

Press Release

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,
Deputy Ruler of Dubai and President of DIFC

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum receives honorary degree at Cass Business School Dubai graduation ceremony

- 45 EMBA students from 17 nationalities graduate in 2013 ceremony

Dubai, 15th May, 2013: His Highness 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, was last night presented with an honorary degree from City University London.

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed received the honour at the graduation ceremony for the University's Cass Business School Dubai Centre, which was held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and President of DIFC.

The award was made in recognition of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed's outstanding leadership in the development of professional sectors including aviation, finance, banking and entrepreneurship among others in the UAE.

This year's ceremony, which was held at the DIFC Conference Centre, saw 45 students graduate from the Cass Dubai Executive MBA programme, a two-year course delivered in a monthly block weekend format to accommodate busy working professionals.

His Excellency Abdulla Mohammed Saleh, Governor of DIFC, said: "We congratulate the Executive EMBA programme students graduating from Cass Business School today. DIFC is proud to support human capital investment as a foundation for developing the regional financial services industry. We wish the new graduates the best of luck as together we continue to build a knowledge-based economy."

"It gives me enormous pleasure to present H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum with an honorary degree from City University London on the occasion of the Cass Business School Dubai 2013 graduation ceremony," said Professor Paul Curran, Vice-Chancellor of City University London. "This degree recognises the remarkable contribution H.H. Sheikh Ahmed has made to the development of both the region and the global economy. We are delighted that he has joined us as we congratulate our students on the completion of their EMBA course."



Cass Business School
CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON



The Cass Dubai Centre attracts students from all over the world and the 2013 graduates include representatives from the UAE, UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, KSA, Iran, Nigeria, India, USA and Australia.

The Dean of Cass Business School, Professor Steven Haberman, said: “As demonstrated earlier this month by the President of the UAE, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan’s highly successful visit to the UK, the ties between our two countries continue to move from strength to strength. Since its inception in 2007, the Cass Dubai EMBA has striven to meet the needs of business executives in the Middle East and surrounding regions and I would like to congratulate our students on successfully completing the 24-month course.”

Ehsan Razavizadeh, Regional Director, MENA and Head of the Dubai Centre said: “We were honoured to welcome His Highness Sheikh Ahmed to preside over our 2013 graduation ceremony and to bestow on him an honorary degree from City University London. The Cass Dubai EMBA continues to attract talented, multilingual students from around the world as demonstrated by the 17 nationalities represented by this year’s graduates. I look forward to monitoring their progress as they embark on the next stage of their business careers”.

Cass Dubai’s EMBA was the first programme of its kind to offer specialist Islamic finance and energy modules and offers streams in general management and leadership, mainstream finance and entrepreneurship.

In 2012, the *Financial Times* ranked Cass Business School fourth in the UK and tenth in Europe. The Cass EMBA offered in Dubai is a flexible part-time course aimed at managers in the Gulf region who wish to accelerate their career development while remaining in full-time employment. Its state-of-the-art campus was opened in the DIFC in 2007 and has been home to over 300 executives and professionals studying on the internationally acclaimed Cass EMBA programme.

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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.



Cass Business School
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Entrepreneurship is another strength with Cass's Peter Cullum Centre for Entrepreneurship, venture capital fund and sector research. The 2012 *Financial Times* EMBA rankings placed Cass fourth in the UK and tenth 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 2012/13 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 Sunday Times University Guide 2013*) and starting salaries (*Which University?*).

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.

The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) is the financial and business hub connecting the region's emerging markets with the developed markets of Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Since its launch in 2004, DIFC, a purposely built financial free zone, has been committed to encouraging economic growth and development in the region through its strong financial and business infrastructure. Currently, DIFC's client base comprises almost 912 active registered firms, including 19 of the world's top 25 banks, 8 of the world's ten largest insurers, 6 out of 10 top law firms, 11 of the top 20 money managers in the world. Around 14 thousand employees operate in an open environment complemented by international legal and regulatory standards. DIFC offers its member companies benefits such as 100 percent foreign ownership, zero percent tax rate, with no restriction on capital convertibility or profit repatriation. DIFC has its own independent financial and ancillary services regulatory body, the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA). It also has the DIFC Courts, which is an independent common law judiciary based in DIFC with jurisdiction over civil and commercial disputes in or relating to the Centre.

DIFC is built upon a modern legal, regulatory and physical infrastructure which makes it the destination of choice for Financial Services firms establishing a presence in the region.

For further information, please visit our website: www.difc.ae, or follow us on Twitter @DIFC.

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