



Green City Report: February 2022 to August 2022

Green City Guidelines

Case studies: Five new case studies which highlight the essential role that the ornamental horticulture industry plays in successful delivery of Green City projects are in development and nearing final draft status.

The topics and projects are:

1. Contract production – Canadian Nursery (discussions underway)
2. On-site production/meanwhile use – Lyon Confluence
3. Approaches to tree conditioning and/or tree sourcing to better prepare for survival, drought tolerance and resilience to climate change. – Greater Lyon Authority
4. Specialist growers supporting a widening the plant palette for ornamental design. – Prof. James Hitchmough
5. Native and near-native plants on green roofs – Dr Bruce Dvorak, Texas A&M.

Three of these draft case studies were included in a presentation by Dr Audrey Timm at the International Horticultural Congress (IHC) 2022 to illustrate the position of the horticulture industry in successful urban greening projects.

Green City Awards

The first round of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 has made significant progress, with judging now complete and the gala ceremony for presentation of the awards scheduled for 14th October, 2022. For the 2 stage judging process, the technical panel consisted of 23 experts, and the jury was made-up of 12 influential people. On the technical panel we appointed a category lead for each of the six categories. Bill Hardy chaired the Jury. Both stages of judging were effective and were held according to schedule. We requested feedback from our partners, the technical panel and the jury, and this will be used in our planning of the 2024 edition.



From more than 300 cities contacted, AIPH received 54 entries, with some cities submitting multiple entries. The Awards ceremony will take place on 14th October 2022 during the IUCN Leaders Forum in the Special Self- Governing Province of Jeju, Republic of Korea. This has been made possible through a collaborative partnership with IUCN, which we have been working on for the past few months. We are in the process of finalising this exciting partnership.

An extended report is provided separately.

Green City Conferences

The AIPH Green City Conference was held in Dubai on 8th March 2022 as part of the AIPH Spring Meeting 2022. The theme was Greening Cities for Sustainable Development: Green cities deliver local action for global agendas. Speakers presented activities and programmes that cities and countries are making to achieve the UN SGDs and other global initiatives.

Speakers were:

- Mr. Maher Nasser, Commissioner-General of the United Nations at Expo 2020 Dubai
- Mr. Larry Ng, Commissioner General of the Singapore Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai
- Mr. Pablo Arturo Lopez Guijosa, Head of Communications at UBHub
- Mr. Tim Briercliffe, AIPH Secretary General
- Mr. Alan White, Chair of the Climate Change Adaptation Committee, CNLA
- Mr. Lütfü Savaş, Mayor of Hatay

A recording of the conference is available online <https://aiph.org/green-city/conferences/> .

Press release <https://aiph.org/latest-news/aiph-international-green-city-conference-presents-greening-cities-for-sustainable-development/> .



AIPH is grateful to headline sponsors Expo 2023 Doha Qatar, Expo 2021 Hatay and 2023 Suncheonman International Garden Expo; Gold sponsor PERA Event Solutions and Bronze sponsor Mosimann's.

Discussions are underway for a venue and theme for the AIPH Green City Conference 2023.

Planning is already underway for the 2024 AIPH Green City Conference in Doha, with funding from Expo Doha 2023, and will be held during the Expo which runs from October 2023 to March 2024.

A Green City conference is in planning for Doha, with funding from Expo Doha 2023, and will be held during the Expo which runs from October 2023 to March 2024. The proposed theme is: Greening Desert and Warming Cities - Rethinking city planning is key to accommodate the rise of populations in desert cities, estimated to be happening at a rate faster than in other cities. Desert cities are found on all continents, and they share concerns around water

availability, urban heat island effects, and energy use. This conference explores the strategies that cities in arid zones adopt to create liveable and efficient cities, putting the attenuating capacity of plants at the centre of city form and function. Leading the conference will be the local and national strategies of Qatar to green the desert to create a resilient urban oasis. Presentations will include ideas from other desert cities around the world, such as Sharm El Sheik in Egypt, Phoenix in Arizona, and Dubai in UAE. It is not just desert cities that are challenged by heat. The conference will extend the dialogue to cities in temperate regions that are bringing intelligent greening into city planning to reduce negative effects of changing climates in highly built environments.

Green City Briefings

A new series of AIPH Green City Briefings is due to start on 13th September 2022. This series is possible with funding from Expo 2023 Doha and the Worshipful Company of Gardeners.



The Worshipful Company of
GARDENERS

EXPO
2023
DOHA
QATAR



This series of informative webinars connects the principles of urban greening with practice. Each one hour-long webinar will feature a city that has achieved impressive results through the inclusion of plants and nature in their urban form and function. There will be two speakers in each session, with the first presenting evidence of the benefits of a particular urban greening approach, followed by a city representative who will describe a specific initiative which demonstrates how these benefits have been realised in their urban context. This will be followed by a moderated panel-style discussion in which the speakers will answer questions from the audience. An exciting addition to this series is the ability for the audience to engage in discussions and set questions for the speakers on an online platform; the AIPH Global Green City Forum. This enables participants to network across the multidisciplinary global audience, much in the same way as they might at an in-person conference.

Webinars will be held using the Zoom platform. Recordings will be available for on-demand viewing on the AIPH Global Green City Forum. 12 webinars will be held monthly from September 2022 to October 2023. For this series, AIPH is featuring cities that demonstrate innovative and transformative city greening, including the 6 category winners of the AIPH World Green City Awards. This further extends the capacity of winning cities to influence and inspire change.

Each briefings webinar will feature Expo 2023 Doha and its demonstration of Green City principles.

Green City Briefings sessions reach urban and nature professionals in more than 50 countries, drawing attention to the Expo and encouraging people to visit.

Press releases and articles will reach a global audience of city leaders, urban planners, landscape practitioners, academics, and horticulturists, promoting Qatar as a leader of knowledge exchange, and the Expo as a destination.



The first session in the series features Buenos Aires, a finalist in the AIPH World Green City Awards category of social cohesion. The session focuses on how habitat conservation strategies are integrated into urban development with a particular focus on human and habitat vulnerabilities. [Registration is open for the Green City Briefings 2022-23](#)

Green City Gardens

Audrey Timm met at the Qatar pavilion at Floriade with designers of the AIPH Green City Garden at Expo Doha 2023. Capturing the theme of Expo 2023 Doha, 'Green Desert, Better Environment', with four sub elements focusing on Modern Agriculture, Technology & Innovation, Environmental Awareness, and Sustainability, the pavilion's design will incorporate these elements to invite and engaging and immersive journey through the AIPH garden.

