



Ifpra Circular

International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration
Asia Pacific Regional Newsletter

IFPRA 1999 Congress

Hangzhou, China

The 1999 IFPRA Asia Pacific Congress is to be held in Hangzhou, China. The Congress will commence with a conference connection on Wednesday, 6 October with meetings from the 7 through to 10 October. A tour of the West Lake scenic area will be arranged and site seeing and shopping tours will be available for accompanying persons.

Hangzhou is only 150 kilometres to Shanghai and enjoys convenient transport facilities with air services to Hong Kong and Singapore. A Post Congress Tour through to Beijing of 11 days 10 nights (October 11 - 21) has also been planned.

The Congress Registration Fee is US\$480

Accommodation:

Jinxi Hotel: US\$55 per room/per night (double)

Zhejiang Hotel: US\$48 per room/per night (double)

Post Congress Tour:

Hangzhou-Shanghai-Gulin-Kumming-Xi'an-Beijing
(11 days 10 nights)

US\$1100 (double), US\$1320 (single)

Congress details available from:

The Congress Secretariat,

Department of Hangzhou Landscapes and Cultural

Relics Bureau

No. 5 Huanchengxi Road

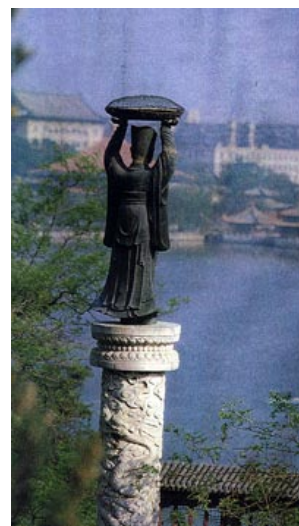
Hangzhou China 310006

If you require additional information contact:

Mr. Wang Miaoliang or Mr. Fang Youqiang. Tel. +86 5717060963, Fax. +86 5717062839.

The Dew Plate is a bronze statue of an immortal which stands in the middle of Qiong Islet at Beililai Park. The statue was erected in the 18th Century to collect dew to brew medicine for the royal family. Beihai Park, an area of 68 hectares and acclaimed as the first imperial garden in the world, is located in the centre of downtown Beijing. A visit to the park, which is about 900 years old, has been included in the Post Congress Tour following the 1999 IFPRA Asia Pacific Congress in October.

Photograph source: Beihai 1994 - a publication by
Beihai and Jingshan Park Administration.



Visit the IFPRA Asia-Pacific Web Site: www.zip.com.au/~ifpra_ap



Chairmans Message

A reminder to all members that the next Commission and General Assembly Meetings for IFPRA Asia-Pacific will be held during the Hangzhou Congress. Agenda items should be forwarded to the secretary by no later than Tuesday 31 August, 1999.



Commissioners News

SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay will be the longest and comprehensive relay since it began in 1936. Lit on the 12 May, 2000 at a special ceremony in Olympia, Greece, the Torch will be carried around Oceania for approximately 20 days - to Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand.

On arrival in Australia on the 8 June, 2000, the Torch will then be carried by 10,000 Torchbearers on a journey within 1 hour's drive of 85 % of Australia's population. The relay themed '100 Days, 1000 Towns, 1 Celebration' will also have the Torch carried by train, bicycle, stock horse, tram, road train, rowing boat, canoe, dragon boat, ferry, solar vehicle, wave piercer and even the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a total journey of 27,000 kms on its way to the Sydney Olympic Stadium for the opening ceremony on 15 September, 2000.

After months of research and design work, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch was unveiled in March. Shortly after at a special briefing session John Brandenburg, Secretary IFPRA Asia Pacific had an opportunity to hold the Torch, a memorable event. The form of the torch represents optimism and a celebration of Sydney. The design has metaphoric layers of fire, water and earth. The high-tech construction is inspired by the Opera House sails with the subtle curve of an aboriginal boomerang.

The torch is made up of three layers. The inner layer is stainless steel and contains the fuel system which includes the combustor to keep the flame alight. The middle blue layer is anodised aluminium which contains the fuel canister. The outer layer which encases the other two leaves, is made of aluminium with a specially textured finish (check the IFPRA Asia-Pacific web page for a coloured photograph of the Torch - www.zip.com.au/~ifpra_ap).

The weight of the torch is a little over 1 kg and the flame will burn for 20 minutes. The fuel for the torch is a mixture of propane and butane which is environmentally friendly with lower carbon emissions and better luminosity for less fuel consumed. The lower storage pressure for this gas mixture allows the use of a standard pressure pack container that can be removed so both gas and container can be recycled.

The flame has been tested to stay alight in winds up to 65 kilometres per hour and in a tropical downpour. The Torch has a built-in safety system which self-extinguishes after ten seconds if it is left lying on the ground or inverted.





Regional Snapshots

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND - Following the outstanding success of Nations in Bloom, the NZ Recreation Association, along with the NZ Institute of Landscape Architects, the NZ Horticultural Industry Association, Tourism Auckland and the Auckland Regional Council have been working to form a Communities in Bloom competition in New Zealand. The Communities in Bloom competition will judge cities or towns on their treatment of the community in terms of landscape design, heritage management, environmentally sensitive management, planning for the future and community involvement. For more information, contact Bob Wynyard, Development Officer, Nursery and Garden Industry Association, 13 Maungarei Road, Remuera, Auckland NZ.

