



Guidelines for Submitting an Expression of Interest to Host the International Association for Plant Biotechnology (IAPB) Secretariat and organizing 17th IAPB Congress 2030

This document outlines the guidelines and instructions for IAPB members and National/Regional Correspondents interested in preparing and submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) to host the International Association for Plant Biotechnology (IAPB) Secretariat and organize the 17th IAPB Congress in 2030. These guidelines are based on the IAPB Constitution, historical practices, and recent communications from the IAPB Secretariat.

The IAPB Congress is a quadrennial event aimed at promoting plant biotechnology, including cell and tissue culture applications, and providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among its members. The 16th IAPB Congress (2026) will be held in Saskatoon, Canada. The selection process outlined here pertains to the Congress following 2026, which is anticipated for **2030**.

1. Purpose of this Document

This document serves as a guide for potential host regions/nations/cities to understand the criteria, expectations, and process for submitting an Expression of Interest to host the future IAPB Congress. It is intended to assist National/Regional Correspondents in preparing a compelling initial submission.

2. Eligibility to Bid

- Only **IAPB members** are eligible to bid to host the secretariat and organize the conference.
- Bids must be submitted by the **National/Regional IAPB Correspondent**.
- While bidding is open to all member regions, there is an unwritten expectation of **rotation through different sub-continents** (providing there are competing host regions). For example, it would be unlikely for a North American host to be considered or accepted for the 2030 Congress, given the 2026 Congress in Canada.
- It is in the best interest of the member region/national correspondent/member associations to have **strong representation at the upcoming Congress** where the decision will be made, to be able to support their bid.

3. Congress Overview

- **Frequency:** IAPB Congresses are held every **four years**.
- **Typical Timing:** Congresses are typically held in **Summer Months**, most often between June and early August.



- **Average Attendance:** Roughly **400 to 600 delegates**. A delegate counts greater than 600 is desirable.
- **Objectives of the Congress:** To be representative of work in plant biotechnology and tissue culture and open to all scientists to register, attend, and submit scientific communications.

4. Key Bid Evaluation Criteria

While the criteria have not been formalized in a specific list, the IAPB Secretariat and Advisory Board generally considers the following:

- **Fiscal Viability:** The bid should show compelling evidence that the hosts will be able to sustain the **fiscal viability of the IAPB organization**.
- **Local Institutional Support:** Demonstrate that local institutions support the bid, ensuring the local organizing committee (LOC) isn't overburdened.
- **Relevant Location:** The proposed venue should be situated in a location where **plant biotechnological research is vibrant**.
- **International Guest Accessibility (Logistics):**
 - Reasonable ability for international guests to gain access to the country (passport/visa openness).
 - Logistical considerations, including flights and other transportation.
 - Availability of suitable hotel accommodations and conference space.
- **Host Country Responsibilities:** The host country will be responsible for managing the IAPB website and being the lead to ensure the organization remains relevant from the time of transfer (after the Saskatoon Congress) until slightly after their own Congress is completed.
- **Aesthetic/Subjective Factors:** Other factors lend themselves to the creativity of the bid.
- **Exhibition Component:** The IAPB Congress typically includes an exhibition component. While specific venue requirements vary, information from previous congresses (e.g., Saskatoon's TCU Place details) can provide a benchmark. The 2026 Saskatoon hosts are also offering industrial tours to relevant institutions, which is an example of an additional offering.



5. Financial Backing and Sponsorship Expectations

- **IAPB Support:** The current IAPB Board intends to ensure small funds will be available to support the next host country. These funds are intended to sustain the organization and provide an initial budget for upfront costs prior to hosting the Congress.
- **Local Sponsorship: All sponsorship for the 2030 Congress should be sourced by the local organizing committee** and commercial convention planners.
- **Financial Legacy:** The executive should plan to be able to forward at least the amount of funds they received (from IAPB) to the next host country.
- **Utilization of Excess Funds:** If the host country is very successful in gaining sponsorship funds, they could consider diverting excess funds towards:
 - Student sponsorships.
 - Increasing funding for the subsequent congress hosts.
 - Other local initiatives (within the host country) that relate to improving the plant biotech ecosystem within their region.
- **Commercial Planners:** Commercial event planners will typically take percentages of sponsorship dollars they obtain to support the event. Local arrangements on these percentages are up to the local committee to negotiate.
- **Overall Goal:** The IAPB aims to ensure its sustainability and development into a vibrant organization that supports future congresses, students, and biotech ecosystems beneficial to humanity.

