

News Letter

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—外国人客員教授招聘部門設立10周年記念—

Ten Years of "Welcome to Kyoto" — Visiting Research Scholars —



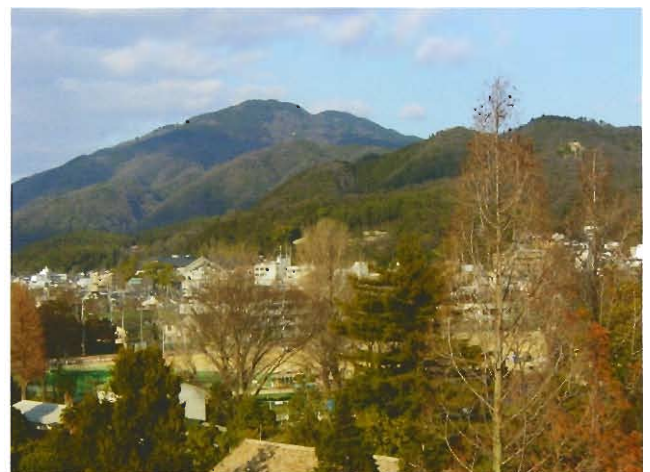
Takashi Endo

Vice-Dean of Graduate School
of Agriculture, Kyoto University

Ten years have passed since we established positions for Visiting Research Scholars (guest professors) at the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University in 1996, as a part of extensive restructuring of the Graduate School of Agriculture, starting in 1995. The Graduate School of Agriculture now comprises seven divisions (Agronomy and Horticultural Science, Forest and Biomaterials Science, Applied Life Sciences, Applied Biosciences, Environmental Science and Technology, Natural Resource Economics, and Food Science and Biotechnology) and two facilities (the Experimental Farm and the Livestock Farm). The Foreign Student Advisor's Office, opened at the graduate school in 1985, was renamed the 'International Office' in 2005, and now takes charge of the guest scientists, from visa application to farewell parties. At present, the office has a staff of five: two associate professors Miki Akamatsu and Ueru Tanaka, one assistant professor Katsuko Morita, and two part-timers Ms Yoko Yamamoto and Ms Kazuyo Fukumoto (instructor of Japanese language). During the last ten years we have had 55 foreign researchers from 24 countries, and four scientists are now visiting us. They conducted joint research with host faculty members for three months to one year, staying at the international houses or at apartments around Kyoto University. They also

engaged in the educations of students, giving special lectures and attending seminars. It has been a great experience both for the faculty members and for their students to have scientists from abroad in their laboratories. After returning home, some of those foreign scientists continued close and successful cooperation with the host scientists.

Kyoto has a history of over 1200 years, being the capital of Japan (where the successive emperors resided) till 1867, and the beauties of nature, which have bestowed 17 World Heritages on Kyoto, including Shimogamo-Jinja and Ginkaku-ji located near Kyoto University. Kyoto is an ideal place for foreign, as well as domestic, researchers to devote themselves to studies. We hope that the past guest scientists all enjoyed the life in Kyoto and that the present and future guest scientists will also enjoy it. It is sure that this system of guest professors has promoted and will promote international cooperation. We are ambitious to expand such international cooperation with many more universities in the future through guest professors.



A view of Mt. Hiei from Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University.

List of Visiting Research Scholars

Name	Nationality	Affiliation
Myron James Mitchell	U.S.A.	State University of New York
Paul D. Cluster	U.S.A.	National Plant Breeding Research Institute of Italia
Kenneth Kazuo Tanji	U.S.A.	University of California
Clement L. Markert	U.S.A.	The University of North Carolina
Armin Ingo Schubert	Germany	Institute of Plant, Genetics and Crop Plant Research
Gray Miller Green	U.S.A.	The University of Texas, San Antonio
Milan Certik	Slovakia	Slovak University of Technology
Karl Ritz	United Kingdom	Scotic Crop Research Institute
Hou-min Chang	U.S.A.	The University of North Carolina
Franz Pirchner	Austria	Technische Universität München
Samuel Moreshet	Israel	Institute of Soils and Water, ARO, Israel
Wolfgang G. Glasser	Germany	University of Virginia
Shu Geng	U.S.A.	University of California, Davis
Henry Allan Bremner	United Kingdom, Australia	Technical University of Denmark
Johannis Adriaan Duine	Netherlands	Delft University of Technology
Pongsak Sahunalu	Thailand	Kasetsart University
Axel Hans Karl Brennicke	Germany	Universität Ulm
Shambhu Nath Mishra	India	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology
Leon Edwin Orme	U.S.A.	Brigham Young University
Jacques Edmond Flechon	France	Institute National de la Recherche Agronomique
Ramachandran P. K. Nair	U.S.A.	University of Florida
Alexander Robert McIntosh	Australia	University of Sydney
Randolph Thompson Hester	U.S.A.	University of California, Berkeley
Lynis Gerald Dohm	U.S.A.	East Carolina University
Everett Bandman	U.S.A.	University of California, Davis
Bruce Archibald Auld	Australia	Orange Agricultural Institute
Hugh John Barclay	Canada	Pacific Forestry Center, Canadian Forestry Service
Wolfgang Frank Kraus	Germany	Universität Hohenheim
Marc. Daniel Latham	France	National Center for Agronomic Studies in the Tropics
Kyung Hak Yoo	U.S.A.	Auburn University
Lönnstedt Lars	Sweden	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Ke-Sheng Cheng	Taipei	National Taiwan University
Muhammad Fazlul Bari	Bangladesh	Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology
Beata Zagorska-Marek	Poland	Wroclaw University
Hendrik Bovenhuis	Netherlands	Agricultural University Wageningen
Robin B. Matthews	England, New Zealand	Cranfield University
Michael Robert John Boots	England	University of Stirling
Seung Woo Park	Korea	Seoul National University
Vilas M. Salokhe	India	Asian Institute of Technology
Tibor Tóth	Hungary	Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Science
Ewa Dorota Marczak	Poland	Industrial Chemistry Research Institute
Elmar Heinze	Austria	Saarland University
Hans Jürgen Hellebrand	Germany	Institute of Agricultural Engineering Bornim
Martin John Lechowicz	Canada, U.S.A.	McGill University
Branka Javornik	Slovenia	University of Ljubljana
Claude Giallard	Switzerland	University of Bern
Robert Neil Jones	United Kingdom	University of Wales Aberystwyth
Chen Pictiaw	U.S.A.	University of California, Davis
Frederick George Gmitter, Jr.	U.S.A.	University of Florida
Manuel M. Mota	Portugal	University of Évora
Andreas Houben	Germany	Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK)
Jonathan Laronne	Israel	Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Andrei Shutov	Moldova	State University of Moldova
Pradya Somboon	Thailand	Chiang Mai University
Muhammad Ahmad Arshad	Canada	University of Alberta

