

White Page International

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We extend our deepest appreciation to **His Highness Sheikh Yousef Al Abdullah Al-Sabah, a distinguished member of Kuwait's Ruling Royal Family,** for gracing the **11th White Page Leadership Conclave in Dubai** with his esteemed presence.

His Highness Sheikh Yousef's attendance, along with his captivating speech, added a regal touch to our event and enriched it with his profound wisdom, visionary insights, and exemplary leadership. His commitment to excellence and dedication to transformative leadership serve as an enduring source of inspiration for us all. Your Highness's presence and your words have left an indelible mark on our Conclave, reminding us of the power of leadership and the impact it can have on the world.

We extend our warmest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Yousef Al Abdullah Al-Sabah for being honored with the prestigious Iconic & Global Inspirational Leader 2023 Award at the 11th White Page Leadership Conclave in Dubai. This esteemed recognition underscores His Highness's exceptional leadership, visionary excellence, and profound impact on the global landscape.

Once again, thank you, His Highness Sheikh Yousef Al Abdullah Al-Sabah, for making our event even more exceptional with your royal presence, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to welcome you back in the future.

We would like to extend our special thanks and heartfelt appreciation to the following distinguished guests for gracing the 11th White Page Leadership Conclave in Dubai with their esteemed presence:
His Excellency Balvinder Sahni (Abu Sabah), whose presence added significant value to our event, and whose insights and contributions enriched our discussions.



His Excellency Brigadier General Moayad Al Kandari, who honored us with his presence all the way from Kuwait, bringing with him a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience that greatly enriched our Conclave.

His Excellency Anwar Al Balushi, whose participation added a valuable perspective to our discussions, reflecting his commitment to excellence and visionary thinking.

His Excellency Marwan Thiabat, whose presence and engagement were instrumental in making our event a resounding success, and whose dedication to leadership and innovation continues to inspire us all.

We are deeply grateful to these esteemed individuals for their contributions to our Conclave and for sharing their invaluable insights and wisdom with our audience. Their presence elevated our event to new heights, and we look forward to the possibility of welcoming them back in the future.

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White Page International was honored and delighted to host **His Highness Sheikh Mohamad Al Sabah** from the **Royal Family of Kuwait** & the owner of multiple companies at the **White Page Leadership Conclave 2023 in Dubai.**



His Highness Sheikh Mohamad Al Sabah's distinguished presence at this prestigious event adds a touch of regal excellence to our gathering. As a member of the esteemed Royal Family of Kuwait.





His Highness Sheikh Mohamad Al Sabah's participation underscores the Conclave's mission of bringing together leaders and visionaries from around the world to collaborate.

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White Page International extends our heartfelt gratitude to **Mr. Hanif S. (Hanif Shaikh), Chairman of Emirates Holding Group,** for gracing the **11th White Page Leadership Conclave in Dubai** as our esteemed special guest.







Mr. Shaikh's presence at the event was truly a highlight, and his wisdom and insights left an indelible mark on our gathering of esteemed leaders. We are immensely thankful for his valuable contributions, which enriched our conclave and inspired all who attended.

We look forward to the possibility of welcoming Mr. Hanif Shaikh once again in the future, as his enduring impact on our organization and the broader business community remains a beacon of excellence and leadership.

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Against the backdrop of Dubai's stunning skyline, the **11th White Page Leadership Conclave** brought together diplomats and leaders from across the world to engage in constructive dialogues and exchange ideas.









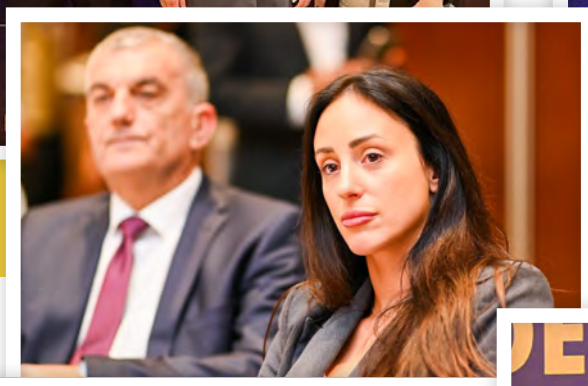


We hosted ambassadors from various countries to the United Arab Emirates at the 11th White Page Leadership Conclave. Among the **7 distinguished diplomats** who graced the 11th White Page Leadership Conclave in Dubai were **His Excellency Mladen Bojanic - Ambassador of Montenegro to UAE, Her Excellency Isidora Dabovic - Second Minister of Montenegro to UAE, His Excellency Luis Miguel Merlano Hoyos - Ambassador of Colombia to UAE, His Excellency Udaya Indrarathna Ambassador of Sri Lanka to UAE and few other esteemed ambassadors from Central Asian Countries.**

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White Page International is dedicated to fostering global leadership and recently hosted ambassadors from various countries to the United Arab Emirates at the 11th White Page Leadership Conclave in the vibrant city of Dubai.















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We are thrilled to share the incredible experience of hosting **His Excellency Yaqoob Al Ali** from **Dubai Royal Family,** Executive Director & Private Advisor- Office of His Highness Sheikh Juma Bin Maktoum Al Maktoum & Chairman of Al Ali Group of Companies at the White Page Leadership Conclave 2023 in the heart of Dubai. This conclave was a true testament to the power of collaboration and knowledge exchange.









His Excellency Yaqoob Al Ali's presence added immense value to our gathering, and his insights were truly enlightening. We believe that by working together and harnessing our collective expertise, we can shape a brighter and more sustainable future.

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A few glimpses from the **Global Business Conclave 2022** held on **28th October in London at House of Lords, UK Parliament.** The conclave was attended by many Honourable Lords & Members of Parliament from UK including **Lord Swaraj Paul (House of Lords), Lord Meghnad Desai (House of Lords), Baroness Paula Odin (House of Lords), Mr. Virendra Sharma (Member of Parliament UK)** and other dignitaries from the UK Parliament The event was attended by delegates from various countries across the globe.



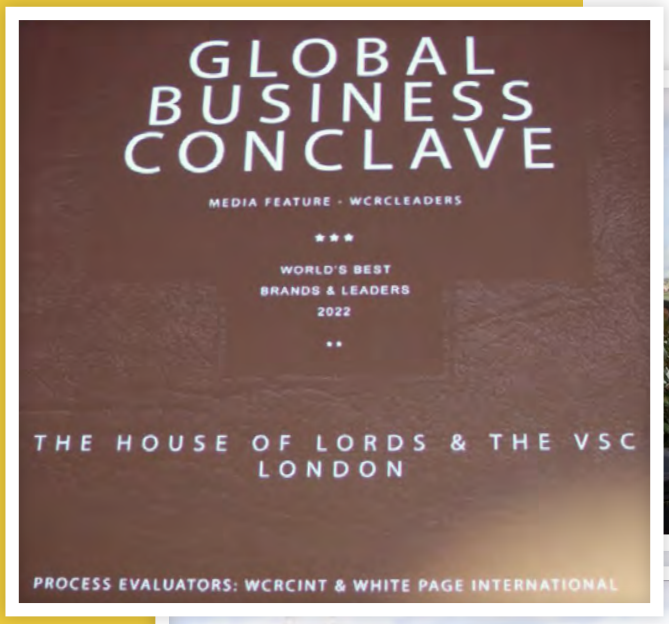


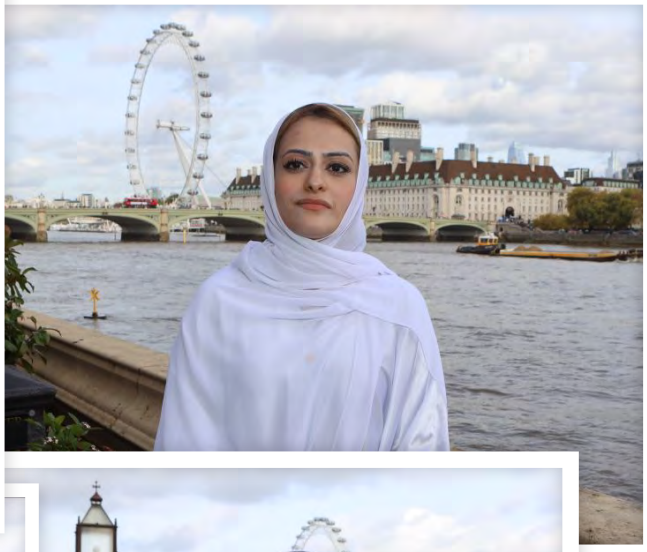






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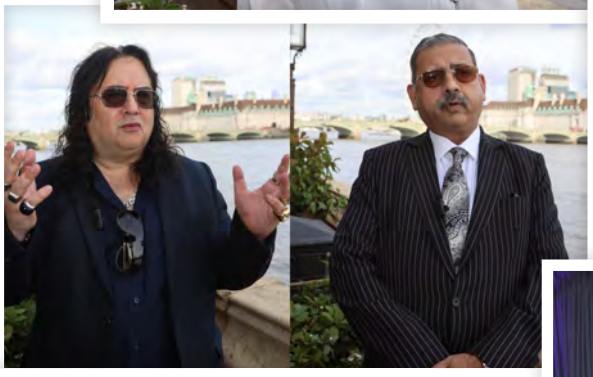


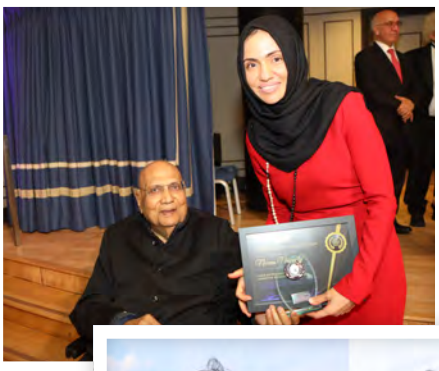
















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White Page International was delighted to host **Honourable Smt Maneka Gandhi Ji** (Current Member of Parliament, Smt Maneka Ji has been the Minister of Women & Child Development, Minister for Programme Implementation and Statistics, Minister for Culture, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Minister for Environment & Forests in the Govt of India and is an eight-term Member of Parliament),

H.E. Mr Reuben Gauci (Honourable High Commissioner of Republic of Malta to India, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Maldives & ambassador to Nepal, **Ms Atishi Marlena Singh Ji** (Minister of Education, Women & Child Welfare, Culture, Tourism and Public Works, Delhi Government) and other diplomats at the **10th White Page Leadership Conclave 2022.** The conclave was attended by over 220 business leaders from across Asia.







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White Page Leadership Conclave 2024



The event welcomed a record-breaking attendance of over **375+ delegates** from **42 countries**, representing a wide array of industries and backgrounds.

Adding to the grandeur, we were honored by the presence of distinguished VIPs, including esteemed members of royal families, government officials, ambassadors, and globally recognized thought leaders, all of whom enhanced the prestige of this already remarkable event.

Key attendees included:



His Highness Sheikh Yousef A. S. N. Al-Sabah, a distinguished member of the Royal Family of Kuwait.

H.E. Dr. Abdullah Belhaif Al Nuaimi, a renowned Emirati politician, held the position of Minister of Infrastructure Development and subsequently, Minister of Climate Change and Environment in the UAE govt.













H.E. Waleed Nasser Al-Ghonaim currently serves as the Deputy Minister for Strategy & Performance Development, Saudi Arabia.

His Excellency Yaqoob Al Ali, a prominent figure from the Dubai Royal Family, is the Executive Director and Private Advisor to **His Highness Sheikh Juma Bin Maktoum Al Maktoum**, as well as the Chairman of the Al Ali Group of Companies.





Yassin Al Suroor, Ex, Vice Chair of International Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of International Chamber of Commerce, Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Hamad Khalifa Al Nuaimi, Lt. Colonel and Head of Telecommunication Infrastructure Department, ICT Center, Abu Dhabi Police GHQ.

Mounes Al Khateeb, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Target Plus.

Lady Maria, Royal Offices Advisory, Investor & Government Relations, and Board Member at Sharjah R&D.

Omar Al Marzooqi, Major in Dubai Police and Owner of Omar Al Marzooqi Companies.

Nawal Alhanaee, Director of Future Energy department at Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure - UAE



The event was further honored by the presence of 10 distinguished ambassadors, including **H.E. Luis Miguel Merlano Hoyos**, Ambassador of Colombia to the UAE; **H.E. Norberto Carlos Escalona Carrillo**, Ambassador of Cuba to the UAE; **H.E. Mohamed Hussain Shareef**, Ambassador of Maldives to the UAE; **H.E. AbdilKadri Memedi**, Ambassador of North Macedonia to the UAE; **H.E. Abdilatif Jumabaev**, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the UAE; **H.E. Julio Belarmino Gomes Maiato**, Ambassador of Angola to the UAE; **H.E. Avondale Paul**, Ambassador of Dominica to the UAE; **H.E. Udaya Indrarathna**, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the UAE and more...

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What a spectacular evening at The UK House of Lords, UK Parliament where history and ingenuity collided at the Global Business Conclave 2024!

Hosted by White Page International, celebrating the triumphant success of London's vibrant gathering. Leaders from 14 countries brought their A-game, representing diverse industries and backgrounds, making it a melting pot of inspiration!

And let's talk VIPs – we had the honor of hosting distinguished figures like Lord Michael Abraham Levy, Lord Swraj Paul, and Virendra Sharma MP UK, among others!

















The presence of esteemed ambassadors such as H.E. Mr. Ilir Kapiti from Kosovo, H.E. Mr. Rafael Ortiz Fabrega from Costa Rica, H.E. Karen Mae Hill from, H.E. Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda from Angola, H.E. Ivan Romero-Martinez from Honduras, H.E. Sofia Katsarava from Georgia , and Vesta Ratkevičiūtė from Lithuania added an extra layer of prestige and global flair to the event!

It was a true privilege to witness such an illustrious gathering, with representatives from various corners of the globe, including Vivian Kabouroglou, Minister of Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Embassy of Greece to the UK, and Iszam Khail Ishak, 2nd Minister at the High Commission of Malaysia to the UK!

Here's to the power of collaboration and global connectivity!

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MEDIA COVERAGE

Bloomberg

Forbes

FORTUNE

THE WEEK

TELECOM Review GROUP
telecomreviewgroup.com

yahoo!

PTI
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
India's Premier News Agency

THE TIMES OF INDIA

ThePrint

GULF NEWS

INDIA TODAY

Business Today

AP Associated Press

El Watan
LE QUOTIDIEN INDÉPENDANT

Kalkine MEDIA

News

ANI NEWS

ZEE5

CNN

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POWER LIST 2024



Honouring Revered Brands, Inspirational Leaders, Remarkable Women Leaders and Oustanding CXOs across Asia & EMEA

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Chief Executive Officer
Annie TF

Chief Business Officer and COO - Conferences
Sarmad Zargar

COO - Digital
Danish Malik

Head - Brand Marketing
Asif Var

Director - Research
M.Y. Makky

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White Page International

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White Page International is a global consulting firm with a diverse portfolio that includes Brand Marketing, Research, Advisory & Consulting, Large Scale Generic & Customized Conferences, Publishing, Digital and Television Content. The goal is to create a substantial and lasting improvement in the performance of our clients and strengthening their brand value. We know that in an age of unprecedented abundance of choice and speed of innovation, customers' expectations are moving faster than businesses. While incremental change is still essential, it's no longer sufficient. It takes bold moves to leap ahead of customers and competitors. WPI aims to be the world's leading consulting firm, this is what drives our focus and efforts to be the ideal partner for our clients.

WPI aims to be the world's leading consulting firm, this is what drives its focus and efforts to be the ideal partner for its clients.

WPI team is an exuberant group of individuals from different backgrounds and nationalities sharing the common passion of creating an impact by the work they do.

The work is driven by 3 simple principles

- If you can visualize the future you can create it
- It matters the most to you when you help make a brand
- To create an experience you need to truly understand the people who share it

WPI was born out of the need to create a platform for brands to communicate with their audiences in a manner that is easily understood.

What drives their business is the zeal to make clients successful by making the most informed decisions possible. The research conducted by White Page, is supported by R&D on the latest industry trends and leading analytical techniques. The expertise lies in performing complex studies analyzing data and interpreting results leading to most informed decisions through tools like Brand & Consumer Research-Industry Research- Trade Researches Case Studies & White Papers.

- Brand and Consumer Research:

  Provide strategic insight into market entry strategy development, customer behavior studies, new product development, brand health studies, competitor research, and sales growth strategy.

- Industry Research:

  Strategic insight and analysis on more than 50 different industries

- Trade Research
- Case Studies & White Papers

In today's market where brands are getting tangled in ineffective and big budget communication and eventually get plunged into the abyss of anonymity, White Page International provides solutions that are based on market reality.

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Professor Malcolm McDonald
Chief Patron

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Service brands—Moving beyond the fast moving consumer goods model

The world of branding has evolved, and change is always constant. But the fact of the matter remains, 'Communication is more about content than just ads'. The demands of the communication industry is transforming. Enabled with cutting-edge technology and the co-creation of content, communication is indeed becoming an engaging conversation. It's more content than just advertising today.

In my experience spanning over 30 years across advertising, digital media & television broadcasting, I have seen it is the passion for the consumers, which drives a brand. It boils down to placing consumers' interests as the focal point. This effective orchestration, coupled with innovation is what sets a benchmark of the illustrious distinction of an Admired Brand.

An admired brand status value-adds prominence and sets it apart from its competitors. This exposition that you are about to read is a celebration of the finest brands from the burgeoning Asian regions - South East Asia, GCC Nations and the Indian Subcontinent. The edition constitutes the top 100 Admired Brands across all industry categories
and features a few prominent leaders who have the distinction of leading these brands through a notable and impressive journey. These are brands that have strived to deliver exceptional reliability and extraordinary followership.

This platform is an international stage on branding to recognize and pay tribute to brands and leaders, by rewarding and reinforcing their remarkable journeys.

We have come across numerous university papers, research
documents and business reports on the fact that the Asian economy was dominated by giant conglomerates with a global presence from the likes of Japan, China, South Korea and Taiwan. This very dominance often overshadowed eminent players setting benchmarks from the rest of the region. Today, these brands have broken through global barriers and challenged the market dynamics of Asian economics.
Economics. Who would have thought this four-syllable word would someday dictate the fate of earth. Progress. Growth. Development. All follow The Mighty Economics.
A lot has happened in the last 50 years. The all-powerful West has shown signs of fatigue and there are visible chinks in its armour. Though they are home to some of the biggest brands in the world, their weaknesses have been exposed. The recent economic slowdown validates that argument. This bring us to the East.

The earth's access is tilting. Eastwards. Asia in particular. China has become a behemoth, with India steadily pacing itself, taking the second position. Every second day, a headline reads about how economic dynamics of the world have changed, and inadvertently, there is mention of these two growing economics.

Made in China has become a buzzword, even a bone of contention for a lot of purists. From Louis Vuitton to Apple, all products are made inside the dragon's furnace. Such is the power drift of the new-age market. India is not far behind. With the new government doling out investor friendly policies, further fortified by Make in India Campaign, this trend is only going to get stronger with each passing year.

But there are challenges to this phenomenal growth stories. The risk of rising inflation being number one. Another major threat following Asia's growing economic power could be translated to greater political and military struggle, thus raising the potential of conflict. And a
21-century conflict would mean damages, enough to send us back to the stone-age.

Having said that, there is no denying that it is rise of the new world order, with Asia at the helm. This rise is just beginning, and if the big regional powers remain stable, while improving their policies, rapid growth could continue for decades.

THE EXPRESSION OF A BRAND

The expression is the brand as defined and articulated by the organization. This integrates brand strategy and brand identity to express a multi-sensory brand experience through a portfolio of "Brand Signals". These signals manage consumer expectations by carrying and conveying meaning, making it easier for people both inside and outside the organization to understand the brand's core purpose.



Brand is the experience that lives at the point where promise meets expectation.

Therefore, the practice of Brand Expression must be multidisciplinary, as it fuses brand strategy (how the brand is defined) and brand identity (how the brand is articulated). This ensures that the brand remains consistent and relevant as it responds to changes in the market, as the brand both defines and is defined by consumer experience. As a fully integrated process, the Expression of a Brand empowers companies to maintain brand differentiation, relevancy and authenticity while balancing promise and expectation. Unlike advertising, graphic design or web design, the expression is a systems based approach which creates the building blocks of a brand. Working from the same palette of Brand Signals ensures that consistency of aesthetic and purpose are achieved by multiple partners across a multitude of channels.

People learn what to expect from the brand, and the company learns what its brand must deliver to consumers. This resultis in a richer and more compelling brand experience that consumers trust, value, and count on.

As your brand is a collection of expectations that others have about you, expression is the art and science of managing those expectations.

Brand Signals

Brand Signals are memory markers that function as mental shortcuts. Any tangible cue (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell or action) that directly equates to a brand is a Brand Signal. Through associative learning, these multi-sensory signals supply the stimulus necessarily to evoke an innate response. This provides the tangibility necessary for consumers to understand how the brand's identity equates to its given meaning.

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When brand identity is treated as an aesthetic veneer, the bond between consumer and brand is often weak and shallow. When brand identity is constructed of multisensory Brand Signals, it provides the depth to build stronger bonds through common understanding of what your brand represents.

