

# News Letter vol.36 2012.2.27

## A memorable scientific and social experience from International Congress of Sexual Plant Reproduction in Melbourne

Country: Australia

Duration: 2012.2.12 ~2012.2.17

Conference: 22nd International Congress on Sexual Plant Reproduction

Main Gate of the University  
of Melbourne

Prof. Wakana and I attended to XXII International Congress of Sexual Plant Reproduction held in University of Melbourne, Australia started from 13-17<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The symposium was organized under the auspices of International Association of Plant Sexual Reproduction Research (IASPR) with Prof. Thomas Dresselhaus as a president of the organization and Prof. Mohan Jain as a chairman of the symposium. As many as 210 participants from 24 countries attended the symposium. It was divided into 10 themes resulted in 54 plenary sessions, 56 concurrent topics and 65 posters.

In Poster Session I, I presented a poster under theme "Flowering and Flowering Time" entitled "Precocious flowering of *Citrus* seedlings and its application in male sterility study." Prof. Wakana presented his latest research entitled "S allele identification, S-genotyping and relationships in self-incompatible *Citrus* cultivars and plants" under theme "Self Incompatibility" in Poster Session II. We have received many comments and feedbacks to deepen our research. Through discussion with audiences from the floor we learnt something new and our critical thinking was improved.

During the symposium, we shared information about fundamental discoveries in plant reproduction in model and crop species with the aim of utilizing them to increase food yield. We also discussed strategies and built up networks between people from different countries to expand our knowledge and minimize duplication of effort. It was a very useful experience to attend the symposium and we really enjoyed it. I also met with Prof. Tim Robbins, one of my lecturers when I was studying in the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.

Australia especially Melbourne is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city with multicultural society. Different kinds of delicious food were served throughout the symposium including one of the audience's favorites, maki sushi. A symposium dinner and a band show were also hosted in The University House.



Vineyard in Yarra Valley Wineries



Kangaroos in Healsville

Since Melbourne is famous for Victoria wine, on the third day, a short trip was made to Yarra Valley Wineries. People come to see the vineyard followed with enjoy many series of wine and cheese. After that, we had an excursion to Healsville Sanctuary. Showcasing more than 200 species of Australian wildlife, the Sanctuary is a fantastic location to view native animals in their natural habitat. We experienced close-up encounters with some of Australia's most unique and captivating wildlife, including koalas, kangaroos, dingoes and platypuses. Everyone was excited although the weather was pretty hot and humid.

I was thankful for having the opportunity to attend the symposium, meet new friends and immerse Australian flora and fauna at its very best. I would like to show my gratitude to my supervisors, Prof. Okubo and Prof. Wakana, for their invaluable support. It is also an honor to me to be a JSPS participant. It would not have been possible unless receiving financial support from JSPS. Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Fujiwara who has been kindly guided me during JSPS application. Thank you.



Banner of XXII International Congress of  
Plant Sexual Reproduction 2012