

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORS



Fatma Hussain

Fatma Hussain is the Chief Human Capital Officer at TECOM Group. Fatma brings with her a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the Human Resources field with over 16 years of experience. In her role she is responsible for planning, leading and managing the execution of the Human Capital strategy to support the implementation of TECOM business plans and overall strategy.

Prior to joining TECOM, Fatma has worked with several reputed Private and Government organisations in the region and has in-depth experience in the areas of Performance Management, Total Rewards, Talent Development, Recruitment, Emiratisation, Talent Redeployment etc. She has also managed Quality Management and Business Process Improvement related projects in her previous organisations.

Fatma is a Senior Assessor with the Department of Economic Development in Dubai for Human Development Awards. She also has many achievements and awards to her credit in the Human Resources field. She recently been recognized by the World HRD Congress with two prestigious awards; Business Leader of the Year - HR Leadership Award and Femina Women Super Achiever Award for Excellence in HR. Fatma holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from a reputed university.

She is a board member of the UD Alumni Association since 2013 and has completed a leadership programme from the Wharton Business School in USA. She is currently undertaking an MBA programme with University of Dubai and due to graduate in December 2018.



Lara Malaeb

Lara Malaeb is Senior Professional with a demonstrated history of working in the financial services industry. Lara has over 12 years' experience in the UAE with expertise in Consultancy, Management, Corporate Governance and Business Development and has extensive knowledge of the UAE market. Lara is currently acting as a Director for several DIFC entities. For over three years, Lara headed the Corporate Services team for an international listed corporate service provider where she managed several clients' portfolios by providing fiduciary duties and responsible for the business development role in the MENA region. Lara has also worked for an international law firm where she has developed her legal skills in the Corporate sector. Combining her legal knowledge and expertise in business management, Lara currently mentors and oversees the business development and marketing team at one of the UAE offshore jurisdiction and plays a strategic role in the development of the jurisdiction. Lara holds Master's degree in business administration from Heriot Watt University. Lara speaks English and Arabic and has good understanding of French.



**Dr. Celeste Cecilia
Lo Turco**

Dr Celeste Lo Turco is Vice President – Strategy at Future Group Holding, She is an is a Sovereign Wealth Funds Expert. She has been working for the SWFs Strategic Committee of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the SWFs Law Centre.

She has been the advisor for Ancitel, the Italian Municipalities National Association, for the development of the national economy and the relationship with SWFs.

Former United Nations analyst, she worked within the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

She has been living in the Middle East for a long period and she currently serves as Vice President Strategy for Future Group Holding, a family office based in Dubai.

She is a Fulbright Visiting Researcher and she holds a PhD in Political Theory and a Master Degree in International Relations, Markets and Institutions of the Global System.

She is an active writer about SWFs.



Fatima Mahfouz

Fatima Mahfouz is a Marketing & Business Development Director at CSST. A Management Professional with over 20 years of leadership experience in Business Development, Management Consultancy, and Marketing

Highly motivated with a wealth of expertise in Strategic Marketing, Business Transformation, and Revenue Creation.

She has the operational expertise to find business solutions to increase profitability, and implement processes & procedures that drive customer service excellence.

A motivational speaker who is passionate about empowerment with an established local network, strong partnership-building and relationship-management skills..



**Elham
Mohammed Al
Harmoodi**

Mrs. Elham Mohammed Al Harmoodi currently holds the responsibility of the Internal Audit & Risk Management at the Sheik Zayed Housing Program and is responsible for managing, planning and supervising the annual SZHP Audit, overall risk assessment, and internal control structure and corporate governance evaluation.

Throughout her function she provides an independent assurance service to the board, audit committee and management, focusing on reviewing the effectiveness of the governance, risk management and control processes that management has put into place. She has held various executive roles during her fourteen years of professional experience in the field of Auditing, Architectural, Design, Construction Management and Operation.

Mrs. Elham is an Architect by profession from the UAE University in Al Ain city holding Bachelor Degree in Architecture as well as being certified from Hawkamah, an Institute for Corporate Governance.

She started her career joining a young governmental organization tasked to offer suitable housing finance and construction support for the people of the UAE. This fast growing entity shaped her career and provided an opportunity to translate theoretical studies and best practices into her day to day achievements. Through her effort, she promoted the development of sustainable housing methodology, built in house intellectual expertise and contributed to creating an environment making SZHP a key accelerator in line with the national agenda of the UAE vision 2021.

She gained her practical experience from the field being a site engineer. Then developing to handle the design and project management of diverse high profile residential and nonresidential projects where she oversaw the development portfolio, and the execution of large-scale, multi-million Dirham real estate housing projects.

She has received different recognitions like the Best Technical Engineer from the Chairman of the SZHP and been nominated for the badge of Honor from the prime minister's office . She has also received a Zayed Future Leaders certificate from Mohamad Bin Rashid school of government.

Mrs. Al Harmoodi is a member of the Governance Committee at SZHP, which is mandated to develop the organization's governance framework. Also she is a member of the executive committee that oversees policies and guidelines development aligned with SZHP objectives.



**Thuraya Afeef
Al Maskari**

Thuraya Al Maskari is the Group Corporate Governance Manager at Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in ecology and geosciences from Monash University in Australia, Thuraya commenced her career as a reservoir 12 years working with the ADNOC Group since then she has been called upon to contribute to the organization in a diverse range of roles and disciplines, and has proven her ability to play an integral role in the development of the organization throughout the value chain. She carries a wealth of knowledge and experience, particularly in the oil and gas industry and GCC region.

Thuraya's value as a highly agile employee with a demonstrated ability to adapt, learn and deliver to a high standard led to her appointment to her current position within the Legal, Governance and Compliance Unit of ADNOC. In 2016 Thuraya took on the challenging role of building and managing the newly-formed Group Corporate Governance Department at ADNOC, which involved defining the mandate of the department, developing the ADNOC Group Corporate Governance Policy and anchoring the department's position as a key player in the governance of ADNOC and each of its Group Companies, including their boards. Most recently her mandate has been further expanded to include being the lead manager accountable for delivery of the ISO:9001 Quality Management System certification for ADNOC. Additionally, Thuraya is an active member of a number of key committees throughout the ADNOC Group.

Having graduated from the Directorship Program at Hawkamah Institute, Thuraya is proud to be in a position to contribute her experience and expertise as a Board-ready Emirati woman.



**Adai Masoud
Alzarraee**

Adai Masoud Alzarraee is a Holder of bachelors' degree in computer engineering from the US, and a holder of masters' degree in Engineering Systems Management (ESM) from the American University of Sharjah as well as industry acclaimed certifications in IT and management.

He has worked with distinguished organizations such as Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai Electronic Government, and Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore oil operations. He has held the position of Vice President of IT in National Central Cooling Company (Tabreed) for seven years, and currently holding the position of Advisor automation & Control in Tabreed.



Gaurav Bhandari

Gaurav Bhandari is an Asset Management professional, having experience and knowledge across multiple sectors.

He holds degrees in Chartered Accountancy and MBA (Finance) with 10+ years of professional experience within the fields of private equity and business valuations.

He believes that learning is a continuous process and always looks for ways to enhance value – both at work and personal front. To complement his academic and professional achievements, he has attended various value enhancement programs such as Improving Corporate Performance and Profitability Program (Harvard Business School), General Management Program (IIM-Ahmedabad), Certified Private Equity Specialist Program (IABFM) and of course the Director Development Program (Mudara Institute of Directors). He is multilingual with knowledge of English (Professional), Hindi (Professional), Bengali (Intermediate) and Arabic (Basic).

Currently, he works as an Asset Manager in a Private Equity Company (JV of Sovereign Wealth Fund) in the Sultanate of Oman. Prior to this role, he had the privilege to work at KPMG (Transactions & Restructuring) in the UAE and Citigroup Global Services Limited (Asset Based Finance) in India.



Eng. Fawaz Moeid Alotaibi

A diversified executive, Alotaibi manages his family's investments and holdings specializing in automotive spare parts, healthcare, financial investment, real estate and IT.

Alotaibi focused on governance and transparency when he restructured his family business to cope with the evermore professionalizing GCC market. With a background in Electrical Engineering from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada; Alotaibi adopts a structured approach in managing his company's investments. Alotaibi completed the Director Development Program from Hawkamah Dubai and the IOD (Institute of Directors) preparing him for his roles as a board director in several privately held companies. He acquired a lot of experience in dealing with family business restructuring and governance, dealing with regulators and decision makers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Additionally, He completed the course offered by Harvard Law School -Program on Negotiation "Art of Successful Negotiations" in 2016. Alotaibi is also a member of the Saudi Council of Engineers since 2012. He has worked on several renewable energy and recycling projects, in the capacity of due diligence and consultations.

Currently and in addition to his position as the CEO of Awab Holdings, he manages codeit, an IT company specializing in educational technology. codeit recently won the bid to digitize the learning cycle for 100 schools in the eastern province of the Kingdom, with a strong focus on upgrading the learning outcomes, preparing a digital generation ready to meet the market requirements of the future. As the first phase of an ambitious project to digitalize all government schools by 2020, the project dubbed "Future Gate" is part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's vision 2030.

Finally, Alotaibi's exposure has positioned him as a versatile, hardworking and talented director able to meet the needs of public and private companies in the GCC. Specifically family businesses looking to professionalize their businesses and increase governance and transparency, beating the odds into a successful succession to new generations.



Dr Murya Habbash

Dr Murya Habbash is an Associate Professor of Accounting at Business School, King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia. He hold Master and Ph.D. degrees in Accounting from top UK Universities, he also finished a Diploma in Entrepreneurship, Michigan University, USA.

He previously hold some academic positions such as the chairman of Accounting department, Deputy Dean of Business school and Students Affairs Dean at King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia. Now he works as a consultant for the Corporate Governance Center at King Khalid University.

His current research interests include corporate governance, audit quality, Financial Accounting Reporting and Disclosure, corporate social responsibility, sustainability and earnings quality. He has published a book and 24 research papers in international academic journals.

He also hold CPA and CME qualifications. A board member and Audit committee chairman in a Saudi listed company. In addition, he is a registered arbitrator in Saudi Ministry of Justice and a registered real estate appraisal.



