



清华经管学院  
Tsinghua SEM



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Tsinghua University School of Economics & Management and AXA launch a Strategic International Partnership***

- **Beijing-based *Tsinghua University School of Economics & Management (SEM)* and AXA, the global insurer, announce the launch of a Strategic International Partnership, the first of its kind between the university and an insurer.**
- **AXA will provide international internship and job opportunities to Tsinghua SEM's students and graduates, and collaborate with the school's communities on research projects focused on innovation in financial services.**
- **This partnership will contribute to the School's mission to advance knowledge and cultivate leaders for China and the world.**

Tsinghua SEM is a prominent institution for economics and management in China with an excellent international reputation and strong academic offerings that trains students within an innovative and collaborative environment.

The main purpose of this partnership agreement is to create opportunities for Tsinghua SEM's students and graduates to gain experience in an international environment where they can contribute to innovative projects. This collaboration will support Tsinghua SEM's efforts to further enhance the global reach of its students and graduates.

According to the terms of the partnership memorandum signed today in Beijing by Tsinghua SEM's Dean Yingyi Qian and AXA's Chairman & CEO Henri de Castries:

- AXA will offer internship and training opportunities to Tsinghua SEM's students, both within its Chinese joint-ventures (AXA-TianPing and ICBC-AXA) and its other subsidiaries across the world, in particular in France and the United States;
- AXA will recruit Tsinghua SEM's graduates and alumni in its various subsidiaries across the globe, in particular in the fields of finance, risk, marketing and management;
- Tsinghua SEM and AXA will initiate joint research projects on topics of importance to foster innovation in financial services; and
- AXA will contribute to campus management initiatives to enhance awareness and understanding of the insurance industry amongst Tsinghua SEM students.

During the signing ceremony held today on the occasion of Tsinghua Management Global Forum, **the Dean of the school, Yingyi Qian, said:** *“China is becoming one of the leading players in regional affairs and the global arena. At the same time, China and the world are entering a phase of mass entrepreneurship and innovation. Therefore, I believe that providing our students with international opportunities and exposure to innovative projects will broaden their perspectives and make them global leaders.”*

**Henri de Castries, Chairman and CEO of the AXA Group,** commented: *“Tsinghua SEM is China’s leading business education institution and I am convinced this new and exciting partnership will foster ever-closer connections between our two institutions. Indeed, as a global insurer and asset manager committed to innovation and cultural openness, AXA values the benefits that arise from the unique talent pool that Tsinghua SEM provides.”*

This Strategic International Partnership further strengthens AXA’s ties with the university. Indeed, an AXA-Tsinghua SEM Strategic Research Partnership was launched a year ago to study the mechanisms underlying the Chinese monetary system and their correlation to the macro monetary stability of international markets. Overall, the amount granted to Tsinghua SEM via the AXA Research Fund, AXA’s science philanthropy initiative, amounts to EUR 3.4 million. This covers research projects ranging from macroeconomics to the impact of cultural attitudes on insurance markets.

#### **ABOUT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY School of Economics and Management**

Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management was founded in 1984. Former Chinese Premier ZHU Rongji is the Founding Dean. The school offers undergraduate, master’s, doctoral, MBA and many executive education programs, with a total enrollment of around 4,500 students. Tsinghua SEM is committed to advancing knowledge and cultivating leaders for China and the world. The School strives to provide students with the most complete and highest quality education possible to help them reach their full potential.

#### **ABOUT THE AXA GROUP IN CHINA**

The AXA Group is the 1<sup>st</sup> international insurer in China

The AXA Group, present in China for more than 20 years, is now the first international player on the Chinese market both in life and savings and in property and casualty insurance.

AXA’s Chinese activities have grown at a rapid pace since 2012, driven by the Group’s partnerships with leading local players:

- In life and savings, in partnership with ICBC since 2012. ICBC is the largest bank in China and worldwide in terms of capitalization, and serves over 300 million clients. In 2014, the joint-venture’s sales rose by 28%.
- In property and casualty insurance, alongside TianPing since 2014. TianPing, specialized in motor insurance, holds a licence to distribute insurance through the direct channel throughout all of China. The objective is to develop this segment and make up to 80% of sales through the direct channel by 2020. In 2014, AXA TianPing’s sales rose by 19%.
- In asset management, through the joint-venture between AXA Investment Managers and Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (SPDB).

#### **ABOUT THE AXA GROUP**

The AXA Group is a worldwide leader in insurance and asset management, with 161,000 employees serving 103 million clients in 59 countries. In 2014, IFRS revenues amounted to Euro 92.0 billion and IFRS underlying earnings to Euro 5.1 billion. AXA had Euro 1,277 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2014.

The AXA ordinary share is listed on compartment A of Euronext Paris under the ticker symbol CS (ISN FR 0000120628 – Bloomberg: CS FP – Reuters: AXAF.PA). AXA’s American Depositary Share is also quoted on the OTC QX platform under the ticker symbol AXAHY.

The AXA Group is included in the main international SRI indexes, such as Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) and FTSE4GOOD.

It is a founding member of the UN Environment Programme’s Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) Principles for Sustainable Insurance and a signatory of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment.

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