FINAL REPORT

EXPO 2023 KAHRAMANMARAŞ

NATURE FRIENDLY CITY AND SENSITIVITY
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EXPO 2023 Onikisubat/Kahramanmaraş is designed as one of the biggest projects that will significantly change the future of our city.

We started our Expo preparations in 2018, right after we received AIPH approval. First, there were slowdowns in the project due to the pandemic that swept the world, but we recovered.

Our preparations for the construction of the Expo site and inviting foreign and local participants continued vigorously for the opening date scheduled 23 April 2023. With the support of our special advisor Ambassador Erdoğan KÖK and Director of International Relations Mücahit Şengül, the number of foreign participants reached to 29 before the opening date. The number of Turkish municipalities and local institutions reached to 25.

However, on 6th of February 2023 a devastating earthquake hit a large south eastern part of Türkiye including Kahramanmaraş. Unfortunately according to the official figures more than 50 thousand people died and more 122 thousand people injured in 11 provinces. We lost 14 thousand people alone in Kahramanmaraş. The damage to the buildings and infrastructure was enormous.

Since the first day of the earthquake the whole nation acted quickly and tried to save lives first and to

1. MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN OF KAHRAMANMARAŞ EXPO 2023

As the Mayor of Onikisubat/Kahramanmaraş, I am happy and excited to host the Horticultural EXPO 2023 in my city.

Kahramanmaraş is a city with a population of approximately 1.18 million people, with its rich culture, nature and well developed social and economic infrastructure.

The name of the city Maraş has a history of 3000 years, and the city has a history of 9000 years. Kahramanmaras, in English means heroic Maras given after its heroic resistance during the Turkish independence war.

Kahramanmaraş is also an important meeting point for civilizations with its tradition of tolerance and rich cultural heritage.
provide shelter and food for those survivors. We are also thankful to international community for their quick and efficient response to help to the earthquake stricken provinces. And we are grateful to AIPH administration, members and foreign participants for their support and understanding since the earthquake without which we would not be able to continue under these extraordinary conditions.

Expo 2023 Kahramanmaraş site is not affected from the earthquake but construction and other activities were halted naturally. Due to the urgent shelter needs, some areas like car parking area are allocated to tenth and container camps. Hobby houses perfectly functioned as an urgent sheltering for the owners and their relatives in the first difficult days of the disaster when the temperatures were below zero.

As the city started to recover and tried to heal its wounds we thought Expo site remained the only green area to serve to the people of Kahramanmaraş as a place of socializing, recreation and rehabilitation and therefore as of 1 March we initiated the remaining works again in spite of difficulties and determined to finish it.

Under all these circumstances the opening of the Expo2023 would not be possible as it is scheduled on 23 April 2023. After our continuous with the AIPH, the opening date of the Expo is postponed to 14 October 2023 to be open for a duration of 3 months. Number of international participants dropped to 22, national participants to 14.

On October 14, 2023, the opening ceremony was attended by Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry İbrahim Yumaklı, Chairman of the TBMM Commission on Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Affairs Vahit Kırişçi, City Protocol, AIPH President Leonardo Capitanio, AIPH Secretary General Tim Briercliffe, Governor of Dangara, Tajikistan and representatives of participating country missions and pavilions.

After the opening we were able to organize many cultural, commercial and social activities. Most of the country gardens and pavilions were open. Foreign dignitaries and delegations visited Kahramanmaraş and Expo site. The interest of Kahramanmaraş people was huge and Expo is appreciated by the people.

For all of us Kahramanmaraş Expo 2023 was a challenging experience how Expo’s can continue under extraordinary conditions. Resilience of our beloved people, continuous support of our President and officials, solidarity and cooperation with foreign friends gave us the necessary courage and ability to finalize it.

