

## Better life

**T**he World Expo 2010 in Shanghai will compare - focusing on the theme "Better City, Better Life" - different experiences of development, understandings based on urban planning and new approaches to human habitat, to boost and promote sustainable development among the different communities committed to a human-based progress.

Such process will be based on scientific and technological innovation, cultural diversity and mutual cooperation for a better future by relying on the crucial link between modernisation and interaction among the peoples.

A temporary exhibition - Italy of Innovators - will be organised on this occasion by the Italian ministry of public administration and innovation. A number of selected projects will put on display, including two conceived at the Science and Technology Park of Sicily.

In detail, the first is a "smart plastic bag", which is 100% biodegradable and made of composite materials comprising recycled paper and biopolymers from microbial sources. This innovation could find application for selective collection and composting.

The second innovation on display is a "futurible" technology to produce PHA (polyhydroxyalkanoate) in tobacco plants by transferring the genes of a bacterium capable of producing natural plastic. This could pave the way to great future opportunities and would start a low-cost production of biodegradable plastic materials with low environmental impact.