

SEPTEMBER 1992



Asia · Pacific

Ifpra

7

CIRCULAR



Hibiscus rosa sinensis - Bunga Raya
A variety, Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir of Malaysia's National Flower

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SERVICES DES ESPACES VERTS ET DE LA RECREATION
INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATION OFFENTLICHER VERWALTUNGEN FÜR GRÜNFLÄCHEN UND ERHOLUNG

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MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL FLOWER

Hibiscus rosa - sinensis Bunga Raya

Introduction

Many countries have selected and proclaimed national flowers. These flowers symbolise their independent status and identity both nationally and internationally. The Hibiscus is among one of the popular flowers selected for this purpose, for example, Jamaica and Hawaii have both chosen the Hibiscus as their national and state flower respectfully.

After achieving her independence in 1957, Malaysia also recognised the need to have her own national flower which signified its national pride and identity. The Minister of Agriculture in 1958 asked for proposals from different states in Malaysia. Seven species were proposed including the common Bunga Kenanga, Melor, Teratai, Mawar, Cempaka, Tanjung and Bunga Raya or Hibiscus. The residents from the East Coast selected the Bunga Mawar and those on the West coast the Bunga Melor. Finally on 28 July 1960 the government proclaimed the Bunga Raya as Malaysia's national flower, based on the following criteria: The Bunga Raya or *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* is very well known and flourishes throughout Malaysia, being commonly used as ornamental specimens or in hedges around many a house. The Bunga Raya flowers throughout the year and is easily grown, being vigorous and requiring very little maintenance. The bright red colour of the flowers signify bravery. The floral parts such as the petals are beautiful and huge and therefore more outstanding when compared with other flowers.

Origin and Distribution

The Bunga Raya belongs to the family **Malvaceae** containing about 300 species, is well noted for its economic and horticultural significance. This includes cotton (*Gossypium* species), vegetables (Ladies finger or okra), and ornamentals (*Hibiscus* species). They are very adaptable to different environments. In size the Hibiscus can range from a very small herbaceous annual to a small tree. It has been so commonly grown in gardens all over the world that the site of its origin has been lost. However, it is most likely that Asia and the Pacific region is the home of the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*.

It was first introduced into Europe in 1731. A century ago in Chelsea, England, plant breeders produced hybrids. In the late 19th century breeders in Florida and Hawaii also produced new hybrids and by the early 20th century, 30 varieties had been produced with single, semi double and multiple petalled blooms with colours ranging from white, pink to red.

After World War II the Hibiscus regained its popularity and many new varieties have been bred in different parts of the world, including Hawaii, Florida and Australia. With the formation of Hibiscus societies in many countries, thousands of varieties have been produced and distributed to different parts of the world, both temperate and tropical.

The Plant

The Bunga Raya is a shrub growing to a height of 3 to 5 metres. Hibiscus leaves are variable in shape, size and colour and are mostly bright green and shiny, but some are hairy and rough, also variegated leaves with red, green and white colours are fairly common. The leaf shapes vary from long and narrow to almost round. Leaf margins may be entire, serrated or deeply lobed. The Bunga Raya's flower is among the world's largest and most beautiful blooms, growing up to 25cm in diameter. Basically, the floral plan is five. Thus, every flower has five petals, five stigmatic lobes, a five celled ovary, five teeth each on the calyx and the epicalyx. However, multiple petalled forms also exist. The Bunga Raya can be propagated from seeds or vegetatively by stem cuttings and marcots.

Hibiscus City - Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur is to become a Hibiscus city. Thousands of Hibiscus plants have been planted all over the city, beautifying the streets, roundabouts, highways, gardens and parks. The modern hybrids with their huge colourful blooms have become popular with residents and no doubt they will be the highlight features of many private gardens of the city.

