



**EXPO
2027**
YOKOHAMA JAPAN



**Bureau
International
des Expositions**

Special Regulation No.1

**Concerning the Definition of the Theme of the Expo and
the Means of its Implementation**

by the Organiser and the Participants

Approved during the 172nd session of the BIE General Assembly of 20th – 21st June 2023

Article 1 - Purpose

In accordance with Articles 1 and 34 of the General Regulations of International Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama, Japan (hereinafter referred to as “the Expo”), and the resolutions concerning the importance of the theme of International Expositions adopted by the 115th General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (hereinafter referred to as “the BIE”) on June 8th, 1994 and by the 118th General Assembly on December 13th, 1995, the purpose of this Special Regulation is to define the theme of the Expo and to set forth the measures for the development of the theme to be taken by the Japan Association for the International Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama (hereinafter referred to as “the Organiser”), by foreign governments and international organisations who are officially invited to the Expo by the Government of Japan (hereinafter referred to as “Official Participants”) and by Exhibitors who do not come under any national section (hereinafter referred to as “Non-Official Participants”).

Article 2 - General Principles

With regard to the theme of the Expo, the Organiser and all Official and Non-Official Participants (hereinafter referred to as “Participants”) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Special Regulations of the Expo. The Organiser shall assist Participants and also provide them with coordination mechanisms in order to ensure that all Participants follow the theme in their presentations.

Article 3 – Theme

The theme of the Expo will be “Scenery of the Future for Happiness”.

Humanity is part of the ecosystem and our lives have been invariably supported by nature, which is the foundation of the biosphere, and in particular by the bounty of plant life, which is at the heart of the biosphere. However, there is a limit to the capacity of the global environment that supports the continuation of ecosystems. As a result of the human socioeconomic pursuit of affluence, challenges that threaten the survival of humanity are becoming increasingly apparent, such as the loss of biodiversity, ongoing climate change, and the increasing severity and frequency of various natural disasters. As the world population is expected to continue to increase, especially in developing countries, there is a need to improve agricultural productivity to secure food.

Against this backdrop, there are high expectations for the implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), the concept of using nature's functions in a sustainable way to solve diverse societal challenges. Through initiatives based on these ideas, it is important to realise an environmentally symbiotic society in which ecosystems are properly

maintained and nature's bounty can be enjoyed for generations to come. These trends also correspond to global initiatives such as the SDGs and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Humanity is sustained by nature, including plant life, and lives within the tides and cycles of life. Plant life is not only the basis of life as a source of oxygen, etc., but also plays a vital role in water purification, climate regulation, and natural disaster prevention and mitigation. Plant life is also the cornerstone of various industries, including the industries centred on food, clothing and shelter, the tourism and leisure industry, and the health, medical and pharmaceutical industries. In addition, a wide range of lifestyle wisdom, skills and culture has been fostered by coexisting with plant life. This means that flowers, greenery, agriculture and food excite people across different ideologies, generations, and national borders and bring about a sense of happiness. They nurture respect for nature in people's minds and create value that is harmonious with nature.

In light of common challenges facing the international community, such as global climate change and biodiversity loss, the Expo aims to create a society in which people have a deeper sense of happiness through initiatives including:

- Re-evaluating the wisdom and culture that have been fostered around the world through relations with nature that utilize the diverse functions of the natural environment in daily life, and sharing ideas about how to use them to form a sustainable society.
- Promoting the cultures regarding horticulture worldwide.
- Exploring how to realize a life in which flowers, greenery, and agriculture are close at hand, and which nurtures a rich heart.
- Encouraging the participation of diverse entities.

In promoting these initiatives, it is also important to note the importance of thinking from a back casting perspective, where the present is viewed and acted upon from envisaging a desired future.

We believe that the International Horticultural Exposition can play a role in proposing solutions to international issues including global environmental challenges and developing future societies. It will present new perspectives, values, and industrial fields, and help reaffirm the importance of natural spaces. It will emphasize the principle of circularity inherent in flowers, greenery, and agriculture, the value of nurturing plants of all types, how they benefit people at various levels, and the cultural and mental benefits to humankind. It will also ask participants to voice their opinions on the effects of nature on contemporary society, making the expo a participatory demonstration.