Thank You
## 2. General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>EXPO 2023 KAHRAMANMARÅŞ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postponed:</td>
<td>14 October 2023-14 January 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization responsible</td>
<td>Onikişubat Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>B Category International Horticultural Exhibition registered by AIPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Theme</td>
<td>Nature Friendly City and Sensitivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Hours</td>
<td>Daily 10.00am – 23.00 am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>600.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22 Official Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NATIONAL PARTICIPANTS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Cities / Towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Institutional Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>25 Cultural Programs and Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 Art and Cultural Performances Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28 Activities and Events for Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 B2B Meetings, Business Promotions, Academic Workshops,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Special Events organized by international participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expo Site</td>
<td>78 hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.9 hectares Expo-Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36.176 m² outdoor gardens for international participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.655 m² exhibition area for national participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indoor Gardens Hall: 5.000 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting</td>
<td>Trees 10.000 / 6 species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transplanted Trees 1.508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seasonal Flowers 300.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grass 160.000 m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Buildings          | Butterfly and Ladybug Museum:  
|                   | Conference Hall: 500 seats in the main hall,  
|                   | Children's World  
|                   | Green Center  
|                   | Arasta Bazaar  
|                   | Hobby Houses  
|                   | 2 Restaurants  
|                   | 1 Administration Buildings  
| Events & Entertainment | Amphitheatre: 1500 seats,  
|                      | 1 mobile stages  
|                      | Aquapark and Amusement Park  
| Other projects     | Wedding Palace and Island  
| Entrances          | 2 Visitor Entrances/Exits  
|                    | 1 VIP Entrance  
|                    | 1 Logistics Gate  
|                    | 3 Emergency Entrances  
| Visitor Services   | 1 Visitor Information Offices  
|                    | 1 Lost and Found Office  
|                    | 4 Toilet units  
|                    | Traffic & Mobility  
|                    | Regular Shuttle Buses to Kahramanmaraş  
|                    | 1 parking lot for 1,559 cars. However due to earthquake, this area is allocated as a container house camp.  
|                    | 1 parking lot for 20 cars at Admin building  
|                    | 1 parking lot for 100 cars for Arasta Bazaar  
|                    | 1 parking lot for 20 cars for restaurants  
|                    | 16 electrical golf cars  

3. Organization

After the Kahramanmaraş B category Horticultural Expo approved by the AIPH in 2018, an administration is established in parallel with the administration of the Onikişubat Municipality. Chairperson of the Expo Administration is the Mayor of Onikişubat Municipality Mr. Hanefi Mahçiçek. Deputy Mayor Ali Ünsal, Director of International Relations Mr. Mücahit Şengül, Director of Parks and Gardens, Director of Projects, Director of Public and Press Relations were in charge of issues in different fields.

For a successful coordination between the institutions of the city, a city advisory board is established under the chairmanship of the Governor. Members are: Metropolitan Mayor, Rector of Sütçü Imam University, Rector of İstiklal University, Mayor of Onikişubat Municipality, Mayor of Dulkadiroğlu Municipality and Chairman of the Kahramanmaraş Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Upon the request of the Onikişubat Municipality/Expo Administration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assigned Ambassador Mr. Erdoğan KÖK as special advisor to support the Expo in increasing foreign participation and international relations.
4. The Idea and Concept of the Exhibition

4.1 Objectives

EXPO 2023 Kahramanmaraş shared the common objectives of international horticultural exhibitions such as encouraging developments and sharing experiences in the field of horticulture in particular and agriculture in general, through international cooperation, cultural and economic programs.

In addition, in spite of its natural beauty, strategic location and cultural/historical richness, Kahramanmaraş long time waiting to be explored. In this regard Horticultural Expo came out as a very sound project taking into account the scope and goals of the Horticulture Expos.

The need for such a transformation very well overlapped with the themes of the Expo 2023. The city administration together with the people of Kahramanmaraş have a strong desire to make the city Nature friendly and increase sensitivity to the nature, learn and use new technics like biophilic design etc.

Development of horticultural industry in the city (the city has convenient climate conditions for horticultural industry) in order to diversify economical activities was another important motivation behind Expo.
4.2 Main Theme & Sub Themes

The main theme of Expo 2023 is “Nature Friendly City and Sensitivity”.

