

*for immediate release*

## **HEC Paris organizes leadership and entrepreneurship workshop for women in Qatar**

**Doha, Qatar – 15 December, 2013:** HEC Paris School of Management – a leading global business school – held an interactive plenary session and workshop for ladies in Qatar that focused on the theme of leadership and entrepreneurship.

The workshop entitled ‘Facing Your Leadership Challenges’ was implemented by Prof. Valérie Gauthier, a full-time faculty member of HEC Paris.

As part of a global project launched this year by HEC Paris aimed at creating learning and development programs for women, the workshop is also considered an integral part of the core mission of HEC Paris as a leading global business school and member of Qatar Foundation – specifically in terms of contributing to the realization of the 2030 Qatar National Vision. Additionally, this event is also seen as a launch pad for more workshops in the future exclusively for women.

“The objective of the workshop is to further develop the leadership and entrepreneurial capabilities of women in Qatar,” said Professor Laoucine Kerbache, Chief Executive Officer and Academic Dean of HEC Paris in Qatar. “This is in line with our fundamental role of developing managerial skills and unlocking talent which contributes to greater economic diversification and sustainability, and an improved global corporate competitiveness for Qatar.

“Within this context, we plan to organize more of such workshops. In the long-term, we aim at developing recurrent management development programs designed for women in Qatar,” he added.

“Based on the active involvement and positive feedback of participants, we are to pursue this goal intensively.”

During the interactive plenary session and workshop, participants learned about their sense relational leadership skills that could be developed further and was also able to share and discuss ideas on entrepreneurial projects.

“Undoubtedly, the women of Qatar today have a lot to offer in the ongoing and continued development of the country,” said Prof. Gauthier. “Through the right programs and courses, especially through HEC Paris, such abundance of talent and skill can even be further enhanced and utilized in its maximum potential.

“This country has indeed a bright future ahead and every stakeholder, especially women, have an important role to play,” she added. “As the country then moves forward into realizing its aspirations, I am therefore eager to participate and lead more formal programs for women in Qatar in the near future.”

At the end of the workshop, a panel discussion about its outcome was also moderated by Prof. Gauthier. Among the panelists were Michelle Wu, Business Solutions IT Leader at General Electric’s Growth & Operations in Middle East, North Africa and Turkey; Diana Al Dajani, Founder of eduTechnoz, a curriculum-based gaming platform that aims to entertain and engage children while teaching them Arabic.

Prof. Gauthier is an Associate Professor at HEC Paris. She launched the Entrepreneurship Track Program with Tsinghua School of Management in 2008 which supports training of women entrepreneurs in China. Drawing on her vast expertise in leadership and cross-cultural relationships, she taught various relational leadership and business communication courses.

She was a Visiting Professor at MIT Sloan Management and NYU Stern and is currently finishing her book ‘Sense Leadership’ to be published in 2014 by Stanford University Press. Elected best HEC Paris Professor a few years ago, Prof. Gauthier was selected as one of eight Fortune Global Forum Visionaries.

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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**

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