



NEWS RELEASE

16 March 2026

Japan Association for the International
Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama

GREEN × EXPO 2027 Signs Official Participation Contract with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

- Tropical Forests to be prominent at GREEN × EXPO 2027 as ITTO becomes the first international organization to sign an Official Participation Contract -

On 12 March 2026, GREEN×EXPO Association (Official Name: Japan Association for the International Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama) entered an official participation contract for GREEN×EXPO 2027 (International Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama, Japan) with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). This marks the first official participation contract signed with an international organization.

ITTO is an intergovernmental organization promoting the sustainable management of the world's tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical wood and wood products from legally harvested and sustainably managed forests. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, ITTO is headquartered in the City of Yokohama since its inception in 1986. As the only international organization headquartered in Yokohama, ITTO is a proud contributor to events, activities, and engagement with its host Yokohama City, the local community and wider Japanese public.

In collaboration with Yokohama City, ITTO will contribute to energizing GREEN×EXPO 2027 through a wide range of initiatives. These include an exhibition themed “coexistence between tropical forests and humanity” featuring a simulated tropical forest environment as well as events and workshops that will educate and inspire the public, especially young people.



Commemorative photo after the signing: Ambassador KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko, Commissioner of GREEN × EXPO 2027 (left), Ms. Sheam SATKURU, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization and Commissioner of Section of the ITTO at GREEN × EXPO 2027 (center), Mr. KOMURA Masato, Secretary General of GREEN × EXPO Association(right).

■ Overview of the Signing Ceremony

Date	2PM, Thursday, 12 March 2026
Venue	International Tropical Timber Organization (Nishi-ward, City of Yokohama)
Signatories	● Ms. Sheam SATKURU, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization (Commissioner of Section of the ITTO at GREEN × EXPO 2027) ● Mr. KOMURA Masato, Secretary General, Japan Association for the International Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama ● Ambassador KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko, Commissioner of GREEN × EXPO 2027

■ Comments from Signatories (Summary)



【Executive Director Ms. SATKURU】

Please allow me to warmly congratulate the City of Yokohama for hosting this prestigious GREEN × EXPO from March-September 2027. The ITTO is very privileged to be the only intergovernmental organization to be headquartered in and supported by the City of Yokohama. Equally, the ITTO is honoured to accept this invitation from the Government of Japan to participate at the GREEN × EXPO in 2027 under the patronage of our generous host, Yokohama City. The ITTO looks forward to bringing and sharing experiences from lush tropical forests with audiences who visit the GREEN × EXPO 2027. It is our hope that our participation will enrich the successes of the GREEN × EXPO 2027 and leave lasting memories of this prestigious event.



【Secretary General Mr. KOMURA】

At GREEN×EXPO 2027, ITTO aims to highlight the concept of 'Nature-Based Solutions', where the functions of healthy natural ecosystems contribute to humanity. During the event, various exhibitions and workshops will be held. 'Nature-Based Solutions' is an important keyword for GREEN×EXPO 2027, which aims to promote coexistence with nature, and I am very much looking forward to it.



【Ambassador KOSHIKAWA】

Since its establishment in 1986, Japan has supported the implementation of field projects in producer countries while also assisting in the operation of ITTO headquarters as a host nation. We are confident that this exhibition will provide an excellent opportunity to further deepen the long-standing cooperative relationship between Japan and ITTO. Looking ahead, we believe it is vital to utilise the GREEN×EXPO 2027 platform to deepen discussions on the future shape of society and communicate these internationally as we move beyond the SDGs. In this regard too, we look forward to strengthening our collaboration with all members of ITTO.

■ Official Participants / Commissioner of Section

Official Participants are those foreign governments and international organizations that have accepted an official invitation from the Government of Japan to participate in the Expo. Each Official Participants in the Expo will be represented by a Commissioner of Section.

■ Commissioner of the Expo

The Commissioner of the Expo is the position appointed by the Government of Japan under the Temporary Measures Act and represents the Government of Japan with respect to GREEN×EXPO 2027.

■ International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization promoting the sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests.

ITTO was established in 1986 under the 1983 International Tropical Timber Agreement (which came into force in 1985). Since its inception, it has been headquartered in the City of Yokohama. ITTO celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The ITTO is governed by the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006 and has 76 member countries: 37 producer countries, 39 consumer countries including the European Union. ITTO has implemented over 1,400 policy and capacity development projects to date, focusing amongst others on human resource development and institutional strengthening related to sustainable forest management, forest restoration, forest fire prevention, and building legal and sustainable tropical timber supply chains. It plays a significant role in the conservation of tropical forests in the Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Africa.

For 40 years since its establishment, the ITTO in Japan has focused on collaboration with the local community, contributing to the development of the next generation through many initiatives such as joint classes with schools in Yokohama. In 2024, ITTO, the City of Yokohama Green Environment Bureau, and the Yokohama Greenery Foundation signed a “Agreement on Awareness-Raising Activities Concerning the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical Forests and Biodiversity.” This agreement facilitates public relations and awareness-raising activities in collaboration with the city's zoos.

ITTO's Activity Plan for GREEN×EXPO 2027

- **Exhibition** (Themed “Coexistence between tropical forests and humanity”, featuring displays simulating lush tropical environments)
- **International Conference** (A forum for sharing knowledge and perspectives on environmental, social and developmental issues surrounding tropical forests, including young people)
- **Workshop** (Workshops aimed at deepening understanding of tropical forests)
- **Tropical forests' contributions to Nature-based Solutions**

Enquiries about this press release

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Overview of the GREEN×EXPO 2027

Name	International Horticultural Expo 2027, Yokohama, Japan
Abbreviation	GREEN×EXPO 2027
Site	City of Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan
Duration	Friday, 19 March 2027 – Sunday, 26 September 2027
Theme	Scenery of the Future for Happiness
Expo Site	Approx. 100 hectares (Exhibition Area is 80 hectares)
Expo Class	A1 (Highest) (AIPH Approval and BIE Recognition)
Participants	15 million (Admission Paying Visitors: over 10 million)
Website	https://expo2027yokohama.or.jp/en/



Official Mascot
Tunku Tunku