

The 17th international Conference on Green and Energy- efficient building and new technologies and Products Expo



"As a member of the French Parliament and as the President of the French HQE-GBC Alliance, allow me to begin by telling you how honoured and happy I am to be addressing you today.

I am glad that we were able to find a way, despite the uneasy circumstances created by this terrible pandemic, for me to express again how fruitful our work together is, and even as symbolic as this simple video.

I am especially happy that my message can contribute to the 17th international Conference on Green and Energy- efficient buildings, new technologies and Products Expo .

In a time when most events are unfortunately either postponed or cancelled, It is indeed an hopeful message to be able to be with you, even in such a small way !

Let me congratulate you thus on this ambitious event. I wish it to be a great success and an opportunity to bring together the most vivid forces of innovation, businesses and research. I am sure it will greatly contribute to positive dynamics in favour of sustainable development.

It was important for me also to seize this opportunity to express again the unfailing support of France to China's endeavours to stop global warming.

As you know, from the 1970's, countries around the world have been growing more and more concerned with climate change, they have been slowly studying the signs, observing the consequences and in occasions, sadly too numerous to be reminded, the world has had to pay for its inaction in human lives... I wish I could say that France was fully committed to fighting climate change from the start, but the truth is it took years and years before it became an absolute priority. But years after years, the voices of those who were denying it were less powerful, until finally, they were almost totally silenced by the ever growing resolve of the many who were committed to action.

Each country has its own tipping point on climate awareness. Of course, for France, the Paris conference in 2015 served as such a landmark. It resulted in a historic agreement bringing together 195 delegations who then drafted national low-carbon strategies. But it wasn't just

a momentum for leaders' decisions, it was also a momentum for the people of France who realized there and then that things could never quite be the same again.

It now seems that China, too, has reached its own tipping point. The commitment your country has recently made to aim for carbon neutrality by 2060 is proof of it and it breathes new life into the Paris Agreement, thus giving us all new reasons to hope for a happy outcome. It breathes new life also into the cooperation of our organizations and I can guarantee the full support of the HQE-GBC Alliance which I proudly represent.

In France and in Europe, the Paris Agreements have now infused our laws and regulations and changed the way we conceive our buildings or plan our cities. These strict low carbon goals are forcing us to question everything we've been doing for years, forcing us to change perspective and sometimes even to rediscover simple truths and common sense that may at times have been lost from sight. Of course, the pandemic is not without impact either. It is a sort of revolution and like all revolutions it is not always a smooth path, but in the end, I'm sure, these trying times will undoubtedly help us all to find our way back to a greater wisdom.

The right paths will certainly be somewhat different for France and for China. However, it is certain that we will both be stronger as we are facing this extraordinary challenge shoulder to shoulder. It makes no doubt that this is a fight none of us can fight alone. So it is indeed great news to know that such a strong nation as yours, is and will be, an ally in this dire fight.

Globally, the construction sector is responsible for 38% of CO2 emissions. Each in our own ways, we have been developing tangible solutions for Greener Buildings, for more sustainable neighbourhoods, for a fairer, better future for all. We are not without experience in the matter and therefore we share the knowledge that the curve of progress will have to be very steep indeed if we want to achieve these ambitious goals.

As head of an Alliance of experts and professionals from the building sector that was founded in 1996, I know that a healthy combination of competition and cooperation nourishes innovation and is key to success. In the last 25 years, we have made it our purpose to support, experiment and document any innovation that could contribute to the respect of the environment, to the quality of life, to Economic performance and Responsible management.

Our work and research, which are fully recognized by the French Government, have notably contributed to the latest French regulations focused on energy and carbon sobriety.

Our method has been put into practice in our certified buildings all over the world : Today, more than one hundred million square meters are HQE certified in France and abroad. It allows the HQE-GBC alliance to be present and active in 26 countries, including of course China.

Our cooperation with China has grown considerably in recent years, notably, with the support of the China Academy of Building Research and the China Green Building Council. A good number of emblematic buildings in China can already proudly present HQE and 3 Stars certification.

In addition to sharing best practices on carbon reduction, the scope of our cooperation could probably be broadened to subjects like health and comfort, which are a growing concern for

populations in wake of the pandemic. The agreements signed recently between Cerway and the China Healthy Building Alliance could be seen as a promising first step in that respect.

As a conclusion, it is my pleasure to reaffirm our intention of continuing this privileged partnership between France and China, that has already proved so fruitful for both our countries and that gives such hope for the future of sustainable, low-carbon, buildings and cities.

Thanks again for your invitation, and may this 17th conference meet the success it fully deserves ! "

Marjolaine MEYNIER-MILLEFERT

Députée de la 10e circonscription de l'Isère

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