The theme embraces the wish of Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan, to create scenery that

nurtures the hearts of its inhabitants. In such a society, pursuit of deeper feelings of happiness arises from coexistence with nature and bonds with other people. The result is a synergy, where each individual sows seeds of happiness in his/her own mind, fosters them through interactions with other people and the environment, and thus both individuals and the entire community bloom like a flower bed, full of vitality.

Article 4 - Development of the Theme

4.1. With respect to the development and implementation of the theme, four sub-themes will be used. 'Co-adaptation' and 'Co-existence' will be used as sub-themes with the perspective of providing a basis for building a new relationship between people and nature supported by ecosystem services and a future vision of the actors supporting this relationship. In addition, the third sub-theme 'Co-creation', through new value creation, will be used to demonstrate the sustainability of cities which are full of spiritual richness and happiness based on the two aforementioned sub-themes. Finally, the fourth sub-theme 'Co-operation' will be used to propose new ways for different actors to participate for the purpose of creating new values and solving societal issues.

1) Co-adaptation (Harmony with nature)

The sub-theme of co-adaptation will explore the development of sustainable, safe, and attractive urban areas through "Green infrastructure" which shall use diverse functions of the natural environment and complement grey infrastructure. It will emphasize using the wisdom of coexistence with nature, regeneration and recycling.

2) Co-existence (Co-existence through greenery and agriculture)

The sub-theme of co-existence will explore a Green Community in which people share with and support each other. By taking part in activities related to greenery and agriculture, people will realize that it is important for individuals to participate in the improvement of social and living infrastructures. It will emphasize learning from agrarian culture, which is appreciative of nature and makes use of it in daily life.

3) Co-creation (Creation of new industries)

The sub-theme of Co-creation will explore the creation and development of new value-creating industries ahead of their time, through the introduction of high-value-added floriculture and agriculture, new technologies and new varieties of flowers etc. It will also be welcomed to demonstrate how to expand

Statements through the Commissioner of the Exhibition.

- 6.2. As an integral part of the Application for Preliminary Approval detailed in Special Regulation No. 4 concerning construction or improvements, and fire protection, the Participants shall submit a document entitled "Exhibition Project" which shall include a detailed description of their presentation. The Exhibition Project document shall provide a detailed plan of the presentation following the general outline submitted in the Theme Statement. The Organiser shall verify whether the contents of the exhibitions are in accordance with the approved Theme Statement and whether the Exhibition Project is in line with Articles 3 and 4 of this Special Regulation.

In case the Exhibition Project document is not approved by the Organiser, the Organiser shall provide Participants with a detailed explanation of the reasons in writing and make suggestions to remedy the situation. The Organiser shall return its disapproval decision to the Participants within a reasonable period of time so that the Participants may have enough time to reconsider their project. The Organiser shall also continue to provide on-going assistance to the Participants through the advisory service as defined by Article 5. The Participants shall modify the content of the presentation according to the recommendations of the Organiser.

In the case of disagreement, both the Organiser and the Participants shall make every effort to reach a consensus. In the event of a disagreement between the Organiser and the Official Participants, they shall seek the assistance from the BIE, if necessary.

- 6.3. Notwithstanding Article 10 of the General Regulations, if a consensus on the matter of the theme, as described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, cannot be reached between the Organiser and the Official Participants, the matter shall be referred to the discretion of the Commissioner of the Exhibition for resolution after consultation with the BIE.
- 6.4. The Participants shall make available to the Organiser final information on the content of their presentation at least 120 days before the opening of the Expo. This information shall be used for the Official Catalogue in compliance with Article 29 of the General Regulations. The above information for the Official Exhibition Catalogue shall be submitted in electronic form.

Article 7 - Measures Taken by the Organiser

- 7.1. The Organiser is planning to provide outdoor exhibition spaces and exhibition spaces in indoor exhibition shared facilities. The exhibitions to be shown in these

exhibition spaces shall be structured around the Expo theme and sub-themes as described in Articles 3 and 4 of this Special Regulation. Details regarding the planning and organization of these exhibition spaces shall be distributed to Participants by the Organiser within a reasonable period of time.

7.2. The Organiser plans to host events such as symposiums related to the theme of the Expo. The Organiser shall keep Participants informed of all such events.

Participants are required to take up the theme of the Expo at similar events that are organised by Participants.

7.3. Participants should submit the final programmes of their events to the Organiser at least 90 days before the opening of the Expo.

