

FINLAB Inauguration, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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Mr. General Manager, Dear Vincenzo;  
Mr. Dean of Professors, Dear Michel;  
Distinguished Representatives of the Faculty;  
Madam General Delegate, Dear Laetitia;  
Dear FinanceLab partners;  
Dear Students;

The inauguration of our School's Finance Lab on February 5, 2019 is for me a great happiness in the literal sense of the term, almost 15 years after my initial commitment as co-chairman of the Development Campaign with my friend Jean Arvis. In what was a true construction work then, we have from the beginning identified 3 basic operational axes:

- The strengthening of the School's balance sheet with the establishment of the "Capitalized Fund" created in 2009.
- The necessary development of social and societal action with the significant amplification of the volume and amount of scholarship grants.
- The support of academic excellence and the sustainability of the pedagogical knowledge and expertise of our School, in a global competitive universe.

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The creation of ESSEC Finance Lab joins naturally completely within the framework of the support of the academic excellence of our School which has at the same time a long tradition and a robust reputation of leadership regarding education in economic and financial domains.

It was marked out and shaped step by step with the Teaching Staff of the Department Finance, so of course as with the various Managing Directors of the group ESSEC: Pierre Tapie, then Jean-Michel Blanquer, and now Vincenzo. Dear Vincenzo, a mention towards you stands out here. With the invaluable contribution of Michel and the concerned professors, you knew indeed how to, from the very beginning of your tenure, order the various preexistent bricks.

You so succeeded with this capacity of consensus which characterizes you and which honors you, to structure them to make a priority project pluriexpertise with the solid content. The equal financing

and balanced by third of this project, 1/3 self-financing, 1/3 Public Excellence Research, 1/3 Private funding gives evidence of this collective success that you knew how to orchestrate. Thank you and warm congratulations, it is a great honor and a great pleasure for me to make my contribution there in a personal and private capacity as a supplement to the Company Director functions that I exercise besides.

Alongside the School and the Public Institutions, Candriam, Moneta am and Sanso Investment Solutions have chosen to accompany this beautiful project and to build together the foundations of the private part of the Partnership.

All three prominent players in the asset management industry, all three representing French know-how in terms of active conviction management, while being open to the winds of global competition, they will know how to contribute to the emergence of a cluster of high-level expertise in financial analysis, accounting rules and standards, statistics, algorithms, modeling, econometrics, etc...

Dear Teachers, dear Students, you now have an interactive working tool that fits in the best standards of excellence that our School, your School, deserves.

Now it's up to you to make it live and grow.

Long and Beautiful Road to our FINLAB, to your FINLAB.

By Olivier Stephanopoli