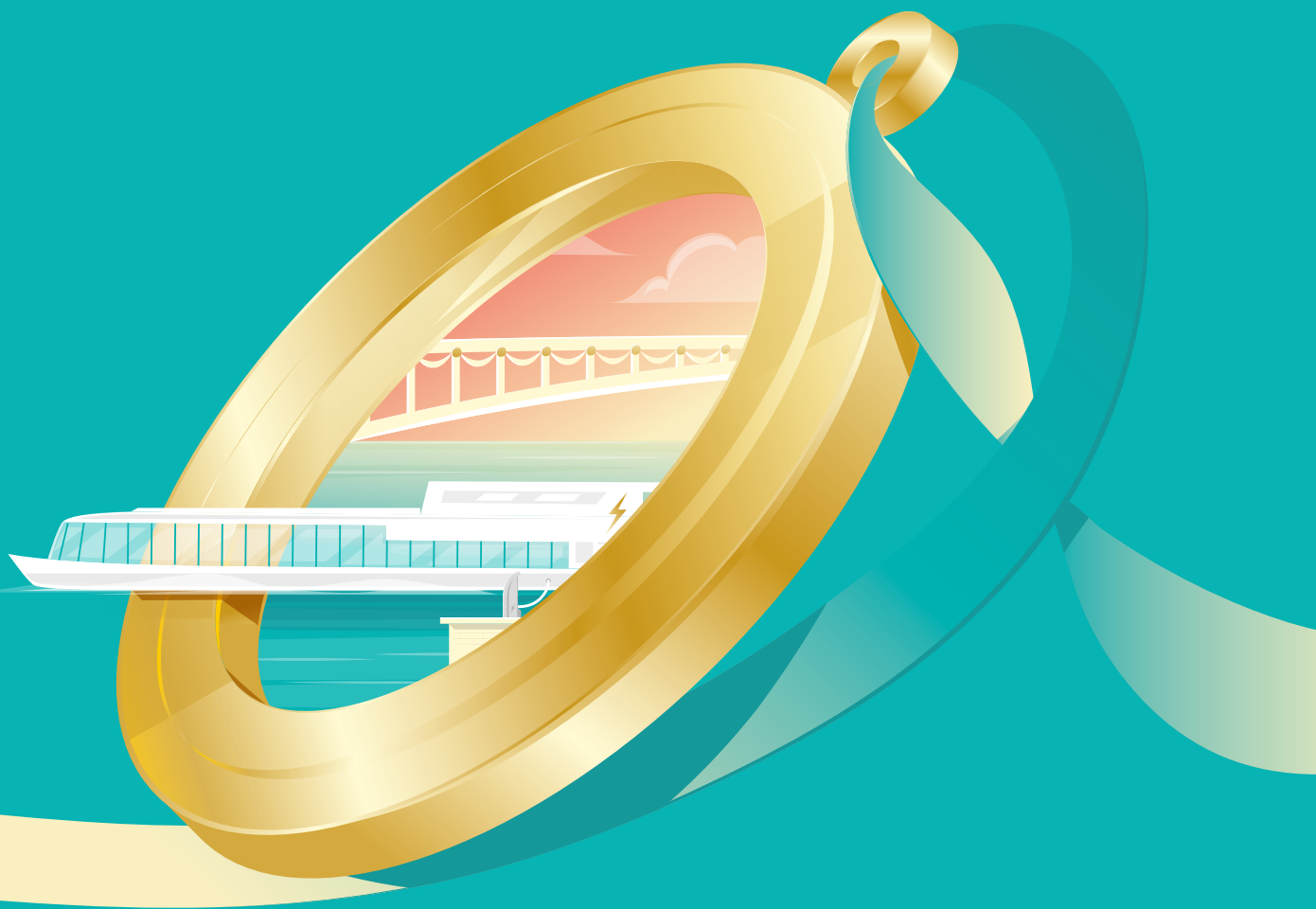


CURRENTS

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2^e semestre 2024

The magazine of a port in motion



2024 GAMES: TOWARDS A LASTING LEGACY

HAROPA
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WHAT ARE THE GAMES' AMBITIONS IN TERMS OF LEGACY?

A word from **Tony Estanguet**, President of the Organising Committee for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Two great witnesses share their vision and analysis:

Marie Barsacq, member of Paris 2024 Candidature Committee and Executive Director of Impact and Legacy for Paris 2024

Pierre-Olaf Schut, professor of sports history and member of ORME, observatory for mega-events research



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IMPROVE

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An overview of what could constitute legacy of this global event.

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Accelerating social transformation:

this is one of the major challenges of the Games' legacy and sustainability plan.

An achievable goal?

editorial



It is with great pleasure that we dedicate this issue to the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Firstly, because the Seine, HAROPA PORT's backbone, is playing a major role in the Games, one that goes beyond the organisation of the opening ceremony. And also because for several years now our organisation and its partners have been working to prepare for Paris 2024. We are endeavouring to make our passenger and freight fleets greener, and we are a participant in the Seine Swimmability Plan. And lastly, of course, because it is an exceptional event and watched by part of the population, providing a showcase for our river and its port.

These Games have one particular feature that sets them apart from those that have gone before: their focus is even much further than the holding of the competitions. From the very start, they have been conceived as contributing to the inception of a new model of society by leaving a sustainable legacy in terms of economics, society and the environment. It was impossible for us not to be receptive to such an approach given its deep resonance with our port. Because our activities are always, and have always been, undertaken with the long term in mind. We conduct those activities with the goal at all times of generating positive impacts for society out to the near, medium and far horizons.

In the pages that follow we have therefore chosen to examine the conception of the legacy, or legacies, of Paris 2024. The multiple viewpoints of the public figures from all backgrounds we have approached are rich in lessons to be learned. The future will determine whether their realisation is as attractive as promised. However that may be, there are already lessons to be learned from these Games, and we have done so. Let us hope that the commitment they demand, the desire to surpass oneself they instil, both collectively and individually, will inspire us for years to come.

Pleasant reading !

Stéphane RAISON,
CEO of HAROPA PORT





Games Wide **OPEN!**



MORE THAN A SLOGAN, IT HAS BEEN OUR GOAL SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PARIS 2024 JOURNEY.

The Seine, symbolising that goal, is at the heart of our project, at one and the same time the stage for the Olympic opening ceremony, the field for Olympic and Paralympic competitions, and the setting for the Olympic Village... With the return of the Olympic Games to France, the use of the historic river is part of an approach that is both innovative and more responsible with regard to the environment, thanks to the collective effort driven by the momentum of the Games.

Our heartfelt thanks to HAROPA PORT and the river ecosystem as a whole, with which we wish to help leave an inspirational model for future great events, along with a legacy that is both tangible and intangible.



Tony ESTANGUET,
President of the Organising Committee
for the Paris 2024 Olympic and
Paralympic Games



Marie BARSACQ

“SPORT can change LIVES”

“Marie Barsacq has an academic background in law. She joined the Paris 2024 Candidature Committee as early as 2016 after an eight-year stint at the French Football Federation and ten years on the French National Olympics and Sports Committee. »

FOR MANY YEARS, THE LEGACY LEFT BY THE GAMES WAS EXCLUSIVELY PHYSICAL: IT CONSISTED OF SPORTS FACILITIES BUILT FOR THE COMPETITIONS AND THEN BEQUEATHED BY THE IOC TO THE HOST MUNICIPALITIES. PARIS 2024 MARKS A BREAK WITH THAT ERA BECAUSE IN 2016 MARIE BARSACQ JOINED THE PARIS CANDIDATURE COMMITTEE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IMPACT AND LEGACY. A JOB TITLE SHE KEPT ON THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE. WE MET WITH HER.

Why set up an “Impact and Legacy” section for Paris 2024?

From the outset, we made this subject area an argument in favour of our candidature. It was a way of presenting a distinctive approach compared with Los Angeles, whose own proposal was highly “entertainment”-focused. But it was more than that. We wanted these Games to be useful, to be meaningful for the French public and to foster their sense of ownership against a backdrop marked by a movement of opposition. We should not forget that Boston withdrew its candidature in 2015 due to a lack of popular support, as did Hamburg following the holding

of a referendum won by the “No” vote. Our goal has been achieved given that a few months from the Games the level of support in the French population stands at 70%. The emphasis on impact and legacy helped make us stand out among the other candidate cities. For example, it brought us the support of a high-profile figure like Nobel Peace Prize Winner Muhammad Yunus, who saluted the inclusion of an economic, social and environmental dimension in these Games.

Why did you combine the words “Impact” and “Legacy”?

“Legacy” refers to the post-Games period. The aim is to take advantage

of the momentum generated by the organisation of the Games to make progress on numerous issues. The goal is to ensure that these Games are beneficial to all and leave a lasting footprint in our society. However, the term “Legacy” refers to the future, whereas the Paris 2024 legacy has been being built over a number of years. By adding “Impact” we are referring to a dynamic already in motion whose positive effects we can measure as of now.

What is the strategy of Paris 2024 where Impact and Legacy are concerned?