Alastair Mulligan

Alastair is the Vice President Asset Management for National Central Cooling Company PJSC (Tabreed) and located in the UAE. Holding a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Science in Business Finance and Financial and Numerical Mathematics respectively, Alastair has been involved in consulting, investment and asset management roles for infrastructure and utility companies throughout the Middle East and Asia.

Tabreed is an industrial company which finances, develops owns and operates district energy plants and piping networks to provide cooling across the Arabian Gulf. Tabreed is listed on the Dubai Financial Markets with the majority shareholders being Mubadala Investment Company and international utility leader Engie.

Alastair joined Tabreed from Babcock & Brown, a leading investment bank focused on global infrastructure investments, bringing with him a diverse knowledge and experience in infrastructure assets in areas including origination, raising financing, investment acquisition, project planning and advising on internal and external funds.



Lennard Sigrist

Lennard currently working with a multinational utility provider in the UAE, Lennard Sigrist has established and manages a billing and collections subsidiary business in the district cooling sector with customers across the middle east. Lennard's initiatives have improved collections to some of the highest recovery rates in the region.

Lennard holds a Masters degree in Business Administration (2014) from the University of Southern Queensland in Australia and has 15+ years of professional experience within the utility industry spanning Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East and Europe.

In addition to Lennard's broad knowledge of the electricity, water and district cooling industry, his passion and expertise is in the design and delivery of advanced meter-to-cash services, billing and collections processes and customer service solutions.



**Dr. Nadia Qassim
Bastaki**

Dr Nadia Qassim Bastaki is the Vice President of medical services and CSR strategy of Etihad aviation group. She is the first UAE female qualified as an Aviation medicine Specialist in the UAE. She completed post graduate education in aviation medicine from Kings College London in 2009. She is member of the Royal Collage of Physician U.K. she also holds a post graduate master degree in occupational medicine from Manchester University 2015 and has completed a leadership training by Harvard International and also has completed Etihad Leadership Program by New York University in 2016.

She been actively involved in developing the medical and wellbeing services at Etihad airways and leads the medical services to be recognized as the first aeromedical center in the UAE. Although a clinician, she managing a team of 50 staff. DrNadia also has other roles within Etihad, she is a member of HR leadership team, member of people advisory board (dealing with UAE national development at Etihad), member of tender board approval at Etihad and member of social and sport committee at Etihad and also a mentor for young UAE nationals.

Dr Nadia also holds various other roles outside Etihad - she is member of air transport society USA, a member of airline directors USA, member at civil aviation authority UAE for setting medical regulation for aircrew, member of health authority accreditation and examination, a member of 30% women club GCC chapter. She is the first aviation instructor for the Civil aviation authority in the UAE, and also first MRO medical review officer for the UAE region (dealing with alcohol and drug related cases).

Dr Nadia has received many awards and recognition for contribution in aviation field. She received the aviation role model award in 2010, contribution to aviation field and best performance and many other appreciation certificates from the GCAA. She was also awarded executive of the year by the CEO at Etihad in 2015 knowing she is youngest female VP at Etihad. She was also listed as top 10 executives in Abu Dhabi by Sheikh Khalifa awards and has been awarded by the Ministry of Health for Innovation of being the first female in aviation role 2016.

Dr Nadia has spoken in many panels and conferences international and national both for her clinical role and her role as leading women and her role as a pioneer, she started the first aviation conference in the region in 2008. Today she is popular figure in aviation and occupational field, she also recognized as key figure in her leadership executive role as a women



Naila Al Moosawi

Naila takes a vision and makes it a reality through sound strategic development and human Capital leadership. She naturally drives performance for quality and speed; with proven ability to transform organizations and develop strong high-potential teams across the region. She is recognized for her inspirational H & S leadership; driving change in culture and mindset and achieved multiple awards in building unique H & S leadership platforms and best practices.

A credible Exco member and commercially focused decision maker championing differentiation through commercial transformation and always seeking to be ACE- Agile, Collaborative and Empower to take the business to the next level. She has an upper hand in leading business cycles- 3 start ups, 3 right sizing, 2 mergers, 1 divestment. As the current Director of Human Resources- GCC she is responsible for organization and human capital development, offering over 15 years of progressive experience. As a versatile and sharp leader she has been instrumental in reducing company's risk through growth and restructuring stratagems and acts as a lead panelist in C Suite resourcing campaigns.

Humbly Naila is a highly-accomplished woman of many firsts. She held the position of being the first youngest Emirati Female Air Traffic Controller at Dubai Aviation followed on by being the first Retail Site Manager at Emirates National Oil Company in the Gulf Region. Naila is the Diversity and Inclusion Champion leading the Group's D & I ambitious plans in GCC and Executive Committee member of the global Professional Women's Network, setting up the Dubai chapter. She believes to promote women and men collaboration to leverage on each other's talent and capabilities. She holds a MSc in Psychology from Middle Sex University UK and CIPD Associate. As a Directorship Program Graduate from Hawkamah- Institute of Directors, Naila Al Moosawi represents the new breed of female Emirati Board-ready women.



Nada Ishaq Abdulkarim

Nada Ishaq Abdulkarim earned her BSc degree in Economics and Finance/Business Administration from University of Bahrain in July 2005. She started her career in the banking sector with HSBC Bank Middle East in 1998 as a Marketing Assistant. She was one of the founders of the "Card Center" when first established in the bank. She was promoted to Assistant Manager of the main branch in Seef District in 2005, and then to Business Support Manager in the Business Banking Unit (BBU) in 2007.

Nada was awarded "The CEO's Appreciation Award" with HSBC Bank Middle East in 2006, and was a volunteer member of "Injaz Bahrain", a non-profit organization that was established as part of Junior Achievement Worldwide with the aim of empowering young people to own their economic success and be prepared for today's business challenges.

She joined Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) in 2012. In 2016, Nada was the first Bahraini Woman to be appointed as the Secretary of the Board of Directors. Her appointment came as an apparent recognition from the Board of Directors to her outstanding achievements, her professionalism and the capabilities in implementing her everyday tasks, in addition to her practical experience which extends to 17 years in the banking sector..



Ahmed A. Marafi

Ahmed A Marafi has worked in various sectors - government and private in Kuwait. He is currently serving as a consultant in the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority (CMA) a regulatory authority, which works on developing and supervising the activities of capital markets in the Kuwait.

Mr. Marafi had an extensive experience in the investment sectors - in Islamic investment and retail banking , Islamic equity funds, and Shariah-compliant structuring. He has 9 years of experience in the investment sector working with investment companies in Kuwait Al Madar Investment and The International Investor, wherein he developed investment instruments and products contributing to the establishment and management of unique set of Sharia compliant financial indicators for Kuwaiti and GCC markets. He also managed and marketed local and global investment funds and portfolios with combined net asset values \$300 million.

Prior, Mr. Marafi worked for 4 years in the banking sector and has built expertise in corporate finance through working in the financial sector at Kuwait Finance House. In 2009, he established and chaired Wudhoh for Financial & Economic Consultations Co., a joint-stock company with delivering financial and economic consultation services. He was a former Board Member at Rasameel for Financial Structuring Co and Al-Thuraya Real Estate and 6 years board member of Kuwait Economic Society. Mr. Marafi earned an M.B.A. degree in Business Administration from from Maastricht School of Management in Kuwait and his BBA-Marketing from Kuwait University and Computer Diploma from Epping Forest College -Britai.



Amir Arab

Amir has over 11 years of private equity experience in the region working with Havenvest Private Equity (formerly HSBC Private Equity Middle East). He is responsible for sourcing, execution and eventual exit of deals and acts as a director on the board of a number of the portfolio companies.

Previously he was an investment analyst with Rasmala Investment Bank, a regional investment banking group based in the UAE.

Amir is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder. He holds a BSc in Mathematics and Computer Sciences from University College London and an MSC in Operational Research from the London School of Economics.



Fahima Al Bastaki

Fahima Al Bastaki is an Executive Vice President - Head of Business Development Division at Dubai Financial Market (DFM). She carries a wealth of experience in both the financial sector and capital markets in particular. She started her career at HSBC Middle East in 1998 and later in 2004 moved to the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) to head the Listing and Disclosure Department where she spearheaded a number of successful initiatives attracting new companies to list on the DFM managing over 80% of total listings. Fahima plays a key role in the development of the DFM as a public listed company championing and continuously encouraging best practices in Investor Relations amongst listed companies, working collaboratively with regulatory bodies such as the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA). Fahima initiated and continues to lead the organization of the DFM International Investor Conferences in London and New York held annually for over 8 years. Notably, Fahima also launched the DFM regular private IPO Forum which has become a flagship event for Decision Makers.

Fahima holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science of Business Administration. She is a Certified Financial Advisor (CIFA) from the Chartered Institute of Bankers (UK) since 2000, and she holds a CFA Claritas certification for capital markets. Mrs Al Bastaki is a Certified Investor Relations Officer as well as a certified Professional Director with the Hawkamah Institute of Corporate Governance. Mrs. Fahima is part of the Women on Board Program by Hawkamah in partnership with the Dubai Women Establishment. As part of her role in DFM, she was a Committee Member of the Officials & Directors of GCC Stock Markets and Authorities under the GCC Secretariat General and is currently the chairperson of the Middle East Investor Relations Society (ME IR) Dubai Chapter.



Raja Al Mazrouei,

Raja Al Mazrouei, Senior Vice President of Marketing & Corporate Communications of Dubai International Financial Centre Authority (DIFC Authority), has been with the DIFC since 2010 and brings in more than 18 years of organisational and project management experience on board.

Her primary focus is to increase DIFC's global impact, thought leadership eminence and brand awareness. Raja is the curator of social media, public relations, brand management and thought leadership content. She holds and demands the highest professional standards within a broad and interrelated operational remit that includes the DIFC client experience, marketing and communications and corporate development. This has also involved developing the marketing strategy for DIFC, and directing all internal and external communication programs. Ms. Raja was appointed the Commissioner of Data Protection of DIFC, by Presidential Resolution in 2014 for having driven the DIFC Operations with utmost efficiency in her previous role. In her capacity as the Commissioner of Data Protection, Raja is responsible for ensuring the fulfillment of the objectives of the Office of the Commissioner of Data Protection and administering the Data Protection Law and Regulations in the DIFC. Ms. Raja previously held a key role with the DIFC as the Head of Operations, driving and aligning organisational framework inspired by founding visions of DIFC and the standards inherent in a world class financial centre. Prior to joining the DIFC Ms. Raja was the Head of Information Technology at National Bonds, and Director of IT Relationship Management at Dubai Holding. Ms. Raja holds an MBA in Global Leadership & Management from the United Arab Emirates University, a Bachelor's in Business Information Technology from the Higher Colleges of Technology and a Graduate of the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.



