Long Live Expos!

This year the BIE celebrates the 75th anniversary of its commitment and involvement in world exhibitions. Our organization is much stronger and more dynamic than ever: 10 new nations joined the BIE in the last two years and an increasing number of countries are showing an interest in hosting the 2012 and 2015 Expos.

The BIE belongs to its member states, which share and support the ideal and values of Expos. Expos provide the venue for the participating nations to gather in a host city around a theme and jointly pursue their values of democracy, multilateralism and solidarity both amongst citizens of the world and citizens of a planet that we need to love and respect.

As we celebrate our organization’s birthday and the success of Aichi Expo, and as we look forward to new expos, let’s continue to work together for the betterment of humanity.

In the hope that by explaining our new projects and airing the voices of expos, this newsletter will communicate to you our excitement for the years to come.

Long live Expos!

Ambassador Wu Jianmin
President of the BIE

Keeping Alive and Building on the Basic Philosophy of EXPO 2005 Aichi

The first anniversary of EXPO 2005 Aichi has been the occasion for the organisers to pursue their efforts towards a concrete legacy of EXPO 2005. Under the theme of “Nature’s Wisdom,” EXPO 2005 Aichi aimed at contributing to the resolution of global issues and establishing a civilization more in tune with the mechanisms of nature. This expo has strongly influenced the thinking and behaviour of many visitors, especially those of the younger generation that will bear the future of the Earth and humankind.

To truly realize the aims of EXPO 2005 Aichi and assure that the Expo’s significance and its impact on people will not fade away, it is essential to keep alive and continue building on the Expo’s philosophy and achievements. This involves three major factors: keeping memories of the Expo alive, by creating a legacy of records and achievements; repeatedly conveying the Expo’s message by sharing experiences and lessons that will serve as a bridge to future international exhibitions; applying the Expo’s legacy in concrete form by pursuing educational activities for children and keeping alive civil participation.

The Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition is currently working to put in place an action plan for the Expo legacy that will be made public by the end of April.

Toshio Nakamura
Secretary-General of Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition

www.expo2005.or.jp
Progression....

...means moving forward. Each new Expo is the echo of the previous one, with new ideas, approaches and opportunities for dialogue.

...entails improvement. For 75 years the BIE has worked to enhance the experience of visitors and its support to organisers and participants.

Expos mean progression. Expos are catalysts for development and growth, blending culture and infrastructure, education and technology, environmental conscience and best practices.

Our logo symbolises progression, as explained by its creator:
It evokes the future evolution of humanity, technical development, moral and material progress, the ascension towards a better world. The circle symbolises peace, fraternity and cultural exchanges between people. The horizontal lines represent the steps towards a future of limitless progress. The colour blue suggests the nobility of the pursued aims; it is the colour of the vast oceans and of the sky, it evokes the universe, the cosmos. The lines are of a pure white, inviolable, evoking justice.

(Masanori Matsushima)

Connecting the BIE Community

This is a special year for the BIE.
Let me give you some meaningful facts that highlight the vivacity of our organization.

This year the BIE celebrates 75 years of activity, with over 500 million visitors to Expos.
The BIE represents 98 nations, whose delegates relentlessly continue to enrich our mission through their efforts: as organisers and participants, as active committee members, as dedicated and enthusiastic advisors in many important projects.

Our team continues to grow and to enhance the BIE’s unique experience in the organisation and support of Expos.

This is also a special year for Expos.
The countdown for Zaragoza 2008 is well under way and we look forward to a dynamic event on one of the most pressing subjects for the future of humanity. Shanghai 2010 continues its preparations of the largest expo site ever. Chiang Mai will host the 19th horticultural Expo in a magical setting.

In the next few months, the BIE will begin receiving bids for 2012 and 2015. For the first time in its history, the BIE will simultaneously manage the bids for a registered and a recognized exhibition.

Recently, the BIE has launched new projects that will contribute to raise the profile of Expos and which will be in these pages throughout the year.

Given the vitality of our organisation, our Secretariat has decided to create a newsletter for our delegates and the broader BIE community. We hope that it will become an informal platform for exchange, where all of you will play an active part, not just as readers, but as valuable contributors.

