



**37th Annual Meeting of the
Society for Invertebrate Pathology
7th International Conference on *Bacillus thuringiensis*
Helsinki, Finland
August 1-6, 2004**

It took 37 years for the Society for Invertebrate Pathology to hold its Annual Meeting in any of the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway or Sweden. In 2004, these five countries jointly hosted the 37th Annual Meeting of the SIP and the 7th International Conference on *Bt* in Helsinki, Finland during the first week of August. The local organiser was Heikki Hokkanen, who was assisted by a team of local colleagues. To appreciate our efforts, even the Nordic weather God Frey decided to stop the rain that had poured on us all summer – and, among other things, had flooded our excursion target area one day before the meeting.

The conference followed the general schedule of SIP meetings, but was about half a day longer than usual: the opening plenary, including a piano performance, was on Sunday morning, while the afternoon was relatively free (time to set up posters, hold satellite meetings, look around, etc), and to the surprise of many, a welcome reception in the evening of the first day. The conference venue was located right in the heart of Helsinki, in the historical and prestigious main building of the University of Helsinki. Proximity of many major attractions such as the Harbour Market, botanical gardens, and high street

shopping and nightlife, served well to entertain participants during the breaks. The university facilities and services functioned superbly, and the surprise welcome reception with wine and tasty food by the University of Helsinki hosted by the vice-rector Hannele Niemi on Monday evening was the culmination of the local hospitality.

Well over 330 participants attended the meeting, including 172 SIP-members, 52 non-members, 66 students, and numerous partners (29 registered partners, but many did not register). The delegates represented at least 44 different countries – likely the record in SIP history. Among them were five Latin American, five Asian, and four African countries. Good participation can, to some extent, be explained by the strategically held satellite workshop of the EU's COST-850 programme ("Biocontrol Symbioses"), at the same location on July 31- August 1.

Scientific program

Joergen Eilenberg was in charge of preparing the scientific programme. Based on the abstracts submitted, the Nordic committee organised an attractive programme.

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Deadline for the next Newsletter is January 15, 2005