The BIE is officially welcoming the candidates for the 3rd and 4th Expos in the 21st century. Expos, Aichi 2005 and the upcoming Zaragoza 2008 et Shanghai 2010, are part of the ongoing efforts to find a better balance between people and the environment. Given the cultural, economic and geographic diversity of our world, there is no ready-made solution and no panacea. Each city, each country and each continent must find different solutions. This is why the new candidates for 2012 and 2015 are the life and energy of Expos. Expo movement is 155 years old: it is a factor of peace, development and prosperity. Let’s work together to continue to support the Expo movement and to take the Expo to all continents for the betterment of the world and the well-being of humanity.

Long live Expos!

Wu Jianmin
President of the BIE
Belgium’s Commissioner Office for Zaragoza 2008 and Shanghai 2010

The Belgian Government has just accepted the invitations to participate in both Zaragoza 2008 and Shanghai 2010 Expos. With this decision, the Belgian Government has proved that it is convinced of the importance of World Expos for raising the awareness of the general public on the main current and future challenges.

The rapid reaction of the Belgian Government to participate and establish the Commissioner’s Office for the two Expos also shows its willingness to create pavilions of great impact addressing the thematic questions and to showcase, in an innovative way, the communities and regions of the country.

In fact, experience has shown us that visitors want more than to just visit pavilions where they are amazed only at an audiovisual level. The key is to convey a clear message in a startling and aesthetic way which touches the imagination. Visitors also want to discover the culture of the country, to taste the local products, etc. The preparation of such an integrated pavilion requires time.

In creating the Commissioner’s Office for Zaragoza and Shanghai, the Belgian Government wants to establish the bases for coordination and for the continuity of the Belgian preparation for participation at Expos.

Alfons Boesmans
Belgian government Commissioner General

True to your nature

Three keywords appropriately capture what Expos are about: experience, expression and experimentation, the three facets of innovation.

Expos have the duty to deliver wonder: they must educate about innovation and through innovation, and make visitors experience the site and the content in extraordinary new ways. Revolutionary and surprising innovations are the gifts of each Expo: from the pleasure of ice-cream cones, to the transformational power of television, from the usefulness of the refrigerator to the next generation of transportation vehicles.

Expos have the duty of content: their message must speak to a diverse global audience. Finding innovative ways of expressing their theme means opening the dialogue to the greatest number of actors of civil society, the only way towards a lasting and influential cultural legacy.

Expos have the duty to experiment: there is no bigger and more diverse platform for experimentation. Expos are ideal laboratories for architectural, technological, artistic, social and cultural innovations.

I have tried to imagine an Expo without innovation. It attracted few visitors, participants did not come, diversity was not there, visitors were not moved... well, it was not an Expo. This is why our second issue of Progression is dedicated to innovation. A reminder for all of us of the very nature of Expos and of our mission.

Vicente González Loscertales
Secretary General of the BIE

Royal Flora Ratchaphruek 2006: Innovation beyond beauty

Expected to be one of the most beautiful horticultural expos in the world, “Royal Flora Ratchaphruek 2006,” International Horticultural Exposition for His Majesty the King (November 1, 2006 – January 31, 2007, in Chiang Mai, Thailand) will offer more than beauty. To be converted into an open learning center and a park for the Chiang Mai province after the 92 days of the event, the Expo ground will be enriched with innovative garden designs and horticultural technologies.

32 countries from five continents have confirmed to build national gardens in the Expo. Not only will each country show off their art of garden design and exotic plants, their garden will also feature the country’s distinctive architecture, artworks, and cultural performances. Japan will build a miniature landscape of the country complete with a 3-meter tall Fuji mountain and will display a species of lotus (Oga-hasu) which Japanese scientists revived from its seeds that had been sleeping for 2,000 years. The Netherlands will build a 10-meter tall windmill and a glass house showcasing the country’s latest technologies in horticulture.

In the Thai Tropical Garden zone, the Expo will feature high-level agricultural technologies such as tissue culture. Cold-plants and desert-plants as well as rare and valuable tropical plants will also be featured.