SINGAPORE - Dr Russell Arthur Smith has been elected as the President of Institute of Parks and Recreation (Singapore). IPR has also changed its address:

Institute of Parks and Recreation (Singapore)
c/- National Parks Board Headquarters
Singapore Botanic Gardens
1 Cluny Road, Singapore 259569
Fax: (65) 324 6484 Tel: (65) 790 4836
Email: rasmith@pacific.net.sg

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The National Parks and Wildlife Service, is using state of the art technology to prevent bush fires. Used in aircraft and on the ground a new portable infrared camera system can detect hotspots invisible to the naked eye. The camera was a great success during the last fire season when it detected hotspots in the Blue Mountains and in the Kosciuszko National Parks.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - Two humble species of insects have become crucial weapons in the battle to rid Papua New Guinea of water hyacinth which is threatening to choke inland waterways and spread disease.

Controlling the spread of the plant was the focus of a recent AusAID project in PNG which involved the release of specially bred species of weevils and moths to 'biologically control' the water hyacinth. The Australian Government has provided approximately A\$1.4 million to fund this project since 1993.

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is a native plant of South America. It is grown as an ornamental plant because of its beautiful, pale blue flowers and shiny green leaves. Water hyacinth can grow in wet soil but usually grows in still or slow-flowing water. The plant forms thick mats, which can cover the entire surface of lagoons and rivers. The plants grow up to one metre above the water surface and in tropical areas such as PNG, the number of plants can double in several weeks. This phenomenal reproduction rate is possible because the plants continually produce offshoots, which break away and become separate plants. The plants also reproduce through the germination of seeds. Seedlings reach maturity very quickly and the time between germination and flowering can be as little as six weeks. The seeds can remain viable for up to 20 years. This makes the weed almost impossible to eradicate.

Biological control is an inexpensive way of controlling pests. Scientists search for insects, mites and fungi that will either eat or damage the target plant. A control agent such as an insect will only be released if it is clear the insect does not harm other valued plants or animals. The Entomology Department of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has found four South American insects suitable for use as biological control agents and these have been released in PNG. Once the insects have become established, they continue to multiply and keep the plants under control. Biological control will not eradicate water hyacinth but it can significantly reduce weed cover and make waterways accessible to local people for transport and fishing.

Biological control is preferred over herbicidal control because it is cheaper and does not damage native flora and fauna. Biological control can be complemented with manual removal of plants when the outbreaks of water hyacinth are confined to small, easily accessible areas.



SINGAPORE - East Coast Park is the largest and oldest coastal park in Singapore with 206 hectares of coastal land spanning more than 20 kilometres of coastal frontage. The park was developed in 1972 in four phases over a 14-year period with an integrated recreational planning and development plan. The park theme was "Recreational for all" with a wide range of activities designed for everyone. Apart from the usual recreation facilities, walking and cycling trails, there are also numerous commercial leased recreational centres to encourage private developers' participation in providing a wider variety of recreational facilities.

NARROMINE, AUSTRALIA - "Australia's Olympic Gold Rose" has been selected at the rose trial grounds of Swanes Nursery. The rose is to be released for sale in June and has been endorsed by the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games as its official rose for Sydney 2000. The double flowered blooms are carried on long stems, a deep golden yellow with a mild fruity fragrance.

Circular Production Team:

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(Email: ipcs@zip.com.au)



IFPRA Asia • Pacific

Regional Noticeboard

1999

11 - 16 July
Third National School in Park Management
The University of Melbourne, Australia
Venue: Queens College
Contact: Dr. David Aldous
Tel. +61 3 92506800, Fax. +61 3 92506885
Email: d.aldous@landfood.unimelb.edu.au

18 - 21 July
4th National Turfgrass Seminar
Australia Golf Course Superintendant's Association
Venue: Perth, Western Australia
Contact: Education Convenor, Peter Schumacher
Tel. +61 3 9886 6200, Fax. +613 9886 6400

27 - 29 September
2nd Parks & Leisure National Conference
Venue: Adelaide, South Australia
Contact: Conference Secretariat, Jackie Thompson,
Adelaide Events, PO Box 800,
Glenelg, South Australia. 5045
Tel. +61 8 8296 9610, Fax. +61 8 8296 8188
Email: jthomps@tpgi.com.au

7 - 10 October
IFPRA Asia / Pacific Congress
Venue: Hangzhou, China
Contact: The Congress Secretariat
Tel. +86 571 7060063, Fax. +86 571 7062839

7 - 9 November
NZRA Annual Conference
Venue: Bruce Mason Centre, Auckland
Contact: Fiona Driver
PO Bo 90-040, Auckland. NZ.
Tel: +64 9 3601240, Fax: +64 9 3601242

2001

24 - 27 September
19th IFPRA World Congress
Venue: Cape Town, South Africa.
Contact: The Congress Secretariat
Tel. +27 11789 1384 fax. +27 11 789 1385
Email: jpv@iafrica.com

2002

IFPRA Asia / Pacific Congress
Venue: Singapore.
Contact: Secretary, IPR. c/- Parks and Recreation Department.
5th Storey ND Building. Annex B. Maxwell Road,
Singapore. 0106

2003

IFPRA Europe Congress
Venue: Stavanger, Norway
Contact: Parks Department, PO Box 317, N-4001,
Stavanger, Norway



Regional Directory

This section of the newsletter will provide, in future issues, the contact details for Commission Members and Representatives for the Asia Pacific Region.

Executive

Chair
Immediate Past Chairman
Chairman Elect
Secretary

- Mr Robert Small (New Zealand)
- Dr Kanzo Hirano (Japan)
- Mrs Zheng Shuling (China)
- Mr. John P Brandenburg (Australia)
PO Box 940, Rockdale. NSW. 2216. Australia.
Tel: +61 2 95621837 Fax: +61 2 95621888

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Dr Anne Binkley
Mr Li Rusheng
P Cheung Kwok-Kee
Dr Mariko Handa
Hj. Khuzaimah Hj. Yunos
Mohammed I Al-Humaidhi
Dr. Russell Arthur Smith

- Australia
- China
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore