French President François Hollande meets HEC Paris community in Qatar

France’s Head of State and HEC Paris alumnus recognizes establishment of HEC Paris in Qatar as a demonstration of the special relationship between France and Qatar

Doha, Qatar – 27 June, 2013: The President of France, His Excellency François Hollande, met with representatives of the HEC Paris community in Qatar and urged his fellow and future alumni to assist in further strengthening links between France and Qatar.

The meeting, which was held on 23 June 2013 at the Four Seasons hotel in Doha, took place during the French President’s official visit to the State of Qatar as top government officials from both countries discussed several issues of mutual concern.

President Hollande, who graduated from HEC Paris in 1975, became the 24th President of one of Europe’s most influential nations.

The HEC Paris community present during the meeting included Professor Laoucine Kerbache, Chief Executive Officer and Academic Dean of HEC Paris in Qatar; representatives from the current EMBA and Master class of 2014, as well as several members of the HEC Paris alumni body. Also present at the meeting were His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani, Vice President for Education of Qatar Foundation and President of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU); Dr. David Prior, Executive Vice-President and Provost of HBKU and Christophe de Margerie, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Total.

After the meeting, President Hollande was presented with a calligraphy crystal by the HEC Paris community as a token of their appreciation and recognition to their fellow alumni.
“HEC Paris is indeed proud to count President Hollande as one of its most prestigious graduates,” Professor Kerbache said. “He embodies many of the values of HEC Paris, including commitment to diversity, responsible leadership and international collaboration.

“President Hollande’s visit to Qatar, and his meeting with fellow alumni in Doha, demonstrates the life-long ties that our students develop with HEC Paris and with their fellow classmates and graduates. This meeting highlights the importance of the HEC Paris presence in Qatar, which has received tremendous support from the highest levels of government and business in both France and Qatar,” he added.

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Notes to Editors

HEC Paris in Qatar
HEC Paris joined Qatar Foundation in June 2010, bringing world-class Executive Education programs and research activity to Doha and the region. Qatar’s first international EMBA was launched by HEC Paris in Qatar in February 2011. The HEC Executive MBA (EMBA) is a part-time program which provides executives with a set of fundamental skills to expand their knowledge and leadership capabilities. The course is taught in English, and is offered in five different locations, including Doha. In addition to the EMBA, HEC Paris in Qatar provides a Specialized Master Degree in Strategic Business Unit Management. The institution also offers non-degree management programs for executives, in the form of open enrolment programs as well as custom-designed programs for individual companies. HEC Paris in Qatar’s programs and research activities build corporate competitiveness within the global economy and are fully aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030 to support the transformation of Qatar into an advanced, competitive and knowledge-based economy. HEC Paris is ranked number one in the world for Executive Education in 2013 by the influential UK-based Financial Times media group.
http://www.exed.hec.edu/locations/qatar

HEC Paris
A leader in Europe, HEC Paris specializes in management education and research. HEC Paris offers a full, unique range of courses to the leaders of tomorrow: Masters Degrees, MBA, PhD, Executive MBA and
Trium Global Executive MBA. Founded in 1881, HEC Paris has a permanent faculty of 109 professors, 4000 students on its campus (40% of whom are foreign) and over 8500 managers and executives trained in executive education programs each year. HEC Paris is ranked number one in the world for Executive Education in 2013 by the influential UK-based Financial Times media group. http://www.exed.hec.edu/

Qatar Foundation
Founded in 1995 by decree of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, Qatar Foundation is a non-profit organization focusing on education, scientific research and community development. Under Qatar Foundation’s umbrella are Education City which comprises elite universities, academic and training programmes and Qatar Science and Technology Park which boasts more than 26 world-class companies involved in scientific research and development. Chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation also aims to enhance lives through community development initiatives including Doha Debates, Reach out To Asia and Al Jazeera Children’s Channel. Joint venture partnerships in the areas of design, ICT, telecommunications, policy studies and event management contribute to fulfilling the objectives of the Qatar Foundation. http://www.qf.org.qa/