Communications

AIPH is very pleased to have new external contractor Dr Frankie Boyd assisting with the Global Green City Update, the AIPH Global Green City Forum, and the AIPH Green City Briefings.



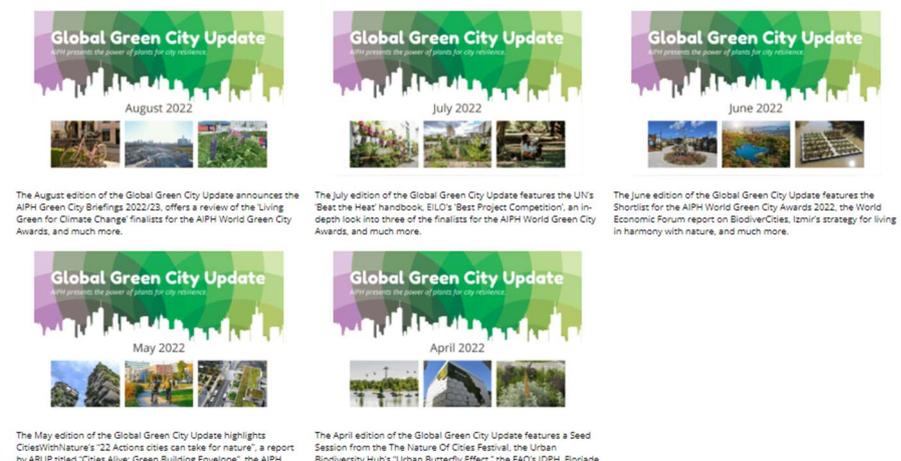
Francesca Boyd
AIPH

Green City Post in FCI: AIPH continues to publish a 'Green City Post' section in FCI, and all Green City Post articles are now held on a dedicated webpage on the AIPH website. <https://aiph.org/green-city/green-city-post/>. Each issue of FCI magazine also now includes a Plant Profile. These are short notes written by industry designers and practitioners that profile a particular plant or species, describing the benefits that they provide beyond the ornamental. These can be viewed either on FCI website or on the same AIPH website page as the Green City Post.

AIPH Global Green City Update: Building on the success of existing modes of dissemination, such as latest news web channels, as well as through our Green City posts and dedicated articles in each edition of FCI, and due to the growing recognition of AIPH's role in the global green city space, the AIPH Green City Team launched the AIPH Global Green City Update in April 2022: a monthly compilation of green city activities from around the world. The first edition was disseminated through our media and social channels at the end of April, and subsequent editions have been developed and released at the end of every month since. Each edition contains the latest news and events from the AIPH network, partners, and other key organisations, case studies and stories of best practice from cities around the world, research findings which are made digestible for a diverse audience, new policy recommendations, green city principles, and much more. In each edition, a headline article features the most relevant piece of information from AIPH's key Green City activities.

At present, each edition, which is available on our website, too, is disseminated to over 2,500 readers across 50+ countries, and this number continues to grow each month with the option to subscribe being promoted continuously throughout our Green City activities and networks.

The AIPH Global Green City Update is a monthly mailing that collates the most recent insights on Green City initiatives around the world. Click on the icons below to read each edition.



The audience for the AIPH Global Green City Update is comprised of a database of people who registered for online AIPH Green City Conferences in 2021 and 2022, all people who registered for the 2021 City of London Green City Briefings, and those who registered a profile on the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 entry platform. All of these people gave permission to be contacted by AIPH about our activities and events, within the boundaries of the AIPH Privacy Policy.

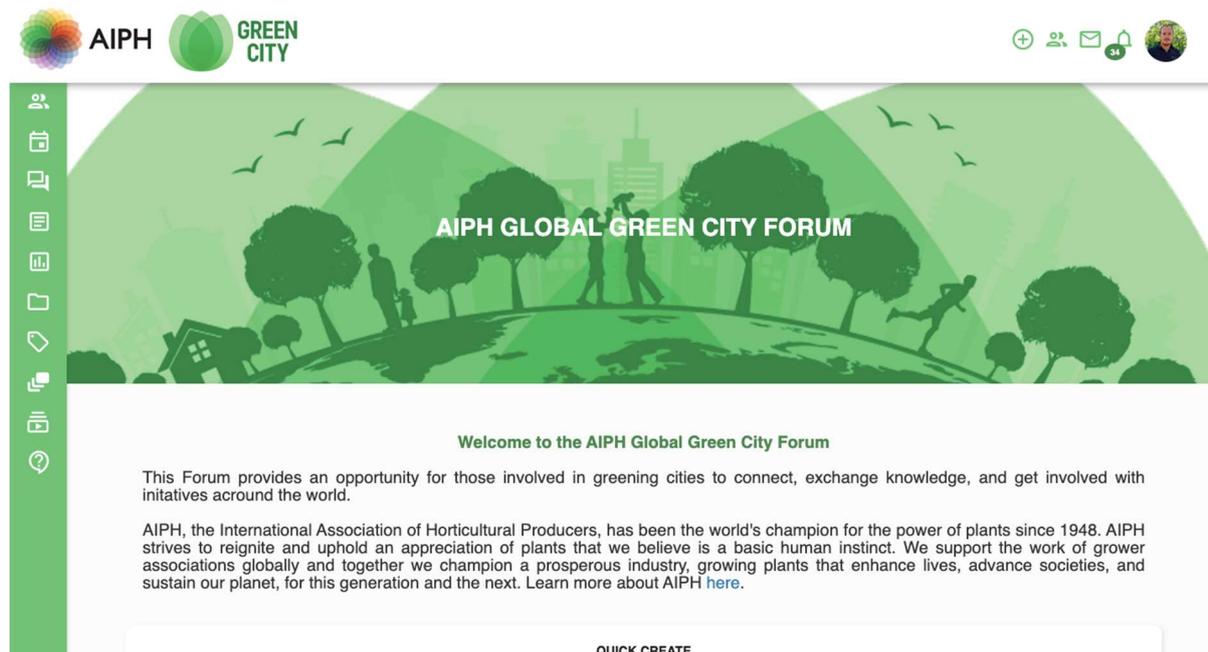
With the AIPH Global Green City Update, we aim to be a recognised global leader on knowledge exchange and dissemination of information on key topics from around the world which inspire people from all sectors and disciplines to shape greener, healthier, and more sustainable cities. Each edition to date is available as follows:

