

Opening Remarks from Incoming International President Mike Evans upon Commencement of the 2004 Annual Conference, IPPS Japan Region®

Mike Evans

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TO: The International President and IPPS Japan President Naoki Omori, IPPS Japan Region Vice President Hiroshi Gemma, and IPPS Japan Region Directors Masata Shibata and Nobumasa Nito, IPPS Japan Region members and guests.

Thank you for the invitation and the warm reception you have given the IPPS board members, spouses, and guests. We have experienced ten unforgettable days in your beautiful country. We have seen and have learned about some of the finest horticulture in the world. In addition, you have shown us incredible and unique sights, and given us many opportunities to experience your culture, both traditional and modern, and to feel your wonderful hospitality.

This is the first time the International Board of Directors has met in Japan. I speak for every participant — directors and guests from Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, North America, Scandinavia, South Africa, and Japan.

Congratulations and thank you.

We wish you a successful conference and much success in the IPPS Japan Region 2004 meeting. We look forward to many years together of “Seek and Share.”

As President next year, I extend a personal invitation and welcome to Japan Region directors and other members and guests, to join us in October 2005, when Western Region will host the International Board.

We look forward to seeing you again. Thank you for all you have done for us on this tour and meeting. “O’okini and Arigato-gozaimas.”