Press release

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International Paper and SKOLKOVO hold a training module for Kamchatka hero MBA-6 students

Moscow – May 25, 2017 – International Paper, in collaboration with the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO, organized an off-site training module that took place in the extreme conditions of the Kamchatka Peninsula as a part of SKOLKOVO MBA-6 program. 25 students took part in this unparalleled project that is unique to the global business education. The team of “Kamchatka heroes” was led through the final strategic leadership challenge of the module by Andrey Volkov, the first Dean of the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO and International Master of Sports in mountain climbing and participant of expedition on the world’s most dangerous mountain K2.

The main goal of this extraordinary business education challenge was to develop leadership skills, necessary for a successful business leader. Thanks to the educational Kamchatka expedition, students were able to take a new look at the experiences and skills they acquired throughout the MBA program, applying them to effectively explore the peninsula’s wild landscapes. The program also represented a one-of-a-kind teamwork experience.

The expedition consisted of three stages: emersion, challenge and reflection. Six-day module successfully incorporated both hands-on activities and educational trainings. During the first two stages, the students got to take a helicopter and snowmobiles to travel to Mutnovsky volcano, which they later inspected, and also climbed Vilyuchinsky volcano the next day. The third stage was fully dedicated to analyzing and reflecting on the challenges that participants faced while conquering the peaks of Kamchatka and building relationships within the team. Throughout all stages, Andrey Volkov was helping students learn how to be an engaged team player and effective leader. Experienced athlete and instructor, Volkov accompanied the team during the whole Kamchatka expedition, sharing his knowledge and personal experience of “reaching new highs” both in the mountains and in an unpredictable business environment.
The group was also joined by Maxim Feldman, Head of the Private Customers Division and MBA and EMBA Programs Department of the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO, and Nadezhda Agapova, Head of Admission, Leadership & Career Development and professional coach. Vera Orlova acted as the program manager.

Keith Townsend, President of International Paper in Russia, said:
“Our mission at International Paper is to improve people’s lives, the planet, and the company’s performance by transforming renewable resources into products people depend on every day. We pay special attention to the development of the future business leaders in Russia, which is fundamental to our strategic partnership with the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO. We hope that the unique experience that MBA Kamchatka module granted the students will allow them to reinforce the achievements they have made throughout the MBA program and to develop teamwork and leadership skills in a complex environment. This module is terrific training for new leaders aiming to succeed in the business world”.

Andrey Volkov, the first Dean of the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO and Management Professor, added:

“The goal of the final Kamchatka module of our MBA program is to reconceive gained experience and knowledge, reflect on the program as a whole, draw conclusions, and most importantly, learn about the limits of your abilities and uncover your leadership potential. In order to be an effective leader of a team despite the burden of failures and challenges, you should always get yourself out of your comfort zone gaining stamina and leadership skills. Kamchatka module enabled all MBA students to test their abilities and determine personal business perspectives as leaders.”

Maxim Feldman, Head of MBA and EMBA Programs Department and the Private Customers Division:

“Leadership in management and entrepreneurship is about being able to utilize all skills while working within a team outside of one’s comfort zone. MBA students got a chance to experience such conditions on Kamchatka. During six days of being surrounded by snow and mountains, we were able to practice being introspective under uncertainty, being supportive as team members and decisive as leaders. The final module on Kamchatka is a unique experience that enriched every participant. International Paper made MBA students a present by introducing them to Kamchatka and allowing them to realize the importance of being in harmony with the environment.”

International Paper has participated in the development of the SKOLKOVO MBA off-site training module program for the past two years. As a SKOLKOVO’s strategic partner since 2010, the company actively supports three key initiatives of the School – talent development and MBA program support, strategic leadership, and sustainable development. International Paper has supported SKOLKOVO MBA flagship program since 2012, and the company’s efforts were recognized by a personal letter from Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and an award “For Contribution to Supporting the SKOLKOVO MBA Program and Development of the Next
Generation of Leaders in Russia” presented by Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich at the Trend Awards.

The module in Kamchatka completed the training programme of the sixth SKOLKOVO MBA group. The participants will be awarded diplomas at the official graduation ceremony held on May 27 as part of the annual SKOLKOVO Alumni Convention.

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About International Paper

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About International Paper Russia

International Paper started its operations in Russia in 1998. The company focuses on the production and marketing of office and offset papers, liquid packaging board and bleached chemical thermo-mechanical pulp at its Svetogorsk, which in 2017 celebrates the 130th anniversary of its launch. The company’s Russian footprint also includes a 50:50 joint venture with the Ilim Group, the largest integrated paper and pulp manufacturer in Russia. International Paper’s most well-known brands in Russia are Ballet and SvetoCopy. International Paper is a responsible investor focused on sustainable forest management, as well as other environmental and social projects benefitting the Russian community.

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