- April 2022- <https://aiph.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/GGCU-Apr.pdf>
- May 2022- <https://aiph.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GGCU-May.pdf>
- June 2022- <https://aiph.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GGCU-Jun-22.pdf>
- July 2022- <https://aiph.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/GGCU-Jul-22.pdf>
- August 2022- <https://aiph-zcmp.campaign-view.eu/ua/viewinbrowser?od=3z3c9a8d44f1915d4770a7d6f43173c7a1&rd=1580b190336d01c&sd=1580b19033674fd&n=11699e4c36ece77&mrd=1580b19033674eb&m=1>

The AIPH Global Green City Update has been a useful tool for disseminating information relating to the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022. For instance, we have profiled the announcement of the technical Panel, Jury, Shortlist, Certificate of Merit recipients, and the dedicated Awards ceremony in the previous editions. Furthermore, since the announcement of the finalists and Certificate of Merit recipients for the 2022 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards, the monthly AIPH Global Green City Update has continued to be an effective way of disseminating key information relating to the Awards. We have dedicated the "Best Practice" segment to the profiling of case studies from finalists, showcasing one category per month since July 2022. We have also dedicated the "Case Study" segment to profiling the Certificate of Merit recipients, one per month, since July, too.

AIPH Global Green City Forum:

The AIPH Green City team is proud to announce the recent soft launch of the [Global Green City Forum](#): A virtual space dedicated to driving transformative change in cities by harnessing the power of plants and nature. The AIPH Global Green City Forum is an online professional network for all individuals with an interest in learning, sharing, and inspiring a global movement for greener, healthier, and more sustainable cities. The Forum provides anyone the opportunity to engage with like-minded people with a shared passion for the plants and nature on which our increasingly urban lives critically depend. Being open to everyone, the AIPH Global Green City Forum brings together people from all walks of life, sectors, and disciplines to collectively reignite a love of plants and nurture a strategic shift in urban governance and planning where nature is at the core of city form and function.



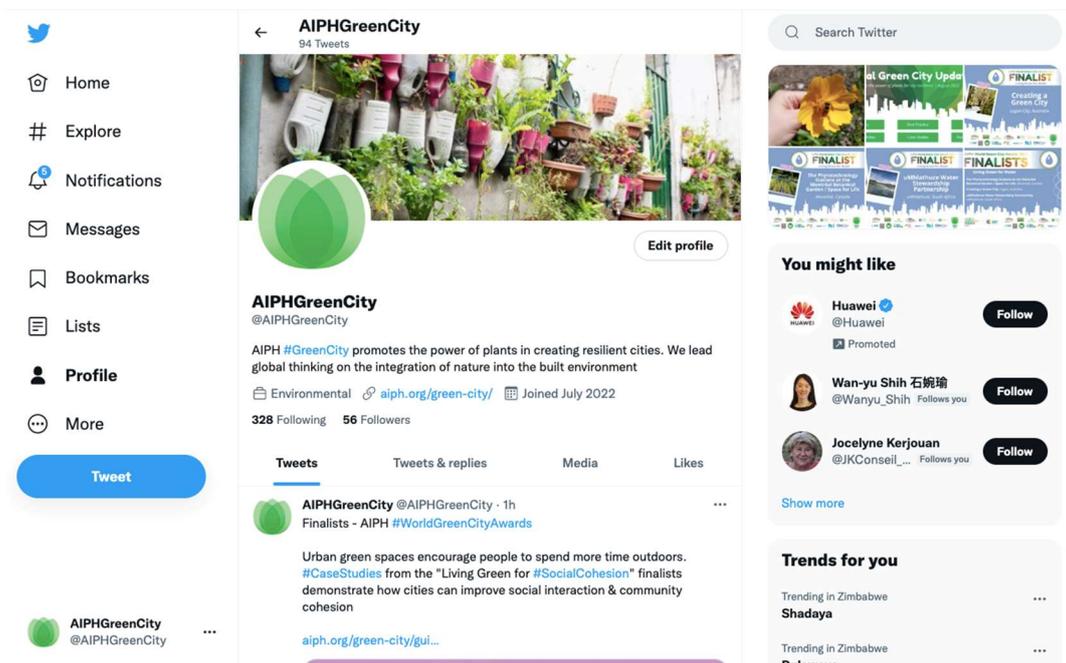
The AIPH Global Green City Forum provides a platform through which members of the global green city movement can unite, engage, and co-develop innovative ideas at the nexus of research, policy, and practice. The Forum stimulates discussion and knowledge exchange between like-minded individuals from diverse sectors and disciplines who are working towards a shared vision of shaping a greener world for future generations, and who believe in the power of collaboration and co-creation. Not only can participants initiate and contribute to discussions, and share their own resources, ideas, news, and events, but they can also benefit from and be inspired by the knowledge, resources, ideas, news, and events shared by other members. Signing up is quick, easy, and free.

Anyone who joins the Forum is able to build a simple profile to let others in the community know who they are, what they are passionate about and what interests them the most about the global green city space. Users can then connect with other users to build their own personal network and engage directly with other members on a diverse range of topics that are relevant to them and their work. With the ability for every member to contribute to the development of the Forum, users are able to view, share, and promote the latest news, upcoming events, and inspiring resources. There are case studies, best practice examples, and a wealth of knowledge and research available on this unique, one-of-a-kind platform.

We envision the AIPH Global Green City Forum becoming a one-stop-shop for all things green city related. It is also a powerful tool for promoting and sharing the wide range of AIPH Green City activities among a growing green city audience. For instance, the Global Green City Forum will provide the space to share information about the AIPH Green City briefings

2022/2023, including how to register, and will provide a platform for attendees to pose questions to the speakers ahead of each webinar and discuss the contents of each webinar thereafter. The Forum will also host the webinar recordings for on-demand viewing. Furthermore, the AIPH Global Green City Guidelines have been added as resources on the Forum for the growing network of members to benefit from. Similarly, the Forum will provide updates relating to the AIPH World Green City Awards and will host the case studies and discussions to facilitate knowledge exchange between cities, researchers, and practitioners. In the coming months, the focus of the team will be on growing the membership of the Forum and using the forum to disseminate and share our Green City activities. We will also encourage all members to contribute resources, news, events, and to initiate and participate in discussions on key topics. In essence, we aim to ensure that the Forum becomes the single point of reference which brings together our diverse range of activities on Green Cities.