Brand signals leverage the neurologic systems that the brain uses to acquire, store and recall meaning. Just as goods are carried by hand, truck, plane, boat or rail, brand signals carry and convey a given message. The key is not to limit the number of signals used to convey your brand's meaning.

Working individually and collectively, Brand Signals identify and differentiate the brand on two levels. Categorically, these signals speak intuitively to consumers regarding the type of brand (price, quality, country of origin etcetera). Specifically, they contain learned meaning that directly equates to the brand allowing consumers to identify one brand from another via name, logo, packaging and so forth.

At WHITE PAGE, we resonate the expressions the brands create and multiply the brand signals. This exuberant group combines strategic thinking and creative excellence to turn brand possibilities into business results in a manner that is unambiguous to the audience. This very publication speaks volumes of those brands that not only have created a legacy, but continue to strive to excellence in the Asian economy. These brands have been chosen for their brand value, brand sustainability, recall and the trust factor as their brand signals. I'm eager, excited and proud to showcase this volume to the brand patrons, brand marketers, brand enthusiasts and readers – without further ado; I present the 2nd Edition of the imagistic journey of Admired Brands & Leaders.

Dhruv Bhatia
Editor-in-Chief, White Page International

VIP Attendees



H. E. Dr. Abdullah Belhalf Al Nuaimi



H. H. Sheikh Yousef A. S. N. Al-Sabah

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VIP Attendees



H. E. Yaqoob Al Ali



H.E. Waleed Nasser Al-Ghonaim

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H. E. Yassin Al Suroor

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



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Global Consulting Leader



Bertha Wakisa Chiudza
Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist at Green Climate Fund (GCF)



Cristina Cerioni
International Business Consultant, Leadership & Executive, Life Coach



Dr. Nahla Kazim
Director of Fertility Preservation and Consultant in Reproductive Medicine & Infertility at Bourn Hall Fertility Centre-Mediclinic Middle East



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Founder at Farihas.com

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İlkşen Çetintaş
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General Counsel at ETS EMEA



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Riyas Ahamed
Chief Financial Officer at Eram Holdings

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Our Team



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Our Team



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Toukira Mir



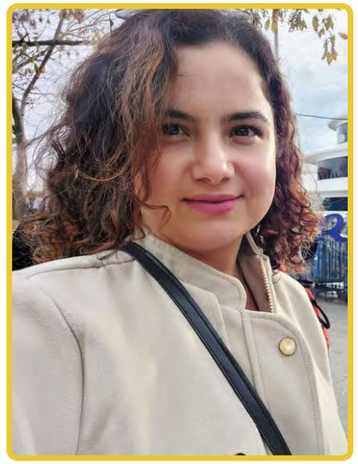
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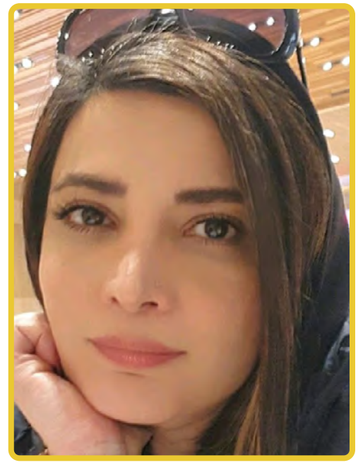
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GLOBAL 200 WOMEN POWER LEADERS 2024

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Phyu Thant Sin - Manulife Financial Canada
Dr. Naseem Rafee - Dubai Municipality - Health & Safety Department
Racha Moukayed - Howden Guardian Insurance Brokers L.L.C.
Shwetha Nayak - Marsh McLennan
Fabienne Mathis - JETEX
Dr. Maliha Hashmi - Rainmaker | Futurist
Salima Valji - Unleash Forward Incorporated
Yanzi Liu - Anxinsec Technology
Sneha Agarwal - Filtrec Bharat Manufacturing
Abir Habbal - Accenture
Fatma AlOtaibi - Veterinary Services Section, Dubai Municipality
Parisa Shahverdi - Executive Mentor and Advisor
Houriya Altaheri - Abu Dhabi Sports Council
Cathy Cribben-Pearse - OakTree Mentoring
Sivanipriya Sivakumar - Natwest
Vidya Malkani - VMC Consulting Services
Dr. Bouchra Kaddoura - Sharjah Private Education Authority
Dr. Shilpa Rungta - Department of Veterans Affairs
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Boglarka Szentpetery - Danone
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Svetlana Chatterjee - S CUBE Trans Continental Group
Amaal Ghadieh - Author, NLP Master Practitioner, Program Manager
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Santosh Agarwal - PolicyBazaar.com
Walaa Jamal Helwani - EXPRO
Simone Ponce - Beazley
Jaslyn Qiyu - Head, Asset Management Consulting
Maisa Jarjour - Mind Al Futtaim
Dr. Mariam Sheikh - MS Education Consultants
Dr. Monika Kaushal - Emirates Specialty hospital
Gemma Rubio Bronge - Define The Fine
Irene Riad - SightCET
Dr. Archana Ticku - RPM
Catalina Del Pilar Onate Contreras - Best of Latin Foodstuff Trading LLC
Rima Semaan - Microsoft
Nurcan Bicakci Arcan - Akinon
Noble Thway Mon - Asia Royal Hospital
China Itani - Communications & Marketing Advisor
Bertha Wakisa Chiudza - Green Climate Fund (GCF)
Alya Al Hebshi - Alya Al Hebshi Consultancy
Zainab A. Salam - SAP
Noor Maki - RSS LLC
Alya Al Fardan - First Abu Dhabi Bank
Katja Schipperheijn - Habit Of Improvement and The Learning Mindset Organization
Nada Ahmed El Gazzar - UpskillX Advisory & Coaching
Gayathri J Gopal - Vestian Global Workplace Services
Christina Inyoung Kwon - Acklo Inc.
Dr. Sheryl Viegas - Ajman Hotel
Meenakshi Sharma - Vestian Global Workplace Services
Dr. Vibha Bhardwaj - Ras Al Khaimah Municipality
Debbie Eacott - Longr Gulf States
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Priyanka Rajendra - Vestian Global Workplace Services
Dr. Lilas Al Asfahani - Ernst and Young
Harita Mehta - FTI Group
Ritika Saraswat - Re-Defined
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Lucia Loyo - ETS EMEA
Divya Janardhanan Pillai - Dubai Municipality
Gym Woiciechowski - Banfers Bank INC
Jennifer McShane Bary - JMB Project Management Co. LLC
Karine Noufaily - Infomed
Juliana Salla - JW Marriott Hotel Muscat
Rachel Meuleman - The Bizz Advisors
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Sofia Svanholt - Microsoft
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Carmen Hofmeester - Jetex
Ghada Ghandourah
Dr. Rouwayda Zeid Dana - Mersaco
Rimpal Sharma - First Abu Dhabi Bank
Shaista Shaw
Neha Gupta - NatWest
Rakhee Basu - TV Today Network Limited
Sia Ashok - Confity Capital Partners
Dr. Saadia Farooqui - Aga Khan University & Hospital
Ghalia Sebti - Ait Manos
Rumeysa Kaymakcı Turkcell
Simone Martin - IGNUS SOLUTIONS LIMITED
Ivonne "Evi" Roque - Citi
Christine Seif - Orbit Communications Company
Aditi Singh - Satin Creditcare Network Limited
Rana El Sharqawy - EFG Holding
Dr. Duaa Alahmadi - DR.HAMID SULEMAN AL AHMADI HOSPITAL
Jameela Almasoud - Scientist
Lara Fayad - Skinvitality
Michelle Chiou Thien Ling - Sarawak Energy Berhad
Ankita Agrawal - Marengo Asia Healthcare
Audrey Lammert - Trinnial L.L.C-FZ
Belinda Smith - 18Bricks Group
Alina Valcarce - Valcarce Architects
Fajer AlSayegh - Kuwait Insurance Company
Deema Qanta-Aura - Criterion Coaching
Dr. Poornima Prasad - Accion Labs
Indira Khurana - Laser Cosmetics and Pain Treatment Clinic
Panchalee Weeratammawat - Central Retail Corporation
Reetu Jain - Beta Makers Lab
Saswati Sinha - Evalueserve
Viridiana Bello Huitle - Vestingrow
Nour Aljabri
Deepti Shanmughan - Eye for Talent
Sudakshina Bhattacharya - HDFC ERGO
Priyanka Sengar - Women First Jobs
Prof. Sherley Louis - International Teaching Academy LLC
Rose Marie Sakr - RmS insurance Brokers and Consultants
Sabiha MAHDID - Sonatrach
Sara Hegazy - Healenna
Mithu Gupta - Intellect Design Arena
Paromita Ghosh Mukherjee - Learners Point Academy, Dubai
Amel Chadli - Schneider Electric
Irene Liu - Accenture
Aisha Ahmed Alhammadi - Dubai Municipality
Hazleen (Ahmad) Panayiotou - Women Leaders On Mountains and Amazing Trekkers Club
Harpreet Kaur Dhillon - Community Care Collective
Taqua Malik - Freedomvisory Ltd
Chhavi Lekha - Indigo (Interglobe Aviation Limited)
Tasneem Salma Islam - Aurora Consulting
Ghida Barakat - MENA Leadership Circle
Maryam Obaid Almheiri - Dubai Municipality
Jana Makarem - Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa
Archna Wadhwa - Analytics Saves at Work
Dr. Corinne Casha - Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Malta
Prof. Dr. Ingrid Vasiliu Feltes - Institute For Science, Entrepreneurship and Investment
Yamini Atmavilas - Dasra
Ragah Dorenkamp - AIXTRON SE
Shameem Farouk - Maybank
Ekaterina Serban - BOSCH
Shannon Dunn - Delos
Ranjika Mitra - The Campus club
Rania Sellami - RATP Dev Mobility
Roberta Werthein - Win Investments
Claudia Schwinghammer - SPARK
Sara Talib Alattas - Saudia Group
Mano Sheriff - DSL Lanka
Navaneeta Das - Publicis Groupe
Kaisa Kauppinen - Tietoevry
Iman Khalid Al Marzouqi - REACH GRO
Nikki Davies - CoNEXTion
Karolina Kotarba - Solutions Group
Joice Margot Homberger Nicolea - Voando Alto Aviation Business School
Anitha Ganesh - Bechtel Corporation
Babak Galal Nagi - Epolab
Catherine R. Pescoret - Ministère des Sports, Luxembourg
Dr. Uttara Pattanaik - Uttara Pattanaik Consulting services (UPCS)
Rohini Vasudev - Vestian Global Workplace Services
Dr. Rajinder Atwal - Bathurst Walk-in Clinic and Family Practice, Women Stem Mentorship
Sara Aldaous - Badael Company
Ruchika Malhan Varma - Future Generali India Insurance Co. Ltd.
Julia Vegiesi - Richmond Global Sciences (RGS), Hungarian Association of British Alumni (HABA)
Dr. Hema Prem - Infosys
Shareez T. Wilkerson - Resilient Power
Angelina Chua - SIG Group
Preeti Dmello - Tata Consultancy Services
Narine Kotikyan - Spacetab
Christina Khater - Kristies Lab
Shalini Vohra - Landmark Group
Divia Bauda - Al Tajer Insignia
Maryam Nalla - BusinessJot
Daniela Carneros - DD360



Kabira Bhatporia

Head of Human Resources, MEA and Turkey, JLL

With a career spanning 25+ years within the dynamic realm of Human Resources, Kabira has been exemplifying transformative leadership. Having commenced her illustrious journey in the FMCG sector & orchestrating a symphony of successes by leading the HR sections at A.P. Moller - Maersk & Dubai Financial Centre, today she is known to be a trailblazer pushing the boundaries of people strategy in the evolving business world.

In her current role, Kabira's strategic prowess has left an indelible mark. A maestro in people management, she serves as the People Partner for JLL's EMEA Project & Development Services, overseeing a growing workforce of 3000+ individuals.

What sets Kabira apart is not just the expanse of her career trajectory but the narrative of growth she has been at the helm of driving within the HR industry. Over the past decade, under Kabira's stewardship, JLL has burgeoned from less than 200 employees in MEA to a staggering 1600+, a testament to her unwavering commitment to fostering a thriving workplace.

Kabira's journey has been replete with key initiatives that have redefined HR paradigms. Some of them being:

Architect of Growth:
Kabira spearheaded the establishment of JLL's Project & Development Service Department in the MEA region, propelling it from a modest two-member team to an influential force of over 700 professionals. The exponential growth is underpinned by a robust people strategy, emphasising sourcing, skills mapping, onboarding excellence & nuanced compensation guidelines. hashtag#JLL, now a vibrant brand in the market, stands as a testament to Kabira's agility, adaptability & knack for attracting top talent.

Hi-Potential Leadership Programme:
Instituting a bespoke 12-month training programme for mid-management, Kabira identified & nurtured talent, equipping them with technical, soft & managerial skills. The success story unfolds as programme participants ascend to senior leadership positions, a living tribute to Kabira's visionary approach to leadership development.

Career Framework & DEI Champion:
Kabira's ingenuity shines through in the development of a unique performance appraisal process & a career framework that fuels professional growth & upskilling. Her commitment to DE&I is further underscored by the prestigious DEI Champion Award received by JLL in 2022 & 23.

In the tapestry of Kabira's career, each thread weaves a story of growth, innovation & a steadfast commitment to creating workplaces where individuals not only thrive but redefine success. As a certified Chartered Fellow, Kabira is not just a leader; she is the architect of a future where careers are not just nurtured but crafted into legacies.



Maitha Alnuaimi

Director of Geographic Information Center Department, Dubai Municipality

In the dynamic landscape of Geographic Information System, few luminaries shine as brightly as Maitha AL Nuaimi. With a relentless pursuit of excellence & a penchant for innovation, Maitha has carved an indelible mark in the realms of GIS leadership, artificial intelligence & digital transformation.

Her journey, spanning over a decade, is a testament to her unwavering commitment to shaping the future of smart cities &spatial intelligence.

Educationally fortified with a master's in city science from the prestigious Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) & a second Master's in AI & Big Data from ESCP Business School, Maitha's academic prowess lays the groundwork for her groundbreaking achievements.

Maitha is the Dubai's first female Emirati drone pilot specialized in 3D mapping. She obtained her professional license as a drone pilot from the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority after going through intensive training.

As the Director of the GIS Center Department at Dubai Municipality, she spearheads the digital metamorphosis of the cityscape. Her crowning achievement lies in crafting the official geospatial digital twin of Dubai, a pioneering endeavor that sets a global precedent. This groundbreaking initiative encompasses a comprehensive repository of data, encompassing assets, facilities, landmarks & even the intricate underground utilities—a feat unparalleled worldwide.

Driving her vision forward, Maitha harnesses the power of AI to augment traditional GIS methodologies. Her expertise in AI is exemplified by the deployment of cutting-edge algorithms for Ghaff detection, point cloud analysis, urban area delineation & building violation detection. With an awe-inspiring 80% accuracy rate in data extraction, Maitha's fusion of GIS & AI heralds a new era of precision & efficiency.

Previously, she served as Infrastructure & Geo Intelligence Section manager , where she orchestrated groundbreaking projects such as the Cloud Project & the Digital Twin of Dubai. Her tenure witnessed the seamless integration of technology, ensuring 100% server availability & a remarkable 95% enhancement in geospatial data access.

A seasoned speaker at over 30 international conferences, she amplifies the discourse on GIS, technology, AI & municipal governance. Her tireless advocacy for innovation & inclusivity has earned her recognition as one of the top 50 rising stars in the geospatial domain.

Armed with a Government Leadership Program certificate & ongoing leadership training from the Mohammed bin Rashid Leadership Program, Maitha epitomizes the spirit of continuous learning & growth.

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Dr. Hessa Jaffar Hassan Ali Aljawi

Manager of Studies and Systems Section, Dubai Municipality - Health and Safety Department

In the dynamic arena of health & safety, Dr. Hessa Aljawi emerges as a beacon of innovation & excellence. With over 12 years of trailblazing experience in pivotal roles within the esteemed Dubai Health Authority & Dubai Municipality, Dr. Aljawi has consistently delivered exceptional results, earning accolades & recognition for her unparalleled contributions to the field.

A Journey of Academic Excellence:
Dr. Aljawi's academic journey is defined by her brilliance & dedication. Armed with a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Higher Colleges of Technology & a Higher Diploma in Pharmacy, she laid the cornerstone for her illustrious career with a strong foundation in pharmaceutical sciences. Her academic achievements, highlighted by a GPA of 3.78 with Distinction with Honour, underscore her unwavering commitment to excellence.

A Champion for Health and Safety:
Throughout her tenure at the Dubai Health Authority and Dubai Municipality, Dr. Aljawi has left an indelible mark across diverse spheres of health and safety management. From her role as the Principal Consumer Product Safety Officer to her current position as Acting Manager of the Studies and Systems section, her leadership has been instrumental in driving forward-thinking initiatives that uphold the highest standards of safety and well-being.

A Legacy of Remarkable Achievements:
Dr. Aljawi's list of accomplishments reads like a testament to her unwavering dedication and expertise. From being awarded the prestigious NEBOSH Health and Safety Leadership Excellence Certificate to winning the "Emirates Women Award" for innovation, her accolades underscore her standing as a true luminary in her field.

A Visionary Leader Committed to Service Excellence:
Beyond her technical acumen, Dr. Aljawi is renowned for her commitment to enhancing service delivery and elevating customer experiences. Her proactive approach to problem-solving and decision-making has not only streamlined operations but has also fostered a culture of continuous improvement within her organizations.

A Trailblazing Female Leader:
Dr. Aljawi's leadership extends far beyond the confines of her workplace. Actively participating in local and federal committees, she lends her expertise to shaping policies and strategies that profoundly impact community well-being.
As a pioneering force in health and safety management, Dr. Aljawi's visionary outlook and unwavering dedication make her a standout nominee for recognition in her field.

As a trailblazing female leader in health and safety management, Dr. Hessa Aljawi's legacy serves as an inspiration to aspiring professionals, paving the way for a safer and healthier future.



Phyu Thant Sin

Director, Employee Relations, Manulife Financial Canada

With an illustrious career spanning over two decades across diverse industries and global landscapes, Phyu Thant Sin stands as a paragon of excellence in the field of Human Resources. Her journey, marked by resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to professional growth, epitomizes the quintessence of leadership and strategic acumen.

Armed with a Master's in Business Administration from Assumption University in Thailand, coupled with certifications including the esteemed Senior Professional in Human Resources International (SPHRi), Phyu Thant Sin has honed her expertise to a razor-sharp edge. Complementing her academic prowess, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from University of Yangon of Distance Education, Myanmar, and a Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management from Nanyang Institute of Management, Singapore.

Phyu Thant Sin's career trajectory is a tapestry woven with remarkable achievements and pivotal roles. Notably, her tenure as Chief Human Resources Officer at Manulife Myanmar, amidst the tumultuous backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and political upheaval, exemplifies her astute leadership and resolute determination. Spearheading the transformation of a nascent life insurance venture into the vanguard of Myanmar's financial landscape, she steered Manulife Myanmar to unprecedented heights, securing its position as the preeminent life insurance provider in the nation.

In tandem with her professional exploits, Phyu Thant Sin embarked on a journey of personal and academic enrichment, undertaking her MBA studies while navigating the intricacies of establishing a burgeoning enterprise. Her ability to seamlessly balance the rigors of academia with familial responsibilities of a single parent and corporate exigencies underscores her indomitable spirit and unyielding dedication to excellence.

The zenith of Phyu Thant Sin's accolades culminated in the prestigious Global Stars of Excellence award, conferred upon her for two consecutive years in 2021 & 2022 by Manulife Financial. This distinguished recognition not only validates her tireless endeavors but also serves as a testament to her steadfast pursuit of perfection.

Beyond her corporate endeavors, Phyu Thant Sin's relocation to Toronto, Canada, epitomizes her unwavering commitment to her daughter's education, well-being & secure future and her relentless pursuit of transformative experiences. As Director of Employee Relations at Manulife Headquarters for North America Segment, her indelible mark continues to reverberate, fostering an ethos of inclusivity and collaboration amidst a mosaic of cultural diversity.

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Dr. Naseem Rafee

Director of Health & Safety Department, Dubai Municipality - Health & Safety Department

Dr. Naseem Rafee is a distinguished figure in the realm of health, safety, and public health management, renowned for her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence with over two decades of experience.

Education:
Dr. Rafee's academic journey reflects her dedication to knowledge and expertise. She holds a Ph.D. in Total Quality Management from Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, where she graduated with first honors. Prior to this, she obtained another Ph.D. in Public and Occupational Health from the esteemed United Arab Emirates University. Driven by her passion for learning, she also earned a Master's in Science in Public Health and a Bachelor's in Pharmacy from Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University and Higher Colleges of Technology University, respectively.

Career Path:
Dr. Rafee's illustrious career encompasses diverse roles and significant contributions. She began her professional journey as a Safety Officer and swiftly rose through the ranks to become the Director of the Health & Safety Department at Dubai Municipality. Alongside her tenure at Dubai Municipality, she has also made impactful contributions at prestigious institutions such as Canadian University Dubai and UAE University.

Key Achievements:
Dr. Rafee's accomplishments in the field of health and safety are noteworthy. She has led strategic initiatives, including the registration of various consumer products, and has overseen meticulous field inspections to uphold stringent standards. Amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Rafee demonstrated exceptional leadership by spearheading the Covid-19 crisis committee and orchestrating the National Disinfection Program in Dubai.

