrama Golf Club from the 25th – 27th April and Europe are defending champions having won the last contest played in 2006 at New Zealand's Auckland Golf Club by 18 matches to 14.

The Bonallack Trophy consists of two teams of 12 players representing Asia-Pacific and Europe. The Trophy is played along the lines of the Ryder Cup over three days of play. The first two days comprise 5 four-ball matches each morning and 5 foursomes matches each afternoon. On the final day, all 12 players compete in singles match play. A win counts as one point, a half yields half a point and a loss zero. In the event of a tie the trophy is retained by the winners.

The trophy is a biennial event and was first played in 1998. The previous winners are:

1998 Lake Karrinyup GC, Australia	Europe	18–14
2000 Puerta de Hierro, Madrid, Spain	Europe	20–12
2002 Hirono GC, Japan	Asia-Pacific	18–14
2004 Circolo Golf Roma, Italy	Asia-Pacific	16.5–15.5
2006 Auckland GC, New Zealand	Europe	18–14

CLUB DE GOLF VALDERRAMA

Valderrama is a 6356 metre par 71 course located in Andalucia, the southern region of Spain - a few kilometers north of Gibraltar. The course, designed in 1974 by one of the great golfing architects, Robert Trent Jones, Sr, is consistently rated as one of the best, if not the best, course in Europe and has hosted many major golf championships.

In 1988, Valderrama began to host the Volvo Masters, the flagship tournament of the PGA European Tour, and continued to do so until 1996. In 1997 the Club hosted the 32nd Ryder Cup, won by Europe in a thrilling finish, and in 1999 and 2000, Valderrama hosted the first two World Golf Championships - American Express Championships, which were won by Tiger Woods and Mike Weir respectively.

Valderrama has again hosted the European Tour's season-ending Volvo Masters from 2002–2007 and has recently been awarded the championship until 2010. In 2007 England's Justin Rose won a three-way playoff for the Volvo Masters which meant he secured the Tour's 2007 Order of Merit.

The Bonallack Trophy is the first major international amateur teams championship to be held at Valderrama and we can expect to see some great golf played on one of the world's great golf courses. The players that have been selected for both teams are some of the best and most exciting amateurs in the world and we will no doubt see many of them back at Valderrama on the international stage in future events. Both teams are listed (in the pages that follow).

ASIA-PACIFIC TEAM

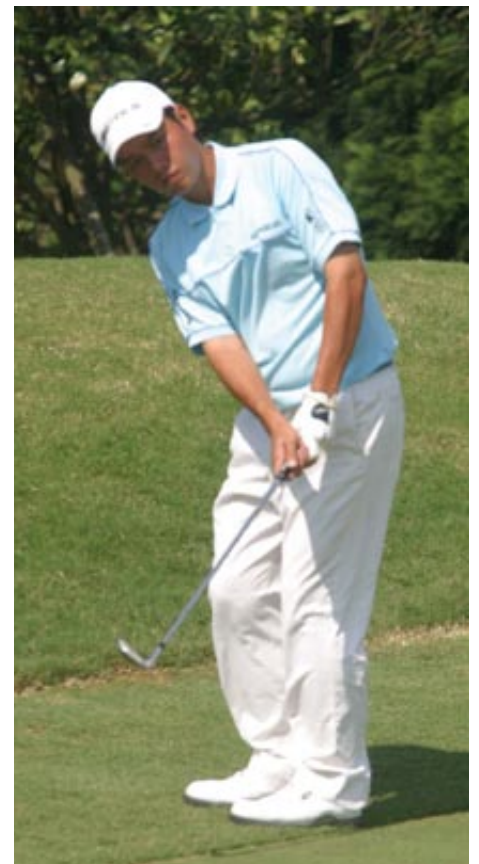
The 12-man Asia-Pacific Team includes one member from the 2006 Team, Japanese player Yuki Ito, and a number of players who have recorded outstanding results over the last two years. There are two players each from Australia, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand and one player from the Philippines and Thailand. Roger Brennand from New Zealand remains Team Captain having captained the last team in 2006. The Asia-Pacific Team members and their major achievements are listed (on the next page).



Club de Golf Valderrama



Kiwi Danny Lee



Chinese Taipei's Shih-Chang Chan

2008 Sir Michael Bonallack Trophy cont.

Rohan Blizard – Australia

- 2007 Australian Amateur Champion
- 2007 Juan Carlos Tailhade (Argentina) – won individual
- 2007 SBS Open, Invercargill, NZ – won individual
- 2007 Tasmanian Open Champion

Shih-Chang Chan – Chinese-Taipei

- 2007 Acer National Ranking Series – Summer and Winter – 1st
- 2007 Faldo Series Asia Grand Final – Runner-up (1st – Boys U21)
- 2007 Hong Kong Open Amateur – Runner-up
- 2007 Taiwan Amateur Golf Championship – Runner-up
- 2007 Saujana Amateur Open Golf Championship – =3rd