It is based around two pillars. The first is the delivery of an exemplary edition of the Olympics by placing their organisation at the service of the environment, social and economic development, and improvement of quality of life in the host communities. Our method for achieving this will in itself be a legacy left by Paris 2024. The second pillar is fulfilling our commitments. We must succeed in constructing a robust, long-lasting

legacy that places sport at the service of the individual, society and the planet. We want to take advantage of this competition to raise awareness

of the importance of physical exercise and sport, to give people a desire to be more physically active and to strengthen access to participation in sports. We also want to use sport to teach and to educate, to use it for the inclusion of parts of the population that are in difficulty and make it a lever

for ecological transformation. We are convinced that sport can change lives and with these Games we want to show that is true.

Have you encountered obstacles to the application of that strategy?

No, no obstacles, and there is an important reason for that: because we have included the legacy in our bid project, we began to work on the subject very early on. The structure was in place as long ago as January 2018: budget, strategy and governance were passed in January 2019, five years before the Games. This forward-looking approach underpinned the structure and made our jobs easier.

What types of initiatives make it a tangible reality?

Tangible is the right word given that we are genuinely seeking a physical impact on the ground. Our initiatives are many and varied but we always adopt the same approach: we look for solutions to an issue and we try them out. Once the trials are completed, we carry out an impact study and if the results are satisfactory, those solutions are implemented at scale. This was the case for the promotion of physical exercise and sports for young people with the “30 minutes of exercise a day” programme. It was rolled out to all French schools after being tested in a small number. Today, the approach is identical for the sports mark-outs that teach girls and boys to share space and play together, both sexes, in school playgrounds. We started by setting up 175 demonstrators and when studies showed positive impacts, a decision was taken to extend the mark-outs to 1,500 schools.

“We made legacy an argument in favour of our candidature.”

Does the Impact and Legacy strategy cover the whole of France or is it more relevant to the local areas hosting the events?

It covers the whole of France but with a particular focus on the host areas. Take the example of the 2024 Impact programme. This national scheme calling for project proposals was issued in 2019 by our Paris 2024 Endowment Fund. Its purpose was to assist and support projects for social innovation through sport. Since its creation, it has enabled us to fund, at a total cost of €38 million, over 1,000 public interest projects. In addition to the national budget envelope, host local authorities have the option of proposing extra funding, leading to more funded projects. This was what Seine-Saint-Denis did. The outcome? Under Impact 2024, more than 80 projects initiated in Seine-Saint-Denis received financial assistance of €1.8 million overall. This approach is virtuous at another level because these projects encourage others elsewhere. For example, the karate training offered to female victims of violence to help them rebuild their lives, an initiative by the Maison des femmes de Saint-Denis, is now available in other towns and cities.

In your view, what will be the most important legacy of Paris 2024?

I think it will be the legacy of the Summer Paralympics. They will stand out in the history of our country, which is organising them for the first time. Paris 2024 will leave a physical legacy for the disabled by improving their access to a number

“Take advantage of the momentum generated by the organisation of the event to get things moving on a number of fronts.”

of sports facilities. The competition will also result in greater access to participation in sports. We have for example created a training programme to make clubs more handicap-friendly. The positive results of this initiative led to a decision by central government to support us, and by 2025 there will be 3,000 inclusive clubs across France. Added to that there will be an intangible legacy. We are making every conceivable effort in fact to ensure that these Games change the way people see the disabled. Specifically, we have promoted a great deal of material to the educational community to raise awareness among young people to the concepts of inclusion and disability. And in fact with success, given that last April, these topics were central to the Olympic and Paralympic Week we organise every year in schools with the Ministry of Education and the French sports movement. An event attended by two million schoolchildren!

An Olympics worth the “cost” over the long term



WHEN DID WE START TALKING IN TERMS OF A LEGACY FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES? HOW HAS THE CONCEPT EVOLVED OVER TIME? WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE ON THIS TOPIC? SOME ENLIGHTENMENT FROM PIERRE-OLAF SCHUT.

How can we be sure that the Games are worth the “cost” for the host beyond the duration of the actual event? The idea of legacy, central to the modern Olympics, can be defined, according to Pierre-Olaf Schut, as “an event’s transformative effect on society, the economy and the environment.” This teacher of the history of sport has joined ORME, an observatory created in 2018 in connection with the Paris 2024 Olympics that brings together researchers in various disciplines to look at the issue of the impact and legacy of large-scale sports events. Its main objective? To build ties between researchers and Olympic Games stakeholders to generate input for studies and ensure that their results are used to support decision-making.



Pierre-Olaf SCHUT

THE GAMES – BUILDING CAME FIRST ...

Because legacy has now become a central component of the preparation of the Olympic Games – more than in the past and surely less than in the future! After the era of the “building” Games,

Albertville 1992 for example, involving the construction of infrastructure (often oversized for future uses), post-Games goals have broadened since the 2000s, going beyond built facilities. The idea of legacy then appeared. Indeed, since Athens in 2004, the International Olympic Committee has asked organisers for detailed reports on the “Olympic Games Global Impact” prior to, and following the event. The hosts are required to plan for and quantify the economic, social and



Pierre-Olaf Schut teaches history of sport at Gustave Eiffel University and is a member of ORME, the observatory for mega-events research.



environmental impact of the projects undertaken in connection with the Games. Indeed, an estimate of overall impact is required at the time of candidature and is even a crucial factor in the selection of host cities. Pierre-Olaf Schut explains: *“The 2012 Olympics in London was a genuine turning point. They included a substantial social and urban legacy: renovation of the Stratford area (cf. p. 10). In order to win over the International Olympic Committee, cities may go so far as to start construction before getting the final verdict. For example, in 2012, the Paris candidature launched a major project: the rehabilitation of the Batignolles district. Paris was not selected, but the project became reality.”*

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR UNDERTAKING URBAN PROJECTS

The logic of legacy enhances the attractiveness of the Olympic Games: the event represents a marvellous opportunity for a region to develop urban projects: *“During the preparatory phase, explains Pierre-Olaf Schut, collaborative projects become easier: the OCOG Executive Board brings together the Olympic and Paralympic Committees, the city administration, the metropolitan area administration, central government, the territorial département, the regional administration and other local authorities! The Olympic Games allow projects to start more rapidly and leverage a positive collective drive.”*

What happens once this dynamic fades? This is among the thorny issues surrounding legacy. *“The Organising Committee will have virtually ceased to function by the end of 2024 and will cease to exist in 2026. To ensure that the legacy continues into the future, it will then be up to local government authorities to continue the work. As an example, the Organising Committee provides the funding, alongside Paris city authority, for a scheme to facilitate women’s access to participation in sports in the public space: in 2025 this project will lose half its funding; what will happen if the city administration changes?”*

CAPITALISING ON NEW LOCAL COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Another complex issue: when and how should project impacts be measured? Paris 2024 has implemented an inventory tool for the evaluation

The « HOST CITY CONTRACT » ?

The “Olympic Host Contract” sets out the responsibilities of the National Olympic Committee (NOC), the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) and the host with regard to the organisation, funding and execution of the Games. This document notably requires the host country to “implement and communicate a comprehensive and integrated sustainability programme as well as a legacy programme.”

of all actions undertaken in connection with the Olympic Games. The organisers must also report to the International Olympic Committee on the Games’ legacy one year before, one year after and five years after. But how to measure what remains of the local dynamics that have been generated? And how can the energy be maintained over the medium and long terms once the programmes are no longer being driven by the organisers or being measured? This is no simple matter, especially for the most disadvantaged areas such as Seine-Saint-Denis. Pierre-Olaf Schut points out that *“once the Olympic Games are over, projects will be dependent on local policies and budgetary imperatives. However, looking beyond an uncertain economic and social legacy, if anything remains for the long term, it will perhaps be the collaboration between organisations that began with the Games. As an example, the Génération 2024 label created in the run-up to the Olympic Games develops links between schools and sports clubs; the Terre de Jeux 2024 label rallies local partners around actions to promote the Games and sport. Such collaborative arrangements at local level could continue after the event is over simply because those involved on the ground have begun to work together. And that would be a marvellous legacy for the Games!”*

I. Paris Organising Committee for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

London,

12

YEARS on...



Richard BROWN

“Richard Brown was head of stakeholder relations and partnerships for the Olympic Delivery Authority before the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. He was later appointed head of strategy at the London Legacy Development Corporation, and later became Deputy Director of the Centre for London.”

THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES LEAVE AN IMPRINT ON THE HISTORY OF THE HOST CITY. WITH HINDSIGHT, IS IT POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT THE LEGACY LEFT BY THE 2012 LONDON GAMES KEPT THE PROMISES MADE? TODAY, RICHARD BROWN LOOKS BACK ON THE OUTCOMES.

What was the nature of your participation in the London's candidacy for the Olympics, and later their organisation?

I was an assistant to the Mayor of London with responsibility for architecture and town planning. Since I already had ongoing projects in the East London area, I led the Mayor's Office support for our candidacy for the Games! We thought Paris would win ... After London was selected, I coordinated relations between government and the actors in the project.

What role did the Thames play in the event and its organisation?

As an absolutely key symbol of the city, the Thames role was an important part of the opening ceremony. Nobody will ever forget David Beckham's arrival on a speedboat with the Olympic Flame!

At the time, what was the general view of the legacy the Olympics should leave?