Invited term	Research field	Invited Professor
1996.1.12~1996.5.11	Forest Ecology	岩坪五郎 教授
1996.7.1~1997.4.30	Plant Breeding	池橋 宏 教授
1996.7.3~1996.12.17	Hydrology	丸山利輔 教授
1996.12.18~1997.3.31	Biology	内海恭三 教授
1997.5.1~1997.8.31	Plant Genetics	遠藤 隆 教授
1997.6.29~1997.9.30	Applied Physiology	伏木 亨 教授
1997.9.1~1988.2.19	Applied Microbiology	清水 昌 教授
1997.11.1~1998.6.30	Soil Microbiology	小崎 隆 教授
1998.2.20~1998.8.22	Chemistry of Biomaterials	中坪文明 教授
1998.5.1~1998.9.3	Animal Breeding	佐々木義之 教授
1998.7.1~1998.10.31	Agricultural Ecology	櫻谷哲夫 教授
1998.8.23~1998.12.31	Wood Chemistry, Polymer Chemistry	白石信夫 教授
1998.9.24~1998.12.31	Bio-Statistics	堀江 武 教授
1999.2.1~1999.5.31	Fisheries Science	坂口守彦 教授
1999.4.8~1999.8.15	Enzymology	加藤暢夫 教授
1999.6.1~1999.12.31	Silviculture and Agroforestry	渡辺弘之 教授
1999.8.16~1999.12.15	Plant Molecular Biology	大山莞爾 教授
2000.1.1~2000.10.31	Plant Breeding	大西近江 教授
2000.4.1~2000.6.30	Nutrition Science of Animals	矢野秀雄 教授
2000.7.1~2000.11.15	Embryophysiology	今井 裕 教授
2000.9.1~2000.12.31	Agroforestry	渡辺弘之 教授
2000.11.1~2001.8.31	Plant Pathology & Genetics	遠藤 隆 教授
2000.11.15~2001.4.15	Landscape Architecture	吉田博宣 教授
2001.3.1~2001.6.10	Body Medical Science	伏木 亨 教授
2001.6.11~2001.10.31	Biochemistry of Muscle Proteins	赤松美紀 助教授
2001.9.1~2002.3.31	Weed Science	伊藤操子 教授
2001.10.1~2002.9.30	Forest Ecology	武田博清 教授
2002.1.29~2002.12.31	Organic Chemistry	大東 肇 教授
2002.4.1~2002.8.9	Land Resources Management	田中 樹 助教授
2002.10.1~2002.12.28	Agricultural Engineering	鳥井清司 助教授
2002.10.1~2003.2.28	Forest Economics, Forest Management	岩井吉彌 教授
2003.1.1~2003.3.31	Agricultural Engineering	三野 徹 教授
2003.1.1~2003.3.30	Water Resource Engineering	鳥井清司 助教授
2003.2.1~2003.8.31	Botany	藤田 稔 教授
2003.4.1~2003.6.30	Animal Genetics and Breeding	廣岡博之 教授
2003.4.1~2003.6.30	Ecology	堀江 武 教授
2003.4.1~2003.6.30	Evolutionary Ecology of Insects	高藤晃雄 教授
2003.7.1~2003.9.30	Biological Resources and Materials Engineering	青山威泰 教授
2003.9.1~2003.11.30	Agricultural Engineering	笈田 昭 教授
2003.10.1~2004.9.30	Soil Science	小崎 隆 教授
2003.10.1~2004.3.31	Peptide Chemistry	吉川正明 教授
2004.1.1~2004.3.31	Biochemical Engineering	西岡孝明 教授
2004.2.1~2004.4.30	Energy and Substance Cycles	梅田幹雄 教授
2004.4.1~2004.7.31	Plant Ecology	菊澤喜八郎 教授
2004.4.1~2004.6.30	Plant Breeding	大西近江 教授
2004.5.1~2004.9.30	Animal Breeding and Genetics	佐々木義之 教授
2004.8.1~2004.10.31	Plant Cytogenetics	遠藤 隆 教授
2004.10.1~2004.12.31	Agricultural Technology	池田善郎 教授
2004.10.13~2005.1.12	Pomology	米森敬三 教授
2005.6.15~2005.9.14	Plant Nematology	二井一禎 教授
2005.9.20~2006.1.5	Plant Cytogenetics	遠藤 隆 教授
2005.10.3~2006.10.2	Geomorphology	水山高久 教授
2006.3.1~2006.5.31	Plant Biochemistry	内海 成 教授
2006.3.1~2006.8.31	Medical Entomology	高藤晃雄 教授
2006.3.20~2006.6.30	Land Ecosystem Management	遠藤 隆 教授



Reminiscences and Updates

Invited term
July 3, 1996 – December 17, 1996

Kenneth K. Tanji

(Professor Emeritus, University of California, Davis, USA)

I have very fond memories of serving as a foreign visiting professor ten years ago in Professor Toshisuke Maruyama's Laboratory of Irrigation, Drainage and Hydrological Engineering. The hospitality of Professor Maruyama and his staff and students, and facilities offered by Kyoto University made this the most enjoyable and productive sabbatical leave I have experienced.

During this six-month period, I taught a class on Agricultural Salinity and Water Quality Management, coauthored with Professor Maruyama a 350-page book on "Physical and Chemical Processes of Soil Related to Paddy Drainage" published in 1997 by Shinzansha Science and Technology, successfully completed my dissertation for a Doctor of Agricultural Science degree from Kyoto University, presented papers before an International Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture under Saline Conditions sponsored by Arid Land Research Center in Tottori and a Public Seminar on Soil Desertification and Salinization co-sponsored by JALDA, Kinki University, Kyoto University and Osaka Prefecture University, and five seminars at Kyoto, Iwate, Tottori, and Kinki Universities.

During this visit, I appreciated very much the assistance of Associate Professor Haruhiko Horino, currently at Osaka Prefecture University, for his valuable comments and suggestions on my dissertation, and graduate student Kimihito Nakamura, currently Lecturer in this laboratory, who assisted me in presenting my lectures in an electronic format including the demonstration of real-time changes in simulation results by modifying model input values. Other graduate students served as my PC consultant and taught me an incredibly wide range of science and engineering while I tried to provide some advice in their research activities. I have remained in contact with these former students, including Drs. Kimihito Nakamura, Takao Nakagiri at Osaka Prefecture University, Sadao Nagasaka at Nihon University, and Takanori Nagano at RIHN (Research Institute of Humanity and Nature).

Since 1996, I have been in the Kinki Region on a number of occasions like for the Third World Water Forum, and always visited the Laboratory, now headed by Professor Toru Mitsuno, and gave semi-

nars on my current research projects. Professor Mitsuno has been a gracious host and colleague. My impressions, from 1984 when I first visited Kyoto University as a JSPS Scholar and about seven visits since then to 2006, is that Kyoto University attracts high quality students who perform cutting-edge research and the Faculty of Agriculture is held in high regards nationally and internationally.

Kyoto is dear to my heart. Professor Maruyama, currently President of Ishikawa University, is a long-time friend of mine and we have visited each other on our respective campuses. My father, Bunsaku Tanji from Hawaii, was in Kyoto during the late 1920s as a disciple of Tenko-san at Ittoen, formerly located in Kitashirakawa and now in Yamashina. I am proud to be the 61st Dr. of Agricultural Sciences earned with Kyoto University's Laboratory of Irrigation, Drainage and Hydrological Engineering. I have met and interacted with many of these graduates from this Laboratory and we have bonded like brothers.

I am currently a Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Davis who fortunately still has an office and a chemistry laboratory. I go to my office daily and most weekends to work on three funded research projects, serve on numerous committees such as chair of American Society of Civil Engineer's Water Quality and Drainage Technical Committee and chair of US Committee on Irrigation and Drainage's Publications Committee, serve as one of editors of the PAWEES Journal, serve on the research advisory board for the National Research Council as well as the National Water Research Institute, and advisor to RIHN, FAO and an EU irrigation return flow project involving seven Mediterranean countries. My publication record during retirement is still quite high.

In summary, my 1996 visit to Kyoto University has been a highlight of my professional career of nearly 50 years. I am grateful for Professor Maruyama inviting me to Kyoto University for the wonderful opportunity to interact with faculty and students, and expand not only my scientific horizon but also culturally to this sansei. The International Office of the Graduate School of Agriculture should be commended for their services to foreign scholars.



At Echigawa-river Dam
The author is in the middle
of back row

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**Fondest memory of
a great Japanese achievement**

Invited term
May 1, 1997 –August 31, 1997

Armain Ingo Schubert

(Professor, Institute of Plant Genetics & Crop Plant Research
(IPK), Gatersleben, Germany)

Nearly ten years ago when I got the generous invitation from Professor T. R. Endo to visit his lab as a guest professor, I felt a little scared whether I should dare to leave my group and the Department for a four months stay and to dive into a completely new research environment. Would I be able to adapt to the exotic Far East country? How would be the communication with students in the lab? With people in daily life? I could not anticipate that these four months should turn out to be one of the brightest periods in my life.

I arrived when Japanese rhododendron was in full blossom and soon I learned how to handle things in the lab, thanks to the steady and patient support of my host Takashi Endo and his crew. Since the first attempts to study apoptosis in pollen of interspecific wheat hybrids carrying a 'gametocidal' chromosome failed, we started a new approach to screen for truncated barley addition chromosomes using the same gametocidal system, developed in the Endo-lab. A combination of chromosome banding and fluorescence in situ hybridization techniques enabled us to screen hundreds of progenies and to select a collection of truncated barley chromosomes for physical mapping and other purposes (Plant J. 14: 489-495, 1998).