One of the 21st century’s main problems is the urbanization spreading all over the world. Along with the increasing population, the gradual depletion of natural resources, diminishing natural areas and production-oriented developments threaten the future of our planet. In these perspectives, the word “Sensitivity” emphasizes that people should pay attention to nature and natural life, while the term “Nature-Friendly City” points to the new form that global urbanization should take. The theme aims to bring together countries and organizations to collaborate in building ‘A New Urban Concept After the World Witnesses the Harsh Consequences of a Universal Pandemic’; to enable visitors to discuss ideas, find common ground to develop common and sustainable solutions; and to build strong and lasting partnerships for a greener world.

Sub-themes:

Nature-based Education for Children: The first principle of protecting the environment and ecological balance is to create a nature-based education for children. The future of our lonely and beautiful planet depends on prioritizing nature-based education.

Biophilic Design of Urban Renewal: In Latin, “bio” means “life” and “biophilia” means “love of life”. “Biophilic Design” is an innovative way of designing the spaces where we live and work. Its distinctive feature is that it gives nature the necessary priority.

Urban Horticulture and Local Foods: Kahramanmaraş’s geographical location makes it the center of “Turkish Cuisine”. The unique and rich heritage of national and local cuisine will be re-evaluated in the context of urban gardening.

The Wisdom of Simplicity: Increasing consumption of the Earth’s limited resources, global warming that changes the rhythm of the climate, ever-expanding urbanization and a global mentality that lives only in the present and consumes the heritage of the past and the future. Could the solution to overcome this mentality be the wisdom of simplicity, as all the great religions point to?

4.3 The Exhibition Concept

The exhibition concept of EXPO 2023 Kahramanmaraş especially after the devastating earthquake, was to offer to the people of Kahramanmaraş a green area to help to heal their wounds, recover, socializing and spending a quality time after their big trauma.
After the earthquake, in spite of difficulties and shortages, within the framework of the objectives of EXPO 2023 Kahramanmaraş, a series of conferences, seminars, official visits, B2B meetings and special events were realized by participating countries and Türkiye.
5. Timeline

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023
6. Main Buildings and Facilities

CRYSTAL LAGUN
The 69,000 m² artificial lake, the largest in Turkey and Europe, will be the main attraction of the Expo area. People will not only enjoy the beautiful turquoise color, but also try water sports.
GREEN LIVING EXPERIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER
How can we include more green in our daily lives? How much do we know about plants? In this center, we will find answers to all these questions and be informed about innovative applications.

WEDDING PALACE
The wedding ceremony, where couples and their loved ones will have a unique experience with unforgettable memories, will turn into a feast of nature.
ARASTA MARKET
Geographically marked products will be exhibited and sold in 23 workplaces. Art workshops will also take place in this area. It will be the light and green tower of the future with its interesting design and structure.

BUTTERFLY AND LADYBUG GARDEN
This unique garden, which brings together two attractive creatures of nature, will offer an unforgettable experience to its visitors.

HOBBY HOUSES
282 hobby gardens will be a living space intertwined with nature and away from the noise of the city. This part proved to be essential when the earthquake hit the city and provided shelter for survivors and their relatives during the first days of the disaster when the temperature was below zero and no electricity and water in the city.
AMFI THEATER and CONCERT AREA
A combination of modern and historic architecture, it will serve for shows, events and concerts.

EXPO TOWER
It will be the light tower of the future with its interesting design and structure.

CHILDREN’S WORLD
Our children will have living spaces away from the digital world, where they will learn while having fun in touch with nature.
Administration Building
Offices and other administrative units of the Onikişubat Municipality were situated in this building.

EXPO GARDENS
Official exhibitors from all over the world and Turkiye introduced their cultures and horticultural experiences as well as the themes of the EXPO.

