

## Reflecting on the Japanese congress

With lots of surprises and memories along with materials for stories, the 51st Congress of IFAJ in Japan is now over.

The Japan Agricultural Journalists' Association, or JAJA, made ends meet with the help of many sponsors including the JA group, Itoen, Tokyo University of Agriculture and the Miyagi Prefecture.

JAJA members enjoyed exchanging information with foreign counterparts during the congress. It was a great chance for our organization members to think about what is globalization in agriculture.



We have got many emails saying it was a wonderful congress, however, some wrote that translations from Japanese into English were so bad that they could not understand what some farmers said during the interviews.

We take this seriously because the congress is a meeting for journalists. Communication must come first. Anything you need to confirm because of poor communication will be clarified. Please feel free to ask us. We are also working to set up a site in English to provide additional information on the congress. It will be available soon.

One hundred and eighty four delegates from 26 countries, including Japan, participated in the congress. We originally anticipated 120 delegates. But we came to realise Japan is one of the most interesting spots for international agricultural journalists.

We are looking forward to seeing many reports on the congress and Japanese agriculture written in different languages. As a main organizer of the congress, I really appreciate your cooperation during the congress.

*Masaru Yamada*

*International Director, JAJA*

***Caption: Masaru Yamada chats with IFAJ president David Markey in a break between sessions at the Japanese congress.***