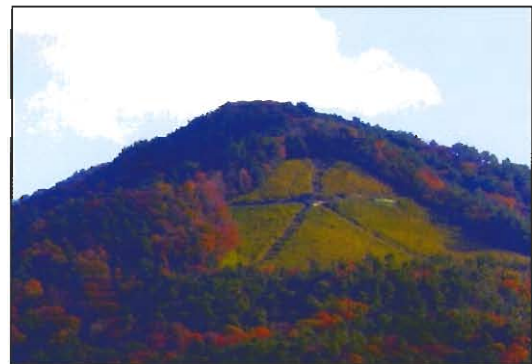
This marked the beginning of a long-lasting and fruitful collaboration resulting in several joint papers (TAG 2001, CGR 2002, PNAS, 2005) and, most recently, in another visiting professorship by Dr. Andreas Houben, a group leader within our Department, in Takashi Endo's lab.

In Kyoto I very much appreciated to work free of bureaucratic obligations and to visit colleagues and friends in many places (Kurashiki, Yokohama, Matsuyama, Hiroshima, Kanazawa and Joetsu) of the beautiful islands, and I admired my host for experimenting hand-in-hand with me notwithstanding the burden of his many daily duties. At Shugakuin guest house, life was very convenient and a strong Japanese bicycle helped me to explore the unique surroundings of Kyoto from Arashiyama via Kumogahata, Kurama, Ohara and Lake Biwa to Uji. Although not speaking Japanese, I felt very comfortable and could establish many contacts to the lab mates and students during the work but also at the

occasion of lab parties, hiking and biking tours, attending meetings, having delicious meals in traditional Japanese restaurants and visiting the famous festivals such as Aoi-matsuri, Gion-matsuri or the Obon-fire. The fascinating ambiance of the ancient capital with its palaces, temples, shrines, theaters, museums, craftsmanship absorbed my spirits whether listening to Soen Ozeki, the abbot of Daisen-in, watching sun-set from the top of Daimonji, visiting the grave of Lady Murasaki or just dreaming in the calm of Honen-in. Too soon Sarusuberi came to blossom and the melancholic courtship songs of Tse-mi reminded me it that was time to leave.

I cannot else than to congratulate the Graduate School of Agriculture of the Kyoto University for establishing the visiting research scholar system ten years ago. It was a privilege to be one of the first researchers who benefitted from it. I express my deep gratitude and say 'domo arigato' to all who contributed and in particular to my host and friend Takashi R. Endo. I am convinced that future will bear many new links of our common research interests (for instance plant centromeres!).

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Mt. Daimonji in autumn



Mt. Daimonji in winter

KYOTO, 1997-1998



Invited term
November 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998

Karl Ritz

(A Personal Chair in Soil Biology at the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University, UK)

In 1997 I was honoured to be invited to join the Department of Soil Science at Kyoto University as one of the first Visiting Professors under a new and visionary scheme the University had established. At that time, I was working in the Soil Plant Dynamics Group at the Scottish Crop Research Institute in Dundee, Scotland, and we had already enjoyed some excellent interactions with colleagues and students from Kyoto and Nagoya. I was unable to secure a sabbatical for an entire year, but did manage to spend nine months with Professor Takashi Kosaki and his team in the soils lab. Coming from a research-institute background, it was very stimulating to join a university environment, and particularly refreshing to have some 'time and space' to think, to write, and above all to do some teaching. I wrote a fourteen-part lecture course in soil biology from scratch, delivered over as many weeks, to a diverse group of students. Feedback from the first lecture was honest, helpful and generally positive, but I too had a lot to learn - about delivering a new subject and lots of new terms, to students in their non-native language. The science appeared to be fairly clear to the students, but my humour often relies on the subtleties of language, and my jokes tested the language skills of the students rather too much. It did not really matter, they were poor jokes anyway! I supervised and assisted several students in some interesting projects, including a detailed study into spatial variation in microbial functional diversity in constructed fields in the Kyoto prefecture. This stimulated me to develop my research into the origins and consequences of the spatial organisation of soil communities, which continues to be one of my main interests. I attended the Annual Meeting of the Japanese Soil Science Society in Suita City. I was invited to give a keynote at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Soil Microbiology in Tsukuba, which I subsequently wrote up as a review paper for the journal *Soil Microorganisms*. And of course I visited many other fascinating places as well.

My memories of the time I spent in Japan are vivid and truly valued. Staff and students alike were friendly, fantastically accommodating and always truly helpful. My family visited for a short time and were made so very welcome. I found the culture beguiling, the heritage fascinating and the food wonderful.

Kyoto is a remarkable place, as all who live in it or visit it, know!

In 2002 I moved to a Personal Chair in Soil Biology at the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University, where I now continue to teach, research and consult widely in the area of soil ecology in a wide variety of systems ranging from fields to forests, but as diverse as military training grounds and golf greens. I still use some of the teaching material I first developed at Kyoto, and certainly use many of the communication skills that living and teaching in a different culture taught me.

I found some strong and valued friends in Japan, and over the intervening years have been delighted to welcome several of them when they have visited the UK. Keeping in touch is always demanding, and the invitation to write this short piece has reminded me it is time to ensure that we do not lose contact. So, ten years later, warm greetings to all with whom I interacted, and please feel free to get in touch. And I wish the University and all its staff and scholars continued success in their many endeavours.

Sampling in Misaka Fields, Kyoto Prefecture, 1997.

L-R: Madoka Miyoshi, Keiko Mori, Kuma Kumagai, Junta Yanai, Karl Ritz.



Karl preparing soil samples in the greenhouse, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyoto

Kyoto Soils Lab party – 1998 – Karl and family



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<http://www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk/nsri>



An experience not to forget

Invited term

April 8, 1999 – August 15, 1999

Johannis Adriaan Duine

(Emeritus Professor, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands)

In the final year of being a full professor in Enzymology at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, for about 20 years, I got an invitation for a visiting professorship at Kyoto University, Japan. I started my guest professorship on April 8th, 1999, so almost 7 years ago. When I arrived it was one of these days which make Spring season so beautiful in Japan, cherry blossom everywhere, the petals removed by wind drifting in the air. Prof. Kato and dr. Sakai (who is now the successor of Prof. Kato) picked me up from the railway station and brought me to my apartment in the North Eastern part of Kyoto (Ichijoji, in the vicinity of the Shisendo Temple). As I have experienced many times after that, my hosts had done an excellent job in arranging everything so perfect that I was a little bit ashamed to be spoiled in such a way. Next day I was installed in my room in the Department, having all facilities making my stay comfortable so that I could achieve the previously set goals. Amongst others I managed to write a review on the topic on which several Japanese research groups were at that time involved, the enzymology of quinone-cofactors and the corresponding quinoprotein enzymes (The PQQ story in *Journal of Bioscience and Bioengineering* 88 (1999) 231-236). In addition I gave lectures for graduated students on the role of Applied Enzymology in Biotechnology. Unfortunately time was too short (I left on August 15th) to achieve significant results in practical research.

After so many years, yet some reminiscences come to my mind. In the evening I frequently made a walk to the Manshuin Temple to contemplate in this quiet environment about significant and insignificant aspects of life. In the week-ends mostly I visited the botanical garden or did some mountain hiking (Mount Hiei) walking to lake Biwa. I also remember the nice parties with colleagues and students in the Faculty house and restaurants. There I learned that Japanese life is not always formal but sometimes very exuberant (I remember the singing together of the University hymn, now I have completely forgotten even the melody).

A few years later I was lucky to return to Kyoto University, being invited as an external reviewer of the Faculty of Agriculture. This gave me the opportunity to give something in return for my visiting professor-

ship and to get insight into Japanese University life in a broader context than before, a comparison with European Universities revealing differences in several respects. After that I had some other Japanese connections, having been a visiting professor at Okayama University and an external reviewer of its Faculty of Engineering.

During the past few years I was no longer involved in academic activities, enjoying life as a retired person with my family. Recently, however, due to unforeseen circumstances this changed and I started to do research in my former lab in Delft on a topic that was initiated during my stay in Kyoto but which I could not finish there. To my surprise it appears now that it is very successful. Could it be the start of a second life in research?. Anyhow, looking back on my stay in Kyoto, it was a wonderful time which forms a happy period in my life for which I am very grateful to all who were involved in the invitation, but especially to my former hosts, prof. Kato and his collaborators.