Ali Saleh Abdelgader Alawami

Ali Saleh Abdelgader Alawami, is a Founder and Managing Director of Libyan Mudeer for Training and Consultancy in Libya. He was also a board member and head of governance committee at Enmaa Holding Company in Libya, chairman and CEO for Alhadena National Company for Building Materials Manufacturing . 23 years of work experience and in the past, he held various positions at high level in holding and construction industries.

He has worked in different business sectors and has handled different projects related to construction and management field. As his profession in engineering, he has worked in different fields such as water supply sector, construction of water pump station, agricultural water distribution networks, cement industry and building material, maintenance.

He has contributed to the revelation in Libya and helped to establish the first government 'executive office' and was appointed as a deputy minister of constitutional build departments. He was involved in establishing of Almurkhtar Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, which related to Omar Almurkhtar University and was acting as board director and was a trainer for leadership qualification for politicians and governmental managers.

He was involved in training programs for many company in the field of corporate governance and directors qualification programs. He has attended the Train of trainers workshop with Hawkamah/Mudara and is a certified trainer on corporate governance. He also hold a Mechanical and Production Engineering, and an MBA from Libyan Academy Benghazi, Libya



Nizar Bashaieh

Nizar Bashaieh is the Head of audit & risk management at DIFC Authority, DIFC Investments and DIFC Properties.

Mr. Nizar has been working with DIFC for almost 8 years and has managed to establish and manage an effective internal audit function within the DIFC that contributed tremendously to establishing governance and internal controls.

He has a wealth of 20 years of management experience working with government and international assurance corporations including Jordanian Government, Lloyd's Register, AT Kearney (MMIS) and SGS Gulf. Mr. Nizar is a member with Institute of Internal Auditors & International Register of Certified Auditors since 1999. He is also an EFQM examiner as well as a Lead Trainer whom delivered various management and auditing programs worldwide including USA, Australia, Sweden, Finland, and Middle East & Gulf Area.

Mr. Nizar holds bachelor degree in industrial engineering with major in engineering management.



Andrew Smith

Andrew Smith is CEO at RAK Insurance.

He is an experienced head of business (20+ years) in conventional and Islamic insurance across the UK and Middle East. His areas of expertise spans across establishing new / re-engineering existing insurance companies, fiscal management, market and technical development, ERM, creating shareholder value and corporate governance, having chaired a number of executive governance committees. His many years of insurance experience and post graduate qualifications from the University of Leicester, Chartered Insurance Institute has established Andrew as a strategic thinker with a proven track record of developing and successfully implementing business plan to build sustainable insurance companies.

Andrew accepted a leadership role at RAK Insurance in January 2013, and thereafter announced the 5 year strategic plan in April 2013. Andrew undertook a host of restructuring initiatives, and the strategic restructuring initiatives undertaken has laid the foundation for a growing and sustainable business, across pillars of internal control, risk management, quality control and actuarial reviews. Andrew's proactive approach and visionary thinking enables timely correction action, thereby steering the company towards long-term shareholder value creation.



Michael Mascarenhas

Michael Mascarenhas is the CEO of Desert Group which is one of the world's largest concentrically diversified group of horticultural and lifestyle companies –centered around green, water and people – truly biophilic. At Desert Group he has articulated a clear vision, goals and expectations, decentralised decision making and focused on a performance minded organisation.

An FCA, MBA, CIA, an alumnus of the Saïd Business School and a Certified Member at Hawkamah, he has tremendous experience in business resuscitation and transformation and thrives in expansive business operations that have lost their direction. With more than 30 years hands-on experience of cross national, multi-sectoral businesses in an international environment, Michael's career and reputation is based on his achievements in accomplishing successful turnarounds of damaged or underperforming assets and transforming them into dynamic centres of creative energy where the employees are empowered and value is created for all stakeholders alike.

His cross sectoral experience include Aerospace, Education, Financial Services & Investments, Construction & Real Estate, Horticulture, Manufacturing, Distribution and Retail. A strong ambassador of CSR, Desert Group has one of the most vibrant CSR programs focused on Special Needs and Cognitive Disabilities, recently winning the regions Taa'theer CSR MENA award.

Michael believes that his experiences are something to share at a global level and that there are lessons to be learned through re-energizing businesses and transforming them to be both customer focused and innovative. Ultimately the purpose of a successful business is to have positive impact on society by enhancing people's lives and he recognizes that his customers and employees are at the centre of this.



Mireille Babi

Mireille Babi is a Chief Development Officer at Edamah, Muntalakat, Bahrain.

She holds an MBA from Strathclyde University, Glasgow, 2014, (courses were taken in 6 different countries as part of an objective to experience multi-cultural edutainment). She is a Masters in Project Management from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), 2003, and a Bachelor of Architectural Engineering from Beirut. Her early education was in Beverly Hills Girls high school, Sydney, Australia.

Currently employed by a private Investment Company at Executive Director level heading the development department of its real estate development subsidiary AlRetaj, leading a \$120 million retail/leisure development, on behalf of a joint venture, and also holding the position of Board Secretary for the same JV.

With a total of 16 years' experience in the real estate development industry, her role as development management in 2008 as part of Al-Retaj Holding team, prior to which she held a project management role with Mace International and architect roles with Australand Developers and OPRA architects. Applying for a Doctorate in Business Administration, hoping to take further my MBA project "Governance of GCC Family Businesses; Why Rock the Boat?"



Hind Al Tamimi

Hind Al Tamimi is a General Counsel at Tharwa Corporation. She has over twenty four years of experience post qualification in private practice and in-house within renowned institutions in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

Between my roles in Tecom Investments and Al Tamimi & Company, I have gained considerable experience in various areas including transactional work specifically acquisitions, restructuring, general corporate commercial, banking and finance, regulatory matters, drafting and reviewing laws and regulations, in addition to governance and compliance. Sitting on the Management Committee, the Land Committee and the Fraud Committee in addition to attending board meetings as Company Secretary enhanced and developed my business acumen and strategic thinking

Managed small to mid-size legal departments and had the opportunity to share experiences, discuss challenges and management techniques with other General Counsels managing legal departments of international organizations in different countries.

Continuous professional development in areas of interest: Director Development Program, IOD Dubai (2013), Leadership in General Counsel, Harvard Law School/Boston (2014); IOD Certificate in Company Direction Program, London (2015).



Huda Bhumaid

Huda Bhumaid is Senior Vice President – Group Communications at Dubai Holding Dubai.

As a Senior Vice President, Group Communications at Dubai Holding, a global investment company, she effectively manages Corporate Communications, Public Relations, Marketing and Branding. Huda successfully steers Dubai Holding’s communication including matters pertaining to its companies; Jumeirah Group, Dubai Properties Group, TECOM Group and Emirates International Telecommunications as well as the investments side represented by Dubai Group and Dubai International Capital.

Prior to joining Dubai Holding in 2009, she was Managing Director – Marketing & Communications at Dubai Group. Huda started her career at Citibank, UAE. She holds a Master’s degree in Organisational Excellence with Honours from Bradford University, UK and a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Higher Colleges of Technology, Dubai.

Huda is a board member at TECOM Group and Dubai Women Establishment.



Nehal Badri

Nehal Badri is Director of Strategy Management & Governance at the Government of Dubai Media Office.

She leads in creating synergy between departments through comprehensive strategic planning, and overseeing excellence programs throughout the organization. Her involvement extends towards strategizing the media landscape in Dubai, to be congruent with the vision of the emirate’s leadership. Nehal had previously worked at The Executive Office, as part of the Brand Dubai team which launched different strategies as soft marketing for Dubai.

Nehal has an MPA (Masters in Public Administration) from the Dubai School of Government. She previously achieved her Higher Diploma in Media & Communications from the Higher Colleges of Technology at the Dubai Women’s college, and also a BFA (Bachelor’s in Fine Arts) from Boston, USA.



Ijjat Kanani

Ijjat Kanani is Director at Dukes Group FZE-UAE.

Versatile and solution-driven business person, over 7 years of working experience in a trading, healthcare & mining firms through, startup, turnaround, revitalization and accelerated growth with annual turnover reaching over \$ 50m.

Her key role at Dukes Group is to direct all facets of business operations which include client cultivation and solicitation, sales and marketing, risk management, staff management and recruitment, cost and budget management, investment management, contract negotiations and infrastructure development etc.

She has been involved in community service in various ways since young age including organizing medical camp as part of health portfolio, planting trees and creating awareness about environment and eco-friendly living as member in HSM-India (an Environmental NGO), rendering services for women empowerment, involved in organizing charity fund raising events under the umbrella of Red Crescent UAE for various local and international NGOs. And currently, looking after SMEs mandate as part of Economic Planning Board. Past experience - NHS- UK & Hospitals in India, Physiotherapist: 2002-2006



**Nathalie Sfeir
Bsaibes**

Nathalie Sfeir Bsaibes holds a master's Degree in Law from the Saint-Joseph University (Beirut) and an L.L.M in Business Law from Paris West University Nanterre La Defense. She was admitted to the Beirut Bar Association in 2001, and has been the Managing Partner of her family-owned law firm since 2005.

She currently practices in Lebanon and Dubai serving clients in Business Law, Real Estate Law, Intellectual Property rights and taxation Law. She provides legal consultancy and litigation services mainly for family businesses, individuals, and non-profitable organizations. In doing so, Mrs. Bsaibes assists her clients in investment decisions and in governance issues related to their assets so as to ensure sustainability and compliance with local and foreign rules and regulations. As the general counsel of numerous privately owned companies, she is the appointed secretary of several Boards of Directors assisting them in their duties. Given this experience, Mrs. Bsaibes is passionate about supporting SMEs and startups in establishing their corporate governance structures and boards.