Concurrently organized with the Expo will be international conferences and seminars.

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www.royalfloraexpo.com www.cnxtourism.com

AVE in Action

For the 50th Anniversary of Expo Bruxelles 58, the city of Brussels will organize, early 2007, in the newly renovated Atomium, a symposium on Expos in Brussels, their urban, cultural, historical, symbolic and political impact.
Zaragoza 2008:
Environmental Innovations at Expo

The most important global innovation before, during and after the Expo, is the application of the eco efficiency principle in the consumption of energy and natural resources.

Expo Zaragoza 2008 offers two fundamental innovations which will together supply almost all the energy of the Expo and reduce the CO2 emissions by about 90%.

The first will be the creation of a unique central heating and air-conditioning system for all the Expo buildings which use natural gas and solar panels. This system will allow for the reduction of CO2 emissions by 60%. The second consists of an energy system based on photovoltaic solar power, latest generation wind turbines, and hydrogen fuel cells.

No polluting transportation systems will be used on the site. The journey to the Expo will use hydrogen-powered vehicles and other ecological means (bicycle and walking). These measures are not only innovative in their means of producing energy, but more so, in their means of environmentally friendly consumption.

Other innovations: the location of the site. The site will be integrated with the city by infrastructures currently being constructed (ring roads, suburban railway, tramway, cycle paths, pedestrian paths…) which will correspond to the needs of the city. This urban renewal operation, bringing Zaragoza closer once again with its rivers, will give life to the banks of the Ebro and improve the quality of life of the surrounding areas for recreation, sports and river navigation thanks to a retractable bridge.

This will be an Expo that, with its theme Water and Sustainable Development, its location and construction criteria, will be at the forefront of environmental innovations.

Jerónimo Blasco
Director General of Operations and Contents
www.expozaragoza2008.es

Science and Technology at the Core of Shanghai 2010

Science, technology and innovation, the eternal topic and concept of World Expos, also constitute an important part of the theme of World Expo 2010 Shanghai China, Better City, Better Life. From the very beginning, a special project on the adoption of science and technology in Shanghai World Expo has been set up. The objective is to fully use the wisdom and resources from civil society and to make World Expo 2010 a great event promoting new scientific concepts, the innovative spirit and the latest scientific and technological accomplishments.

Cities have always been the places where human beings combine science, technology and innovation, which are indispensable factors for making city life better and better. For the theme development of our Expo, above and beyond content and form, scientific innovation is our basic means for displaying such wonderful theme.

We will fully apply the latest scientific and technological accomplishments during the whole process of site planning and construction, exhibits displaying and events preparation, expo operation and management as well as after-use of the site.

Scientific and technological applications will also cover various fields such as energy use, architecture design, environment protection, information industry, technology displaying and security measures. To this end, many of the latest scientific and technological innovations will be specifically chosen and applied to meet not only the real needs of the Expo site, but also those of the city as the host.

Yang Xiong
Vice Mayor of Shanghaï
www.expo2010china.com

ALGERIA – EXPO 2010 SHANGHAI : Development of the Participation Project

Expo 2010 Shanghai has already been ranked by experts among the greatest universal expositions of our times. Two major ideas consistent with the theme of Expo 2010 Better City, Better Life will serve to define the thematic concept of the Pavilion Algeria.

The first is related to the great civilisation heritage of Algerian cities such as Alger, Constantine, Tlemcen, Ghardaia, and other big cities, which have known the glory and prestige associated with meeting places for culture and science. The idea of promoting the secular heritage of Algerian cities, where people enjoyed living, gives us the opportunity to recall the continental dimension of our country, in which diverse ancestral cultures have blossomed and created the power and richness of today.

The second idea will emphasise the great efforts made by the Algerian State today for the sustainable economic and social development of the country. For Algeria, 2010 will be a decisive year, economically and socially. The effects of the ambitious development programme implemented in 2004 will show. The year 2010 will set in motion a positive historical turning point that will bring modernity and an improvement in the living standards of citizens.

