



## **HEC Paris' Class of 2016 celebrates Graduation at Hamad Bin Khalifa University**

*Dean of HEC Paris Announces New Dean in Qatar during Ceremony, Thanking Prof. Laoucine Kerbache for his Tenure in Doha*

**Doha, Qatar – October 8, 2016:** The Class of 2016 from HEC Paris, one of the world's top three providers of Executive Education programs, has been honored during the graduation ceremony in Qatar at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University. During the ceremony, held on October 6, Dean of HEC Paris, Professor Peter Todd, announced the new Dean of the Qatar campus, thanking Professor Laoucine Kerbache for his tenure over the past four years.

This year's batch of graduates included 45 Executive MBA (EMBA) and 49 Specialized Master in Strategic Business Unit Management (SBUM) participants of HEC Paris in Qatar. The class comprised 40 Qataris in the SBUM program and 23 Qataris in the EMBA program – a true reflection of the growing popularity among Qataris for the programs offered by HEC Paris in Qatar. Also notably, the two programs attracted 31 non-Qataris representing 16 different nationalities, which is indicative of the multinational appeal of the programs. In this year's class, 34 graduates were women.

One of the most prominent members of the Class of 2016 is Her Excellency Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani – Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), who added: "We should never stop learning in our journey towards developing not only our own careers, but also the success of the company which we work for. The skills and knowledge I have gained from my time at HEC Paris has already assisted in my ambitions and goals and I look forward to sharing this with my peers."

Commenting on their success during the ceremony, Prof. Kerbache said: "On behalf of HEC Paris in Qatar, I would like to congratulate the graduates of our Class of 2016. Since inception in 2011, HEC Paris in Qatar has graduated 331 participants of whom 195 are Executive MBA participants and 136 are from

the Specialized Master in Strategic Business Unit Management. These numbers show our tremendous achievements since we joined Qatar Foundation in June 2010 as the first European partner in Education City. Our presence in Qatar is to bring the finest in Executive Education to the region, in order to contribute to the talent development needs of individuals and organizations.”

Professor Peter Todd, Dean of HEC Paris, commented: “This year marks the graduation of Qatar’s fifth class of HEC Paris Executive MBA participants and the third class of our HEC Paris Specialized Master in Strategic Business Unit Management. With these two Executive Education programs, HEC Paris is proud to contribute to the development of human potential in support of Qatar’s National Vision.

I wish to extend my congratulations to the Class of 2016. As I wish you ever more success in your professional careers, I am confident that you will contribute to value creation in your organizations and equally to a prosperous and healthy society. All the best and welcome as alumni to the HEC Paris global learning community.”

Assuming the position of Dean and CEO of HEC Paris in Qatar starting in November, Associate Professor Nils Plambeck will replace Prof. Kerbache, who will be stepping down from his role after four years. Working with HEC Paris since 2004, Nils Plambeck holds a Doctorate in Economic and Social Sciences from the University of Hamburg and a Diploma in Business Administration (Diplom Kaufmann) with a focus on Strategy and Sociology.

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **HEC Paris**

Specializing in management education and research, HEC Paris offers a complete and unique range of educational programs for the leaders of tomorrow: Masters programs, Summer School, MBA, PhD, Executive MBA, TRIUM Global Executive MBA, open-enrolment and custom executive education programs.

Founded in 1881 by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, HEC Paris is a founding member of the Université Paris-Saclay. It boasts a faculty of 138 full-time professors, more than 4,400 students and over 8,000 managers and executives in training each year.

In 2010, HEC Paris joined Qatar Foundation and brought world-class Executive Education programs and research activity to Doha and the region. By 2011, HEC Paris launched Qatar's first international EMBA. The HEC Executive MBA (EMBA) is a part-time program that provides executives with a set of fundamental skills to expand their knowledge and leadership capabilities. In addition to the EMBA, HEC Paris provides in Qatar a Specialized Master's 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. It has also recently introduced bespoke executive management programs for Family Owned Businesses (FOB) that are designed to meet the specific and individual needs of each client and are aimed at key decision makers, from Board level to middle management. The programs and research activities of HEC Paris in Qatar 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. Accordingly, HEC Paris has opened a Research Office that has resulted in a number of case studies and innovative articles being published in renowned academic journals and presented at international conferences. HEC Paris has been ranked one of the world's top 3 providers of Executive Education programs for the last 7 years.

<http://www.qatar.exed.hec.edu/>

### **Qatar Foundation**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development is a private, non-profit organization that serves the people of Qatar by supporting and operating programs in three core mission areas: education, science and research, and community development. The Foundation strives to nurture the future leaders of Qatar. By example and by sharing its experience, the Foundation also contributes to human development nationally, regionally, and internationally. In all of its activities, the Foundation promotes a culture of excellence in Qatar and furthers its role in supporting an innovative and open society that aspires to develop sustainable human capacity, social, and economic prosperity for a knowledge-based economy. <http://www.qf.org.qa/>