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Photo: Desmond Foo

Tay Suan Chiang
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The Straits Times



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Gardening stars unveiled

VISITORS to the second Singapore Garden Festival (SGF) next July can expect more gorgeous gardens by international award-winning garden designers.

The list of 20 international and local garden-designer participants was unveiled on Tuesday at the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

These include Japan's Kazuyuki Ishihara, who won two gold awards at the Chelsea Flower Show; France's Dimitri Xenakis, a winner at the 2007 International Gardens Festival at Chaumont; and Singapore's Henry Steed, a gold winner at the first SGF.

The SGF, organised by the National Parks Board (NParks), aims to be one of the world's top flower and garden shows.

It showcases the talents of some of the world's leading landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturists, working alongside the local horticulturists and nurseries.

On the chance to participate at the next SGF, award winner John Cullen from the United States says it provides "a sense of pedigree and opportunity to collaborate with the best designers from around the world".

The festival will also recognise the talents of the people who partner garden designers, such as contractors who work with them to create the gardens, by rewarding them with gold, silver and bronze awards.

Mr Ng Lang, CEO of NParks, says the award will help raise the profile of local industry players.

The Singapore Garden Festival will be on at the Suntec City Convention Centre from July 25 to Aug 1. Ticket details will be announced next year. For more details, visit www.singaporegardenfestival.com

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