Eighty years ago, the first eleven countries that had ratified our Convention met, together with the Netherlands and Belgium, who while not having ratified the Convention, were very close to doing so and wanted to show their strong commitment to our organization.

From this moment, with these 11 founding countries, the Organisation has continued to grow with 149 more member states, bringing us today, for the 80th Anniversary of our organization, to a family of 160 member states.

Our organization was always united by a common ambition and by a mandate which is set out in article 1 of our Convention. It is the education of the public, education for the commitment, education to improve the living conditions and education for a better world.

It is not surprising that our first partner, at the very beginning of the life of our organization, was the League of Nations. The values of the League of Nations were widely shared by the member states of our organization and, following the Second World War, we turned our eyes towards the United Nations in order to find these elements, these values and these principles which are our common heritage and which guide us step by step towards the future.

Therefore, the passive element of this vision is the respect for cultures, solidarity, faith in progress, in other words, faith for all cultures. But it is also the desire to educate the citizen so that he can contribute to the solution of the big problems. There is no big problem for which a solution cannot be found if the citizens of the world became aware and committed themselves to resolving it.

From this point of view, our organization today reflects the real world. We have Member States in all stages of development. We have Member States which contributed enormously to science, to technology, while other States whose cultural values are indisputable and we are all together within an organization which is not based on conflict but which is based on cooperation, on respect for others and on the desire to cooperate for a better future.

Any celebration is somewhat like the Roman god, Janus, who looks in two directions. There is a glance towards the past but there is also a glance towards the future. And this is what makes the remembrance a kind of vision of the future, a road to follow, without which our organization would lose its "raison d'être".

To all the Member States, the former ones, the founding fathers of this organization, to those who came later, to all those who share the same values, the same ambitions and the same principles, all my congratulations in this day which is in fact the day of you all.

Let us continue together, with two candidate countries for 2017 and five candidate countries for 2020, to give life, to give substance, to give future to our organization!

In spite of its 80 years, it is not old, it is still young. It has its whole future in front of it and is only thinking of the future.

Thank you very much

Mr. Ferdinand Nagy, BIE President, Mr. Vicente Gonzalez Loscertales, BIE Secretary General, and H.E. Mr. Jean-Pierre Lafon, BIE Honorary President, welcoming the guests.

Speech pronounced by the BIE Secretary General on the occasion of the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the BIE, on January 19th, 2012, followed by a video presentation of the Digital Gallery on Exhibitions and BIE and of the BIE Training Centre which will open its doors on the avenue of the Champs-Elysées in Paris in April, 2012, the fruits of the cooperation between the BIE and Crystal C.G.
In 2017, Astana celebrates its 20 years Anniversary and is proud for the achievements it has reached by now. This is the fastest growing capital in the world and EXPO site is ideally integrated into the modern architecture of the city. The EXPO legacy has to be remained not only as state-of-the-art buildings, but also as an applicative engagement, like the heritages of Asiad-2011. Until the end of 2016 it is planned to start a modern LRT passenger transportation system with a total length of 42 km. This system will route from the airport to the venue of EXPO-2017, as well as pass by the administrative and cultural center of the city and residential area of Astana. Hosting of EXPO in Astana is underpinned by the development of the region infrastructure. Since 1997, territory and population of the city increased by 2.5 times. During the years of formation of the young capital, 1.4 billion in investment funds were attracted for the construction of educational, healthcare and culture projects. Dynamic development of our city, investment attractiveness and great opportunities for potential growth are great advantage for our candidacy. The government, the business circles, scientific society and the whole nation support EXPO-2017 candidacy. EXPO-2017 is a great expectation of Kazakhstan!

http://expo2017astana.com/
IZMIR FOR EXPO 2020

In the western extremity of Turkey, where the Silk Road meets the Aegean, lies the western port of Anatolia, a cultural capital and a trade center that dates back 8,500 years: İzmir.

İzmir is the highest rated city in Turkey in quality of life and environmental friendliness. Its modern Mediterranean character, cultural diversity, natural beauty, open-minded outlook and vibrant social life make it an ideal place to live or visit.

