



北航中法工程师学院  
Centrale Pékin

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## The École Centrale Beijing awards its first engineering degrees

(Beijing, January 7, 2012) – The first official ceremony for the award of degrees to engineers from the École Centrale Beijing took place today in the People's Palace, in the presence of **Mr Thierry MARIANI**, the French Minister for Transport. The 75 students of this Class – the Nicole Bru Class – who were recruited at Bacalaureate (GaoKao) level in 2005 received at the same time the Master's degree from the Beijing Aeronautic and Astronautic University.

Opened in 2005, the École Centrale Beijing trains high-level, polyvalent, trilingual (Chinese, French and English) engineers over a six-year period. They will rapidly acquire major responsibilities in mainly French and Chinese companies that have an international outlook: after a year's intensive training in French, the students follow preparatory classes for two years before joining the engineering course, closely based on the *Centralien* teaching model, for the remaining three years.

Created in 2005 at the request of the Chinese government, the École Centrale Beijing is the first Grande École for French-speaking engineers in China. Born out of a close partnership between the Grandes Écoles group (France) and the Beijing-Beihang Aeronautic and Astronautic University (China), this School is a powerful force for supporting the development of economic ties between France and China, making a pool of highly skilled, bi-cultural engineers available to companies. It thus enjoys the backing of French and Chinese industrial partners – a dozen of them since the opening of the School – and the unfailing support of the Bru Foundation.

### The ceremony

On January 7, 2012 at 4:00 p.m., Mr Thierry MARIANI, Minister responsible for Transport, joined Mr MIAO Wei, the Minister for Industry and Information Technologies, Mr DU Yubo, First Vice-Minister for Education and Mr CAO Jianlin, Vice-Minister for Science and Technology to preside over the ceremony for the award of degrees to the student-engineers of the École Centrale Beijing. Also present were Mr. HUI Jinpeng, President of Beihang and President of the School's Board of Administration, Mr Hervé BIAUSSER, Director of Centrale Paris and Vice-President of the Board of Administration and Mrs Bru, the sponsor for the Class.

The day was also marked by the officialising of certain Agreements such as the Convention between the *China Scholarship Council* (CSC) and the Écoles Centrales Group whose objective is to strengthen exchanges at the doctoral level; the Agreement for the recognition of Beihang by the Chinese Minister of Education as an institution of reference hosting the research centre on France and the Agreement for creating alliances between Chinese and French partner universities (one alliance for training, another for research). The Centrale Beijing Alumni Association was also created on this occasion, as well as the French branch of the Beihang Graduates Association.

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