

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN HONG KONG AND MACAU**  
*Press & Communication Department*  
*Press Release*

(Ref. No.: 2011-002)

**Visit of French Minister for Urban Affairs Mr. Maurice Leroy  
to MIPIM Asia 2011, Hong Kong**

**[HONG KONG, 16 November 2011]** Mr. Maurice Leroy, French Minister for Urban Affairs has visited Hong Kong during November 15 - 17 2011 on the occasion of MIPIM Asia. He has updated the delegates on the major Greater Paris project during a keynote address and a press conference on November 16.

“The region Ile-de-France is the first economic region in Europe, it produces 30 % of the French GDP, it is the 2nd European destination for foreign investments and the 1st region in the world for professional fairs... In terms of innovation, research and development and higher education, the Greater Paris is state-of-the-art, with 145 000 people working in the research field among whom 90 000 are researchers, 17 billions Euros of yearly investments and 600 000 students. The greater Paris is the first European research center and the third worldwide behind two Chinese cities, Shanghai and Beijing” said by Mr. Maurice Leroy, who is in charge of the Greater Paris programme.



*Mr. Maurice Leroy, French Minister for Urban Affairs*



The Greater Paris, which is the most ambitious redevelopment project in the French capital since Baron Haussmann redesigned the city some 150 years ago, is a model aiming at sustainable development. When it was officially unveiled in 2009 by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, the 10-year major urban renewal project included:

- a €35 billion transport plan to build a 140-kilometre, driverless subway system around the exterior of Paris;
- 70,000 new homes per year;
- the development of technological clusters (like Saclay or la Défense) will generate more than 800 000 jobs by 2025
- a complete redevelopment of the Seine river to turn it into a major transport link with the Channel, via the port of Le Havre.

Projects were submitted by 10 top international architects and President Sarkozy said he wanted work on the transport system to begin in 2012.

For more information on the project, please visit:

- Le Grand Paris: <http://www.mon-grandparis.fr/>
- Greater Paris Investment Agency: <http://www.greater-paris-investment-agency.com>

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