In today’s world, health is a universal, vital and timeless issue. An aspect of it can be seen in every government policy all over the world. It is also one of the fields the city of İzmir holds the national leadership in. With an integrated approach to well-being through healthy living, İzmir promotes an active lifestyle and a balanced diet. İzmir is a member of the “healthy cities network” of the World Health Organization.

Hence, İzmir’s theme for Expo 2020 is « New routes to a better world / Health for all ». It includes five key elements:
1. Coming into life
2. Harmonious and balanced living
3. A healthy environment
4. Healthcare services and innovation
5. Universal cooperation for a healthier world

With tens of millions of visitors anticipated from over 100 different countries, Expo 2020 İzmir will provide an ideal platform for all aspects of a healthier life including innovative technologies, forging partnerships and sharing knowledge for all the actors in a universal sense. İzmir has always united cultures and civilizations. Now it is committed to uniting the world under one ambition.

In the likelihood of İzmir being elected for Expo 2020, the development of especially transport and accommodation infrastructure in İzmir will accelerate. Furthermore, İzmir will become one of the most important centers of health in the world, thus attracting investors and creating employment opportunities. The city will be well-known all around the world.

Expo 2020 Ayutthaya Thailand

Ayutthaya, the chosen site for Thailand’s bid for World Expo 2020, is a city of balance. For over 400 years, Ayutthaya, the capital city of Thailand at the time, was a thriving commercial port and a diplomatic crossroad, where Thailand first welcomed visitors from around the world. Today, it is a modern hub of agriculture and industry, connected to the rest of the country through convenient transportation networks, and is located only 45 minutes by car from Bangkok. Bangkok is an ever-growing city, strategically located at the center of the ASEAN region and is already well-known as a center of business and commerce, as well as a world-famous destination for tourists. With world-class hospitality and facilities Bangkok, Ayutthaya and Thailand are in a position to graciously welcome the 37 million visitors expected to attend the Expo.

The chosen theme for Expo 2020 Ayutthaya is “Redefine Globalisation: Balanced Life, Sustainable Living”. In a world where globalisation is currently defined as a wave of consumerism and materialism, “more” is seen as being “better”. This idea has resulted in a culture of over-consumption, has created gaps throughout the world, and is therefore the basis for many of the world’s current problems. Thailand believes in the need to create a dialogue, to invite the world to redefine globalisation together for a better and more balanced future for everyone.

Thailand’s subthemes are:
- “Revive Local Wisdom for Global Wellness”, “Reunite Connections for
- “Wellness”, “Reunite Connections for
- “Revive Local Wisdom for Global Wellness”, “Reunite Connections for
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- “Revive Local Wisdom for Global Wellness”, “Reunite Connections for

By attracting millions of people, Expo will contribute greatly to the city’s, region’s and country’s economy. Furthermore, expats and artists who will work in İzmir during the Expo will create an opportunity for cultural exchange. With thousands of cultural events, concerts, panels and exhibitions, İzmirians will have a platform to meet different cultures. Furthermore, the Expo site will become an important center of attraction after the Expo. Many pavilions and buildings will be permanent structures as part of the Expo legacy. Those buildings will be assigned to entertainment, education, conferences, sports, cultural event venues and health research & technology uses.

http://www.expoizmir.org.tr/

http://www.thailandexpo2020.com/
Ekaterinburg invites to an open global dialogue for the future of our planet
Ekaterinburg 2020 is where a big journey starts

The choice of Ekaterinburg as a location for Russia’s World Expo Bid is far from being random. Situated right on the border of Europe and Asia, the 4th largest Russian city is today a major Eurasian transport, industrial and business hub and a reference point in Russia’s cultural, educational and scientific life.

Ekaterinburg has been host to some big international events in recent years. Russia too hosts dozens of global events every year and equally is a participant at major international events where there are important conversations on the future of our planet’s economic system, environment and sustainability, as well as peace and healthy living. Russia left a lasting and remarkable legacy at each of the previous World Expo’s – starting with the Alexander III Bridge in Paris in 1900 and including the Russian pavilion at the Shanghai Expo 2010. Yet up till now Russia has never had the privilege of hosting such a prestigious event as the World Expo.