EDITORIAL

I am indebted to Hj Khurzaimah Bin Hj Yunos, the Director of the Parks & Recreation Department at the Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Malaysia, and his staff, for arranging the flower for the cover sketch, Malaysia's National Flower - Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, Bunga Raya, as well as providing information and photographs on the delightful Hibiscus and Orchid Gardens. Many thanks indeed for their kind assistance as well as that of Dr Kanzo Hirano who has kindly provided information on the IFPRA Asia Pacific Congress in Mito City; send your application for registration now - I'm sure you will be well rewarded by your visit during May next year.

My thanks also to Ralph Boggust for his article on the link-up of the Institute of Park & Recreation Administration of New Zealand with other recreation organisations.

Congratulations to Phillip Jew of Auckland, New Zealand for his award of an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for services to Horticulture and Conservation.

However, more material is needed for our next issue due out in December; can you help please. If so, send it to the Editor by 15 November next.

Continuation of the IFPRA Asia Pacific Region?

It is an exciting time for the young IFPRA Asia Pacific Region as it was decided, when it was set up in Greensboro in 1989, that its progress would be reviewed at the Hong Kong Commission meeting to determine if the Region should continue. By its performance, I am sure that approval for its continuance will be given. I hope we attain a target of at least 200 members by 1995 at the time of the World Congress in Antwerp.

New Zealand Institute of Park and Recreation Administration Inc. donation to IFPRA Asia Pacific

A separate article tells of the proposed amalgamation of recreation organisations in New Zealand; but I must mention the generosity of the NZIPRA in donating NZ\$1000 to IFPRA Asia Pacific for its use in developing the Region. Many thanks indeed.

IFPRA World Congress - Melbourne 1998

Work has already started on the 1998 IFPRA World Congress to be held in Melbourne. Put the date in your diary now - the second last week in October 1998 - Plan to be there! An exciting and interesting time is planned for you. The last IFPRA World Congress in the Twentieth Century!

Applications for Secretary IFPRA Asia Pacific

Applications are invited from suitably qualified people to act as Secretary for IFPRA Asia Pacific. Details may be obtained from the Acting Secretary. Currently the Secretariat is in Melbourne and at present, no change is envisaged. Extended closing date 8 October 1992.

We were wrong

I apologise to Mr Looij of New Zealand for not checking the last issue carefully enough and my typist incorrectly spelt his name (my hieroglyphics are sometimes difficult to interpret). Mr Wong has advised me that he is not the Commissioner for Singapore and consequently it has no Commissioner. Please correct the information in Circular No. 5.

World Congress - Hong Kong - 18-24 October

No doubt many of you have planned your visit to Hong Kong for the World Congress and I would very much like to meet with as many members of the IFPRA Asia Pacific Region as possible. Please introduce yourself and I look forward to meeting you at Hong Kong.

TREVOR ARTHUR

THE ORCHID GARDEN, KUALA LUMPUR

TAMAN BUNGA ORKID

Introduction

Set in the lush undulating greenery of the city's Taman Tasik Pedana (Lake Gardens), the Orchid Garden provides a striking visual display of the orchid family in all its glory.

In April 1986 the Orchid Garden was officially opened by the Malaysian Prime Minister's wife Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Hadja Ali.

Its three stage construction was commenced in late 1985, the second in 1988 and the third stage, which includes the orchidarium, will be started in the near future.

The Concept

The Kuala Lumpur Orchid Garden was set up primarily to create a showcase of the nation's rich variety of orchids. It also provides a centre for the cultivation, research and study of this fascinating family of flowering plants. The Garden crowns the top of a gently sloping hill overlooking well-tended gardens.

The Challenge

With three basic types of orchids, climbing, terrestrial and epiphytic, there is a special challenge to provide the right growing conditions for each type; some are more demanding than others in requiring exactly the right conditions of light and humidity to ensure they will flourish.

They also provide a challenge to the designers to display the orchid flowers in the best way possible, not only do the three types require different habitats but the flowers are greatly varied in form, colour and flowering periods.

There are some 800 species of orchids in the world living in varied habitats from the Antarctic to the Arctic. Yet they seem to reach their perfection in the tropics. Currently the garden has an inventory of 60 genera and more than 200 species of orchids.