Looking beyond sport, that legacy was to be social,

fostering citizen engagement and voluntary participation. We also wanted to leave a physical footprint with a complete reconfiguration of the area around Stratford in East London. There was also an economic goal at both local and national levels, given the range of business opportunities that always come with the Olympics. And lastly, in terms of the environment, every facility needed to be defined as either temporary or capable of adaptation to future needs.

What major projects initiated in the context of the Olympics were intended to represent the legacy of the Games?

The Mayor, Ken Livingstone, was keen to rehabilitate East London, a highly disadvantaged city area. The project needed to allow the “regeneration of the area for the direct benefit all those living there”, according to the formulation of the objectives agreed between government, the Mayor and the organisers. Located at the convergence of the historically polluting industries, the river Lea had ceased to be fit for navigation, due not only to refuse, dumped supermarket trolleys, old cars ... but also the tides and flood risks. We built a river lock and more than

“The event strengthened patriotic sentiment; people were proud of the United Kingdom.”

50% of the construction materials for the Olympics were able to be carried on the river, freeing up the roads. The clean-up of the river and its immediate surroundings was also intended to make it a space for recreation. As for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, this was to become a residential area with a park. The Games were a unique opportunity to transform a highly marginalised city area. And lastly, the plan was for the Olympic Stadium, the Velodrome, the multi-use arena, and the London Aquatics Centre designed by Zaha Hadid to continue as homes for sport.

What indicators were put in place to “measure” the impact of the Olympics?

The local authorities set an aim of ‘convergence’ – for the area around Stratford to converge with the rest of London in relation to indicators such as unemployment, school results, health and crime.

Twelve years on, would you say that, in terms of its legacy, this major event was a success?

Yes, Stratford is now a more a lively area and a desirable destination. When Boris Johnson was Mayor, he persuaded the Victoria & Albert East Museum, the London College of Fashion and University College of London to move there. There is also a Westfield shopping centre. The Olympics brought in public transport, students, West Ham football club, play areas... plus the Abba Voyage Experience! Many of the convergence

“The river LEA had ceased to be fit for navigation: e built a river lock...”

objectives have been achieved, but gentrification continues to be a subject of debate – have local people’s lives improved, or have more affluent people moved in? A comparison of the census results for 2011 and 2021 suggests the answer is a mixture of the two.

Which objectives were fully achieved?

East London, the river Lea, the timetable, plus engagement and cohesion. After the bad press during the construction phase, the opening ceremony brought everybody back on side. The event strengthened patriotic sentiment – people were proud of the United Kingdom. But be under no illusion that the Olympics alone will resolve every issue.

Which outcomes seem to you today to have fallen below expectations?

The stadium cost more than expected and finding a legacy user was a complicated process. Its fate should have been made clearer from the outset...

If you had to help organise another major event of this type, to which aspects would you be paying particular attention?

Firstly, partnerships and collaboration between the public and

private sectors. Without that, we would never have been able to move as quickly as we did to dig a tunnel for high voltage lines, sign all kinds of contracts ... in the face of a non-negotiable start date for the Games! Secondly, I would make sure that the event brought people together, in order to ensure a positive social impact.

How to you view the projected legacy of the 2024 Paris Olympics?

Reconnecting Paris to its outer suburbs is a goal similar to ours at the time. The need is to change the dynamic and modernise the image of these old cities to embody greater diversity.

IM- PROVE



Reclaiming the river..



MAKING THE SEINE AND MARNE SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING : THAT'S THE AIM OF THE «WATER QUALITY AND BATHING IN THE MARNE AND SEINE» STEERING COMMITTEE, SET UP IN 2020 BY THE MINISTER FOR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION. CROSSED VIEWS ON THIS COLOSSAL CHALLENGE.



Anne HIDALGO



Marc GUILLAUME

In the context of growing awareness of the environment, and thereby a reappropriation of the river, do the Olympics provide a stimulus for change?

Marc GUILLAUME : The Olympic and Paralympic Games are a fantastic project accelerator: organising them has helped combine all the efforts of those involved with the river, operators, local government and even private individuals, to implement the Swimmability Plan under the joint management of central government and the City of Paris. The Olympics have been the necessary stimulus for the fulfilment of a promise made a number of years ago. The President of the Republic gave an undertaking to the organisers: we will be able to swim in the Seine. The work done under the Swimmability Plan is in its final stages: by this summer we will have achieved a 75% reduction in

the bacterial pollution identified under the Plan to enable the swimming competitions to be held on the Seine. **Anne HIDALGO :** Swimming in the Seine has been banned for a century due to poor water quality, a ban that ended a long-lasting popular tradition. Forty years ago the river was seen as something of a sewage outlet where wastewater could be dumped to avoid the sewers overflowing during rainy weather. The Seine was not thought of as a natural habitat to be protected and numerous species of fish had vanished. A gradual reclamation of the Seine began as long ago as 2002 with the "Paris Plages" programme, and continued in 2018 with the pedestrianisation of the northern embankments. With the organisation of three Olympic competitions on the Seine, followed in 2025 by the opening of river bathing facilities at Bercy Quay (12th arrondissement), Bras Marie (Central Paris) and Bras de Grenelle (15th

“
Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, and Marc Guillaume, Prefect of the Greater Paris region and Prefect of Paris, both co-chairs of the “Marne and Seine water quality and swimmability”.
”

« Biodiversity: in the Seine and the Marne, we have progressed from 3 species of fish in the 1970s to 36 today. »

Marc GUILLAUME

arrondissement), Parisians will rediscover the joys of summer swimming. As we face climate change, and in order to cope with heatwaves, it is

essential that we be able to find “cool” areas: the Seine provides just such a natural corridor of fresh air as it flows through the heart of the capital. The City of Paris has therefore undertaken a herculean task, in conjunction with the stakeholder community, aimed at making a long-lasting improvement in the quality of the water, thereby allowing the river to return to a satisfactory ecological condition and the people of Paris to retake possession of the Seine. We can be proud of the progress achieved, especially in connection with the Olympics, which has led to an acceleration of our measures to improve water quality. The Olympics have in fact shortened the original timetable by nearly ten years!

What levers are being put in place to reclaim the rivers and their banks and establish a permanent mix of activities?

MG: Cleaning up the Seine means achieving not only cleaner water but also a definite improvement in our biodiversity along the banks of the Seine and the Marne, as well as in the water of both rivers. We have progressed from 3 species of fish in the 1970s to 36 today. We need to change how we think of the river and allow everybody to make

use of it: bargees, houseboat residents, future swimmers, and others. It is a major challenge: allowing a diversity of users to coexist so that they can benefit to the full from a radically renewed natural space.

AH: The Seine is a main navigation corridor. Central Paris concentrates many different uses of the river: recreational boating, tourism, dinner and lunch cruises, river tours, goods transport (e.g. grain, construction site materials, urban logistics). The choice of location for the three Seine swimming sites must take account of these current uses of the river in order to promote its reappropriation by the local population while also guaranteeing greater diversity of use. The City of Paris, central government agencies, the VNF (French Waterways Authority) and HAROPA PORT are all working on technical solutions to limit the impacts of future urban swimming sites. In consultation with users of the river, consideration is also being given to the detailed arrangements for the operation of those facilities. Opening days and times and rules for safety and navigation in the vicinity are among the factors to be taken into account by all those involved in order to make such shared use feasible. Another objective is to limit the physical facilities both on the water and at the waterside: the seasonal nature of river bathing, the need to limit its environmental impact on the river and quaysides, as well as allowing shared use of the river, all point to the adoption of a low site profile.

In discussing the Olympics legacy, we are thinking in terms of Seine water quality and swimmability in Paris. Could we go further than this?

MG: The swimmability not only of the Seine, but also the Marne, will undoubtedly be one of the finest legacies of the Olympics. We will be allowing the population of the Paris region to reclaim the river. The Seine is renowned worldwide, and is particularly appreciated by tourists. While there could not be said to be a lack of interest, people in the Paris region have no doubt turned their back on their river. From now on, we can confirm that locations for swimming will be opening up: many local authorities around Paris are looking to set up swimming sites on the Seine or the Marne, as soon as 2025 in some cases. In total, 26 sites across 20 communities have been identified to which local authorities want to give further consideration.

AH: That legacy is a response to global warming, but it is also an issue for environmental health given that thanks to the Swimmability Plan, the aquatic ecosystem of the Seine and the Marne will be significantly improved. It will enable the widest possible take-up of

this activity based on access to the river free of charge. And lastly, the Games offer a way to move faster and further in every domain in which our fellow citizens want to see tangible progress. Swimming will be possible throughout the summer season during the "Paris Plages" period. Naturally, a promise to enable swimming does not mean that it will be possible every day: as is true of any natural space, in the event of exceptional weather events (e.g. heavy rainfall, storms) these facilities will be closed, as the City of Paris has already decided at La Villette and the Saint Martin Canal, and as is the case for many seaside resorts following storms with heavy rain. Lastly, this is part of the capital's extensive, comprehensive provision of swimming facilities, in both pools and natural spaces, a service intended for a wide audience.

Much has been said and written about the Swimmability Plan. Some have expressed reservations I need not go over here. Where I am concerned, I remain convinced that the desire to swim in the Seine is neither marginal nor a passing fad. Underlying this flagship plan are genuine social, climatic, environmental and public health goals and issues. Which means that it is with great satisfaction that

today we are seeing the fruition of years of effort - because the task was far from easy!

