Overview by the Secretary General

THE PEOPLE OF AIPH

New president eager to support the industry

Leonardo Capitanio is the newly appointed President of AIPH, unanimously elected by members at the General Meeting during AIPH's 74th Annual Congress in Almere, Netherlands. At 33, he is the youngest AIPH President to take on this preeminent role, but no one can doubt his commitment. He is head of his family's nursery stock business Vivai Capitanio in Monopoli in Southern Italy. Before taking on his international role, he held the position of President of the Italian Nursery Stock Exporters Association (ANVE).

Commenting on his election, Mr Capitano said, “Horticulture is my life. My father was a nurseryman; I was eight when I began to follow in his footsteps. I aim to help the ornamental horticulture sector pass through this challenging time.”

Mr Capitano replaces Bernard Oosterom from the Netherlands, who served as AIPH President since 2015. He vows to continue the work of his predecessor as a thought leader that inspires and educates, stimulates increased demand for ornamentals worldwide, and protects and promotes interest in global ornamental horticulture.

During the Congress in September, Mr Oosterom was presented with the prestigious AIPH Gold Medal in recognition of his services to AIPH over many years. Members also voted Bill Hardy from Canada as the second AIPH Vice-President alongside Jianping Zhou from China.

FloraCulture International will feature an in-depth interview with Mr Capitano in the next edition out on 9 January 2023.

Three new full members and ten affiliates

In 2022 AIPH welcomed new members from grower organisations that represent professional growers of ornamental plants and enterprises, as well as enterprises with an interest and involvement in ornamental horticulture.

Full Members:

- Associazione Floricoltori e Fioristi Italiani, Italy
- Plantas Flores y Follajes de Costa Rica, Costa Rica
- South African Nursery Association (SANA), South Africa
- Association of the Israeli Ornamental Plant Growers, Israel

Affiliate Members:

- Chrysanthemum Netherland, Netherlands
- Florilux, Netherlands
- Suppli, Netherlands
- JBV Business, Germany
- Lowe Rental, UK
- MyPlant & Garden, Italy
- Heliospectra, Sweden
- National Horticulture Board, India
- Rabobank, Netherlands
- SYS Consulting Services, Türkiye

Leading global thinking and boosting the ornamental horticulture industry

Twelve months ago, many countries were in partial lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As trade began to pick up in January, the end of February saw further challenges. Business as usual in our industry until Russia invaded Ukraine. Now, we face fluctuating commodity prices, including rising energy costs. AIPH's mission is clearer than ever to regulate and battle against approximation of plants that we believe is a basic human instinct, and will sustain the planet for this generation and the next. We organised many events to facilitate the sharing of ideas and boosting the industry in 2022.

Spring Meeting - AIPH International Congress

In February, the Congress helped the AIPH members and young professionals connected the activities and programmes that aim to achieve the UN SDGs. The 4th edition of the AIPH Young Professionals Congress focused on a specific topic for the European district in order to renovate the industry in the next decades.

Winter Congress - AIPH World Ornamental Horticultural Summit

This year, the congress was called "Dementia in a Digital World". Speakers from around the world joined to offer their insight into how the horticultural industry can utilise digital tools. It was hosted in September at Floriade Expo 2022 in Almere, the Netherlands.

The International Grower of the Year (IGOTY) Awards recognize outstanding producers. The 26th IGOTY Awards Ceremony, was hosted at GreenTech Amsterdam, in 2022, hosted in Amsterdam.

Ten finalists are currently being judged.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, peaceful, and blooming 2023!
AIPH Sustainability Strategy - Our commitment to sustainability is expressed through five thematic areas, which are material to what we do and where we believe we can make the most positive impact:

- Climate action
- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable sourcing and resource management
- Equity & inclusion
- Education & awareness raising

AIPH Sustainability Strategy sets out how we intend to achieve our objectives in this field. Visit the website.

AIPH Annual Review - providing an overview of all activities. It was first distributed at the 74th AIPH Annual Congress. It contains information on the AIPH Strategic Plan; the results of an Ornamentals Production Energy Survey; a review of AIPH’s interaction at the first International Plant Health Conference; messages from our members, and much more. Read More

International Statistics – Flowers and Plants 2022 - is annually launched in association with Union Fleurs, the International Flower Trade Association. The importance of this publication to the ornamental horticultural industry is invaluable. This year was the 15th version and is was officially launched at Trade Fair Aalsmeer. It is available to purchase or free to download for AIPH Members. Read More

WORLD HORTICULTURAL EXPOS IN REVIEW 2022
Three Expos in 2022 and three approvals
In 2022, the world saw...
- 288 days of AIPH-approved Horticultural Expos
- 2,008,757 people visited the Expo parks
- 15,000,000 people read about them on social media and websites
- 101 hectares of lush green areas were created
- 29,928 trees were planted in urban areas

AIPH is proud to have approved and supported over 50 World Horticultural Expos since 1960. In 2022 we approved two B Category and one C Category. In 2023 we have three more AIPH-approved Expos happening: The first presentation is by Marien Valstar on Developments and Challenges within the framework of the plant breeder’s rights (PBR) in the EU. The second presentation is by Dr Edgar Krieger on The obliged use of variety denomination in the industry (Article 20 UPOV/ art 17 EU regulation 2100/94). The webinar will be followed by an update on the Plant Breeders’ Rights field concerning the growers’ and producers’ position in the sector given by Ms Mia Buma.
significant progress in including plants and nature in the city’s form and function.