Activities

The Orchid Garden attracts people from all over the world, ranging from orchid specialists to flower and garden lovers, from tots to seniors who come to study, research or just enjoy the magnificent displays. Commercial growers set up displays and weekend bazaars are arranged so that visitors can have direct access to growers and may even purchase plants.

Management

The Orchid Garden is managed by the Horticultural Section of the Parks and Recreation Department assisted by an input from the Selangor and Federal Territory Orchid Society.

Structures

The epiphytic and climbing orchids are grown on a semi-circular pergola while a rock garden has been created for the terrestrial varieties.

Plans are afoot for a viewing gallery, an auditorium, and a lecture theatre. A conservatory-orchidarium will provide facilities for research especially on the rare and endangered species of Malaysia.

Like the adjacent Hibiscus Garden, justice to these magnificent Gardens cannot be done until you visit them yourself and enjoy the delightful displays of these gems of flowering plants. Each year some 250,000 people visit the Orchid and Hibiscus Gardens.

THE KUALA LUMPUR HIBISCUS GARDEN

In Honour of the Hibiscus

Among the flowers of the world, the Hibiscus has been called the Queen of the tropical flowers and has become the national flower of a number of countries in the world. Because of its significance, Bunga Raya or Hibiscus has been honoured at official functions and widely promoted and depicted in many state emblems, logos, stamps, banners, flags, badges and decorative ornaments.

In Malaysia, at most official functions and opening ceremonies of sporting events and banquets, Bunga Raya is always featured. In particular for the celebration of Malaysia's Independence Day on 31st August, banners and bunting of Bunga Raya decorate the streets and grandstands in every part of the country; buildings, restaurants and roads have been named after it, such as Wisma Bunga Raya and Jalan Bunga Raya. The Malaysian ten ringgit currency note depicts the Bunga Raya, and the latest set of Malaysian coins from one cent to one dollar also depicts the Hibiscus flower.

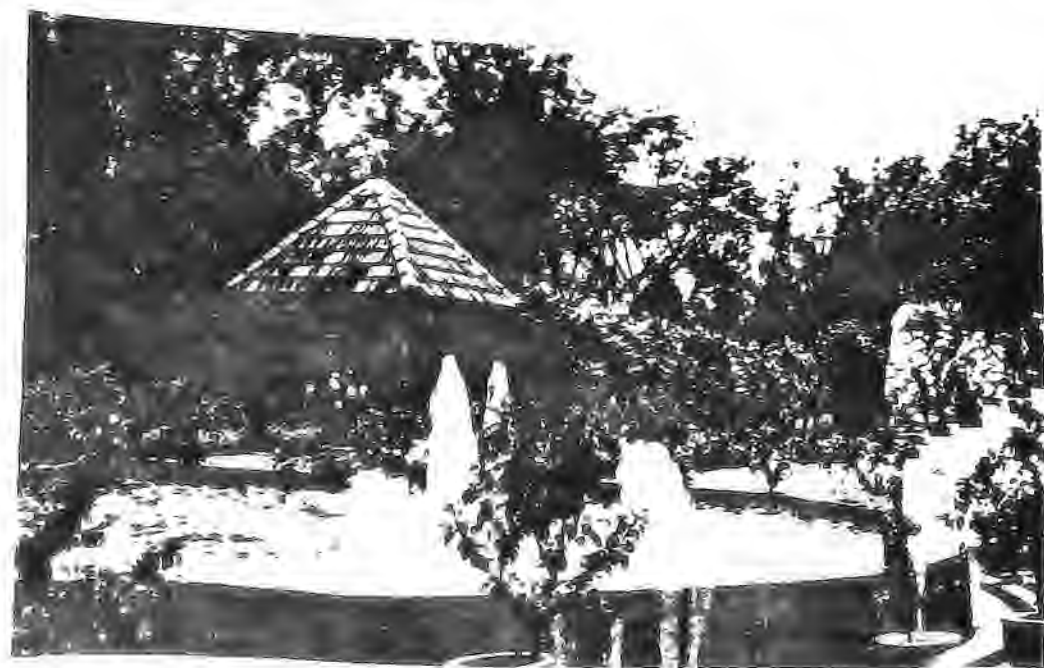
In honour of this flower, the Hibiscus city of Kuala Lumpur established a national Hibiscus Garden in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, which is one of the very few Hibiscus Gardens in the world. It was opened by the Prime Minister's wife Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Hadja Ali, during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malaysia in 1989.

