

## S for Housing continues visit to Paris (with photos)

The Secretary for Housing, Ms Winnie Ho, continued her visit to Paris, France, yesterday (May 20, Paris time). She visited the headquarters of a local social housing association, L'Union sociale pour l'habitat (USH), in the morning and met with the Director of Economic and Financial Studies at the USH, Mr Christophe Bellégo, to learn about the organisation's work, including conducting research and analysis on local housing issues, and contributing to their government's policy formulation.

Ms Ho shared in the meeting the work of the Housing Bureau (HB) and the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA). She said that housing is the greatest concern among all key issues of the current-term Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, and that the HB strives to formulate suitable housing policies and deliberate on different measures to address housing issues to cater for the housing needs of different social strata. The policy initiatives include building expeditiously Light Public Housing (LPH) and transitional housing to improve the living conditions of people living in inadequate housing at the soonest.

She said that the HKHA, established over 50 years ago, has long been providing affordable rental housing to low-income families with housing needs. It continuously enhances the housing ladder to help low- to middle-income families gain access to subsidised home ownership, encouraging them to move up the housing ladder and thus enhance people's sense of contentment and happiness. Ms Ho presented to the participants of the meeting the "Well-being design" guide launched by the HB and the HKHA last year, which covers eight well-being concepts, namely "Health & Vitality", "Green Living and Sustainability", "Age-Friendliness", "Intergenerational & Inclusive Living", "Family & Community Connection", "Urban Integration", "Upward Mobility" and "Perception & Image". 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 vibrant living environment for its residents. Apart from housing construction, to continuously enhance the management efficiency and service quality of its nearly 200 public housing estates, the Housing Department has been actively promoting smart estate management and bringing in new technologies to help optimise estate management and building maintenance services so that residents can enjoy a better living environment.

Guided by the USH, Ms Ho visited two eco-neighbourhoods in Paris, Clichy-Batignolles and Ecoquartier Nanterre Université. Clichy-Batignolles is a sustainable urban development project transforming a former rail yard into a mixed-use area with social and private housing, commerce and retail, restaurants, community facilities and a park. Ecoquartier Nanterre Université preserves green spaces while redeveloping the old district. The project has provided various types of social and private housing as well as relevant ancillary facilities, creating a more vibrant neighbourhood and promoting

inclusivity. Ms Ho said that the HKHA also attached importance to promoting low carbon and energy-saving buildings, green spaces and connectivity with the nearby community when planning and developing new public housing projects.

In the afternoon, Ms Ho called on the Chinese Ambassador to France, Mr Deng Li, to share Hong Kong's latest housing policies and initiatives, which included promoting the development of housing construction technologies by leveraging the power of the Greater Bay Area. She also learned about Hong Kong's strengths as a "super connector" and a highly international city during the conversation with the Ambassador.

Ms Ho will continue her visit today (May 21, Paris time) and meet with the local trade to promote Hong Kong's innovative construction technologies.