Social Media:



While the AIPH social media accounts have been very useful for disseminating information relating to our Green City activities, the increased volume of green city activities and subsequent increase in social media activity caused the team to strategise on the best way forward so that attention was not diverted from other AIPH activities on social media. Acknowledging that the AIPH Green City programme is now a globally recognised initiative, the team felt that there was merit in developing dedicated channels to disseminate our Green City work. In July 2022, we launched a dedicated Twitter account for the Green City programme: @AIPHGreenCity. Since then, we have been working to grow the account's following and disseminate information about our green city activities, including the AIPH World Green City Awards, while maintaining a strong linkage to the overall AIPH social media accounts. Looking ahead, we seek to continue to grow this account and eventually expand to include dedicated accounts across all other social media platforms.

A draft audience profile has been created to define the information needs, technical language, and potential influence of the social media audience. With the new @AIPHGreenCity profile now active, this audience profile will be refined, and analytics used to direct media attention to highly influential sectors across the audience profile.

Other activities

AIPH Green City Research Symposium: With funding support from Expo 2023 Doha, AIPH is organising a Research Symposium and dedicated journal publication with the Taylor and Francis online journal *Cities & Health*. *Cities & Health* provides an innovative new international platform for consolidating research and know-how for city development to support human health. This journal publishes international research on urban health and health equity including urban design, epidemiology, city governance, landscape and spatial planning.

This special *Cities & Health* issue commissioned by Expo 2023 Doha will focus on three main elements of health in cities that are promoted and enhanced by plants and nature: Health and wellbeing section presents research relating to creating and motivating nature-based restorative environments, both indoor and outdoor; Environmental health section reports on evidence of plants in reducing health risks that arise from the urban heat island effect, air and noise pollution, and extreme weather events; Cultural health section presents the responses to designed landscapes that promote social cohesion, cultural identity, and inclusive communities. International experts and academics in these fields will be invited to prepare presentations to be delivered at a 2- day research symposium in Doha, Qatar. Following this symposium, topics will be selected to prepare articles for publication in a special issue of *Cities & Health*. The journal issue will feature an introduction by a prominent member of Qatari society or government that describes the importance of this theme and the commitment of Qatar to its citizens' health.

This symposium contributes to the objective in the AIPH strategy to facilitate the sharing and adoption of the latest scientific research and development

International Horticultural Congress, Angers, France. Dr Audrey Timm presented a keynote address at the ISHS IHC in August 2022. This was in Symposium 7, II International Symposium on Greener Cities: Improving ecosystem services in a climate-changing world.

The title was: "The Ornamental Horticulture Industry connects knowledge to practice for greener and sustainable cities", with the abstract: *There is strong political and scientific consensus around the issue of adaptation and city resilience, with a growing recognition for the essential role of plants in contributing to city solutions and healthy communities. Bold commitments for focussed change can be misplaced in the absence of an informed implementation strategy. Some resistance is reported when promoting the use of nature-based solutions alongside, or in replacement for, engineered solutions, due to uncertainty of performance and measurable benefits. AIPH has been investigating the pinch-points and motivators that lead to mainstreaming of the use of green city principles in city planning and policy. Recent advances in metrics and standards are highly influential in driving change, and key initiatives and their application on a local and national scale will be discussed. Issues such as green gentrification, plant breeding for a changing climate, carbon capture, and plant selection can be addressed with multi-disciplinary collaborative dialogue and action. This keynote address will present case studies that demonstrate how the horticulture industry stands at the interface between intention and action.*



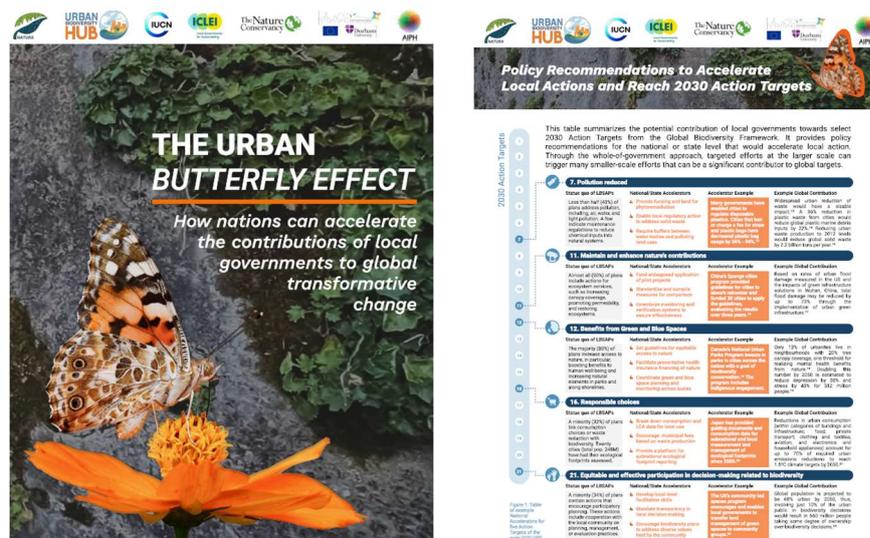
GreenTech, Amsterdam 2022.

Dr Audrey Timm was invited to join a panel discussion on Feeding and Greening the City. Audrey gave a short presentation that introduced AIPH and our ambitions for the Green City programme, and described the importance of greening in city solutions. This was followed by a short panel discussion. Also on the panel were Leah van Woerkom from 80 Acres and Martine Sourbag from the Economic Development Department of the City of Amsterdam.

Audrey also joined Angie Duffree in representing AIPH at The Ladies Circle event.