6. Editing Responsibilities for the Journal “In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology – Plant”

From the time of transition following the 2026 Congress until the completion of the 2030 Congress, the new host IAPB Executive will be expected to provide editorial support and management for the Journal In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology – Plant in collaboration with Springer and the Society for In Vitro Biology (SIVB).

This responsibility is a critical component of IAPB operations, as the journal serves both as a scientific platform for members and as a significant source of revenue that contributes to the organization’s financial viability. The host executive will work closely with the existing editorial team to ensure continuity, uphold publication standards, and maintain effective communication with authors and reviewers.



Key expectations include:

- Coordinating editorial activities and assisting with manuscript management.
- Supporting journal promotion within the plant biotechnology community.
- Ensuring smooth administrative oversight during the host term.
- This editorial role underscores the host executive's commitment not only to organizing the Congress but also to sustaining the broader scientific and financial ecosystem of IAPB.

7. Continuation of the IAPB Website in Collaboration with SIVB

The host executive is also responsible for maintaining and updating the IAPB website in collaboration with the Society for In Vitro Biology (SIVB). This partnership ensures continuity of online content, accessibility of information for members, and integration of congress updates, announcements, and journal links. The host will coordinate with the SIVB's technical and communications teams to keep the website current, user-friendly, and aligned with IAPB's mission and branding.

8. Submission Process and Key Dates

- **Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission:** Proposals for hosting the quadrennial Congresses should be submitted to the Secretariat **in writing**.
- **EOI Deadline:** It is expected that interested hosts (Regions/Nations/Cities) should communicate their interest to the IAPB executive **before the end of May** (with some flexibility on the final date). This aligns with the IAPB constitution which states proposals should be submitted at least three months before the Congress at which they will be considered.
- **Consideration:** Expressions of Interest and formal proposals will be evaluated and decided upon at the upcoming Congress, currently scheduled for **July 26-30, 2026**.
- **Decision Date:** The decision regarding which region/nation/city will host the next Congress will be **announced at the closing ceremony of the upcoming Congress** (July 26-30, 2026).
- **Informal Expressions:** Please note that informal expressions of interest have already been provided by a few potential hosts.

9. What to Include in Your Expression of Interest



Your written Expression of Interest should address the key criteria outlined in Section 4 and provide sufficient detail to demonstrate your region's suitability. While a formal bid document is not required at this stage, consider including:

- **Introduction:** Briefly introduce your region/nation/city and its interest in hosting the IAPB Congress.
- **Commitment to IAPB Objectives:** How your proposed Congress would promote plant biotechnology and serve the IAPB's objectives.
- **Evidence of Local Institutional Support:** Mention key institutions, universities, or research centers in plant biotechnology that would support the bid.
- **Location Relevance:** Describe the vibrancy of plant biotechnological research in your proposed area.
- **Logistical Feasibility:**
 - Overview of international access (major airports, connectivity).
 - General information on visa policies for international guests.
 - Indication of available conference facilities and accommodation options.
- **Preliminary Vision for the Congress:** A brief outline of how you envision your Congress sustaining the IAPB and contributing to the global plant biotech community (e.g., potential themes, unique offerings, initial thoughts on industrial tours, etc.).
- **Commitment to Financial Expectations:** A statement acknowledging the financial expectations regarding IAPB funding and local sponsorship.

10. Governing Document

It is crucial to understand that the **IAPB Constitution is the defining source of guidance** for how the IAPB functions. Nothing indicated in these guidelines should be interpreted to contravene anything spelled out in the constitution. The Executive Committee with the approval of the Council decides the date and location of the next International Congress.

11. Further Information

The IAPB Executive is actively seeking to provide better clarity about the selection process and expects to provide **more detailed information on the IAPB website prior to the end of April 2026**. Please refer to the official IAPB website for any updates or additional guidance.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

For initial inquiries and to submit your Expression of Interest, please contact the IAPB Secretariat:

Forrest Scharf, IAPB Secretary (forrest.scharf@gov.sk.ca) and

Pankaj Bhowmik, IAPB President (Pankaj.Bhowmik@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)