7. Participants

7.1 International Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Flag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Republic of Germany</td>
<td>🇩🇪</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Republic of Pakistan</td>
<td>🇵🇰</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>🇯🇵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of Netherlands</td>
<td>🇳🇱</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kingdom of Spain</td>
<td>🇪🇸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>🇲 Ngài</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People’s Republic of Bangladesh</td>
<td>🇧🇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Djibouti</td>
<td>🇧🇯</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of France</td>
<td>🇫🇷</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of the Gambia</td>
<td>🇬🇦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Georgia</td>
<td>🇬🇷</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Kazakhstan</td>
<td>🇰🇿</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>🇰🇬</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>🇰🇷</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Sierrra Leone</td>
<td>🇸🇱</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of the Sudan</td>
<td>🇸🇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Tajikistan</td>
<td>🇰🇪</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Zimbabwe</td>
<td>🇸🇿</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Palestine</td>
<td>🇵🇸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Mexican States</td>
<td>🇲🇽</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus</td>
<td>🇹🇷</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.2 Gardens of International Participants

Federal Republic of Germany

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Japan
Kingdom of Netherlands

Kingdom of Spain

Montenegro
People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Republic of Djibouti

Republic of the Gambia
Republic of Georgia

Republic of Kazakhstan

Republic of Sierra Leone
Republic of the Sudan

Republic of Tajikistan

Republic of Zimbabwe
State of Palestine

United Mexican States

United States of America
7.3 National Participants

| Kahramanmaraş Chamber of Commerce and Industry | Türkoğlu Municipality |
| World Ethnosport Confederation | Elbistan Municipality |
| University of Sütçü İmam | Dokmer Down Cultur and Education Center |
| University of İstiklal | Şahinbey Municipality |
| Kahramanmaraş Municipality | Dulkadiroğlu Municipality |

7.4 Gardens of National Participants

Kahramanmaraş Chamber of Commerce and Industry
World Ethnosport Confederation

University of Sütçü İmam

Kahramanmaraş Municipality
Türkoğlu Municipality

Elbistan Municipality

Dokmer Down Cultur and Education Center
Şahinbey Municipality

Dulkadiroğlu Municipality
8. The Earthquake

A devastating earthquake of 7.8 on the Richter scale hit Southern Turkey in the early hours of 6 February 2023 (4.17 a.m.), with epicenter in the Pazarcık district of Kahramanmaraş province. The earthquake heavily affected the neighboring provinces of Adıyaman, Kilis, Osmaniye, Gaziantep, Malatya, Elazığ as well as Şanlıurfa, Adana, Diyarbakır and Hatay, where around 14 million people reside.

Many aftershocks followed the earthquake and a second major earthquake hit the region after 9 hours with 7.5 magnitude causing serious further damage and destruction of damaged buildings.
On the evening of 20 February 2023 a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Hatay, with epicenter in Defne district. Several damaged buildings in the province collapsed, adding to the death toll.

According to the official figures, 53,537 people lost their lives and 107,213 people are injured. Damage surveys indicate that 173,000 buildings in 11 provinces collapsed or are heavily damaged.

Death toll in Kahramanmaraş was 14,000. More than 7 thousand buildings collapsed. Around 40,000 buildings were heavily damaged.

Whole nation rushed to these 11 affected cities to save lives and provide them shelter and food under heavy winter conditions. International community also reacted quickly and efficiently. From 93 countries thousands of rescue team members arrived and worked day and night to save lives.
This earthquake is considered one of the biggest disasters of all times taking into account its destructive power and nature.

