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Press Release

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## Qatar Foundation and HEC Paris conclude a Partnership Agreement

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**HEC Paris, Europe's Leading Business School, becomes Education City's first European Partner**

*Doha and Paris, 5 July 2010*

Qatar Foundation and HEC Paris finalized a partnership agreement on 22 June 2010 for HEC Paris to offer executive education programs and carry-out research activities in Qatar, making HEC Paris the first member of the Qatar Foundation Management, Education and Research Center (QF-MERC), which will eventually be home to other elite Management Institutions.

**The First European Institution to join Education City, HEC Paris** will offer a broad range of world-class executive education programs for mid-career and senior executives, including the **Executive MBA, short certificate programs and corporate-specific training**. An Education City-based, full-time faculty will engage in both teaching and business-related research. By adding senior management education to its high-quality educational and research initiatives, **QF-MERC shall spearhead the country's transformation into a knowledge-based society and its drive to become the region's Management hub.**

HEC Paris' programs will help develop the competencies required by executives in Qatar and the region to ensure their businesses remain competitive in a rapidly evolving business environment. The most successful organizations and corporations have leaders who guide them through this ever-changing environment and managers who are able to contribute to organizational objectives by building structures that are resilient and able to adapt to change. Programs to be offered will cover areas such as financial management in complex environments; analyzing, measuring and managing risk; fostering strategic innovation; and leadership change in the organization. *"As the #1 Business School in Europe, HEC Paris brings to Education City its extensive experience in management education and research as well as a new level of diversity of excellence to our community,"* according to **Dr. Mohammed Fathy Saoud, President of Qatar Foundation.**

**Dr Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani, President of the newly established Education City University**, which will bring together QF's higher educational activities, added, *"In signing this agreement between HEC Paris and Qatar Foundation, I am pleased to welcome HEC Paris as the first member of QF-MERC, which is a center of excellence offering high-quality management education in Qatar, following a multi-institutional model."*

According to **HEC Paris Dean Bernard Ramanantsoa**, *"We are honored to partner with Qatar Foundation and to support QF's remarkable ambition for Qatar. Our partnership not only builds on, but will also strengthen HEC's expertise in energy and financial management. We are committed to bringing our 130 years of academic and research excellence to the service of firms of Qatar."*

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**Total, a leading energy company and a major partner of the State of Qatar**, has offered support to QF and HEC Paris. This backing demonstrates Total's commitment to education and to building the future of Qatar's knowledge based economy. The support will also enable the programs offered by HEC-Paris, as a member of QF-MERC, to become Total's preferred regional educational hub for Total executives and staff. **Christophe de Margerie, President and CEO of Total**, explains that *"Total has been present in Qatar for more than 70 years. As a partner dedicated to sustainable growth in Qatar and the region, we feel it is important to contribute in a larger way by supporting the vision of the country's leadership through the continued development of Education City."*

HEC Paris' arrival to Doha demonstrates the strength of the relationship between France and Qatar. Mr **Gilles Bonnaud, the Ambassador to France in Qatar** comments: *"HEC Paris in Qatar is a tangible sign of the deepening ties between France and Qatar. France clearly has much to offer to Qatar, not only through economic collaboration, but also through education and training"*

#### **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 Childrens 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.

#### **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 105 professors, 4000 students on its campus (40% of whom are foreign) and over 8700 managers and executives trained in executive education programs each year.

HEC is ranked #1 Business School in Europe and #2 Worldwide in Executive Education by the Financial Times.

[www.hec.edu](http://www.hec.edu)

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