Accolades and Recognition:
Dr. Rafee's exemplary achievements have earned her widespread recognition. She has been honored with prestigious awards such as the Emirates Women Award 2022 in the leadership category. Additionally, her groundbreaking initiatives, including securing ISO certifications for occupational health and safety management systems, have solidified her reputation as a pioneering figure in the industry.

Community Engagement:
Outside her professional endeavors, Dr. Rafee remains deeply committed to community service. She served as the Executive Director of the UAE Genetic Diseases Association, where she played a pivotal role in raising awareness about genetic disorders and spearheading educational initiatives.

Dr. Rafee's impactful contributions and steadfast commitment to excellence make her a true luminary in the field of health, safety, and public health management.



Racha Moukayed

Managing Director, Howden Guardian Insurance Brokers L.L.C.

Educationally fortified with a Diploma in Insurance from the esteemed Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) & an M.B.A. in Healthcare Management from the University of Phoenix, Racha's academic foundation serves as the bedrock of her expertise. Complementing her formal education, Racha has undergone extensive training in organizational leadership, business law, human capital management & strategic planning, among other disciplines, showcasing her unwavering commitment to continuous learning & professional development.

Racha's professional trajectory is distinguished by her proactive engagement in industry forums & associations. Her re-election to the Board of Directors of the Emirates Insurance Association underscores her pivotal role in shaping industry standards, fostering innovation & advocating for best practices.

Furthermore, her position as a board member of the British Chamber of Commerce Abu Dhabi underscores her global outlook & commitment to fostering robust business collaborations & synergies. A staunch advocate of inclusivity & social responsibility, Racha's dedication to empowering marginalized communities is exemplified through her receipt of an award from ImInclusive, an initiative by Ma'an, in recognition of her commitment to employing People of Determination.

Under Racha's astute leadership, Howden Guardian Insurance Brokers has garnered consecutive accolades from Great Place to Work®, including prestigious titles such as the Best Workplace in the Middle East, the Best Workplace for Women in the GCC & the Best Workplace in the UAE. These accolades not only underscore Racha's transformative leadership style but also affirm the company's commitment to fostering a conducive & inclusive work environment.

Racha's commitment to sustainability transcends organizational boundaries, as she spearheads initiatives as a Net Zero Champion in MEA. Her holistic approach to leadership, characterized by effective communication, a positive mindset & a steadfast commitment to ethical conduct, serves as an enduring beacon of inspiration for industry professionals & aspiring leaders alike.

Racha's illustrious journey epitomizes excellence, innovation & social responsibility, reaffirming the transformative power of purpose-driven leadership & ethical conduct in shaping vibrant & sustainable industries.

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Shwetha Nayak

Senior Director- People Partner,
Marsh McLennan

Meet Shwetha Nayak, a luminary in the realm of Human Resources with over 25 years of astute experience spanning diverse facets of the HR domain. Armed with a Bachelor's degree in Printing Engineering from Manipal Institute of Technology & a PG Diploma in HR from XLRI, Shwetha possesses a unique blend of technical acumen & strategic HR prowess.

Embarking on her professional journey in a Delhi-based book printing and publishing house, Shwetha fearlessly navigated the male-dominated print and packaging industry. Undeterred by challenges, she seized the opportunity to transition into HR, initiating her transformative path. Her early foray into HR as a recruiter for a startup marked the turning point, where she discovered her true passion & joy in the dynamic world of Human Resources.

Shwetha's career trajectory includes pivotal roles at renowned organizations such as J.P. Morgan, GEP Worldwide, Capgemini & her current position as Senior People Partner for Marsh McLennan's Global Capability Centre. At JP Morgan, she excelled in driving outsourcing strategies, talent management, DE&I initiatives & colleague experience programs. Her leadership in talent acquisition for Capgemini's North Americas business vertical underscored her versatility & impact.

As a thought leader, Shwetha has been a distinguished speaker at prestigious events like ET HR Conclaves, CHRO Confex, Capstone People Consulting, shaping the discourse in the HR industry. Shwetha's contributions to HR have been acknowledged with multiple awards, including the Woman HR Leader of the Year (2024) by CHRO Confex, Marsh CEO award 2023, Marsh McLennan's Outstanding Team Awards, JP Morgan's Leadership Award in the category of "HR Shield" & Capgemini's 'Bullet Train' award for the highest number of hires per month.

A trailblazer in fostering Diversity & Inclusion, Shwetha has spearheaded initiatives to create a workplace where equal opportunities prevail. Her strategic leadership recently manifested in a successful large-scale insourcing initiative at Marsh McLennan's Global Capability Centre, showcasing her ability to navigate complex transitions seamlessly.

Beyond her professional achievements, Shwetha's commitment to mentoring & advocacy stands out. Actively supporting & empowering women in leadership positions, she creates a workplace culture that is inclusive & supportive. Her volunteer work in education, healthcare, animal care & empowerment initiatives reflects a deep-seated commitment to making a positive impact in the community.

Shwetha's remarkable achievements, strategic leadership & dedication to excellence position her as a beacon in the field, making her a deserving candidate for recognition as a Global Women Power Leader 2024.



Fabienne Mathis

Director of Hospitality role,
JETEX

In the realm of hospitality, where creativity and innovation intersect with seamless service, Fabienne Mathis stands as a beacon of excellence. With a career marked by pioneering initiatives and a steadfast commitment to redefining luxury experiences, Fabienne has earned her place among industry titans as a visionary leader and an embodiment of entrepreneurial spirit.

Born and raised with an innate passion for hospitality, Fabienne embarked on her journey with a steadfast determination to leave an indelible mark on the industry. Armed with a solid educational foundation, she honed her skills at esteemed institutions, graduating with top honors in Hospitality Management from Les Roches . Her academic prowess laid the groundwork for her illustrious career, equipping her with the knowledge and acumen to navigate the complexities of the ever-evolving hospitality landscape.

Throughout her career, Fabienne has collaborated with prestigious companies, leveraging her expertise to spearhead transformative projects that push boundaries and set new standards of excellence. From renowned luxury hotels to exclusive resorts, her influence has been felt across a diverse array of establishments, each bearing the hallmark of her unparalleled vision and meticulous attention to detail.

As driving force and Co-Founder of a Concierge Start-Up, Fabienne has truly left an indelible imprint on the industry. She has redefined the very essence of hospitality, transcending traditional paradigms and introduced a business model, adapted to the needs and preferred ways of working of the new generation of hospitality professionals.

As newly appointed Director of Hospitality at hashtag#Jetex, Fabienne will continue to thrive in delivering world-class services and establishing fresh benchmarks in luxury hospitality, setting an example for others to follow.

Fabienne's achievements extend far beyond the boardroom, as she remains deeply committed to giving back by fostering the next generation of hospitality leaders. Through Keynote and mentorship programs, she continues to inspire and empower others to pursue their passions and realize their full potential.

As Fabienne continues to chart new territories and push the boundaries of what is possible in hospitality, one thing remains abundantly clear: her legacy will endure as an enduring testament to the power of vision, determination, and unwavering passion. Fabienne Mathis is not just a leader in hospitality; she is a force of nature, reshaping the industry with one innovative idea at a time.

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Dr. Maliha Hashmi

Trailblazing C-suite Healthcare Executive, Global Health Leader | Rainmaker | Futurist

In the realm of global health & leadership, Dr. Maliha Hashmi stands as a beacon of innovation, dedication & unwavering commitment to excellence. With a distinguished career spanning various sectors, Dr. Hashmi has solidified her position as a trailblazer, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of healthcare & wellbeing. She is a globally renowned futurist & recognized for her leadership & convergence of sectors across the globe serving as a bridge between the east & west.

Educational Brilliance:
Dr. Hashmi's journey towards greatness began with her academic prowess, a child prodigy starting & completing education much early than many while earning both her Doctorate & Master's Degrees & specialized training from the prestigious institutions of Harvard Law School, Harvard University & MIT Sloan School of Management. Graduating with Top Honors, as the top 20 college women in USA, she demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to academic excellence.

Pioneering Leadership:
Throughout her illustrious career, she served as the Executive Director & Co-Head of the Health, Wellbeing & Biotech Sector at NEOM, a role where she spearheaded transformative initiatives & fostered strategic partnerships to drive innovation in healthcare.

As the Deputy Chair of the NEOM Covid-19 Leadership Taskforce, Dr. Hashmi showcased her exceptional crisis management skills, navigating through unprecedented challenges which was instrumental in shaping the trajectory of healthcare advancements in Saudi Arabia & beyond.

Global Influence & Recognition:
Dr. Hashmi's impact transcends geographical boundaries, as evidenced by her roles as a WEF Global Future Council Expert & V2O Delegate of G20. She is a trusted advisor, contributing her expertise to global platforms such as the World Economic Forum & the V20, actively shaping policy & driving change on a global scale.

Her contributions have been acknowledged & celebrated through prestigious accolades such as the Forbes Health Leadership Award & the World Leaders Award. Dr. Hashmi's recognition as one of the Top 7 Most Talented Female Health Leaders of the MENA region underscores her unparalleled contributions to the field.

A Visionary Author & Speaker:
Beyond her corporate endeavors, Dr. Hashmi is a prolific author & a captivating public speaker. Her thought-provoking contributions to publications like Forbes & her engaging presentations at global forums have cemented her reputation as a thought leader in the realm of healthcare.



Salima Valji

Chief Executive Officer, Unleash Forward Incorporated

In the ever-evolving landscape of leadership development and diversity advocacy, one name shines brightly: Salima Valji. As the visionary force behind Unleash Forward, Salima's mission is to get more authentic and diverse voices to the leadership table empowering women, and championing underrepresented voices in the corporate arena.

A beacon of inspiration and innovation, Salima's journey is as impressive as it is impactful. Armed with a keen intellect and unwavering determination, she embarked on her professional odyssey with a mission to redefine the status quo. With a background steeped in Technology, Marketing, leadership coaching and consulting, Salima honed her expertise working with industry titans such as Microsoft and Meta, leaving an indelible mark on each organization she touched.

Yet, Salima's aspirations transcended the confines of corporate consultancy. Recognizing the glaring disparity in leadership representation, particularly among women and people of color, she founded Unleash Forward—a testament to her unwavering commitment to equity and inclusion. At Unleash Forward, Salima orchestrates transformative programs, spearheading executive coaching, leadership assessment, and public speaking engagements with unparalleled finesse.

Salima's influence extends far beyond boardrooms and auditoriums; it reverberates through the corridors of change and progress. Her tireless advocacy has earned her global acclaim, including prestigious accolades such as the Top 100 Speakers 2023 award by WOMEN IN TECH ® Global and the coveted "Woman of Difference" honor bestowed by The International Alliance for Women (TIAW).

With each riveting keynote, insightful workshop & coaching session, Salima ignites a spark of inspiration, challenging conventional wisdom and igniting a collective passion for positive change. Her impact is tangible, including increase in promotions, increase in compensation, and increase in influence for women and people of color. Testimonials abound with praise for her ability to inspire, educate, and galvanize action, underscoring the transformative power of her message.

Yet, Salima's legacy extends far beyond accolades and testimonials. At the heart of her mission lies a profound belief in the power of diversity, inclusion, and authentic leadership. Through Unleash Forward, she cultivates a nurturing ecosystem where individuals can flourish, unencumbered by societal constraints or institutional barriers.

With each milestone achieved and each barrier shattered, Salima paves the way for a brighter, more equitable future—a future where leadership knows no bounds, and diversity reigns supreme.

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Yanzi Liu

Regional Director of Business Development, Anxinsec Technology

Yanzi Liu stands at the forefront of global technological integration, weaving a narrative of innovation, strategic insight, and transformative impact throughout her distinguished career. With a master's degree in International Business from the prestigious University of Birmingham, Yanzi embarked on a journey marked by relentless pursuit of knowledge and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Her academic pursuits provided the foundation for her groundbreaking research endeavors, notably collaborating with esteemed peers, including a senior student from Harvard University. Together, they conducted pioneering research on the intricate dynamics between China and the Middle East within the technology sector, underscoring Yanzi's prowess in shaping the discourse on international business and technological exchange.

Yanzi's professional trajectory is defined by her visionary leadership and strategic foresight. Recognizing the untapped potential of the Middle Eastern market, she orchestrated a strategic initiative to bring Chinese technology companies to the forefront of innovation in the region. From cybersecurity to digital twin technology, Yanzi identified key domains driving the Middle East's digital transformation and facilitated seamless integration of Chinese tech solutions into local economies.

However, Yanzi's impact transcends mere market penetration. She prioritized localization and community engagement, forging strong partnerships with government entities and local stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability and mutual benefit. Her ability to build trust and credibility within the Middle Eastern business landscape cemented her reputation as a trusted advisor and strategic partner.

Beyond her professional achievements, Yanzi is a tireless advocate for cybersecurity education and inclusivity. Through partnerships with universities and governments, she created internship opportunities and educational workshops, empowering the next generation of tech leaders and fostering diversity within the cybersecurity community.

As Yanzi Liu sets her sights on founding her own technology-focused venture, her journey serves as a testament to the power of vision, resilience, and innovation. With each endeavor, she continues to push the boundaries of possibility, leaving an indelible mark on the global technological landscape.

Yanzi's story is not just one of individual success, but a testament to the transformative potential of passion, expertise, and unwavering dedication to driving positive change in the world.



Sneha Agarwal

Executive Director, Filtrec Bharat Manufacturing

Sneha Agarwal's journey is one of ambition, resilience, and commitment to excellence in her professional and personal endeavors. With a distinguished academic background, Sneha completed her Bachelor's in Business Administration from Jain University in Bangalore. She then expanded her horizons by pursuing a Strategic Management Course at the The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in the UK and a master's in management specializing in Sales & Digital Marketing from IE Business School in Madrid, Spain.

Sneha's career is marked by a wealth of experience across various sectors. She has excelled in roles encompassing Sales, Business Development, Finance, and Digital Marketing, beginning with her position as a Business Development Associate at Urban Company. There, she successfully managed the entire Salon Business Operations for Bangalore City, leading a team of over 500 professionals and driving innovative strategies to optimize efficiency and costs.

Currently, Sneha serves as Executive Director at Filtrec Bharat, a joint venture between an Indian company and the European firm Filtrec S.p.A. Her strategic leadership has been instrumental in the company's growth, achieving a remarkable increase in revenues within just two years. Sneha's focus on high-profile hiring and nurturing a young, talented team has contributed significantly to the company's success.

Sneha's impact extends beyond India as she holds the position of Director at Filtrec Middle East FZC, a subsidiary of Filtrec S.p.A. Her customer-centric approach and strategic foresight have been crucial in expanding market operations and boosting profitability across GCC countries.

In addition to her corporate roles, Sneha's contributions include representing India at the G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance in Dubai and Saudi Arabia during India's G20 presidency. Her involvement in high-profile international events underscores her global influence and vision.

Beyond her professional achievements, Sneha is passionate about arts, literature, and humanitarian services. She actively promotes sustainability initiatives and volunteers for organizations like Cry and Food for Life. Sneha's dedication to making a positive impact on society is evident through her sponsorship of education for several girl children and her plans to establish a Non-Profit Organization this year to support similar causes.

Sneha Agarwal's journey is a shining example of leadership, strategic acumen, and an unwavering commitment to continuous improvement. Her multifaceted career and drive to create a better future make her a standout professional in today's corporate landscape. Sneha looks forward to revolutionizing business while contributing positively to the world.

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Abir Habbal

Managing Director, Accenture

Abir Habbal is a distinguished leader in the realm of Data & Artificial Intelligence (AI), serving as MD & Public Sector Applied Intelligence Lead at Accenture in the Middle East. With over 13 years of experience, Abir has been instrumental in driving national digital strategies that fuel economic development, enhance citizen outcomes & propel innovation across various industries.

Abir's impactful career is marked by her expertise in spearheading high-profile national initiatives such as Smart Nations, Proactive Government, National Data Governance & National AI Adoption Acceleration. Her work with senior executives & decision-makers in these projects has helped establish comprehensive national digital frameworks & strategies, shaping the trajectory of data management & AI implementation in the region.

One of her most notable achievements is her pivotal role in the creation of a national data regulator within the Middle East. This accomplishment led to the publication of a suite of essential data policies & standards. These include National Data Management Standards, Data Privacy Policy, Data Classification Policy, Freedom of Information Policy, Open Data Policy & Data Sharing Policy, all of which emphasize the value of data as a strategic asset.

Abir's contributions to AI activation are equally significant, as she developed a National AI Ethics policy & the strategy for a national AI center, focusing on core AI capabilities such as Natural Language Processing (NLP), Computer Vision (CV), and Generative AI. Her work in crafting the AI research and development agenda spans crucial sectors like Health, Energy, Environment, Mobility, and Government.

In her role as Data & AI Officer for Accenture in the Middle East, Abir drives the data and AI agenda across the region, fostering innovation and supporting organizations in their AI transformation journeys. She has built a highly skilled core data and AI team at Accenture Middle East, promoting gender diversity and encouraging diverse perspectives.

Abir's career is further distinguished by her active participation in panel discussions and thought leadership reports, where she collaborates with regional governments on topics such as proactive government and AI adoption.

Abir's educational achievements include a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the American University of Beirut (AUB) with high distinction and three honorary awards for academic excellence. Additionally, she holds certifications in AI and Generative AI from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Business Analytics from Northwestern University, and Business Strategy from INSEAD.

Abir Habbal's mission is clear: to equip the youth with future-proof skills and help shape the world of tomorrow through transformative AI and data initiatives.



Fatma AlOtaibi

Manager, Veterinary Services Section, Dubai Municipality

With over two decades of dedicated service in the veterinary domain, Fatma AlOtaibi stands as a visionary leader shaping the landscape of veterinary services in Dubai Emirate. Her career journey from Veterinary Laboratory Analyst in 2003 to her current designation as Veterinary Services Section Manager since 2020 in Dubai Municipality exemplifies resilience, innovation, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Fatma's academic journey laid a strong foundation for her career, beginning with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the College of Science at the United Arab Emirates University. She furthered her expertise by earning a PG Degree (Master of Science) from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, specializing in Zoonotic Diseases. Her commitment to continuous improvement is evident through her certifications as a Certified Lead Assessor for ISO 17025 & a Diploma in Animal Health & Animal Production from the esteemed PTC+ Institute in the Netherlands.

Throughout her tenure, Fatma has spearheaded transformative initiatives aimed at safeguarding public health and advancing veterinary services. Her proactive approach includes implementing policies & programs for the control of animal epidemics and zoonotic diseases under the "One Health" framework. Notable achievements include driving the prevalence rate of Brucellosis in farm animal population below the global eradication level & implementing rapid response mechanisms for diseases such as Hemorrhagic Fever & Avian Influenza.

Fatma's innovative spirit has led to the implementation of smart solutions, such as the VETHUB electronic system & smart Veterinary Labware System, enhancing operational efficiency & service delivery. Achieving an ICXS score of 96.9%, the highest score at leadership level, reflects her commitment for excellence in customer service. Her vision extends to establishing a smart international veterinary quarantine, bio-safety level 3 veterinary laboratory, vaccine bank & robotic surgeries, showcasing her commitment to future-proofing veterinary services.

In addition to her professional achievements, Fatma's leadership has facilitated the organization of scientific forums, conferences & specialized training programs, fostering a culture of continuous improvement & professional development among her team members.

Fatma Al Otaibi's exemplary leadership & contributions have garnered recognition, with her department receiving numerous accolades & awards under her stewardship. As a member of various national & local committees, she continues to shape the future of veterinary services in the region, inspiring others with her dedication & vision.

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Parisa Shahverdi

Executive Mentor and Advisor

Parisa Shahverdi stands at the pinnacle of visionary leadership and transformative expertise, with a career spanning Business Administration, Leadership Consulting, and Coaching. She has consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to innovation, growth, and the empowerment of individuals and organizations to achieve their full potential.

Central to her professional ethos is an unwavering dedication to excellence. Her impressive academic credentials include a Ph.D. in Entrepreneurship Management, a Master's Degree in Executive Management specializing in Strategic Management, and a Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA). Enhanced by Professional Business Administration certifications and specialized training in Coaching and Transformational Leadership, Parisa is well-equipped with a comprehensive skill set for strategic leadership and impactful change.

Throughout her distinguished career, Parisa has held pivotal roles, including CEO of Arya Faraz firm , Senior Advisor at PAJAN and founder of INNOVA CONSULTING FIRM. INNOVA serves as a bridge between Silicon Valley and global investors, as well as between academia and industry, where her strategic acumen has fueled business growth, market penetration, and sustainable success in dynamic environments.

Additionally, Parisa serves as the UAE Country Chair for the Business Accelerator G100 All Ladies League, underscoring her influential role in shaping global business strategies.

Parisa's consulting prowess extends well beyond the corporate boardroom. She has amassed a wealth of volunteer coaching experiences, guiding individuals through personal and professional challenges with empathy, insight, and steadfast support. Whether advising startup founders on expansion strategies or collaborating with global organizations to design bespoke leadership development programs, her impact is profound and far-reaching, elevating teams and catalyzing organizational excellence.

