

## S for Housing concludes Paris visit (with photos)

â€‹The Secretary for Housing, Ms Winnie Ho, concluded her visit to Paris, France, yesterday (May 22, Paris time).

In the morning, Ms Ho met with a representative of CDC Habitat, a social housing association in France, to learn more about the mode of operation, development strategies, and challenges of social housing in France. She also shared Hong Kong's situation and the various housing initiatives being implemented by the Housing Bureau.

Ms Ho then visited an integrated residential and commercial community comprising social housing, which was transformed from the Olympic Athletes' Village, to learn about sustainable urban development.

Moreover, Ms Ho exchanged views with a renowned urban planner, Associate Professor of the IAE Paris Sorbonne Business School, Professor Carlos Moreno, and shared her vision and thoughts on sustainable urban planning and design. Professor Moreno put forward the urban planning concept of the "15-minute city", which aims to enable residents in a community to meet their daily needs for food, clothing, housing and transport within a 15-minute walking or cycling distance and to enhance environmental sustainability. Ms Ho pointed out that this coincides with the planning concept of the new public housing estates of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) and cited Queen's Hill Estate as an example, demonstrating the HKHA's planning of a resident-oriented, self-sufficient community that embraces cultural heritage and blends with nature to create a sustainable community. Professor Moreno showed great interest in Hong Kong's public housing planning model and expressed his wish to have the opportunity to visit Hong Kong in the future.

In the evening, Ms Ho met with the Advisor to the Mayor on housing, urban planning, architecture, land development, Mr Renaud Paque, and Director of Housing and Habitat, Ms Doan Lebel, to exchange views on public housing policies and experiences on sustainable urbanisation and urban planning concepts.

Concluding the trip, Ms Ho said, "This visit tied in with the HB's Housing•I&T initiative this year, introducing the latest developments of advanced technology companies from Hong Kong and the Mainland in the areas of construction technologies, public housing, green building, etc, as well as demonstrating to the world the application of technologies such as Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) and construction robots that help enhance construction efficiency and safety. We will actively make reference to overseas experiences on decarbonisation and energy-saving technologies. At the same time, we will fully capitalise on Hong Kong's unique advantages, reinforce connectivity, and play the role as a 'super connector' and a 'super value-adder'. I expect that the two cities will maintain liaison and

strengthen exchanges in areas such as innovative building technologies, public housing construction, green buildings, well-being communities, and enhancing the housing ladder to give new impetus to public housing construction."

Ms Ho will return to Hong Kong this afternoon (May 23).



