



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Center for Middle East entrepreneurship to launch at DePaul University

Doha, 13 May 2014 – Al Faisal Holding (AFH), one of the leading private companies in Qatar, whose Chairman and CEO is Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani, has signed an agreement with DePaul University to take the first steps toward a long-term collaboration that supports entrepreneurship and business development in Qatar and the Middle East. DePaul plans to launch The Sheikh Faisal Center for Entrepreneurship in the Middle East at the Driehaus College of Business later this year.

Sheikh Faisal said: “We are proud to sign this agreement with DePaul, one of the world’s leading educational institutions. The government of Qatar has launched several initiatives to support entrepreneurs and is investing heavily to enhance the educational system in Qatar, providing many first class educational facilities to build a generation that can lead the nation and achieve its vision. Al Faisal Holding has always been a strong supporter of Qatar’s vision and this agreement will help to accelerate knowledge transfer, which is very important for success in business. With a booming economy and excellent educational system we are sure that this center will nourish the entrepreneurial spirit that will give additional impetus to Qatar’s development.”

“Sheikh Faisal is one of the Middle East’s leading entrepreneurs and this collaborative effort will bring together business leaders from the United States and the Middle East to cultivate the burgeoning entrepreneurial class in Qatar,” said the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul University. “We will use this opportunity to strengthen DePaul’s investment in globally minded business programs for our students and graduates.”

The Sheikh Faisal Center for Entrepreneurship in the Middle East will work through DePaul’s nationally recognized Coleman Entrepreneurship Center. The center will facilitate a Young Entrepreneur Academy that develops new generations of Qatari and U.S. entrepreneurs and business leaders through student exchange programs. DePaul plans to host a group of Qatari students each summer on its Chicago campus where they will work with business college faculty and alumni entrepreneurs to apply entrepreneurship theory and practice in developing their own businesses plans. Additionally, a group of Driehaus College of Business students who are enrolled in programs related to business development in the Middle East will have the opportunity to participate in a study abroad program in Qatar.

“Our faculty and successful alumni entrepreneurs look forward to working with emerging entrepreneurs from Qatar and throughout the Middle East to support their continued development into a thriving, professional class,” said Ray Whittington, dean of the Driehaus College of Business. “We also see the center as a great opportunity for DePaul students to gain real-world experience on an international stage.”

The Sheikh Faisal Center for Entrepreneurship in the Middle East will hold an annual conference in Chicago that convenes an international audience of business leaders. The event will serve as a source of professional knowledge for Qatar entrepreneurs and those who do business in the Middle East. Sheikh Faisal also will host a business competition in Qatar for emerging entrepreneurs. Whittington praised Sheikh Faisal’s support for the center, which “reflects his belief in the power of entrepreneurship to fuel a thriving economy.”

This agreement is the latest in a series of initiatives AFH has taken to support the development of Qatar’s education system. AFH’s educational division, which is a non-profit centre, operates the Gulf English School and Stenden University. Last year AFH reached agreement with DePaul to bring a specialised MBA program to Qatar. In 2009 AFH launched the Al Faisal Educational fund with Qatar University.

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About Al Faisal Holding:

Incorporated in 1964, Al Faisal Holding Company LLC (“Al Faisal”) is one of Qatar’s largest privately held diversified industry groups, owned by His Excellency Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani. Al Faisal operates through its subsidiaries and associated companies in a variety of sectors, including real estate, construction, hospitality, trading, transportation, entertainment, education, services and information technology. Al Faisal’s investments include its interest in Aamal Company Q.S.C, one of Qatar’s largest, most diversified and fastest growing companies, in addition to investments in a range of sectors across Europe, MENA region and the Far East.

www.alfaisalholding.com

About DePaul:

Founded in 1898, DePaul University is the 11th-largest private, nonprofit university in the nation and the largest private, nonprofit university in the Midwest. The university’s mission emphasizes academic excellence, community service, access to education and respect for the individual. DePaul has 10 colleges and schools: College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the Driehaus College of Business, College of Communication, College of Education, College of Law, College of Computing and Digital Media, College of Science and Health, School for New Learning, School of Music, and The Theatre School. For the fall 2013 quarter, the university enrolled 24,414 students who reflect a broad range of ethnic, religious, geographic and economic backgrounds.

Further Enquiries

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