

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION COLLABORATION**  
**- Flagship programme renowned for its academic rigour and excellence -**

**November 11, 2019** – The flagship National University of Singapore (NUS) Grandes Écoles French Double Degree Programme (FDDP), the longest running academic collaboration between France and Singapore, celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a forum to facilitate knowledge exchange and dialogue on the changing higher education landscape in Singapore and France. The forum was jointly organised by NUS and our partner Grandes Écoles, bringing together academia, industry partners, FDDP alumni and students.

His Excellency Mr. Marc Abensour, Ambassador of France to Singapore, was the Guest-of-Honour. Professor Tan Eng Chye, NUS President and Mr. Eric Labaye, President of École Polytechnique as well as President of Institut Polytechnique de Paris, delivered speeches on the changing landscape of higher education in Singapore and France, respectively. Industry partners Thales Group and Total Oil Asia Pacific shared on industry developments and opportunities in their respective sectors, while three FDDP alumni spoke of how the programme shaped their career pathways, as well as their professional outlook and personal development.

Mr. Abensour said, *“The FDDP is an outstanding cooperation between the prestigious National University of Singapore and six of France’s top engineering schools, which are elite academic institutions of more than 200 years. It is a great testimony of the long-standing and high level collaboration that France and Singapore enjoys, and contributes to strengthen the relationships in education, science and industry between our two countries”*.

NUS is the only university in Singapore offering this prestigious programme, a uniquely intensive global immersion experience where students learn from the best of both worlds. The FDDP is the most demanding and intensive academic programme offered by NUS. Between four to six of NUS’ best Engineering, Science and Computing students may be selected for each of the six partner schools each year.

Professor Tan said, *“This event pays tribute to our synergistic partnership with the Grandes Écoles, and celebrates FDDP’s milestones and achievements over the past two decades. It is through such collaborations with our strategic international partners that we are able to offer diverse and enriching education programmes that truly nurture our students as global citizens of the future.”*

In 1999, the FDDP was launched between NUS and École Centrale Paris and has since grown in strength. To date, some 370 NUS and French students have graduated from the programme. Over the years, the partnership has also expanded from one partner in 1999 to six Grandes Écoles today, namely, École Centrale Paris (now merged with Supélec as CentraleSupélec); École Polytechnique (l’X); École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris (Mines ParisTech); Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Techniques Avancées (ENSTA Paris); École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications (Télécom Paris); and École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (École des Ponts ParisTech).

FDDP alumni enjoy good employability and are well sought after by employers in diverse industries. Many of them go on to assume management positions at reputable Singapore-based and French companies. Many of these alumni contribute significantly to their respective fields, bringing positive impact to businesses or society. Others have set up their own start-up or businesses.

*“The French Graduate Schools of Engineering 'Grandes Écoles' involved in the FDDP are proud to be part of this Double Curriculum in France and in Singapore. The strong interest of companies worldwide for the FDDP alumni is proof of its success and relevance in today's and tomorrow's world. We are delighted to work with NUS and hope to keep such a great collaboration for many years still to come!”* said CentraleSupélec, the first French partner of the programme, on behalf of all the Grandes Écoles.

The French delegation was also treated to a campus tour to NUS-Applied Materials (AMAT) Corporate Laboratory which seeks to accelerate the discovery and commercialisation of new materials for manufacturing next-generation semiconductors, and BLOCK71, an initiative by NUS Enterprise that catalyzes the start-up community by aggregating them at one location.

Singapore’s Minister for Education Mr. Ong Ye Kung will attend an evening gathering at the Residence de France to meet FDDP partners, as well as FDDP alumni, current students and representatives from companies. The forum is supported by the Embassy of France as part of the Voilah! France Singapore Festival, which showcases French culture and innovation in Singapore.

## MILESTONES OF THE NUS-FRENCH GRANDES ÉCOLES DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME



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**Notes to Editors**

**ABOUT ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE** / École Polytechnique, also known as L’X, is the leading French institution combining top-level research, academics, and innovation at the cutting-edge of science and technology. Its various undergraduate and graduate-level programs – Bachelor of Science, Ingénieur Polytechnicien (Master’s level program), Master’s, and PhD – are highly selective and promote a culture of excellence with a strong emphasis on science, anchored in humanist traditions. As a widely internationalized university, École Polytechnique offers a variety of international programs and attracts a growing number of foreign students and researchers from around the globe (currently 40% of students and 39% of faculty members).