She completed the requirements for Hawkamah's Directorship Development Program (DDP) in 2016. Mrs. Bsaibes is a dual French-Lebanese citizen and currently resides in Dubai (UAE).



Jehad A. Kazim

Jehad heads the Legal Services Department at Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry. She oversees the commercial mediation & legal services of the Chamber and reinvents their processes by adding new features and applying best practices.

Jehad has over 15 years of experience in the legal field & alternate dispute resolution and strives to implement legal capacity building programs to support the development of businesses in Dubai. In 2009, Dubai International Arbitration Centre appointed Jehad as Deputy Director of the Centre. With this position she became the first Emirati woman to hold a senior position in arbitration in the Middle East.

Jehad holds an LL.M in Business Law from University of Hertfordshire, UK and LL.B in Shari'a & Law from the U.A.E. University. Her main areas of specialization are business law, contracts & alternate dispute resolution. She has served as an Assessor for Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award and Judge for the Oath Middle East Legal Awards 2015.

Jehad has completed the Mohammed Bin Rashid Programme for Leadership Development and Cranfield School of Management's Leadership Development Programme. In 2013, Jehad was nominated for the Distinguished Government Employee in Dubai Government Excellence Program.



Noora Al Shehhi

Noora Al Shehhi currently works as a Manager at the Internal Audit Department for Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA). She is a Certified public Accountant (CPA), Certified Managerial Accountant (CMA) and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). She completed her Bachelor Degree in Business Administration majoring accounting and has a work experience of more than five years. She has worked in the fields of external auditing, internal auditing and corporate governance. Her external auditing experience was gained through her work with PwC by working on clients in the Energy and Aviation Sectors.

At DEWA she works on operational and financial audits. She is also a member of the Corporate Governance Committee, which has been established to meet the government corporate excellence requirements of governance. By being part of the committee she was involved in analyzing DEWA's capabilities in governance, conducting benchmarking visits, reviewing the organization's current corporate governance system and having a solid understanding of international standards such as the OECD corporate governance principles and the BS13500:2013 code.

Her experience in various fields has given her an exposure to a diverse set of areas such as internal auditing, external auditing and corporate governance where she has consistently displayed a strong willingness to learn and adapt to those fields as well as relating them to her skills and knowledge.



Sumaya Al Shaer

Sumaya Al Shaer is an Emirati woman who has demonstrated continuous personal and professional growth over the last 12 years.

She is recognized for her commitment and eager to learn. She has been reaching her educational goals and has progressed to the level of Doctorate with her great determination to succeed. She graduated from the 'UAE women leadership program' organized by 'The Mohammed Bin Rashid Program for Leadership Development'.

Sumaya is a high performing individual who believes in outstanding performance. She is passionate about her work and has great positive attitude and adds a real value.

Her expertise lies in organizational development, excellence & quality management, strategy & performance management, and corporate governance. Her experience spans the different sectors (i.e. Government, Semi-government, and private). Sumaya strongly believes and strives for innovation and excellence!



Ekram Al Yacoub

Ekram Al Yacoub, is a Saudi Business Analyst and Columnist, whose writings focused on political economy and Middle Eastern policies. Her writings included a special coverage to the UN 70th general assembly meetings last Sept, beside participating at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on global goals and efforts in integrate youth in shaping social initiatives in New York. Al Yacoub writing pieces and op-ed columns has been published on Al Arabiya News- Leading Dubai based news channel and Asharq Al Awsat.

Al Yacoub has over 9 years of diverse work experience across the GCC including 5 years at Saudi Aramco at the Sr. Planning Staff of Exploration and Producing in Dhahran. She was also assigned to a visiting fellow position at Mohamed Bin Rashid School of Government in Dubai in 2011. She has recently attained an Executive MBA from Cass business school, City University, London, England; where she wrote her dissertation on "The Culture of Corporate Governance Compliances in the GCC, Investors perspectives." Prior to her MBA degree, Al Yacoub had eamed a Master degree of International Political Economy of Resources from Colorado School of Mines, Golden in 2010.

She served as an advisory board member to several private and family owned businesses across the GCC.



Bindu Ann Joseph

Bindu is a Chief Operating Officer of 3W Networks.

A Resourceful, focused and entrepreneurial Director, specializing in managing highly successful projects and operations in complex and competitive sectors for over 15 years. Holding an impressive record of progression in the workplace, undertaking leadership roles across core business functions and with vast expertise in business start-ups and transformations.

An active member of the Executive Management team since 2008, with valuable experience in evolving, diversifying and expanding businesses in the Middle East and African markets.

Along with an MBA from Hult University, she also holds a degree in Accounting and a Masters in Management Information Systems, both from Texas A&M University, USA



Omar Al Shunnar

Omar Al Shunnar, A Certified Professional Board Director with 15 years board experience, he is the Co-founder and Chairman of Aquagas Group of Companies. Established in 2002, the company has grown from a small trading concern in 2002 into a diversified group of companies, with annual turnover in excess of USD 20Million. Professionally, Omar has had more than 15 years of successful C-Level roles, over 10 years of which are at CEO level, delivering results across a broad range of sectors including Healthcare, Education, Real Estate, Banking & Finance, and has worked in Private, Government, Multinational and Publicly Listed Organizations both locally and internationally.

Most recently, Omar was the CEO of Majid Al Futtaim Healthcare, where he launched the start-up City Centre Clinic brand in 2013 and grew the business from a single day-surgical centre, into an integrated network of 5 facilities within 3 years. Prior to joining Majid Al Futtaim, Omar was the CEO of Emaar Healthcare and Interim CEO of Emaar Education. During his tenure with Emaar, he ensured the successful implementation of Emaar's vision to create fully integrated communities and the continuation of the strategies laid down for the Emaar Healthcare and Emaar Education facilities. He also has extensive banking and finance experience, having served as Finance and Operations Director with the Dubai Development and Investment Authority and as Head of Cash Management at Borouge Pte Ltd, Singapore as well as with Standard Chartered Bank, Singapore and Citibank, Dubai. He was the project manager for the pre-operational development stage of Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) and later served as Chief Sales & Marketing Officer and interim Chief Operating Officer at DHCC.

A finance graduate from the University of Denver, Colorado, Omar is a first batch graduate of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Leadership Development Program. He served on the board of directors of Mohammed Bin Rashid Establishment for Young Business Leaders from 2003 – 2006 and is currently also serving as a Director on the UAE International Genetic Disorders Prevention Award Committee Board.



Majid Al Mail

Majid Al Mail is the Senior Manager at the Abu Dhabi Technology Development Committee (TDC), heading the INNOVATOR Program.

Majid holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Arizona State University. He also has a Diploma in Leadership from Cambridge University and is a Mubadala Graduate Program alumnus. Majid's belief in supporting the development of science, technology and innovation in Abu Dhabi has been translated into practice through his set up and management of the INNOVATOR Program, with the aim of supporting high growth technology related startups.

Majid also is the driving force behind a growing awareness for innovation and the innovators within in the community. Prior to his role at the Abu Dhabi Technology Development Committee (TDC), Majid worked for Mubadala Capital and Mubadala GE Capital, based in Abu Dhabi & Chicago over the course of his five years with the company.



Jasem Al Awadhi

Jasem Al Awadhi is a strategy professional, with dual Bachelor degrees in Economics and International studies from the American University of Sharjah.

Jasem brings over 5 years of experience in strategy development, execution and assessment. During his tenure with Mubadala, a wholly owned investment vehicle of the Abu Dhabi government with AED 240bn in assets in 2015, Jasem focused on the Healthcare, Utilities, and Industrial sector. In addition, he was part of an expert team to work with the Abu Dhabi government in developing Abu Dhabi's 5 year economic plan. Further on, his work involved a multitude of functions ranging from developing an economic view of industries or countries, corporate strategy development and assessment, to portfolio simulation.

Jasem now works as a Manager in the Central Transformation Office with the Commercial Bank of Dubai, a publicly listed company in the Dubai Stock Market with a net income of +AED 1bn in 2015. At CBD, Jasem is part of the core team managing the execution and delivery of the transformation across four cross functional initiatives which are Digital, Risk, IT & Analytics, End to End processes, as well as several other business unit initiatives



Johan H. Brand

Johan H. Brand is Owner of Johan Brand Leadership Advisory DWC-LLC

Johan Brand is a well-experienced leadership professional. He is sought after by his clients for his top level business expertise and Board/Executive advisory competence. He aims to improve the effectiveness of the Board's and Executive's leadership roles within companies. He mainly advises Chairmen and Family Heads as well as guides CEOs to success.

Operating within the highest levels of confidentiality and trust, Johan's leadership advisory services specifically focus on:

- 1) Board Leadership, Effectiveness and Succession
- 2) CEO/ C-level Succession Processes and Effectiveness

Johan started his career in commercial leadership roles with Procter & Gamble and PepsiCo in Europe. After 9 years, in 1995, he moved to the privately held executive search firm Egon Zehnder, initially operating from Amsterdam and since 2008 from Dubai where he became a Senior Partner. Johan recently established his own leadership advisory firm.

Johan holds an MSc in Business Economics, an MA in Business Law and an MA in Private Law, all from Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands.



Obaid Khalifa Al Shamsi

Obaid Khalifa Al Shamsi, Chief of Human Resources and Administration of Dubai Islamic Bank, is a dynamic professional. Has more than 17 years of experience as Human Resources professional with demonstrated traits and competencies in Human Resources and Administration. He has achieved excellent results in variety of challenging and multicultural diverse environment as visionary mentor in advisory capacity. He has unique blend of charismatic leadership with strategic competencies to lead Human Resources & Administration, managing change and achieving the corporate objectives.

He is a Board member for several DIB subsidiaries in the UAE and overseas, while also being a member of Dubai Islamic Bank Executive Management. Obaid has joined Dubai Islamic Bank in 1998.