« The swimmability not only of the Seine but also the Marne will undoubtedly be one of the finest legacies of the Olympics. »

Marc GUILLAUME

A CLEANER SEINE,

A great deal of progress has already been made over the last thirty or so years, but the upcoming deadline and the resources deployed for the 2024 Olympics, especially under the "Swimmability Plan", have stepped up enormously the pace of Seine river sanitation policy. Below are the five highlights of what has been a massive achievement, one that has helped catch up thirty years in the space of just five.

All weather conditions



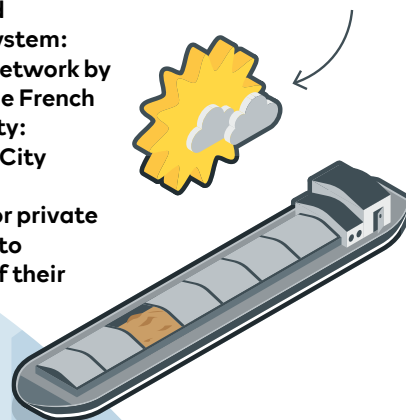
In Paris

Connecting houseboats and moored facilities

to the Paris sewer and rainwater drainage system:

- Work on the sewer network by HAROPA PORT or the French Waterways Authority;
- Inspections by Paris City Authority.
- AESN* assistance for private individuals for work to ensure compliance of their houseboats.

All weather conditions



Upstream from Paris

Connecting buildings

in the public and private sectors to the sewer system upstream from Paris (along the Seine and the Marne):

- Priority for "Core Targets", i.e. the buildings producing the most pollution (social housing, public buildings, national heritage sites, hotels, etc.)
- Private housing.

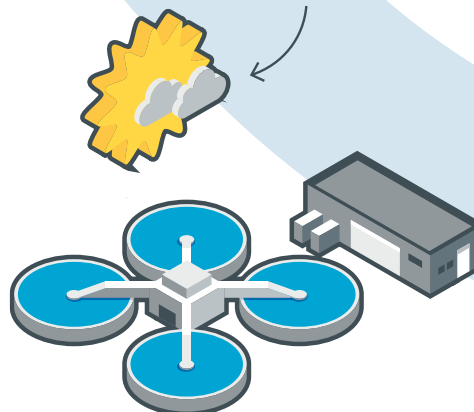
Noisy-Le-Grand and Valenton

Modernisation of two wastewater treatment plants:

to increase capacity for treating pollution from faecal bacteria:

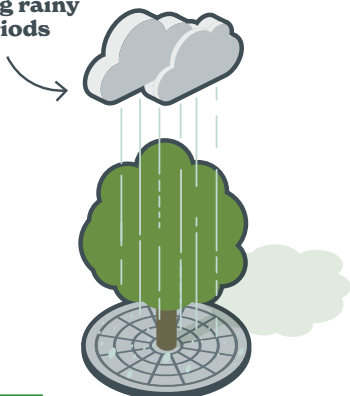
- UV treatment for Marne downstream.
- Addition of performic acid (an oxidant harmless to flora and fauna) for Seine Valenton.

All weather conditions



BUT HOW?

During rainy periods



Everywhere

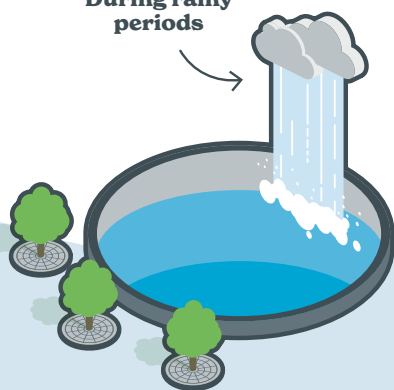
Making city surfaces more porous

Work to facilitate water infiltration into the soil: floodable gardens, green roofs, drainage trenches, permeable paving, etc.

The advantages?

- Less surface water load on city drainage systems.
- Plant cover for city spaces (for biodiversity and adaptation to climate change).

During rainy periods



In Paris and the Seine Saint Denis suburb

Creation of three retention basins

to store rainwater in the event of heavy rainfall. This system avoids saturation of the combined sewer system, and therefore the discharge of the overflow (a mixture of rainwater and wastewater) into the Seine.

Their capacity?

- Austerlitz: 50,000 cu. m.
- Rue Saint-Baudile: 30,000 cu. m.
- La Bonne eau: 8,000 cu.m.

The redevelopment of the storm overflows of the départements and the SIAPP has also made it possible to reduce discharges from the wastewater networks.

2 questions

for FRÉDÉRIC MULLER



Frédéric Muller
Swimming and
major projects
delegate,
Direction Seine
Francilienne in
AESN*

The quality of the water in the Seine has been constantly improving over the last 40 years. How have the Olympics boosted this process?

F.M.: As long ago as 2016, the “Swimmability Plan” rallied an incredible number of stakeholders around this project. And what has been accomplished in the space of just five years can be called a massive achievement! We can see as much in the sheer number of programmes we are handling.

Looking beyond “Seine swimmability”, what will the Olympic legacy be?

F.M.: A substantial improvement in the general condition of water courses, of the Marne and the Seine, which will help reduce marine pollution. We also expect to see adaptation to climate change because the less water is in our water courses the more concentrated the pollution and its harmful effects. Most of the steps taken were necessary and we have saved precious time thanks to the Olympics.

* Seine Normandy Water Agency

The energy transition is arriving on the Seine

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AS THE STAR OF THE 2024 OLYMPICS, THE SEINE IS CENTRAL TO THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE GREATER PARIS TRANSPORT SECTOR. DEVELOPMENT OF FREIGHT AND URBAN RIVER LOGISTICS, ELECTRIFICATION OF THE CRUISE FLEET, PORT ECOLOGY: BELOW IS A PANORAMA OF A RIVER REVOLUTION THAT MIGHT WELL FORM A MAJOR LEGACY OF THE GAMES.

“During the Games, the spotlight will be on the Seine, which is a unique opportunity for our major river projects!” With a few months to go to the event, Antoine Berbain is constantly “focused” on the final sprint. Like many stakeholders in the Paris region, HAROPA PORT has rallied its ecosystem around ambitious projects in pursuit of a common goal, one that dominates every timeline: readiness for 26 July. The first challenge: speeding up the development of on-river goods transport as an alternative to road haulage. As Antoine Berbain explains: *“It is the transport mode of the future: it emits five times less greenhouse gas compared to road and consumes much less energy. Over and above the environmental aspects, its use reduces road congestion and that is also why it has developed in the context of the major construction projects linked to the Games.”* For example, HAROPA PORT has worked with the



Antoine BERBAIN

Société des grands projets (formerly Société du Grand Paris) to organise the removal via the river of excavated material from construction of the underground metro lines. It has also collaborated with SOLIDEO, in conjunction with VNF (French Waterways Authority) on the building of the Olympic Village to

ensure that companies have been able to deliver and take away construction materials via the river. HAROPA PORT’s role? Providing the facilities needed by these activities in the ports.

MORE RIVER, LESS CARBON

Similarly, the Olympic and Paralympic Games have given a boost to the implementation of urban river logistics. Antoine Berbain points out that *“distributors of beverages will be transporting their products via the Seine. The OBD group has already tested it and France Boissons is preparing to do so: river transport*

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Antoine Berbain is deputy CEO of HAROPA PORT | Paris, France’s leading river port and Europe’s leading river port for passenger transport.
”

is all the more logical given that many residential areas and competition sites are located near the Seine.” Such urban river logistics have recently been adopted by IKEA, enabling it to shrink the carbon footprint of its deliveries significantly. And, once again, simultaneously reducing congestion on Paris roads.

Another river (r)evolution: the electrification of the passenger fleet in Paris. As the world’s leading inland port for passenger transport, carrying almost 9.5 million passengers in 2023, Paris will leave its mark on the history of passenger river transport with over 30 electric craft for the Olympics, some of which will be used for the Athletes’ Parade on the evening of the 26 of July. In addition to the 30 boats ready by June 2024, the entire Paris passenger transport ecosystem has now undertaken its energy transition, looking to the future total electrification of its activity. As Antoine Berbain says: “We are in the process of meeting a noble collective challenge. To begin with, we have demonstrated that 100% electrification is possible even for the largest vessels. And our customers have committed substantial investments to fleet transformation and motor retrofitting using local shipyards that are currently developing valuable know-how in this area; in many cases their investments exceed the actual value of the craft involved.”

BRINGING THE ENTIRE PORT ECOSYSTEM ON BOARD

As a driver of the move to electrify river transports, for some years now HAROPA PORT has devoted high levels of resources to equipping its quaysides with electricity supply points not only for cruise vessels, but also for freight. A network of over 100 electricity supply terminals is now in the process of installation on the Seine navigation basin in partnership with the VNF (French Waterways Authority). This is a

Seine Axis RIVER FREIGHT STATISTICS:

Twenty million tonnes handled in the greater Paris area every year, meaning a million fewer truck journeys and a corresponding reduction in carbon emissions!

major step towards a “greener” Seine Axis! “We have also connected our Paris ports to the public sewage network to avoid discharges of wastewater into the rivers”, explains Antoine Berbain. In order to fulfil the promise of a swimmable Seine? The primary aim is to bring the port ecosystem on board to meet a serious challenge: zero discharges into either air or water. As Antoine Berbain concludes: “We need not only to develop completely environmentally friendly river-based activities in the Paris area, but also make it possible to use the river for a variety of purposes. The Seine riversides near the Olympic Village are a perfect example: we made use of them during the construction of the Village for the Games and in the future, once it becomes a residential site, we will be accommodating barges offering catering and recreational services.” Before, during and after the Games, these developments will have demonstrated all the potential of the quaysides and rivers, where a wide variety of activities will be possible in the future.