Her career is adorned with noteworthy accolades, including transformative books recognized by UC Berkeley, such as "Living Leadership," "Leader's Journey," and "Authentic Resilience: Embracing New Beginnings and Personal Success." She has also created strategic collaborations that align education and entrepreneurship with UN sustainability goals, tackling real-world problems.

Parisa Shahverdi is not merely a founder, CEO, or consultant, but a beacon of inspiration, guiding individuals and enterprises toward unprecedented heights of achievement and fulfillment. With an indomitable spirit and a relentless pursuit of excellence, Parisa continues to redefine the contours of leadership, leaving an indelible mark on the global stage.

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Houriya Altaheri

Technical Clubs Development Specialist, Abu Dhabi Sports Council

In the dynamic world of sports, where grit & passion intersect, Houriya Al Taheri stands as a beacon of excellence & inspiration. With a journey defined by unwavering determination & relentless pursuit of excellence, Houriya has carved her niche as a pioneering figure in the realm of football coaching & sports empowerment.

Notably, she etched her name in the annals of UAE's sporting history by clinching the first A license for football coaching & AFC Instructor for both female & males, a milestone that underscored her dedication to mastering her field. Undeterred by complacency, she currently strides towards attaining the coveted Professional Diploma in Football, poised to become the first Gulf national to do so—a feat emblematic of her relentless pursuit of excellence.

Throughout her professional journey, Houriya's impact has transcended the boundaries of coaching, extending into the realms of player development & organizational leadership. She has been instrumental in orchestrating the success stories of numerous teams & players, spearheading championship victories & facilitating international experiences for budding talents. Houriya's visionary leadership paved the way for the establishment of transformative sports initiatives, including the Legends Football Academy & the innovative Legend smartphone app, platforms that have democratized access to football & fostered a culture of inclusivity within the sporting landscape.

Central to Houriya's ethos is her steadfast commitment to empowerment & social change through sports. Her tireless advocacy for gender equality & inclusivity has seen her spearhead initiatives aimed at increasing female participation in sports—a cause she champions with unwavering zeal. Moreover, her pioneering efforts in integrating individuals with determination into unified teams underscore her belief in the transformative power of sports to effect positive change in society.

Beyond accolades & achievements, Houriya's professional journey is characterized by a profound sense of social responsibility & philanthropy. Her active involvement in charitable endeavors underscores her belief in the transcendent power of sports to uplift communities & foster social cohesion.

In recognition of her exemplary contributions to the sporting landscape, Houriya has been honored with prestigious awards, including the Female Football Coach of the Year & the Sports Woman Award from the UAE Football Committee. Moreover, her distinction as the first Arab expert in FIFA & her selection for FIFA's coaching mentorship program underscore her stature as a global trailblazer in the realm of sports coaching & leadership.

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Cathy Cribben-Pearse

Founder & CEO,
OakTree Mentoring

Cathy Cribben-Pearse as a beacon of inspiration in the realm of healthcare leadership & mentorship, her illustrious career spanning over two decades. With a foundational education in nursing & midwifery, she swiftly ascended the ranks, leaving an indelible mark across diverse healthcare landscapes in the UK's NHS, Ireland & the UAE.

Her journey is a testament to relentless dedication & an unyielding commitment to excellence. From the frontline trenches of London hospitals, emergency care to the intricacies of high dependency obstetric care, Cathy's expertise knows no bounds. Her role as the Director of Nursing for Quality, Patient Safety & Accreditation, in Abu Dhabi, was a testament to her unwavering pursuit of innovation & excellence in nursing.

Beyond her leadership roles, Cathy's passion for nurturing the next generation of healthcare leaders shines through. As a certified coach & mentor, she embarked on a mission not only to support & cultivate talent, but with a focus to driving the highest standards of care for patients, launching bespoke mentorship programs, which have garnered international acclaim.

At the helm of OakTree Mentoring, Cathy's vision has transcended borders, impacting the lives of hundreds of healthcare professionals across 50+ countries. The program, accredited by the EMCC Global, stands as a testament to her discerning leadership & unwavering commitment to mentorship. Under her guidance, her team at OakTree Mentoring have become synonymous with tailored support, driving high performance & impactful change within healthcare systems worldwide.

Cathy's academic pursuits, including a degree in Nursing, a degree in Midwifery & an MBA with a specialization in Project Management, underscore her commitment to continuous learning and innovation. Her extensive certifications as a coach further solidify her status as a distinguished leader in healthcare.

Among her numerous accolades, Cathy's representation of the UAE in the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award, winning the EMCC Global Mentorship Award and the Brillance Business Award, stand as crowning achievements validating her exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to advancing healthcare, especially nursing, on a global scale.

Cathy's profound influence extends far beyond accolades, her legacy reverberating in the hearts and minds of healthcare professionals worldwide. Her commitment to thought leadership continues to illuminate the path for future generations of nurses and nursing leaders. Today on International Nurses day, we recognise Cathy Cribben-Pearse's nursing journey as not just a testament to individual success but a testament to the transformative power of passion, perseverance, and purpose in healthcare leadership.



Sivanipriya Sivakumar

Head of Payments Technology Reconciliation and Investigation, Natwest

With over two decades of relentless dedication to innovation & excellence, Sivanipriya Sivakumar stands as a beacon of leadership in the ever-evolving landscape of banking technology.

A Trailblazer in Leadership:
Sivanipriya's career trajectory exemplifies the essence of true leadership. Her tenure at NatWest Bank, Chennai, India, since August 2015, has been marked by a series of notable achievements, including being recognized as a 'Determined Female Leader Talent' by RBS. Under her stewardship, the Technology Payments Reconciliation & Investigation platform witnessed unprecedented advancements, coupled with the successful implementation of robotics & AI automation.

Driving Innovation & Impact:
At the forefront of the digital revolution, Sivanipriya has been instrumental in solving complex global banking challenges using technology. Her pivotal role in leading payment technology initiatives, such as reconciliation & investigation, has earned her accolades, including the prestigious Global Automation Change Maker Award in the banking industry by UiPath.

A Legacy of Excellence:
Sivanipriya's professional journey encompasses illustrious tenures with industry giants like Wipro Technologies & Tata Consultancy Services. As a Delivery Manager at Wipro, she adeptly managed development, maintenance & support projects, ensuring adherence to ITIL processes & driving customer satisfaction to new heights. Her role as an Assistant Consultant at Tata Consultancy Services saw her leading critical projects for esteemed clients like Singapore Airlines & Standard Chartered Bank, where her expertise in Java, J2EE & project management methodologies left an indelible mark.

Educational Prowess & Accolades:
Armed with a Bachelor's degree in Instrumentation & Control Engineering from SIT, Madurai Kamaraj University, Sivanipriya's academic brilliance earned her the University 2nd Rank. Furthermore, her pursuit of excellence extended beyond academia, as evidenced by certifications in Anti-Money Laundering from the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF). Her stellar academic record & professional achievements culminated in prestigious accolades, including the 'Mannar Thirumalai Award' from the Government of Tamil Nadu for sustained academic excellence.

In addition, Sivani has showcased remarkable directorial finesse in "Soan Papdi," seamlessly blending elements of comedy & crime thriller into a captivating narrative. Her ability to elicit strong performances from both seasoned actors & debutants alike is commendable. Sivani's unique storytelling style & keen eye for detail have made "Soan Papdi" a standout film in Tamil cinema, highlighting her as a promising & talented director.

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Vidya Malkani

Managing Partner,
VMC Consulting Services

With over 16 years in procurement and supply chain management, Vidya Malkani exemplifies innovation and strategic leadership. Her career spans sectors as diverse as higher education, media, and oil & gas, showcasing her adaptability and impact across various environments.

Vidya's professional journey includes notable roles at prestigious institutions like AUS, MBC Group, ENOC. In these organizations, she transformed the procurement approach from traditional cost-saving to data-driven strategic decision-making. Her leadership fostered a culture of continuous improvement and responsible sourcing, emphasizing collaboration and team contributions.

Vidya addressed the challenges of a geographically dispersed team and led comprehensive training programs blending technical and soft skills, which unified and grew the procurement culture. Her initiatives increased early procurement engagement in strategic projects and enhanced the department's influence within the budgeting process.

She established a Procurement Center of Excellence (CoE), driving both top and bottom-line growth. This CoE became a hub for lean and agile operations and featured a Sustainability & Innovation Garage that increased sustainable procurement practices by 16%.

A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS), Vidya is also a recognized thought leader, sharing her insights at regional and global industry events. Her advocacy for the transformative power of procurement, digital adoption, and sustainable practices highlights her commitment to advancing the profession.

Vidya's background has provided a strong analytical foundation, which she has used to promote data-driven decision-making throughout her career. She has consistently driven cost optimization, revenue growth, and asset utilization across various organizational contexts.

Beyond her corporate achievements, Vidya is passionate about the future of procurement. She regularly guest lectures at universities, inspiring the next generation of professionals. Additionally, she founded a consulting firm dedicated to shifting the perception of procurement, offering consulting, training and mentorship to build a robust and capable procurement community.

Vidya Malkani's career is a masterclass in transforming procurement into a strategic powerhouse. Her visionary leadership and relentless pursuit of excellence continue to drive significant value and transformation across the industry, making her an influential figure in procurement today.

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Dr. Bouchra Kaddoura

Early Childhood Education Advisor,
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Dr. Bouchra Kaddoura is a leading figure in Early Childhood Care & Development in MENA. With a career spanning over 36 years, she has been instrumental in transforming early childhood education systems, significantly enhancing policies, practices & standards across the region.

Professional Journey & Contributions
Currently, Dr. Kaddoura serves as the Early Childhood Education & Nurseries Improvement Advisor at the Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA). In this role, she has driven substantial improvements in early childhood education, aligning Sharjah's practices with global standards.

Previously, she was a Senior Early Years Inspector & strategist for the Knowledge & Human Development Authority in Dubai from 2013 to 2021. Here, she was pivotal in shaping policies that fostered continuous improvement in early childhood education.

Dr. Kaddoura's impact extends globally through her consultancy roles with UNESCO, The World Bank, UNICEF & ALECSO - ا ا ا ا ا ا ا . Notably, she co-authored the regional report "Education Starts Early: Progress, Challenges & Opportunities; Regional Report for Arab States," presented at the Regional Early Childhood Care & Education Conference. This report has been crucial in advancing ECCE policies across Arab nations.

Educational Background & Research:
Dr. Kaddoura's academic credentials include a Doctor of Business Administration from the University of Quebec, specializing in Early Childhood Care and Development, a Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education & Childcare Management, a Harvard University Teaching Certificate & certifications from the SDG Academy in sustainable development. These qualifications underpin her expertise in sustainable educational practices.

Her dedication to research is evident in her authorship of five educational training guides for UNESCO in 2023 & her ongoing research into the UAE's ECCE transformation.

Awards & Leadership Roles:
Dr. Kaddoura has received numerous accolades, including the Al Khorafy Recognition Award in 2006 for her contributions to ECCD in the Arab world. Her leadership in the "Mother to Mother" & "Building Blocks" programs has empowered communities & fostered positive parenting & education.
Beyond her professional roles, Dr. Kaddoura has established networks advocating for quality early childhood education, such as the Supervisors' Network in Ontario & the Union of Early Childhood Educators in Lebanon.

Dr. Bouchra Kaddoura's career is a testament to her unwavering commitment to ECCD. Her visionary leadership & deep expertise have transformed educational systems, paving the way for a brighter future for children in the MENA region & beyond.

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Dr. Shilpa Rungta

Chief of Staff/Interim Physician Advisor, Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Rungta is a renowned public servant & healthcare leader whose career exemplifies a profound commitment to quality, patient safety, & health equity. Born in Northwestern India, Dr. Rungta's early life was a prelude to her illustrious career. She consistently demonstrated leadership & dedication to healthcare, from being President of her all-girls high school to graduating with a medical degree from the University of Mumbai in 1998.

In 1999, Dr. Rungta served as Chief Medical Officer at a rural Primary Health Care Center in Nallasopara, India. Here, she championed Preventive Medicine, Child & Women's Health, & Health Equity initiatives including combating the cholera epidemic of 1999 & achieving zero mortality through her strategic public health interventions.

Dr. Rungta immigrated to the United States in 2002, where she pursued advanced training in P&LMS at prestigious institutions like Ascension St. John Hospital, Henry Ford Hospital, & University of Michigan. Her tenure at the VA began in 2012 at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center (VAMC), where she practiced surgical oncology & cytopathology & ascended to leadership roles including Laboratory Director & an academic appointment of Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan. Here, she implemented continuous improvement quality initiatives impacting thousands of Veterans & contributed to clinical peer-reviewed publications.

Her journey continued at the Cincinnati VAMC as Chief of P&LMS & Interim Chief of Staff, where she applied High-Reliability Organization principles & LEAN SIX SIGMA methodologies. This period was marked by her contributions to the enhancement of health professional trainee education, healthcare system optimization, & advancements in quality care & patient safety.

Driven by her passion for systemic healthcare excellence, Dr. Rungta earned a MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Administration. As Chief of Staff at various VA facilities, she spearheaded numerous strategic initiatives that garnered prestigious 5-star ratings from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Dr. Rungta's influence extends beyond operational leadership to the realms of public health, research, & innovation. Her transformational leadership led to national coverage of research outcomes, positioned Cincinnati VAMC as a national leader in telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, & also positioned VA Bedford as a national leader in VHA for vaccine administration.

In her current role as Interim Physician Advisor to the Assistant Undersecretary of Health for Clinical Services, she contributes to national-level process improvement initiatives & healthcare policies impacting over 9 million veterans.



Soumana Ammar

Best Selling Author and Leadership Coach

Soumana Ammar is a distinguished figure in the hospitality industry, renowned for her strategic leadership & commitment to fostering innovation through self-awareness & personal development. With over 2 decades of experience, she has significantly impacted the industry, particularly in the Middle East, where her dynamic personality & authentic leadership style have earned her widespread acclaim.

Soumana's career is marked as being a senior hospitality executive, where she has excelled in various operational & strategic capacities. She has been instrumental in driving growth & transformation in notable organizations, including her pivotal tenure with leading hospitality giants in the region. Her adeptness at blending strategic oversight with a keen operational focus has consistently propelled these companies to new heights, demonstrating her unique ability to navigate complex business landscapes.

An advocate for personal & professional growth, Soumana is a Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach. She emphasizes a strengths-based approach to leadership, encouraging individuals to harness their inherent talents to achieve their full potential. Her belief in the power of self-leadership as a catalyst for organizational innovation is central to her coaching philosophy & she has successfully guided numerous aspiring leaders on their journeys of self-discovery & empowerment.

Education has played a critical role in Soumana's journey. She is a proud alumna of prestigious institutions, having completed advanced degrees that have equipped her with the knowledge & skills to excel in her field. Her continuous pursuit of learning underscores her commitment to personal & professional development, a value she imparts to those she mentors & leads.

Beyond her direct professional achievements, Soumana is also a prolific author. Her debut book, "Without Your Job Title, WHO ARE YOU?", quickly became a bestseller, offering profound insights into discovering one's purpose & unlocking potential beyond professional roles. This work reflects her deep-seated belief in the importance of self-awareness & purpose-driven living.

In addition to her literary success, Soumana has garnered recognition for her contributions to leadership & education. She was honored with the 2023 Student Engagement Award by Hult Business School Dubai Campus & featured on the cover of Lady Lead Magazine مجلة المرأة الرائدة in September 2023, celebrating her influence as a trailblazer in leadership.

As a founding member of various international communities, Soumana actively participates in global dialogues on leadership & cross-cultural collaboration. Her efforts in these arenas highlight her dedication to shaping inclusive & transformative leadership practices worldwide.

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Boglarka Szentpetery

HR Director for Central Eastern Europe, Danone

Boglarka Szentpetery, a visionary HR leader, brings 20 years of diverse experience in the Technology & FMCG sectors, having held pivotal roles at Korn Ferry, Procter & Gamble, Microsoft & Danone. She is renowned for her expertise in business partnering, talent management, organizational development, digital & cultural transformation & championing Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Educational & Professional Journey:
Boglarka's academic foundation was laid at Corvinus University of Budapest, where she graduated in 2004 with a specialization in Corporate Strategy. She began her career at Korn/Ferry, immersing herself in the intricacies of executive search. In 2006, she joined Procter & Gamble, initially as a recruiting manager for Central Europe South. Her tenure at P&G saw her rise to roles such as HR Head for Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Czech Republic & Slovakia & DE&I Leader for Central Europe, where she spearheaded initiatives to enhance employee engagement.

Transformative Roles at Microsoft & Danone:
In 2017, Boglarka transitioned to Microsoft, taking on the role of HR Director for Hungary & DE&I Leader for the CEE region. At Microsoft, she deepened her strategic talent planning & leadership capability. She founded the Microsoft Futureproof Organizations Award, a program recognizing best practices in human & technology collaboration. Her work emphasized the transformative potential of AI & digital tools amplifying human capabilities in order to enhance business performance.

Since 2022, Boglarka has been at the helm of HR for Danone's Central Eastern Europe region, covering the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania & Bulgaria.

Commitment to DE&I:
Boglarka's unwavering commitment to DE&I is a cornerstone of her career. At P&G, Microsoft & Danone, she has supported & grown numerous Employee Resource Groups, creating environments where diversity thrives. Her initiatives have earned her the Microsoft EMEA HR Star Award & the CEE HR Award for "Activating Allyship in the Hybrid Workplace."

Empowering Through Mentorship & Advocacy:
Beyond her corporate roles, Boglarka is a recurring mentor in the Hungarian Business Leaders Forum. She is dedicated to empowering women & advocating for their advancement into leadership roles. As a board member of the Salva Vita Foundation, she voluntarily supports the employment & independent living of people with disabilities.

Personal Philosophy & Values:
Boglarka's mission to empower others to achieve their full potential is both professional & personal. As a mother of twin boys, she aims to instill independence & passion. An avid sports enthusiast & Advanced Open Water Diver, she finds balance & inspiration in her adventurous pursuits.

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Balkis Chaabane

Founder & Executive Director of Youth Transforming Narratives, and a Peace & Security Expert

Balkis Chaabane is a distinguished Tunisian female leader in Peace & Security, focusing on empowering youth. Her exceptional journey began at her home country and transitioned to different regions like the Middle East and north America with two prestigious US State Department scholarships. She is the founder of Youth Transforming Narratives, a fast-growing nonprofit on empowering young people in peace and security to decolonize the field. She is renowned for her key expertise in youth-led movements across the world. Currently based in Geneva, she is pursuing a second masters degree in Transitional Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law at the Geneva Academy.

With a remarkable range of experience, Balkis has collaborated with over 25 international organizations in just six years. Her multifaceted roles include Youth, Peace & Security expert, certified trainer & facilitator, youth engagement expert & program design specialist. By the age of 27, she has established herself as a leader in peace & security, human rights, safe & effective activism, youth-inclusive peacebuilding, and online engagement programs in the MENA

Balkis's leadership was evident when she founded a nonprofit with a fast rate of success in decolonizing peace & security through youth participation, transformed the World Youth Alliance's MENA office as its Regional Director revamping & re-organizing its operations within only one year, launching the WYAMENA Lebanon office in collaboration with UNESCO & designing a major writing fellowship for young leaders at IVolunteer International, among many other achievements.

Her reputation as a young leader led to her selection as a coordinator & jury member for US State Department exchange programs like the Tunisia Thomas Jefferson Exchange Program & the Community Engagement Exchange Program. She has consulted for Peace Direct, contributing insights that are highlighted in global reports & worked with USAID, growing communities of practice involving over 400 young leaders worldwide.

Balkis's expertise extends to international organizations like the UN. She completed a competitive internship in Peace & Security with the United Nations System Staff College & participated as a consultant on youth participation with several organizations like USAID and Peace Direct. As a MENA Peace Ambassador with the Institute for Economics & Peace & a UNESCO Global Youth community member, Balkis continues to advocate for youth empowerment.

Currently, Balkis is the Project Manager at the African Middle Eastern Leadership Project's AMEL Institute, leading human rights training programs for activists from the MENA. She supervises a community of nearly 1000 alumni.

Balkis's impact were recognized when she was selected for the Global Fellowship Initiative by the Geneva Center for Security Policy, one of the world's leading research centers on Peace & Security.

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Cristina Cerioni

International Business Consultant, Leadership & Executive, Life Coach

Drawing upon her extensive experience in the space, technology & research sectors, Cristina has consistently demonstrated an unparalleled ability to forge meaningful connections & alliances that transcend geographical boundaries. Her tenure as a consultant for prominent international organizations & institutions has afforded her unique insights into the intricacies of global collaboration.

At the heart of Cristina's approach to leadership lies a profound commitment to service & inclusivity. Through her "Leading the Leaders" program, she has brought together interdisciplinary teams from around the world, empowering them to tackle some of society's most pressing challenges with creativity & compassion. Her advocacy for diversity & inclusion has not only transformed organizational cultures but has also served as a catalyst for tangible business growth.

Cristina's passion for social responsibility is evident in her track record of championing corporate initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between profit & purpose. By leveraging strategic investments in corporate social responsibility, she has helped organizations align their values with their actions.

Her tireless efforts in this regard have earned her widespread acclaim as a thought leader & change agent in the realm of global social development.
In addition to her professional achievements, Cristina is also deeply committed to advancing education & knowledge sharing on a global scale. Her advocacy for STEM education & entrepreneurship has not only empowered individuals from diverse backgrounds but has also paved the way for greater inclusivity & economic empowerment in communities around the world.