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The old office of university forests in spring



The old office of university forests in summer



The old office of university forests in winter



Reminiscence of my stay at the University of Kyoto

Invited term

August 16, 1999 – December 15, 1999

Axel Hans Karl Brennicke

(Professor, Molekulare Botanik, Universität Ulm, 89069 Ulm, Germany)

Fortunately I was invited by Professor Kanji Ohyama to spend an extended time under the Visiting Professor scheme at the University of Kyoto. Unfortunately I was not able to make full use of the very kind offer and stay an entire year. That this comparatively short visit was too short I realized very soon after I arrived at the Kyodai. People at the university and in the city and country were extremely friendly and open, the research focus of the laboratory of Professor Ohyama exceptional. Very soon I wished that I had been able to be there much longer.

The scheme of Visiting Professor is great and everything is well organized. The international house where I stayed is well situated in Shugakuin and within bicycling distance from the university campus. Bicycling in Kyoto is a great experience: along narrow side streets away from the main traffic and alongside canals makes one realize that this is Japan and not just anywhere. There is only one slight problem with bicycling in the summer time, an unsolvable conundrum: when it is stifling hot and humid in the city of Kyoto, it is wonderful to feel the fresh wind when cycling fast. However, to cycle fast, one needs to pedal rather hard and spend energy. This in turn generates

excess heat in the body which counteracts the cooling effect of the velocity and the airstream...

The welcoming attitude of my host and the team in the lab made me feel immediately at home and I felt very lucky to be able to discuss in depth individual projects of students directly with them. Very nice was the release from any bureaucracy which was all done by the departmental secretary without much ado. Although on my visiting card I was labelled as an Alien, I did not feel as one, but was readily integrated. At the same time I was very free and appreciated the rare time to think and discuss without the daily routine of paperwork.

My stay although short was very fruitful in the long term: to several publications my input was considered important enough by Professor Kanji Ohyama to include me as a coauthor. Several students apparently enjoyed the personal connection and presently there are two excellent post-docs in my lab here at the Universität Ulm, which made the initial contact during my stay. Both are pursuing excellent science and are important contributors to the lab teams here as primary researchers as well as emerging group leaders.

In addition we have established a series of excellent and top level bilateral conferences in Plant Molecular Biology, which are alternating between Japan and Germany and have been funded by the JSPS and the DFG.

All in all I wished I could have stayed longer and wish that I may be able to visit Kyoto again for an extended period of time under the Visiting Professor Scheme.



My Four Months in Kyoto: An Unforgettable and Rewarding Experience

Invited term

September 1, 2000 - December 31, 2000

P. K. Ramachandran Nair

(Distinguished Professor Director, Center for Subtropical Agroforestry School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, USA)

“Nostalgic” is perhaps the best word to describe the reminiscences of the period of nearly four months I spent at Kyoto as a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, September to December 2000. It was a memorable experience in every respect, personal and professional.

My program at Kyoto was well-planned in advance, thanks to the meticulous efforts of my host Prof. Hiroyuki Watanabe, Director, Laboratory for Tropical Forest Resources and Environment. Prof. Watanabe’s attention to details and low-key yet forceful efforts and directives in getting things done pro-

perly and efficiently were so clear to me right from my arrival at Narita International airport. There I was met by Dr. Masaaki Yamada, a good friend and former Ph D student at the University of Florida, and a professor at the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.

He whisked me through the teeming crowd at Tokyo railway station and graciously accompanied me all the way from Narita to Kyoto, leaving no aspect of my safe arrival to chance. Everything concerned with my settling in, including accommodation at the International Shugakuin House of Residence, was a breeze, thanks to the extremely hospitable and helpful graduate students and staff in the lab under Prof. Watanabe’s tactful and vigilant oversight.

A significant aspect of my time in Kyoto was my interaction with the graduate students in Prof. Watanabe’s lab (Fig 1). In addition to my lectures and presentations on technical topics, I helped the students with ‘scientific writing’ (how to write research papers for publication). With my experience as the Editor-in-Chief of an international scientific journal

(Agroforestry Systems, published then by Kluwer, now by Springer Science), I think it was time well spent in seminars on research writing as well as on a one-to-one basis with individual students to help them write their research papers.

Although my stay in Kyoto was rather short, my association with the university has continued on a strong footing ever since. I was profoundly honored when I was invited back for the award of an Honorary Doctor of Agriculture degree from Kyoto in March 2002 (Fig 2), and was very pleased to see my services to the graduate students during my stay there mentioned prominently in the citation accompanying the degree. Although I have been fortunate in receiving honorary degrees from other institutions since then, the Kyoto honor, being the first, will always have a special significance to me. Other significant aspects of my continued association with Kyoto include:

- ◆ Ms. Asako Takimoto, a Kyoto (BS) and Duke University (MS) graduate, joining me in Fall 2003 as a Ph D student, initially on a Fulbright scholarship for two years and now on a World Bank scholarship;
- ◆ Publication of journal articles by Kyoto students/faculty in the journal *Agroforestry Systems* (of which I was the Editor-in-Chief, 1994 – 2005); and
- ◆ Involvement of Prof. Watanabe as a member of the Global Organizing Committee (of which I was the chair) for the 1st World Congress of Agroforestry, Orlando, Florida, USA, 2004.

Personally too, my stay in Kyoto was memorable. My family (wife and three daughters and son-in-law) joined me there for Thanksgiving in November 2000, when we had a wonderful time visiting some places in Japan. An interesting aside was that while visiting Tokyo, we came across a business establishment called “NAIR Restaurant” (Fig 3). We all went inside for a meal; we talked to the owner and found out that it was started by one Mr. Nair (same last name as mine), originally from Kerala State, India, which is my native place as well. Mr. Nair, the original owner is no more; his son and grandson are the present owners. I had an interesting chat with the grandson – his Malayalam (the language of Kerala) is quite “rusty”; but I was impressed that he knew the language as much as he did in spite of his mother and grandmother being Japanese women. I do not think that I am related to that family. Nair is a very common “caste” name in Kerala; my guess is that about 10 percent of people of the total population of more than 30 million of the state have Nair as the family (last) name!

I don't have to say how beautiful and enchanting Kyoto is – everybody knows that! A report like this should, however, include not only all “rosy” memories, but some not-so-sweet experiences as well. But, however hard I jog my memory, I can think of absolutely NO bad or negative experience of my stay! I

was never sick, never mugged, and never ticketed for traffic violations (that was also because I did not drive a car there, but used a bicycle as the mode of transport – nearly 30 years after my days as a graduate student!). I leave it to the readers to decide if not having a negative experience was a good or a bad thing!



Fig1 Prof. P. K. Nair (fourth from left) and his wife Dr. Vimala Nair (next to him) with Prof. Hiroyuki Watanabe (extreme left), his colleagues, and graduate students; Nov. 2000



Fig2 Prof. P. K. Nair receiving the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Agriculture from Prof. Nagao Makoto, President, Kyoto University; 29 March 2002.



Fig3

Prof. P. K. Nair and his wife Dr. Vimala Nair made best use of their short period of stay in Japan – they opened a restaurant in Tokyo! The Nairs in front of the “NAIR Restaurant” in Tokyo; December 2000.

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Protocol in Kyoto

Invited term

October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004

Tibor Tóth

(Senior Scientist, Research Institute for Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Science, Hungary)

Nobody can deny that Kyoto is the city of protocol. In the second, and for many, the more common sense of the word, "protocole" (French), "protocollo" (Italian) is a synonym of "etiquette" and means "ceremonial rules of conduct". We know that in the capital of oldtime Japan there were many rules formulated about good behaviour, which determined the conduct of the Japanese in the Imperial Court, in temples and shrines, teahouses and many other places.

So there is no surprise that Japanese people behave exceptionally well. At least compared to Western standards. And also it is no surprise that Westerners and other gaijins sometimes seem to behave badly. (At least compared to Japanese standards.) Because it is not easy to understand and take into consideration so complex regulations as the Japanese etiquette (or protocol), which has developed on its own far away from our heritage. Many gaijins fail sometimes, including the author, and seem to be impolite. Gomenasai! It is not because of the wrong intention, it is because of simple ignorance or confusion. Those who make mistakes must correct their behaviour and adapt to the protocol.