The key to his success has been purely based on his competencies, performance and engagement. He likes to help his fellow employees in achieving their aspirations and guide them through. He has incorporated the Talent management system and ensures every job is performed as per the requirement and strategic direction. He possess superior negotiation and problem solving skills and a proven ability to manage and complete the projects as per the requirement. He strives on ensuring statutory and regulatory aspects and ensures, guides, educates and sets a framework for better understanding and implementation of the same. He also holds a master's degree in Business Administration from Middlesex University, London – UK and PHR Certified. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Richard Coates

Richard is an exceptional business consultant, using his deep knowledge of people management to help organisations achieve sustainable competitive advantage. He typically works with Boards and Family Owners, developing business models and governance structures, as well as mentoring leaders to optimise personal and business performance. He holds the Certificate of Directorship from Mudara Institute of Directors.

With extensive experience in the Middle East and Europe, Richard has lead large cross-functional projects to transform management practice in major organisations. These have included organisation development, improving recruitment and retention systems and creating performance-based executive reward structures. Over the last 20 years, he has worked across all GCC countries in sectors such as Oil and Gas, Automotive, Financial Services, Logistics and Retail, the Public Sector and Conglomerate Organisations.

Richard previously held management positions in British Airways and Hewlett Packard where he was part of a start-up management team, building and populating a manufacturing facility and a world-class research laboratory. He created and directed a consulting firm in London and Bahrain, and lead Mercer's M&A consulting practice in Europe. Richard was the pioneer of Mercer's business in the Middle East region before returning to what excites him most – working directly with clients to help make their businesses more successful. He holds the Certificate of Directorship from Mudara IOD, a Chartered Fellow of UK Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development (CIPD) and is qualified in MA Politics, Philosophy and Economics & B.Litt Industrial Relations from University of Oxford.



Kumar Subramanian

Kumar Subramanian is Vice President- Finance of Future Group Holdings SA SPF (FGH). He is responsible for managing the financial affairs of the group holding company and the engineering business of the group.

He joined the FGH Group in 2009. Since joining the Group, he has overseen the implementation of financial systems, controls and risk management policies across the Group, has spearheaded the implementation of Group consolidation process and procedures, and was actively involved in the setting up of the Family Office.

Prior to joining FGH, Kumar held various leadership positions with Publicis Group, Zubair Enterprises and MIRC Electronics Ltd.

Kumar completed his undergraduate education in Commerce at Calicut University. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) from USA, Chartered Accountant (ACA) from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Company Secretary from the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. Kumar also holds an active CPA license from Colorado State Board of Accountancy. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.

Kumar is serving as a visiting faculty member for Becker CPA Review course in Dubai.



Philip J. Weights

Philip Weights is the founder of Enhanced Banking Governance (EBG), which provides governance services.

Philip was previously the Chief Audit Executive for EFG Bank, a stock exchange listed private banking group in Zurich. He has worked closely with the Audit Committee, as well as attending Risk and Executive Committee meetings. Prior to working with EFG he held audit executive positions with HSBC Private Bank and Republic National Bank in Switzerland. During the 1980's Philip provided banking, audit and security consulting services in Latin America. In the 1970's Philip was Vice President and Auditor with Security Pacific Bank in London and Los Angeles, and Citibank in Latin America, New York and London. He started his banking career in 1961 with Martins Bank Liverpool.

Philip Weights is an Advisory Board member of the Virtus Global Center for Corporate Governance. He is also a Certified Professional Director through the Mudara Institute of Directors. He is seeking Independent Non-Executive Director positions with Audit Committee responsibility.

Philip is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, a Certified Internal Auditor, a Certified Information Systems Auditor, and holds a Certification in Risk Management Assurance. He is a member of the Association Certified Fraud Examiners, the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance, the European Corporate Governance Institute, and the Audit Committee Institute. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Nabil El Jisr

Nabil is a Senior Associate in Mubadala's Aerospace & Defense Services Unit with current asset management responsibility of Mubadala's interests in Piaggio Aerospace and Strata Manufacturing.

Prior to joining Mubadala, Nabil started his career in Investment Banking at The National Investor (TNI) in Abu Dhabi, UAE, following which he moved to Mubadala in October 2008 to work on various assets and projects in the military and civil maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) sectors and subsequently in composite and business aircraft manufacturing. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the American University of Beirut with a double emphasis in finance and accounting.

Board Positions: Board member of the Turbine Services & Solutions (TS&S) and Liburdi Engineering joint venture.

He is a certified professional director of Mudara IOD.



Abdulla Al Muhairi

Abdulla Al Muhairi is a project management professional with varied interests in Leadership and corporate governance. He enjoys setting up projects as well as developing and empowering people to achieve their potential through running these projects. Abdulla holds a B.Sc. Chemical Engineering degree from Tulsa University, USA and has gained his Executive MBA from Sharjah University while working. He is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Abdulla enjoys sports and traveling with family as well as teaching his three boys to appreciate Different cultures and civilizations.

He is a certified professional director of Mudara IOD.



Marcus Huebel

Marcus Huebel was an Executive Director of Corporate Strategy & Communications at Muntajat, where he orchestrated corporate transformation by launching and elevating Strategic Marketing, Change and Performance Management, Business Development and Qatar Investment Projects, Corporate Strategy; Catalysed improvement of Corporate Governance. Prior to his role at Muntajat, Huebel was a Director at SABIC, where he served as trusted advisor to the regional Vice-President and transformed African marketing & sales, and supply chain enabling growth ambitions.

Huebel holds a PHD Degree in Chemistry from Philipps-Universität, Marburg / Germany and holds a Director certificate from Mudara Institute of Directors.



Khalid Al Zarouni

Khalid Mohamed Al Zarouni has been the Registrar of Companies at DIFC since 2010 after serving as the Assistant General Counsel from 2008. His duties entail serving as an agent of the Government of Dubai for DIFC and to ensure adherence to relevant legislation, including Companies Law, Limited Partnership Law, General Partnership Law, Limited Liability Partnership Law and Insolvency Law. He also helps realize operational best practices in order to deliver optimum service in terms of quality and efficiency.

Prior to this, Al Zarouni, who has over 14 years' experience and practice in civil law and common law, and specializes in economic and commercial law, was a Senior Legal Consultant at the Department of Economic Development (DED), where he engaged in matters representing DED with governmental and non-governmental organisations on issues related to legal attributes of DED and participated in developing internal regulations.

Al Zarouni holds a Bachelor's degree in Sharia and Law from the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain, and a Master's degree in Commercial Law from Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, and is graduate of the London Business School's Leadership Program.



Omar Al Hammadi

Omar Mohammed Al Hammadi is the Head of the DIFC Governor's Office and has been with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) since 2005. In addition, he represents His Highness the DIFC President's Office.

He specialises in stakeholder management, general corporate affairs, and handling relationship with Federal and Local government entities which is a key role that serves the DIFC in realising its objectives. Omar help in showcasing the DIFC and its achievements to high profile local, regional and international delegations and dignitaries.

He has a proven track record in enhancing policies, procedures and systems to ensure that the highest level of service is provided to dignitaries and their delegation as well as executives from the corporate sector. He leads the planning and coordination efforts with all relevant DIFC entities to ensure smooth and successful management of strategic DIFC projects.

A graduate in Computer Networking, Omar is committed to promoting the highest standards in business and service excellence across the DIFC. He applies advanced project management techniques, logical and structured thinking, technological innovation and creativity in resolving issues as well as implementing solutions. He believes in continuously developing himself, and has attended several programmes from internationally reputed institutions to advance his skills-set and expertise.



Ahmad Hamza

Ahmad Hamza is a top-performing management executive experienced in leading large-scale business operations, and recognized for his ability to develop strategic and tactical solutions that deliver transformational business improvements. As a collaborative leader with multinational and multifunctional business experience, he brings strong analytical problem solving skills that generate change and deliver results. In his current role, as Director of Operations for the Dubai Multi Commodities Center Authority (DMCC), Ahmad serves as an integral leader and strategic driver of growth and transformation, helping the DMCC in becoming one of the largest and fastest growing free trade zones in the UAE.

Ahmad began his career in 2003 as a Senior Business Analyst for HSBC Bank in Dubai, where he conducted in-depth analysis and developed innovative solutions in support of emerging corporate business initiatives. Shortly after joining HSBC, he became Regional HUB Manager for IT Operations, establishing new banking systems and controls to improve business and banking requirements, and within two years was selected as Regional Project Manager, where he successfully directed the planning in strategic improvement projects, helping HSBC to create a smarter banking system, while reducing costs and improving the customer experience. Following his tenure at HSBC, Ahmad joined the Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry as their Senior Executive of Excellence.



Regina Doumit

Regina Doumit is a Legal & Compliance Expert. She is a certified professional director and an experienced legal and compliance executive, Regina led and managed the legal and compliance strategy for RAK Insurance and was part of the senior management leadership team. She provided timely legal advice and guidance to the Board of Directors and management on compliance and governance related processes and procedures applicable to the organisation. With a Master's degree in Public Law and with experience as a legal adviser for a number of organisations, she is perfectly placed to offer general counsel across a wide range of disciplines.

In addition to her legal and compliance duties, she acted as Secretary to the Board of Directors and a number of Board committees. She was a member at a number of management committees, Investment Committee, Risk & Compliance Committee, and Claims Committee. Her strength lies in anticipating and mitigating probable legal disputes as well as in developing solutions to avert costly litigation and lower potential areas of risk. She is adept at drafting and negotiating contracts, arbitration and general legal advice. She played a crucial role in co-ordinating and advising external legal partners throughout any litigation process. During the past 6 years she gained a strong knowledge as a compliance specialist through dealing with the regulators in the U.A.E.



Alice Read

Alice Read has been Managing Director of Intertrust Dubai since 2012, having joined Intertrust's predecessor (Walkers Management Services) in 2010 as Vice President. Alice holds a degree in law and a Masters in Commercial Law; she is also a qualified Chartered Company Secretary. In addition to management responsibilities, Alice provides fiduciary services to regulated Cayman and BVI funds, and a number of UAE subsidiaries of multinational organisations.

She is a member of Mudara, the Institute of Directors for the Middle East region and a certified professional director.



