



Conference on COP21 and Climate Change, organized by the French Embassy to the State of Qatar and HEC Paris in Qatar

Doha, Qatar – June 9, 2015: HEC Paris in Qatar, one of the top ranked business schools in the world, organized a joint conference with the French Embassy to the State of Qatar as part of a series of events leading to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) to be held in Paris at the end of this year.

Under the theme ‘Towards the COP21: Facing the challenges of the climate change’, the conference was held on 7 June 2015 at the HEC Paris premises in Tornado Tower, Doha, and attended by over 100 participants, among whom were official representatives from the Ministry of Environment.

The speakers of the event were His Excellency Eric Chevallier, Ambassador of France to the State of Qatar, and Dr. Philippe Freyssinet, Director of Energy & Environment at the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). The conference was moderated by Professor Laoucine Kerbach, Dean & CEO of HEC Paris in Qatar.

COP21 refers to the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as ‘Paris 2015’. Up to 40,000 delegates representing 194 countries, observers, and civil society members will aim towards a new international agreement on climate change, applicable to all countries, which will keep global warming below 2°C.

France has two major responsibilities for COP21: as the host country, it will provide the participants with the best possible working environment and, as the Conference presidency, it will also facilitate discussions between countries and ensure that negotiations are transparent and inclusive.

“Climate change is not a theoretical risk, we need to mitigate global warming and to adapt to this reality now,” said Ambassador Chevallier. “France, as the host country of the COP21, has a special responsibility in raising awareness on this global issue. We are working in close cooperation with our Qatari partners to act on this subject, both locally and internationally.” Quoting Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ambassador Chevallier concluded: “There is no plan B because there is no planet B.”

Dr. Philippe Freyssinet presented the scope of research currently held in Qatar with a particular focus on environmental risks that may occur in the Gulf region due to climate change issues. He also showed the Qatar’s R&D efforts on CO2 abatement technologies and in particular Carbon Capture and Sequestration projects.

“As the global community of nations have deemed it necessary to immediately address serious and pressing environmental issues and concerns, HEC Paris strongly believes that it is its duty and responsibility to assist in the facilitation of intellectual and scholarly discussions that will positively and significantly contribute to the objectives of COP21,” Prof. Kerbache said. “We are therefore honored to have worked hand in hand with the Embassy of France in Qatar on this matter, and shall continue to support all efforts toward the achievement of COP21’s goals. Furthermore, for many years now, HEC Paris has been active in developing and delivering research initiatives and academic programs related to sustainable development and climate change.”

COP21 will be held from 30 November to 11 December at Paris-Le Bourget in France.

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Notes to Editors

French Embassy

Through the COP21, the French government is playing a leading international role to ensure points of view converge and to facilitate the search for consensus by the United Nations, as well as within the European Union, which has a major role in climate negotiations. Laurent Fabius, French minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, will be the COP21/CMP11 president.

In this context, the French Embassy to the State of Qatar works closely with Qatari partners: in addition to regular meetings with Qatari officials, the French Ambassador Eric Chevallier gave a conference on climate change at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, on the 3rd of May 2015. On the 20th and 21st of May, the Ambassador for Climate Change Negotiations Philippe Lacoste visited Doha on the occasion of the "Arab-French Dialogue on Climate Change".

Eric Chevallier, French Ambassador to the State of Qatar, was appointed in September 2014. Prior to his current position, he was, among other assignments, French Ambassador to Syria and Spokesperson & Director of Communication and Information at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Eric CHEVALLIER is a Medical doctor and a graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (IEP). He was decorated with the awards of "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur".

Website: <http://www.ambafrance-qa.org/>

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HEC Paris

A leader in Europe, HEC Paris specializes in management education and research. Founded in 1881, HEC Paris offers a full, unique range of courses to the leaders of tomorrow, including: Masters Degrees, MBA, PhD, Executive MBA and TRIUM Global Executive MBA. In June 2010, HEC Paris joined Qatar Foundation and brought world-class Executive Education programs and research activity to Doha and the region. By February 2011, HEC Paris launched Qatar's first international EMBA. 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. In addition to the EMBA, HEC Paris provides in Qatar 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. 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. In 2015, HEC Paris was ranked number two worldwide in Executive Education by the influential UK-based Financial Times media group. <http://www.exed.hec.edu/hec-qatar>

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/>