Now imagine how much more complex are the rules of the functioning of the Earth, our global and only world. Nevertheless the rules of conduct towards the environment seemed to be very simple when human beings first considered rules as such. There were rules, that is laws, first written with cuneiform characters in Mesopotamia five thousand years before. The laws of the Sumerians, just like most of later civilizations, including the Japanese, did not talk about conduct regarding environment. It is a sad memento that the oldest civilization was destroyed by a slow environmental catastrophe: soil salinization, evidently caused by the diligent farmers working on the irrigated fields. This same land gave birth later to the famous laws of Hammurabi. Yes, you can add that nowadays it is a place of other environmental and human catastrophes, and is in the limelight of news reports and election campaigns. The reason for the decline of the ancient cities between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers was the ignorance of the natural laws. In a sensitive ecosystem like an irrigated lowland region, the rising saline groundwater could deteriorate soil fertility. Knowledge of social rules only is not enough to sustain the civilization for a long term -

it is what we can learn from Sumerians.

Millennia have passed by, and now not only a handful of city-states face a dire destiny, but it is the whole humanity, which must cope with a looming catastrophe. It is the probable change in global climate which threatens the sustainable development and existence of people. Especially in catastrophe-sensitive areas, like Japan.

Therefore it was proper for Japan to initiate the codification of new rules of conduct, this time for all people living on this only planet of ours. Because now we know much more about how to behave ourselves, and degradation, such as the salinization of irrigated lands can be prevented, or alleviated. Of course at a price. Sometimes at high price.

The population of Earth has become five hundred times as much since the time of the Sumerians, and had long lasting impact on the globe, including the land, waters and air at most. Now the threatening and already demonstrated global changes require global action. This is the issue in which Kyoto gained a new appreciation with the Kyoto Protocol. The same word now brings us the meaning of "minutes of a meeting", but it is still about the behaviour that we must follow in order to keep the world as it is.

In 1997 this Kyoto Protocol was proposed to prevent large global warming by the reduction of "greenhouse gas" emission. The amount of these gases (mostly carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) emitted should be 5.2 percent less before the end of the 2008-2012 period than it was in 1990. This can be attained with improvement of production technology, heating, emission of vehicles, shifting energy production towards renewable resources etc. But there is a role of trading with greenhouse gases produced, which opens unprecedented ways of assistance in the sustainable development of poorer countries.

There is a great part that soil science and soil scientists, (people like the author) can play in the resolution of Kyoto Protocol. Of course Kyoto has great importance for soil science as well. Just take the example of the Kyoto World Congress of Soil Science in 1990. It had a major role in the development of soil science and by the way a genuine opportunity for the author to fall in love with the city. Not to mention the excellent contributions of the Kyoto pedologists to agriculture and environmental sciences.

Now, the media of soil studies, the earth (land or soil) can become a "star" in the scripts which will be the basis of future actions to prevent more increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide level. It is because - would you think? - there is more carbon stored in the soils than in the air and vegetation together! So when it comes to reducing the level of carbon dioxide in the air, it is a possible alternative solution to increase the storage of carbon dioxide in the soil, just like sweeping the dirt under the carpet. It is a main research line that the soil scientists work on at Kyoto University

can become a "star" in the scripts which will be the basis of future actions to prevent more increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide level. It is because - would you think? - there is more carbon stored in the soils than in the air and vegetation together! So when it comes to reducing the level of carbon dioxide in the air, it is a possible alternative solution to increase the storage of carbon dioxide in the soil, just like sweeping the dirt under the carpet. It is a main research line that the soil scientists work on at Kyoto University and also a research-line that I picked up during my stay here.

So once again the Japanese show rules of conduct for other people. It is good. They are already working on the trading of emission rights for improved technology in developing countries. This means offsetting a part of domestic greenhouse gas emission by decreasing the emission in another country through the installation of new, low emitting technology.

But there are still some Japanese who must adapt themselves to the present situation. A timid suggestion from a sometimes impolite gaijin: please switch of the engine when you stop your car. It is just too common to see cars parked with engine running. Some keep the engine running because it is too cold outside the vehicle. Sometimes it looks that the engine runs because it is too warm outside the car. Some simply forget to switch off the engine of the car, or motor-bike? Taxi drivers seem to express their politeness and readiness, preparedness towards their costumers by standing besides their car with running engine when they wait for the costumers. This is another situation of conflict between small scale (human relationship, now costumer-service provider) and large scale (global) interests. Burning fuel with the engines of parked cars is not only a waste of fuel and money, but also is unjustified damage to the environment. We are entering an era when each puff of exhaust gas into the atmosphere must be considered. Of course we are optimistic, because the Japanese are good students and teachers as they were when solved the problem of low emission cars thirty years before, showing a good example for others. Minasan ganbarimasu-ka? Where, if not in Kyoto?

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Dr.Tibor T. receiving a letter of thanks after his special lecture from Dean Dr. T.Takahashi



Memory of the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University

Invited term

April 1, 2004 – June 30, 2004

Branka Javornik

(Professor, Genetics & Biotechnology, Centre for Plant Biotechnology & Breeding, Biotechnical Faculty, Jamnikarjeva 101, Ljubljana SI-1000, Slovenia)

Collaboration in the field of buckwheat research between Slovene and Japanese scientists has a long and fruitful history, going back to 1980, and this is in fact my sixth visit to Japan. It is, however, the first time that I have spent so long in the country and have had the opportunity to gain more than a superficial impression. There have been many special experiences that I will long treasure in my memory: early morning walks in the bamboo forest near my apartment, bicycle rides around the many temples of Kyoto, the tranquility of Zen gardens and, of course, the cherry blossom. I look forward now to visiting Japan in the autumn, when the maple leaves turn red. I am sure that that, too, will be a unique experience. It has also been a privilege to have had time to learn more about Japanese history and culture, and especially the Japanese cuisine, which is so different from that of the West, but so much healthier! My visit has been very useful from a professional point of view. I have found my contacts with Japanese students very stimulating, and lecturing in English for the first time has also been a very useful experience for me.

Most of all, though, I will take away with me a memory of the kindness and courtesy of the Japanese people; not only the the staff and students of the Plant Germ-Plasm Institute of the Faculty of Agriculture of Kyoto University, who have done so much to make my visit both enjoyable and professionally fruitful, but also the many people with whom I have come in contact outside my professional work. I would like to end by thanking the Dean of the Graduate School of Agriculture, Prof. Tsuyoshi for his warm welcome, Prof. Ohnishi of the Plant Germ-Plasm Institute, both for arranging my visit and for all that he has done to ensure that my time here has been enjoyable and professionally constructive, and Ms. Marita of the Foreign Student's Advisory Office for her great kindness and help during my visit. I am sure that it represents another stone in the structure of productive international relations.

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After April in Kyoto

Invited term

April 1, 2004 – July 31, 2004

Martin J. Lechowicz

(Professor, McGill University, Montréal, Canada)

From April through the end of July 2004, I enjoyed the privilege and the pleasure of being a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Agriculture at Kyodai. My host was Kihachiro Kikuzawa, the professor of Forest Biology. His lab has some 20 students as well as two lecturers, Atsushi Takayanagi and Michimasa Yamasaki. I could not have wished for, nor even imagined, a more productive sabbatical environment. Everyone welcomed not only me but also my wife, Professor Marcia Waterway, and involved us in the intellectual life of the lab. Professor Kikuzawa organized a special one-day symposium at which everyone presented their research interests, and we had a delightful welcoming party afterwards. He also took the trouble to introduce me to professors in other ecological labs, and I had good discussions with Tadashi Nobuchi, Hiroshi Takeda and people in their labs. We took part in the weekly lab seminar meeting where students formally presented their research progress reports and also in a special weekly “tea discussion” about various published papers and ongoing projects. Professor Kikuzawa and I also met weekly to work on an analysis of the relationships between tree- and forest-level production processes, a collaboration that will result in a published paper. As my stay drew to a close, Professor Kikuzawa organized a special symposium on forest biodiversity that brought together colleagues from all over Japan. When I look back over the past four months, I am astounded by the richness and diversity of the intellectual and personal interactions we had and I am humbled by the support and attention that we received.