At the current stage of preparation, a cross-industry committee and a committee of scientific and cultural experts are ready to intervene for the full development of the projects constituting the pavilion Algeria. In officially confirming, among the first countries, its official participation to the International Expositions of Zaragoza 2008 and Shanghai 2010, Algeria renews its support to the current dynamic of Expos that unites countries in the spirit of solidarity for the resolution of world problems in the development of humanity.

Mohamed Bensalem
Former Minister, in charge of Universal Expositions
Expos have been the epitome of modern future-looking cities and incubators of various architectural concepts. They have enabled us to visualise new symbolic expressions, technological potential, methods of construction of an artificial environment and lifestyles.

Amazingly, the Crystal Palace is still the symbol of the first exhibition in London 1851. It contains the seed of developments in modern space; it represents a novel architectural and construction concept and an innovation in the power of imagination of people.

Some of Expos’ innovative constructions are still with us (Eiffel Tower, 1889, the Penishere, 1937, Fuller’s Dome, 1967, membrane architecture, 1970), others have remained influential, although they were never realized (the traffic scheme of Eugene Henard, the Hugh Ferris rendering, etc.). In many cases, innovation starts from technology and then spreads to thought and social values. Beneath innovation in technology lies the desire to venture into the future.

During the 2nd half of 19th century, a desire to overlook the world ruled the structural and industrial engineering and the social use of electricity. In the 1st half of 20th century, innovations happen in a domain of expression pregnant with styles, against the background of nationalism and a passion for constructing the future.

After the Great World Wars, architecture in Expos seemed less experimental. Instead, the rise of the media society and the pervasiveness of the information revolution accompanied technological innovations in communication. Architectural experimentation and the Expo site started to resemble a theme park as a show-case of modern cities.

This century’s Expos will embody a great change in values. For the first time, society finds itself face-to-face with the gigantic task of addressing the problems and the challenges of the global environment. Innovation in environmental ideas and technology and in materials still exists in this cultural diversity, and it inevitably influences the creation of the Expo architecture. Expos have started fulfilling the historical task of acting as global mechanisms for the reconstruction of the global environment.

First regional meeting for participants in Zaragoza

Expo Zaragoza 2008 hosted a European Union Working Session on May 10-11 for the representatives of 23 European countries. Participants interacted with the organizers and were able to gauge the progress made. The visit to the site showed that works were underway and gave participants the opportunity to identify the location of the international participants’ pavilions.

This meeting will be followed by the meetings of the Spanish Regions on June 15, of the African countries on July 5 and by an International Planning Meeting on November 8-9.

ON EXPOS: Innovation

Important Dates

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<td>Zaragoza 2008, Participants’ Meeting for African Countries</td>
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<td>1st Anniversary of Aichi, Closing Ceremony</td>
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Nature’s Wisdom Award Book

For the first time in almost fifty years, the Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition, with the encouragement and approval of the BIE, decided to once again introduce the tradition of awards in Expos. Following two extremely successful jury sessions, the Awards were distributed on the occasion of the BIE Day Dinner on the 24th September 2005.

To commemorate this event, and to contribute to the legacy of Aichi Expo 2005, a book is being prepared which will showcase all of the pavilions which received awards as well as the international jury itself. The book will be published and distributed at the next BIE General Assembly in June 2006.

Expos and the transformation of Cities – Geneva Forum

How can large events transform a city and therefore the quality of life of its inhabitants? This was the theme of the round table chaired by Mr. Gonzalez Loscertales on May 19th, which brought together representatives from Lisbon 98, Lille 2004, Aichi 2005, Zaragoza and Shanghai. These are cities which, as the result of a large event, have learnt how to transform (or are in the process of doing so) the quality of life of their inhabitants by improving their infrastructures and opening themselves to the outside world.

“The real success of a large event” confirmed Mr. González Loscertales, “is the after event and the physical and innovative impacts which have come to reinforce the positive elements of the city.”

This forum and its exchange of experiences allowed the BIE to show that Expos know how to adapt by responding to the needs of humankind and to contribute to creating a better world. www.bie-paris.org

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