

You'll be amazed by what Japan's garden centres offer!

The 52nd IGCA Congress will be hosted by Japan for the first time ever in Asia. We invite you into a world where ancient "Wabi-sabi" ascetics bring magnificent yet solemn Japanese gardens and Bonsai trees. Meanwhile, Japanese garden centre businesses show off orchids and many other plants grown through revolutionary breeding techniques.

Find out how authentic Japanese cuisine is really meant to taste and, more importantly, to look. Gain experiences you can get nowhere else in the world but in Asia's only G7 superpower: ride the latest bullet-train then time-slip into the age of the Samurai and meet real Maiko entertainers.

Only in 2010 will you be able to network with likeminded gardening professionals from not only Asia but around the world gathering here. Discover the unique combination of an ancient history of flower viewing combined with the art, tradition, modern technology, service, manners and friendships in JAPAN.



IGCA Congress 2010 JAPAN
Organizing committee office

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IGCA CONGRESS 2010 JAPAN

10th-15th October



Welcome to Japan



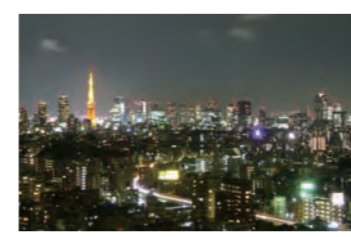
Welcome to Japan!
An island nation off the east coast of the Asian continent, many visitors expect Japan to be very industrial. In fact, Japan's world-famous industry is confined to certain areas leaving the abundant nature of the mountains that cover 70% of the islands mostly untouched. You will find ultra-modern metropolitan centers filled not only with people but with thousands of Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples and Japanese gardens that harmonize the cutting-edge with the timeless into one enchanted nation.

In order to let you fully experience the diversity of Japan in one IGCA tour, the first half is based in the ultra-modern capital of Tokyo and the second half will take you to the ancient city of Kyoto. You will stay in 2 world-famous hotels: The Prince Park Tower Tokyo Hotel located in the gardens adjoining Tokyo Tower is the highest rated international hotel in Tokyo. The second is the luxurious Kyoto Hotel Okura in the heart of the city, a favorite of international guests.



Day 1

From 7pm. the Welcome Reception will be held in the gorgeous venue within your Prince Park Tower Tokyo Hotel.



Day 2: Tour of Yokohama City

Less than an hour south of Tokyo, Yokohama is Japan's second largest city and greatest port. Yet it incorporates parks and nature better than any major city in Japan. We will visit some important garden centers here including the flagship store of Sakata Seed.



Yoneyama Plantation



Sakata Seed



Green Farm



Day 3: Suburban areas north of Tokyo

Traveling 20 miles north, we will dip into suburban Saitama Prefecture. This area has always been a big producer of the garden plants sold in the metropolis. Today will be a great chance to understand the production side of the garden plants, stones and Bonsai trees that are so essential to the urban Japanese garden. Evening will be back in central Tokyo for a taste of the city's nightlife.



Bonsai



Day 4: West central Japan by bullet train

Today takes us over 200 miles southwest passing by Mt. Fuji on the world famous bullet train to the Nagoya region and the fabulous garden centers it has to offer. The night will slip us back in time to the age of the Samurai as we enter the ancient capital of Kyoto.



Kinkakuji



Mt. Fuji



Nabana no Sato Park

Day 5: Around Osaka-Kobe region



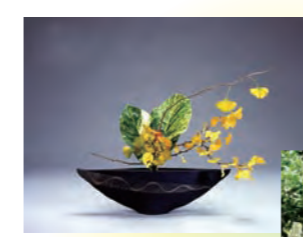
Awaji Yumebutai Park



Travel around the finest garden centers of the important Osaka-Kobe region. You will be impressed by the public supported continuation of the 2000 International Flower Expo site that brought tears to the eyes of some IGCA members who visited in 2009, as well as Japan's famous region for production of gardening trees and plants.

Day 6: World Heritage Sites in Kyoto

The network of temples and shrines refined over 1,200 years time is the ancient gardener's paradise of Kyoto with numerous World Heritage Sites. No other place has so much of Japan's distinct history and art concentrated in one area. Immerse yourself in the delicate grace and elegance of the world's finest examples of Japanese architecture, culture and gardening technique including a live flower arrangement demonstration by an Ikebana master at the place that founded this art.



Ikebana



Pre and Post Congress Tours
We are also planning a very exciting pre-tour and a post-tour that will allow you to learn more about Japanese culture and gardening. We will give the details at a later date.