

# CERTIFICATE IN GREENKEEPING NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 01 | AUGUST 2023



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Our Students

As our student numbers surpass 100 since the launch of the Certificate in Greenkeeping, it's time to keep our students past, present and new connected with this first edition of our quarterly newsletter.

This will be our way of staying in touch and keeping you up to date with all areas of the Certificate in Greenkeeping program.

Education Partner

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### FROM THE CHAIR | RICHARD WALNE



In January 2018 the Asian Golf Industry Federation announced the launch of the Certificate in Greenkeeping (CIG), the first of its kind in Asia. As AGIF President at the time, I was very excited to announce this development which had taken many hours of discussions with turfgrass management organisations and specialists in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Having been involved in the Asian market since the 1980's, it was, and continues to be my personal hope that affordable and internationally recognized certification for superintendents become widely available, which previously was only available in the USA, UK, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

The Certificate in Greenkeeping program would not have been possible without the significant support and funding received from The R&A and their dedication to continuous personal improvement and education of superintendents now and in the future.

This must also be said of the five commercial partners of Jacobsen, John Deere, Jebsen & Jessen Technology, Syngenta and Toro.

Jump to 2023 the Certificate in Greenkeeping program has started to gain momentum again after what was effectively 3 years lost due to COVID. As we continue where we left off, we are committed to initiating and maintaining connect with all students. Future development plans include reaching more students throughout the region, especially those in smaller markets with limited access, attracting a higher level of female students and the development of a Level Two curriculum.

As you can see the Certificate in Greenkeeping has come a long way, but our plans are to take it even further and I look forward to sharing our successes with you along the way.

### INFORMATION UPDATE | PK ONG



We value your input, suggestions and feedback regarding this latest initiative of the Certificate in Greenkeeping. We would also like the opportunity to celebrate your success and share your stories on how attending this education has had a positive impact on your career.

Are you or do you know someone in this picture? This group was the Certificate in Greenkeeping's very first student intake. Please update your contact information to ensure we can stay connected.

We welcome everyone to share this newsletter with colleagues, industry partners or anyone else who might benefit from hearing about all the great things Certificate in Greenkeeping has to offer. Please share your information via email [pkong@agif.asia](mailto:pkong@agif.asia)

### FROM NZSTI | TARA MCLEOD



Tara McLeod is the Sports Surfaces and Equipment Assistant Manager for the NZ Sports Turf Institute. Tara has been involved with the Certificate in Greenkeeping Programme since its inception in 2018, and has led the in-country delivery with the support of her colleagues. Tara has been an agronomist for NZSTI for more than 18 years, and has significant training and consulting experience in both agronomy and horticulture. Tara has an absolute passion for travel and knowledge sharing and is honoured to be a part of the AGIF Certificate in Greenkeeping. "The world is certainly small when it comes to golf course management – to be able to share our collective knowledge across countries and cultures is inspirational". Tara loves to see more woman entering the golf course maintenance industry, and is passionate about rewarding people in the industry for the skills they possess.

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### SPOTLIGHT

#### The Inspiring Story of Sokhim | 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Superintendent Vattanac Golf Resort, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Growing up on the outskirts of Phnom Penh in the Province of Kandal, **Sokhim** who is 35 years old and number 9 of 10 children, enjoyed nature from a young age, therefore it was a natural progression from growing rice and vegetables to find herself now forging a successful career in golf course management.



Sokhim started her golf course management career 9 years ago and has risen from the ground up with roles in golf course crew, landscape, operator, supervisor and now in her current role of 2nd Assistant Golf Course Superintendent.

With Sokhim's strong work ethic and eagerness to learn she has recently completed her Certificate of Greenkeeping through the Asian Golf Industry Federation.

With the course presented in English, Sokhim worked extremely hard with the Vattanac Golf Resort's Human Resource team in building her English skills so that she could comprehend the written context.



#### Quote from Marcus Hartup, Director of Agronomy

"Witnessing Sokhim work through the Certificate of Greenkeeping has been very rewarding as I have seen her grow her knowledge and confidence as the course progressed. She has taken what she has learnt and passed on her knowledge to the team at Vattanac Golf Resort. Everyone at Vattanac Golf

Resort and Troon Golf are very proud of Sokhim's achievements."

#### Quote from Sokhim, 2nd Assistant Superintendent

"Whilst also juggling a family with two children Theany (15) and Sombath (13) I have enjoyed participating in the Certificate of Greenkeeping, it has given me the opportunity to learn more and also meet other people in the industry that I continue to stay in contact with. I am so glad that I have been given this opportunity to grow with the support from Vattanac Golf Resort and Troon Golf. I would also like to thank AGIF for providing this opportunity for aspiring greenkeepers in the region."

Sokhim looks forward to continuing to enhancing her knowledge and completing further studies to develop her career within the golf industry.





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### SPOTLIGHT

#### Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club Third Student Group

Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club (KLGCC) enrolled three of their golf course maintenance staff **Collins**, **Abas** and **Fadzil** to attend the Certificate in Greenkeeping when the program was first launched in Malaysia in November 2018!