The Garden

Managed by the Horticultural Section of the Parks and Recreation Department of Kuala Lumpur, the .9 Ha site has developed into a wonderland of Hibiscus set in a terraced garden fringed by stately trees. A four metre high waterfall, pools and fountains along with a renovated building containing an exhibition gallery, reception centre and tissue culture laboratory, were developed. In addition, the Plaza, Garden Court, and pagodas set off the magnificent many hued Hibiscus blooms, up to 25cm in diameter. Over 2200 plants of 5 species and approximately 80 varieties are on display in the garden.

The staff of the Horticultural Section are assisted in the management of the plants by a professor from the Agriculture University who acts as an advisory consultant on the horticultural aspects of the garden.

There is one thing for sure, do not miss out on a visit to Kuala Lumpur's magnificent Hibiscus Garden.



HONOUR FOR PHILLIP JEW MBE

General Manager, Regional Parks & Botanic Gardens, Auckland, N.Z.

Phil Jew, widely known New Zealand parks administrator, has recently been made a member of the Order of the British Empire MBE in 1992 Queens Birthday Honours in recognition of his services to Conservation and Horticulture in New Zealand. His particular contribution to the parks profession has been the establishment of Auckland's regional parks network over the past twenty six years. It now extends over 33,000 ha and includes coastal, countryside, water catchment and forest lands as well as the regional botanic gardens and the Mt Smart Sport and Entertainment Centre, which was the main venue of the 1990 Commonwealth Games. The success of the network is indicated by the fact that it now receives over 4 million visitors annually.

Those delegates who attended the 1986 IFPRA Congress in Auckland will remember the diversity of the Regional Park network from that memorable field visit. Unfortunately, the 62 ha Auckland Regional Botanic Garden could not be included in the itinerary. These Gardens opened in 1982 and are already influencing the advancement of the botanic garden's movement in New Zealand.

Phil's contribution to that project is partly explained by his training days at Cambridge University Botanic Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London and the links he later established with American botanical institutions. On returning in 1956 to Auckland, his birth place, he played a conspicuous role in amenity horticulture through his position as Senior Horticulture Officer for the Auckland City Parks Department. He is a fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Parks and Recreation and also as Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

While serving his community generously for over forty years he has also been a great ambassador for the Parks profession. It is largely due to his leadership that the Auckland Regional Parks Service has not only survived but strengthened through the recent traumatic restructuring of local government in New Zealand.

RETIREMENT OF DR PAUL WYCHERLEY OBE

Director, Kings Park, Perth, Western Australia

Paul retired at the end of last May as Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden after 20 years and 7 months wonderful service. The Western Australian Region of the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation honoured Paul, his wife Jennifer and their three children Eleanor, Sheryl and Giles with a retirement reception.

Paul has given loyal and very capable service to the Institute over many years, serving as both Regional and National Presidents of the Institute. His wisdom, skill and humour along with his special personal relationships will long be remembered. Paul also served on numerous committees for the State Government and local Councils as well as Greening Australia. In all, a wonderful record of service to the community.

The Institute awarded him a well-deserved Honorary Life Fellowship for his services to the Institute and Horticulture. At the reception, Paul said:

"Good accessible parks and gardens are the most cost effective provision for public health and recreation especially in times of recession. They constitute the basic minimum safety net for exercise and relaxation, physical refreshment and spiritual restoration, available to all. It has been very satisfying to serve this profession, and to enjoy the friendship and help of colleagues united in its advancement."

I think all people in the profession will endorse those remarks. It seems that many political leaders have lost sight of these prime objects for the community's benefit.

Information on Kings Park and Botanic Gardens' achievements under his leadership will be featured in December's Circular.