Ming-Chuan Chen – Chinese-Taipei

- 2007 Acer National Ranking Series – Spring and Autumn – 1st
- 2007 Taiwan Amateur Champion
- 2007 24th Universiade (Bangkok) – Leading Individual
- 2007 Neighbors Trophy Team Championship – 3rd

Varut Chomchalam – Thailand

- 2007 South East Asian Games – 1st Team and 6th Individual
- 2007 24th Universiade (Bangkok) – 1st Team
- 2006 Singha E Open Champion

Anthony Fernando – Philippines

- 2007 Philippine Amateur Champion
- 2007 Singapore Amateur Championship – 4th
- 2007 South East Asian Games – Silver Medalist (Team)
- 2007 Saujana Amateur Open Golf Championship – =3rd

James Gill – New Zealand

- 2007 New Zealand Stroke Play Champion
- 2007 Turkish Amateur Open Champion
- 2007 Italian Amateur Stroke Play Champion
- 2006 Singapore Amateur Championship – Runner-up

Yuki Ito – Japan

- 2007 Japan Amateur Championship – 7th
- 2006 Japan Collegiate National – Runner-up
- 2006 Japan Amateur Championship – Medalist
- 2006 Kanto Amateur Champion
- 2006 Asia-Pacific Team Member – Bonallack Trophy

Bi-O Kim – Korea

- 2007 Neighbors Trophy Team Championship – Winner (Men's Individual)
- 2007 Songam Cup Amateur Golf Championship – 3rd
- 2007 Hosim Cup Amateur Golf Championship – 2nd
- 2007 Xcanvas Open – 4th



Korea's Bi-O Kim

Yeong-Su Kim – Korea

- 2007 Korean Amateur Golf Champion
- 2007 Songam Cup Amateur Golf Championship – Winner
- 2007 Ilsung Cup Maekyung Amateur Golf Championship – Winner
- 2007 Korea Junior Golf Championship – Runner-up
- 2007 88th National Sports Festival – Winner Men's Individual

Danny Lee – New Zealand

- 2008 Lake Macquarie Amateur Champion
- 2007 New Zealand Match Play Champion
- 2007 New Zealand Under 23 Champion
- 2007 South Island Stroke Play Champion
- 2007 Callaway World Junior Championship – Runner-up (15–17 Age Group)
- 2007 Dogwood Invitational – Runner-up

Tim Stewart – Australia

- 2007 Riversdale Cup Champion
- 2007 British Amateur – Runner-up
- 2006 Australian Amateur Champion
- 2006 Rice Planters Amateur – Runner-up

Naoyuki Tamura – Japan

- 2007 Japan Amateur Championship – Runner-up
- 2006 Japan Amateur Championship – 3rd
- 2006 Chugoku Amateur Champion

Team Captain: Mr Roger Brennand, Hutt Golf Club, New Zealand

EUROPEAN TEAM

The European Team also retains two players from 2006 that won the trophy, Nigel Edwards from Wales and local Spaniard Pedro Oriol. They are joined by some of the most talented golfers from Europe with six players each from the Continent and Great Britain & Ireland. The 2006 winning Team Captain, Spain's Gonzaga Escauriaza, has been reappointed and will bring his local knowledge of the course and conditions to help his team. The European Team members and their major achievements are as follows

Bjorn Akesson – Sweden

- 2007 Polo Junior Classic (USA) Champion
- 2007 Tour Golf Open (Nordic League) Runner-up
- 2006 British Boys Championship Runner-up
- 2006 Duncan Putter (Wales) Champion

Wallace Booth – Scotland

- 2007 Cameron Corbett Vase (Scotland) Champion
- 2007 Tennant Cup (Scotland) Champion
- 2006 Scottish Open Amateur – T7

2008 Sir Michael Bonallack Trophy cont.

Nigel Edwards – Wales

- 2007 Duncan Putter (Wales) Champion
- 2007 Welsh Open Amateur – 3rd
- 2007 Lytham Trophy (England) Runner-up
- 2006 South Africa Amateur Champion
- 2006 European Team Member – Bonallack Trophy

Sean Einhaus – Germany

- 2007 German Open Amateur Champion
- 2007 German Match Amateur Champion
- 2007 Swiss International Amateur Runner-up
- 2006 French Open Amateur Champion
- 2006 French International Boys Champion

Benjamin Hebert – France

- 2007 European Amateur Champion
- 2007 Portugal Nations Cup Runner-up
- 2007 Frayssineau-Mouchy Cup (France) – T1
- 2007 Biarritz Cup (France) – 3rd

Alexandre Kaleka – France

- 2007 Frayssineau-Mouchy Cup (France) – T1
- 2007 St Andrews Links Trophy – 3rd
- 2007 Scottish Open Amateur Runner-up
- 2007 South African Amateur Medal Runner-up

Shane Lowry – Ireland

- 2007 Portugal Nations Cup Champion
- 2007 Irish Amateur (Closed) Champion
- 2007 North of Ireland Amateur Runner-up
- 2007 East of Ireland Amateur – 3rd