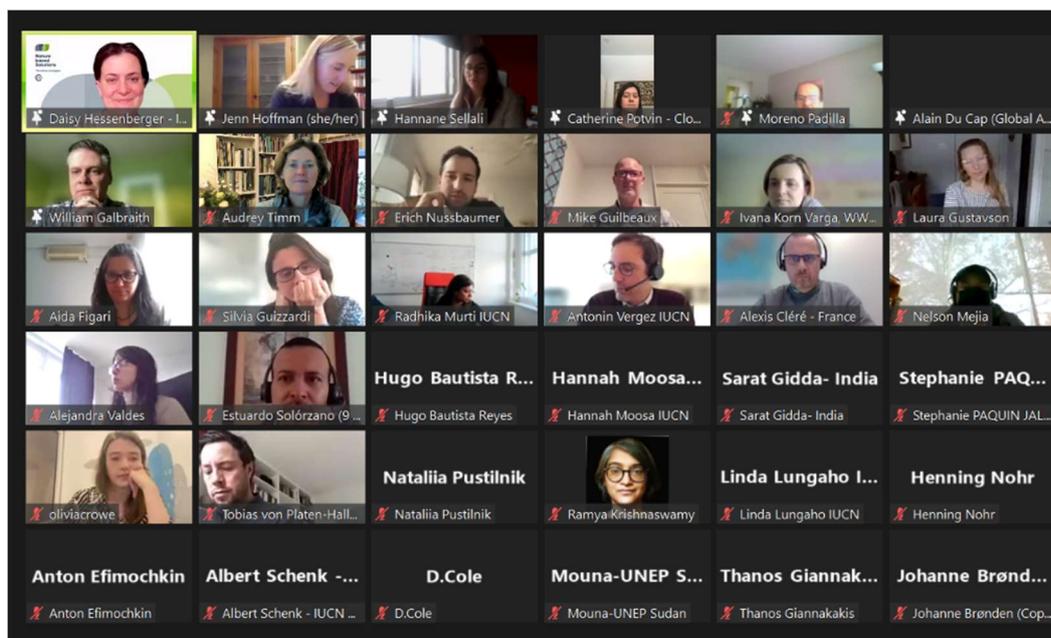
Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD): Dr Audrey Timm was invited to Geneva to participate in the inaugural workshop of the NATURA Global to Local Thematic Working Group from March 14th to 18th, 2022. The workshop was organised for the creation and dissemination of the Global to Local Policy Brief as a side event to the UN sessions on the Convention for Biological Diversity, collaborating with the Urban Biodiversity Hub (UBHub). The policy brief was targeted on national governments to ask that they resource cities to implement biodiversity strategies and activities to help governments meet national biodiversity targets.

This policy brief is based on research that compares the achievements of city biodiversity action plans in relation to Aichi targets, revealing overlap that indicates the contribution that cities already make, and the gaps where national governments could empower cities to co-contribute to meeting the targets, and also to inform the process for the Post 2020 GBF.



The original article reporting on the research is available for download <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcsc.2021.752387/full>

IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions: Audrey Timm completed the course and was awarded a professional certificate in the IUCN Global Standard for NbS. The standard could benefit from aligning with the urban context of NbS, and AIPH is continuing discussions with IUCN to contribute and position the ornamental horticulture industry in these discussions.



Student interns: AIPH signed an MOU with the organisation, Global Cultural Adventurers to outline the mutual expectations of this collaboration through supporting internships. Global Cultural Adventurers (GCA) is an international education group, based in China, which aims to build a global platform of cultural exchange and international internship for youth.

Two internships completed in April 2022 delivered very preliminary information on: *Feasibility study of the development of a set of International Living Green City standards to facilitate an Urban Landscape certification scheme.*; and *Review and critical analysis of urban greening policies around the world.* This preliminary work frames AIPH ambitions to develop internationally relevant green city standards to drive policy.

Two more internships with AIPH started on 26th August 2022 and continue for approximately 3 months, ending 25th November 2022.

The interns are Weiyi Tao (Lucy) (left), and Chang Guo (Diane) (Right)



These interns are working together on the same project with the topic of:

Estimating the size and value of the AIPH membership network

AIPH is an organisation of organisations. Our members are national and regional horticultural associations, It would be a significant advantage to AIPH to be able to state our global reach in terms of the number of businesses, an estimate of employment numbers, and an estimate of horticultural value (product value and contribution to the economy through services).

Initial research will be an online search of the websites of AIPH members and other sources. Information that will be collected includes the number of businesses that are their members,

estimate of people represented, estimate of economic value of membership, notes on member professions included in the organisation. Online information that is in other languages can be translated using a simple online translation facility. After this initial research, AIPH will introduce the intern to member organisations where the intern has been unable to find information online.

The final report will provide an overview of the global ornamental horticulture industry, giving an estimate per country of the number of businesses/companies, the number of jobs, and the value. AIPH will use this information to show the size and breadth of our influence and our capacity for impact.

Audrey Timm is leading on supervising this project, with Treve Evans supporting. The information from this project will be used together with a survey of members to prepare more effective and efficient 2-way communications between AIPH and member organisations.

Global Lessons on Greening School Grounds and Outdoor Learning. Dr Audrey Timm is participating in the Salzburg Global Seminar programme where experts from around the world come together to share best practices around holistic approaches to education and climate change awareness. The project aims for a collaborative approach project to identify and disseminate successful approaches to school ground greening and outdoor learning from around the world.

The programme has already completed five virtual sessions during 2022, with one more virtual session and an in-person workshop still to come. Interactive sessions invite and share opinions and experience on why there is a need for green school grounds, range of approaches and innovations, what are common barriers, geographic and climate considerations, research insight and gaps, and generating partners and advocacy needed for global implementation. AIPH attendance at the in-person workshop in Salzburg in November will depend on funding availability.

Participation in this programme contributes to AIPH goals of expanding our networks and to increasing the relevance of horticulture across all sectors.



AIPH supports member organisations in research bid: In another initiative that introduces the benefits of plants and nature to the youth, AIPH is supporting Lodz, Poland, in a proposal for funding to implement a programme that connect schools with ecology and greening.

“Lodz schools for the climate - act locally, think globally” includes a wide program of environmental education dedicated to teachers, teaching staff of Lodz secondary schools (high schools, technical and secondary schools, a total of 46 institutions), improving their qualifications, knowledge and skills in the field of teaching ecology and adapting the methods of conducting lessons and classes to the curriculum currently in place in schools.”

If this funding application is successful, AIPH will assist in disseminating the findings through our international networks to facilitate integration of plants and nature into education and school structures.

AIPH Autumn Meeting
AIPH World Green City Awards Report
January 2022- September 2022
Review of Activities Since Spring Meeting



Introduction

At the time of our last report to the Spring meeting in March 2022 (prepared in January), the focus of the AIPH World Green City Awards team was primarily on increasing the visibility, legitimacy, and profile of both the AIPH World Green City Awards and AIPH more broadly among a global audience. In a sense, the inaugural edition has played a significant role in cementing AIPH's presence among key global organisations who are pioneering and leading the global green city agenda. Through the Awards, we have also built up a strong network of supporting partners and cities who are actively engaged with our work. While we will continue to grow the network of partners and the number of cities which are engaged in future editions, the last two quarters saw a shift in our approach from one that was focussed on engagement with partners and cities, to one which was focussed on managing and implementing the specific processes which have facilitated what we believe to be an extremely successful inaugural edition.

