

The Indian Institute of Management of Ahmedabad and ESSEC Business School - Paris sign a double-degree agreement

New Delhi, November 11, 2005

During a ceremony at the French Embassy in New Delhi today, in the presence of His Excellency Mister Dominique Girard, Ambassador of France in India, the Indian Institute of Management of Ahmedabad (IIMA) and ESSEC signed an agreement on a double-degree program. The creation of a double degree represents a major step forward in the strategic partnership between IIMA and ESSEC, two institutions of reference on business education. The double-degree program will reinforce links and mutual understanding of the Indian and European environments.

IIMA is a prestigious, highly selective, leader of management education in India. Its faculty and research are widely recognized by the academic and economic world. Its alumni are called to the top economic international level and to high public responsibilities, and hold prestigious chairs in management in many universities around the world.

ESSEC Business School – Paris is the leader of management education in France. With 3,700 students, its large range of programs in management, its international scope, its network of 26,000 alumni, the quality of its faculty and the influence of its research, ESSEC has always been at the forefront of educational innovation in management.

Signing a double-degree agreement means for each institution to recognize its partner as a qualitatively equivalent institution in its own geographic area. This double-degree program, starting in September 2006, will be open to a select group of highly motivated students of the Post Graduate Program of IIMA and students of ESSEC MBA. Going far beyond a regular exchange program, a double-degree requires a deep immersion in the academic and business environment of the host institution. Students participating in the double degree will receive the full degree from each institution. Therefore, they will have to fulfil the criteria of each institution, which means long term stays in the host institution combined with a professional experience of 6 months minimum in India for ESSEC students and in France for IIMA students.

“ESSEC and IIMA have developed a regular collaboration for more than 20 years. This double degree is a significant step forward for us and for our colleagues of IIMA, creating a strong strategic partnership between our two institutions. Economic and political relationships between Europe and India are more and more important and we are glad to offer the opportunity to French and Indian students to benefit

from the academic excellence of our two institutions. The objective of this double degree is to train future managers endowed with a real Indo-European approach", explains **Pierre Tapie**, President of ESSEC Business School.

"The double-degree collaboration with ESSEC is an important step in IIMA's sustained efforts to bring international perspective to all its activities. It would provide an opportunity to the students of both IIMA and ESSEC to learn in a truly multicultural environment and to equip themselves with the skills required for being successful business leaders in the changing global arena", says **Bakul H. Dholakia**, Director of IIMA.

Moreover, IIMA and ESSEC are also reinforcing their traditional exchange programs, increasing the number of places available for ESSEC MBA and IIMA students. This includes an exchange program between the Agribusiness Management Program of IIMA and ESSEC MS in Food Industry Management.

About IIMA

IIMA, founded in 1961, is widely recognized as a premier management school in the Asia Pacific region. IIMA has always enjoyed special preference of Indian as well as foreign recruiters on account of its excellent performance sustained over a long period of time and its strong brand image. Today, IIMA Alumni occupy key positions in top organizations in India and abroad and have successfully acted as the ambassadors of change wherever they have worked. IIMA's vision is to achieve global recognition and emerge as a leading global player in the field of management education.

About ESSEC Business School - Paris

ESSEC Business School, Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales, founded in 1907, is a major player in international management education. Teaching is ensured by faculty of international reputed and well-known business managers. Together they perpetuate a tradition of academic excellence, encourage individual creativity and the development of personalities as well as the spirit of openness that characterizes ESSEC Business School.

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