Pedro Oriol – Spain

- 2008 National Cup (Spain) – T5
- 2006 Biarritz Cup (France) Champion
- 2006 Spanish Junior Runner-up
- 2006 European Team Member – Bonallack Trophy

Callum Macaulay – Scotland

- 2007 British Amateur Semi-Finalist
- 2007 British Amateur Stroke Play – Runner-up
- 2007 Newlands Trophy (Scotland) Champion
- 2006 West of Scotland Amateur Champion

Joel Sjöholm – Sweden

- 2007 European Amateur Championship – Runner-up
- 2007 Landmann Open (Nordic League) – T11

Daniel Willett – England

- 2007 Spirit International (USA) Champion
- 2007 English Amateur (Closed) Champion
- 2007 South of England Amateur Champion
- 2007 European Amateur Championship – 3rd

Chris Wood – England

- 2007 Russian Amateur Champion
- 2007 West of England Amateur Champion
- 2007 British Amateur Quarter-Finalist
- 2007 Mexican International Amateur – 8th

Team Captain: Mr Gonzaga Escarriaza – Spain



2007 European Amateur Champion **Benjamin Hebert** of France



Germany's **Sean Einhaus**



YOUNAN-WISE WINS Second Mission Hills Asia Pacific Amateur Open

Jake Younan-Wise of Australia won the second annual Mission Hills Asia-Pacific Open Amateur Championship and in winning secured an automatic exemption for the 2008 Australian Open.

Apart from bogeying the 5th and 17th holes, Younan-Wise played what appeared to be an effortless round of golf to close one under par 71. He was able to hold on to his lead despite mounting pressure coming from Japan's Yuki Usami and Chinese Taipei's Toa Huang.

Usami stormed home to close with the best round of the championship, a six under par 66, which included five birdies on the front nine and two on the back nine. He came from eight strokes off the pace and in sixth place in the morning to finish joint second place with Toa Huang. Indeed, with bogeys on the front and back nine Toa Huang did well to retain second spot, coming in one over par 73.

Tenniel Chu, Executive Director of Mission Hills Golf Club, David Cherry, Vice Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation and Jiang Yong Jun, Vice General Secretary of the Gungdong Golf Association presided over the Mission Hills Asia-Pacific Open Amateur Championship prize presentation ceremony, held in the Grand Ballroom of the five star Mission Hills Resort.

Speaking at the prize presentation ceremony, Tenniel Chu said, "Together, we have witnessed over the last four days the region's most talented amateurs dedicate themselves to performing at an outstanding level. Events such the Mission Hills Asia-Pacific Open Amateur Championship are excellent platforms that enable players to further develop their skill-sets by competing against the best of their peers." Tenniel Chu went on to add, "By leveraging our vast knowledge and experience in the golf industry in support of this tournament, we seek to further the development of the next generation of golf superstars. And in so doing, raising the profile of golf globally, encouraging a new generation of players to take up the game."

Immensely pleased to gain an exemption for the 2008 Australian Open, Younan-Wise said, "The Mission Hills Asia-Pacific Open Amateur Championship has been an exceptional experience. The four-day challenge has allowed me to pit my skills against the best amateur players from around the world on what has got to be one of the most demanding courses in Asia. I am truly delighted to have won this trophy in the face of such stiff competition. I look forward to the chance to compete in the 2008 Australian Open and to defend my title here at Mission Hills next year."

The Mission Hills Asia Pacific Open Amateur Championship is a world-class amateur golf tournament, jointly organized by the Asia Pacific Golf Confederation and Mission Hills Golf Club, China; it is the first event in China to run under R&A Amateur Ranking Points System. The field for the 2007 Championship included 50 players from 15 countries including players from England and Scotland. Mission Hills will be the host venue of the tournament for the next 8 years.

THE NEXT CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE PLAYED FROM 13-16 JANUARY 2009.

(Article courtesy Mission Hills)



Above (L-R): Toa Huang, Tenniel Chu, Jake Younan-Wise and Yuki Usami

Jake Younan-Wise in action at Mission Hills



Leading Results

1. 283 **Jake Younan-Wise** (Aus) 75 69 68 71
2. 286 **Yuki Usami** (Jpn) 73 74 73 66, **Tao Huang** (CT) 70 74 69 73
4. 289 **Scott Arnold** (Aus) 71 73 77 68
5. 291 **Jung-Ho Yoon** (Kor) 68 71 77 75
6. 292 **Meen-Whee Kim** (Kor) 74 71 75 72
7. 293 **Jimmy Ko** (HK) 74 73 72 74, **Oliver Farr** (Wales) 67 77 74 75
9. 295 **B Westgate** (Wales) 78 71 77 69, **Yuki Ito** (Jap) 71 75 76 73
11. 296 **J Ngenyong** (Sing) 77 74 69 76
12. 298 **Kun Yang Goh** (Sing) 78 75 73 72
13. 299 **V Sripatranusorn** (Tha) 75 75 75 74, **Gary King** (Eng) 72 77 75 75
15. 300 **Alexi Van Damme** (HK) 74 73 76 77, **N Krobteeranon** (Tha) 74 76 75 75
17. 301 **Rahul Bakshi** (Ind) 78 71 76 76
18. 302 **Chi-Hsien Hsieh** (CT) 75 77 74 76
19. 303 **Abhishek Jha** (Ind) 73 79 76 75

Tommy Manotoc Captures APGC Senior on Home Soil

Local Philippine Tommy Manotoc shot a steady final round of 72 to claim the 2007 Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Golf Championship at Mt. Malarayat Golf Club in Batangas by 6 shots. He then led the Philippines to an equally impressive victory in team competition.