École Polytechnique offers an exceptional education to prepare bright men and women to excel in top-level key positions and lead complex and innovative projects which meet the challenges of 21st century society, all while maintaining a keen sense of their civil and social responsibilities. With its 23 laboratories, 22 of which are joint research units with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the École Polytechnique Research Center explores the frontiers of interdisciplinary knowledge to provide major contributions to science, technology, and society. École Polytechnique is a founding member of Institut Polytechnique de Paris.

[www.polytechnique.edu](http://www.polytechnique.edu)

**ABOUT ENSTA PARIS** / ENSTA Paris is a French “Grande École” (Graduate School of Engineering) under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence, providing high-level scientific education leading to several degrees (“Diplôme d’ingénieur”, Master’s Degree, Ph.D.) and conducting high-level applied research in close collaboration with industrial partners. ENSTA Paris is acknowledged as a leading institution in the fields of transport, energy and complex systems engineering. ENSTA Paris is deeply involved in the development and visibility of French higher education, at international, national and local levels. It is one of the founding members of Institut Polytechnique de Paris.

[www.ensta-paris.fr/en](http://www.ensta-paris.fr/en)

**ABOUT TÉLÉCOM PARIS** / Télécom Paris is one of the top four engineering schools in France for general engineers. The School trains its graduates to “Innovate and foster entrepreneurship in a digital world.” Founded in 1878, Télécom Paris is considered the leading engineering school for digital technology and its alumni can be found in all industries. It offers “tailor-made” training programs on its two campuses, in Paris (Palaiseau) or in Sophia-Antipolis at its subsidiary EURECOM. With its top-level teaching and research, Télécom Paris is at the center of a unique innovation ecosystem, drawing on the interaction and cross-disciplinary nature of its academic programs, research center and two business incubators. Recognized as an outstanding research unit in its field of digital sciences by HCERES, its research covers six areas of expertise at the European level. With a strong international reach, Télécom Paris has more than 130 partnerships with prestigious universities around the world. International students account for 55% of the students on its Paris campus and for 70% of the students in the English-language program on its Sophia-

Antipolis campus. A founding member of Institut Polytechnique de Paris and an IMT school (Institut Mines-Télécom), Télécom Paris is ranked 188<sup>th</sup> global institution by THE and 224<sup>th</sup> by QS.

[www.telecom-paris.fr/en](http://www.telecom-paris.fr/en)

**ABOUT ÉCOLE DES PONTS PARISTECH** / École des Ponts ParisTech, a French highly ranked engineering School created in 1747, trains future executive leaders who will face the challenges of a sustainable society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Renowned historically for civil engineering and urban planning, the School, in its pursuit of excellence, has developed training programs in sustainable development and social responsibility. The School's 16 teaching and research chairs are entirely devoted to scientific and technical subjects within the context of economic and societal realities.

To follow the news of the School: [www.enpc.fr](http://www.enpc.fr) / [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [YouTube](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

**ABOUT CENTRALESUPELEC** / CentraleSupélec is a Higher Education, Research and Innovation public institution created by the merging of École Centrale Paris (1829) and Supélec (1894) in January 2015. It operates on 3 national campuses and counts 4,800 graduate and post-graduate students in all fields of Engineering and System sciences. Its Research includes 17 research departments and 3 international laboratories. As an international institution, CentraleSupélec has co-operated campuses in China, Morocco and India. CentraleSupélec is one of the founding members of Université Paris-Saclay and chairs the École Centrale Group.

[www.centralesupelec.fr](http://www.centralesupelec.fr)

**ABOUT MINES PARISTECH** / MINES ParisTech trains high-level executive engineers capable of dealing with complex problems, in a wide range of fields. The School aims to be a reference player in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship, energy transition and materials for more economical technologies, mathematics and digital engineering for the transformation of industry, including health, while remaining faithful - since its creation in 1783 - to its values of solidarity and openness to society

First French engineers' school for the extent of contractual research, MINES ParisTech has a significant research activity, directed particularly towards the industry sector.

Part of the Université PSL, which brings together 11 prestigious higher education and research institutions located dead in the heart of Paris. MINES ParisTech is also a member of ParisTech, and member of the Carnot M.I.N.E.S Institute.

[www.minesparistech.psl.eu](http://www.minesparistech.psl.eu)