I also met a wider range of students by teaching a weekly graduate course on the “Comparative ecology of plant diversity in deciduous forests”. The dozen or so students that took part were all exceptional: intelligent, willing to work hard at research, and stimulating in discussion. When the course began, I struck a deal with the students that I would lecture for the first half of the course, but then we would collaborate to do a research project on some aspect of diversity in Japanese forests. We ended up extracting data from Akira Miyawaki’s ten volume Vegetation of Japan that can be analyzed to test the neutral theory of biodiversity. This theory has never been tested for temperate forests in Asia and I am confident that our analyses will yield a publication co-authored by members of the class. I certainly look forward to our continued email discussions of these data after I leave Kyoto, and I hope that some of these students will keep in touch with me as their careers develop.

Life in Kyoto outside the university was, of course, also wonderful. The Forest Biology lab group was not only a source of intellectual stimulation, but also an invaluable source of practical support in our day-to-day life here in Kyoto. We certainly would not have gotten to know so many out of the way corners of the city nor had such good discounts on travel without the help of everyone in the lab. Nor would our stay have been as trouble free and enjoyable had Katsuko Morita not always been there to provide support and advice. She kindly found us a comfortable, furnished apartment just a few minutes walk from campus. The apartment also was only a few blocks from the Philosopher’s Walk so we could stroll in the early morning and enjoy the cherries blooming before the crowds gathered later in the day. Being here in April was really a special treat that complemented perfectly an earlier visit in fall when the maples were in full color. I suspect that my memory of the beauty of cherry blossoms arching over the canal in the morning light is indelible, but should it ever begin to fade we have more photos than probably were required to remind

us of the moment!

In four months we could only begin to explore the richness of the city that is less accessible to typical tourists here on a short visit, but we certainly began our exploration in earnest! At the beginning, we revisited some of the tourist sites we knew from earlier trips. Seeing Kiyomizu and Nanzenji during Golden Week certainly added a new dimension to our appreciation of these cultural sites – not just foreign tourists visit them! The crowds of Japanese visitors in the city during Golden Week were just amazing. It was in fact a relief when the holiday was over and we could sit down on a bus again instead of having to stand up for an entire trip. We used the bus system a lot, sometimes just going to a neighborhood and walking around to see what we could see. I often walked for kilometers through the city in the early morning or evening trying to absorb impressions of day to day life along narrow, out-of-the-way streets in different neighborhoods – a one-armed newspaper deliverer, the smells of supper cooking, a student practicing the flute, an exquisite orchid flowering on a doorstep, cats lounging on warm pavement, lizards hunting around a porch light, fireflies along a canal, and the raucous chorus of cicadas in the treetops. We discovered some new favorite tourist spots as well: Nijo Castle (which we somehow had missed on earlier visits), Daikokuji Temple (especially the less well-known dry gardens at the Zuiho-in subtemple), Fushimi Inari shrine (the short trip is definitely worth the effort, Tori Sei for lunch an added bonus), and Sanjusangendo with its amazing thousand statues of the goddess of mercy. Kyoto though is clearly a city that can be infinitely revisited; just as every rereading of the *Tale of Genji* opens new insights, so does every day spent in Kyoto.

And of course we immersed ourselves in an exploration of food in Kyoto, from low end to high end: the ubiquitous convenience stores, the grocery near our apartment, the Nishiki market, and every sort of café and restaurant we could search out. We discovered yuba, a key element in the Kyoto cuisine that somehow had evaded us on earlier visits, but that now has us hooked for life – fresh or cooked, yuba is just great. We had many pleasant meals in typical neighborhood restaurants such as Ogin, where you can get a lunch time setto at long tables shared with delivery men and shop keepers. We also enjoyed somewhat more upscale places in the neighborhood: Omen for udon, Tenyu for tempura, and Groto for kaiseki. Perhaps what surprised us most was how many small, not-so-fancy restaurants there were around the university that were exploring Japanese variations on foreign cuisine: Pippala, Shizuku, Café Peace, Sunshine Café, and Café Carinho. Café Carinho was a favorite because they had “Montreal bagels” brought down from Hokkaido where an expatriate Québécois runs a bakery! As good as Kyoto cuisine is, it’s always nice to have a taste of home now and then.

Finally, Marcia and I were fortunate to be able to travel outside Kyoto as well. We went three times to the university’s Ashiu Forest and once to the Kamigamo Forest to visit research sites. We made two trips to Okayama University of Science to visit Takuji Hoshino who is soon to publish a book on the Carex of Japan, a genus of sedges important in our own research. In Okayama we gave seminars and Professor Hoshino took us on some excellent collecting trips in Okayama prefecture and on Shikoku. Marcia also had the chance to collect with Professor Hoshino in Gunma prefecture. Finally, we made a trip to Hokkaido, collecting Carex species around Kushiro, Nemuro, and Tomakamai and also visiting Takayoshi Koike at Hokkaido University. Near Nemuro we saw three Japanese cranes only 20 meters away in marsh along an isolated stretch of coastline – that was a birder’s delight!

In fact the last four months have been an unforgettably special episode in my life. I am very happy that Kyodai has this program to bring visiting professors to the university, and I am deeply grateful that I was invited to join the university community. I only wish I could have managed to leave my normal responsibilities for a full year!

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Memories of Kyoto and memorable experiences

Invited term

August 1, 2004 – October 31, 2004

Robert Neil Jones

(Professor, Institute of Biological Sciences)
(The University of Wales Aberystwyth, UK)

A number of colleagues from my home university had related their experiences during various visits to Japan at different times in the past, and their stories had caught my interest. They told of this uniquely different country, far away and with its own special language, culture and traditions.

All who spoke about it were enthusiastic, all had enjoyed their brief stays here and all would make further visits given the opportunity. My invitation to come here as a visiting professor for three months came a surprise one day by email, albeit from my host and colleagues who I had previously met in Aberystwyth and with whom I already had a joint research project as a basis for our collaboration. In the way of things, as we are all busy these days, I never did spend the time I had promised myself to make preparations, other than the essential travel documents: I just up and came one day at the end of July 2004. My first raising of the eyebrow, as we say, was on the flight from London to Kansai, when the weather forecast indicated a typhoon heading directly for the airport. Then, as so often happens, it changed its course and we landed quietly in Japan.

I had no real idea what to expect, other than to know that my colleague would meet me and so deal with the first major obstacle, namely the Japanese language. It takes a time to cease being confused, and to learn how to use the buses and the subway, the shops and restaurants and in the end it all becomes quite simple and highly organised and efficient. As I became fond of saying “life is easy in Kyoto”, especially for a visiting professor who has just left behind all the burdens of the usual academic life in the UK, and the famously bad British weather. August was exceptionally hot in Japan in 2004, but this did not stop me from immersing myself into the richness of Kyoto and making weekend visits to some of the numerous and beautiful temples which abound in this place. Kyoto is a real treasure, even when the cherry trees are not in blossom, with its river running north-south and its myriad of tiny shops and restaurants around the university area. The cyclists were a novelty for me. I had to quickly learn to walk in straight lines, never move suddenly sideways and always be aware of the long stream of bicycles silently moving past from behind. The technique was always to leave the decisions to the cyclist and never to confuse the situation by taking any evasive action of your own. The motorists are undoubtedly the most polite in the world, and driving on the left is natural to a Britisher. The people of Japan are not easy to get to know, and three months is probably too short to begin to understand their way of thinking. Observation on behaviour quickly reveal the extreme politeness in all ways in which one might engage with people; in restaurants, shopping and public transport everyone is peaceful, courteous and helpful. I

found many old men who knew English quite well and would always help with finding the platform for the train or how and where to buy the ticket. Many students know English and would often translate in a restaurant where otherwise the communication was problematical to say the least. Another striking feature of Kyoto, aside from its attractive environment, is the way one could walk about at any time of day or night and feel completely safe – something one cannot any longer do in my country. One naturally wants to expand ones horizons in such a country with so many attractions in its wider sphere, and despite the fact that a typhoon prevented myself and my colleague ‘conquering’ Fuji Mountain on my birthday we did manage it two weeks later on a glorious sunny clear weekend. This was a memorable experience! We climbed in the night, with a guide from our bus tour, and saw the rising sun just after 5.00 am from the summit. On the descent, just after 6.00 am, we were treated to a magnificent views of the mountains of Japan, the sea of Japan and the erupting volcano on Mount Asama far away.