Manotoc shot a solid one-under 35 on the back nine to turn what had been a close contest into a runaway victory, finishing with a 54-hole aggregate of 219 for a six-stroke margin over Australians Brian Sams and Alex Cleave and Korean Jun Kee Lee.

Iggy Clavecilla, Manotoc's teammate in the Philippines Team I, carded a five-over 77 and wound up fifth with a 226, while Kiwi **Bill Bell** dropped 4 shots in the last three holes to finish joint sixth with **Young Eung Park** of Korea at 229.

Sev-Roxas Chua also shot a 77 for the Philippines Team I, which pooled a second straight 149 for a 445, giving the Philippines a four-shot victory over Australia (150-449) in the team event and completing the hosts' sweep of the championship. The win duplicated the Filipino seniors' sweep of the event two years ago in China where Clavecilla won the individual crown.

Korea, which surged to the lead in the team event in the second round, faltered with a 155-450 and settled for third followed by New Zealand I (161-463), New Zealand 2 (152-464), Philippines Team 2 (158-466) and Hong Kong 2 (159-481).

Forty-nine players from 7 countries competed in the Championship that was played from the 22nd – 24th November. The APGC Seniors was successfully run by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and the APGC is most appreciative of their efforts. Sponsors included Philippine Airlines, Pagcor, Department of Tourism and Hanjin Heavy Industries.



Above APGC Team Champions (L-R): NGAP Rules Chairman **Caloy Coscolluela**, **Iggy Clavecilla**, **Tommy Manotoc**, **Sev-Roxas Chua**, NGAP Secretary-General **Jun Galindez**



APGC Individual Champion **Tommy Manotoc** (centre), NGAP Secretary-General **Jun Galindez** (left), Mt. Malarayat Golf & Country Club GM: **Mike Carr** (right)

Seniors Championship Scores

- 219 **Tommy Manotoc** (Phi) 72 75 72
- 225 **Brian Sams** (Aus) 72 79 74, **Alex Cleave** (Aus) 75 71 79, **Jun Kee Lee** (Kor) 77 72 76
- 226 **Iggy Clavecilla** (Phi) 77 74 75
- 227 **Young E Park** (Kor) 79 73 75, **Bill Bell** (NZ) 80 71 76
- 228 **Denis Dale** (Aus) 78 74 76, **Rodney Baltrop** (NZ) 79 75 74
- 231 **Sun Yul Lee** (Kor) 78 78 75, **Tony Kennings** (Aus) 80 75 76
- 233 **Francis Gaston** (Phi) 79 77 77
- 234 **Rolly Viray** (Phi) 79 75 80
- 236 **Neale Pitches** (NZ) 73 82 81, **Brian Hsu** (HK) 78 75 83

Team Scores

- 445 – **Philippines I**
- 449 – **Australia I**
- 450 – **Korea**
- 463 – **New Zealand I**
- 464 – **New Zealand 2**
- 466 – **Philippines 2**
- 481 – **Hong Kong 2**
- 486 – **Chinese Taipei I**
- 487 – **Hong Kong I**
- 510 – **Chinese Taipei 2**
- 513 – **Guam**

(Photos by: Louie Catuncan)

Singapore Summit Provides Focus for Sustainable Golf in Asia

The first Asia-Pacific Golf Development Summit was recently held in Singapore from the 12 to 15 November 2007 and highlighted the need for more sustainable and accessible golf in Asia.

Run by Asian Golf Monthly magazine under the auspice of the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC) with support from the R&A, the summit was attended by over 175 delegates from 20 countries under the theme – The Definitive Road Map to Sustainable Golf Course Management in the New Century.

Commencing proceedings, APGC Chairman Tommy Lee called on golf clubs and the golf industry as a whole in Asia to adopt greater social responsibility in making golf more accessible. Lee deemed the notion “CSR – Corporate Social Responsibility”, stating that the professional game was taking too much of the pie and more funds need to be directed into the amateur game, particularly for junior golf.

Legendary golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr, continued the theme, calling on the golf industry to better promote the positive environmental and economic benefits that the sport provides. Jones highlighted that the golf industry and golf clubs could benefit as positive models in proposed Carbon Trading Schemes that are being considered throughout the world.

Patrick Bowers, the International Vice-President for IMG based in Asia, argued that too many golf courses were built in the region without prior knowledge of their market.

