Transportation: General

Paris has an extensive public transportation system, called the RATP. It consists of the metro (lines numbered 1 to 14), the RER (trains, called A,B,C,... which go through Paris but also to suburban locations, and which connect to metro lines), and buses (with two-digit numbers).

The RER B goes between the north and south of Paris. Charles de Gaulle airport is in the north, and Orly airport is in the south. To go to Orly airport, you must change at RER station Antony for a tramway called Orlyval or else at RER station Denfert Rochereau for a bus called Orlybus. A ticket to go to the airport costs about 10 euros one way.

At CDG airport, there is unfortunately often a long line to buy RER tickets. There are also machines which sell tickets, but these require credit cards with pin codes, which most Europeans have. Those who have credit cards with pin codes but are not accustomed to using them (like Americans) should leave the credit card in the slot until told to remove them.

All RER B trains go through Paris. However, when you are leaving and going back to the airport, keep in mind that the RER B has several branches (see the picture) and you should verify that the train goes to the airport. There are two RER stops at CDG, Terminal 1 and 2. At Orly airport, the Orlyval and Orlybus also make two stops, at the South and West terminals. Verify which terminal is yours.

Most of the conference takes place at the Ecoles des Mines, conveniently located at the RER B station called Luxembourg. Other events take place close by: registration and experimental visits on July 14 at ESPCI (a 10-minute walk away), and the first plenary session on July 15 at Institut Océanographique (a 5-minute walk away). See accompanying maps.

You can transfer from one metro or RER line to another on the same ticket, or between metro and RER, and you can transfer from one bus to another, but you cannot transfer between bus and metro on the same ticket. When you take the RER, you need your ticket to get out or to transfer to the metro. The same tickets are used for the metro, the RER (within Paris) and for buses.

A good general choice is to buy "carnets", which are sets of 10 tickets. Tickets to suburban areas, such as the airports, cost more and should be purchased separately. Those staying more than five days or so might find it worthwhile to get a weekly pass, called Passe Navigo Decouverte, which lasts from Monday to Monday, for 5 euros + 21.25 euros/week. You can buy these at any metro station. You will need a small photograph of yourself, which you can bring, or which you can take in a photo-booth. http://www.ratp.fr/en/ratp/r_61584/tickets/ will give you information on the types of tickets you can purchase.

Neighborhoods near Luxembourg are called the Latin Quarter, Montparnasse, Odeon, Saint Germain. Paris is divided into 20 arrondissements, with lower numbers being nearer the center. The Ecole des Mines is at the boundary of the 5th and 6th arrondissements. Other convenient arrondissements are 1,2,3,4,13,14.

In addition to Google Maps, an excellent website http://www.ratp.fr/ describes public transportation in Paris and which is available in French, English, Spanish, German, Italian, Dutch, and Japanese. At http://www.ratp.fr/itineraires/en/ratp/recherche-avancee, you can enter two addresses, and the site will find you an itinerary via public transportation, according to criteria such as fastest/least number of changes, least walking/bus only/train only/for whichever time and day you specify. http://www.ratp.fr/en/ratp/r_61596/access-to-airports/ will give you information on transportation to and from airports.
Transportation to BIFD

Buses 27 and 89
The Student Residence is located at 81 rue Chevaleret, in the 13th arrondissement. The 27 and 89 buses go directly from there to the Ecole des Mines (Luxembourg). The journey via each bus should take about 30 minutes: 20 minutes on the bus and a short walk on either end. See the accompanying maps. The buses run between every 5 and every 15 minutes (probably every 5 minutes during rush hours). However, it will take at least five buses to carry the 90 BIFD attendees! And there will be a line for badge-checking to get into the Ecole des Mines. So most of you should leave early, before 8am. Some should take the 89 (which stops closer to CROUS) and others should take the 27 (which stops closer to Ecole des Mines and the Institut Oceanographique). Use the extra time to take a nice walk or run around the famous and magnificent Jardin du Luxembourg, which opens at 7:30am.

RER C
The RER C goes from the station Bibliothèque François Mitterand to St.-Michel, in only two stops. The RER C has many branches, so make sure that the one you are taking goes in the right direction. To go from Bibliothèque François Mitterand to St.-Michel, take a train whose final destination is Pontoise, Versailles Rive Gauche, or St.-Quentin en Yvelines. To go from St.-Michel to Bibliothèque François Mitterand, take a train whose final destination is St.-Martin d’Étampes, Dourdan la Forêt, or Massy Palaiseau. See the accompanying map. The RER C will also take you to many other places to which you may want to go to before or after the conference, such as the Musée d’Orsay, Invalides, and the Tour Eiffel.

Bicycle subscription: Velib
Velib is the Parisian bicycle rental system; see http://en.velib.paris.fr/ Online, you can buy a subscription for one day (1.70 euros) or for seven days (8 euros). Once you get to Paris, you can buy a subscription from one of the Velib stations. (Not all types of credit cards are accepted.) Once you have a subscription, the first half-hour is free. The second half-hour costs 1 euro, the second half-hour costs 2 euros, and every subsequent half-hour costs 4 euros. But you can just return your Velib, wait 5 minutes, and borrow another one. There are Velib stations very near the CROUS residence, at 56 rue du Chevaleret, 2 rue Leredde, and also very near Luxembourg, at 1 rue Henri Barbusse, 9 rue Le Goff, 27 rue Gay Lussac, 174 rue St.-Jacques. See the map.

Buses 38, 21, 82, 83, 84
Many BIFD participants lodging elsewhere will want to use the 38 bus, which goes along a north-south axis along the boulevard St.-Michel and which stops right at Ecole des Mines. The area near Luxembourg is particularly dense in buses, with buses 21, 82, 83, 84 also stopping nearby.
Area near Luxembourg
Area near Student Residence
Route of 89 bus

Bus terminus: Porte de France
Stop nearest CROUS: Bibliothèque François Mitterand
Stop nearest ESPCI: Marie du 5ème - Pantheon
Stop nearest Maison des Océans: Marie du 5ème - Pantheon
Stop nearest Ecole des Mines: Luxembourg
Bus terminus: Gare de Vanves

Route of 27 bus

Bus terminus: Porte d'Ivry
Stop nearest CROUS: Oudiné
Stop nearest ESPCI: Berthollet-Vauquelin
Stop nearest Maison des Océans: Saint Jacques - Gay-Lussac
Stop nearest Ecole des Mines: Luxembourg
Bus terminus: Gare Saint Lazare
Velib stations near Luxembourg

Velib stations near CROUS

Pointoise
Versailles Rive Gauche
St.-Quentin en Yvelines

St.-Martin d'Etampes
Dourdan la Forêt
Massy Palaiseau