Seeing an erupting volcano completed the trio of earthquake, volcano and typhoon. In mid September we made the trip to Gifu to see the ancient craft of cormorant fishing, which was another rich experience. I also had opportunity to visit Nara, Osaka, Yokohama and Tokyo, partly for pleasure and partly for work. The nice thing about work was being remote from home, and having time to read, to think and write seminars to give in Kyoto and elsewhere. I gave a number of seminars to the graduate students in the laboratory of genetics and wrote a research grant application to try to secure funding to develop my collaboration and have further visits to this unique land. It was a pleasure to spend many hours with my colleague here discussing our project plans, and discussing widely about other issues of how the systems of teaching and research run differently in our two countries. I was impressed with the advanced level of the science that the Masters and PhD students are engaged in, and by their motivation and long hours of work. It is essential for them to know English to read the literature and to progress in their research careers, and many are struggling with this issue. I felt pleased therefore to have the chance to give them a number of research seminars and to try to help them over this difficult barrier. It would probably be a good idea if all English-speaking visiting professors were expected to take informal discussion seminars with the graduate students. It would be a pleasure to do such a thing, and a great benefit to the students. We might also learn a few more words of Japanese in the process. The science in general in Japan is held in very high respect in the UK, and in many areas it leads the field of work. This is another sound reason to be in this country, and to have the opportunity of meeting personally with scientists that one has previously known about only through the literature. I would like to record my most sincere thanks to all colleagues involved in making my visit possible, and such a great success – ‘domo arigato gosimas’. Next time I will come at cherry blossom time.

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The Story of My Visit -Memorable and Trivial Things-

Invited term
October 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004

Pictiaw Chen

(Professor Emeritus, University of California, Davis, USA)

The first time I visited Kyoto University was in 1974, while I was on my way to Taiwan and Thailand for my first sabbatical leave. My memory for that visit has faded away with time, and I do not remember so much about that visit except that I met with a group of very friendly professors who told me about their interesting research, and I was shown around the beautiful city of Kyoto and visited a very beautiful temple (I think it was Kinkakuji). I always wanted to come back to spend more time here. When Professor Ikeda asked me to come here about five years ago, I was very excited about the possibility of a long-term visit here. Unfortunately, I was not able to commit myself at that time because I had to take care of my bed-ridden elderly mother. But when Professor Ikeda asked me again last year, I was very glad to have the second chance and accepted the invitation. Although since my first visit in 1974 I have made a couple more short visits here, my three-month visit this time was quite different from the previous visits. This time I really had the opportunity to interact with researchers and students at Kyoto University and a few other universities, and to explore around the beautiful city of Kyoto.

This visit provided me with golden opportunity to share with faculty members and students my research on physical properties of biological materials and non-destructive techniques for quality evaluation of agricultural products. I also brought with me an impact sensor for sensing fruit firmness and used it here in a joint research project to monitor firmness of kiwi fruit during storage and ripening. I really enjoyed exchanging research ideas and other subjects of mutual interest with various researchers. I found researchers here are very bright, creative, and hardworking. As a result, they frequently came up with very unique and interesting new findings. It was a pleasure to spend time with students to talk about their research. Students here are quite serious about their research work; even undergraduate students also work very hard on their projects.

Professor Ikeda also made arrangements for me to visit Hokkaido University, Tottori University, Mie University, and a number of universities in Korea. I was very happy to have opportunity to reacquaint with many of my friends and to talk about our current research and exchange new ideas. The field trips and sightseeing trips that came with those visits were wonderful. It was so wonderful to be able to see in Hokkaido the state-of-the-art rice mill with the most up-to-date milling and quality sensing machines, and then to visit the company that developed and manufactured these machines near Hiroshima, and then to go on a sightseeing trip to visit the breathtaking Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.

In addition to academic subject matters, I also found that faculty and administrative staffs in Japan are quite interested in university systems in the US, especially retirement policies. I gave a number of presentations at various universities about the University of California system, with the emphasis on the University of California at Davis. Many professors were surprised to learn that there is no compulsory retirement age in the US, and most American professors will voluntarily retire at the age of between 60 to 65 years.

Kyoto is a marvelous city! There are so many things to see. At the beginning, I started to explore nearby places by bicycle. But after I figured out the very well organized public transportation systems, I was able to explore almost anywhere in the city. I want to thank a number of my friends who were very kind to take me sightseeing around the city. I have visited many temples, shrines, museums, mountains, and beautiful gardens. My favorites are Kurama and Arashiyama mountains where I enjoyed hiking along the trails through beautiful scenery. I was lucky to be in Kyoto during the autumn changing-leaves. Many people told me about the beauty of autumn color in Kyoto, but nothing is like when you stand among the colorful maple trees looking up against the sky. It is impossible to describe the beauty until you actually see it with your own eyes. I like to visit the Botanical Garden. I went there several times, because the beauty of the garden changed with the seasons, and the best part was the free admission (for seniors over 60 years old).

In the three months of my stay, I have seen many things that are new and different from what we have in the US. Being a researcher and engineer, I always want to know "how, why, and what if". For example, why passengers get on the bus through the rear door and get off in front and pay the fare at the end of the trip? What would happen if someone has no money to pay at the end of the trip? Why cars move so orderly and bicycles so disorderly? Riding a bicycle in Kyoto is an adventure. I am sure there must be some kind of traffic rules for bicycles, but it appears that, in practice, there are absolutely no traffic rules. People ride in both directions on both sides of the side walk. Some people ride in the traffic with the cars, and some even against the car traffic in the dark at night. I was amazed that in 3 months, I have not witnessed any bicycle accidents. Most amazing was to see everybody riding bicycles in the rain with one hand holding an umbrella. Another thing, why fruits are so expensive here? While shopping for grocery one day I saw this melon with a price tag of ¥6,500! I was thinking to myself: "Now, this must be a very delicious melon." I wanted to try it, but could not overcome other part of my conscience. I am sure there are good answers to all these questions, but it is fun just to wonder about them.

Overall, what took place during my three-month visit here has greatly exceeded my expectation. It has been an extremely enjoyable, enlightening, and fulfilling visit for me. I would like to thank my host professor, Professor Yoshio Ikeda, for inviting me here and taking very good care of me during my visit.

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A Portuguese “gaijin” in Japan

Invited term

June 15, 2005 – September 14, 2005

Manuel M. Mota

(Associate Professor, Dept. Biology, University of Évora, Portugal)

The Portuguese were the first Western people to arrive in Japan, in 1571, following a long trail, beginning in 1450, that took us around Africa, India, Indonesia, China (Macau) and finally Japan. There had been already informations about the mysterious and exotic people that inhabited “Cipango” and our rulers intended to be the first to arrive there, and in a scientific fashion. That is what made Prince Henry, the “Navigator” famous: his scientific school of Sagres (south-west Portugal) attracted the most famous cartographers and sea captains from Europe. One can say that Columbus – if in fact he was Italian- did his “post doc” in this environment. Nearly 450 years after the first contact between Europe and Japan (in Tanegashima), another scientific adventurer landed in the country of the rising sun. That is how, in some way, I felt when I landed in Osaka International Airport, June 15, 2005. The responsibility of establishing a good working relationship with my Kyoto University counterpart – Professor Kazuyoshi Futai – and his students, was somehow added by the long and mutual friendship between our two countries. Prof. Futai invited me in 2004 to come to Kyoto and teach for 3 months to graduate students studying plant parasitic nematodes, small microscopic worms, around 1 mm long but which may cause severe damage to many plants worldwide, including forest species such as pines. Portugal and Japan share an unfortunate situation of having within their pine forests, the dreaded “pine wood nematode” (PWN), *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, the causal agent of “pine wilt disease” (PWD). This disease, well known for decades to the Japanese, since its first report in 1905, has been the major catastrophic factor to Japanese pines (red pine, *Pinus densiflora* and black pine, *Pinus thunbergii*). Fortunately for us, the extent of the PWN presence in Portugal (and in the EU, for that matter) is relatively limited, just an area 30 km SE of Lisbon, and approximately 40 km in diameter. We have been able to be alert from the early detection, in 1999, and worked hard, with the national forestry authorities, to contain this problem and perhaps one day eradicate it. This became the central issue of my joint research with Prof. Futai’s group, in the Laboratory of Environmental Mycoscience, College of Agriculture. Our aim was therefore to compare the situation from both countries and try to establish some comparable biological observations such as the molecular biology (DNA) structure and cytogenetics of the nematode populations from both countries, and also the differences in pathogen (nematode) virulence and the pine tree’s susceptibility or resistance. Part of this work was also conducted in Chubu University (Prof. Johji Miwa and Koichi Hasegawa), which provided me an opportunity to make a quick visit to the Expo in Aichi. These research objectives were carried out in parallel with the teaching of a graduate course on “General Nematology”. Being a known globetrotter, I was delighted to have the opportunity to teach students from Japan, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Indo-

