

S for Housing commences visit to Paris (with photos)

The Secretary for Housing, Ms Winnie Ho, began her visit to Paris, France, yesterday (May 19, Paris time).

In the morning, Ms Ho visited a social housing project which is undergoing renovation and will be upgraded into an energy saving and environmentally friendly building. She learned about the city's ways to minimise impacts of the works on the residents while they remain in place during the renovation. During the visit, Ms Ho shared the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA)'s experience in redeveloping aged public housing estates. This included conducting detailed studies and listening carefully to stakeholders' views through diversified means to forge a consensus and formulate the most suitable and cost-effective redevelopment plans to ensure that the needs of affected residents are catered for, while improving the environment of the public housing estates and neighbourhood. Furthermore, to enhance the sense of well-being of the residents, the Housing Bureau (HB) and the HKHA launched a resident-oriented "Well-being design" guide last year. It serves as a reference for the future design of new public housing estates and the improvement works of existing estates to create a more comfortable and inclusive estate environment.

She visited a zero carbon district in Paris, Îlot Fertile, in the afternoon. Îlot Fertile is a composite development project with abundant green space, integrating social housing, office, commercial, retail, hostels and more. Renewable energy systems and innovative construction technologies are adopted during the construction to implement low-carbon building initiatives and enhance energy efficiency in buildings.

Ms Ho said that air ventilation assessments and microclimate studies are carried out for the HKHA's new public housing developments to enhance environmental performance in aspects such as wind environment, natural ventilation and natural light exposure in buildings. The HB and the HKHA have also been actively promoting the application of innovative construction technologies such as Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), Multi-trade Integrated Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MiMEP) and construction robotics. These help to enhance construction quality and efficiency, shorten construction time and greatly reduce material waste, making the construction more environment friendly. Hong Kong and Paris share the same vision in promoting energy saving and green buildings, and she hoped to strengthen relevant co-operation between the two cities.

Ms Ho visited the Construction Innovation Centre at the Bouygues Construction headquarters afterwards. She met with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Bouygues Construction Group (the Group), Mr Pascal Minault, and Deputy CEO of the Group Mr Pierre-Éric Saint-André to exchange ideas on the latest smart building technologies, green building and

sustainable urban development. Ms Ho said that Bouygues Construction and Dragages Hong Kong, headed by the Group, have established a presence in Hong Kong for many years, and have contributed in various infrastructure, government buildings and public housing projects. She looked forward to continued collaboration in driving the industry to usher in a new era of smart construction.

Ms Ho will continue her visit today (May 20, Paris time).



