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GREEN CITY PROMOTED THROUGH AIPH/COA 'COMMUNITY GARDEN' AT TAICHUNG WORLD FLORA EXPO 2018

The International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) has commissioned the multi award-winning garden design and landscape architecture practice Lotus Design Studio to design and create a 'Community Garden' for the AIPH-approved 2018 Taichung World Flora Exposition. The AIPH/COA Community Garden is designed to demonstrate how green spaces can improve the environment, social life and health of urban communities.

The Taichung World Expo will take place from 3 November 2018 – 4 April 2019 and is due to host eight million visitors. The goal of the event is to create a sustainable environment for citizens. 'Rediscover GNP: Green, Nature and People' and 'The Sound of Blooming' are key themes of the Exposition, conveying ideas of sustainability and harmony between nature and human beings. Further details of this event are online at <https://2018floraexpo.tw/En/>

The design concept for the AIPH/COA Community Garden is based on a combination of functions: sustainability, ecology, landscape and air quality improvement. Ultimately, the garden aims to demonstrate how green spaces in cities improve the environment, social life and health of urban communities and focuses on what green spaces can do for these communities, most of whom live in apartments without access to their own gardens or outdoor spaces.

The garden will span 660m² and include seventeen ornamental trees, an orchard, vertical gardens, raised edible planting beds, an eco-friendly natural pond, a green roof, a rain garden, permeable pathways, solar panels, a planted table with an aquaponics system, insect hotels, outdoor gym equipment and native local plants.

Commenting on this ambitious design, AIPH Secretary General Tim Briercliffe said *"the many and varied aspects of this garden will combine to create a beautiful and functional installation that demonstrates how to transform urban areas for the benefit of their inhabitants and the environment"* adding *"it will reflect a new era of sustainability."*

The garden will support the goals of the AIPH Green City concept. AIPH is a leader in global thinking on the successful integration of nature into the built environment. The AIPH Green City initiative promotes the essential role of plants in creating vibrant urban areas in which people and businesses can thrive.

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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.

IGOTY Awards

Brought to you by AIPH in partnership with Founding Partner, FloraCulture International (FCI), the IGOTY awards have been championing outstanding achievement in the sector since 2010. They recognise best practice in horticultural production by the top ornamental production nurseries from around the globe, celebrating the expertise and energy they give to horticulture. In 2018 ornamental growers, from Canada, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Israel and the Netherlands reached the finals, with Ter Laak Orchids - The Netherlands, winning AIPH IGOTY 2018.

For more information including brochures, past winners and a video of the 2017 awards visit www.aiph.org/groweroftheyear