The ecological legacy: five key points



IN THE FACE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE THREATS HANGING OVER BIODIVERSITY, THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES SETS OUT TO DESIGN A MORE RESPONSIBLE EVENT THAT WOULD LEAVE A ROBUST ECOLOGICAL LEGACY. "OUR GOAL IS TO CUT THE LEVEL OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY HALF RELATIVE TO THE LONDON GAMES IN 2012." BELOW GEORGINA GRENON PROVIDES A COMMENTARY ON FIVE OF THE MANY INITIATIVES GENERATED BY THIS APPROACH.



More sustainable construction

An exemplary roof for the Olympic Aquatic Centre

These games are less of a builder than their predecessors, but the few infrastructure construction projects undertaken will leave as a legacy new building techniques that are more sustainable and have a very limited environmental impact. The Saint-Denis Olympic Aquatic Centre has for example been given a



Georgina GRENON

roof whose main frame is 100% wood and with a concave profile that reduces the volume of air to be heated over the main pool.

Another key benefit: the roof is covered by 5,000 sq. m. of solar PV panels. Solar meets 20% of the building's electricity requirements.

"The Games were built to a target of 30% less carbon emissions per square metre in our construction programmes, which is a striking achievement."



Before joining the Paris 2024 Organising Committee in 2018, Georgina Grenon had an international career combining periods in industry, strategic consultancy and public service.

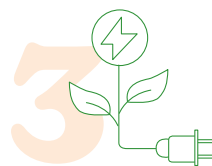




Air-conditioning
The Olympic Village will have to do without

The succession of heatwaves in recent years has led to a major increase in the installed base of air-conditioning systems along with CO₂ they produce. The need to decarbonise led Paris 2024 to show that there is another way, and one that is much more sustainable. The Games are held in the summer, but the Olympic Village will have to do without aircon. Building and window orientation, close attention to insulation, a geothermal under-floor cooling system, numerous trees and green spaces and 8,000 fans will help cool the accommodation.

“The builders of the Village committed to achieving a difference of around six degrees between apartment outdoor and indoor temperatures.”



The energy transition
Plugging the events into the electricity grid

For supply of the power required to hold the events, the organisers set out to limit the use of high-carbon impact temporary equipment such as generators burning fossil fuels. For that reason, alternative solutions were developed with ENEDIS to enable all Olympic competition sites to be connected to the public grid. These solutions will remain as a legacy for the host local authorities and firms operating in the events industry.

“Connection to the grid is even better where decarbonisation is concerned because 100% of the power provided to Paris 2024 will come from french renewable sources.”



The circular economy
Reuse - the star of the Games

Ranging from beds to tennis balls, no fewer than six million items will need to be delivered for Paris 2024. In order to limit the “materials footprint” as far as possible, no effort has been spared to ensure that those items will be reused after the Games. There has been very extensive recourse to rentals, for example. There have also been innovations. One instance is an unusual contract signed with Lyreco(*). Lyreco will supply office furniture for the duration of the Games and then take it all back for resale... thereby launching a new second-hand office furniture market in France.

“At under 100 days to go before the Olympics, 90% of all items we need for organising the event will have a guaranteed second life following the Games.”



Good practice
Environmentally friendly food

There are a number of cases of good practice for limiting the environmental impact of the thirteen million meals served during the Games. Vegetables will be prominent on consumers’ plates. Supplies will be seasonal and locally sourced. Steps have also been taken to limit waste by raising consumers’ awareness and enabling donations of food to charities, for example. Finally, the quantity of single-use plastic has been cut by half compared with the London Games.

“80% of meal ingredients will be produced in France, and the other 20% relates to competitors’ dietary requirements.”

(*) Partnering with Fludis, this company has for several years now been implementing delivery solutions combining river and land transport for last-kilometre logistics in Paris.

A green medal for Olympic innovations

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THE RIVER WILL REMEMBER THE GAMES AS A TURNING POINT IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION OF THE VESSEL FLEET. THE EFFORTS OF ALL RIVER STAKEHOLDERS (INCLUDED THE PARIS PORT COMMUNITY) HAVE INDEED RESULTED IN RECORD TIME IN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS OF CLEAN PROPULSION SYSTEMS, ALONG WITH AN EXPANSION OF QUAYSIDE ELECTRIFICATION. HOWEVER, THE GAMES ARE ALSO AN ENORMOUS TESTBED FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF INNOVATIONS. BELOW ARE SOME HIGH POINTS.

Self-driving boats



Aiming to make river innovation an even bigger part of the legacy of the Olympic Games, in July 2022, with the French Transport Innovation Agency, VNF (French Waterways Authority) issued a call for project proposals for demonstrators of automated, decarbonised river craft.

For the Games, two of the winning projects will be crossing the Bordeaux docks and between Ile-Saint-Denis and Epinay sur Seine. After 2024, it will be up to the transport organising authorities, and therefore local government, to decide whether to make these innovations part of the transport offering.

Cécile Avezard,
CEO of Voies navigables de France

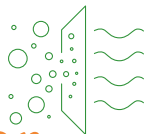


“An opportunity to promote the advantages of river transport”

“The Games put the river in the spotlight. With the «Vert le Fluvial» initiative, we have collectively demonstrated our ability to innovate. The result is a unique service to support the greening of boats. The PAMI pools all available funds to support these initiatives in favor of cleaner engines. At the same time, we are continuing to modernize our dock structures and facilities.”*

(*) Support for modernization and innovation

A vacuum cleaner for particles



After ten years of research, **Aérophile, a company, is presenting the Para-PM, a type of vacuum cleaner for fine particles that captures and clumps them together to output a flow of purified air.** Using electrostatic effects, the device catches fine particles similarly to a duster, eliminating 95%. After testing in schools and underground rail networks with results that point to its effectiveness, the invention was selected following a competitive tender process initiated by SOLIDEO for the fitting out of the Olympic Village. Five sunshade canopies have now been equipped and the device will remain in operation after the Games are over.

Sanitation gardens



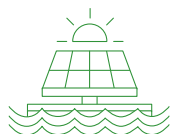
Might Aquatitris, a company, have an answer to the issue of wastewater discharges from barges upstream and downstream of the capital? Port-Marly (Yvelines) local authority, in collaboration with ADHF-F (river habitat federation), has been using two barges to conduct trials of a plant-based wastewater treatment technique as a contribution to the programme to improve the quality of the water to be used for the Olympic Games. The barges, developed by Aquatitris, a specialist in plant-based wastewater treatment, could offer a rapid, ecological alternative to connection to the public sewer system, which remains both expensive and complicated. The installations comprise a floating tank filled with reeds placed on a block of sand and gravel and fitted with a filtration pump to prevent both stagnation of the wastewater and the need to pump residual sludge. Might we soon be seeing floating gardens all along the Seine?

Online nets



The company Pollustock has conducted tests on the Seine, in Paris, of an online trash collection net. When fitted at a drain outlet, the net can catch cigarette butts and prevent waste from entering the water and, ultimately, the sea. Twenty or so of these nets have already been installed between Paris and Rouen. However, a call for declarations of interest issued with a view to the Olympic Games by the Prefecture for Greater Paris has resulted in an innovation: the nets are now equipped with sensors enabling the operators to collect data on how full they are. If the tests yield satisfactory results, around twenty nets could be installed along on Paris riversides.

A floating solar power station



In the run-up to the Olympic Games, EDF, the French electricity authority, set up on the Seine, opposite the Olympic Village, a new type of solar power station that may excite some comment. It is mobile, it floats, it can be completely disassembled, and it can produce 78kWc of electricity using its 470 sq. m. of PV solar panels. This level of production equates to the consumption of approximately 94 Olympic Village apartments. This system for production of green electricity allows available space on the Seine to be used when real estate is in limited supply in the Village. The installation will be dismantled after the Games and may be set up again elsewhere.

BOOST



Is the economy the real winner of the Olympic Games ?

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THE OLYMPIC GAMES ARE LIKELY TO GENERATE BETWEEN €5.3M AND €10M OF ADDED VALUE FOR OUR COUNTRY IN 2024. BUT IN THE LONGER TERM, WHAT WILL BE THE ECONOMIC LEGACY OF THE GAMES?

“

Pierre Rabadan is deputy mayor of Paris with responsibility for Sport, the 2024 Olympic Games and the Seine. Formerly a high-level sportsman, he currently chairs the Paris Je t'Aime/Tourist Office association.

