



9 March 2016

## **2016 Tangshan International Horticultural Exposition opens next month**

29 April - 16 October 2016, Tangshan, China

The 2016 Tangshan International Horticultural Exposition opens on 29 April until 16 October 2016, in Tangshan, China. This is an A2/B1 exhibition approved by AIPH.

Coinciding with the 40th anniversary of Tangshan Earthquake, the expo will demonstrate the vital role of greening cities with a theme of 'City and Nature, Phoenix Nirvana'.

Other aspects include fashion gardening, environmental protection, low-carbon lifestyles and harmonious co-existence between nature and humanity.

Tim Briercliffe, AIPH Secretary General, comments: "Over seven million people live in the city of Tangshan and the surrounding area. With a history of mining and ceramics this important Chinese industrial city is also well known for the devastating earthquake that killed 242,000 citizens in 1976. The city was almost completely flattened so when you visit now it is remarkable to see such a strong and vibrant place."

"This city continues to rebuild and the 2016 Tangshan International Horticultural Exposition is an important part of this 'rebirth' with strong support from the city government. Over five million people are expected to visit the expo which intends to leave a lasting legacy and play a vital role in the regeneration of this important city."

Mr. Xie Guilin, Director of Tangshan 2016 Exposition Executive Office, Deputy Secretary General of Tangshan Municipal People's Government, says: "The approval of AIPH for the expo represents the high evaluation of the horticultural production level. It not only promotes the cooperation of economy and culture between cities, but also highly appreciates the achievements of Tangshan in environmental improvement and ecological restoration. In addition, it greatly promotes the development of the local horticultural industry."

The Tangshan Exposition will span 2,260 hectares, consisting of two parts – the core area and experiencing area.

The core area, at 540 hectares, will have eight exhibition areas: Domestic Pavilion, Overseas Pavilion, Horticulturists' Pavilion, Low-carbon Lifestyle Pavilion, Youth Exposition Pavilion, Ecological Science & Education Pavilion, Industrial Innovation Pavilion and

Specialised Botanic Pavilion. The international and domestic areas will feature 20 countries and regions including the United Kingdom, the United States, France as well as 28 domestic cities including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Chongqing.

The experience area, at 1,720 hectares, will have four functions including Wetland experience, Agricultural Sightseeing, Forest Recreation and Green land Exercise.

Alongside the expo, the first AIPH International Horticultural Exhibition Forum will be held in China, developed for any city or organisation that is considering organising an exhibition.

For more information on the expo visit [www.tangshanexpo2016.com](http://www.tangshanexpo2016.com)

For more information on the forum visit [www.aiph.org/aiph-international-horticultural-exhibition-forum](http://www.aiph.org/aiph-international-horticultural-exhibition-forum)

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### **Notes for Editors:**

International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)

Since 1948, AIPH has united horticultural producers in an international community that thrives to this day. Much has changed in that time. Technologies advanced, cities rose from the ground, and we have become more connected than ever. As a result, our essential bond with nature has been weakened. AIPH strives to reignite and uphold an appreciation of plants that we believe is a basic human instinct. We support the work of grower associations globally and together we champion a prosperous industry, growing plants that enhance lives, advance societies and sustain our planet, for this generation and the next. For further details visit [www.aiph.org](http://www.aiph.org)

With a mandate agreed by an international convention, AIPH has been approving and regulating International Horticultural Expos, with our partners BIE ([www.bie-paris.org](http://www.bie-paris.org)), since 1960. Enthusiasm for such expos has continued to grow with millions of people visiting expos hosted all over the world. Recent successes in recent years include the horticultural expos in Suncheon 2013 (South Korea) and Qingdao 2014 (China) which each attracted over 4 million visitors. AIPH has already approved five expos between now and 2022 in Europe and Asia. These include A1 category Expos in Antalya, Turkey (2016), Beijing, China (2019) and Almere, The Netherlands (2022), as well as A2/B1 category Expos in Tangshan, China (2016) and Taichung, Chinese Taipei (2018/19). Overall visitor numbers are likely to exceed 30 million people in total. Billions of dollars will be spent on developing these international spectacles that have the ability to stimulate the development of whole cities and transform the international reputation of host cities. Each expo lasts for 6 months and sites range from 50 to over 900 hectares in size. Each one is carefully regulated, steered and monitored by AIPH.