



HUNGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF ARBORETA AND BOTANIC GARDENS

FOUNDED 1992

Botanic Gardens Delivering Public Goods and Supporting Society Experts of Eastern and Central European Botanic Gardens Meet in Budapest

Budapest, 6th October 2017 (Friday) – *Botanic garden experts from 24 countries participate at the 3rd conference of Eastern and Central European Botanic Gardens and, respectively, at the upcoming meeting of the European Botanic Gardens Consortium to be held this weekend and next week in Budapest, Hungary. The main topic of the prestigious professional event patronized by Dr. János Áder, President of the Republic, is going to focus on how the gardens hosting living plant collections may serve society as institutions of outstanding importance in nature conservation and research, as well as in tourism and recreation.*

Leading experts of Eastern and Central European botanic gardens meet in Budapest between 9th and 11th October at the third conference of the region's botanic gardens (EastCentGard III). The Hungarian Association of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens (HAABG) celebrating the 25th anniversary of its foundation officiates as host of the conference. The venue is Szent István University, Faculty of Horticulture, Buda Campus at Villányi str., Budapest. The patron of the conference is Dr. János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary.



Main topics of the three-day long professional event are going to cover nature conservation, general and environmental education as well as operative, maintenance and strategic issues related to botanic gardens. It will also be discussed how these institutions as knowledge centres are able to serve society. There will be some thirty presentations given in the above mentioned topics by Estonian, Polish, Austrian, Croatian, Slovenian, Bulgarian, Rumanian, Lithuanian, British, Italian, Greek, Russian, Ukrainian and Hungarian botanic garden experts. Conference participants arrive from 24 different European countries.

Following the opening ceremony on Monday, plenary lecture will be given among others by dr. Paul Smith, General Secretary of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) - the biggest international botanic garden organisation in the world. As part of the Tuesday programme, Pawel Kojas, President of the Polish Network of Botanic Gardens, Géza Kósa, President of HAABG and Prof. Dr. Miklós Persányi, Director-General of the Budapest Zoo, are going to exchange their views on the actual issues concerning botanic gardens at a roundtable meeting.

As a connected event, the upcoming meeting of European Botanic Gardens Consortium will be held in Hungary between the 6th and 8th of October. Each member state of the European Union delegates a single representative to this professional and coordinating body the duty of which is to assist cooperation among European botanic gardens.

**EUROPEAN
BOTANIC GARDENS
CONSORTIUM**

* * *

The very first botanic gardens as to the present meaning were established some five hundred years ago in Europe. In our days their number has reached about 3400 globally. They play an important role in the conservation of nature and biological diversity as well as in plant related research serving directly humanity's well being. Furthermore, their role is neither to be neglected in general and environmental education, tourism and recreation. In addition to that, a number of prestigious botanic gardens are carrier of significant cultural values and represent an important part of our common cultural heritage.

There are almost fifty botanic gardens and arboreta in Hungary which are active members of the Hungarian Association of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens established in 1992. As 70 % of domestic protected vascular plant species can be found in these gardens of living plant collections, Hungarian botanic gardens and arboreta contribute to an outstanding extent to the fulfilment of commitments taken by Hungary in this respect in the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is also related to their conservation values that 44 % of the domestic gardens of living plant collections enjoy national, while another 36 % of them enjoy local nature protection status.

Touristic and recreational importance of Hungarian arboreta and botanic gardens is well demonstrated by the fact that they have more than 2 million visitors annually.

The Hungarian government, in the frame of the New Széchenyi Plan, has provided more than 10 billion HUF support for the reconstruction and development of the most significant domestic botanic gardens, arboreta and historic gardens. As a result of this not only omissions of several decades have become negligible, but in many respect significant advances adjusted to the needs of the age could be realized. It shows well the scale of the support that these investments have concerned two third of the territory of domestic gardens of living plant collections the total area of which exceeds one thousand hectares.

For more information please contact:

Vince Zsigmond, General Secretary of HAABG

E-mail: fotitkar@mabotkertek.hu, Telephone: +36-20 / 203-9569