Manal Al Jasmi

Manal Mohammad Al Jasmi, Head of Governance Assurance section, is working at General Directorate of Residency and Foreign Affairs- Dubai. In 2006, she graduated from Zayed University in the UAE by earning Bachelors of Science in Marketing. Also, she got certified courses such as computer literacy and linguistic fluency; these certificates involve a series of accreditation from Brighton (UK), Dubai (UAE) and Los Angeles (California). Moreover, she got a scholarship from Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research in UAE to continue her studies in the United States. In 2013, Miss. Aljasmi got her Master's in Public Administration, concentration in Governance from University of La Verne, CA with a high GPA. In March of 2014, Ms. Manal started working at GDRFA-Dubai to establish Governance Assurance within the Internal Audit and Risk Management Department, playing the role as the Chief Auditor.

Ms. Aljasmi took specialized courses in Governance such Auditing Governance in the UK. Beside that she got four IIA/CIPFA Awards on Governance and Risk Management from Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors in the United Kingdom. Also, she takes pride in saying" my first accomplishment involved helping the organization to establish a written Governance Guide for all employees and directors to review and implement that will help the organization works more effective in achieving its long-term goals that's will lead to sustainability". In April, 2015 Manal was awarded from His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum as a distinguished new employee in Dubai government Excellence program. Today, Manal is being recognized as the youngest local employee in Governance in the UAE, and who had established first Government guide in Governance.



Hanan Ahmad

Hanan Ahmad, a Company Secretary at du is an Emirati national with extensive professional experience across a number of sectors.

Hanan began her career at Dubai Group in 2006 as Assistant Manager and remained in the organization for the next four years. Having undertaken a role in the Marketing team, Hanan was promoted to Compliance Manager for the group responsible for ensuring the organization met with each regulatory and industry requirement.

In 2010, Hanan moved to du to take the role of Corporate Governance & Board Relations Manager, a role which included responsibility for reviewing all governance matters relating to the firm's activities, managing the Audit and Investment Committee of the Board and implementing a range of activities that have since established du as a market-leader in terms of best practice, accountability and transparency. Due to these achievements, in April 2012, Hanan was appointed du Company Secretary by the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Hanan's efforts in improving du's corporate governance enabled the Company to be placed the first in renowned the Standard & Poor (S&P)'s 2012 Hawkamah Pan Arab ESG Index. In 2014 and 2015 du has won for Best Corporate Governance in MENA, Telecoms Industry in the MENA region for Best Corporate Governance by Ethical Boardroom.

Hanan is on the Editorial Board of the Hawkamah Journal and is an Independent Director at Zayed University's Audit Committee in 2014. Hanan holds a BA in Business Administration from the UK



Graeme Sims

Graeme Sims is the Executive Director of Dubai's Electricity and Water Regulator, the RSB.

An economist by background, he has over twenty years' experience of the electricity and water industries gained in the UK and UAE, working in both the public and private sectors, operating at board level for most of that period and involved in a period of rapid change for utilities exposed to privatization, regulation and market liberalisation. Through his career he has developed a deep understanding of utility markets, outstanding analytical capability, strategic insight and well-honed communication skills.

Graeme was Deputy Director General at the UK's Office of Electricity Regulation where he was responsible for the electricity industry in Scotland. From there he moved to Abu Dhabi to establish the emirate's water and electricity regulatory body, acting as its first Director General, overseeing the start of Abu Dhabi's successful IWPP programme. On his return to the UK he joined United Utilities, a FTSE100 utility company, serving as its Regulation Director and sitting on the board of United Utilities' water business.

Graeme is a graduate of Oxford University and began his career with the Boston Consulting Group. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Roland Sfeir

Roland Sfeir has 20 years' experience as CFO/Managing Director in various industries such as Telecoms, Digital media, Real estate, and Construction. He has extensive knowledge of establishing startups, corporate turnarounds and restructuring in both emerging and structured markets.

He started his career in the USA, and his assignments took him to Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and the Middle East. He served on Boards of family owned businesses in various corporate settings, and is both certified by IOD Mudara and the IDP at INSEAD.

He holds a dual postgraduate degree from the Rotterdam School of Management (an MBA and a Masters of Business Information), as well as a Masters in Engineering Management and a Bachelor in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California.



Nabeel Waheed

Nabeel Waheed is Executive Vice President - Head of Treasury and Capital Markets Division at Mashreq Bank.

He joined the Bank in May 1996. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Syracuse University, New York. Prior to joining the Bank, he was employed by Bank of America for 15 years; he was vice president and manager of investment banking and treasury between 1991 and 1996 with Bank of America, Pakistan.

He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Sayed Jamil Ahmed

Sayed Jamil Ahmed is Director Enterprise Solutions at the Dubai International Financial Center Authority

Sayed has 20 years experience in various roles within IT across different market sectors in the UK and the Middle East. He has worked in sectors such as Investment Banking, IT Solutions, Consultancy, Entertainment, and Education. He has specialized in Information and Network Security and worked extensively with internal and external and presented plans and status updates to audit committees. Having implemented ISO 27001 certification he has strong IT governance skills and experience. In his roles as Information Security Director he has formulated and successfully executed Information Security Strategies. He has recently completed a course in Islamic Finance.

In his current role as Director of Enterprise Solutions at Dubai International Financial Center he is responsible to deliver solutions to increase productivity and efficiency and provide business intelligence to assist in future planning and strategy. He has participated in strategy workshops to formulate the future direction of the center and is working on smart city initiatives.

He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Farah Foustok

Farah Foustok is a Managing Director and Senior Executive Officer of Lazard Gulf Ltd. (Dubai). She began working in the investment field in 1994. Prior to joining Lazard in 2014, she was Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of ING Investment Management Middle East from 2008.

Previously, she was the Head of Asset Management at NBD Investment Bank. Farah was a senior fund manager at EFG-Hermes prior to NBD IB, responsible for managing GCC and MENA funds and portfolios. Farah spent five years at Deutsche Bank in London, in Equity Strategy. She has also worked at Morgan Stanley within Equity Sales, followed by three years in commercial real estate advisory in Europe.

Farah also has Private Equity exposure through a private venture in Argentina and an internet start-up in the UK. In 2010, Farah was selected to participate on an advisory panel for the Dubai Financial Services Authority. In 2012 Farah was elected as the chairperson of the board for the UAE Financial Services Association. In December 2013, Farah was one of four founding members of the first non-profit female mentoring program in the DIFC, Reach. April 2014 Farah completed her accreditation with Mudara, Institute of Directors, to become the 4th female certified board director in the Gulf region. Farah holds an MBA from Imperial College London and a BSc Hons in Mathematics from King's College, London.



Walid Gamali

Walid Gamali founded 3W in 2000 with the vision of bringing customized telecommunication solutions to the oil and gas market.

Walid is responsible for the overall management of the company's worldwide operations across all markets and countries. He plays a key role in defining and executing strategic initiatives focused on growth and differentiation of the organization. Under his leadership, 3W has diversified its solutions offerings to include newer technologies, sectors and regions while maintaining the "local support" philosophy which the company promises to its customers.

Prior to 3W, Walid held various roles in sales, marketing, product management and engineering with leading organisations such as Siemens, NEC, Belden and Olex Cables in both Australia and the Middle East.

Walid has an exceptional business and technological acumen that has played a fundamental part in 3W growth from a small project management company in Australia to the leading global systems integrator. He holds a Degree in Computer Systems Engineering from Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Murat Aydemir

Murat Aydemir is a Head of Middle East at E.ON Connecting Energies GmbH. He was working since 1994 in the Viessmann Group. He has established the Viessmann Turkey organisation. Since 2006 he is responsible for the Middle East Operations of Viessmann.

A capable, results orientated general manager / managing director with experience of leading high performance teams and of successfully increasing efficiency and productivity whilst reducing costs and inefficiencies. Ability and proven track record of establishing business in new markets, structuring an organization, and growing the business by evaluating opportunities/ risks and delivering innovative new solutions to challenges. Possessing excellent client facing and sales skills and highly successful in helping define company direction, achieving goals and optimizing business.

17 years of experience in HVAC and renewable energy, with exposure to international clients and projects. Successfully managed corporations with the headcount up to 120 and turnover of 80 million USD. Having a strong network in MEP and civil contracting industry in MENA region including Turkey. He graduated from Technical University of Istanbul. M. Sc. Mechanical Engineering. He is specialized in design of Solar Thermal, high efficient condensing boilers and steam boilers. He is a member of ASHRAE and Emirates Green Building Council. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Roberta Calarese

Roberta Calarese has been appointed in February 2015 as the Chief Legal Officer of Majid Al Futtaim Holding. In this role, she is responsible for setting up the long term plan and overall functioning of the Legal Affairs department.

Prior to joining Majid Al Futtaim Holding, Roberta was Chief Legal Officer and Executive Committee Member of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Authority and was instrumental in the development of the DIFC legal and regulatory framework. During her twelve year tenure in DIFC, Roberta held a number of other positions such as Secretary General of the Board of Directors of DIFC Authority and DIFC Investments and Chairwoman of the Legislative Committee, Data Protection Commissioner, and Director Policy and Legal Services of the Dubai Financial Services Authority.

Roberta's legal and compliance experience also includes time spent with Prudential Bache, ABN AMRO and Goldman Sachs, in both London and Dubai.

Roberta currently sits on the board of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in the UAE as Vice President and is also a board member of the UAE Tennis Federation. Roberta graduated with honors with an LLB from the University of Warwick, and received her LLM in International Legal Finance from University College London.

She is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Rami Bazzi

Rami Bazzi is a Chief Investment Officer at SEDCO Holding. He is a seasoned investment professional with proven success in private equity, business strategy, and shareholder value creation accrued at several international and regional reputable organizations. He has been appointed to the boards of several public and private companies in MENA and Southeast Asia.

Over the last decade, Rami mainly focused on private equity investments in the MENA region, where he managed investments in various sectors such as ICT, healthcare, petrochemicals, retail, financial services, real estate developments, F&B, and hospitality. His previously held executive roles include Chief Operating Officer at the Zubair Corporation in Sultanate of Oman, Head of Corporate Investments at Sedco Holding, KSA, Senior Executive Officer at Injazat Capital, UAE, and Chief Financial Officer at LITAT Group, Lebanon. He also worked as a senior consultant with Deloitte Consulting in Canada, focusing on the area of strategy and shareholder value creation, advising several Fortune 500 companies.