nesia, Vietnam, etc... Besides, I also had an excellent chance to travel within a country I had always dreamed of visiting, but which had never happened until 2005. The travels were a mixture of professional visits to important institutions related to forestry research (e.g. FFPRI in Tsukuba, Saga University and Tottori University) as well as to famous touristic sites in Tokyo, Nara, Nagasaki, etc... Visiting Nagasaki was particularly emotional for me since the city was founded by Portuguese in the late XVIth century. The view of the city from the top of the mountain was breathtaking and inspirational! Kyoto, naturally, was a delight to stay in and explore. I believe I may have visited 80% of the major attractions. Certainly another enjoyable and unique moment was climbing Mt. Fuji, on a trip with some students. The most beautiful sunrise I had observed in my life, but also the biggest cardio-vascular exercise I had since my military days! During my stay, I had the chance to send hundreds of e-mail messages back to my family and friends (around the world), reflecting upon my impressions of Japan. I even wrote 2 volumes of “Kyoto Chronicles” in Portuguese! My overall impression has been most positive. From the level of organization to the courtesy (the most courteous people in the world, as already referred to by a XVIth century Portuguese jesuit, Luis Froes, “the best ... we have discovered so far..” which I totally confirm), the dedication to one’s work, family, traditions, etc..., the Japanese have become, to my eyes, an example to the world. I have found it awesome that a country that was torn apart by beligerant episodes, culminating in WW II, destroyed in a fashion never experienced by us Portuguese, was able to rise from the ashes, proudly but with discipline and determination, and become the world’s second economic power. There is also the exotic aspects of a people that is so different from us in many respects, but which conquers our sympathy so quickly. The beautiful but enigmatic smiling women in their yukatas, the temple gardens (the most beautiful and peaceful gardens I have seen), the architecture, the evening lights of downtown Kyoto are just a few examples of the Japan that impressed me. In the beginning, the dramatic difference in feeding habits caused some surprise. I did not appreciate all kinds of food, but quickly adapted to this new life style. The other surprise, a bit annoying if you are used to a Mediterranean climate, is having rainy weather with thunderstorms in June-July-August. I like a good beach and sunny weather in the Summer! The other “c-letter” besides “climate” that caused some difficulty was “communication”, the well known problem with English. However, my students were extremely helpful and generous with their time, and so I got by quite well. I must confess I had good intentions of learning some Japanese, but with a 3-language system (kanji-hiragana-katakana), my best intentions, and my laziness, were frustrated with time. To finalize, I would like to thank everyone that helped make my stay an enjoyable one, starting with my colleague Kazu Futai, his various students, Ms. K. Morita and staff at the International Office, the Deans of the Colleges of Agriculture and International Affairs, etc.... I want to come back one day to Japan.

Arigato gozaimashta!

At the campus of Faculty of Agriculture
(The 3rd person from left is the author.)



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外国人留学生(研究者)の博士号取得状況
(平成17年1月~12月)

当該1年間に京都大学農学研究科に博士論文を提出し、京大博(農)の学位を授与された外国人留学生(研究者)は20名です。取得者の名前と論文テーマは以下の通りです。

Elmira Saljnikov (Karbozova) (地域環境科学専攻)
Characterization and Dynamics of Soil Organic Matter of Chernozem Soils in Kazakhstan and Ukraine

Somchai Limsiratana (地域環境科学専攻)
Detection of Fruits in Natural Background

Md.Sohrab Ali (森林科学専攻)
Shoot Morphogenesis of Aucuba japonica Thunb. (Cornaceae)

Yow Geok-Yong (応用生命科学専攻)
Enzymological Studies of D-Amino acid N-Acetyltransferase from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

Muhammad Mukhlisin (森林科学専攻)
Analysis of Slope Failure Initiation and Debris Flow Run-out

Rungruedee Thiwthong (応用生命科学専攻)
Studies on Microbial Oxidoreductases Useful for the Production of Glyoxylic Acid and Chiral Intermediates

金 鉉 台 (地域環境科学専攻)
The Basic Study of the Animal Biometrics for Identification of the Cattle

徐 永 強 (地域環境科学専攻)
Applications of Richards Equation to Earth Dam Design and Runoff Problems

Rudianto Amirta (応用生命科学専攻)
Studies on a Selective White Rot Fungus, *Ceriporiopsis subvermispora*: Production of Ceriporic Acids and Lignin Biodegradation of Wood for Methane Fermentation

朴 起 煥 (生物資源経済学専攻)
切花産業の経済分析と発展可能性に関する研究
—主要部門別韓国間の比較・分析—

Ris Hadi Purwanto (森林科学専攻)
Teak (*Tectona grandis* Linn. f.) and Food Crop Production under Agroforestry Management in Moist Deciduous Forests of Eastern Java in Indonesia

徐 劍 瑩 (森林科学専攻)
Development of Kenaf Binderless Composite Panels

Antonio Norio Nakagaito (森林科学専攻)
Bio-Nanocomposites Based on Cellulose Microfibril

権 起 漢 (食品生物科学専攻)
Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Dextran Sulfate Sodium-induced Experimental Colitis in Mice and Its Suppression by Dietary Factors

朴 恩 榮 (農学専攻)
Effects of Amino Acids and Peptides Addition on Lipid Oxidation in Powdery and Emulsion Model Systems

Decha Wiwatwitaya (地域環境科学専攻)
Effects of Forest Disturbances on the Soil Arthropod Communities in Thailand

Anita Firmanti (森林科学専攻)
Fire Endurance of the Graded Timber and Wood Based Panels from the Fast-Growing Tropical Species

Ragil Widyorini (森林科学専攻)
Self-Bonding Characterization of Non-Wood Lignocellulosic Materials

郭 美 善 (応用生命科学専攻)
Studies of Protein Systems Depending on Cysteine Desulfurase and Selenocysteine Lyase

Maurizio Prospero (生物資源経済学専攻)
Analysis of the EU MacSharry Reform in Italian Family Farms: A Multilayer Feed-Forward Neural Network Model for Evaluating Economic and Environmental Impacts of the Direct Payments System

農学部国際交流ニュース

農学研究科博士後期課程編入学考査

平成18年度農学研究科博士後期課程編入学考査(私費外国人留学生特別選抜を含む)は、合格者がありませんでした。

農学研究科修士課程私費外国人留学生特別選抜入学試験

平成18年度農学研究科修士課程私費外国人留学生特別選抜入学試験は、1月23・24日に行われ、5名が合格しました。専攻別内訳は、農学専攻1名(台湾)、森林科学専攻1名(ミャンマー)、応用生物科学専攻1名(中国)、地域環境科学専攻1名(中国)、生物資源経済学専攻1名(中国)でした。

農学部私費外国人留学生特別選抜試験

平成18年度私費外国人留学生特別選抜試験は2月28日に行われ、13名の受験者があり、資源生物科学科(1名)に入学されることになりました。

特別講演会開催

2005年12月14日(水)
15:00~16:30

Dr.Andreas Houben (ドイツ)
(植物育種及び作物研究所・主任研究員)

"Green"Biotechnology
-Molecular Marker-



世界の料理講習会開催

トルコ料理
講師:Ms.Sevgi Donma
2005年12月2日(金)



メキシコ料理
講師:Ms. Maria Magdalena
Aragon Ramirez
2006年1月20日(金)

イタリア料理
講師:Ms.Cecilia Corrado
2006年2月17日(金)



18年度行事予定

新入留学生ガイダンス	4月7日(金)	国際交流室
新入留学生歓迎会	4月7日(金)	北部生協"ほくと"
1日バス見学	5月18日(木)	グリコピア神戸、神戸ワイン城
サッカー&バーベキュー大会		6月開催予定
夏の旅行	7月24日(月) - 26日(水)	乗鞍、高山方面予定

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