

For Immediate Release – VERSION 6

**PHILANTHROPY UNIVERSITY
AN INITIATIVE OF THE STARS FOUNDATION
ESTABLISHED BY AL-DABBAGH GROUP**

**Free Online Education Platform to Provide Practical and Collaborative learning from
Leading Academics, Experts and Practitioners**

London, England, December 13, 2014 – The Stars Foundation and the Al-Dabbagh Group today announced the establishment of Philanthropy University to train the next generation of NGO and foundation leaders and provide them with the skills needed to sustain and scale their organizations. This free online education initiative will bring together leading academics and practitioners to improve the leadership and management skills of NGOs.

The U.K. based Stars Foundation invests in organizations and ideas that transform the lives of disadvantaged children and their communities globally. Stars is a charitable foundation founded and supported by the Al-Dabbagh Group, a diversified global family conglomerate with 13,000 employees in 62 companies operating in over 60 countries.

The announcement was made at the first Philanthropreneurship Forum hosted by London Business School and the Stars Foundation and sponsored by Al-Dabbagh Group. The day-long event, held at London Business School's Regents Park location, focused on identifying game changing initiatives that will accelerate and multiply the impact of NGOs. The forum hosted more than 200 business, philanthropic, NGO, healthcare and academic leaders including William Jefferson Clinton 42nd President of the United States and Founder of the Clinton Foundation; Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer, Unilever; Peter Sands, Group Chief Executive, Standard Charter PLC; Delos (Toby) Cosgrove, M.D., Chief Executive Officer and President, Cleveland Clinic, and Dr. Mo Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

“With millions of NGOs around the world supporting nearly 2 billion people, the need for capacity building tools cannot be overlooked.” said Amr Al-Dabbagh, Chairman of the Al-Dabbagh Group and Founding Chairman of the Stars Foundation. “Philanthropy University will leverage the scale of online education and provide capacity building to stakeholders.”

Philanthropy University will bring together professors from leading universities, experts and practitioners to enhance the skills of NGO leaders in areas that are essential to ensuring

impactful, scalable and sustainable outcomes. Fueled by discussions and game changing ideas set forth at the Philanthropreneurship Forum, course content will continue to evolve depending on NGO needs.

In addition to providing robust content, Philanthropy University will serve as a community building and networking platform, bringing social learning to the social sector. NGOs are accustomed to working within communities and scaling impact through teamwork and cross-sector partnerships. Philanthropy University will bring these dynamics online, enabling learners to collaborate, share best practices and scale the impact of their organizations.

Those NGO managers who participate in the Philanthropy University program have the opportunity to become Philanthropy University certified learners and will enter a pool of Impact Award candidates to potentially receive unrestricted funding as well as marketing and consultancy support. Additionally, Impact Award winners will qualify to be showcased to philanthropists around the world through the Forum and other venues.

Philanthropy University will be powered by NovoEd, a global leader in social learning technology.

Philanthropy University will launch in the fourth quarter of 2015.

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ABOUT:

Al-Dabbagh Group

Al-Dabbagh Group, is a family conglomerate founded in 1962 by His Excellency Abdullah Al-Dabbagh, headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and operating globally. Al-Dabbagh Group and its subsidiary companies currently employ in excess of 13,000 people globally with over 53 nationalities represented in its 62 companies and with manufacturing presence in 35 countries and sales, services and projects in over 60 countries.

Al-Dabbagh Group aims to be ranked amongst the top 20 wholly-owned global family businesses by 2020 through the expansion of its five portfolios.

Stars Foundation

Stars Foundation recognises and rewards outstanding local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to improve the wellbeing and life chances of children in the countries with the highest rates of under-five mortality.

Founded by Al-Dabbagh Group in 2001 and registered as an independent charity in England & Wales, Stars Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that invests in organisations and ideas to help transform the lives of disadvantaged children and their communities globally. Since 2007, Stars has awarded more than 70 organisations spread across 30 countries, reaching more than 4 million children.

Philanthropreneurship Forum

The Philanthropreneurship Forum is an event that explores how the practice of creative philanthropy can catalyse innovation and social change. With participants comprised of leaders from philanthropy, development, academia, business and government, discussions focus on delivering positive social impact, ensuring sustainability and accelerating scalable progress for communities around the world.

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