

I.P.P.S. New Zealand and Qualification of I.P.P.S. Japan[®]

Yutaka Hirata and Katsuaki Suzuki

Department of International Environmental & Agricultural Science, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology; 3-5-8 Saiwai-Cho Fuchu-shi Tokyo 183-8509

Email: yhirata@cc.tuat.ac.jp

We, Katsuaki Suzuki (MS student) and Yutaka Hirata, attended the 27th Annual Meeting of I.P.P.S New Zealand at Dunedin in the South Island from 27th to 30th April 2006. We arrived in Auckland April 24th and traveled to Dunedin aided by Mr. Peter Waugh via Hamilton. On the way to Dunedin, we visited many beautiful cities and towns including Hamilton, Oxford, and Wellington in the North Island and then traveled to the South Island visiting Picton, Nelson, Greymouth, Christchurch, and Dunedin (a most Scottish town). We returned to Wellington and Hamilton, visiting Maori cultural regions in the north and finally returned to Auckland. Low population and high sheep and cattle numbers with large areas of grape growing and pine forests, were very impressive even for us. Gardening and horticultural activity using organic technology and enthusiasm are fairly high. The strong basis of IPPS New Zealand (I.P.P.S. N.Z.) has come from their needs, life style, and social status.

The Conference program was as follows:

April 27 (Thursday): Registration in the afternoon, welcome assembly, visiting the city—especially Speight’s Brewery—and then the Plant Auction back at the Hotel.

April 28 (Friday): General opening meeting with breakfast in museum, opening remarks by Mayor Peter Chin. Visiting botanical garden and memorial planting. In the afternoon visiting Blueskin Nursery. General Meeting of I.P.P.S. N.Z. and new committee selection. President Grant Hayman will change to new International Director. In the evening funny and exciting “Icon Party.”

April 29 (Saturday): Presentations, visiting Southern Treasures, Marine Research Institute for sea vegetables, and Larnach Castle. Official evening and awards.

April 30 (Sunday): In the morning presentations including Hirata’s presentation. Depart for Wellington and Hamilton.

During the meeting, exciting programs were devised with nice parties and excursions.

Based on the visiting and meeting, several important suggestions could be obtained.

- Main activities are organized by members and supported by companies and growers through sponsorship.
- Financial basis is strong.
- Member size is twice and activity is very high with information exchange. Gardening activity and demands are bigger than Japan, showing importance of social status.
- Unique events and activities have been organized such as “Icon Party” and “Plant Auction.”