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Pierre RABADAN

Dominique Charrier considers it “difficult to say”, recalling that for some years now policymakers have ceased to use economic arguments to justify holding the Games given that the relevant impacts remain modest compared with the sums involved. In actual fact, not only does research not show any significant increase in GDP, but circumstances may vary widely between editions. Caution is therefore needed. Nevertheless, it is clear that the legacy – if there is a legacy – is tightly linked to the investments made before and during the event. Hence the hope raised by the new model for the Games promoted by Paris 2024. This is a model whose goal is to drive a virtuous dynamic, especially in terms of economics. The aim is to make the Olympic Games an accelerator for business and growth, a source of opportunities for local development, the private sector and the population at large. From this standpoint, the

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Dominique Charrier is a tenured professor in the Sport Sciences faculty of Paris-Saclay University. He has a doctorate in economics and specialises in socioeconomic and foresight analysis of public policies in sport.

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Dominique CHARRIER

decision to locate part of the Games in Seine-Saint-Denis, the territorial département in the Paris city area hardest hit by poverty and unemployment, is symbolic.

150,000 JOBS CREATED

From the outset in building the project for the Paris Games, one of the priorities was to add value for French companies. Pierre Rabadan emphasises: “We put in place purchasing rules that allowed them to enter winning bids for 90% of the €5 billion in public procurement contracts signed by us. Even better: three-quarters of our suppliers are micro, small or medium-sized enterprises operating in the social and inclusive economy, major actors in the vitality of the local economic fabric.” The Paris 2024 organisers have shown themselves to be similarly proactive where jobs are concerned. Very early

on, they identified what was needed and rolled out training programmes to help candidates apply for posts with the required skills. They also prioritised recruitment under permanent contract, offering new recruits a career path even after the Games are over. The outcome: 150,000 direct jobs have become available, including 11,000 in the construction industry, for example. This is a sector that has a bright future,

Mathieu FRIEDBERG,
CEO of CEVA Logistics

CMA CGM, a committed recruiter

The CMA CGM Group, an official partner for Olympic Games logistics solutions, and a global player in sea, land, air and logistics solutions, is gearing up to help meet the challenge of organising the world's biggest sports event.

"The job of CMA CGM and its subsidiary CEVA Logistics is to transport, deliver, assemble and relocate 1.3 million items of furniture and over 900,000 pieces of sports equipment across around thirty Olympic locations. That is a source of great pride for our group. And also a major responsibility. Since the diversity and inclusivity dimension are a key focus of the Olympic Games - one that we at CEVA share - we wanted a large number of jobs - 700 employees have been hired for the Games - should be proposed to the long-term unemployed. For this, we are working specifically with a local business, Nes&Cité, whose objective is to rally people around an issue, employment, that is of key importance for city districts and the private sector. Looking beyond the Games, we want to see such individuals benefit from professional support and assistance based on a training programme."

"Create the conditions for the emergence of long-term social projects."

Dominique CHARRIER

thanks to the Olympic Games. Given that the Games set out to be green and environmentally responsible, Pierre Rabadan has in fact worked hard with the organisers on sustainable construction issues. This has led, among other things, to ecodesigned sites, bio-based materials, a major role for plantation, and emphasis on energy efficiency and decarbonisation (cf. also page 20-23). "The building programmes initiated in connection with the Games have had a role as testbeds from which new expertise has developed that will be essential in building the cities of the future," Pierre Rabadan maintains, adding: "By capitalising on that expertise, our construction firms will be able to increase their turnover, including for export. And that is also true of the other sectors involved, ranging from urban development to safety."

FOLLOW-UP MEASURES

Dominique Charrier points out however that "although essential, proactive support from central government, OCOG, inter-municipal bodies and local authorities is not enough." Because, according to him, success is also built on the ground: "The conditions need to be created to ensure that local energy can be generated to drive projects over the long term. This is crucial and presupposes the deployment of follow-up measures with highly granular, long-term geographical coverage." To this, Pierre Rabadan answers: "We are aware of that and are working on it." As an elected representative for Paris, he illustrates his point of view with examples of the steps already taken for

Two questions for PIERRE RABADAN on the Games' legacy for tourism.

Apart from the visitors attracted to the Games, how will the tourism industry benefit?

The Olympic Games are likely to have a major impact on tourism in Paris and across the region over the next ten years. This competitive event is the most watched in the world and will have knock-on benefits for city's image and attractiveness. It has helped launch and accelerate structurally significant projects for the sector, such as the construction of the Grand Paris Express, the

restoration of iconic monuments such as the Grand Palais, and work on disabled access for hotels, bars and restaurants. It has helped create 60,000 permanent jobs in under-staffed tourism-related businesses. And it has also led to a diversification of the market offering and a broadening of tourist itineraries far beyond the Périphérique, the Paris ring road. This year, for example, we will be completing the renovation of 50 basketball courts. And on each a unique artwork for you to admire.

And what about river tourism?

After the Eiffel Tower, the Seine is Paris' most important monument, and it will be highlighted before and during these Games. The Games should therefore boost already robust growth in river tourism, which registered a record 9.5 million passengers in 2023. I am also keen to emphasise the commitment to the organisation of Paris 2024 of all those who bring life to the Seine every day at local level. I am sure they will be able to capitalise on the Olympic Games to continue to transform the river sector, focusing on key goals such as fleet decarbonisation and shared river uses.

Paris 2024 to encourage participation in sports. "We are already thinking about ways to maintain activity after the Games with the support of new investors. If we succeed, our economy will benefit given the high cost for the public purse of the health issues arising from a lack of physical exercise."

THE DEBT THREAT

One crucial question remains: and what if Paris 2024 leaves a legacy of debt for the French people? A question that can hardly be avoided when one remembers that Quebec's taxpayers took 40 years to repay the debt left by the Montreal Games in 1976. An extreme, but not unique case: since 1962, the Olympic budget has been overspent by an average of 167%. Pierre Rabadan comments: "Once again, our model should make a difference because it is based on a balanced, managed budget. The funding comes primarily from ticket sales, sponsors and the IOC contribution. We have limited risk-taking as far as possible by building very little new infrastructure, all of which is intended to be part of the legacy, and we are paying close attention to any potential slippage. And there have in fact been several budget reviews since 2017. Indeed, despite Covid-19, war in Europe and a global energy crisis, leaving aside inflation, one hundred days out from the Games, the budget is still under control."

Making sure that the « **BLAST** » effect does not fade



James CHERON

“James Cheron, Mayor of Montereau-Fault-Yonne, Vice-President of Paris Regional Council, Chair of La Seine en partage.”

Will the economic activities linked to the Seine and port areas emerge as winners from the Games?

The Olympic Games were seen as an opportunity to make the Seine suitable for swimming and holding the Olympic competitions. Less obvious to the general public was the fact that the Games helped highlight under-invested intermodal capacity in our region and the key asset represented by the river in the context of a strategy to decarbonise transportation when its modal share has been declining over a number of years. A trend it is in the public interest to reverse!

At a time when we are seeking zero soil artificialisation, port areas need to be perceived as having to serve not only more use cases and more users, in both public and private sectors, but to do so with a view to conversion, as the Games have shown us in other projects, especially for housing.

Do you have any examples of support or creation of added value for the benefit of the river?

The many calls for declarations of interest have led to the initiation

THE PARIS GAMES ARE ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOOST TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS ACTIVITIES ON THE SEINE OVER THE LONG TERM.

or acceleration of projects relating especially to fleet decarbonisation, quayside and hinterland services, sanitation and training. For example: one-third of all boats carrying the athletes will have clean propulsion systems.

Act 2 of the Regional Strategy on freight and logistics, proposed by the President of the Regional Council, Valérie Pécresse, and adopted by the Council in 2022, makes development of the river a priority requiring coordination between all involved and, naturally, funding, specifically under the regional and interregional planning agreements signed between central government and the regions. Development of additional capacity (creation of PSMO – Western Metropolitan Seine Port – and Vitry port, plus expansion at Limay), facility modernisation and extension (Montereau and Gennevilliers) shows the way forward to a ramping up of environmentally friendly economic development.

Do you think that the Games could have been an opportunity to go further?

‘French bashing’ is all the rage, and so is, inevitably, ‘Olympics bashing’. I will be content to see that overall the Olympic Games have acted as an accelerator for very many issues, in particular transportation and

infrastructure. Their legacy will also need to be up to the mark. Where the Seine is concerned, if the ‘blast’ effect is not to collapse like a soufflé, it will be necessary not only to continue current efforts but to widen them geographically, both upstream and downstream.

Preservation of land availability for freight and logistics activities is essential and a fully integrated part of the building of the future strategic masterplan for the Greater Paris region (SDRIF-E) currently being prepared by my colleague Jean-Philippe Dugoin-Clément (Vice-President of the Greater Paris Regional Council with responsibility for regional development) in the context of an extensive public consultation process involving local stakeholders, the business sector and ecological preservation.

The question will be: using what resources? The need is therefore to guarantee long-term funding for the ecological and economic development of the river and riverside areas, by means, for example, of a levy on one of the most polluting forms of transport whose energy source continues, oddly, to be exempted from any tax: aviation. The “polluter pays” principle might usefully find an innovative and constructive application in this context.

Construction: lessons learned from the Games

NEW APPROACHES ARE A VALUABLE LEGACY IN A CHALLENGING ECONOMIC CONTEXT.

