

for immediate release

HEC Paris appoints new Chief Operating Officer in Qatar

Doha, Qatar – 13 April, 2014: HEC Paris School of Management – a leading global business school – has appointed Mr. Raja Assili as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO) in Qatar.

Mr. Assili, who previously held several senior positions at the London office of the Mawarid Overseas Group – one of Saudi Arabia’s largest diversified groups – takes over from Mr. Joshua Kobb, Director for Global Initiatives at HEC Paris, who piloted major projects in China and the Gulf region, and served as Acting COO of HEC Paris in Qatar.

Mr. Assili’s role with Mawarid involved a mix of accounting, finance, operations, strategy and general management at the London office of the Riyadh based holding company. Throughout his twenty year career with the group, he was involved in several subsidiaries of a multi-billion dollar portfolio including start-ups and mature businesses in diverse business sectors including financial services, telecommunications, subscription television, fast food franchises and luxury goods retail.

Mr. Assili holds two Master’s degrees – an MSc in Management and Business Research Methods from Kingston University and an MSc in Finance and Accounting from The London School of Economics and Political Science. He has been a member of several university Boards since 2008 on a voluntary basis.

“I wish to welcome Mr. Raja Assili to the HEC Paris community and congratulate him on his appointment as our new COO,” said Professor Laoucine Kerbache, Chief Executive Officer and Academic Dean of HEC Paris in Qatar. “His professional experience and expertise will undoubtedly be an asset to HEC Paris in Qatar as we move further ahead towards the full realization of our goals and aspirations.”

“I also wish to extend my thanks to Mr. Joshua Kobb, whose hard work, dedication and commitment resulted in the successful establishment and initial operation of HEC Paris in Qatar,” Professor Kerbache 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 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. 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. HEC Paris was 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/hec-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 was 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

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/>