Ever since its emergence in 1723, Ekaterinburg has been a bridge connecting Europe and Asia, a threshold for the discovery of the vast Siberian lands and a key point on the legendary Great route and Trans-Siberian Railway. Today, the objective of the Ekaterinburg Expo 2020 Bid is to represent a transition from old perceptions of the city and the country towards a vision of a new, young, dynamic destination, inspiring, challenging and full of creative potential.

Under the suggested heading of “Global Mind”, Ekaterinburg Expo 2020 is looking to set up a bridge for open dialogue and conversation between nations by inviting them to develop national exhibitions which would capture each country’s values in a six-part experience: the nation’s history, major national figures, key milestones, outlook on past conflicts and paths to peace, innovative ideas and vision of future. By doing so, the Bid aims to lift the urban sustainability dialogue onto the global stage.

With the World Expo 2020, the Russian city of Ekaterinburg would become once again the perfect place to discover our planet’s common future - this vast “Siberia land”, rich in progress and potential, full of inspiration but also facing issues that will need to be handled in a responsible and sustainable way.

Collectively, through the Ekaterinburg 2020 platform designed to facilitate open dialogue, we will leave a fundamental legacy – social, human and emotional – to our country, the BIE family and the entire world.

Eric Bugulov
CEO, Ekaterinburg Expo 2020 Bid Committee

Brazil has chosen Sao Paulo as its candidate city and is committed to host the World Expo 2020

Brazil has chosen Sao Paulo as its candidate city and is committed to host the World Expo 2020 (Expo 2020), given the current momentum that the country is experiencing and the sustainable developing process taking place at its largest city, in accordance with the goals of Expo and BIE (Bureau International des Expositions) of building a better world.

In the last few years, Sao Paulo and Brazil have presented increasing rates of human development and of improvement of life quality, always based on innovative public policies, sustainability and the reduction of social inequalities. Organizing an event with the dimension and features of Expo is a great opportunity for Brazilians to share with other communities of the world, their concepts and ideas about humanity.

The Brazilian diversity was chosen by Sao Paulo as a basic concept for its first official presentation, last November 23rd, during the 150th General Assembly of the BIE, and when all 5 candidate cities for World Expo 2020 showcased, the very primary stage of their bids,. Representing the Federal Government of Brazil, Vice President Michel Temer reinforced the government’s commitment to the Project, whilst Mayor Gilberto Kassab explained the reasons for choosing “Power of Diversity, Harmony for Growth” as its theme and its appeal to the international community, the academy, the private sector, as well as to all individuals.

Diversity is one of the most seeming aspects of the city of São Paulo and Brazil. Not only does it refer to ethnic, religious and cultural pluralism, but also to the wealth of natural resources, agricultural, industrial and technological production, in a country of 8.5 million square kilometers, a population of 190 million and 150 years of peace.

The Project for the Expo Park, which will be in the Pirituba area - located in northwestern Sao Paulo - will include several infrastructure improvement projects in the region, for instance better public transportation accessibility – new subways lines, buses and roads - expansion of hotels and restaurants network, new public facilities such as hospitals and public schools, and finally, the Pirituba Convention and Exhibition Center – designed to be the largest in Latin America. A World Expo, for its extent and importance, has the capacity to promote social, economic and cultural transformation that will support the overcoming of challenges inherent to any metropolis of this magnitude. Whether it is infrastructure, immaterial legacy, or the possibility to meet and share successful experiences, a World Expo in Sao Paulo will definitely be a milestone to the story of both city and country.

Connections have always mattered in the United Arab Emirates and particularly in Dubai, where connectivity has been at the heart of the city’s evolution from the small fishing village it was earlier this century, to the bustling metropolis it is today.

The rapid development of the UAE – a young country that has just celebrated its 40th anniversary – shows what is possible here. With over two hundred nationalities now living in Dubai and over one third of the world’s population living within a four hour flight, Dubai can unquestionably claim to be strategically placed at the cross roads of the world, connecting east and west and increasingly the south. In 2011, over 50 million passengers will pass through Dubai International Airport and by 2015, it is predicted Dubai International Airport will be the busiest in the world. Dubai is a direct flight away from the world’s capitals and major cities. All these facts increase Dubai’s value proposition as a World Expo host exponentially.