There has never been as little construction in France as now, despite the continuing increase in the population. Given the fact that this market is currently stalled, central and local government are seeking inspiration in the methods of the Olympic Games to come up with answers. Among the measures passed with a view to accelerating construction are a small number of simplifications such as electronic public participation, the integrated procedure for ensuring the compatibility of town planning documents and the multiuse building permit: Patricia Pelloux recalls that *"until now, designing adaptive, reversible options into a construction, like changes in the designated use of office or apartment buildings, was a real obstacle course! Procedures are streamlined by the 'dual purpose' permit."* This legislation reduces to a minimum and in advance the lead-time, scale and cost of adapting building designations. Some of these measures will be applied to the "22 local areas involved in accommodation provision" as designated in February 2024 by government, regarding which local and central government developers are actively working to speed up construction.

The Olympic Village and the built facilities also provide an opportunity to develop programmes that help advance progress toward carbon neutrality in the town planning context. The Village, like the Aquatic Centre and the Porte de la Chapelle Arena, are served by a district heating and cooling system driven by a geothermal plant. Collection of rainwater



Patricia PELLOUX

and household wastewater will save on resources.

"There are innovations in the choice of materials – wood, low-carbon concrete, reuse – plus offsite construction – that are replicable examples; prefabrication processes have been invented in connection with the Games in order to speed up certain construction phases, notably involving the development of consolidation centres. These are sources of savings and can help optimise certain project costs."

"IT WAS FOR THE GAMES, SO EVERYONE PILED IN!"

Building industry professionals have in fact had recourse to river-based logistics for carrying materials *"APUR notes that very few construction sites are making direct use of the river despite its major potential; the reasons given for this by building firms are: the ingrained habit of working with road transport, difficulties in finding the right contacts, uncompetitive costs and complicated logistics."* The construction of the Olympic Village on the riverside has turned the tables: *"It was for the Games, so everybody piled in to come up with together with efficient river logistics routes. And we think that firms that have used the Seine once will come back for more!"* Similarly, the Games have accelerated improvement in Seine water quality. Many potential swimming sites have been suggested as legacy facilities on the Seine and the Marne. But regulatory measures will be required to settle safety issues and allow a variety of uses of the river.

Patricia Pelloux, deputy director of Apur - Paris town planning workshop

UNITE



Do the Olympic Games champion social progress?

SPEEDING UP SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: THIS IS AMONG THE MAJOR GOALS OF THE LEGACY AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES. IS IT AN ACHIEVABLE GOAL? MARIE DELAPLACE GIVES US HER EXPERT OPINION.



Marie DELAPLACE

Right from the candidature phase, the Olympic Games were expected to serve goals that are important for our societies. Goals ranging from health to education, from training to inclusion in employment, from social cohesion to inclusivity, from improvements in quality of life to citizens' engagement. Marie Delaplace points out that *"the desire to make these Games a lever for social change exists, and is undeniable. You could even say that it is part of their DNA. Notably, it is to be seen in the unprecedented importance given to the social and inclusive economy in the organisation of the competition."*

PRACTICAL MEASURES...

This proactive stance goes beyond words, and takes the form of practical measures. The launch in 2017 of the Olympic and Paralympic Week highlighted the

importance of physical and sports education, along with participation in sports for young people from nursery school to university. The following year saw the signing of the Paris 2024 Social Charter – a first

for this type of event. It contains sixteen undertakings to guide the preparation not only of the Games, but also follow-up during the event and the post-Games period to ensure market access for all enterprises, promote decent working conditions and foster the inclusion of vulnerable population groups. In 2019, a €50m seed fund was approved by the Paris 2024 Executive Board to fund programmes to benefit population categories on the margins of the organisation of the Games. The three topics selected? Sport for a more active life, sport for education and sport for changing perceptions, especially where disability is concerned. In January 2024, the first

Marie Delaplace is emeritus professor of Development and Town Planning at Gustave Eiffel University. Alongside Pierre-Olaf Schut (cf. page 8), she is a co-founder of ORME, the observatory for mega-events research.



Morgane SANCHEZ,

head of HAROPA PORT Paris Seine office

stone was laid for the Saint-Denis Olympic Aquatic Centre. To date, this is one of the rare sports facilities – among those built for the Olympic Games – that will be other than temporary. It will be the venue for a number of Olympic competitions but in 2025 it is intended to become a facility open to all. Marie Delaplace explains that “one of the objectives of the operation is to encourage people to learn to swim in Seine-Saint-Denis, an area in which half of all children cannot swim at the age of ten, specifically because of a lack of infrastructure.” The 953 Media Village apartments officially opened last March in Dugny, another town in the Seine-Saint-Denis département, will also be given a second life. After having accommodated 2,500 journalists and technicians during the Games, they will be supplemented by 600 extra housing units and residences plus a school, a gym, shops and services to form, beginning in 2025, a new city district.

... BUT A COMPLEX CONCEPT

This proactive approach to action is likely to build positive momentum. But does that mean we can count on a robust social legacy for the Games? Far from certain. Firstly, because, as Marie Delaplace reminds us, “the approach taken by the Paris 2024 organisers, focused as it is on certain subject areas, can be perceived as reductive if we consider that the social dimension relates to a society, to a human community, to its activities.” When discussing legacy, we need also to make a distinction between the tangible – infrastructure, for example – and the intangible, such as the image of the host city, or social inclusion, which are much harder to evaluate. Other key questions raised by Marie Delaplace: who will

“The momentum generated by the Olympics encourages us to double down on our initiatives to open up the river to the local population and establish a mix of quayside activities.”

“In the context of the Games, we have renewed our contracts relating to recreational activities to ensure that our ports are increasingly areas that combine passenger reception, transshipment facilities and locations for walkers and shops. Indeed, for the surroundings of the Olympic Village, people are already thinking about the next phase. And about the 6,000 residents and employees that will breathe life into this new district. In March 2024, HAROPA PORT issued (with Plaine Commune) a call for declarations of interest in preparing the repurposing of the site: this call helps identify economic operators wishing to use river craft or moored facilities as bases for events and recreation.”

benefit from the social legacy of the Games — given that what is a legacy for some will not necessarily be a legacy for others – and is the use of the verb “benefit”, implying that a legacy is inevitably positive, always appropriate? “Transforming the Media Village into a city district will not resolve the housing problem in

Seine Saint-Denis. And will that district be affordable for the local population, the poorest in metropolitan France? In London after the 2021 Olympic Games, the Olympic Village was also converted in part to social housing. But less social housing than planned and only relatively well-off families were able to move there, thereby increasing its gentrification.” She adds: *“talk about the social legacy of the Games ahead of the event is problematic because it is not possible to think in terms of causality, and say that the Olympic Games will result in such a change.”* In the view of the emeritus professor, any legacy – if there is one – is co-produced in time and space. It is dependent on the strategies of the various stakeholders and the context, not only locally and nationally, but also internationally. To support her assertions, she points to the 40,000 volunteers deployed during the Games. *“They will acquire or consolidate skills such as the use of a foreign language. But they will only capitalise on those skills if the private sector hires them when the Games are over. However, extensive research shows that volunteer work is not always a crucial factor in a CV. Which means that there is no guarantee of the Games’ impact on inclusion in employment or on jobs.”*

A COLLECTIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMITMENT

In light of such reservations, what can we reasonably expect from Paris 2024 in the social domain over the long term? Marie Delaplace considers that *“the games are a tool that can speed up certain change processes, on condition that you know how to use it.”* In her view, the Games can be a factor for change only if support programmes are kept in place on a lasting basis. *“Take the Olympic Aquatic Centre in Saint-*

“The will to make these Games a tool for social transformation is undeniable.”

Denis. It will undeniably be a legacy of Paris 2024 for high-level sportspeople since it will be the base for the Diving section of the French Swimming Federation after the Games. But for children in Seine-Saint-Denis learning to swim, the available pool lanes will not be enough. Affordable pricing will also be necessary, plus teams of instructors, promotional campaigns and free lessons are also worth considering. All of which will come about due to the organised involvement of a community of stakeholders that will need to remain in place long after Paris 2024.”

Plaine Commune... in plain sight



PLAINE COMMUNE' COVERS AN AREA PARTLY BOUNDED BY THE SEINE, AND ONE AFFECTED BY DEINDUSTRIALISATION AND SOCIAL DISTRESS. IT SETS OUT TO MAKE THE GAMES A LEVER FOR THE AREA'S TRANSFORMATION. FOR HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, GREEN SPACES, ACCESS TO SPORT: THE EXPECTED BENEFITS ARE MANY.

This summer, at the heart of the future Grand Paris Express network, a vast territory covering an area equal to half of that of Paris will find itself under the spotlight: Plaine Commune will be home to the Olympic Village, two major competition sites and the Olympic closing ceremonies. This strategic area with a population of 450,000, providing 207,000 jobs and with nearly 40,000 companies, now the third biggest economic centre in the Greater Paris region, has begun its transformation. The Paris 2024 Olympics are adding additional momentum: after the Games are over, the 19,000 competitors will leave behind a completely changed area in which €9 billion euros will have been invested.

