

## Field Trip in Aichi Prefecture, Chita Peninsula Course<sup>©</sup>

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On the second day of the 17th Annual Conference of IPPS Japan Region, 57 participants enjoy the field tours. First we visited to Toyoake Kaki Co., Ltd. (Pot Flower Auction Market) and then the participants were split into two groups (Chita Peninsula tour and Aichi Agricultural Research Center tour). I joined with 29 participants and enjoyed Chita Peninsula tours.

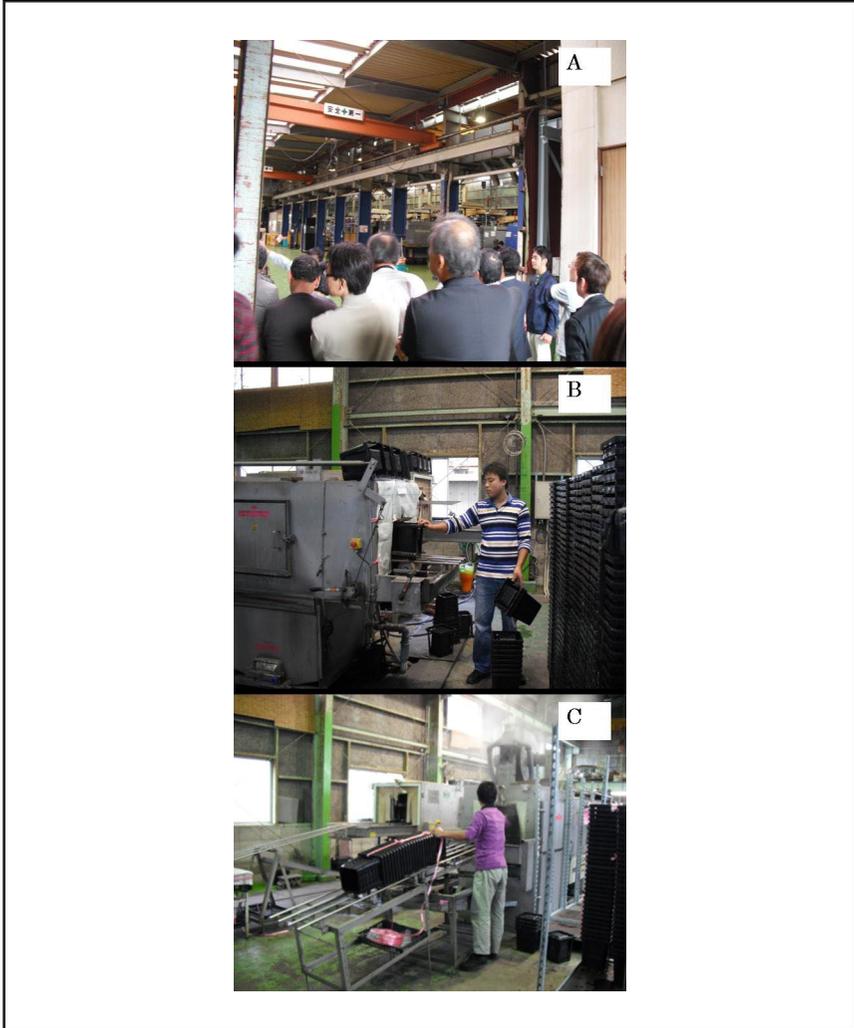
First, we visited Hayakawa Engei Co. Ltd., which sells potted plants all over Japan. This producer has a 3-ha greenhouse producing 229,000 potted plants, including *Cyclamen*, *Begonia*, *Primula*, *Gerbera*, *Boronia*, *Astartea*, and *Erica*, produced with bottom irrigation (Fig. 1). Hayakawa Engei is famous as a breeding company of *Cyclamen*, *Gerbera*, and *Primula*, and this company supplies good F<sub>1</sub> seeds to Japanese potted-plant growers. This year it was unusually hot in summer. But it seemed that the potted *Cyclamen* grew vigorously in their greenhouse, because the F<sub>1</sub> *Cyclamen* of Hayakawa Engei have good resistance to heat.

At lunch time, we ate a Japanese-style meal at Maruha restaurant on the seashore. We enjoyed fresh fishery products and a big fried prawn.

Next we visited Kaneya Co., Ltd., a famous supplier of plastic growing pots, especially the “slit pot” (Fig. 2). The slit pot inhibits root circling during long term



Figure 1. Hayakawa Engei Co.Ltd. *Cyclamen* grew vigorously in greenhouse.



**Figure 2.** KANEYA CO., LTD. (A) Plastic planting pots were produced. (B and C) Many cut flower buckets were washed (ELF system).

cultivation and promotes shoot growth. This effectiveness has been known by not only Japanese growers but also growers in the U.S.A. and the E.U. Kaneya Co. is a producer of a wide range of horticultural materials and equipment such as seedlings, substrates, fertilizers, and equipments. They are developing the Eco Line Flower (ELF) system, which is a recycling system for cut flower bucket. This same flower a bucket is used from the cut flower grower to retail store and recycled.

Our last visit was the Uotaro fish market where attendees bought some souvenirs such as local fresh fishery seafood, dried fish, and fish senbei (typical Japanese rice cracker). The participants went to the Nagoya station of Japan Railway, promised to meet again next year and said good-bye.