



FOUNDATION EXPO '88

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What is? Foundation Expo '88

Foundation Expo '88 is a web-site, a Museum, and an Association.

It is the genesis of a dream to keep the World Expo '88 vision alive in our hearts, for now and for future generations.

Launched on 30th April 2004, the sixteenth anniversary of the official opening of Brisbane's landmark World Expo '88, at Cafe San Marco, Southbank Parklands - the former expo site - this not-for-profit, non-government, private project with public aspirations, was born out of an idea by Expo-enthusiast and Brisbane local John McGregor, during an Expo Cities conference he attended in Seville, Spain, in October 2002.

As at 30th April 2004, Foundation Expo '88 receives no public or private funding, nor has it sought for funding, or paid monies to individuals or organisations that have contributed to the web-site. It is a purely private enterprise project initiated by the founder and Foundation Executive Director, John McGregor, to commemorate World Expo '88 and keep the Expo experience and dream alive for re-visitors and for future generations via the World Wide Web, via regular meetings of the Foundation, and via activities and projects determined by the Foundation. Whilst it is not an incorporated body, the Foundation aspires to be so in the future. Information contained on the web-site is not to be reproduced under any circumstances, and copyright subsists in the respective copyright owners. No information collated for Foundation Expo '88 shall be used for purposes apart from originally agreed.

The conference, the inaugural meeting of the Assembly of Expo Cities and Regions, was held at the World Trade Center, Seville, located just next to the former Seville expo site of 1992. Organised jointly by the Bureau of International Expositions (B.I.E.), Paris, and the office of the Mayor of Seville, this four-day assembly was a unique cross-fertilization of ideas and proposals for former expo cities and regions to work together and network for goals of mutual interest.

Brisbane, official seat of World Expo '88, was by default an automatic member of the Assembly, however, after much lobbying to the Brisbane City Hall, citing other conference commitments, Brisbane declined to send a delegate to this inaugural meeting.

Fearing that there would be no Brisbane presence at the Assembly, McGregor, an expo veteran of Brisbane '88, Seville '92 and Taejon '93 (South Korea), contacted the organising committee for the Seville meeting and was successful in quickly arranging his attendance at the Assembly as a volunteer administration assistant for the Conference. A real coup!

Going to Seville for McGregor also had another purpose - to meet with former colleagues from Expo '92 on the former Expo site.

The 4-day Assembly in Seville was attended by numerous delegates from former Expo cities and regions, as well as from future bidding host city candidates for Expo 2008 and Expo 2010.

It was a unique chance for former expo cities and regions to network and share ideas as to what 'is' the Expo experience, and how to capitalize on the the experience as well. Some Expo cities also had various tourism and expo-related documentation in the form of pamphlets and interactive CD-roms that chronicled for all their expo experience and what they have done to record their expo cultural heritage.

And yet, from Brisbane, host city of Expo '88, not only was there no delegate but also there was nothing in terms of material to provide to other delegates on the fruitful Brisbane Exposition.

Both Seville and Taejon both boasted numerous web-sites cataloging their Expo experiences, as well as official historical projects on CD-rom recording their exposition, and associations that lived to keep their Expo dream alive.

Furthermore, after returning to Australia, McGregor did some research on the internet to see what web resources were available on Expo '88, and could only find isolated resources of a visitor's photo collection, or a link to their C.V. where they had worked at Expo '88.

Yet, there was no comprehensive web-site on Brisbane's World Expo '88.

Taking the above into account, thus, the Foundation Expo '88 project was born.

With three-main goals - a web-site, an association, and a museum (both virtual and physical) it is hoped that one goal will lead to the next, hence, the first goal of the Foundation is the web-site, which will be an important rallying point for all the other goals.

As the Foundation grows in numbers and interest, it is hoped one day for a formalised incorporation to be established for the Exposition, with a physical visiting space on/nearby the former Expo site, the now Southbank Parklands.

Thank you for playing a part in this historic process! If you would like to join the Foundation, or play a role in it's administration, please contact me via the e-mail contact below.

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