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Speech by Vincent at the Opening ceremony of "Hamburg – A European Green Capital"

City Gallery, Central, Hong Kong
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be present here today and welcome you at this exhibition organised by the EU Academic Programme.

It aims to raise awareness of green cities, through the example of Hamburg, and winner of the European Green Capital Award. With its innovative green approach, Hamburg shows that economic growth and environmental protection can go hand in hand in the context of a large city.

And that is an important message. Because, yes, it true that national governments will negotiate the world's climate agreement at the COP21 in Paris in December. But even more true that the job of climate action, the job of cutting CO2 emissions, happens at the city level. Cities are key players in this.

This is what the EU launched the European Green Capital Award is about: to showcase innovation and excellence at the local level. It is about rewarding and supporting cities that show how economic and environmental interests can thrive together.

The EU and Hong Kong have a strong relationship on improving environment. Just last May, the European Chamber of Commerce and Hong Kong hosted a joint seminar envisioning Hong Kong as a smart

and green city. We dialogue together to contribute to the December COP meeting and make it a success. And we will promote cooperation on carbon-related research when Hong Kong joins the EU's large research programme Horizon2020 next month.

I do believe that Hong Kong has the assets to become a role model of green cities in China and in Asia. This exhibition offers citizens, policy makers and academics the opportunity to compare experiences and plans on urban sustainability, and it will no doubt come up with new solutions.

I I hope that you will enjoy the exhibition and gain some useful insights, and that the example of Hamburg and other EU cities will make urban Hong Kong a green place.

Thank you for your attention.

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