Prior to Deloitte, Rami worked with the Royal Bank Financial Group, Canada, in the areas of corporate credit risk, financial policy, and strategy. Rami earned a Master of Business in Administration and a Master of Science in Finance from Concordia University, Canada. He has also earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the Lebanese American University in Lebanon. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst and a Certified Professional Director by Mudara Institute of Directors.



Michel Ghosn

Michel Ghosn is an Associate Director at Sedco Holding. With offices in USA, UAE, London and Jeddah, Sedco is a leading private wealth management organization that manages a wide and diversified spectrum of investments around the world. Michel joined the Direct Investments Division of Sedco in 2011. Michel's responsibilities at Sedco involve structuring acquisitions, managing exits, managing a diversified portfolio of companies in pharmacy, IT systems integration, shopping center, real estate services and financial institution sectors as well as continuous involvement and initiatives in corporate governance, growth, management and operations' related matters. Michel holds directorship roles in portfolio companies: Board member in Bonnon Coffee (Jeddah), alternate board member in Green Packet (Malaysia), board observer in other companies.

Prior to joining Sedco, Michel worked for SaudiMed Investment Company (Beirut and Riyadh offices), with responsibility for deal sourcing, structuring, financial engineering and generation of opportunities in M&A advisory and private placement assignments.

Before joining SaudiMed, Michel was a financial advisor, managing clients' portfolios and performing asset allocation at Bemo Bank (Lebanon). Michel holds a Masters in Finance from the University of Sorbonne Paris I (France) and a BA in economics from Saint-Joseph University (Lebanon). He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Khaled Dannaoui

Khaled Dannaoui is a senior executive with verifiable year-after-year success achieving business growth objectives within start-up, turnaround, and rapid-change environments. Extensive experience with highly engineered systems, which require deep understanding of critical business drivers in multiple markets and industries; highly successful in building relationships with upper-level decision makers, seizing control of critical problem areas, and delivering on business commitments. Versatile, innovative, professional able to see the “big picture” while staying on top of all the details. As a senior corporate executive with substantial experience in strategy, execution, turnaround, corporate governance with added experience in M&A transactions from management perspective.

Currently holding, Boards Director, Executive Committee, Audit Committee role in a variety of industry including retail, education, construction, real estate and investment. Strategic thinker, who can plan and implement business initiatives to support overall corporate objectives. Particularly strong relationship management, team building, and general business acumen. Ambitious, aggressive and intensely focused on bottom-line results, adding value to the business and earning prominent role in mainstream corporate strategy. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Amjid Javiad Sheikh

Amjid Javiad Sheikh is working with Dubai HealthCare City (DHCC) as Group Director Audit, Risk and Compliance and is responsible for performing within the Domains of Audit, Risk and Compliance.

In addition provide the same role for other entities ind. Al Jalila Foundation. Dubai HealthCare City Authority, Dubai School of Dental Medicine.

He worked with the Engineers Office (Dubai) as Director GRC - Governance, Risk & Compliance (Head of department) and enhanced the Governance Framework and design of a Compliance Mandate for the office and handled the scope of work, involved in conducting operational pre audits, compliance investigations, Compliance testing, reviews & assessments for all entities / projects within the group.

He is the Member of the Board of Directors for Dubai HealthCare City, DHCC FZ LLC appointed by HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein. He is the Chairman of Audit Risk & Compliance Committee and also the Governance & Regulatory Compliance Advisor for Board of Al Jalila Foundation appointed by HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Mohammed Nawaf Babgi

Mohammed Nawaf Babgi is a Deputy MD Strategy & Execution – Bahamdan Group, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and plays a key role in the organization.

He initiates and assists in the strategy formulation and execution for the Group at the holding level and its major strategic assets, oversight of post acquisition activities and day-to-day operations and advancing Group strategy through various committee and board assignments across the Group's portfolio companies.

He is a well rounded and versatile senior corporate executive with experience in strategy formulation and execution, corporate governance, change management and policy analysis and implementation and a solid understanding of the related processes and trending issues within; gained through significant exposure to a variety of industries, including retail, education, construction, real estate and financial services and in various board and management level capacities. He worked with Sara Holding, Riyadh, Bechtel National Inc., Virginia, USA



A.Hakim Alshafei

A.Hakim AbdulRahman Alshafei is currently the Advisor to the Managing Director and General Manager with Aseer Company. Aseer is a Saudi investment holding company listed in the Saudi capital market managing an investment portfolio of more than 3.5 billion Saudi riyals. His involvement in this capacity covers all aspects of business matters related to Strategy, Finance, Mergers and Acquisitions, Corporate Governance and Compliance issues, Board of Directors matters.

A.Hakim started his career as an entrepreneur and has over 30 years of experience in private sector which made him enjoys multi skills advantage supported by his long experience in different business fields and industries.

A.Hakim is Bahraini national holds a bachelor degree in statistics, Diploma in corporate governance, certificates in sales management practice and Marketing management practice, in addition to special and various training programs among of which strategic planning ,leadership, finance, marketing, and crisis management.



Majid Jafar

Majid Jafar is the CEO of Crescent Petroleum, the Middle East's oldest private oil & gas company, and Vice-Chairman of the Crescent Group of companies which includes interests in port management, logistics, contracting, private equity and real estate.

He is also Managing Director of the Board of Dana Gas (PJSC), the leading publicly-listed natural gas company in the Middle East, in which Crescent is the largest shareholder. His previous experience was with Shell International's Exploration & Production and Gas & Power Divisions.

In addition to his professional commitments, Majid Jafar currently serves as Chairman of the Middle East-North Africa Business Council and Chairman of the Oil & Gas Independents Community at the World Economic Forum, Co-Chairman of the Business Backs Education campaign launched with the GEMS Foundation, and Vice-Chairman of the Global Energy Initiative (GEI). He is also a Board Member of: the Carnegie Middle East Advisory Council, the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) Industry Advisory Council, and the Iraq Energy Institute, as well as an active member of: the GCC Board Directors Institute, the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House), the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the Young Presidents Organization (YPO), the Young Arab Leaders organization (YAL), and a certified Director of the Institute of Directors (IoD Mudara).



Mahmoud El Burai

Mahmoud Hesham El Burai is currently serving as Managing Director of the Dubai Real Estate Institute. In addition to his government position in Dubai, Mahmoud has been the Vice President of the International Real Estate Federation, FIABCI UK, since January 2011 and sits on the Board of the Association of Real Estate License Law Officials (ARELLO), the International Real Estate Society (IRES) and the Middle East North Africa Real Estate Society (MENARES). Mahmoud has served as the FIABCI representative to the United Nations Economic Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA) since January 2012. Recently, Mahmoud was selected to be the only member from the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region on the United Nations Global Compact/RICS steering committee mandated to apply Global Compact Principles to the real estate industry.

Prior to his Managing Director role with the Dubai Real Estate Institute, Mahmoud worked for three years as the Senior Director of Real Estate Sector Development at the Real Estate Regulatory Authority of Dubai and also worked as a Development Associate Manager at Dubai Holding. Mahmoud completed his Bachelor's degree in engineering at the American University before continuing on to earn his Master's degree in Real Estate from the National University of Singapore. Mahmoud completed his MBA in Finance from his alma mater, the American University of Dubai, in 2010. In January 2014, Mahmoud was selected to join the Sheikh Mohamad Bin Rashid Leadership Program, which is designed to train top government decision makers.

He is a certified professional director of Mudara IOD.



Mario A. Camara

Mario A. Camara is an CEO at Evimer Ltd. Financial & Business Advisory Services. Prior, he was the CEO at Swissquote Middle East & Asia (Dubai Office) Middle East, subsidiary of Swissquote Bank Ltd with a strong legal background and proven experience in financial compliance enforcement.

He has managed financial entities in developing markets with field experience in Latin America, the Middle East, India and East Asia. He specialises in Management, International Finance Law, Financial Compliance, Energy Law, Corporate Law.

He has background includes London Business School MBA and advanced degrees in corporate, financial and environmental law. He is a member and accredited director of Mudara IOD



Rita Khaled

Rita Khaled is an International Lawyer fluent in English, French and Arabic. Educated in law in both France and Lebanon, she is the Client Relationship Partner for one of the leading most experienced law firms and legal consultancies in the UAE at Baker & McKenzie Habib Al Mulla.

Her primary responsibility is to ensure consistent quality in the delivery of legal services to our clients. She manages the firm's Client Relationship Strategy, acts as the principle point of contact for clients and works closely with multiple business areas within the firm to drive a strategy that supports our transition from a traditional law firm into a highly client focused organisation.

She oversees and manages complex client relationships with large multinational corporations, family conglomerates, governmental authorities, banks and high networth individuals. She is known for being highly perceptive and has a deep understanding of cultural sensitivities at both a local and international level. She is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Mazen H. Boustany

Mazen H. Boustany is a Partner at Baker & McKenzie Habib Al Mulla. He has over 18 years' experience in banking and finance law in the Middle East and has practised in the UAE for more than seven years.

Mazen advises on all aspects of banking and finance law including Islamic finance, structured finance, securitisation, private equity, financial structuring and restructuring, cross-border transactions and investment funds. He is also experienced in domestic and international arbitration and is a qualified banker. Having spent many years as a senior in-house lawyer, Mazen's advice is commercial and practical in nature. He frequently conducts training for corporate in-house teams on banking and finance law and regulation in the UAE. He is a certified Professional Director from the Mudara-Institute of Directors and is a member of the UK Securities Industry Management Association (SIMA). He has also been awarded the CISI Level 3 Certificate in Investments – Securities, endorsed by the UK FSA and the Financial Services Skills Council (FSSC), and is a certified Basel III professional (2011) and DIAC qualified arbitrator as well as a registered practitioner before the DIFC courts. In 2012 Mazen was appointed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as a short term consultant to advise on UAE legislative matters in relation to security laws. Mazen holds an Masters in Private Law from Paris II University (France) and LLB in Lebanese Law, Saint Joseph University in Lebanon. He is admitted to the Beirut Bar Association. He is fluent Arabic, English and French.



Roula C Zahar

Roula C Zahar is a Head of Legal and Board Affairs, Dubai Real Estate Corporation (DREC), Wasl Asset Management Group, Dubai an entity entrusted with owning and developing real estate assets owned by the Government of Dubai and the key business areas that wasl is focused on are property management, project management, hospitality, investment, leisure and entertainment.