Cristina has consistently served as an ambassador of Corporate Social Responsibility, advising institutions & corporations on development projects aimed at bridging the gap between the Global South & Global North. In an era of rapid technological evolution, it is crucial to ensure that no one is left behind.

To foster dialogue & cooperation among institutions, corporations, NGOs, academia, agencies, citizens & to address issues such as poverty reduction, development, equity & inclusion, Global Goals has created a unique digital platform. This platform is designed to connect & collaborate, facilitate communication & engage in multi-sectoral projects through multilateral cooperation, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Komal Jajoo

Managing Partner and CEO, Hayford Integrated Training Institute

Komal Jajoo is a testament to exceptional leadership & relentless pursuit of operational excellence. With over a decade of experience in the corporate realm, Komal has consistently demonstrated her prowess in transforming business vision into actionable strategies that drive performance, profitability, & growth. She has received excellent support, encouragement & motivation from her husband, Dr. Abhishek Jajoo. Dr Abhishek is the founder & Group CEO of AJMS Global Consulting, a company that he founded & in 5 years grew to be a major player in the segment.

Komal has an impressive academic foundation, with a Master of International Business (MIB) & a Bcom from the University of Rajasthan & various other professional certifications. Her commitment to continuous professional development can be seen in her constant upskilling efforts – she has certifications in Anti-Money Laundering & Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), as well as cutting-edge fields like The Metaverse, NFT & Web 3.0, & Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG).

Throughout her career, Komal has held pivotal roles in HR & operations across multiple countries, where she has excelled in designing & implementing policies that enhance organizational performance. Her strategic approach to HR leadership involves preparing recruitment processes that align with the company's vision, undertaking comprehensive reviews of business operations, & advising on daily HR operations. Her focus on system, data management, continuous improvement & reporting metrics has led to significant enhancements in employee engagement & operational efficiency.

At Hayford Integrated Training Institute, Komal's visionary leadership has propelled the organization to new heights. Under her guidance, the institute has expanded its training program offerings, catering to diverse skill sets & professional development needs. This expansion has not only increased revenue streams but also solidified the institute's reputation as a comprehensive learning hub.

Komal's innovative mindset is reflected in her spearheading of technology-enabled learning platforms & simulation-based training modules. These initiatives have enhanced the effectiveness & accessibility of the training programs, ensuring maximum engagement & knowledge retention among participants. Her efforts have been widely recognized, earning her accolades such as the Admired Women Leader of 2023 by Pinnacle Women & the She Award for Entrepreneurship.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Komal is an influential speaker at various public forums & events, sharing her insights on operational excellence & strategic HR management. Her contributions have been featured in prominent publications like Business Connect & Women Entrepreneur India.

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Senem Anataca

Founder & CEO,
180UTC

As the Founder of 180UTC, Senem has committed her career to creating safe and trusted spaces for leaders, enabling them to realize & boldly live their authentic potential. Her impact is global, resonating with individuals from the UAE, Turkey, Switzerland, Sweden, US, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Lebanon, Vietnam, Canada, Belgium, Thailand, India, Singapore & Germany.

At the core of Senem's mission is the belief that coaching is a powerful tool for creating positive social impact & a better world. She views coaching as a catalyst for change, capable of transforming lives & creating a ripple effect of positivity. Her dedication to this craft & her exceptional contributions have garnered her recognition & membership in esteemed organizations such as the Forbes Coaches Council & the Harvard Business Review Advisory Council. Additionally, she is actively involved with the Dubai Business Women Council (DBWC), Dubai Cares , Playbook & the ICF Foundation Society.

Senem's professional journey is marked by a series of significant achievements. She has been honored with numerous international awards, including Best Life Coach, Best Executive Coach & Best EMEA Coach. Her leadership skills have been further acknowledged with titles such as Best Women CEO in Business & recognition as one of the Most Influential Coaches & a Women Leader to Follow. Her contributions extend beyond her own practice; she served on the International Coaching Federation UAE Board & the Foundation Council of Ambassadors for 2.5 years, influencing the broader coaching profession.

Senem's influence is also evident in her published works, including the Leader's Planner 2023 & Leader's Planner 2024, which serve as yearly guides to empower the leaders she coaches. Her insights have been featured in numerous international interviews, podcasts & live talks & she has contributed to books such as "Dubai Business Leaders" & "Guidance From the Field: Insights From Coaches."

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Senem is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. She actively raises funds for the Turkish Education Foundation (TURK EGITIM VAKFI-TEV), supporting students with limited financial resources in pursuing their university education in Turkey. As a mentor in the UAE, she generously supports various volunteering projects, reinforcing her commitment to giving back to her community.

Senem Anataca's influence extends to the magic room of CTI Dubai, where she assists & tech-hosts Coach Training Programs. Her thought leadership, featured prominently by Forbes through her articles with the Forbes Coaches Council Expert Panel, showcases her dedication to helping leaders thrive.



Nuran Mekky

CEO and Founder,
CentriqCX

Nuran Mekky stands as a luminary in the field of Customer Experience Management (CX), bringing 17 years of dedicated expertise to the fore. Her career, marked by a relentless commitment to driving transformative CX & digital strategies, showcases her exceptional ability to harness data-driven insights & cultivate seamless, delightful customer journeys. From the initial brand interaction to fostering unwavering customer loyalty, Nuran's work consistently underscores the importance of creating memorable experiences that resonate deeply with customers.

Throughout her career, Nuran has demonstrated remarkable proficiency in orchestrating Customer Relationship Management strategies & omni-channel initiatives. Her leadership spans the entire lifecycle—from strategic ideation & meticulous testing to effective implementation & comprehensive reporting. This multifaceted approach not only propels customer acquisition but also fortifies retention, optimizes Lifetime Value & instills lasting brand loyalty. Her innovative thinking & strategic acumen have been pivotal in spearheading large-scale transformations.

A testament to her expertise, Nuran has successfully driven CRM strategies for prominent entities such as DAMAC Properties, Meydan Free Zone, Eagle Hills UAE & Gargash Group across the Middle East, Africa & Europe. Her initiatives have significantly improved customer acquisition, retention & loyalty, showcasing a holistic approach to customer experience that optimizes revenue generation & maximizes customer lifetime value. Her strategic transformation efforts have left an indelible impact on these organizations, highlighting her ability to contribute to revenue growth & enhance customer lifetime value on a global scale.

Nuran's key competencies encompass a wide array of areas, including Customer Value Management, CRM Strategy & Implementation, Digital Transformation & Innovation, Customer Experience Management, Loyalty, Data Analytics, Design Thinking, Strategic Planning, Growth Marketing, Sales Funnel Optimization, Performance Management, Compliance & Risk Solutions & Change Management. Her prowess in data analysis facilitates informed decision-making, underpinning every strategic move & ensuring solutions that resonate profoundly with customer needs.

As a single mother of two, Nuran has also championed women's empowerment in the non-traditional realm of CRM. Her remarkable journey is a testament to her ability to balance professional excellence with personal commitments, serving as an inspiration to many.

Nuran Mekky's indomitable spirit & strategic brilliance continue to shape customer-centric landscapes, exemplifying the epitome of transformative CX leadership.

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Claire Maslen

Independent Consultant

With over 3 decades at the forefront of the telecommunications industry, Claire stands out as a visionary leader in mobile telecommunications, payments & mCommerce. Renowned for her expertise in NFC (Near Field Communications) & knowledge of Digital Wallets, Claire's career is a testament to her ability to drive innovation & foster collaboration.

Career Milestones & Achievements:
Claire's professional journey began with notable stints at blue-chip companies like HP & Cisco, where she advanced through various roles in Professional Services.

At O2, the UK's largest mobile network operator, Claire's contributions were groundbreaking. She defined the product & technology strategy for NFC within the company, leading to the successful launch of the O2 Wallet NFC trial in London which marked a significant milestone in the evolution of contactless payments & positioned Claire as a key advocate for NFC technology.

Her strategic acumen further shone during her time at the GSMA, where she spearheaded market engagement efforts. Claire's work involved collaborating with mobile operators, regulators & fintech companies, fostering an environment ripe for innovation & growth in mobile commerce.

In 2017 Claire joined Consult Hyperion , a leading consultancy in secure electronic transactions & was later appointed to the Board. Her efforts in engaging with strategic media partners globally, facilitated Consult Hyperion's expansion into new markets, reinforcing its industry leadership.

Industry Influence & Advocacy:
Claire's influence extends beyond her corporate roles. She is a sought-after speaker at premier industry conferences, including MPE, Money2020, Mobile World Congress & Payment Leaders Summit.

A passionate advocate for diversity & inclusion, Claire has been instrumental in driving 'Women in Technology' programs. She champions social mobility & the recognition of talent, irrespective of background & regularly speaks on the importance of inclusivity in the workplace.

Media & Recognition:
Claire's expertise has been recognized by various industry awards, including the PC Pro Top Ten Women in Tech & Mobile Magazine's Power 50. She is a key media spokesperson, with contributions to prominent publications such as the Evening Standard, Mobile Magazine, FT Informer & NFC Times.

Currently, Claire serves as an independent advisor for the Mobile Ecosystem Forum & as CMO for Osmodal Group (a specialist consultancy delivering solutions to the world's largest transit agencies). She helps organizations develop growth strategies & optimize engagements. She also chairs industry events & facilitates forums to encourage cross-industry collaboration. Claire divides her time between Dubai & London, balancing her professional commitments with family life.



Svettlana Chatterjee

Director,
S CUBE Trans Continental Group

Svettlana Chatterjee, at the age of 19, is a dynamic and visionary leader based in Dubai, UAE, with a career marked by significant contributions to the fields of business strategy, and technological innovation. As a of Director at S CUBE Trans Continental Group, Svettlana has demonstrated her expertise in business operations, financial metrics, risk assessment and collaboration with stakeholders.

At S CUBE Trans Continental Group, she consolidated the International Trading Platform for the Group, delivered comprehensive business plans and strategies to clients, and spearheaded global projects across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. She engineered and launched a prototype for a digital logistics solutions website, developed technological solutions for across 26 profit centres.

Beyond S CUBE, Svettlana at a young age has ventured into the world of entrepreneurship, showcasing her ambition and determination. She has demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit that is rare for someone her age, fearlessly exploring new ideas and turning them into reality. Her tenacity and passion for her ventures has led to her fintech venture, with the goal of making financial technology more accessible. Svettlana has been a TEDX Speaker on the topic of Innovation - with innovation being the primary agenda in all her endeavours.

Svettlana is also an accomplished hashtag#author, with two notable books, the Award Winning "The She Executive'' in 2021 and "The Human Network" in 2023, that reflect her pioneering ideas and extensive research. She is optimistic and supportive of sustainable practices in the development of technology, shipping & logistics and the energy sector.

Fluent in multiple languages, including English, Hindi, Spanish, Bengali, French, and Russian, Svettlana is a global citizen with a passion for public speaking, debate, and community service. Her Artworks regarding women's empowerment have been displayed in India and the UAE.

Her involvement as a business leader & negotiator is substantiated by the fact that she is responsible for networking and engagements with various Diplomatic Offices within the UAE. She is a brand ambassador for her country in a prominent platform in the UAE, to promote the bilateral relations between the nations through art, music , dance & literature.

Svettlana's vision is to create spaces for global impact by harnessing the power of innovation. Her nomination for Global Women Rising Leaders 2024, is a recognition of her inspiring entrepreneurial leadership and journey at a young age.

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Amaal Ghadieh

Author, NLP Master Practitioner, Program Manager

Meet Amaal Ghadieh: a dynamic & accomplished leader in program management, NLP practice & authorship. With a Bachelor of Arts in Economics & a wealth of experience driving strategic initiatives across diverse sectors, Amaal's journey is a testament to unwavering dedication & a passion for effecting positive change.

Throughout her illustrious career, Amaal has left an indelible mark on every endeavor she's undertaken. Her expertise lies in navigating complex programs & operations, particularly in the challenging landscape of the MENA region. With a proven track record of success, Amaal has led cross-functional teams with finesse, delivering results that exceed expectations.

Amaal's prowess extends beyond mere management; she is a maestro in cultivating & sustaining robust membership bases. Her strategic engagement strategies not only foster loyalty but also enhance the value proposition for all stakeholders involved. Amaal's ability to orchestrate successful fundraising campaigns is unparalleled, leveraging her exceptional communication skills & stakeholder engagement to secure vital financial support.

But Amaal's talents don't stop there. She is a master at identifying, nurturing, & converting partnership opportunities, expanding networks & fostering mutually beneficial collaborations. Her negotiation skills are second to none, making her a sought-after partner in any venture.

Amaal's commitment to personal growth & development shines through in her role as a certified ABNLP Master Practitioner. Harnessing the power of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), she elevates her program management skills to new heights, driving success with unparalleled precision.

Beyond her professional achievements, Amaal is also a beacon of inspiration in the realm of education & personal growth. As an author, she has penned a children's book that instills essential life skills, emotional intelligence, and positive values in young minds. Her dedication to education is further evident in her role as a Master NLP coach, guiding clients towards personal development and achievement of their goals.

In her most notable role yet, Amaal managed a groundbreaking program in Iraq, collaborating with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to establish youth and early childhood centers nationwide. Her strategic acumen, coupled with her ability to secure substantial funding and oversee diverse teams, drove positive change in communities nationwide.

Amaal's journey is a testament to the transformative power of passion, dedication, and expertise. With each milestone surpassed and each challenge conquered, she continues to inspire and lead by example, leaving an indelible legacy wherever she goes.

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İrem Erdoğan

HR Director and Member of Executive Committee, Borusan Cat

İrem Erdoğan, with a background steeped in innovation & a relentless drive for excellence, stands as a beacon of leadership in the realm of HR & Sustainability. Armed with a degree in Computer Engineering from Yıldız Technical University, İrem embarked on her illustrious career journey in 1997, igniting her passion for transformative change within the dynamic landscape of information technology.

For the past six years, İrem has held the esteemed position of Member of the Executive Committee Responsible for HR & Development at Borusan Cat. Driven by the company purpose "We Create Solutions for a Better World", Borusan Cat is rooted in a steadfast commitment to sustainability. The company places utmost importance on climate, people & innovation in shaping its business model. Central to this ethos is the recognition of human resources as the most valuable asset.

She has championed Borusan Cat's commitment to global governance & excellence by restructuring the Global HR Strategy to ensure alignment with organizational priorities & future trends. In all endeavors, Borusan Cat prioritizes the "Human" element, ensuring inclusivity, diversity & empowerment across its diverse global footprint.

İrem's contributions to digitalization have been nothing short of groundbreaking. Under her guidance, Borusan Cat launched the innovative L&D Store Learning Ecosystem, revolutionizing learning & development practices for over 3200 individuals across multiple countries & languages. Additionally, her leadership in the Global HR Digital Transformation Project streamlined fundamental HR processes, paving the way for enhanced efficiency & strategic alignment on a global scale.

Beyond digital transformation, İrem has been a driving force behind sustainability & diversity initiatives. She has played a pivotal role in fostering a culture of inclusivity & empowerment. (Sisters Club, Women Operator Training Program, Harmony Reverse Mentoring etc.)

In the realm of talent management & development, İrem's impact is tangible. From talent review processes to performance management systems, she has cultivated an environment where employees are not just valued but also supported & empowered to unleash their full potential. (Her dedication to initiatives like the, Alpha Internship Program, All Star New Graduate Program, & Young Technician Program reflects Borusan Cat's commitment to nurturing young talent & fostering long-term growth.)

With a remarkable track record of achievements in global governance, sustainability & talent development, İrem Erdoğan embodies the essence of leadership excellence.

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Maria Rajesh

Chief Human Resources Officer, Embassy Group

Maria Rajesh, Group Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO), whose remarkable journey in the field of Human Resources (HR) management has not only transformed Embassy Group in multiple facades but has also set new standards for excellence in Human Resources practices in the Real Estate sector.

Maria's illustrious career, spanning over 25 years, is a testament to her unwavering dedication and unparalleled expertise in HR. With a bachelor's degree in Sociology, a postgraduate degree in Human Resources Management and Personnel Administration and a Cornell University program in Strategic Human Resource Leadership, Maria laid the foundation for her exceptional leadership journey.

Since joining Embassy Group in 2006, Maria has been instrumental in driving transformative changes within the organization in the People function. Under her leadership and guidance, the HR function has evolved into a dynamic hub of revolution, talent acquisition, and employee engagement. Her vision has not only aligned the People policies with market dynamics but has also deeply resonated with the ethos of the company.

Maria's commitment to fostering a people-first culture is evident in her relentless pursuit of workplace inclusivity, diversity, and employee well-being. She has spearheaded numerous initiatives like the establishment of internal committees dedicated to sensitizing employees. Maria's leadership acumen has created a nurturing and supportive work environment that empowers every member of her team to thrive.

Moreover, Maria's visionary approach extends beyond the confines of Embassy Group. She has been at the forefront of advocating for more equitable and bias-free HR practices industry-wide. Her insights into reward, succession, and promotion processes have not only earned widespread acclaim but have also set new benchmarks for excellence in HR management.

In addition to her professional achievements, Maria's commitment to philanthropy serves as a shining example of her dedication to making a positive impact on society. Her support for non-profit organizations such as World Vision India, Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Lovedale Foundation underscores her belief in the importance of giving back to the society in her own possible way.

Maria Rajesh's journey embodies the transformative power of effective HR leadership. Her visionary approach, coupled with her unwavering dedication, has not only propelled the organization to new heights but has also inspired countless HR professionals to strive for excellence in their own endeavours. As she continues to embark on new frontiers in the realm of HR management, Maria remains a beacon of inspiration for aspiring leaders across industries.

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Aida Essa Belal Nasser

Senior Food Safety Specialist, Dubai Municipality

In the dynamic landscape of food safety, one name shines bright – Aida Essa Belal Nasser. With an illustrious career spanning over years of dedicated service, Aida stands as a beacon of excellence in ensuring the safety and quality of our food supply.

Aida's journey began with a foundation rooted in academic prowess. Armed with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Sciences specializing in Food Industries and Nutrition from the prestigious United Arab Emirates University, she laid the groundwork for her remarkable trajectory. Complementing her degree, Aida holds a plethora of certifications, including a Food Safety certificate from Zayed University and diplomas in Food Safety and Professional Management for Food Safety Assurance. Her commitment to continuous learning is evident through her participation in various professional development programs, such as the Professional Certificate Program for Federal Government Employees and training in clinical nutrition at esteemed government hospitals.

Stepping into the professional arena, Aida wasted no time in making her mark. Her tenure at Dubai Municipality commenced as a summer training student at the Public Health Department, swiftly earning recognition as an outstanding graduate student. Since then, she has traversed through various departments, leaving an indelible imprint at each juncture. From her instrumental role in the Food Control Department to her pivotal contributions in the Quality Office and the Food Permits Department, Aida's dedication and expertise have been instrumental in shaping policies and procedures governing food safety.

Aida's commitment extends beyond the confines of her workplace. She actively participates in national and regional committees, contributing her expertise to initiatives aimed at enhancing food safety standards. Her involvement as a member of the Food Contaminants Risk Assessment Team and the National Technical Committee for Food and Agriculture Specifications underscores her dedication to advancing the field.

Aida's professional journey is punctuated with accolades and recognition, including the Silver Proposal Award from Dubai Municipality and the prestigious Rashid Bin Humaid Award for Culture and Science. Her groundbreaking research, published in esteemed scientific journals, further cements her reputation as a trailblazer in the field of food safety.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Aida remains deeply committed to giving back to her community. As a volunteer with the Dubai Municipality Volunteer Program and Dubai Volunteering Program, she embodies the spirit of service and civic responsibility.

In summary, Aida Essa Belal Nasser's journey exemplifies excellence in every sense.

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Jessica Duvall

Head of People and Culture,
Chinese Palace Group

Jessica Duvall is not merely a leader; she's a visionary who has redefined the landscape of organizational leadership with her unwavering commitment to excellence & compassion. With a distinguished career spanning years of impactful contributions, Jessica stands as a beacon of inspiration in the realm of People & Culture.

Armed with a profound belief in the transformative power of leadership, Jessica's journey has been marked by a relentless pursuit of creating positive work environments that foster innovation & sustainable growth. Her leadership philosophy revolves around the core tenets of empathy, compassion & empowerment, recognizing each individual's unique journey & aspirations.

Jessica's professional trajectory is nothing short of remarkable. Possessing a stellar educational background, including a Master Degree in Business & various certifications in Strategic Leadership, HRM, & OD from prestigious institutions, she embarked on a career path that would see her scale remarkable heights.

Her employment history reads like a roster of distinguished organizations, where she left an indelible mark through her strategic acumen & people-centric approach. Notably, her tenure with renowned companies across the globe saw her spearhead transformative initiatives that left an enduring impact. From overhauling performance management systems to championing diversity & inclusion, Jessica's strategic HR initiatives have yielded tangible results, including reduced turnover rates, enhanced workforce diversity & employee wellbeing.

However, Jessica's contributions transcend the confines of the corporate world. Recognizing the importance of community engagement, she has actively participated in public speaking engagements & mentoring programs with various institutions. Her dedication to nurturing future leaders is evident in her efforts to impart knowledge & inspire the next generation to lead with empathy & kindness.

