

## Field Excursion at IPPS Japan 16th Conference in Siga Prefecture<sup>®</sup>

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The tour was arranged on June 28th to visit research institutes and a botanical garden. In the morning, approximately 40 participants left the Hotel Piazza in Otsu City.

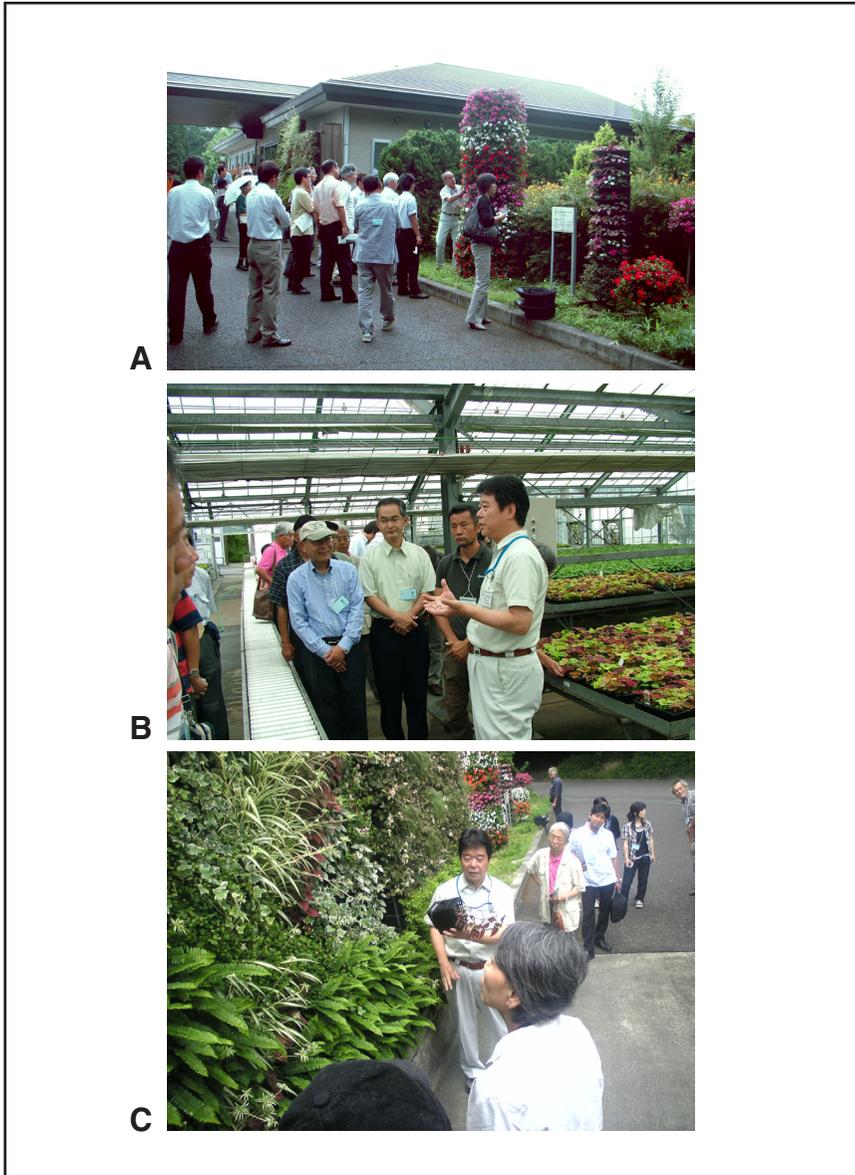
The first visit was the 70-hectare Plant Breeding and Experiment Station of Takii Seed Company <<http://www.takii.co.jp/english/>> located southeast of Konan City. This station has been devoted to breeding new selections of both vegetables and ornamentals and their propagation since 1968 (Fig. 1).