She acts as managing director for a major real estate company managed by wasl. She also acts as Company Secretary for the Company and schedules all Board and Audit Committee meetings, preparing the agenda, attend and draft the minutes of meeting and follow up implementation of action plans. She has worked on several acquisitions including a 1.3 billion hotel development in Dubai. Negotiated and finalized the renewal of hotel management agreements with one major hotel operator in relation to four hotels owned by the Company in Dubai.

She is the member of the Executive Committee and Procurement and Tendering Committee of the Company. She is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Maryam Al Suwaidi

Maryam AlSuwaidi is a Senior Director of Human Resources and Administration department at Mohammed Bin Rashid Housing Establishment (MRHE), a government organization that aims to provide Dubai nationals with housing solutions including loans and grants.

She is responsible for all human resources function for the three sectors in the organization, her areas of responsibility include manpower planning, recruitment and selection, compensation and benefits, payroll, employee relations, performance management and training and development. As well as having oversight of human resources strategy and policies. In addition to her professional commitments, Maryam cooperate in the assessment of Emirates Human Recourses award in UAE Federal Government. She is also an active member of Dubai Government Human Recourses (DGHR) committee. For her great performance, Maryam was honored by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum as Best employee in Dubai Government as part of Dubai Government Excellence program.

She has over 18 years of experience in government organization in Dubai includes experience in Human resources as well as finance. In addition, she participated in internal organization projects regarding quality, and process improvement. Prior to her director position at MRHE, Maryam worked for years in managerial positions at Dubai Media Incorporated (DMI) and Ministry of Education. She holds a Master's degree in business administration (MBA) from the American University of Sharjah (AUS). She also holds a Professional Diploma of Human Recourses from Australian Human Resources institute (AHRI), as well as being certified as (EFQM) Assessor. She is known for being highly perceptive and has a deep understanding of organization culture and employee happiness.



Rushdi Sammakieh

Rushdi Sammakieh is Vice President at Genero Capital.

He has 7 years of experience in Corporate Finance, Private Equity, and Corporate Governance and has led the execution of M&A deals and managed the closing of multiple transactions/investments. Prior to joining Genero, he spent 5 years with Injazat Capital, where he covered several industries in the SME space, conducting financial and business analysis, valuations, post acquisition work, and fund raising.

Rushi holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from Lebanese American University and an MSc in Finance and Economics from the University of Southampton in England. He is also a certified Professional Director and a CFA Level 2 Candidate and has acquired the SCA & CISI Financial Analyst Qualification License. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Jan Bladen

Jan was appointed as an executive adviser and programme leader for the Abu Dhabi Global Market.

Prior taking the role, he was the COO of the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) since 2005 and has spent 7 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Geneva and Dubai as a Member of the Global Risk Management Practice. Jan has also held managerial positions in other European countries and spent 3 years as a management consultant with McKinsey Partners. From 1998 to 2003 Jan was President of Executives International, a Swiss-based business networking association of 300 members. In 2000, Jan was elected to the Committee of the British Swiss Chamber of Commerce and remains both a Councillor and Committee Member.

He has extensive international experience including corporate leadership and strategy, operational management, budgeting, risk management and corporate governance. Practiced in building high performing teams, his divisional reports have included business planning and corporate strategy, human resources, information technology, corporate communications, finance, corporate administration, risk management and both internal and external audit. An effective multicultural executive, he has the innate passion, drive and determination to implement positive change to large, complex organizations. He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Rola Hamdan

Rola is a Co-founder of Gulf Merchant Group of Companies, a Board Member and Managing Director at Gulf Merchant Bank Limited in Dubai and a Partner at Gulf Merchant Group LLP in London.

Prior to joining the Group, she was Vice-President, Business Development of Zawya-Thomson Reuters in Dubai, UAE where she was in charge of the sales and operations in the MENA region. Ms. Hamdan held various positions in the field of investment banking at various financial institutions in the Gulf region. She was in charge of sales and client services at Shurooq Investment Services Co in Oman mainly dealing with corporations, Family Offices & UHNWIs.

Ms. Hamdan has studied at the Money & Banking Master's program at the American University of Beirut and holds a B.A. from the same university. Ms. Hamdan is an "International Directors Program" trained at INSEAD, Fontainebleau and an Certified Director of Mudara-Institute of Directors ("IOD").

Also, she is a founding member of the Bankers Business Group (UAE).



Suresh
Vaidhyathan

Suresh is the Group CFO at the Global Headquarters of Platinum Group of Companies, a Dubai based conglomerate with diverse businesses including Commodities, Food, Automobiles, Industries, Agri-business and Services. Platinum has a presence in 18 countries with a revenues exceeding USD 1.60 billion annually.

A qualified Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant, Suresh has extensive experience of 23 years in Middle East, India & Africa at the CFO and Board levels with pre-eminent organizations and contributing to their growth.

Suresh is a certified Board Director, accredited by Mudara-Institute of Directors (DIFC) and is a Graduate Member. In 2012, he was accredited Board Leadership Fellow with National Association of Corporate Directors, USA and has completed Corporate Governance Programs at the Harvard Business School.



Bruno Bertucci

Bruno has a strong managerial & legal background and 30 years of experience in Insurance and Reinsurance, covering West and Eastern Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East. He holds a Law Degree with Honours and a Master of Specialisation in Labour Law and Business Organization. Worked on a resident basis in Italy, UK and UAE.

He is the co-owner and Managing Partner of B&F Partners Limited, a Cat 4 DFSA Regulated Entity authorised to carry out Corporate Finance, Investment and Insurance Services. He serves as a Non-Executive Director at UIB (DIFC) Ltd. from 20.1.2012 to date. He worked for Assicurazioni Generali Sp.A. and was the GM & SEO of the Middle East Regional Office (DIFC), the COO MENA Region and the UAE General Representative for Assicurazioni Generali (2007–2011).

Bruno received the MUDARA IOD Professional Director Certification in January 2012. He was a member of the Emirates Insurance Association High Technical Committee (2010-2011) and the Chairman of the EIA Life & Medical Technical Sub-Committee (2010-2012). Chaired the Legal & Claims SG of (2005-2006) of the IUAI - International Union of Aviation Insurers, and a member of the Legal & Claims SG from 1995 to 2007. Member of the Air Law Committee and Commission on Transports of the ICC, in Paris (1992-2007).

Bruno is an International Associate of the American Bar Association since 1993.



Colin MacDonald

Colin is an Advisor to CEO at Commercial Bank of Qatar. He is a banking executive with over 25 years of experience in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He last served as the Group Chief Executive Officer of SHUAA Capital psc from April 12, 2012 to December 31, 2013 and also has served as Group Managing Director and Regional Head of ABN AMRO Middle East where he was responsible for all business units in the region, including Private, Corporate and Investment Banking and Retail. At ABN AMRO, he was responsible for all business units in the Middle East, including Private, Corporate and Investment Banking. During his 16 year tenure at ABN AMRO, he held various senior positions, including Global Head of Financial Markets Advisory as well as Chief Operating Officer of Global Clients (Global Corporate Finance). He joined ABN AMRO from Lawson Mardon Group where he served as European Treasury Manager.

Colin started his banking career at National Westminster Bank plc where he was instrumental in the business review, strategy and the integration of corporate banking, capital markets, equities and treasury during the formation of Natwest Markets. He has been a Director at Gulf Finance Corporation PJSC since February 2013, Shuaa Capital Saudi Arabia since April 7, 2013 and Arab Gateway Fund Limited since November 25, 2012. Mr. Macdonald is an Honours Graduate in Business Finance, a London Business School Alumnus (Corporate Finance programme) and became a Certified Professional Director through the Institute of Directors.



**Chandra Sekaran
T.S.**

Chandra is a Director at the Magna ConServ Ltd, U.K.

Prior, he worked as Director of Training and Consultancy with Finsight Media Pvt. Ltd., India and was the publisher of its flagship monthly Journal "Compliance, Risk and Opportunity". He is also a founder partner of "Finsight Intelligence", which is in the business of providing custom publishing services, market research reports, rendering consultancy services, organizing training programmes, seminars, exhibitions, conferences and business events.

He has over 36 years of industry experience in Banking, across a wide spectrum of functions such as Audit, Operational/ IT Risk Assessment, Compliance/ AML/ KYC, Project Management, Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning.

He has also managed a variety of banking application projects in varying capacities across different locations in Europe, Middle East and Africa. His last banking assignment was at Bank Sohar S.A.O.G, Muscat, Oman as its Head of Compliance.

He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



Robert Baker

Robert has over 20 years of experience in finance, accounting and M&A across numerous asset classes, industries, geographies and cultures. He has worked in senior finance leadership roles in Australia, USA, UAE and UK for KPMG, LVMH Moët Hennessey Louis Vuitton and Al-Futtaim.

Currently he provides management consulting and advisory services to a number of CIS, Middle East and Asian clients who operate across a wide range of industries including agriculture, hospitality, manufacturing, real estate and financial services. He also has considerable family office experience in managing the financial affairs of ultra-high net wealth individuals.

He is a certified director of Mudara IOD.



**Caroline Fattal
Fakhoury**

Caroline has joined her family's business, Khalil Fattal & Fils, first as Assistant General Manager of the Food & Beverage division, later as Chief Operating Officer of the entire group, and serves today as Senior Vice-President Corporate Functions and Board Member. Her executive responsibilities cover Human Resources, Audit, Finance, IT and Supply Chain across multiple geographies.

Throughout her career in the fast moving consumer goods industry, Caroline has held management roles in Europe, Latin America & the Middle East—learning best practices from Unilever, Kraft, Johnson & Johnson and Gillette.

Caroline combines 14 years corporate business experience with the skills of a certified professional business coach. Her experience as a Board Member of both Unilever & the family business make her aware of challenges facing shareholders, board chairs, board members and non-execs. Based on her own experience and her work with many businesses, Caroline can appreciate the complex and powerful relationship dynamics of a top management team at Executive and Boardroom level. She is a sought-after speaker and workshop facilitator on the topic of family business, and women's leadership at the board level — how to get there and how best to contribute. She is fluent in English and French and has a working knowledge of Arabic and Spanish as well.

She is a certified director of Mudara IOD.

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