“Too many courses try to be all things to all people” said Bowers, highlighting that clubs need to “manage the peaks and valleys” they encounter on a weekly basis. In particular he highlighted the need for better “yield management” as currently exists in the hotel and airline industries and suggested the introduction of specials deals such as twilight and weekday rates.

Amongst the various warnings for the Asian golf market, a number of positive case studies were highlighted during the Summit. Jean-Pierre Schneider, the General Manager of Thai Country Club, delivered a fascinating address highlighting the club’s phenomenal success in just 10 years of operation since its opening in December 1996. Initially blessed with a deluge of positive media coverage when a young Tiger

Woods won the 1997 Asian Honda Classic at the Club in just his second professional year, the club has gone from strength to strength, now employing over 450 staff (including 220 caddies), and averaging over 5000 rounds per month. The club has been recognized in the annual Asian Golf Monthly Awards by being voted best course in Thailand (2001 to 2007) and best clubhouse in Asia (again 2001 to 2007).

Ken Chu, Vice-Chairman of Mission Hills, provided a case study on his club, the world’s largest now featuring 12 separate courses, and also explored the reasons for the rapid growth of golf in China. Chu outlined that the developing leisure and tourism market in China, the booming Chinese economy and the emerging Chinese middle class had all contributed to the recent rapid growth of the sport. Chu stated that golf tourism in China is growing at around 7 percent per annum with only 0.2 percent of the Chinese population currently playing golf compared to 8.8 percent in the USA and 10.1 percent in Japan. He was quick to emphasise the enormous employment opportunities currently available in the Chinese golf market.

Day Two of the Summit was coordinated by the R&A, opening with an address from R&A Director Michael Tate. Tate highlighted that the R&A currently has 130 affiliated nations with Cambodia and Vietnam soon to join. Operating under the banner ‘Optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management’, R&A Assistant Director Steve Isaac highlighted the work the R&A is doing through their Golf Course Management Committee and the organisation’s efforts to help make golf courses sustainable around the world. This information, combined with many practical tips, is accessible via the R&A run website www.bestcourseforgolf.org.

The remainder of day two focused on environmental issues, sustainable golf course management and how Asian golf courses in particular can address these matters. Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association General Manager John Neylan, who presented



Robert Trent Jones Jr speaking at the Summit

on the need for better water efficiency and management on golf courses, was one of a number of international environmental experts to present material at the Conference.

The lack of public golf courses in Asia was highlighted on the final day of the Summit with internationally renowned golf architect Ron Fream calling for the construction of more public access courses that are both accessible and affordable. John Blanche, IMG’s Asian General Manager, said that less than 1 percent of all courses in Asia were public access compared to 70 percent in the USA, 45 percent in the UK and 25 percent in Australia. Blanche said the key reasons for the lack of public courses were the longer returns on investment, a misconception about the potential benefits that public courses can provide and a “fear of the dark.”

The Summit concluded with a general discussion that amongst other things, focused on the pressing need to develop more junior golfers in all Asian countries. As Patrick Bowers stated, “Developing programs that encourage and ensure new golfer supply is essential for golf clubs. The problem with clubs is that very little thought is given about who will be its future golfers”.

It was hoped that the participants who attended the Summit will take the message of Corporate Social Responsibility, public access and junior development back to their respective countries and that some serious thought can be given about strategies to address these problems. Such strategies will surely be a feature of the next summit, which will be held at China’s Mission Hills from 2–4 December 2008.

THAILAND SWEEP SOUTH EAST ASIAN GAMES

Thailand confirmed its status as the powerhouse of golf in the region by taking all four gold medals at the South East Asian (SEA) Games played at the Bonanza Golf and Country Club, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand from 10 -13 December 2007. This follows on from a victory in the Putra Cup and third placing in the Nomura Cup making 2007 one of the most successful years in Thai golf.

The SEA Games are played every two years rotating between nations in the region. The 2007 Games involved 39 sports played in various venues around Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Bangkok and Chonburi in Thailand. The golf competition was played between teams of 4 men and 3 women over 72 and 54 holes respectively. The worst score was discarded each round to give a team total and a separate individual competition was held for both men and women. Eight countries competed in the men's competition and five in the women's. The Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation was the official international federation and was represented at the Games by APGC Tournament Director Dominic Wall.

In the Men's Team competition, Thailand started slowly to finish on 2-under 214 to trail the Philippines by 5 shots, Indonesia by 3 and Malaysia by 2 after the first round. The second round however proved to be the decisive round with the Thais turning a 5 shot deficit into a 7 shot lead when they posted a team total of 8-under par 208. This was achieved by two excellent rounds by Kiradech Aphibarnrat 67 and Pipatpong Naewsuk 66.