Since graduating in 2019, **Collins** has taken on greater responsibilities within the maintenance of the 36 holes at KLGCC, supporting the Head of Agronomy and also mentoring the younger learners. **Abas** has also taken on new responsibilities and is now the workshop manager.

Having seen the success of the first three students from KLGCC, they continue to support the program with the second group of maintenance staff enrolled in the 2022 class program, **Zani** and **Norhan** and a third group of **Nurul** and **Azman** joined the 2023 program.



Nizam (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and his staff Collins, Norhan, Zani, Azman and Nurul



**Norhan**, (pictured left) Assistant Golf Course Superintendent was announced as the second highest graduate at the Confirmation Course held in May 2023. Norhan's online assessments, practical and written assessments and delivery of a subject topic at the Confirmation Course were outstanding. Congratulations to Norhan on his achievement.

#### Mohd Nizam Othman, Head of Agronomy, said

"The purpose of learning is growth and continuous learning is the minimum requirement for success in any field. I'm proud that our team consisting of Collins, Abas and Fadzil completed the CIG program in 2019. I believe the program has helped transform and enhance their knowledge so they can handle day to day operations with confidence. This is absolutely a great learning investment, beneficial to the individuals as well as the club"



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## EVENTS

### Malaysia 2023 Intake

- **Progression Course**  
11 - 15 September 2023  
Tropicana Golf & Country Resort, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### Vietnam 2022 Intake

- **Confirmation Course**  
18 - 20 September 2023  
Vinpearl Golf Hai Phong, Vietnam

### Vietnam 2023 Intake

- **Introductory Course**  
18 - 22 September 2023  
Vinpearl Golf Hai Phong, Vietnam  
**Limited places available**

New Class  
Register now to avoid  
disappointment



Students from Malaysia Golf Clubs

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## OUR GRADUATES

### Class of 2019

**Aliza** Bt Johan | Royal Selangor Golf Club  
**Saifulizan** Bin Sam | Royal Selangor Golf Club  
**Abas** bin Ismail | Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club  
 Mohamad **Fadzil** bin Shaari | Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club  
 A. **Collins** Welensky | Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club  
**Shahriman** Bin Hassan | Kota Seriemas Golf & Country Club  
 Mohamad **Fairuz** Ahmad | Saujana Golf & Country Club  
 Norul**azwar** Mohd Zukhi | Saujana Golf & Country Club  
**Johan** Fariz Bin Mohamed Salleh | Danau Golf Club  
 Mohd **Azuhan** Bin Ibrahim | Danau Golf Club  
 Mohd **Khamirul** Hijaz Bin Md Harullah | Els Club Desaru Coast  
 Mohamad **Hazlamy** Bin Mohamad | Els Club Desaru Coast  
 Muhamad **Syekhree** Bin Zainuddin | Els Club Desaru Coast  
 Mohamad **Farid** B. Mohamad Fauzi | Els Club Teluk Datai Langkawi  
 Siti Nur**farhana** Binti Bahoudin | Kota Permai Golf & Country Club  
**Sivakumar** Balakrishnan | Palm Garden Golf Club  
 Muhammad **Izhaq** hafeez Bin Badrul Hisham | Kelab Golf Negara Subang  
**Ariffin** Bin Alias | Kelab Golf Seri Selangor

### Class of 2022

Mohd **Fadly** Bin Jama | Horizon Hills Golf Club  
 Muhamad **Zamri** Bin MD Khalid | IOI Palm Villa Golf & Country Resort  
 Muhamad **Fadil** Bin Miskan | IOI Palm Villa Golf & Country Resort  
**Lokman** Sabtu | Singapore Island Country Club  
 Yeo **Beng Joo** | Singapore Island Country Club  
 Abd **Wahid** Bin Tugiman | Seletar Country Club  
 Noor **Hidayah** Bte Hamdan | Sentosa Golf Club  
**Ruslan** Bin Hammadiya | Labuan International Golf Club  
 Siti Nor **Farhana** Binti Hamzah | Glenmarie Golf & CC

### Class of 2023

**Balan** Ganesan | Singapore Island Country Club  
**Howie** Zhao | Xili Golf and Country Club (China)  
**Brad** Cheng | Al Dhannah Golf Club (UAE)  
**Bill** Fan Guo Ping | Harbour Plaza Golf Club (China)  
**Sokhim** Chheang | Vattanac Golf Resort (Cambodia)  
 Leong **Mei Yee** | Meru Valley Resort  
 Wong **Chih Hong** | Meru Valley Resort  
 Mohd **Khairul** Azhar Bin Mohd Nawawi | Els Club Desaru Coast  
**Azli** Bin Mohd Salleh | Els Club Desaru Coast  
**Tenarachahar** S/O Savarimuthu | Kelab Rahman Putra Malaysia  
**Faizol** Bin Mohamad Ghazali | Saujana Golf & Country Club  
 Mohd **Zani** Bin Sahid | Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club  
**Norhan** Bin Ramli | Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club  
 Mohd **Firazan** Bin Abu Yazam | Palm Resort Golf & Country Club / Envigro  
 Muhammad **Zaidi** Bin Muhammad Nasir | Singapore Island Country Club  
**Khalid** Bin Kader | Sentosa Golf Club  
**Bold** or ( ) = Preferred Name