Submission of Entries

Following extensive engagement with close to 300 cities, entries for the 2022 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards closed on 14th March 2022. The number of entries far exceeded expectations. We received 57 entries from cities around the world. Among the entries were some well-known cities, including Buenos Aires, Montréal, Melbourne, Paris, and Dubai to name just a few. Generally, all AIPH regions were well-represented, with a diverse and impressive global geographical spread. Some cities submitted multiple entries in various categories. Each entrant was asked to nominate a first and second choice category with which their entry was most aligned.

Two-Stage Judging Process

Following a process of due diligence, where each entry was assessed against the eligibility criteria, 54 entries were found to be eligible to be put forward for judging. The judging process for the 2022 edition of the Awards was conducted in two stages, as detailed below:

Stage 1: Review and Scoring by the Technical Panel

The first stage of judging was assessment and scoring by a [Technical Panel](#). Boasting representatives from around the world with an advanced knowledge of Green City principles, plants, and nature-based solutions, the Technical Panel was comprised of twenty-three experts from around the world. The Technical Panel was curated by the AIPH Green City team to ensure that diversity and expertise across the [six Awards categories](#) was obtained. Recommendations for Technical Panel members were sought from the network of partners, affiliates, key strategic organisations, and potential partners. Representation and participation from key members of the Technical Panel was thus an effective way of strengthening our network of supporting partners. With the [announcement of the Technical Panel](#) on 28 April 2022, the first round of judging commenced. Each member of the Technical Panel was profiled in a dedicated media campaign and on various AIPH platforms.



Eligible entries were allocated to each of the Technical Panel members based on their specific areas of expertise, their level of comfort in assessing various themes, and their capacity to take on the additional workload. The entry allocation process was meticulously executed to ensure that each entry would receive the same number of scores. The technical Panel scored each entry against the [five evaluation criteria](#) which provided a lens to assess the technical merit of each entry and the extent to which it is achieving its stated goals and objectives. With each entry being scored by five members of the Technical Panel, the highest scoring entries were compiled. Each entry's score was considered first in its first-choice category and then in its second if it did not make the shortlist in its first.

Shortlisting: Announcement of the 18 Finalists

The highest three scoring entries in each of the six categories were [selected as finalists](#) and comprised the [shortlist of entries which was announced in June 2022](#) and was later delivered to the Jury for the second round of judging.



Two virtual meetings were held with members of the Technical Panel to discuss and gain consensus on the finalists, each of whom stand a chance to be selected as the winner in their respective categories. A Category Lead was selected from the members of the Technical Panel for each of the six categories. The Category Leads were responsible for coordinating a review of the scoring and assessment process, facilitating discussion among the Technical Panel, dealing with variances in scoring, making recommendations for the Jury, and ultimately signing off on the finalists in their categories following consensus by the Technical Panel. The shortlist of finalists for the 2022 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards boasts some impressive cities, and showcases leading initiatives from every region in the world, as shown below:



Following the announcement of the finalists, each shortlisted initiative was profiled in a dedicated media campaign. A case study was subsequently prepared for each finalist, which together comprise an impressive [case study collection](#) which are available for viewing on the AIPH website and on the AIPH Global Green City Forum. These case studies provide a powerful means by which to transfer the learnings from each initiative and inspire other cities.



Stage 2: Review and Voting by the Jury

The second stage in the judging process was voting by a world-renowned [Jury](#). The Jury, [announced in July 2022](#), was compiled by the AIPH Green City team to comprise prestigious members from around the world who are recognisable, well-respected, and influential leaders in the Green City space, and have credible authority to identify leading initiatives with the potential for greatest impact. Chaired by the AIPH Green City Committee Chair and Vice President of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), Mr. Bill Hardy, the 12 members of the Jury were profiled through a dedicated social media campaign and on the AIPH website.





While the Technical Panel scored each entry on its technical merit against a set of pre-defined judging criteria, the Jury is tasked with voting for the winners based on each entry’s capacity for influence, replicability, and scope to inspire change. Thus, in assessing each of the shortlisted entries, members of the Jury were invited to consider the following question:

“The AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 will help winning cities achieve greater recognition for their inspiring initiatives – in light of this, which entry do you feel may have the biggest transformational impact?”

A voting process was carefully designed and implemented by the AIPH Green City team, whereby each member of the Jury was invited to vote independently for a winner in each category. The votes were then tallied, and a virtual meeting of the Jury was held in July 2022. In the virtual meeting, the votes were presented to the members of the Jury and a live poll system was used to gain final consensus for the six category winners. Once consensus was reached, the Jury was asked to vote live at the virtual meeting for the overall AIPH World Green City winner from the list of six category winners. With all winners finalised, the judging process was officially finalised at the end of July 2022. All winners are strictly confidential and will be announced at a dedicated Awards ceremony to be held in October 2022.

In general, both stages of the judging process were confirmed to be robust and transparent by the Technical Panel and Jury. We are confident that the judging process has worked well and is largely transferrable to the 2024 edition. One key thing we will incorporate more strongly in future editions is the ability for the Technical Panel and Jury to go back to cities to ask for additional information. We have also learned, from feedback received from the Jury, that some additional guidance for Jury members would be helpful. In the 2024 edition we will provide this guidance.

Certificates of Merit

In addition to the 18 AIPH World Green City Awards finalists, six more cities will receive Certificates of Merit for the innovative approaches to urban greening demonstrated in their entries. The Press Release announcing these six cities can be found [here](#). In this inaugural edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards, the Technical Panel were granted the ability to nominate entries for receipt of Certificates of Merit. These Certificates of Merit are awarded to cities who were not selected as finalists, but whose entries demonstrated a particularly inspiring and innovative approach to city greening which has the potential for replicability by other cities around the world. Six entries, which are not category-specific, were nominated by the Technical Panel, and later accepted by the Jury.



Case studies have prepared for each initiative and will be profiled in a dedicated media campaign in September 2022. The case studies showcasing each of the six entries by cities who will receive a Certificate of Merit can be viewed [here](#). The Certificates of Merit will be presented alongside the category winners and overall AIPH World Green City winner at the dedicated Awards ceremony in October 2022.