Thailand posted another team total of 208 for the third round with all four players shooting sub-par scores. They led Malaysia by 16, Indonesia by 17 and the Philippines by 19 and barring a disaster had secured the gold medal. The final round proved more of the same for Thailand when they posted a third straight 208 to win the gold medal by 20 shots. The battle for the minor medals was much closer with the Philippines equaling their first round 209 to take the silver by two shots from Indonesia with Malaysia a further two shots away and Myanmar one behind. Myanmar showed that they are a team to watch with Aung Win shooting a 66 and Bo Bo 68 for the final round.

After the first round, the individual competition turned out to be a two-horse



Men's Medalists: Kiradech Aphibarnrat (Thai), Pipatpong Naewsuk (Thai), M Nazari (Mal)



Women's Team Gold Medalist (Thailand)

race between Thai pair Kiradech Aphibarnrat and Pipatpong Naewsuk. After 54 holes Naewsuk led by one shot on 9 under but looked like he had lost the gold medal to Aphibarnrat when he trailed by two shots with two holes to play. Golf however is never over until the last card is handed in and when Aphibarnrat bogeyed the relative easy par-5 18th this left the door open for his team mate. Naewsuk proceeded to birdie both the last two holes to beat his partner by one and claim the gold. Malaysia's M Nazari took the bronze by one shot from the Philippines Ferdian Aunzo and Indonesian Andik Mauludin.



Men's Team Gold Medalist (Thailand)



Women's Gold Medalist: P. Kongkraphah (Thailand)

The Women's Team Competition proved a closer affair with Thailand again trailing after the first round to be two shots behind the Philippines. They turned this deficit into a 3 shot lead going into the final round after Thai player P. Kongkraphah fired the best round of the competition a 3-under 69. The battle for the gold medal fluctuated throughout the final round but the Thais eventually pulled away over the last nine holes to claim the gold by 9 shots. The Philippines looked likely to also lose the silver to Indonesia but a solid finish by A Tanpinco meant they held on to the silver by two shots.

Thailand's 14 year old P. Kongkraphah signaled that she is a player to watch taking out the gold medal on 6 under par 210 to finish 6 ahead of Tanpinco. The battle for the bronze produced the only playoff for the Games when Malaysia's A Bakar A and Indonesian Lidya Jaya tied on 2-over 218. The playoff was held on the par-5 18th with Jaya having an 8 foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to win. Unfortunately for her the putt lipped out which meant both players returned to the tee. The playoff was decided on the second hole when Bakar holed her third shot from 80 metres for an eagle 3 to claim the bronze.

The venue course Bonanza was presented in very good condition and it was evident that course officials had gone to considerable trouble

to make sure that the course and surrounds were up to the quality expected for the SEA Games. The Thailand Golf Association also did an outstanding job hosting the golf competition and ran a first class golf championship at the level expected for a professional tournament. It appeared that no stone was left untouched including the course set-up, logistics, scoring and officiating which were all excellent. For example, hole-by-hole scoring was posted on the main scoreboard and carry boards followed the leading groups.

The SEA Games showcased some of the regions best young golfers and it will be interesting to follow their progress over the next few years. Many will surely go on to make a significant impact on the world stage. The next SEA Games will be held in Laos and we can again look forward to seeing more outstanding players.

Men's Team Results

1. 838 – **Thailand** 214 208 208 208
2. 858 – **Philippines** 209 220 220 209
3. 860 – **Indonesia** 210 218 219 213
4. 862 – **Malaysia** 212 216 218 216
5. 863 – **Myanmar** 219 217 218 209
6. 869 – **Singapore** 220 217 216 216
7. 876 – **Vietnam** 217 225 216 218
8. 939 – **Laos** 238 236 232 233

Men's Individual – (Leading Scores)

1. 277 **Pipatpong Naewsuk** (Tha) 72 66 69 70
2. 278 **Kiradech Aphibarnrat** (Tha) 71 67 70 70
3. 282 **M. Nazari** (Mal) 69 72 71 70
4. 283 **Ferdiand Aunzo** (Phi) 70 72 74 67, **Andik Mauludin** (Ind) 68 71 75 69
6. 284 **Varut Chomchalam** (Tha) 71 75 70 68
7. 286 **Bo Bo** (Myn) 72 74 72 68
8. 287 **Zhi Qun Lam** (Sin) 71 74 71 71, **Yuniarto Bennita** (Ind) 71 72 73 71
10. 288 **Aung Win** (Myn) 75 74 73 66, **Seruji Haji Setia** (Bru) 75 70 68 75

Women's Team Results

1. 430 – **Thailand** 145 141 144
2. 439 – **Philippines** 143 146 150
3. 441 – **Indonesia** 147 147 147
4. 449 – **Malaysia** 152 146 151
5. 528 – **Laos** 172 175 181

Women's Individual – (Leading Scores)

1. 210 **P. Kongkraphah** (Tha) 71 69 70
2. 216 **A. Tanpinco** (Phil) 70 71 75
3. 218 **A. Bakar A** (Mal) 72 72 74
4. 218 **Lidya Jaya** (Ind) 74 71 73
5. 222 **Y. Kawinpakorn** (Tha) 74 74 74
6. 223 **P. Phuntumabamrung** (Tha) 76 72 75, **J. Suharto** (Ind) 73 76 74
8. 227 **I. Chihiro** (Phi) 73 75 79
9. 229 **Melissa L** (Sin) 75 76 78, **Regina De Guzman** (Phi) 77 77 75



Thailand Claims The 47th Putra Cup

The Putra Cup is an annual team and individual match played between nations from South East Asia. The 47th staging was held at The Country Club, Laguna, Philippines from the 27th – 30th November 2007 and attracted teams from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. The best 3 scores from 4 count each round for the team title.

