

PRESS RELEASE

LORD MAYOR OF LONDON ADDRESSES CASS BUSINESS SCHOOL DUBAI

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London and Chancellor of City University London, Fiona Woolf, celebrates the achievements of City University London and its Cass Business School in Dubai with students, alumni and staff

Dubai, 20 February 2014: The Cass Dubai Centre, the UAE branch of City University London and Cass Business School, yesterday welcomed the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London, Fiona Woolf, who is also the University's Chancellor, at an alumni event held in Dubai to mark the School's ongoing successes and achievements.

The Lord Mayor addressed students, alumni and faculty members as well as senior members of DIFC and media at an event in the Capital Club, Dubai. She highlighted the importance of the Dubai Centre for City University London as the Institution's only overseas campus. She also emphasized the significance of the Centre's location in Dubai, the regional business hub in the MENA region, and discussed the achievements of the School over the past year.

Fiona Woolf said: "I am pleased to be attending this alumni reception in Dubai in my role as Chancellor of City University London and its Cass Business School. The popularity of the City and Cass programmes are a testament to the excellent reputation it has built across the region. We hope the brightest and best young people will continue to apply to the programmes at our institution, both in London and Dubai, in order to help maintain its world leading reputation."

Ehsan Razavizadeh, Regional Director, MENA and Head of the Dubai Centre said: "We are delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor of London and Chancellor of City University London Fiona Woolf. We would like to thank her for the continued support she offers our staff, students and alumni. The Lord Mayor's visit to our Dubai campus emphasizes our close ties with both our London colleagues, and also with the City of London – London's hub of business and finance, where Cass Business School's main premises are based.

"As Dubai rapidly evolves into one of the world's leading regional trade hubs, it is being recognised for its significant efforts to create a knowledge-based economy built on a culture of education and innovation. In this economic landscape, education and skills-development are key. Through our Executive MBA programme, MSc programmes in Aviation Management and other services, we are pleased to be contributing to the creation of this knowledge-based economy here in the UAE and in the wider region."

One of the Institution's key milestones last year was awarding H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive Emirates Airline Group, an honorary doctorate at the Cass Business School Dubai graduation ceremony.

The latest intake of Executive MBA students (September 2013) in Dubai has also been a success story for Cass. Despite regional political and economic instability, Cass has recruited a diverse cohort of 60 students in Dubai with an average level of work experience of 11 years. This includes 18 women and candidates of 23 different nationalities. The new intake includes 16 students who are flying in from outside the UAE from countries including Nigeria, KSA, Qatar, Egypt, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan, and India.

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Notes to Editors

Cass Dubai Centre was established in 2007 in collaboration with Dubai International Financial Centre, as a regional centre of educational excellence for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The Centre operates as a not-for-profit venture. It offers the internationally acclaimed Cass Executive MBA (EMBA), tailor-made executive education, business services including consulting and high profile networking events and MSc programmes in Aviation. The EMBA offers MENA-based executives and professionals the opportunity to combine demanding work schedules with study near their home and work environments. The programme also attracts students from as far afield as Singapore, the USA and Azerbaijan. It was the world's first EMBA programme to offer specialist Islamic finance and energy modules and students can choose to specialise in entrepreneurship, finance or general management. The quality of education is guaranteed with London-based faculty flying in to provide the programme: www.cass.city.ac.uk/dubaicentre.

Cass Business School in London is part of City University London. Located in the heart of one of the world's leading financial centres, Cass is the business school for the City of London. It delivers innovative, relevant and forward-looking education, consultancy and research. Cass offers one of the widest portfolios of specialist Masters programmes and has the largest faculties of Finance and Actuarial Science & Insurance in Europe. It is ranked in the top 10 UK business schools for business, management and finance research with leading research centers in areas including Mergers and Acquisitions and Pensions. Entrepreneurship is another strength with Cass's Peter Cullum Centre for Entrepreneurship, venture capital fund and sector research. The 2013 *Financial Times* EMBA rankings placed Cass fifth in the UK and 14th in Europe. The School is in the top one per cent of business schools worldwide to have received the gold standard of 'triple-crown' accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the Association of MBAs (AMBA) and the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS). It has a strong *alumni* network of over 35,000, which extends worldwide across a wide variety of companies and professions: www.cass.city.ac.uk.

City University London is a global University committed to academic excellence, with a focus on business and the professions and an enviable central London location. It is in the top five per cent of universities in the world according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2013/14 and in the top thirty universities in the UK according to the Times Higher Education Table of Tables 2012. It is ranked in the top 10 in the UK for both graduate-level jobs (The Good University Guide 2014) and in the top 5 for graduate starting salaries (Lloyds Bank).

The University attracts over 17,000 students (35% at postgraduate level) from more than 150 countries and academic staff from over 50 countries. Its academic range is broadly-based with world leading strengths in business; law; health sciences; engineering; mathematical sciences; informatics; social sciences; and the arts including journalism and music. The University's history dates back to 1894, with the foundation of the Northampton Institute on what is now the main part of City's campus. In 1966, City was granted University status by Royal Charter and the Lord Mayor of London was invited to be Chancellor, a unique arrangement that continues today. Professor Paul Curran has been Vice-Chancellor of City University London since 2010: www.city.ac.uk.

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