NEW ZEALAND
AMALGAMATION OF PARK AND RECREATION PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Introduction

For a number of years, the three major Parks and Recreational Professional Bodies have been moving towards forming a one body organisation. Over the next two months the New Zealand Swimming Pool Managers' Association, the Recreation Association of New Zealand and the New Zealand Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration will, at their respective Annual Conferences and Annual General Meetings, be voting themselves out of existence. A new organisation, the New Zealand Recreation Association will be formed with their first Annual General Meeting to be held in late October 1992.

Background

Some 12 years ago the NZIPRA commenced discussions with these bodies directed at possible amalgamation, and had provided opportunity for both the other organisations to be represented on the National Executive. At that date, the differences, professional pride or the stigma of a merger with another organisation, precluded positive action and the proposal was reluctantly shelved.

Recent Changes

During 1989 a major restructuring of Local Government occurred, resulting in a dramatic new approach to the manner by which Local and Regional Government was to be operated. Integral to this restructuring was the amalgamation of small and large units of Local Government into more coherent bodies, better suited to serve their communities.

This amalgamation and restructuring brought with it a new style of management with larger or wider groupings of like interests integrated into one Department or Directorship. No longer were Parks, Swimming Pools and Recreation autonomous Divisions or Departments. Furthermore, the new legislation required that Management (Service Delivery) and the Service Provision be divorced from each other. In some instances, this requirement for division has resulted in the former Council work forces being disbanded and a regime of contract operation established, using private sector staff.

Future Organisation

Within the above climate, it became obvious that the three major leisure-directed professional bodies would have difficulty in sustaining adequate membership and interest. Amalgamation of these three bodies became not only desirable but also economically sound.

The question of the organisation's name and its objectives are still up for debate; however the Amalgamation Working Party and its various Task Groups have skilfully overcome these issues by their referral to the new organisation's first executive and providing mandatory clauses for postal voting in the Constitution. This will give each member a full democratic right. The name N.Z. Recreation Association is therefore likely to be an interim one only.

Whatever its final name, if a change does in fact occur, the formation of the New Zealand Recreation Association is, I believe, a positive move in the right direction. It combines all the broad-based Park & Recreation groups into one body, thus providing a united body to establish and action with a single voice at local and national level, and to make representations on the many issues that combine conservation, resource use and recreation in our communities.

RALPH BOGGUST
IFPRA Commissioner for New Zealand

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION
1993 ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS

AND

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ASSOCIATION OF
JAPAN 35TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PARK DYNAMISM
- PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION -
PROVIDING FOR CREATIVE LIFE STYLES

May 11-15 1993

Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture, JAPAN



Hosted by: Ministry of Construction
Parks and Open Space Association Japan
Parks and Recreation Foundation
Ibaraki Prefecture
IFPRA Japan
Mito City

For further information please contact:
1993 IFPRA Asia Pacific Congress Headquarters
3F Fukide No. 2 Bldg 4-1-21 Toranomon
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105, Japan
Tel: 81-3-3431-4865
Fax: 81-3-3436-4548

**PARK DYNAMISM - PARK & RECREATION ADMINISTRATION
- PROVIDING FOR CREATIVE LIFE STYLES**

Statement and Welcome

The 120th anniversary of the Japanese public park systems falls in 1993. Many Japanese people would like to celebrate it along with many international visitors by taking part in the first Asian IFPRA Asia Pacific Region's Congress. Mito City of Ibaraki Prefecture was selected as the site for the Congress because of its unique and historical setting, as well as its modern amenities and activities in the field of parks and recreation provided for its community.

Environmental problems at the global level have been recognised by citizens of not only large cities but also of the small hamlets in the rural regions. Our living environment had been considered politically and socially satisfactory, being supported by strong economic activity. However, in recent years, this has changed dramatically and most citizens view with concern the environmental damage occurring country-wide.

