

A Message of Congratulations on the 2nd Annual Conference of IPPS Japan Potential Region

S. Tsumura, Mayor of Miyazaki City

It is a great pleasure for me to express congratulations on the 2nd Annual Conference of IPPS Japan Potential Region in Miyazaki, and also to welcome overseas and home participants. In addition, I have a deep respect for the communication opportunities among people concerned in production, marketing, consumption, and research.

Because it is mild in winter and sunshine is abundant all the year round, Miyazaki is an important centre for the production of horticultural crops in Japan, especially the glasshouse production of pumpkin, sweet pepper, and cucumber. At present, we are facing big changes in horticulture and agriculture on an international scale. Therefore, the creation of good cultivars and the introduction of new technology into the field are necessary. Recently, there have been remarkable advances in biotechnology, and we await the application of these advances to the production and management of crops.

I believe the presentations and communications during this Conference will be very productive for the promotion of agriculture and horticulture.

There are a lot of sight-seeing places in Miyazaki City, for example "Paradise of Sea and Earth", "Seagaia". The number of tourists to Miyazaki has reached 5 million per year. I hope you will be able to enjoy at your leisure the sight-seeing places.

Finally I pray that the conference will be successful and I wish you good health.

Drawing a Picture on the Earth

T. Watanabe, President of Miyako-City

Miyazaki prefecture is well known as a tourist resort. In former times, however, Miyazaki was not well known as there were no tourist attractions or hot springs. One man's vision was responsible for developing Miyazaki as you see it today, his name was Mr. S. Iwakiri. He was born in Miyazaki City in 1893. After graduation from Tokyo University he entered the head office of Sumitomo Co., and soon came back to Miyazaki.

In 1926, Mr. Iwakiri bought four used buses from Ford Co. and founded the Miyazaki Motorcar Company. In 1931, sight-seeing buses began running between Miyazaki and Aoshima. At that time, the bus guides of the Miyazaki Traffic Co. had the best reputation in Japan. Nevertheless, the number of tourists visiting Miyazaki was not large because there was no hot spring. Mr. Iwakiri thought that it was necessary to develop alternative tourist venues.

Mr. Iwakiri became interested in the Phoenix palm and from 1931 he started planting Phoenix palms on the Nichinan coast. Iwakiri had an idea of drawing a picture on the earth and he dreamed of making a beautiful roadside park. Through his efforts, the fame of the southern country of Miyazaki grew. Iwakiri also dreamed