

# Biography for Stein Are Hansen,

## The Norwegian contestant

- to the 13th Interflora World Cup Competition in Shanghai, China

I was born on April 7th 1974 in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen - the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. These islands are Norwegian territory.

At a very early age I developed a strong fascination for nature, and botanicals in particular. With a childhood in such cold, dark and snowy surroundings, flowers and plants became highly treasured gems, something magical, and something very exclusive and not taken for granted.

I started as a part time worker at the local florist shop, at 14, after moving with my family to the Norwegian mainland.

Formal education:

- Vea, the Norwegian state school for florists 1991/92 and 92/93
- Florist diploma 1994

Professional career:

Freelance florist, international demonstrator, teacher and judge. Mainly in Europe and Asia, and particularly in Hong Kong and South China.

Many years of working experience in China has given this Scandinavian florist from the cold north of Europe a strong fascination for the fantastic contrasts and cultures of this far away country.

Now runs his own shop in Oslo, Norway, Blomst af Hansen since October 2006.

Publications:

Participated in "Nordic masters of flower arrangement" (Stichting kunstboek Belgium) and "World flower artist II" (Sodo publishing, Japan)

Monograph "The World of botanics according to Stein Are Hansen" (Stichting kunstboek, Belgium)

Awards:

Winner, junior level, Norwegian cup 1992, 1993 and 1994

Winner, senior level, Norwegian cup 1997, 1998, 1999, 2007 and 2008

Norwegian champion 1998, 1999, 2007 and 2008

Scandinavian champion 1998

Europe cup, Linz Austria 1999, third place

"I love the travels my profession brings. Not only the physical ones I make myself, but the daily adventures that all the fantastic plants and flowers of the world continue to lead me on to."