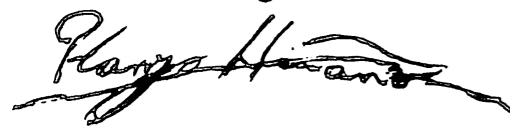
People living in the rapidly expanding cities in Asia are facing very disadvantageous conditions for park and recreation activities. The community will be expected to provide many opportunities for residents and visitors alike by developing environmentally sustainable cities which will have adequate park and other recreation facilities.

Although the acreage of parks has increased significantly, funds have not been provided to develop and manage many of the parks. More funds are required to remedy the situation and thus provide many park and recreation opportunities for residents. To fully understand the need for park and recreation opportunities for all, would give the park and recreation specialists in Asia the chance to discuss the future criteria for parks and recreation, and exchange opinions under the umbrella of the IFPRA Asia Pacific Region.

In order to realise this goal, the Organising Committee developed the Theme for the Congress entitled "Park Dynamism - Park and Recreation Administration - Providing for Creative Life Styles", by which all participants, not only from Asia, may be able to obtain solutions and establish new park and recreation strategies for the benefit of the community.

I look forward with a great deal of pleasure to both welcoming you to the Congress and meeting with you during the Congress.

Kindest regards



KANZO HIRANO
IFPRA Commissioner for Japan
Chairman of Organising Committee

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Timetable:

May 11 (Tuesday)
Ibaraki kyoiku kaikan (Ibaraki
Prefectural Education Hall)

Opening Ceremony
Greeting
Key Lecture
Special Lecture
Parks and Open Space Association of
Japan 35th Annual Meeting
Reception

May 12 (Wednesday)

Field Visits
(Hitachi Seaside National Government
Park, Urban Greenery Fair)

Welcome Party (Host: Ibaraki
Prefecture)
IFPRA Asia Pacific Commission
Meeting

May 13 (Thursday)
Mito Plaza Hotel

Main Session: "Park Dynamism - Park
and Recreation Administration Providing
for Creative Life Styles"

Panel Discussion:
Civic Reception (Host: Mito City)

POST CONGRESS TOURS

(starting May 16 with English-speaking
guide)

The following will be organised:

- A: Tokyo, Kamakura and Hakone for
2 nights 3 days
- B: Tokyo, Kyoto and Kobe for 3
nights 4 days
- C: Tokyo, Fukuoka and Nagasaki for
3 nights 4 days

Details will be mailed with registration
materials to those persons completing
and returning the enclosed form.

More information will be available in
our next Circular due out in December.

May 14 (Friday)
Mito Plaza Hotel

Session 1: "Role of Park Planning and
Recreation"

Session 2: "Development of New Park
Management Systems"

Study Visits (Tsukuba Science City, Mt
Tsukuba and Kasama district)

May 15 (Saturday)
Mito Plaza Hotel

Session 1: "Role of Park Planning and
Recreation"

Session 2: "Development of New Park
Management Systems"

IFPRA Asia Pacific General Assembly
Meeting

Banquet (Dinner/Dance)

REGISTRATION FEE:

Overseas Participants: 40,000 yen
Aus \$442

Accompanying Person &
Student Participants: 20,000 yen
Aus \$221

**ACCOMPANYING PERSONS'
PROGRAM**

During the Congress, special arrange-
ments will be made to provide tours to
arts centres, museums, historical
monuments and other points of interest.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The recommended hotel near the
Congress site is as follows:

MITO PLAZA HOTEL
986-1 Suifu-cho, Mito City,
Ibaraki prefecture, Japan
81-292-31-8111

Room rates:

Approx. 12,000 yen (Aust. \$133) per
person per night including breakfast,
service charges and taxes.

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PARK DYNAMISM - PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION -
PROVIDING FOR CREATIVE LIFE STYLES

May 11-15 1993

Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture, JAPAN

PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION FORM

Please tick as appropriate:

- I intend to attend the Congress
I need further information
I intend to join a post-congress tour

(I shall be accompanied by persons)

Name: _____

Title: Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Facsimile: _____

I suggest that you may also send information on the Congress to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return to: 1993 IFPRA Asia Pacific Congress Headquarters
Parks and Recreation Foundation
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