Social Media and Media Campaigns

Throughout the 2022 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards, media and social media have played a significant role in promoting and disseminating key information to a global audience. We have developed several social media campaigns which have coincided with key announcements and milestones on the Awards timeline. We have learned that communications are a critical success factor in implementing the Awards cycle effectively. Each of our campaigns has received an impressive level of support from partners and global actors, and the feedback on the quality of our content has been exceptional.

Looking Ahead: Finalisation of AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 and Launch of 2024 Edition

Announcement of Winners and AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 ceremony

In July 2022, we proudly announced the date and venue for the highly anticipated [2022 AIPH World Green City Awards ceremony](#), where the 6 Certificates of Merit will be presented, the 18 finalists will receive Highly Commended Certificates, the category winners will be announced, and the overall AIPH World Green City winner will be presented to the world.



The Awards ceremony, in the form of a dedicated gala dinner, is set to take place on 14th October 2022 during the IUCN Leaders Forum in the Special Self- Governing Province of Jeju, Republic of Korea. This has been made possible through a collaborative partnership with IUCN, which we have been working on for the past few months. We are in the process of finalising this exciting partnership.

Building on the momentum of IUCN World Conservation Congresses, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has launched the [IUCN Leaders Forum](#) – a new series of high-level events to convene global leaders more frequently on key topics of relevance to the international agenda. The first edition of the IUCN Leaders Forum, organised by IUCN together with the Korean Ministry of Environment and Jeju Self-governing Province, will be held in Jeju, Republic of Korea from 13 – 15 October 2022, with a focus on “Building nature-positive economies and societies.”

With participation in the IUCN Leaders Forum being by invitation only, AIPH is honoured to invite delegations from each of the World Green City Awards 2022 finalists and Certificate of Merit Recipients to attend, free of charge, as an extension of our collaboration with IUCN. The IUCN Leaders Forum will gather leaders and changemakers from around the world, in-person, to discuss innovative solutions to critical global challenges, make bold commitments, build partnerships, and catalyse action for impactful change in nature conservation and sustainability. It is against this backdrop that AIPH, in collaboration with IUCN, plans to announce the launch of the 2024 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards as part of the exciting three-day programme.

As per our partnering discussions with IUCN, we are currently evaluating the potential for co-branding the 2024 edition the “AIPH-IUCN World Green City Awards 2024.” This comes at a time when IUCN, the largest conservation organisation in the world, has recently announced they will open a new membership category to subnational governments and expand their current Urban Alliance, which is set to become the “Urban Initiative.” Collaborating with IUCN is thus seen as a strategic partnership which will significantly strengthen the 2024 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards. IUCN are excited to partner with AIPH and to take on a larger role in designing, operationalising, managing, and implementing the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024. Through this collaboration, the team is also evaluating the potential of integrating some measurement indices into the design of the 2024 edition, such as the IUCN Urban Nature Index.

Profiling of Winners

In the lead up to, at, and following the Awards ceremony in Jeju in October 2022, the AIPH Green City team is gearing up to bring as much global exposure as possible to the winning cities by profiling their initiatives widely. The Awards ceremony gala dinner itself will have local and international media present. We are exploring opportunities for dedicated press exposure for winning cities at the IUCN Leaders Forum. To coincide with the event, a dedicated special edition of the AIPH Global Green City Update will be disseminated to specifically highlight the winners. A dedicated social media campaign will be prepared to build momentum prior to the event, showcase the event while it is taking place, and profile the winning cities and their initiatives thereafter.

The current network of partners and affiliates will be mobilised to increase the reach and exposure of the exciting announcement and to profile winning cities through their channels and networks. A press release will be sent out through all available media channels, accompanied by profiling of the winners on the AIPH website, Green City webpages, and the recently launched AIPH Global Green City Forum, which will also host discussions on the winning initiatives. Case studies of all winners will also be profiled through all AIPH platforms, social media channels, and through all available networks. All finalists are in the process of preparing videos to profile their cities and shortlisted initiatives, which will also form a core part of our media campaigns to profile these leading cities. Additional profiling opportunities will be provided through the 2022/2023 Green City briefings, where category winners will be profiled and their cities will be afforded the opportunity to present their work, one in each webinar. These webinars will be recorded and the recordings will be available for on-demand viewing on the AIPH YouTube channels and the AIPH Global Green City Forum.

Following the great success of the inaugural edition of the Awards, we are confident that we have grown a global network of supporting organisations who have expressed interest in sharing the news of the winners. Each winning city has showcased their inspiring work for plants and nature, which has demonstrated the relevance of the AIPH World Green City Awards. The time is now to show the world what cities are doing, and reward them for their innovation, with the aim of inspiring a global movement, led by AIPH, for greener, healthier, and more sustainable cities.

Growing the Network of Partners

As we prepare to finalise the 2022 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards, the team has already started looking ahead to the next edition in 2024. One of the key lessons in the 2022 edition was that the success of the Awards is largely embedded in the support from a key network of global partners. While we were able to build strategic partnerships, some formal and some informal, with key organisations in the 2022 edition, we aim to raise our ambition to grow this network even more substantially in preparation for the 2024 edition. Over the coming months, we will be engaging with all existing partners to confirm their support for the next edition, as well as engaging additional partners to join the network. Having successfully implemented the 2022 edition, we are confident that more and more key organisations in the global green city space are aware of AIPH and the Awards and will therefore be more likely to partner with us. In the coming months, our attention will turn to growing and nurturing the network of partners, with the aim of collaborating with key UN agencies and other strategic partner organisations more concretely. The approach to partnering for the 2024 edition will also include a deliberate attempt to strategically engage partners from key regions and who are aligned to the Awards categories, to significantly strengthen the diversity and volume of entries we hope to receive, both from regions which were slightly less represented in the 2022 edition, and in categories which were seemingly less popular. We are in the process of developing a new collaboration agreement template which offers new and existing partners a standardised way of committing their support for various Awards-related activities, while offering several tiers of partnership, within which each partner can self-define the level of

support they can provide. The idea is that each tier of partnership will come with a certain minimum acceptable level of support that is well-defined and clear between both parties.