In what turned out to be a form guide for the South East Asian Games, the Thai team of Thanyakorn Krongpha, Varut Chomchalam, Kiradech Aphibarnrat and Varan Israbhakdi captured the Putra Cup with a closely fought win over host nation the Philippines, the same order the teams were to finish at the SEA Games.



Putra Individual Champions (L-R): **Jun Galindez** (NGAP Secretary-General) **De Luna** (Philippine Sports Commission Commissioner), **Quincy Quek** (Singapore), **J. Rathakrishnan** (Malaysian Golf Association General Manager), **Mike Carr** (The Country Club General Manager)

Thailand did not however have it their own way and almost blew the 13 shot lead they held from the third round when they fumbled with a seven-over 217 for a four-day aggregate of 860, two ahead of a fast finishing local team. The Philippines narrowly fell short despite shooting the tournament best total of four under 206. Defending champions Singapore finished a further 6 shots back in third position.

Singapore's Quincy Quek, however, succeeded in foiling Thailand's bid for both titles when he birdied the last three holes to fire a 66 and defeat Thai Kiradech Aphibarnrat in the count back to take the individual crown.

Thailand has dominated the Putra Cup in recent years with 12 victories since its first win in 1985. The 2008 Putra Cup will be played in Singapore.



Putra Cup Team Champions (L-R): **Thanyakorn Krongpha**, **Varan Israbhakdi**, **Methee Sudasna** (Team Captain), **Varut Chomchalam**, **Kiradech Aphibarnrat**

Final Team Scores

1. 860 – **Thailand** (212, 215, 216, 217)
2. 862 – **Philippines** (222, 218, 216, 206)
3. 868 – **Singapore** (217, 216, 223, 212)
4. 879 – **Indonesia** (221, 221, 220, 217)
5. 891 – **Malaysia** (222, 218, 229, 222)
6. 905 – **Hong Kong** (217, 231, 233, 224)

Leading Individual Scores

1. 284 **Quincy Quek** (Sing) 74 70 74 66
2. 284 **Kiradech Aphibarnrat** (Tha) 73 68 70 73
3. 287 **Mhark Fernando** (Phi) 74 71 74 68
4. 287 **Jay Bayron** (Phi) 74 73 71 69
5. 289 **Varut Chomchalam** (Tha) 69 76 72 72
6. 290 **Andik Mauludin** (Ind) 72 75 72 71, **Zhiqun Lam** (Sing) 71 73 74 72
8. 291 **Ferdinand Aunzo** (Phi) 74 75 73 69, **Varan Israbhakdi** (Tha) 71 71 74 75

KHAN Crowned Faldo Series Asia Champion 2007

Rashid Khan of India was crowned Faldo Series Asia champion for 2007 at Mission Hills Golf Club in China following an outstanding six-under-par 66 on the Faldo Course and a 54-hole total of 205.



Faldo Series overall Champion **Rashid Khan** (India) with **Nick Faldo**

Sixteen-year-old Khan from Delhi stormed to victory with a four-under-par back nine of 31 that included an eagle two on 15 and a birdie two immediately after on 16. He finished five ahead of joint runners-up Chan Shih Chang, 21, the overnight leader from Chinese Taipei who carded a level-par 72, and another Indian Rahul Bakshi, 17, who raced up the leader-board with a final round 63, a new course record.

Khan commented after his round: *"I am absolutely delighted to win and to do it with Nick Faldo watching is extremely exciting. Last night Nick told us to be positive today and play with a smile on our faces and that is exactly what I did. I have never played so well"*.