Being a city that lives and breathes connections and connectivity every day, it is fitting that Dubai has chosen “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future” as its theme for the 2020 World Expo. The theme, based on the premise that meaningful change takes place when people and their minds come together, underscores the importance of knowledge transfer and education. Not only does the theme embody the essence of Dubai as a futuristic city but, more significantly, it reflects the power of the World Expo as the greatest vehicle for bringing together countries and people for the betterment of humankind. Under its theme, Dubai offers an Expo that is a global hub for ideas, a springboard for shaping the future and a place where history will be made.

It is its passion for bringing people together that drives Dubai’s ambition to host the World Expo 2020, an opportunity to help create the future for generations to come.

Today, the UAE is a thriving, dynamic and cosmopolitan nation and Dubai is a real global city ready to host a truly universal Expo.

http://expo2020dubai.ae/

During the last BIE General Assembly held on November 22nd and 23rd, 2011, the two candidates for an International Expo in 2017 and the five candidates for a World Expo in 2020, presented their projects during the meeting and on information stands.
On October 7th, 1932, the French government asked the BIE to reserve the year 1937 for France to organise an exhibition on arts and technology in modern life. In January 1934, because of some financial problems, the government gave up this project. However, due to a lot of reactions occurred after this retreat, an agreement between the State and the City of Paris was signed in May 1934 so that this event could take place. In summer, the future exhibition adopted its final title as International Exhibition of Arts and Technology in Modern Life.

The French government named Edmond Labbé as Commissioner General. It was him that had gathered different proposals in a coherent project where it would be demonstrated in an indisputable way that the Beautiful and the Useful must be connected indissolubly. In the context of an economic crisis and international political tensions, the Exhibition would also have to inject an impulse of peace. After some important strikes in spring, 1937, the opening of the exhibition initially planned on the 1st of May was postponed to May 25th, 1937.

That day, the pavilion of the USSR and the pavilion of the Nazi Germany were both finished and faced each other. They received a golden medal. Some works would not be ephemeral, such as the former Palace of Trocadero (from the Exhibition of 1878), which would be partially demolished, changed and transformed to become the Palais de Chaillot. The Palais de Tokyo, which would be the new Museum of Modern Art of the City of Paris, is built along the Seine.

The Eiffel Tower, prestigious vestige of the Exhibition of 1889 would be modernized; the first floor lost its very recognizable arches to adopt the aspect that we actually know.

Palais de l’Air, Official Album, Color Photographs, “La Photograph” - Coll. Laurent Antoine

The BIE Project - Expo 3d

The second part of this project of reconstructions in computer generated 3d images implements an emblematic realization of the history of the Exhibitions since the creation of the BIE, 80 years ago. Its origin is in the theme of the Exhibition. It is the Air Palace – Palais de l’Air -, from the exhibition of 1937, which shows the successful marriage between art and technology … aeronautical as well as architectural.

Its only aesthetics is worth seeing; it is a static vessel in clean lines. The immense glass roof, like a cockpit, is completely made with rhodoïd.

Planes designed by edge-cutting technologies and records were hung in the inside, where we can see the cosmos, with kinds of multicoloured toruses, rings of Saturn, or some improbable tracks left by acrobatic figures; it is possible to walk inside in order to be closer to these flying planes!

And to complete this description, a unique site matching the Grand Palais of 1900 on the other bank of the Bridge Alexandre III, nicely adorned and adapted for this event, which brings the passage of the successful electric train of the Exhibition.

This second film of 2 minutes (in a total of 9 films from 1935 to 2010), completely in 3d, restores this pavilion and its environment of the Grand Palais and the Bridge Alexandre III.

We invite you to discover it through the "video library" of the BIE web site :

visit www.bie-paris.org
for more news & information about the Expos

(Bureau International des Expositions
34 avenue d’Iéna – 75016 Paris – France - Tél : +33 (0)1 45 00 38 63 / Fax : +33 (0)1 45 00 96 15 / E-mail : bie@bie-paris.org)