Expo 2023 Kahramanmaraş site is not affected from the earthquake but construction and other activities were halted naturally. Due to the urgent shelter needs, some areas like car parking area are allocated to tent and container camps. Hobby houses perfectly functioned as an urgent sheltering for the owners and their relatives in the first difficult days of the disaster when the temperatures were below zero.
As the city started to recover and tried to heal its wounds we thought Expo site remained the only green area to serve to the people of Kahramanmaraş as a place of socializing, recreation and rehabilitation and therefore as of 1 March we initiated the remaining works again in spite of difficulties and determined to finish it.
Mr Hanefi Mahçiçek  
Metropolitan Mayor of Onikişubat  
Kahramanmaraş  
Türkiye  
6 February 2023

Dear Mr Mahçiçek,

This morning we woke to the terrible news about the serious earthquake that has hit your city and the surrounding region. On behalf of the AIPH family, I would like to express our sincere and deepest condolences on the tragic loss of life that your city is experiencing today. This is a devastating and terrifying time for your citizens, many of whom may have lost family or friends or lost or experienced damage to their homes.

I want to reassure you of our prayers and thoughts at this time, and we will do our bit to share the news of your situation with our global community.

I know that you will be focused on supporting your citizens at this time, and we will support you in any way we can.

I look forward to speaking with you in due course when you are ready to look forwards again, rebuild your city and look to the future.

Yours sincerely

Leonardo Capitanio  
AIPH President

International Association of Horticultural Producers, Horticulture House, Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0RN United Kingdom.  
T: +44 (0) 1235 776230  I  E: sg@aiph.org  I  www.aiph.org

The International Association of Horticultural Producers is an international non-profit association registered in Brussels, Belgium.

VAT number: GB 184353007.  Registration number: 546 558 178.
9. Cultural Programs & Events

14.10.2023  Expo Opening Ceremony
14.10.2023  After the Opening Ceremony Concert by Azerin
21.10.2023  Concert by İşın Karaca and Elif Buse Doğan
22.10.2023  Concert by Emre Aydın
23.10.2023  Concert by Sağoba Kajmer
23.10.2023  Kits Fest
29.10.2023  Show and concert by Rafadan Tayfa
27.10.2023  Masterchef TV show
02.11.2023  Children’s Fest
03.11.2023  Koto drum show by Japanese drummer Atsuko Suetomi
04.11.2023  Book Fair opening and talk-show with author Serdar Tunçer
05.11.2023  Book Fair and talk-show with author Nurullah Genç
06.11.2023  Book Fair and talk-show with author Zafer Şahin
07.11.2023  Book Fair and talk-show with author Seniye Bencik Kangal
08.11.2023  Talk-show and book-signing with author Prof.Dr. Tufan Gündüz
10.11.2023  Book Fair and talk-show with author Rabia Birsen Göğercin
11.11.2023  Book Fair and talk-show with author British activist Lauren Booth
11.11.2023  Book Fair and talk-show with author Altay Cem Meriç
11.11.2023  Book Fair and talk-show with author Vehbi Vakkasoğlu
15.11.2023  Coffee and Chocolate Fest
01.12.2023  Textile Fair
27.12.2023  Shopping Fest
31.12.2023  Children’s Fest
13.01.2024  Gastronomy Fest
14.01.2024  Expo Closing Ceremony
14.10.2023 Expo Opening Ceremony

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s Video Message

Cevdet Yılmaz: Vice President
İbrahim Yumaklı: Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Vahit Kirişçi: Kahramanmaraş MP Former Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Leanardo Capitanio: President of AIPH
Hanefi Mahçiçek: Chairman of Expo 2023 Onikşubat Kahramanmaraş
Hayrettin Güngör: Metropolitan Mayor
14.10.2023  After the Opening Ceremony Concert by Azerin

21.10.2023  Concert by İşın Karaca and Elif Buse Doğan

22.10.2023  Concert by Emre Aydın
23.10.2023    Concert by Sagoba Kajmer

23.10.2023    Kits Fest

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04.11.2023  Book Fair opening and talk-show with author Serdar Tunçer

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11.11.2023  Book Fair and talk-show with author Vehbi Vakkasoğlu

15.11.2023  Coffe and Chocolate Fest
27.12.2023  Shopping Fest

15.01.2024  Gastronomy Fest
14.01.2024 Expo Closing Ceremony and Awards

Winner of the International Best Garden Zimbabwe

Runner - Up International Best Garden Montenegro

Third Place for the International Best Garden Netherland

Winner of the International Best Interior Design Levi Sap Nei Thang/USA
Third place for the International Best Interior Design Gambia