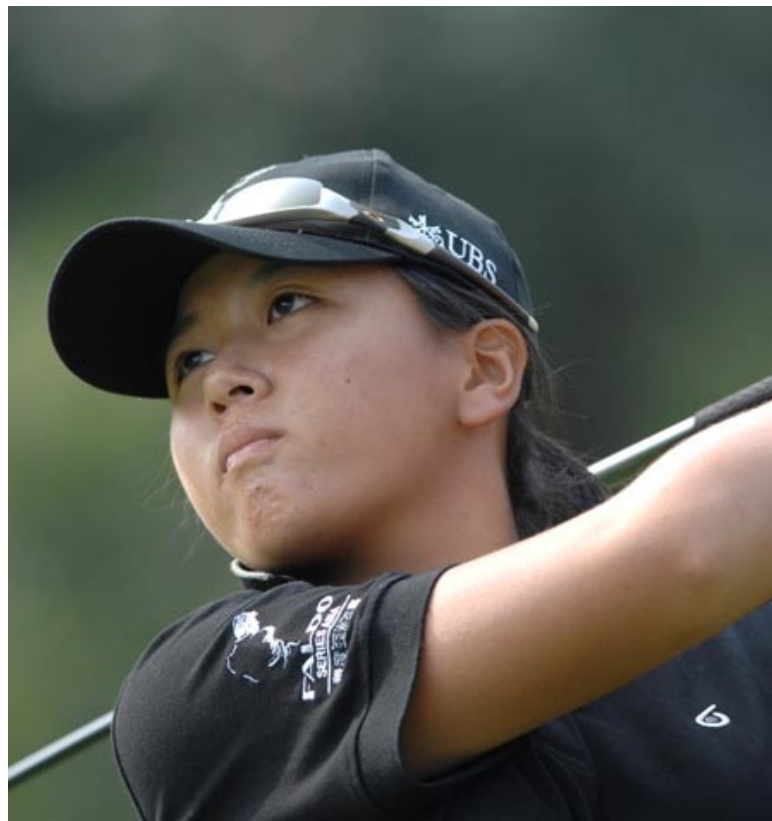
As well as collecting the Faldo Series Asia trophy from Nick Faldo, Khan also receives an invitation to the European grand final of the Faldo Series 2008, valuable R&A World Amateur Golf Ranking points and, courtesy of the Asian Tour, a place in the Volvo Masters Asia 2008 and a scholarship to stage one of Asian Tour Qualifying School.

As the leading girl, Lin Tzu Chi of Chinese Taipei will be offered a start in a flagship event on the 2008 Ladies European Tour. Seventeen-year-old Lin carded a two-over-par 74 to finish on 218, one shot ahead of her compatriot and defending girls' champion Hsieh Yu Ling, 15.

Faldo said: *"I would like to congratulate Rashid on becoming a worthy champion of the Faldo Series Asia 2007. He beat a field here at Mission Hills that contained a lot of impressive players, all of whom I enjoyed watching in action as well as spending time with off the course"*.

The six-time Major winner added: *"I hope the competitors have learned a few things this week about the game and about themselves that will help them in their development as golfers; equally I hope the younger kids who came along to watch today were inspired by the experience and will one day return to play in a Faldo Series event themselves"*.

Supported by Mission Hills, The R&A and UBS, and hosted by Faldo, a total of 64 golfers, boys and girls aged 12 to 21, took part in the 54-hole Faldo Series Asia (FSA) grand final (December 12-14) including 59 players from 10 different Asian countries and a further five winners from the Faldo Series grand final in Europe. Ten competitors alone represented mainland China.



Faldo Series leading female **Lin Tzu-Chi** (Chinese Taipei)

Dec. 12-14, 2007 Mission Hills—Home of the Faldo Series Asia



Faldo Series winners and officials including Nick Faldo, Tenniel Chu and the R&As Duncan Weir

Also backed by Korn/Ferry, over 50 of the competitors qualified from 10 FSA championships in nine different Asian countries throughout 2007 including two in China and one in each of Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Hong Kong, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Singapore.

Sanctioned by the Asian Tour, the Asia Pacific Golf Confederation and the Guangdong Golf Association, Faldo spent time with the finalists at Mission Hills, in order to pass on his advice and experience from over 30 years of playing at the highest level. Other experts from the world of golf also educated the finalists with seminars on topics that included life on Tour; rules and etiquette; fitness in golf; and working with the media.

In a bid by Faldo to simultaneously create access to the sport for a younger audience, local school-children were invited to Mission Hills for the final day, during which they watched the finalists in action, saw Nick Faldo take part in a unique skills challenge and had the opportunity to experience golf themselves in a special 'Kids Zone'.

The FSA grand final was played over three rounds on the highly-acclaimed Faldo Course, with a cut after 36 holes. The format was gross stroke play with trophies awarded to the leading boy in the under-21, under-18 and under-16 categories and the leading girl in the under-21 and under-16 divisions. Boys played from the gold tees (6,500 yards) and girls from the blue tees (6,100 yards).

(Story courtesy Tom Phillips – Faldo Series)

2007 FALDO SERIES ASIA CATEGORY WINNERS

Champion Rashid Khan (India) 205

Girls Under 16

1. 219 **Hsieh Yu Ling** (Chinese Taipei)
2. 220 **T. Suwannapura** (Tha)

Boys Under 16

1. 205 **Rashid Khan** (Ind)
2. 214 **Hung Chung Kang** (CT)

Girls Under 21

1. 218 **Lin Tzu-Chi** (CT)
2. 237 **Guo Cai Zhu** (Chi)

Boys Under 18

1. 210 **Rahul Bakshi** (Ind)
2. 216 **Jack Clarke** (Eng)

Boys Under 21

1. 210 **Chan Shih Chang** (CT)
2. 214 **Martin Liu** (HK)

