MINUTES - FINAL

Committee	:	**General Meeting**
Date	:	Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Time	:	17:00 – 17:30 hrs.
Place	:	Vancouver, Canada
Reference	:	2015_Milan_GeneralMeeting_Agenda
Chairman	:	Mr. Oosterom, AIPH
Secretary	:	Mr. Briercliffe, AIPH

Present:

Mr Bernard Oosterom	Chairman
Mr Tim Edwards	NFU/HTA, UK, Vice-Chairman and Chair of Novelty Protection Committee and Representative Region I
Mr Kuo Cheng Chung	TFDA Chinese Taipei and Chair of Marketing Committee
Mr Andras Treer	DSZTT, Hungary and Representative Region III
Mr Bill Stensson	COHA, Canada and Representative Region IV
Ms Karen Tambayong	ASBINDO, Indonesia, Chair Green City Committee and Representative Region VIII
Mr Bill Hardy	CNLA, Canada
Ms Haiyan Kong	CFA, China and Representative Region VII
Mr Gijs Kok	VBN/FloraHolland, The Netherlands and Representative Region II
Mr George Franke	VBN/NTR, The Netherlands
Mr Joon Young An	Korea
Mr Raoul Curtis-Machin	HTA, UK
Mr Victor Santacruz	CNLA, Canada
Mr Takuhiro Yamada	JLCA, Japan
Mr Hwang Jaw Lee	TFDA Chinese Taipei
Ms Peng Hongming	CFA, China
Mr Theo de Groot	MPS
Mr Joep Hendricks	HortiAlliance
Mr Christian Brunet	FIHOQ, Canada
Mr Craig Reglebrugge	AmericanHort, USA

In attendance:

Mr Tim Briercliffe	Secretary General
Ms Maria Wallin	AIPH Business & Events Manager

1. **Opening by the chairman, AIPH president Mr. Bernard Oosterom.**
   B Oosterom welcomed members to the General Meeting.

2. **Minutes**
   Minutes of the General meeting October 21, 2015 (Annex 9).
   B Oosterom informed members that the minutes of the General Meeting 21 October, 2015, Milan had already been approved and were provided for information.

3. **Annual report of the Secretary General,** (Annex 10). T Briercliffe introduced the report which was taken as read.

4. **International Grower of the Year Awards**
M Wallin gave a presentation to members about the International Grower of the Year Awards 2016 and the gala dinner that was held at IPM Essen in Germany on 28 January 2016. The presentation included a film of the awards evening which can be viewed at http://aiph.org/growerotheyear/. M Wallin encouraged all members to identify candidate businesses within their own countries for the 2017 event. The gala awards dinner is once again expected to take place during the IPM Essen show in January 2017.

5. **Novelty Protection Committee Report**
T Edwards referred members to Annex 11 which had been prepared by Ms Mia Buma to report on the work of the Committee. He explained that for this meeting it had been agreed that a formal meeting of the Novelty Protection Committee would not take place but that the next meeting in Antalya would include this Committee. T Edwards explained that as much of the work of the Committee was now done by the Sparring Partner Group then it is appropriate to report progress at this meeting and more discussion with the members can be saved to once per year during the Annual Congress.
T Edwards informed members that he had been working with Ms Mia Buma to prepare a document that summarises clearly the work of the Committee. This will be forwarded to members separately.

6. **Annual Congress 2016**
T Briercliffe informed members that the Annual Congress will take place in Antalya, Turkey. This meeting will be run in conjunction with Union Fleurs and will follow the following format:

Monday 26 September – AIPH Board meeting for Board members
Tuesday 27 September – AIPH Green City Conference
Wednesday 28 September – AIPH Expo Conference and Marketing Committee meeting
Thursday 29 September – Tour of Expo 2016 Antalya and surrounding area (with Union Fleurs)
Friday 30 September – Joint meeting with Union Fleurs and other AIPH Committee meetings
Saturday 1 October – Professional visits

The Green City Conference and Expo Conference will be held at the Conference Centre on the Expo site. Other meetings will take place at the Xanadu Resort Hotel in Belek.

Closed Session

7. **Finance**
T Briercliffe informed members that the Board had viewed the provisional P&L and Balance Sheet for 2015 and members would receive the final version during the next meeting. T Briercliffe told members that, as expected the current cash balance for AIPH is low at this point in time but that this will improve following receipt of the gate fee payments from Tangshan and Antalya. The payment from Tangshan is due in April.

8. **Exhibition Application from Gold Coast for B Category Expo in 2020**
Marketing – T Briercliffe repeated the decision to be made regarding the approval of the application from Gold Coast, Australia for 2020. Members approved the revised application

subject to the same terms as agreed in Milan, i.e. payment of the financial guarantee, a successful site inspection and evidence of financial security.

9. Elections

T Briercliffe informed members that the following positions will be open for election/re-election during the Annual Congress:

Chair Environment & Plant Health Committee – Mr. Gery Heungens
Representative Region 6 – Mr.Osman Bagdatlioglu
Representative Region 7 – Ms. Haiyan Kong
Current position holders are eligible for re-election if they have regional support.
Ibraflor, Brazil have been invited to nominate a candidate to represent Region 5, South America

10. Membership applications

Full membership application received from the Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association (Ireland) which is under the umbrella of the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA). The accounts and charter of the association are the same as that for the IFA. Members approved the application.

T Briercliffe informed members that the following Affiliate Membership applications were approved by the AIPH Board on 14 March: Wageningen University, Netherlands; GlobalGAP, Germany; Lehei GmbH, Germany

11. Other business.

a) Proposed change of Charter

T Edwards introduced to the Members a discussion which had taken place at the Board meeting. Within the AIPH Charter it states: '*The board of directors of the association appoints a secretary-general for a maximum yet renewable term of 3 (three) years and also determines his remuneration.'* T Edwards explained to the members that the AIPH Board recommends to members that this clause be changed to enable the Board to appoint the Secretary General and provide him with a permanent employment contract. He explained that in the past AIPH Secretary Generals were generally self-employed and or had other employers/customers than just AIPH. T Edwards explained that he belived it was not possible within UK law to continue the employement of an individual on a 'temporary' contract for a unlimited period . This change would enable AIPH to comply with UK (and possibly EU) law and provide more security for both the Secretary General and AIPH. The Secretary General would continue to be subject to regular performance review and the AIPH would still be able to end his employment if required but this would be done in accordance with UK employment law.

T Edwards explained that such a change to the Charter must be carried out in accordance with the Charter and therefore AIPH would convene an Extraordinary General Meeting by way of an electronic vote via email. Members will be provided with more information shortly. The urgency of this is because the current contract for T Briercliffe ends in June 2016 and the Board would like this to be resolved before a new contract is agreed.

H Kong requested evidence of this requirement within UK law as such conditions do not exist in Chinese law.

12. Closure.

B Oosterom thanked members for their support during the day, including their participation in the country reports and closed the meeting.