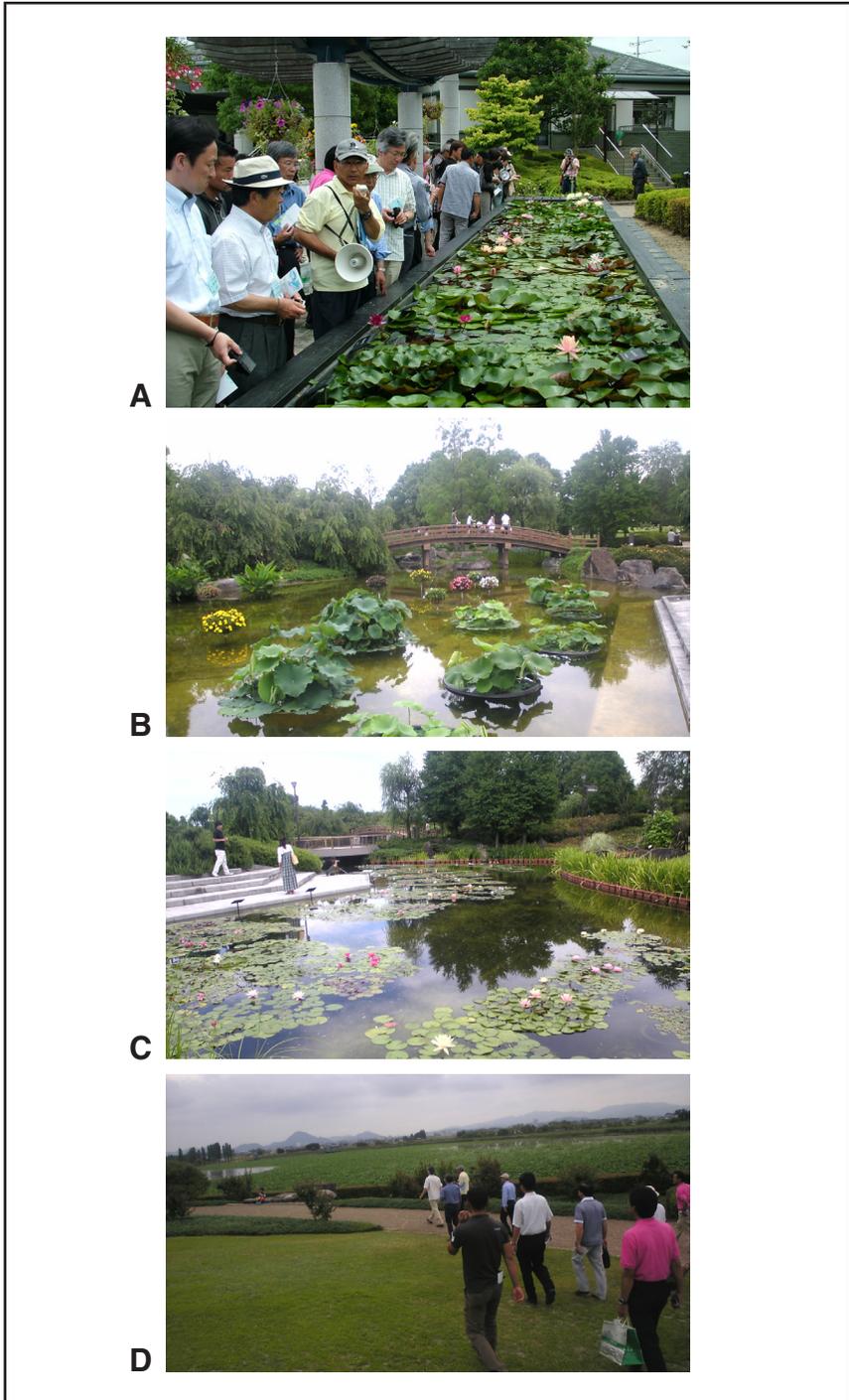
**Figure 1.** Exhibition of new selections of flower species in the Plant Breeding and Experiment Station of Takii Seed Company.

At our next visit, a short distance away, the participants arrived at the Greening Technology Center of Nippon Expressway Research Institute Company Ltd. (<<http://www.ri-nexco.co.jp/expri/pdf/global-ri-nexco.pdf>>) which has been studying methods for reducing environmental impact from expressway development (Fig. 2).

Next, the group went westward to visit the Kusatsu Aquatic Botanical Garden (Mizunomori) (<<http://www.bgci.org/garden.php?id=4321>>). Kusatsu Aquatic Botanical Garden is a botanical garden specializing in aquatic plants and best known for its extensive lotus display. Mizu-no-mori means “water forest” in Japanese. It is located on Lake Biwa’s southeastern shore on the Karasuma Peninsula in Oroshimo-cho, Kusatsu City. The park was created following the theme of “Contact



**Figure 2.** The Greening Technology Center of Nippon Expressway Research Institute Company Ltd. (A) Outdoor lecture of greening method. (B) Staff of the greening technology center explained the propagation program to the participants. (C) Sample displays of greening wall.



**Figure 3.** The Kusatsu Aquatic Botanical Garden (Mizunomori). (A-C). Living collections of many kind of lotus plants in the Garden. (D) Lotus plants (almost 130,000 m<sup>2</sup>) at the Garden.



**Figure 4.** Lunch break near the Kusatsu Aquatic Botanical Garden (Mizunomori).

Between Plant-life and Human Beings, Water and Human Beings” and centers on a range of aquatic plants from Lake Biwa (Fig. 3A–D).

Lunch was by the Botanical Garden (Mizunomori) and a good opportunity to mutually exchange business, academic, and personal information among the attendees (Fig. 4).

The last visit was Lake Biwa Museum <<http://www.lbm.go.jp/english/>> which is adjacent to the Botanical Garden (Mizunomori). This museum discusses the history of Lake Biwa and the relationship of people with the lake in the theme of “The Lake and Human Beings.” The museum display of freshwater fish is one of the largest in the world. Participants could look, touch, and experience Lake Biwa and its history in this museum.

Nearing evening at around 16:00, the enjoyable, informative, and fruitful tour ended and the participants left for their own homes via the Otsu Station of Japan Railway.