

PH BUSINESS DELEGATION INVITES FRENCH COMPANIES TO INVEST IN CLARK

3 April 2017, Paris –A high-level Philippine delegation led by Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade invited French companies to invest in the development of Clark during a visit to France on 3 April 2017.

Secretary Tugade was accompanied by senior officials from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), the Clark Development Corporation, the Clark International Airport Corporation, Food Terminal, Inc. and the business sector.

Secretary Tugade's first activity was a visit to the Rungis International Market, the largest wholesale fresh food market in the world, which is being eyed by the BCDA as a model for the Clark Green City Food Terminal Project.

This was followed by a meeting with officials from *Aéroports de Paris*, which designed a master plan for the expansion of the Clark International Airport.

In the afternoon, the Philippine delegation presented the new Clark project to over fifty participants from the French public and private sectors gathered at the French Foreign Ministry in Paris.

In the presentation, Clark was presented as the “most dynamic growth corridor in Asia” thanks to the planned expansion of the Clark International Airport, which will be linked to Manila through a high-speed train and to the Subic Seaport through a cargo rail link, making Clark an ideal logistics hub not only for the Philippines but for ASEAN as well.

The new Clark project also includes the Clark Green City Food Terminal Project and the Clark Green City which will house a business and residential district, an innovation hub, a sports arena and several government offices, among others.

BCDA President and CEO Vivencio Dizon announced that Secretary Tugade would be the first cabinet secretary to move to Clark by July of this year.

All of these projects will be funded through the “Build, build, build” program of the Duterte administration which has doubled infrastructure spending for the next five years to over 5% of GDP, or the equivalent of USD 160 billion.

Ms. Agnes Romatet-Espagne, Director for Business of the French Foreign Ministry, described the presentation as “simply stunning”. French Minister of State Harlem Desir also admitted that “the Philippines had been a blind spot for French entrepreneurs for too long”.

In her closing remarks, Philippine Ambassador to France Ma. Theresa Lazaro thanked the French Foreign Ministry for organizing the event and invited the French companies present to sustain the momentum generated by the event all throughout 2017, which is the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and France. END



SEMMARIS International Projects Director Florian de Saint Vincent gives Secretary Arthur Tugade and the rest of the Philippine delegation a tour of the Rungis International Market



Ambassador Ma. Theresa Lazaro (first from left) introduces Mr. Philippe Delaplace (second from right), *Aéroports de Paris* Senior Vice President for Asia, to the Philippine delegation headed by Secretary Arthur Tugade



French representatives from the public and private sectors listen to the Philippine presentation of Clark at the French Foreign Ministry in Paris



Ambassador Ma. Theresa Lazaro (second from right) delivers closing remarks at the Clark Investment Forum. With her, from left to right, are BCDA President and CEO Vivencio Dizon, BCDA Chairman Gregorio Garcia III and President and General Manager of the Clark International Airport Corporation Alexander Cauquiran.