In the past year alone, Jessica's endeavors have reached new heights. Since relocating to the vibrant city of Dubai in UAE, she has orchestrated a paradigm shift in employee well-being, introducing innovative programs that prioritize the holistic development of individuals. Moreover, her commitment to community enrichment has seen her actively engage with local universities, fostering a culture of knowledge exchange & professional development.

As Jessica's journey continues to unfold, one thing remains abundantly clear: her unwavering dedication to leadership excellence & positive impact knows no bounds. With each stride she takes, she reaffirms her status as a trailblazer, inspiring others to chart their paths with purpose & compassion.



Santosh Agarwal

Chief Business Officer of Life Insurance,
PolicyBazaar.com

In the bustling realm of insurance, where innovation meets determination, one name shines brightly: Santosh Agarwal. From humble beginnings to her current role as CBO of Life Insurance at PolicyBazaar.com, Santosh's journey epitomizes the transformative power of passion, perseverance, and leadership.

Armed with an MBA in Marketing from ICFAI Business School and a B.Sc in Zoology/Animal Biology from St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, Santosh embarked on her professional odyssey in 2011. Joining PolicyBazaar.com as an Assistant Manager in Business Development, she wasted no time in leaving an indelible mark on the industry landscape.

With each passing year, Santosh's ascent within PolicyBazaar.com was nothing short of meteoric. Swiftly progressing from her initial role, she assumed pivotal positions including CBO and Business Unit Head in Gurgaon. It was through her unwavering commitment and visionary acumen that she spearheaded the transformation of PolicyBazaar's Life Insurance vertical, propelling the company to commanding heights within the Indian market.

Santosh leads not merely by instruction, but by example, instilling a culture of discipline and dedication within her team. Her 12-year journey at PolicyBazaar.com is a testament to her remarkable performance, having earned her a promotion each year—a feat attained through sheer merit and excellence.

As one of the pioneering female leaders at PolicyBazaar.com, Santosh shattered glass ceilings with her knack for dissecting complex business challenges and devising innovative solutions.

Under Santosh's stewardship, PolicyBazaar.com witnessed a paradigm shift in the Life Insurance sector. With an astute focus on data insights, Santosh identified and addressed customer needs, culminating in the successful launch of groundbreaking products like the Homemaker Plan and Independent Women Term Policies.

Notable among Santosh's achievements is the doubling of PolicyBazaar's term business share to an impressive 25% within the last four years. Moreover, her strategic initiatives led to the onboarding many insurer partners, including esteemed brands such as LIC, Aegon, ICICI, HDFC, Tata AIA, Max Life, and Kotak Life. Furthermore, under her leadership, PolicyBazaar.com achieved a remarkable doubling of Overall Life Issued APE (Term + Savings) over the past two years—a testament to Santosh's unwavering commitment to excellence.

In the dynamic world of insurance, Santosh Agarwal stands as a paragon of success—a visionary leader, a transformative force, and an embodiment of the adage: "With the right attitude and passion, the sky's the limit."

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Walaa Jamal Helwani

Portfolio Manager,
EXPRO

Walaa's professional journey began as a Graphic Designer, where she transformed ideas into captivating visuals, leading design projects that not only met but exceeded client expectations. Her keen eye for detail and innovative approach soon saw her managing significant art projects and spearheading internal branding initiatives for various organizations.

Her academic credentials, including an MBA from Anglia Ruskin University in the UK and a PMP certification, provided a solid foundation for her to step into strategic roles. At the Social Development Bank, she led comprehensive rebranding initiatives and strategic projects, such as award-winning annual reports, cybersecurity awareness programs, and strategic house awareness, elevating the bank's brand positioning.

In her current role as a Portfolio Manager at EXPRO, Walaa's strategic vision and meticulous supervision ensure the successful execution of complex projects. She integrates diverse elements into effective solutions, consistently driving growth and innovation in government initiatives, enhancing efficiency, and boosting stakeholder satisfaction.

Walaa is not just a manager; she is a visionary leader, strategist, and creative thinker. Her dedication has garnered numerous accolades, including the prestigious Golden Women Award (GTA), in recognition of her significant contributions to project management.

Walaa Helwani exemplifies professional excellence and visionary leadership. Her journey of blending creativity with strategic acumen continues to redefine the boundaries of portfolio management. Walaa's remarkable achievements and innovative approach serve as a source of inspiration, making her a pivotal figure in her field.



Simone Ponce

Chief Executive Officer,
Bee2be

Simone Ponce is a distinguished leader and a pioneer in strategy, social impact, and business development. With an unparalleled ability to steer complex enterprises toward success, she has consistently elevated industry standards for productivity and innovation throughout her career.

Simone's educational foundation is robust, fueling her ability to navigate and excel in varied and challenging environments. Her career is a tapestry woven with significant roles in globally renowned organizations. At the International Labor Organization (ILO), she pioneered initiatives that bridged labor and economic development. During her tenure with the Organizing Committee of the 2014 FIFA World Cup, Simone demonstrated her adeptness at managing large-scale events, ensuring they left a positive legacy. Her strategic expertise continued to shine at Uber, where she contributed to expanding the company's market presence by developing innovative projects and businesses.

Simone's entrepreneurial spirit is as commendable as her corporate accomplishments. She founded two startups with a profound social impact. The first venture focused on empowering individuals in informal sectors through innovative food-based income solutions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, her leadership in this startup facilitated the donation of over 100,000 meals in Brazil, showcasing a sustainable and scalable social responsibility model.

Her second venture, Bee2Be, is a socio-environmental startup dedicated to transforming the global beekeeping chain. Recognized at prominent events such as the Web Summit, celebrated by the press, and featured at TEDX Women, Bee2Be exemplifies Simone's commitment to environmental sustainability and community empowerment.

Simone's resilience is reflected in her personal journey as well. Born in the interior of Brazil and overcoming the challenges of violence and fibromyalgia, she has turned adversity into a source of strength and inspiration. As the leader of the Brazil chapter of Food Innovation in the G100, a group of influential female leaders, Simone tirelessly advocates for gender equality, driving change and fostering awareness on a global scale.

Simone Ponce is a true force of nature, continuously shaping the business landscape, driving social impact, and championing sustainable innovation. Her remarkable journey and unwavering commitment to improving lives are a beacon of hope and inspiration for all.

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Jaslyin Qiyu

Founder,
Mad About Marketing Consulting

Jaslyin Qiyu stands out as a beacon of excellence in the marketing realm, bringing over 20 years of expertise in both B2B & B2C landscapes. With a fervent commitment to digital proficiency & strategic growth, Jaslyin has established herself as a transformative leader, consistently driving marketing strategies that align with overarching business objectives.

Jaslyin's entrepreneurial spirit shines through her consultancy, Mad About Marketing Consulting & as an Independent Consultant as part of Umbrex. She provides transformative marketing advisory services across various industries, including banking, finance, education & fintech globally.

During her corporate life previously, she was the Head of Client Marketing & Digital Capabilities at Citi Singapore & was instrumental in their mobile app transformation as a digital sales engine, which significantly enhanced customer experience, operational efficiency & portfolio expansion amongst existing customers.

In her role as Head of Marketing, Southeast Asia at JLL, she orchestrated a regional marketing overhaul that bolstered market penetration, operational efficiency, client coverage & brand visibility. Her ability to navigate & lead within complex organizational structures was further exemplified at Kantar, where she played a pivotal role in unifying the brand & achieving global synergies.

Jaslyin's academic credentials are as impressive as her professional achievements. She holds a Master's in Management from University College Dublin, a Bachelor's in Mass Communications & Marketing from Upper Iowa University & was most recently conferred the Doctor of Professional Studies D.P.S. (Honorary Dr. Title) in Marketing by Azteca University - International Programmes. Further honing her skills, she also holds various post graduate certifications from MIT Sloan School of Management in digital business strategy & artificial intelligence.

Her contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including being named among the Global 200 Power Leaders in Marcom 2023 & the Top 10 Empowering Women Leaders to Follow in 2024 by Business Leaders Review. Jaslyin's dedication to advancing the marketing field is also reflected in her advisory roles with organizations like Trend Talks & the Customer Experience Network. She's also a renowned speaker for the marketing field & is a regular feature in global & regional summits including The DigiConfex Global Conference, Seamless Asia, MARKETECH APAC & more.

Jaslyin's journey is testament to her prowess in managing & revitalizing marketing strategies for global corporations. Her pursuits are characterized by her passion for excellence, making her a trusted advisor & leader in the dynamic world of Marketing.



Maisa Jarjous

Design Manager Lead,
Majid Al Futtaim

Maisa Jarjous stands at the forefront of architectural & urban planning innovation, sculpting the vibrant skyline of Dubai & beyond with her visionary designs & sustainable ethos. With a career spanning 15 years, Maisa has emerged as a luminary in her field, seamlessly blending her diverse cultural heritage—Saudi Arabian roots & Syrian lineage—with a deep-seated passion for creating sustainable, inclusive spaces.

Educated at the prestigious American University of Sharjah, Maisa's academic excellence is marked by a Master's degree in Urban Planning, earned with Honors & a Bachelor's degree in Architecture.

Throughout her illustrious career, Maisa's expertise has touched a myriad of sectors including residential, educational, hospitality & retail. As an award-winning architect & urban planner, Maisa's projects are a testament to her commitment to excellence & her ability to create spaces that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also functionally efficient and sustainable.

Her dedication to sustainability is woven into the fabric of her work. Maisa has championed ground-breaking research in sustainable urban living, which she has presented at esteemed conferences such as the UAE Graduate Students Research Conference (UAEGSRC2021). She has been a prominent voice in forums like the Fifth Arab Women Engineers Forum & the Sixth Virtual Arab Forum for Arab Experts, where she shared her vision for an "Arab Carbon-Free City."

Beyond her contributions to architectural practice, Maisa has taken on leadership roles that underscore her commitment to education & professional development. Elected as a Council Member in 2018 at her alma mater, she serves as the College of Architecture, Art & Design Alumni Chapter Representative at the American University of Sharjah. Her dedication to the alumni community was honored with the AUS Most Active Council Member Award in 2023.

In her past role as the Alumni Led-Sustainability Committee Lead, Maisa collaborates with passionate alumni from 26 different majors, driving sustainability initiatives & advocating for a greener future. Her focus on sustainable water management, climate change & eco-district development showcases her forward-thinking approach to urban planning & her commitment to addressing global environmental challenges.

In her current role as Design Manager at Majid Al Futtaim, Maisa is working on Ghaf Woods Dubai's first-ever forest living community. This new development is set to redefine indoor-outdoor living, with 7000 premium units set amongst 35000 trees, 20 birds species & neighbourhoods interlinked by forest-lined pathways. Ghaf Woods marks as an important step in MAF's re-founding journey, renewing commitment to creating innovative experiences as we continue to contribute to Dubai's ever-evolving landscape.

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Dr. Mariam Shaikh

Founder & CEO,
MS Education Consultants

Dr. Mariam Shaikh stands as a luminary in the field of education, with over 35 years of unwavering dedication and transformative impact. She is the Founder and CEO of MS Education Consultants FZ LLC, an enterprise that has redefined educational consultancy by offering bespoke services that foster student achievement and innovation.

Dr. Mariam's academic journey is illustrious, marked by a Bachelor's Degree with Honors in Psychology, a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology, and a PhD in Transformational Educational Leadership from Harvard Affiliate Mother Theresa University. These robust academic credentials underpin her deep understanding of the psychological and leadership dynamics essential for educational excellence.

Her career commenced in the early 1980s with the establishment of a nursery school, driven by her passion for quality education inspired by her own children. After a successful career in K-12 education, Dr. Mariam Shaikh made a transformative shift into the higher education sector, marking a pivotal moment in her journey. This venture was the first step in her lifelong mission to elevate educational standards. In the early 2000s, she played a critical role in establishing the University of New Brunswick's branch campus in Dubai Knowledge Village. This pioneering initiative was among the first of its kind in the UAE, setting the stage for an influx of international universities into the region. Dr. Mariam went on to hold senior leadership positions at leading institutions, including Canadian University of Dubai, Heriot-Watt University Dubai, and Amity University Dubai where she led strategic growth initiatives, significantly enhancing student recruitment and engagement.

In 2020, Dr. Mariam founded MS Education Consultants FZ LLC with a vision to navigate the complexities of the evolving educational landscape. The company swiftly gained a reputation for excellence, becoming the official Middle East Strategist for the University of Guelph and the Regional Recruitment Representative for Toronto Metropolitan University. These prestigious partnerships underscore the company's role in bridging educational opportunities between the Middle East and leading global universities.

Dr. Mariam's influence extends to numerous conferences and media appearances, where she advocates for world-class educational facilities and has been pivotal in establishing Dubai as an educational hub. Her efforts have been recognized with numerous awards, including the Global Excellence in Education Award, GCC Woman Leadership Award, and the Educator of the Year 2023 with the most recent accolade being ranked as Global 200 Women Power Leaders this year.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Mariam is a fervent advocate for women's empowerment, actively collaborating with organizations to support and uplift women globally. Through MS Education Consultants, she has created job opportunities for graduates and developed programs for refugee students, reflecting her deep compassion and commitment to community service.

Dr. Mariam Shaikh's journey from a small nursery school to a global educational leader exemplifies her vision, resilience, and dedication to education. Her work continues to inspire, making her a beacon of hope and a role model for aspiring educators and entrepreneurs worldwide.

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Dr. Monika Kaushal

Consultant Neonatologist, Consultant Pediatrics. Chief of Department of Neonatology,
Medical Director at Emirates Specialty hospital.
DHCC FRCPCH UK , FNNF
Vice President Emirates Pediatric and Neonatal Society
President Elect Neonatal chapter IAP (UAE)

With a remarkable career spanning over two decades, Dr. Monika Kaushal has consistently demonstrated her commitment to advancing neonatal and pediatric healthcare. Her influence extends across multiple prestigious institutions in Dubai, including the Dubai Health Authority.

Dr. Kaushal's academic journey is distinguished by a series of prestigious qualifications. She holds an FRCPCH from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) in London & completed a Fellowship in Neonatology from the same esteemed institution. Her foundational training includes a DM in Neonatology from AIIMS, New Delhi an MD in Pediatrics from PGIMER Chandigarh & an MBBS from SN Medical College, Jodhpur.

Throughout her professional journey, Dr. Kaushal has made significant contributions to neonatal healthcare. Her tenure at Emirates Specialty Hospital saw the transformation of the NICU from a Level I unit to a state-of-the-art Level III NICU, expanding from three to fourteen beds. This upgrade, approved by DHA, allows for the care of extremely preterm babies, enhancing outcomes & setting new standards in neonatal care. Her leadership has attracted referrals from across the UAE, including Sharjah, Ajman & Fujairah.

Dr. Kaushal holds an NRP instructor license & actively trains doctors & nurses in neonatal resuscitation. Her dedication to knowledge enhancement led her to pursue an MSc in Neonatology from University of Southampton, UK. Furthermore, she initiated the NNF & IAP fellowships overseas, a testament to her commitment to global neonatal education.

Her contributions to medical literature include publications in indexed journals & presentations at prominent conferences such as PAS (AAP) & UENPS (European). Dr. Kaushal's research & presentations have earned her accolades, including the Young Scientist Award from the Prenatal Society of Malaysia. Her innovative work in neonatal care includes developing training modules, protocols & instructional videos, some of which are featured on the WHO website. She has written several chapters in a book & co edited neonatal HIE book.

Dr. Kaushal played a pivotal role in JCI accreditation for her organization & has been a crucial member of the DHA's medico-legal auditing team. She brought the international neonatal conference INAC in the region for which was honored by Safeer awards by the Dubai Government.

Dr. Monika Kaushal's career is a testament to her unwavering dedication to improving neonatal and pediatric healthcare, making her a revered figure in the medical community.

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Gemma Rubio Rodrigo

Founder & CCO,
Define The Fine

Gemma Rubio Rodrigo is a visionary strategist with a profound understanding of communication strategy, neuroscience, and neuromarketing. By leveraging her expertise across diverse fields, Gemma creates transformative solutions for global brands, empowering visionary organisations by fostering lasting connections that drive sustainable growth and ongoing innovation.

Gemma also plays a pivotal role in connecting companies across Spain, the United Arab Emirates, and the Netherlands, drawing on her extensive network to bridge markets and foster new business opportunities. Her unique approach combines strategic communication and a broad professional network, helping companies enter and expand in these regions.

Her educational background includes a Business Management & Marketing Master's degree from Cerem Global Business School in Madrid and a specialisation in User Experience from the Interaction Design Foundation.

As the founder of Define The Fine, a consultancy established in 2015, Gemma has been instrumental in developing customer-focused strategies that enhance brand perception and customer loyalty for tech companies. Her approach centres on cultural localisation, ensuring communication resonates with diverse markets. Beyond strategy development, she mentors entrepreneurs and C-level executives, helping them optimise their digital operations and communications.

In addition to her consultancy work, Gemma has an extensive teaching portfolio, lecturing at CEF Business School on Neuromarketing and at Universidad Complutense de Madrid on communication strategies for the post-digital era. She has also previously taught at the Biotechnology Business Institute.

Gemma's industry impact is further underscored by her tenure as the Online Strategy Director at LEAD TCML, where she formulated behavioural solutions plans to enhance customer engagement and retention. As Country Manager for Symbaloo.com, she successfully launched SymbalooEDU in Spain and several Latin American countries, significantly increasing the platform's user base through strategic communication, UX improvements, and a strategic partnership with Spain's Ministry of Education and Culture to implement the tool in Spanish public schools.

Her professional activities extend to research and writing. Gemma is a member of Innovagogia, a founding member of the EduEmer Chair at University Pablo de Olavide in Seville, and an active participant in various women's leadership and tech communities. She contributes to multiple publications on marketing and entrepreneurship, and her expertise is regularly showcased at industry events where she speaks on brand communication and neuromarketing.
Gemma's accolades include being named a Role Model Woman in Tech in 2019, a finalist for the Wintrade 2020 Awards in Marketing & PR, receiving a special mention as Startup Ecosystem Creator 2023, Woman Leader in Corporate Communications 2024, and the Best Startup Mentor - Impact Leadership Global Award in 2024.

Gemma Rubio Rodrigo is a dynamic leader, mentor, and educator, dedicated to advancing brand identity and communication practices while fostering innovation, inclusivity, and cross-border growth in the digital age.

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Irene Riad

Founder & CEO,
SightCET

Irene Riad is a distinguished Executive, Team & Organisational Culture Coach with over 24 years of experience. As the founder & CEO of SightCET, she specializes in leader-team-business culture transformations for organisations. She is the creator of the Leadership Mosaic™ framework & the RENEWAL™ process, founded on the neuroscience of trauma recovery, Jungian psychology of individuation & spiritual laws of a success mindset.

Holding an ICF PCC credential, and as an EMCC Senior Practioner, Irene empowers Senior & C-Suite high performing leaders, leadership teams, and entire organizations to balance collective alignment with personal fulfillment. Her experiences included local, regional & global roles while she lived in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, the UK & Albania. Irene has a rich multicultural background that enriches her coaching, education, supervision & consulting practice.

Throughout her career, Irene has demonstrated exceptional prowess in multiple sectors - the energy, automotive, technology, hospitality, education, non-profit, & entrepreneurship. Her passion for fostering the next generation of soul-led leaders, conscious businesses & thriving communities is evident in her coaching & leadership style, which is deeply experiential & systemic in application.

Irene's notable achievements include the successful launch of organisation-wide leadership pipeline development systems, capability development systems & coaching culture systems that revolutionize the leadership culture within organizations by providing accessible, efficient & measurable development opportunities worldwide. For example, she implemented a global senior leadership coaching program for a 100 high potential leaders & a world-class competency development framework that supported their advancement.

Additionally, Irene lead teams designing & executing a continuous learning culture by setting up a global Learning Management System, global Technical Energy Certification Programs & a National Graduate Development Program, strategically selecting & empowering 30 GCC talents across three business streams, resulting in substantial professional growth & contributions within the organization.

Irene is a faculty member with the AoEC UAE & Levant branch (Led by Kompass - The Coaching Company), where she educates, mentors & supervises coaches & co-delivers the Practitioner Diploma in Executive Coaching. She is also an executive coach with the IMD Business School in Switzerland & her credentials include Systemic Team Coach, Complex Trauma Recovery Coach, Jungian Success Coach, Emotional Intelligence Coach, Certified Leadership Circle Coach, Certified Barrett Culture Coach, an ORSC Trained Coach & Certified Professional Speaker.

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Dr. Archana Ticku

Specialist Clinical Pathologist,
RPM

Dr. Archana Ticku is a dedicated & highly skilled Clinical Pathologist renowned for her profound commitment to advancing medical diagnostics & patient care. With an extensive background in pathology & laboratory medicine, Dr. Ticku has consistently demonstrated a proven track record of delivering accurate & timely diagnoses. Her exceptional analytical skills, attention to detail & collaborative approach to healthcare have made her a respected figure in the medical community.

Dr. Ticku's career is marked by significant contributions that have positioned her at the forefront of her field. She has published numerous research papers in reputable medical journals, which have not only enhanced the understanding of various diseases but also played a crucial role in the development of targeted therapies. Her pioneering research has improved patient outcomes & cemented her reputation as a leader in diagnostic methodologies.

