

# Welcome remarks





# Mr. Jean Lèques

## Mayor of Nouméa

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*Ladies and Gentlemen, dear lecturers, first I want to welcome you on behalf of the City of Noumea. I hope you will have the time to discover this town and to appreciate it, and for those of you who have already had the opportunity of coming here, to measure the evolution it has undergone during these last years.*

*It's been more than 20 years now that the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, which gathers 25 countries of the Pacific Region, and of which France is an associate member through French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna and New Caledonia, and as Mr. The High Commissioner was recalling a few minutes ago, has decided to promote economic development, social progress, scientific and technical development as well as environment quality in this region.*

*I am happy that Noumea has been chosen to host this meeting during which you are going to deal, through three seminars, sustainable city development, intra- and inter-Pacific air transport and the mining sector. I wish to focus a few minutes on the sustainable development of cities because, through these seminars, you will have the opportunity to focus on sustainable urban services such as water supply, sanitation and waste treatment.*

*These last few years, the Noumea municipality, along with its Greater Noumea neighboring municipalities, and with the South Province, have successfully achieved many major works that participate to this concern for guaranteeing a harmonious and sustainable development of the agglomeration.*

*These major works, and I will have the opportunity to speak about them when we'll*

*meet this afternoon, include the "Big Pipe" which guarantees for more than 30 years the water supply for the Greater Noumea; the urban transportation system's reform and the implementation of a new denser network and the introduction of more modern and more comfortable equipment; and finally this decision taken just a few days ago to build a technical burying center designed to work for the next 30 to 40 years and to follow the European standards fixed in 1997 which reveals our desire to respect these standards and to preserve our environment.*

*The idea is truly here to give the city basic elements to accompany its development but also to take into account, at the projects' designing stage, the environmental dimension.*

*For a city is first and foremost its inhabitants, who must be able to find economic activities, of course, but also training, quality public services and, probably most important, an attractive and pleasant life environment.*

*The case studies that will be developed during this seminar will allow to exchange experiences and to analyze the way improving urban services, such as those I mentioned, water supply, sanitation and urban waste management, can contribute to build what is now called sustainable cities.*

*The works that will follow will deal with intra- and inter-Pacific air transport. Then you will have to debate on a major theme for New Caledonia, the mining sector.*

*All these topics belong to this definition of sustainable cities. Tourist development,*

*supported first and foremost by quality air transport, constitutes one of the major axis of New Caledonia's global development, both through its input in the economic field and through its enhancing of its natural and cultural heritage. All the efforts put up by New Caledonia representatives, these last few months, to promote air transport are a tangible proof of this.*

*As for the mining sector - with the construction of the South plant and the North plant project which I hope will soon be achieved - it represents an essential development pole.*

*These coming days will be an opportunity for New Caledonia to learn from the experiences of our neighboring countries and to show its own achievements.*

*I wish to express my particular gratitude to the President of the Government of New Caledonia for having proposed Noumea as host for these seminars which place our city at the heart of a debate that is more than ever topical.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you all success in your work and it is with pleasure that I will meet with you this afternoon. Thank you. ■*



# Prof. Jean Luc Le Bideau

## Vice-Chair, French (Pacific Territories) Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation

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*Mr. High Commissioner, Mr. Minister, Mr. Chair,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

*Firstly, I would like to thank the representatives of New Caledonia for hosting these 3 seminars organized under the auspices of PECC. Let me say how important it is in my view for the French Pacific Territories to take an active part in PECC work. In particular, I would wish to congratulate the New Caledonia component of FPTPECC upon the excellent work done in preparation for these seminars, with a specific mention to Doriane Sanchez-Lebris from ADECAL. In addition, I would like to associate to my thanks his excellency, Ambassador Jacques Le Blanc, Executive Secretary of FPTPECC, and Geneviève Dubois-Taine, convenor of the Sustainable Cities Task-Force. I can assure you that it is not an easy task to prepare for 3 seminars back to back.*

*Mr. High Commissioner, none of the topics for these seminars are new on the PECC agenda; conversely what is new is that the Noumea seminars are to be approaching these issues in giving special emphasis to the Pacific Islands needs.*

*The Sustainable Cities seminar will be addressing the issues related to the development and better implementation of urban services in the Pacific Islands. I am particularly glad that the convenor of the task force has decided to give a high priority to that issue on his agenda; it is particularly important to have a better understanding of the problems that islands cities face, to be in position to help them to find and implement adequate answers.*

*Accordingly I want to express my special gratitude to Geneviève for having devoted time and analytical work to the Pacific Islands case, as part of the ongoing research work that has been carried out for some four years by the Sustainable Cities Task Force on a case study basis.*

*Considering the Round Table on the development of Air Transport in the Pacific Islands States it goes without saying that it is an issue of particular importance to FPTPECC. Development of air transport facilities in the Pacific Islands States is most needed to provide better and most efficient passengers and freight transportation and to developing stronger economic links between the Pacific Islands and the PECC economies in Asia and Latin America.*

*Finally, with regard to the Mining seminar, FPTPECC does consider that New Caledonia, a mining oriented economy, is best placed to re-launch that activity; this issue has been on the PECC agenda for some time and those who, in Noumea, have been in charge of preparing for this seminar have measured, through the continuous support they have got from the PECC Secretariat in Singapore, how this issue is of importance to the PECC economies.*

*To conclude, I would like to thank the New Caledonia component of FPTPECC for hosting these seminars and particularly for receiving us in this highly emotional place. I am particularly happy to note that the French Pacific Territories take a more and more active role in the PECC work; a strong involvement on their side, as demonstrated by the organisation of these*

*seminars here in Noumea, strengthens the role of FPTPECC in PECC. Our contribution to PECC work is considered by our PECC colleagues as highly valuable; the Sustainable Cities Task Force has, from the very beginning, been recognized as bringing new impetus to PECC*

*work in that field; I feel positive that the Round Table on Air Transport as well as the Mining Seminar will bring new dimension to PECC work on these issues. I wish to all of you the best success for your seminars. ■*

