



**EXPO  
2027**  
YOKOHAMA JAPAN



**Bureau  
International  
des Expositions**

## **Special Regulation No.2**

**Concerning the Conditions for the Participation of States,  
International Organisations and Private Exhibitors**

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



## **CHAPTER I - General Provisions**

### **Article 1 - Purpose**

The purpose of this Special Regulation is to set forth the conditions for participation in the International Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama, Japan (hereinafter referred to as “the Expo”), in accordance with Parts III and IV of the General Regulations of the Expo.

### **Article 2 - Definition of Official Participant**

- 2.1. Official Participants are those foreign governments and international organisations that have accepted an official invitation from the Government of Japan to participate in the Expo.
- 2.2. International organisations are to be understood as intergovernmental organisations that pursue the aim of promoting international cooperation in scientific, economic, cultural, environmental, horticultural, agricultural, and other fields, or whose aims are consistent with the theme of the Expo.

### **Article 3 - Definition of Non-Official Participant**

Non-Official Participants are exhibitors who do not come under any national section and who deal directly with the Organiser in accordance with the provisions of Article 14.

### **Article 4 - Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

The Participants shall comply with the General Regulations, the Special Regulations of the Expo and the relevant laws and regulations of Japan.

### **Article 5 - Exhibits**

- 5.1. All exhibits shall conform to 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 and must be approved by the Organiser.
- 5.2. All items and exhibition materials to be exhibited shall conform to 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; Special Regulation No. 4 concerning construction or improvements, and fire protection; and Special Regulation No. 5 concerning the installation and operation of machines, apparatuses, and equipment of all types; and must be approved by the Organiser.
- 5.3. All imported exhibits shall be in line with the provisions of Special Regulation No. 7 concerning the regulations governing customs, plant quarantine and handling, and

any particular rates and charges.

In addition, under no circumstances shall be allowed onto the Expo site any material or object considered dangerous, harmful to humans, animals or the environment, or detrimental to public order, such as explosives, firearms and poisons.

## **CHAPTER II - Official Participants**

### **Article 6 - Participation Contract**

- 6.1. Official Participants who wish to take part in the Expo shall conclude a Participation Contract with the Organiser. The Participation Contract shall be signed by the Commissioner of Section and a representative of the Organiser and countersigned by the Commissioner of the Exhibition.
- 6.2. In cases where Official Participants wish to carry out commercial activities in their national sections, they shall comply with the provisions of Articles 19 and 20 of the General Regulations of the Expo, as well as Special Regulation No. 9, concerning the conditions under which Official Participants may operate restaurants or carry out sales. Details of such activities shall be set out in the Appendix to the Participation Contract.
- 6.3. The Participation Contract shall be supplemented by the plans and documents set forth in Special Regulation No. 4 concerning construction or improvements, and fire protection.

### **Article 7 - Provision of Exhibition Space**

The Organiser shall make available to Official Participants exhibition spaces of the following types:

- Plots (land type) that are to be designed and built by Official Participants, provided by the Organiser free of charge ("Type I" as defined in Article 13.1 of the General Regulations; hereinafter referred to as "Type I")
- Exhibition spaces in pavilions built by the Organiser and used by Official Participants for a fee ("Type II" as defined in Article 13.2 of the General Regulations; hereinafter referred to as "Type II").

### **Article 8 - Allocation of Exhibition Space**

- 8.1. Official Participants shall submit to the Organiser an application for the allocation of an exhibition space. This application shall include a Theme Statement as described in Article 6 of Special Regulation No.1 concerning the definition of the theme of the

Expo and the means of its implementation of the theme by the Organiser and the Participants.

- 8.2. The Organiser shall inform the Official Participant of the results of the application in writing within 90 days after its receipt. If the Organiser judges that the presentation proposed by the Official Participant is not in accordance with the theme of the Expo, or otherwise not acceptable, the detailed reasons for this non-acceptance will be communicated in writing to the Official Participant and the necessary modifications will be agreed upon with the Commissioner of Section.
- 8.3. The Organiser shall allocate exhibition spaces taking into account the application set forth in paragraph 1 of this Article and the date of acceptance of the official invitation to participate in the Expo. The exhibition space allocation will be confirmed upon signature of the Participation Contract. Consequently, the allocation shall be considered provisional until the Participation Contract is signed by both parties.
- 8.4. Before the signing of the Participation Contract, the Organiser has the right to change, without liability of any kind, the site plan and the allocation of exhibition spaces within the Expo in order to ensure the successful operation of the Expo and the harmony of the Expo site.

#### **Article 9 - Availability, Completion and Restoration Deadlines for Exhibition Space**

- 9.1. Type I plots must be handed over to participants by 19 March 2026, and the construction, garden landscaping, and exhibit installation on these plots must be completed by 9 March 2027.
- 9.2. Type II exhibition spaces in shared facilities must be handed over to participants by 19 October 2026, and exhibit installation on these plots must be completed by 9 March 2027.
- 9.3. Type I plots allocated to participants for construction must be vacated and returned in their original conditions by 10 December 2027 at the latest. Type II exhibition spaces in pavilions built by the Organiser must be vacated and returned in their original conditions by 10 October 2027.

