

Dr. Sam Portch Honored with Friendship Award in China

Dr. Sam Portch, PPIC Vice President (retired), PPI/PPIC China and India Programs, recently received the prestigious “Friendship Award” which recognizes foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to economic construction and social development in the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA), authorized by the State Council of the PRC, first established the Award in 1991. The annual presentation ceremony in Beijing took place before China’s National Day, October 1. Dr. Portch

was one of only 51 individuals receiving the Award in 2002, representing 17 countries. An estimated 440,000 foreigners are working in China.

The Award was presented by Mr. Qian Qichen, Vice Premier of the State Council, on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the founding of the PRC. Mr. Zhu Rongji, Premier, also congratulated the recipients. The leaders commended the foreign experts for their contributions to China’s social development and economic,

scientific, technological, educational, and cultural construction. Mr. Qian stated that with a population of 1.3 billion, China’s stability and prosperity is of great significance to the civilization, peace, and development of the whole world.

Dr. Portch is a well-respected leader, working in international agriculture for more than 35 years with government agencies and the private sector. He joined PPI/PPIC in 1988 and directed the agronomic research and education programs of the Institute in China since 1989. Based in Hong Kong, he traveled to all regions of China.

In accepting the award, Dr. Portch acknowledged the PPI/PPIC China Program staff, PPI/PPIC offices in North America, companies and government agencies who support the Institute’s programs, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Ministry of Agriculture, and cooperation of provincial institutions, extension personnel, farmers, and others who have helped achieve more balanced fertilization programs.

“I accept this honor on behalf of all who have cooperated for the progress of agriculture in China. It is this group of many that won the award,” Dr. Portch said. **BCI**



Dr. Sam Portch, at left, accepts the Friendship Award from Mr. Qian Qichen, Vice Premier of the State Council, PRC, during the ceremony in Beijing.