AVE: stronger and more active

The last General Assembly of the AVE – Association of Cities and Regions hosting an International Exhibition – was held in Nagoya, in September 2005. 34 representatives of cities and regions, 10 of which were new members, attended the symposium « World Expositions, Regional Development and Community Improvement » that followed the assembly.

The AVE cities wish to share their experience and encourage exchanges between themselves and civil society regarding the preparation and management of exhibitions, as well the organisation and management of the legacy to the city, its region and the host country.

The Governor of Aichi Prefecture has succeeded the Mayor of Hanover as president of the Association. The vice president is the mayor of Seville.

Belgium at Aichi 2005, a success

On the 22nd of March, the office of the Commissioner General, in Brussels, hosted the symposium Belgium at the World Exhibitions, with the objective of evaluating Belgian participation in Aichi.

The Commissioners General for Aichi, M. Boesmans and M. Gillet, praised the success of the Belgian pavilion, and encouraged further analysis on the economics of participation. The representative of Marc Verwilghen, Minister of Economy and Trade, said that a new wind is blowing in the world of Expos and that Belgium will endeavour to make its pavilion a permanent economic mission.

The Secretary General of the BIE was represented by his Counselor Ms. Busa, who discussed the role of Expos in the 21st Century.

Vicente González Loscertales
Secretary General of the BIE
Zaragoza 2008: According to Plan

In accordance with the plans for Zaragoza 2008 presented during registration, the Spanish government has begun sending invitations to the international community. So far, there has been a positive response among countries, and real participation exceeds expectations. As of March 2006, 10 countries have agreed to participate, and initial working meetings have been held with 70 countries. In addition, regional meetings are taking place worldwide in order to coordinate plans with the different countries. All these activities will culminate in the First International Meeting of Participants planned for November 2006.

As a result of the favourable reception of Zaragoza 2008, various international forums have been requesting the presence of the organisers to learn about the plans and offer cooperation. Expo 2008 significantly contributed to the fourth edition of the World Water Forum held in Mexico between the 16th and 22nd March 2006, where it presented its project to the General Assembly, whose members warmly welcomed it.

Construction works are being run in compliance with the established schedule, and the exhibition site has become a real hive of activity. All the main buildings are now under construction, and the surrounding infrastructure is being developed smoothly. Success seems to be guaranteed.

Roque Gistau
President Expo Zaragoza 2008 State Corporation

www.expozaragoza2008.es

A New Stage for Shanghai Expo 2010

Since the Registration of Expo 2010 Shanghai China by the BIE on December 1st 2005, Shanghai Expo has entered a new stage of preparation.

In this new stage, China will do its utmost to meet the challenge of attracting 200 nations and international organizations to the Expo. By March this year, Shanghai Expo sent official invitations to all countries in the world, to international organizations, NGOs, NPOs and corporations.

The feedback received so far is quite encouraging. A good number of countries have shown great interest in Shanghai Expo. Delegations from those countries have begun coming to Shanghai to learn about our preparatory work. We warmly welcome invitees to Shanghai for on-site inspection and in-depth consultation. Later this year, the first participants meeting will take place in Shanghai. Shanghai is preparing to send delegations overseas for discussion to enhance mutual communication.

The Participation Guidelines are under compilation. Before the end of the year, Shanghai will also establish a sound mechanism for news release and promotion. The 4th Forum Expo 2010 Shanghai China, co-sponsored by Shanghai and the BIE, will be held this autumn to further expand the theme. We are fully confident that with the global attention and support the Shanghai Expo will be a success.

Ambassador Hua Junduo
Commissioner General World Expo 2010 Shanghai China

www.expo2010china.com

Gardens of rare beauties

From November 1st, 2006 to January 31st, 2007, in honour of the 60th anniversary celebrations of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s Accession to the Throne and 80th Birthday Anniversary, Thailand will be the first country in Southeast Asia to host the international horticultural exposition Royal Flora Ratchaphruek. An important goal of horticultural exhibitions is to convince Governments to invest in greener cities.

As of February 28th, 27 countries have registered their participation. The space for international gardens will be transferred to participating countries beginning May 2006. The construction plan is 4% ahead schedule: 45% of infrastructure and landscape works and over 80% of the preparations of plants are completed.