Runner-up for Best International Interior Design Georgia
10. Official Visits

Site visits carried out by Aiph

19.09.2018
07.05.2018
50.12.2019

16.10.2021
19.09.2022
03.05.2022

Opening of Expo 2022 Almere Netherland
Türkiye Garden (represented by Onikişubat Municipality, Expo 2023 Kahramanmaraş) 26.06.2022
Visit of Ankara Netherlands Ambassador Joep Wijnands 27.04.2023

Embassy visits by Special Advisor Ambassador Erdoğan Kök
Visit of Hungarian Embassy Commercial Attachés Aron Sipos and Peter Kövecsi Olah

Visit of Nepalese Commissioner General Brendra Bajracharya

Visit of Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Ankara, Reşat Mammadov

Visit of Djibouti Ministry of Commerce Undersecretary Abobaker Hassan

Visit of Republic of Tajikistan Khotlon Region Delegation

Visit of Batumi Municipality

Visit of Japan EXPO 2027 Yokohama Chief Advisor Dr. Takuhiro Yamada

Visit of Ankara Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea, Won Ik Lee.

Visit of Chief Advisor to the President of the Gambia, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Expo Commissioner Saibo Tunkara

Dubai Expo 2020 visit 06.03.2022
11. Conferance, Forum and B2B Meetings

Germany Visa Information Day 14.06.2019

EXPO 2023 Conference 17.11.2022

Zimbabwe Trade and Investment Forum 22.11.2023
12. Ticketing, visitor statistics

Approximately 600,000 people visited Expo 2023 Onikişbat Kahramanmaraş between 14/10/2023 and 14/01/2024.

13. Benefits and Legacy

One of the main problems of the 21st century is urbanization, which is spreading globally. The increasing consumption of natural resources along with the growing population, opening all natural areas for use, and the design of a completely human and production-oriented space are threatening the future of our planet, therefore, it becomes more urgent to find solutions that can improve existing major cities and enable smaller cities to grow in a sustainable way. Expo projects should reflect the regeneration of certain areas and the reconfiguration of the city’s operational systems (infrastructure, public facilities etc.).

Expo site of Kahramanmaraş Expo2023 was actually a dump land needed to be developed. Using such an area as an Expo site is a very visionary and important idea. As the city of Kahramanmaraş was struggling to solve its development and improvement problems, the Expo site looked like a sound solution for some part of the issues. Therefore the Expo project included some different ideas unlike other Expo sites. In fact this vision made the Kahramanmaraş Expo 2023 different but more resilient when one of the biggest earthquakes of Türkiye also hit this city. One could not have guessed that hobby houses one day would save so many lives and the Expo site itself would be a life saver after the devastating earthquake.

In spite of all difficulties and shortcomings, Expo 2023 is opened and operated for three months and after the Expo term it would continue to serve to the city residents with all its facilities and infrastructure. The lake and the land around it and Expo site will witness a new urbanization that we are highlighting in our Expo themes. After the earthquake it looks clear that this new urban area will open a new chapter in the city’s development and sustainability.
14. Conclusion

Kahramanmaraş Horticultural Expo 2023 started with high hopes and expectations. Everybody in the Expo team worked hard and tried their best to make the Expo ready for its scheduled opening day. However first global pandemics and then the devastating earthquake made things rough and though. We are grateful to Kahramanmaraş people for their continuous support to Expo project in spite of what they have been through after the earthquake. And we are grateful to AIPH administration, members and foreign/local participants for their support and understanding since the earthquake without which we would not be able to continue under these extraordinary conditions.

For all of us Kahramanmaraş Expo 2023 was a challenging experience how Expo’s can continue under extraordinary conditions. Resilience of our beloved people, continuous support of our President and officials, solidarity and cooperation with foreign friends gave us the necessary courage and ability to finalize it.