A key achievement in Dr. Ticku's illustrious career is her successful overhaul of laboratory processes. By implementing cutting-edge technologies & streamlining workflows, she introduced automation solutions that significantly reduced turnaround times for diagnostic reports while maintaining the highest standards of accuracy. This initiative not only enhanced the efficiency of the laboratory but also resulted in substantial cost savings & improved overall patient satisfaction.

Dr. Ticku has also demonstrated exceptional leadership in fostering cross-disciplinary collaborations. She has facilitated collaboration between pathology & various clinical specialties, fostering a multidisciplinary approach to patient care. Her active participation in tumor boards, case conferences & clinical rounds has provided valuable insights that contribute to more accurate & comprehensive diagnoses. This collaborative effort has strengthened communication between medical disciplines & led to the development of integrated treatment plans, ultimately improving patient care outcomes.

Dr. Ticku's educational background is as impressive as her professional achievements. She holds a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree in Pathology from a prestigious medical school, where she graduated with honors. Her commitment to continuous learning & professional development is evident in her numerous certifications & participation in advanced training programs.

Throughout her career, Dr. Ticku has held prominent positions in several notable healthcare institutions, where she has consistently demonstrated her expertise & dedication. Her work has been instrumental in advancing the field of pathology & medical diagnostics.

Dr. Archana is a forward-thinking Clinical Pathologist with a proven ability to merge scientific expertise with innovative approaches to enhance diagnostic capabilities.

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Catalina Del Pilar Onate Contreras

CEO & Founder,
Best of Latin Foodstuff Trading LLC

Catalina Onate, the dynamic CEO & Founder of Best of Latin Foodstuff epitomizes resilience & innovation in the culinary industry. Raised in a family of entrepreneurs, Catalina's journey is a testament to her indomitable spirit & unwavering passion for Latin American cuisine.

At the age of 19, driven by her love for food, Catalina aspired to become a chef. However, she chose to pursue a business education, believing that a strong business acumen would allow her to integrate her culinary passion with entrepreneurial skills. She graduated from Universidad de La Sabana with a degree in Business Management, a decision that laid the foundation for her future endeavors.

Catalina's professional journey began at the prestigious Hilton RAK, where she observed a significant gap in the availability of fresh, high-quality produce in the UAE. She envisioned transforming the perception of Latin America by introducing its rich, diverse culinary heritage to the world. In 2004, she founded Best of Latin Foodstuff Trading LLC, a venture dedicated to supplying top-tier Latin American produce to chefs & food enthusiasts in the UAE.

Under Catalina's leadership, Best of Latin® has flourished, showcasing the vibrant flavors, exotic aromas & passionate spirit of Latin America. The company's success has earned Catalina numerous accolades, including being featured in The Entrepreneur Magazine as one of the 10 most inspiring entrepreneurs in the UAE in 2022 & in Forbes Colombia Magazine in 2023 for her significant achievements. Catalina's influence extends beyond her professional life. She is a devoted mother to a 5-year-old son & a loving wife to an Egyptian entrepreneur.

Catalina Onate's journey is a remarkable story of turning adversity into opportunity. Through Best of Latin Foodstuff Trading LLC, she continues to celebrate & elevate the rich culinary traditions of Latin America, making her a true ambassador of her heritage & an inspiring figure in the global culinary landscape.

Catalina's new adventure, following the merger of Best of Latin Foodstuff Trading into Essentially Group PLC, promises an exciting innovation strategy. Her focus on transforming the finest fresh produce from Latin America into a range of finished products underscores a commitment to quality & health.

By offering a 100% clean & healthy product line, Catalina aims to preserve the exotic flavors that make Latin American cuisine distinctive. This strategy not only capitalizes on the rich culinary heritage of the region but also meets the growing demand for nutritious & authentic food options globally. Catalina's initiative within Essentially Group PLC appears poised to blend innovation with tradition, promising a vibrant future in the food industry.

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Rima Semaan

Data and AI Director, Microsoft

Rima Seman is a distinguished leader in Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Microsoft UAE, where she drives the company's strategic vision and execution in Data, Analytics, and AI. With over 20 years of domain expertise, Rima has been instrumental in pioneering the adoption and innovation of Data and AI solutions across multiple industries, including government, education, healthcare, retail, financial services, and energy.

Rima's career is marked by an unwavering commitment to technology and innovation. She has led Microsoft UAE's Data and AI business to unprecedented heights, achieving robust triple-digit growth for the past three years. Her leadership has been pivotal in delivering complex and cutting-edge Data and AI solutions to some of the most prominent and strategic customers in the UAE. Recently, she has been at the forefront of spearheading the strategy for the new era of Copilot and GenAI.

Her educational background includes advanced degrees in computer science and business administration, providing a strong foundation for her technical acumen and strategic business insights. Rima's employment history features roles with notable tech giants, where she has consistently demonstrated her ability to lead high-performing teams and drive business growth. At Microsoft, she has established herself as a trusted advisor and partner, fostering strong relationships with key decision-makers and influencers in the market.

Rima's contributions extend beyond her professional achievements. She is a passionate advocate for women in tech, dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion. As a mentor and speaker, she shares her insights and experiences with both aspiring and established professionals, empowering women to pursue their dreams and reach their full potential in the tech industry.

Her advocacy for responsible AI is another cornerstone of her career. Rima believes that ethical AI development is not only a moral duty but also a competitive advantage and strategic imperative for businesses and societies. She has championed responsible AI practices, ensuring that technology is developed and utilized ethically.

Rima's exemplary leadership has earned her numerous accolades, including the prestigious Manager Award and the President's Club Award at Microsoft. These honors reflect her exceptional leadership, outstanding performance, and significant contributions to the company's success. Rima's journey is a testament to her dedication, innovation, and passion for technology.



Nurcan Bicakci Arcan

Chief Marketing Officer, Akinon

Nurcan Bicakci Arcan stands out as an accomplished executive with a dynamic career spanning over two decades in global marketing & BD. Currently serving as the Global CMO at Akinon in Dubai, Nurcan has been instrumental in building a global marketing organization & spearheading significant growth initiatives since January 2024.

Beyond her professional career, she is also a passionate entrepreneur. She co-founded Mahalle.ae, a gourmet Turkish grocery in Dubai. Mahalle successfully established both online & offline channels, achieving double-digit EBITDA within two years & securing strategic investment to support its B2B growth. Demonstrating her commitment to social responsibility, she launched the "Mahalle by Women" private label, empowering women cooperatives in disadvantaged regions of Turkey to produce & export their products internationally.

Nurcan's impactful career includes her role as Regional Marketing Director for SAS, where she led a diverse team across Central & Eastern Europe, Russia, the Middle East & Africa (CEMEA) from 2020 to 2024 & other regional teams from 2014 to 2010. She was a key member of the EMEA Marketing Leadership Team & the Global Marketing Advisory Council, driving innovative go-to-market strategies & digital marketing initiatives across multiple countries.

Prior to SAS, Nurcan held several leadership positions, including VP of International Business Development at Promart Group where she developed global expansion strategies and secured key international accounts like Coca-Cola as one of the few globally approved agencies. Her tenure at Argela (Turk Telekom Group) saw her winning the Innovation Award EMEA from Oracle for her marketing excellence.

Nurcan's early career includes pivotal roles at Neomobile, where she was responsible for managing Turkey's VAS business. At Turkcell, she played a crucial role in developing and managing value added services business. Her very early career at PwC helped her gain significant experience in financial management.

Academically, Nurcan holds a Global Executive MBA from Oxford Brookes University, where she wrote a dissertation on social media marketing in B2B technology firms. She also graduated from Boğaziçi University with a degree in Business Administration.

A lifelong learner and advocate for diversity and inclusion, Nurcan is a member of the Board of Directors at the Mobile Marketing Association (MMA MENA) and a member of the Women in Tech (wtech- Teknolojide Kadın Derneği) association. Her commitment to empowering women in business is further exemplified by her graduation from the Women on Boards Association Program (Yönetim Kurulunda Kadın Derneği - Women on Boards Türkiye).

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Noble Thway Mon

Executive Officer,
Asia Royal Hospital

Noble Thway Mon is a dynamic & multi-talented professional with over two decades of experience in the United Nations/ NGO sector & the business world. Currently serving as the Executive Officer of Asia Royal Hospital, Noble leads the HR Division of this distinguished private hospital in Yangon, Myanmar. Asia Royal Hospital, established in 2000, has grown to a 250-bed tertiary care facility known for its reliable & safe healthcare services, attracting patients from across Myanmar. Under Noble's leadership, the hospital's HR Division excels in managing its 1800-strong workforce, ensuring high standards of care and operational efficiency.

Noble's illustrious career began at UNICEF, where she demonstrated exceptional leadership by managing large-scale projects such as the Facts for Life Project, Avian Influenza Project, Four Clean Promotion Project & the Nagis Cyclone Shelter Schools Construction Project.

Transitioning to the business sector, Noble took on the role of Logistics & Administrative Coordinator at Equality Myanmar Organization. She then joined Phee Group, where she significantly restructured the company's HR functions & systems. Noble's expertise in HR management became evident when she joined Ling Zhou Capital Group of Companies as the first employee & Corporate HR Manager. She played a pivotal role in organizing & managing four new companies, leading to her promotion to General Manager. In this role, she oversaw IT, microfinance, gold shops & construction businesses, driving them to new heights of success.

At Grand Wynn Group of Companies, Noble led the digital transformation & strategic restructuring across all departments, showcasing her innovative approach to modern business challenges. Her resilience & strategic thinking were particularly notable during the COVID-19 pandemic, where she successfully implemented re-engineering plans as a Senior HR Consultant, ensuring business continuity.

Noble's academic credentials are equally impressive. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Human Resources Management from Hawaii, holds an MBA from SSBM-Switzerland, a Master of Divinity degree from RTWBC, a Bachelor's degree from MICT & a Bachelor of Arts in English degree from the University of Yangon. She also has various diplomas in IT, Business Law, International Relations, HR & Digital Marketing.

Beyond her professional achievements, Noble is an accomplished author, composer, motivational speaker & trainer. Her books are highly sought after in the Myanmar market & she is a respected figure in youth training & leadership circles.

Noble Thway Mon's career is a testament to her dedication, expertise & leadership, making her a standout figure.



Ghina Itani

Communications & Marketing Advisor

Ghina Itani is a distinguished leader with over 20 years of extensive experience in multifunctional roles across leading Middle Eastern companies. She consistently translates vision into tangible results, strengthening organizational development through innovative strategies & keen business insights.

Ghina's collaborative approach with internal boards & senior stakeholders ensures alignment of organizational objectives with strategic vision. Her forward-thinking methods & ability to cultivate high-performance cultures have earned her widespread recognition & respect in the industry.

Currently, Ghina serves as a communications advisor, providing strategic counsel on various government & private sector projects. In her previous role, she led Middle East Operations at GCI Health. Additionally, she played a critical role in launching the corporate brand & establishing the corporate communications department at ADQ, one of the Middle East's largest sovereign funds based in Abu Dhabi.

Her career also includes senior management positions where she spearheaded healthcare initiatives for Majid Al Futtaim in Dubai & Bin Omeir Group of Companies in Abu Dhabi. At Majid Al Futtaim, she successfully launched the City Center Clinic brand in 2013 & at Bin Omeir Group, she introduced the National Hospital brand in 2016, further solidifying her reputation for brand development & market positioning. Ghina also managed key regional & multinational corporate & product brand accounts at Ketchum, a leading multinational PR & Communications agency.

Ghina's regional roles included driving BD for the American University of Beirut's Research Department & contributing to business expansion for Cyberonics (now LivaNova). Her work involved close collaboration with various international & regional agencies on diverse communications, branding & digital projects, showcasing her versatility & adeptness in different business environments.

Her educational background is equally impressive, holding a bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Technology from the American University of Beirut (AUB) & an MBA from the Lebanese American University (LAU). Among her notable achievements, Ghina launched the City Center Clinic brand for Majid Al Futtaim Healthcare in 2013, the National Hospital brand for Bin Omeir Group in 2016, & ADQ brand in 2020. Additionally, she established the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the American University of Beirut in 2005, demonstrating her commitment to advancing research ethics & governance.

Ghina Itani's career is a testament to her ability to lead & innovate, driving success & growth making her a pivotal figure in the fields of business optimization & corporate communications in the Middle East.

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Bertha Wakisa Chiudza

Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Bertha Wakisa Chiudza, a proud Malawian and a global citizen, stands as a beacon of transformational leadership and multi-faceted expertise. With over 16 years of solid experience, Bertha has left indelible marks across continents, working in Malawi, Denmark, and South Korea. Her professional journey encompasses significant contributions to gender equality, climate action, sustainability, and impact investing.

Bertha's career began in Malawi, where she worked with local civil society organizations and international entities like Plan International and Oxfam. At Oxfam, she spearheaded the nationwide campaign to end violence against women and girls and co-chaired the Oxfam Transformative Leadership for Women's Rights working group at global level. Her leadership at Oxfam catalyzed positive changes within the organization and beyond.

Her international tenure includes roles at the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Denmark, Global Green Growth Institute in South Korea, and currently, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in South Korea. As a Gender Mainstreaming Coordinator at UNOPS, Senior Specialist for Gender and Social Development at GGGI, and Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist at GCF, Bertha has championed inclusion and sustainability in projects and investments globally.

Bertha's academic credentials are equally impressive. She holds a Master of Arts in Sustainable Humanitarian Action from DIHAD Humanitarian College, affiliated with UCAM Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia, Spain (2023), and a Master of Arts in Education, Gender, and International Development from University College London, IOE - UCL's Faculty of Education and Society, England. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Biblical Studies from the African Bible Colleges, Malawi.

Her accolades include the DIHAD Scholarship Award (2022) from DIHAD Organisation; IOE Centenary Scholarship Award (2010); recognition as one of Pan Africa's Most Influential Women in Business and Government (2019 & 2020) by CEO Global; and being named a Global Goodwill Ambassador by the GGA Foundation, USA (2019). Bertha has also served as a Senior Advisor to the International Women's Network of the 5 Continents.

A passionate social and green entrepreneur, Bertha co-founded Mizu Garden and Events Center in 2022 and Tsinde Eco Empower in 2024. Currently, Bertha is a board member of the The Sparkle Foundation in Malawi and Women of Concern Professionals & Strategic Conscious Networking (WOCPSCN), a US-based NGO.

Bertha continues to inspire and mentor future leaders, making significant contributions to sustainable development and social equity worldwide.



Alya Al Hebshi

Founder & President at Alya Al Hebshi Consultancy,
Expert Special Projects & Partnerships at Abu Dhabi Government

With 16 years of rich experience in strategic communication, marketing, media, leadership, and innovation, Alya Al Hebshi has made a significant impact across the UAE's private, semi-government & government sectors. Her career is marked by a proven record of achievements, positioning her as a modern global leader with a commitment to empowering others.

Alya's journey began with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication followed by a Master of Science in Strategic Brand Communication from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign , USA, Post graduate degree in Business Admin from University of Liverpool, U.K. & various executive leadership programs, including the prestigious Executive Leadership Programme at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.

Her professional trajectory is highlighted by her role as an Expert in the Special Projects & Partnerships Sector within Abu Dhabi's government. Here, Alya developed and executed strategic communication plans, managed high-profile projects aligned with Abu Dhabi's 2035 Strategy & fostered relationships with key public & private entities. She also served as the Head of Outreach & Engagement, where she spearheaded brand & marketing operations, enhancing the corporate brand identity & overseeing significant events and initiatives.

Alya is the Founder & President of Alya Al Hebshi Consultancy, a boutique firm specializing in modern Emirati identity strategy, social innovation, career training, executive coaching, change management, social entrepreneurship & leadership. Her consultancy has been instrumental in driving innovation & empowering women through mentorship programs & advocacy efforts.

Her commitment to excellence is further demonstrated by her certifications and memberships. Alya is a Certified Government Assessor for the UAE Government Excellence Model and a senior member of the Chartered Management Institute. She is actively involved in multiple business and community associations, including the Abu Dhabi Chambers, Dubai Businesswomen Council & the Global Innovation Institute. Her influence extends to judging panels for prestigious awards such as the Stevie Awards International & Dubai Government Quality Awards.

Alya's accolades include being named one of Asia's 100 Women Power Leaders 2023. She is a recognized speaker and panelist, often representing her organizations at major conferences.

Alya Al Hebshi exemplifies leadership excellence, impactful achievements & a dedication to empowering others, making her a formidable force in the fields of communication & strategic leadership.

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Zainab A. Salam

CDO – Head of Data Management Office, Walaa Cooperative Insurance Company, Saudi Arabia

Zainab A.Salam, a seasoned professional with over 15 years of experience in Information Technology, Telecommunications, Financial & Digital Transformation, stands as a beacon of strategic acumen & innovative leadership. Her illustrious career, marked by a series of exceptional achievements, underscores her profound expertise & unwavering commitment to driving organizational success in dynamic markets.

Armed with a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Innovation, Leadership & Consulting, Zainab exemplifies a relentless pursuit of professional development. Her passion for innovation & technology has been a driving force behind her ability to spearhead transformative initiatives. A testament to her dedication is the SAP EMEA BTP Customer Advisory "Discover Award" for Demand Generation, awarded in July 2024, highlighting her exceptional performance in delivering outstanding outcomes. In addition, she has been honored as one of the 200 Global Women Power Leaders of 2024 by White Page International.

Recently appointed as CDO Head of Data Management Office at Walaa Cooperative Insurance Company in Saudi Arabia, leading strategic planning and execution of data management initiatives, ensuring effective governance, quality, and security of data assets to support the organization's objectives, comply with regulatory requirements, drive data strategy and innovation, maximize data monetization and ROI.

Prior to her current role, Zainab served as a Senior Technology Advisor at SAP; led numerous strategic initiatives across various industries. Notably, she played a pivotal role in steering projects related to Data Governance & Personal Data Protection Regulations within Saudi Arabia, providing executive guidance & transformative strategies on SAP Innovation Solutions. Her expertise in Data Management, Governance, Integration, AI Capabilities & Partner Solutions has empowered businesses to achieve their objectives through cutting-edge technology.

Zainab's responsibilities extend to overseeing Strategic Customer Deals across MEA-North, with a focus on key industries such as Chemicals, Energy & Natural Resources, Services, Retail, and Government Sectors. Her ability to close multiple high-value deals for both Cloud and On-premises SAP Solutions showcases her sales acumen and strategic vision. Her contributions to AI Innovation were celebrated at LEAP2024 in Saudi Arabia, where she demonstrated her thought leadership as a Discussion Panelist at The 7th International Conference for Women in Data Science (WiDS) Worldwide.

Her tenure as the Head of IT Development at Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) is marked by her leadership in migrating the legacy ERP system to a modern Cloud ERP Platform, revolutionizing the organization's technological infrastructure. At Batelco, she emphasized Data Quality and Governance, integrated Big Data Platforms, and optimized Customer Value Management practices, ensuring VAT compliance across IT and Network Platforms and Services.

Zainab also served as the Leader of Channel Infrastructure at the Bahrain Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA), managing the National Gateway Infrastructure and the National Payment Aggregator Project. Her strategic oversight and adept management skills ensured the seamless operation and support of critical infrastructure projects.

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Noor Maki

Group General Counsel, RSS LLC

Noor Maki is a formidable figure whose career spans the realms of legal expertise, fitness coaching, and personal resilience. Her journey from Syria to becoming a leading professional in Dubai exemplifies a powerful blend of ambition, skill, and determination.

Her early years were marked by significant upheaval, as her family fled the civil war in Lebanon and eventually settled in the United Kingdom. Noor's pursuit of excellence led her to a distinguished academic path, culminating in a solid foundation in law. This academic background set the stage for her impressive career.

At just 28, Noor Maki achieved a remarkable milestone by establishing and leading the legal department of a major multinational organization. This early accomplishment highlighted her exceptional leadership and strategic acumen in the legal field. Her prowess was further recognized with prestigious awards, including being named In-house Counsel of the Year at the Global Legal Excellence Awards during the Global Legal Summit 2024 and General Counsel of the Year (Female) at the BI Middle East Law Award.

In her current role as the Group General Counsel for a prominent company specializing in temporary power and cooling solutions, Noor's expertise continues to shine. Her previous tenure as Senior Legal Counsel at Ford Motor Company, where she managed legal operations across the Middle East, underscores her extensive experience and leadership capabilities.

Noor's impact extends beyond the legal profession. She is also a certified fitness coach, channeling her passion for health into her role at Orangetheory Fitness. Her commitment to fitness is reflected in her personal pursuit of powerlifting, demonstrating her dedication to maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. She is also co author of a published book.

Balancing her professional achievements with her role as a single mother, Noor Maki exemplifies the ability to lead a multifaceted life. Her move to Dubai not only provided career opportunities but also allowed her to create a nurturing environment for her daughter, showcasing her resilience and adaptability.

Noor Maki's career is a testament to her unwavering dedication and versatility. Her accomplishments across law and fitness, combined with her personal resilience, make her a compelling figure in today's professional landscape. Noor's journey is an inspiring example of how passion, perseverance, and a clear vision can lead to extraordinary success.

