

THE PHOSBOUCRAA FOUNDATION RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL HQE™ AMÉNAGEMENT CERTIFICATION FOR ITS URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, THE FOUM EL OUED TECHNOPOLE

Angers, September 12, 2019.

On Thursday, September 12, 2019, the Phosboucraa Foundation was granted international HQE™ (High Quality Environmental) certification in Angers for its urban development project, the Foug El Oued Technopole. The certification was given by the international organization Cerway during the workshop “The HQE approach works in warm climates, too.” held in the context of the 8th International Congress “Cities to Be”, the event for professionals in sustainable construction.

For the Phosboucraa Foundation, this HQE™ certification is an acknowledgement of the high quality of the Foug El Oued Technopole, while also providing recognition for the efforts at integrating the initiative into its physical environment, the rational management of natural resources, and the inclusion of the local population through a participatory approach.

HQE™ Aménagement certification covers the complete life cycle of the project. In obtaining it, the Phosboucraa Foundation aims to organize and ensure a high-quality approach that meets international standards, while involving stakeholders at every stage of the technopole project, from planning and design to implementation and handover.

The Foug El Oued Technopole is a major development project in the Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra region in Southern Morocco. Covering a total of 600 ha, the Technopole is a knowledge and innovation hub located 20 km from Laâyoune. It represents an investment of USD 200 million and is expected to accommodate 30,000 inhabitants by 2035.

This ambitious project is part of the Phosboucraa Foundation’s general mission of contributing to the sustainable development of the Southern regions and the wellbeing of local communities. Beyond being an innovative urban project, the Technopole is also a laboratory for research and experimentation, as well as a knowledge transfer platform that promotes socio-economic dynamism, both regionally and across the African continent.

To support its role as a knowledge hub, the Foug El Oued Technopole is built around three key components that take into account the local particularities shared by the Southern regions and the rest of the continent. The first component is the knowledge



and research cluster driven by the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and its Research Center dedicated to the Sub-Saharan environment. The second component is the business cluster, which will be home to an incubator for supporting project leaders and start-ups. Finally, the cultural cluster will include a museum, a commercial and artisanal village, and social and environmental infrastructure aimed at improving the region's attractiveness.

ABOUT THE “CITIES TO BE” INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS:

The event for professionals in sustainable construction:

<https://www.citiestobe.eu/le-congres/>

ABOUT THE HQE AMÉNAGEMENT CERTIFICATION:

HQE™ Aménagement refers to an approach developed by the Association HQE and its partners for carrying out sustainable development operations. It allows local communities and developers to implement a comprehensive, transversal approach that addresses environmental, social, economic, and urban concerns in the context of development operations. It serves projects and project leaders by helping them ask the right questions, adapt their thinking and skills, compare points of view when appropriate, and encourage beneficial and constructive dialogue between communities and developers.

ABOUT CERWAY:

Cerway is in charge of the whole range of HQE™ programs and certification for sustainable building stakeholders at the international level. Cerway was created in September 2013 by the two leading names in HQE™ certification in France: Certivéa for non-residential buildings and urban development, and Cerqual for housing. It works in three main areas: HQE™ certification, the accreditation of HQE™ professionals (HQE™ “Référénts,” or specialists), and the training of professionals who are either directly involved in HQE™ projects or indirectly involved as HQE™ “Référénts.”

ABOUT THE PHOSBOUCRAA FOUNDATION:

The Phosboucraa Foundation was established in 2014 as the primary channel for corporate social responsibility in the Southern regions of Morocco for Phosboucraa SA and its parent company, OCP. The Foundation was established to promote the



sustainable development of local communities through programs specifically designed to meet their needs in four main areas:

- Educational support;
- Improving the local economy;
- Enhancing and promoting natural and cultural heritage;
- Revitalizing the region through urban innovation programs.

The Phosboucraa Foundation unlocks the potential of Morocco's Southern regions through impactful sustainable development and human capital initiatives. The Foundation begins by listening closely and evaluating the unique needs of the communities in which it operates. After setting ambitious yet attainable goals, it works in collaboration with dedicated partners capable of implementing each project with the highest degree of success. Their local expertise and participation anchor the Foundation's initiatives, ensuring that their positive impact endures for generations to come. For more information, visit the Phosboucraa Foundation's website: <http://www.phosboucraafoundation.org/>