To streamline our partnering efforts further, we have also developed a comprehensive and strategic partnership framework which lays out a proposed strategic approach to partnerships for the AIPH Green City programme, and more specifically the AIPH World Green City Awards. This framework is intended to be put forward to the AIPH Board for approval. The rationale for doing so lies in the intention to showcase the strategic approach deployed by the AIPH Green City team in terms of identifying potential partners, engaging these partners, and formalising partnerships which lead to mutually beneficial joint activities. The aim is to establish a framework that will guide our approach to undertaking partnering activities to strengthen the 2024 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards and allow the Green City team to pursue strategic partnerships which align with our key objectives. In doing so, the intention is to establish a rationale for justifying all strategic partnerships, with the aim of limiting the need for board approval and justification on an individual partnership basis. This will allow for partnering activities to proceed with maximum efficiency. The partnership framework also considers where a collaborative partnership could extend beyond the Awards, and in some instances even beyond the Green City programme to other AIPH activities, and AIPH activities at the organisational level. In doing so, we have seen that the AIPH World Green City Awards is often an effective entry point for broadening collaboration with key organisations to maximise benefit and raise the profile of AIPH more broadly.

By securing high-level strategic partnerships in the lead up to and following the launch of the 2024 edition, we are confident that the 2024 edition will be effectively endorsed and supported by a global network of organisations who, in the second round, will increase their level of engagement and support, thereby increasing the legitimacy of the Awards and cementing their place as the leading global Awards programme for cities to demonstrate their work for plants and nature.

Design of the 2024 Edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards

Throughout the 2022 edition, we have constantly invited feedback on the process from all whom we have engaged. While we are confident in the robustness of the design and its general transferability to the 2024 edition, there are a few small elements which we intend to tweak in response to the feedback received. Most of the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive and has provided a satisfying level of reassurance in the design of the Awards. That being said, and in the interests of continuous improvement through adaptation, we aim to improve the design of the 2024 edition in response to a few key learnings.

Since June 2022, we have designed various feedback mechanisms and disseminated these to capture the thoughts, ideas, and suggestions of the following key stakeholder groups:

- Cities who entered the 2022 edition of the Awards
- The members of the Technical Panel of judges
- The members of the Jury
- Partners and affiliate organisations of the 2022 edition
- Internal AIPH teams

The feedback received from these stakeholder groups will be analysed, synthesized, and will inform recommendations for the design of the 2024 edition. While we expect most of the key elements to remain as they are, such as the online portal, online entry format, and judging process to name a few, we are forecasting the need for some small changes to categories, judging criteria, entry form questions, and terminology, which we will implement in consultation with key stakeholders. We also intend to establish a Steering Committee for the 2024 edition, comprised of AIPH representatives, key advisors, and representatives of key partners, to

whom we will present proposed changes for approval. This Steering Committee will also serve as the governing body per se of the process for the 2024 edition, to whom we will report on all progress and key milestones.

We have also undertaken a full analysis of the entries received for the 2022 edition, by geographic location, AIPH region, Awards category etc. From this analysis, we have been able to draw out some key conclusions to inform our approach for the 2024 edition. For instance, the analysis has been helpful in informing key geographical regions we will target with invitations to enter the 2024 edition.

Between September and December 2022, we will undertake a thorough analysis and review of the judging criteria, the entry form questions, categories, and process with the aim of finalising the design of the 2024 edition. This design process will consider and incorporate the feedback received from the key stakeholder groups listed above and will invite inputs from some key advisors who have been supportive of the 2022 process and who have volunteered to assist us in designing the 2024 edition. The AIPH Green City team aims to have the final design ready for implementation by the beginning of 2023 when entries will open.

Launch of the 2024 Edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards

It is at the AIPH World Green City Awards ceremony in Jeju in October 2022 where we will announce our partnership with IUCN for the 2024 edition. It is at the event where we also intend to officially launch the 2024 edition to a global audience. The IUCN Leaders Forum is a suitable place to do so as there will be an impressive number of high-level delegates in attendance, all of whom are leaders in the global green city space. This soft launch will likely include a Press Release, unveiling of the name and logo for the 2024 edition, unveiling of the 2024 categories, and the announcement of a date when entries will open in 2023.

One of the key learnings from the 2022 edition has been the recognition that some of the key processes involved in implementing the Awards require a little more time than was originally allocated to them in the current edition. Launching the 2024 edition in 2022, with entries opening in early 2023 will ensure that the timeframes for the 2024 edition are all well-considered and appropriate, allowing a large window for cities to enter throughout the course of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. We propose for a series of milestones and associated incentives to be in place to encourage cities to register, start compiling their entries, and make their submissions as early on as possible.

Promotion of the 2024 Edition: Engagements with Cities

Following the launch of the 2024 edition, and in parallel to increased strategic partnering activities, the focus of the AIPH Green City team will shift to direct engagement with cities, as was critical in the months between the launch of the 2022 edition and the deadline for submission of entries. Throughout the course of 2023, the focus will be on promoting the 2024 edition by leveraging the success of the 2022 edition and increasing the global reach of our communications, both through our own networks and those of our partners. The period following the launch of the 2024 edition will be critical for establishing the foundation on which the second edition will be built. In this period, we aim to engage a minimum of 500 cities with direct invitations to enter. We will also leverage the 2022 database of cities and encourage them to consider entering again, with the incentive being the profiling received by the 2022 winners.

Additionally, through strengthened collaboration with our partners, and specifically city networks and those who work with networks of cities, to engage global networks of cities and invite them to enter. We also aim to engage regional partners and even country-level partners, such as local government networks, to engage cities in each of the AIPH regions. A database of cities, larger than the one developed for the 2022 edition, will be developed to track invitations to enter. This database of city contacts is a valuable asset to AIPH, and will continue

to grow as we engage cities right up until the deadline for submission of entries for the 2024 edition, which will likely be at the beginning of 2024.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the AIPH World Green City Awards team is confident that we have designed, managed, and implemented a successful first round which has surpassed all expectations, and which will leave a legacy that will continue to develop, strengthen, and shine through in future editions. One of the primary positive outcomes of the 2022 edition of the Awards has been the way in which it has been a tool to raise not only the profile of the AIPH Green City programme among a global audience, but also the profile of AIPH more broadly among key stakeholders, partners, and networks. We are proud to say that through this inaugural edition, a global audience is not only aware of AIPH and our activities but is also actively engaged. In this way, the Awards have been a powerful way of cementing AIPH's role in the global green city space, where we have been well-received by partners and where we have seen an impressive growth in the legitimacy of our work. We have learned many lessons along the way which we will incorporate into the final design and ultimately the implementation of the 2024 edition.