

An Example of a Next Generation Exposition

By Izumi Shinya

EVEN those directly involved in the EXPO know surprising little about its history.

The modern Olympic Games, the America's Cup, and gold, silver and bronze medals all owe their origins to expositions. Well-informed people may know this much, but research also suggests that events resembling to modern-day expositions were actually held from around 2,500 BC. According to this research, "expositions" were held annually in such ancient towns as Moenjo Daro and Susa, and strangely enough, those events were the same 180 days in length as their modern equivalent. At these ancient expositions, people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds gathered to enjoy each other's company, spending their time drinking and dancing.

Expositions through the ages have always been events that encompass humankind, the Earth and the universe. The aspects of humankind, the Earth and the universe represented to people have differed from one age to the next. With this in mind, I would like to reflect upon the 3,000-year history of expositions and consider their significance.

Contemplating expositions in millennium phases may seem to lack rhyme or reason, but according to the BIE (Bureau International des Expositions), which oversees international

expositions, the next turning point of EXPO development will be around the year 2030, so considering their evolution in 1,000-year stages is by no means illogical.

The first internationally recognized "modern exposition" was probably the Great Exhibition, held in London in 1851 to sing Britain's praises for becoming the first nation in the world to accomplish an industrial revolution. As we know from British history, through the Enclosure Acts of the mid-18th century, many people who had engaged in agriculture with healthy bodies and superior sensitivity of nature were denied access to "common" land and so moved to cities such as Manchester and London in search of work. Their labor was a key factor in the industrial revolution.

The notion that manufacturers are also consumers appeared for the first time, and was integral in the success of the world's first industrial revolution.

The Great Exhibition was the brainchild of Prince Albert, whose statue can still be seen today in Hyde Park. The words, "I see us all moving in the same direction" are inscribed on the granite base. If we consider the path of industrialization that the world followed for the next 150 years, his reference to the "same direction" could not have been more accurate.

Nevertheless, the world is now plagued with problems such as mass production, mass consumption, mass disposal and large-scale pollution that can be traced back to the Industrial Revolution. The world also suffers from conflicts born of mass consumption of energy resources and increasingly fierce international competition in manufacturing and sales.

If, as I suggest, expositions are a celebration of civilization and culture, we should turn our attention not only to what EXPO 2005 AICHI, JAPAN will achieve, but also to what this Exposition will pass on to the future.

WHAT will be the legacy of EXPO 2005 AICHI, JAPAN that will endure for the next 1,000 years?

The first is an environmental creation technique named the "Bio Lung." It is a huge green wall comprised of flowers and plants. It absorbs the CO₂ emitted in the city and supplies oxygen, and helps to cool down the city during the summer, to improve the urban environment. The green-design concept used in

Development of the Theme

Nature's Wisdom

Create a new world where Humankind and Nature can co-exist in harmony

Nature's Matrix

- *The universe and earth as imagined by humankind
- *Future communications and technology
- *The existence of humankind and Life science

Art of Life

- *Living cultures coexisting with nature
- *Arts that have been inherited throughout the ages
- *Technology and ethics: the past and the future

Development for Eco-Communities

- *Development, preservation of nature, and environmental restoration in the 21st century
- *Proposals for building a global-scale social system based on recycling and energy conservation concepts
- *Proposals for lifestyles for a new "global citizen" based on recycling and energy conservation concepts



the Bio Lung originated from the words of Dr. John Rauch, the founder of the American Public Health Association, "Parks are the lungs of the city."

The thinking and technology behind these "lungs of the city" will help make a dream come true for city-dwellers in the 21st century, when the majority of the Earth's population will live in either urban or rural environments. Just as aqua-lungs (scuba diving equipment) allow human beings to move freely under water, "bio-lungs" will add new richness and scope to urban living.

The Bio Lung in the EXPO 2005 is a completely new idea involving upright walls of multi-layered construction. The space inside the walls allows people to move freely, resting or enjoying themselves as they see fit. They are prefabricated and made of biodegradable materials, 90% of which will eventually be returned to nature.

The scarcest resource for humankind in the 21st century will be real water, and as Dr. Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute has been warning us for more than 20 years, this will eventually lead to a serious food crisis for the human race. We must therefore hurry to develop new types of agriculture and new food supply systems. The concept of the "bio-lungs" has the potential to be useful in the development of agriculture for the production of food.

"Common" is one of the most noteworthy ideas to come out of EXPO 2005 AICHI, JAPAN, and is eloquently stated by the six common sites (Global Commons), all linked by the Global Loop, the sky walkway.

Britain's industrial revolution was made possible by "common enclosures." The industrial revolution brought both huge advances and challenges, but the importance of the thinking and wisdom behind "commons" was not lost in the process.

We now need to promote this new form of "common." For the sake of peace on earth, we must see every piece of land on every continent and island as "common" land, shared by all the citizens of the world. We should learn from the wisdom of those who came before us, who named the world's oldest urban public park, not "Boston Park," but Boston Common. It is our wish that mother Earth will some day become a "common" planet shared by all its people.

As we strive to advance such thinking, we soon realize that nothing is possible without the cooperation of NGOs, NPOs and

Global Commons



Bio Lung

volunteers, and looking back through history at previous expositions, none matches EXPO 2005 for the level of their participation. I think this manifests a major trend in global society.

IT is rare for an exposition site to represent nature's wisdom and the original form of the land as faithfully as the EXPO 2005 site does. More than 50% of the site preserves the natural environment.

An exposition is an event that, in any age, takes a close look at the realities of the day and the possibilities for the future. I sincerely hope that EXPO 2005 AICHI, JAPAN is no exception. **JS**

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