#### **Article 10 - Provision of Services**

- 10.1. The Organiser shall throughout the Expo ensure the supply of the services which conform to the rates charged within the region where the Expo is being held. Official Participants shall be responsible for the equipment installation costs as well as the utilisation costs of the following services within their exhibition spaces:

- Electricity / Gas;
- Telecommunications;
- Water inlets and outlets;
- Garbage collection and disposal; and
- Exhibition space security.

The Organiser may provide other services, which it deems appropriate, to Official Participants after authorisation by the Commissioner of the Exhibition following BIE approval.

10.2. Official Participants shall comply with Special Regulation No. 4 concerning construction or improvements, and fire protection, Special Regulation No. 10 concerning the provision of general services, and the relevant laws and regulations of Japan, for the installation of the equipment and utilisation of the services in Paragraph 1 of this Article.

10.3. The Organiser shall provide Official Participants, for their reference, with a list of companies that carry out the services listed below:

- Exhibition space maintenance and cleaning;
- Installation of security devices;
- Installation of fire protection devices;
- Security service;
- Architecture, garden design, construction and supervision;
- Garden construction and material supply;
- Exhibit decoration;
- Exhibition guides;
- Legal services related to intellectual property rights, civil and commercial affairs;
- Logistics and express delivery services of goods and commodities; and
- Other services requested by Official Participants and deemed appropriate by the Organiser.

10.4. Further Information regarding natural conditions such as weather, soil, hydrology and geology will be detailed in the Participation Guide which will be made available by the Organiser.

#### **Article 11 - Services Offered without Charge**

The Organiser shall provide the following services without charge during the period of the Expo:

- First aid services;
- Cleaning and maintenance of public areas, unless these have already been

allocated to the Participant through the Participation Contract;

- Directional signage on the Expo site;
- Information service for visitors;
- Security services on the Expo site;
- Lost persons centre;
- Lost and found;
- Expo site lighting;
- Fire safety measures; and
- Toilets and tap water.

#### **Article 12 - Use of the Exhibition Symbols**

The Commissioners of Section may use the symbols of the Expo solely for non-commercial purposes directly related to the Expo after concluding the Participation Contract with the Organiser and receiving the permission of the Commissioner of the Exhibition. This right of use is not transferable.

#### **Article 13 - Assistance to Developing Countries**

13.1. Countries eligible for the assistance will be selected from the following categories:

1) Least Developed Countries (LDCs):

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are those that were recognised by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly as having particularly low indicators of development, following an examination by the UN Economic and Social Council based on standards approved by the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

2) Low-Income Countries (LICs) and Lower-Middle-Income Countries (LMICs):

Low-Income Countries (LICs) are those with a 2021 per-capita GNI of USD 1,085 or less, and Lower-Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) are those with a 2021 per-capita GNI of between USD 1,086 and USD 4,255. These definitions are in accordance with the World Bank categories used by OECD/DAC in the list of countries receiving ODA.

13.2. The assistance offered will be 'in-kind'. Specific information and requirements regarding the application will be specified in a separate Participation Guide.

### **CHAPTER III - Non-Official Participants**

#### **Article 14 - Application for Participation**

- 14.1. Non-Official Participants who wish to take part as exhibitors in the Expo shall submit an application to participate together with the required information directly to the Organiser. The Organiser shall inform the respective governments of the would-be participants' intention to participate in the Expo. Requests for participation shall only be considered upon approval by the Commissioner of Section concerned or otherwise by the respective government.
- 14.2. The application to participate referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall include a Theme Statement as described in Article 6 of 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.
- 14.3. The Organiser shall communicate the results of the application to Non-Official Participants in a reasonable period of time.

#### **Article 15 - Appointment of a Director**

- 15.1. Non-Official Participants shall appoint a Director to represent them in all matters related to their participation who is authorized to enter into contracts on their behalf.
- 15.2. The Director shall be responsible for the preparation and operation of the participation concerned and shall supervise all personnel under his/her authority to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations described in Article 4 of this Special Regulation.

#### **Article 16 - Participation Contract**

- 16.1. All Non-Official Participants shall enter into a Participation Contract with the Organiser. The Participation Contract for Non-Official Participants shall be signed by the Director of the Non-Official Participant and the Organiser.
- 16.2. The Participation Contract for Non-Official Participants shall specify the conditions of participation for Non-Official Participants, including provisions covering the supply of services.
- 16.3. The rights and benefits offered to Non-Official Participants shall not, under any circumstances, be more favourable than those offered to Official Participants.



**Article 17 - Allocation of Exhibition Spaces**

- 17.1. Exhibition spaces shall be allocated in such a way that there is a clear distinction between the area for Official Participants and the area for Non-Official Participants.
- 17.2. Non-Official Participants shall be provided with exhibition spaces determined by the Organiser. The amount of usage fees for these spaces shall be decided by agreement between the Non-Official Participant and the Organiser.