LEGACIES FOR THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES MOST IN NEED OF THEM

The Olympic Village and Plaine Saulnier, notably the location of the Olympic Aquatic Centre, will be converted into new city districts offering 3,000 and 500 housing units respectively, in addition to offices, shops, and new services such as schools, medical centres and creches. The local residents will see their quality of life improve with the creation of over 20 hectares of natural areas, the installation of noise barriers and the rerouting of high-voltage cables underground. The banks of the Saint-Denis canal, the development of which

has gone faster thanks to the Games, will become a location for walkers, one where pedestrians and cyclists will be able to circulate more freely using new footbridges. And, more generally, municipalities will benefit from more services via the new Saint-Denis Pleyel station (which has the largest number of Grand Paris Express network connections) as well as La Courneuve station.

The Games also compensate for Plaine Commune's lack of sports facilities. Previously there were only 630, or 15 per 10,000 residents, compared with a regional average of 29. Today, 22% of the local population over 15 years of age report that they engage in no physical activity, compared with 14% across the region². In the future, the area will offer 15 renovated sites (Stade de France included) and 3 new swimming pools, plus the construction of gyms, sports fields, fitness trails, etc. In addition to built infrastructure, part of the intangible legacy is formed by synergies emerging in the context of the Games that are likely to generate momentum encouraging participation in sports: for example, the A vélo vers 2024 (Cycling to 2024) scheme (funded by the Paris 2024 Endowment Fund) offers free training. Since its launch in 2022, it has benefited over 1,800 local residents.

1 A territorial public agency covering nine municipalities: Aubervilliers, Épinay-sur-Seine, Île-Saint-Denis, La Courneuve, Pierrefitte-sur-Seine, Saint-Denis, Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine, Stains and Villetaneuse.

2 Sources: IRDS, EPSF 2017 RES, Ministry for Sport 2019.



Florian MERRIEN

an accelerator for **INCLUSION**?

“Florian Merrien, world no. 5 in para table tennis, is a four-time Paralympics medal winner — including one gold medal at the Beijing Paralympics. He has won two world champion and six European champion titles.”

AS A KEY FOCUS OF THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES' LEGACY AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN, INCLUSION, PARTICULARLY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, IS A MAJOR GOAL FOR THE ORGANISERS. THIS IS SPECIFICALLY REFLECTED, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, IN THE FACT THAT OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARE NOW PLACED UNDER A SINGLE SYMBOL. WE MET WITH FLORIAN MERRIEN, A HAROPA PORT PARTNER ATHLETE.

How does the partnership you have signed up to with HAROPA PORT represent a change in the way disability is considered in society?

The fact that HAROPA PORT is supporting me shows that para sport interests people! But our partnership goes further than a sponsoring agreement because I interact with HAROPA PORT's staff in order to raise their awareness of disability. The corporate world is increasingly attentive to the inclusion of the disabled, which is an encouraging trend.

Are the values you communicate close to those of the Olympics?

They relate above all to the values of sport: I speak not only as an individual with a disability but also as a high-level sportsman. That enables me to link disability to concepts relevant to sportspeople and, ultimately, to more or less everyone: resilience, social harmony and high performance. Like

disability, sport is an excellent teacher of tolerance!

What do you think of the way para sports are represented in the Paris Games?

Paralympic Games competitors are increasingly mentioned, although still too little. If you ask French people to come up with the name of one para sports person, nobody will be able to! But I am hopeful: the reactions of HAROPA PORT staff following our encounters are highly enthusiastic: many want to follow my progress through the Games!

Will the Olympics raise the profile of the disabled?

The Paralympic Games will be televised on national channels and that will inevitably impact the profile of disability. In particular, these Games may foster a vocation for sport in some disabled people by removing barriers. But in my view, progress remains to be made: given the differences in their

dates and organisers, the Olympics and the Paralympics are far from playing on the same level ...

What do you expect to see from the Games in terms of legacy in this domain?

It would have been a genuine revolution to have improved disabled access on the Paris transport network, but unfortunately that has not been done. On the other hand, attitudes are changing. We need to be optimistic: before schools became coeducational, our grandparents could never have imagined such a revolution. Perhaps one day we will all, able-bodied and disabled, compete in the same Olympics. And nobody will find that surprising!

Paris in... 2070: a complete change of scene!



THE LEGACY HAS SURPASSED WHAT WAS PROMISED... HOW DID THE SEINE IN PARIS BECOME THE NEW INTERNATIONAL URBAN PLANNING SCENE? BELOW IS A DEEP DIVE INTO A METAMORPHOSIS THAT BEGAN WITH THE 2024 OLYMPICS, AS SEEN BY THE NEW YORK TIMES IN... 2070 !.



Olivier BEAUNAY

“It looks like a dragon!” shouts Louis, aged 9. On this mid-June day in Paris the temperature is 28°C. In the shade of the sail-shaped galleries extending out from the vegetated buildings around the Bassin de la Villette, a class of schoolchildren on a nature walk buzzes with excitement about the day’s set topic: the Seine seen from the sky. The shape of the river and its adjacent infrastructure do indeed form a dazzling dragon. The comparison with the map as it was at the beginning of the century is striking. Between two the two end-points of the Vincennes and Boulogne forests the Seine has transformed the city.

Well beyond the Canal Saint-Martin, the Bassin de l’Arsenal and the Bièvre, numerous canals now irrigate the city, flowing into spaces once monopolised by road traffic, often linking up with the great parks and gardens that mark its course

between Bercy and Auteuil. Italian sociologist Chiara Di Castello asserts that “21st century cities should be thought of as oases, wellsprings of renewal in every sense of the word.”

A vibrant, diverse neighbourhood life has sprung up around these canals, and especially around the water basins that punctuate their course, each a centre for multipurpose street markets and in some cases facilities for swimming and ponds that provide cooler air. Here the “15-minute city” has become a reality. It is as if Paris had been redesigned as an archipelago of villages, each containing a central hub part of an expansive root system, a living organism. These “villages” share locations based on time or target audience and make water and nature once again part of the city, under the guidance of powerful AI systems that optimise spaces and flows and manage resources based on a circu-

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Olivier Beaunay is managing director of Innovations & Territoires, a strategic foresight and communication company. He is also the author of “La boussole des futurs” (a compass for our futures).
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lar economy using small underground recycling plants. The roofs of the vegetated buildings have been given over to agriculture. A young urban agri-planner happily claims that “production meets half the city’s needs.”

But it is above and below the Seine that the transformation is most spectacular. Very different from the river of the past, the Seine can now be likened to a stepped tree-like structure. Architect Bijoy Weinand explains: “Paris was built on a foundation of water, and its motto *Fluctuat nec mergitur**, is also a legacy from the boatmen’s corporation in the Middle Ages. This concept was the starting point for our reinvention of Paris centred on the Seine, restoring water to its rightful place in the architecture of the urban ecosystem.”

SEINE XXI

“Seine XXI” was in fact one of the major international construction projects of the first half of the century, bringing together the nation’s best alongside the best international experts for a revolution combining ecology and technology and underpinned by redefined engineering. Environmentally friendly concrete, now affordable, was used alongside new biomorphic architectural features and approaches inspired by traditional societies, passive tropical architecture, for example.

Somewhat like geology, the Seine was seen as a series of “layers”, making the river a multipurpose, dynamic envelope open to modular adaptation. Under the river, a vast cavern was excavated to house logistics operations, the point of departure for the majority of goods flows into the city and connected to an ingenious system of magnetic lifts travelling both vertically and horizontally and a network of tunnels exploiting space previously occupied by car parks but now freed up by the “Zero Auto” programme. 3D manufacturing centres make most everyday products. There are even hydraulic turbines located upstream on the river to generate the electricity needed.

“It is above and below the Seine that the transformation is most spectacular.”

The river itself is now very actively used for passenger transport, criss-crossed by high-tech vessels ranging from modular ferries to long, streamlined boats. Some provide service to vegetated, houseboat-style residential areas astride part of the riverbanks. In places above the river spacious footbridges have been constructed on pillars, each using a specific combination of concrete, glass, wood and vegetation. Tourism mixes with recreation and the arts, these also having returned to the urban space. Off in the distance, there are glimpses of broad areas given over to biodiversity.

The river and its surroundings are now energised by a shimmering mist, transforming them into an impressionistic tableau reminiscent of a futuristic Monet. It extends far downstream in a bouquet of new high-tech corporate head offices, university laboratories and new, vegetated residential centres all along the meandering course of the Seine.

This is a minor revolution which, from Paris to Le Havre, an including Rouen, has revitalised the entire river region and its ecosystem, now among Europe’s most attractive. A grand project in the visionary tradition embodied by king François I. The cradle of the first Renaissance was the Loire river. Today, the Seine symbolises the new attractiveness of *Green France*.

Article by Megan Podell

* “Battered by the waves, but still afloat.”

AND IN THE MIDDLE FLOWS THE SEINE...

This footbridge was designed, built, transported (by barge from the port of Gennevilliers) and installed for the Olympic Games. It links two parts of the Olympic Village, from Saint-Denis to L'Île-Saint-Denis. This majestic 138-metre-long structure, dedicated to soft mobility (cycling, buses, pedestrians), has been eagerly awaited by the elected representatives of Seine-Saint-Denis for several years. It will help to open up these two new districts, which will be home to thousands of new residents once the Olympic Games are over.