To enable the citizens of Thailand to partake in the organization of Royal Flora Ratchaphruek, 17 working groups have been created in order to accelerate, follow up, monitor and coordinate the activities related to the event.

OFFICIAL PARTICIPANTS
Bangladesh China Malaysia Nigeria Trinidad-and-
Tobago Belgium Gabon Japan Pakistan Turkey
Bhutan India Qatar Vietnam Brazil Indonesia
Mauritania South-Korea Bulgaria Iran Nepal Spain
Cambodia Laos The-Netherlands Sudan

FACTS AT A GLANCE
Location: Royal Agricultural Centre, Chiang Mai
Site area: 80 hectares
Expected visitors: 2 million
Average daily visits expected: 20,000

www.royalfloraexpo.com
Geneva Forum: Cities and Quality of Life

On May 18th-20th the city of Geneva will host the forum Cities and Quality of Life: global challenges, local solutions, with the BIE as an organising partner.

President Wu Jianmin will join the Mayor of Geneva in the opening remarks. The Secretary General, Mr. Vicente González Loscertales will chair a panel on “Urban regeneration fuelled by major events”.

For information:
www.qualitedevie.org

From London to Shanghai: a travelling Expo on Expos

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) has historically collected pieces from most of the International Exhibitions held until the early 1900s, and owns an important permanent collection from the London 1851 Great Exhibition.

In collaboration with the BIE and Shanghai Expo Bureau, the V&A is organising a travelling exhibition on the history of Expos that will tour some of the cities in the world that have hosted an exhibition.

Its final destination will be ‘The World Expo Museum’ on the site of Shanghai 2010.

CONTEMPORARY ART FOR THE 75 YEARS OF THE BIE

Beginning in June of this year, the BIE will temporarily host a series of contemporary paintings loaned by the ONA Foundation.

The ONA Foundation embodies the humanitarian mission of the ONA Group in many cultural and social areas and aims at encouraging access to culture as an instrument for a global dialogue.

Together, the BIE and the ONA Foundation will inaugurate the exhibition on the 28th and 29th of June at the BIE’s headquarters in Paris. On the 29th, the BIE will organise an evening reception uniquely dedicated to its delegates.

Robert W. Rydell
Montana State University

ON EXPOS : Expositions and Utopia

As important as it is to think of expos in terms of trade, profit, showmanship, entertainment, and cultural diplomacy, it is equally important to remember that expos fall into a long line of plans for ideal cities that date back to Renaissance Europe.

All of the great expos, from London’s 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition forward, have looked to the future and imagined ways to build environments that would, at least in theory, enable people to live better lives. Historically, all of the world’s great expos have been laboratories for architectural experimentation, for introducing new communication and transportation technologies, and for organizing human knowledge into systems that allow for new insights into the operations of the natural world.

Somewhere near the core of the expo movement lies a powerful utopian thrust—one that has seized the imaginations of expo builders from the Crystal Palace (which William Thackeray described as “a palace for a fairy prince”) to the 1939 New York World’s Fair (with its “world of tomorrow” message) to the upcoming 2010 Shanghai Expo (with its “Better Cities/Better Lives” theme).

The capacity of expos to serve as world pictures, as blueprints for the future, is well worth thinking about. Since their inception in the mid-nineteenth century, expos have at once pictured and mapped the future. They have given the modern world its form and substance. For more than a century, they have given visible meaning to progress defined as material and industrial growth. “Science Finds, Industry Applies, Man Conforms” was the motto of the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress Exposition.

Can expos of the future come up with a better definition of progress, one that will improve human condition? Or will expos contribute to making the human species one of the shorter-lived species that has ever walked the planet? Will the utopias projected by future expos lead us literally to “no place” (the original meaning of the word “utopia”) or will they help us create a better place where human beings take and are held accountable for their actions?

Answers to these questions remain to be seen.

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 24-26: First meeting of the College of Commissioners General Royal Flora Ratchaputek
28: Administration and Budget Committee
MAY 4: Information and Communication Committee
15: Executive Committee
18-20: Geneva Forum “Cities and Quality of Life”
30: Rules Committee
JUNE 29: Vernissage at the BIE, the ONA Collection
30: 139th BIE General Assembly

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