congratulations



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### OUR STUDENTS

CURRENT STUDENTS	NEW STUDENTS
Name, Club	Name, Club
Nguyen Thanh <b>Hai</b>   Hoiana Shores Golf Club	Mohamad <b>Shahyid</b> Hafiznat bin Anuar   Kelab Golf Negara Subang
Nguyen Duc <b>Long</b>   Hoiana Shores Golf Club	Muhammad <b>Safwan</b> Bin Abdul Wahab   Kelab Golf Negara Subang
Phan Quoc <b>Thai (Henry)</b>   Nara Binh Tien	<b>Nurul</b> Hazira Bt Mohd Razali   Kuala Lumpur Golf & CC
Pham Van <b>Thiet (Phil)</b>   Hilltop Valley Golf	Mohd Nor <b>Azman</b> bin Hairuddin   Kuala Lumpur Golf&CC
Le Trung <b>Dung</b>   Hilltop Valley Golf	<b>Aliah</b> Shairah Bt Mahamudin   Meru Valley Resort
Duong Tich <b>Thien</b>   San Golf Yen Bai	<b>Robert</b> Bin Golontuh   Seletar Country Club
Dang Loan <b>Anh</b>   Vinpearl Golf Nam	<b>Kathy</b> Liew   Seletar Country Club
Nguyen Duc <b>Tam</b>   Stone Valley Golf & Resort	Zhao <b>Weijun</b>   Forest City Golf Resort
Pham Quoc <b>Toan</b>   Song Be Golf Resort	Li <b>Daifu</b>   Forest City Golf Resort
Le Long <b>Hai</b>   Song Be Golf Resort	<b>Bryan</b> See   Singapore Island Country Club
Huynh Thanh <b>Hung</b>   Harmonie Golf Park	<b>Yang</b> Yun Cheong   Kota Permai Golf & Country Club
Dang Dat <b>Thanh</b>   Harmonie Golf Park	<b>Patrick</b> Albert Samonte   Al Mouj Golf (Oman)
Nguyen Anh <b>Quan</b>   Chi Linh Golf	<b>Shanmugam</b> D Subramaniam   Singapore Island CC
Nguyen Van <b>Dai</b>   Muong Thanh Golf Club Xuan Thanh	<b>Sahairon</b> bin Sahari   The Empire Brunei
Nguyen Van <b>Tuyen</b>   BRG Legend Hill	Mohammad <b>Ali</b> Yassin bin Hj Mohammad   The Empire Brunei
Nguyen Khac <b>Tuan</b>   BRG Ruby Tree	Pg Hj Mohd <b>Faizal</b> bin Pg Zainal Abidin   The Empire Brunei
Ha Manh <b>Dat</b>   BRG Kings Island	<b>Kumarakuru</b> A/L Letchumanan   Tropicana Golf & CC
Kieu Van <b>Dung</b>   BRG Kings Island	<b>Grace</b> Lim   Tanah Merah Country Club
Nguyen Thu <b>Huong</b>   BRG Kings Island	Loh <b>Bowei</b>   National Service Resort & Country Club
Nguyen Tan <b>Thanh</b>   BRG Da Nang	Leow <b>Fusheng</b>   National Service Resort & Country Club
Tran Anh <b>Nhat</b>   BRG Da Nang	Muhammad <b>Farizuan</b> bin Mat Nadzan   Els Club Teluk Datai Langkawi
Dao Hung <b>Hai</b>   BRG Rose Canyon	<b>Ryan</b> John Bajo   Sentosa Golf Club

**Bold** or ( ) = Preferred Name



May 2023 | Confirmation Course | Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club  
Graduating Students received their Certificate of Achievement

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## THANK YOU!

The Certificate in Greenkeeping events have been made possible in country due to the support of our host golf clubs, please join us in recognising and thanking our hosts

### In Malaysia

- Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club
- Kota Permai Golf & Country Club
- Palm Resort Golf & Country Club
- Horizon Hills Golf & Country Club
- Els Club Desaru Coast
- Glenmarie Golf & Country Club
- Tropicana Golf & Country Resort (September 2023)

### In Vietnam

- Long Bien Golf Course
- Hoiana Shores Golf Club
- Vinpearl Golf Hai Phong (September 2023)

### In Thailand

- Summit Windmill Golf Club
- Thai Country Club

## OUR SPONSORS

Dedicated since the inception of the Certificate in Greenkeeping, thank you to our Sponsors for backing the AGIF as we implemented this amazing education program.



JEBSEN & JESSEN



JOHN DEERE

syngenta