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Alya Al Fardan

Vice President, Future Proof Marketing, First Abu Dhabi Bank

Alya is a distinguished Emirati professional renowned for her transformative impact in marketing and banking. With 18 years of banking experience, she has adeptly navigated the complexities of consumer and business banking products, driving innovation and growth across diverse financial services.

Alya's career is marked by her exceptional leadership and strategic vision. As Vice President & Head of Future Proof Marketing at First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), she spearheads the design and execution of marketing strategies that align with business objectives, market trends, and financial targets. Her role involves managing agency relationships, restructuring teams, and implementing data-driven marketing plans that drive performance across various segments. Notably, she led the repositioning of key sub-brands and integrated data systems to enhance customer journey performance, resulting in significant increases in engagement and conversion rates.

Alya's tenure at FAB is distinguished by her focus on digital transformation. Her initiatives include launching successful CRM-driven campaigns and optimizingbetter lead quality and mobile app performance, which led to a remarkable 152% surge in Islamic and National Housing Loan segment digital growth. She also built a media model focusing on CPA, business budget, and marketing spending, increasing ROI by 10% and ROAS by 15%,showcasing her expertise in leveraging technology and best media model approaches to marketing best marketing practices and enhance customer experience.

Her earlier roles at FAB included Assistant Vice President of Social Media and Manager of Acquisition, where she developed conversion-focused strategies, managed social media budgets, and executed bilingual campaigns targeting diverse client segments. Her strategic prowess was evident in her successful management of social media advertising and content strategies, which significantly boosted brand visibility and engagement.

Before joining FAB, Alya gained valuable experience at National Bank of Abu Dhabi as a Community Specialist and Project Manager, where she facilitated client networking and developed innovative product schemes to drive revenue growth. Her career began with roles at Barclays, Dubai News Center, and various banks, where she honed her skills in HR, journalism, and customer service.

Alya's educational background underscores her commitment to innovation and leadership. She holds a Master's in Science of Innovation and Change Management from Hamdan Bin Mohamed Smart University and a Bachelor's in Public Relations and Advertising from Zayed University. Her technical proficiency includes expertise in AI tools, Microsoft Dynamics 365, and various CRM platforms.

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Katja Schipperheijn

Internationally Acclaimed Author, Strategist, Futurist, Lecturer, Keynote Speaker, Learning Influencer and Entrepreneur Founder at Habit Of Improvement and The Learning Mindset Organization

Katja Schipperheijn is a visionary advocate for AI-enhanced learning ecosystems & mindset empowerment, recognized globally for her pioneering contributions in the field. As an internationally acclaimed author, strategist, futurist, lecturer, keynote speaker, learning influencer & entrepreneur, Katja's work has profoundly impacted the way we approach learning & innovation.

At the helm of her boutique consulting firm, Habit Of Improvement, Katja advises multinationals worldwide on fostering a learning mindset & creating human-machine symbiosis. Her innovative ideas challenge traditional dogmas, offering fresh perspectives that inspire individuals & organizations to adapt & embrace continuous learning. As AI & other technological advancements accelerate, Katja's insights are invaluable in helping organizations & their employees navigate this rapid change.

Katja's academic credentials are impressive, with degrees & certifications from prestigious institutions. She holds an MSc in Applied Economic Sciences from Handelshogeschool Antwerpen & an International eMBA from Antwerp Management School. She has further enhanced her expertise with specialized courses such as Algorithmic Business Thinking & Digital Learning Strategy from MIT Sloan School of Management. Her certifications as a Solution Selling Instructor & in Coaching for Sales Managers underscore her commitment to professional development & innovative learning strategies.

As an author, Katja has received international recognition for her influential works. Her book "Learning Ecosystems: Creating Innovative, Lean & Tech-driven Learning Strategies" was a finalist for the best international business books in London & included in the Top 100 best international business books by the eLearning Journal in Germany. Her upcoming book, "The Learning Mindset: Combining Human Competencies with Technology to Thrive," promises to further cement her status as a thought leader in the intersection of technology & human development.

Katja is also a dedicated philanthropist, having founded sCooledu to promote digital literacy among children. Through her workshops, over 15,000 children have gained insights into the future & the increasingly virtual world. Her commitment to social responsibility is evident in her efforts to align learning with the United Nations Sustainability Goals, ensuring that future generations are equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

In 2024, Katja's latest venture, The Learning Mindset Organization, will launch AI profilers & an AI coach to help individuals & organizations develop a robust learning mindset.

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Nada Ahmed El Gazzar

CEO & Founder,
UpskillX Advisory & Coaching

Nada El Gazzar is a distinguished Business Excellence & Talent Development professional with over 17 years of extensive experience in both public & private sectors. Graduated from European education, Nada is an EFQM Excellence Model-certified assessor, Sr. Sustainability Assessor & an ISO-certified auditor. She is also an NLP Certified Trainer & Coach, fully trilingual in Arabic, English, and German.

She is the founder of UpskillX Advisory & Coaching, an organization that provides advisory & coaching services in 4 pillars: Corporates, Women, Youth and Purposeful Community building in UAE and Middle East. Nada's career spans diverse fields such as Education, Oil & Gas, Shipping, Transportation, and Utilities.

Nada has also worked on many projects associated with youth empowerment & mentored Emirati female Leaders as part of Emirati Women Chapter program with PureHealth Holding, female mentees as part of mentoring programs at the International Coaching Federation & quality mentorship program by the American Society for Quality.

A testament to her excellence, Nada has garnered 13 international leadership awards, including the prestigious TITAN Innovation Award, Stevie Awards & Golden Bridge Awards for her Integrated CSR , Excellence & Empowerment programs. Her role as a highly sought-after trainer & coach in the UAE & Egypt has seen her deliver hundreds of coaching & training hours in English, Arabic, & German, covering critical topics such as Excellence, Sustainability, Innovation, & Strategy. She is a registered speaker at Toastmasters International Club for Public Speaking & frequently called at International conferences & has completed more than 40 TV interviews as thought leader.

Nada's knack for writing successful award submissions has seen her achieve over 20 national, regional & international awards for various organizations and individuals. Educationally, Nada is also currently pursuing her doctorate degree in Business Administration, from Switzerland.

In her professional journey, Nada has held significant roles at distinguished government & private entities, including Excellence Advisor at Zayed University, Organizational Excellence Expert at Rabdan Academy, Senior Executive - Excellence at DEWA, Assistant Auditor at United Arab Shipping Company Ltd. & managing Quality function as part of EFQM model at the Abu Dhabi Department of Transport. In her early career, she has occupied various positions at Bibliotheca Alexandrina and (Arab Petroleum Pipelines Company " SUMED ").

Beyond her professional achievements, Nada co-authored a book with 17 other women about their success stories, featured in the Hall of Fame as an Inspiring Woman in Education by the Women of Egypt International Network.



Gayathri J Gopal

Deputy Managing Director & Country Head - Project Management Services, Vestian Global Workplace Services

With a distinguished career spanning over 17 years, Gayathri J. Gopal stands out as a trailblazer in Project Management, specializing in Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) & Corporate Real Estate (CRE). Her journey began with Potential Services Consultants, where she honed her expertise in structural design & electromechanical services. This foundational experience ignited her passion for specialized engineering & set the stage for a career marked by significant achievements.

At GMR Group & Lanco Infrastructure Limited, Gayathri played a pivotal role in managing complex infrastructure projects involving pipelines, highways & metro rail systems. Her ability to navigate these high-stakes environments showcased her adeptness at overseeing large-scale infrastructure projects.

In 2015, Gayathri transitioned to CRE projects with Vestian, where she currently leads the Project Management vertical. Under her leadership, Vestian manages diverse infrastructure & CRE portfolios for multinational clients across sectors such as IT/ITES, hospitality, BFSI, F&B, R&D & heavy engineering. Her approach to project management is characterized by a focus on process-driven methodologies & innovative solutions, ensuring clients are shielded from construction-related surprises & that projects are delivered with excellence.

A testament to her leadership is Vestian's commitment to diversity & inclusion, with 40% of its business units led by women—a reflection of Gayathri's dedication to fostering an inclusive & meritocratic work environment. Her resilience & dedication have been particularly evident during the pandemic, where she adeptly managed the shift to remote work. Gayathri implemented comprehensive pandemic protocols, ensured continuity of services & leveraged technology for virtual collaboration, maintaining team morale through initiatives such as digital upskilling classes & virtual team-building activities.

Gayathri's innovative spirit is evident in her adoption of cutting-edge technologies in construction using BIM & supply chain management applications. These advancements have streamlined complex project management scenarios, enhancing transparency & decision-making efficiency.

Noteworthy achievements under her leadership include completing multiple industrial projects across India, executing a rapid project for an Indian ride-sharing company & transitioning a German automotive giant to agile work environments.

Additionally, Vestian's appointment as the Global Portfolio/Programme Manager for American Fintech corporation & CRE partner for a leading rail technology company underscores Gayathri's strategic impact on the industry.

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Christina Inyoung Kwon

Chief Executive Officer,
Acklo Inc.

Christina Inyoung Kwon is a distinguished leader in sustainability & ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) innovation, renowned for her expertise in harnessing advanced technologies to drive systemic environmental improvements. Christina has dedicated her career to developing sustainable deep-tech solutions that address critical environmental challenges while promoting social equity.

Christina's career began in industrial design, where her role as a Creative Director allowed her to blend technology with design to create innovative solutions. This experience laid the foundation for her understanding of the intersection between technology & sustainability. Recognizing the potential of technology to drive systemic change, Christina founded Acklo Inc, focusing on integrating AI, IoT, digital twins & blockchain to develop deep-tech solutions that mitigate environmental impacts & support economic growth.

Under Christina's leadership, ACKLO has achieved significant milestones, including the development of the 'Acklossoonda' platform. This groundbreaking technology leverages advanced tools to enhance efficiency, reduce carbon emissions & promote the circular economy & renewable energy, contributing to global sustainability goals. Christina's work exemplifies how technology can facilitate substantial progress towards environmental sustainability & systemic transformation.

In addition to her role at ACKLO, Christina has made substantial contributions as the Head of the AI Sustainability Research Institute. Here, she has spearheaded projects aimed at accelerating sustainability through AI technology. Her efforts have focused on reducing carbon emissions, improving access to renewable energy, managing waste & protecting biodiversity. Christina's leadership has been instrumental in advancing AI-driven sustainability technologies that have made a global impact.

Christina's commitment to ESG strategies extends to developing & implementing comprehensive ESG-centric initiatives. She guides corporations & individuals towards carbon neutrality, energy efficiency & optimized waste management, fostering a culture of sustainability. Her expertise ensures that various portfolios align with ESG standards, driving responsible corporate practices & contributing to a sustainable future.

Christina has earned numerous accolades, including the 2023 Gyeonggi Province ESG Excellence Award & the 2024 Saudi ESG Summit Award. She has been recognized as a semifinalist at GITEX Impact & Expand North Star & featured prominently in major publications.

Christina's vision for the future involves continuing to pioneer innovative approaches to sustainability, ensuring that technology plays a pivotal role in achieving global sustainability targets.



Dr. Sheryl Viegas

Training Manager,
Ajman Hotel

Dr. Sheryl Viegas's journey exemplifies the power of perseverance and the pursuit of one's dreams. Born and raised in the UAE, Sheryl's story is a testament to an individual with aspirations deeply rooted in her heart. Her educational journey took her across the globe, attending prestigious institutions in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Switzerland, which laid a solid foundation for her academic and personal growth despite societal challenges faced by young girls in Asian communities.

At the age of 15, Sheryl began her professional journey as a telephone operator, showcasing her determination to be financially independent and contribute to her own education. This early start set the stage for her unwavering dedication to her goals. Gaining valuable experience in the hospitality industry in Dubai and the UK, Sheryl relocated to the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2003, driven by a quest for personal and professional fulfillment.

In 2007, Sheryl opened a tailoring boutique as a tribute to her mother and grandmother. Despite being new to the field, her hard work and determination led to the business's success, culminating in recognition with an Outstanding Service award in 2023. In 2009, Sheryl seized an opportunity to work at a prestigious university, where she channeled her extensive knowledge into shaping the futures of young minds, particularly empowering young Bahraini females in hospitality and business.

Sheryl's dedication to her students and passion for education quickly established her as a respected figure in the academic community. In 2014, she was entrusted with leading a prestigious Swiss Hospitality School in Bahrain. This role marked a significant milestone, allowing her to shape the curriculum, mentor faculty members, and influence the future of the hospitality industry in Bahrain. Her leadership focused on community engagement, student development, and lifelong learning, with platforms such as the Young Chefs' Olympiad and Italian Culinary Competition.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sheryl discovered her talent for baking and cooking, leading to the creation of her home baking business, "Sweets and Snacks." In May 2022, she returned to the UAE as a Training Manager, excelling in developing staff and ensuring guest satisfaction. Her dedication earned her the UAE Mastermind Award for Outstanding Career Coaching Leader in 2023.

Sheryl's remarkable journey includes being invited as a keynote speaker on women's empowerment in Paris and receiving the prestigious Queen Book No. 1 Women's Excellence Award for Best Training Manager. She also launched her cherished cookbook, "Grandma's Culinary Treasure: A Family Legacy," recognized for excellence in literature.

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Meenakshi Sharma

Vice President, Design Services,
Vestian Global Workplace Services

With over 19 years of distinguished experience in design and project management, Meenakshi Sharma stands out as a transformative leader in the industry. Her career is marked by a profound commitment to innovation and excellence, consistently delivering exceptional results across diverse projects.

Meenakshi began her professional journey at RSP India, where her role was instrumental in spearheading significant design and project initiatives. At RSP India, she managed a wide range of projects, from commercial spaces to large-scale infrastructure developments. Her ability to tackle complex challenges and deliver creative, functional solutions established her as a key player in the field, setting a high standard for design excellence.

Currently, Meenakshi leads the Design Studio at Vestian, where her visionary leadership continues to drive the studio's success. Her role involves leveraging extensive experience to oversee innovative design projects, ensuring each initiative surpasses predefined targets. Under her leadership, the studio has thrived, earning accolades for its creativity and meticulous attention to detail. Meenakshi's ability to seamlessly transition between roles and adapt to varying project requirements has been crucial in her continued success.

One of Meenakshi's standout achievements is her adeptness at fostering effective teamwork. She excels in creating collaborative environments where every team member feels valued and motivated, a testament to her belief that successful projects are the result of cohesive team efforts. Her commitment to open communication and mutual respect drives collective success and project excellence.

Meenakshi's strategic approach to change management has been pivotal in navigating complex project environments, including adapting to challenges such as zoning regulations and the COVID-19 pandemic. Her expertise in budgetary control, stakeholder communication, and strategic planning ensures timely project completion and client satisfaction.

A strong advocate for technological advancement, Meenakshi integrates cutting-edge technologies like Building Information Modelling (BIM) and drones for site surveillance into her projects. Her early adoption of these tools enhances project efficiency and quality, demonstrating her dedication to driving innovation in the industry. Additionally, her research on future workplace trends highlights her thought leadership and commitment to shaping the future of design.

Meenakshi is also a champion of sustainable development. She incorporates environmental stewardship into every project, striving to create spaces that prioritize sustainability and community well-being.

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Dr. Vibha Bhardwaj

Director Environment Laboratories,
Ras Al Khaimah Municipality

Dr. Vibha Bhardwaj is a distinguished leader in environmental sciences, currently serving as the Director of Environment Laboratories at Ras Al Khaimah Municipality in the United Arab Emirates. With an impressive 20-year career, Dr. Bhardwaj has significantly contributed to environmental research and policy, bringing her vast expertise to the forefront of the UAE's environmental management efforts.

Dr. Bhardwaj's academic journey is marked by exceptional achievements. She earned her Ph.D. in Microbiology from Kurukshetra University and pursued three postdoctoral fellowships: the Arthuro Falaschi Fellowship in Italy, the SMART Postdoctoral Fellowship in Industrial Biotechnology & Molecular Biology from ICGEB, Italy & a postdoctoral position at Boston University.

In addition to her role at Ras Al Khaimah Municipality, Dr. Bhardwaj is an Honorary Professor at Sardar Bhagwan Singh University Medical University. She has co-authored several influential books (11 text books), including "Basic & Applied Microbiology," "Applications of Fungal Biotechnology in Agriculture & Forestry," & "The Miracles of Microbes in Human Life." Her research contributions are substantial, with 64 research papers published in peer-reviewed international journals & numerous chapters in international books on topics such as microbial ecology, environmental biotechnology & climate change.

Dr. Bhardwaj's contributions to the scientific community have been widely recognized. She has received 40 prestigious awards, including the Women Leader Award in Leadership by the Women Leader Forum UK/India, the Green Medal Award of Biodiversity for Life & World Peace & the International Outstanding Scientist Award in Engineering, Science & Medicine by INSO, USA. Her accolades also include the Gold Medal from UNES for her achievements in science and technology.

As an active member of various esteemed organizations, Dr. Bhardwaj's influence extends globally. She is a member of the International Science Reserve at the The New York Academy of Sciences, an editorial board member for the International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR) & an advisory board member of the International Association of Scientists and Researchers, Europe. Her leadership & expertise have made her a sought-after speaker, with invitations to speak at international parliaments & scientific conferences across the globe.

Dr. Bhardwaj has also made significant strides in academia, having supervised 10 Ph.D., 8 master's & 26 graduate students. Her research interests span the effects of pesticides & industrial chemicals on marine environments, enzymology, microbiology, mycology, toxicology, and sustainable biofuel production. Her work on wastewater treatment using microorganisms and enzymes is particularly noteworthy.

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Debbie Eacott

Founder & CEO at Eacott Enterprises Ltd and CEO at Longr Gulf States

Debbie Eacott is a distinguished business leader and entrepreneur, recognized globally for her strategic vision and innovative approach. As the CEO of Longr Gulf States and Eacott Enterprises Ltd, as well as the founder of MUBS, her career is marked by exceptional achievements and a commitment to transforming industries.

Debbie's journey began with two decades in the UAE, where she honed her expertise in manufacturing and distribution across the retail and engineering sectors throughout the GCC. In 2014, she returned to the UK to collaborate with a prominent London-based investment house, delivering portfolios worth multi millions in realized assets for renewable energy projects. Her initial participation in the "Solar Aid" initiative in Africa catalyzed the establishment of her own engineering consultancy, expanding operations into India to provide renewable energy solutions and recycling initiatives that enhanced local communities' quality of life. This commitment earned her the CSR Leadership Award in Mumbai in 2015 and an appointment to the Board of Council the following year.

2019, Debbie served as the Group Chief Business Development Officer at KPH Group in Malta. By January 2021, she embarked on her entrepreneurial journey, establishing her international consultancy in Malta.

Today, Debbie's passion for longevity and healthcare has brought her to the helm of Longr Gulf States, where she serves as CEO. In this role, she is leading the charge to launch blēo wearable devices which track various health metrics, including heart rate, food intake, sleep patterns, and activity levels Integrated to AI Longevity.

By harnessing AI and real-time data, we are able to provide personalized insights and coaching through the Longevity AI app, this integration offers real-time biometric data analysis, enabling users to make informed decisions about their health and take control of longevity. Ensured benefits from individual data-driven insights to enhance preventive care, early diagnostics, and individualized treatment is setting new standards in the region, positioning Longr Gulf States as a leader in the next generation of healthcare solutions.

Her work resonates deeply within these regions, where proactive longevity solutions are in high demand. The integration of AI can lead to early intervention strategies, which are instrumental in managing chronic illnesses and extending healthy lifespan. This approach marks a transformative shift in healthcare, making it more inclusive, accessible, and aligned with the region's growing focus on long-term well-being.

Prior to be named as a Global woman Power Leader 2024, In recognition of her many outstanding contributions, Debbie was honoured with the Best International Businesswoman of the Year award in December 2023.



Dr. Revathi Srinivasan

Director & Dean,
Singhania Group of Schools

Dr. Revathi Srinivasan is a visionary in the field of education, renowned for her exemplary contributions spanning pedagogical innovations, curriculum design, international exchanges, social outreach initiatives & empowerment programs. Her work has successfully fostered an environment of shared responsibility among all stakeholders in students' lives.

An early adopter of technology, Dr. Revathi pioneered several innovations well before they became essential during the pandemic. Under her leadership, her school seamlessly integrated technology into the learning process, introducing virtual teaching, flipped classrooms, flow charts, online assessments, experiential learning & case studies. In 2017, she launched the QUEST learning & assessment app, setting up state-of-the-art recording studios & providing in-house tech support with three recording studios & editing facilities. Her innovative pedagogies have been recognized as a case study at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad.

As a staunch advocate of inclusive education, Dr. Revathi has cultivated a culture of care, commitment & well-being within her school, ensuring a happy & purposeful learning environment. Her proactive approach, risk-taking ability, quick decision-making & team-building skills have led to significant changes. She identified the need for therapy & early intervention for children with special needs & established the Singhania Shaping Therapies Centre in June 2020. Through the QUEST app, she offers shadow teacher programs to help mothers support their special needs children.

Dr. Revathi's commitment to internationalism is evident in the customized curriculum she designed, which reflects global educational trends & local needs. She has promoted curriculum & cultural exchange programs with nine countries. As a master trainer, she guides teacher trainees from universities in India & Europe & has designed online programs for interdisciplinary & collaborative curriculum delivery for New Nordic Schools in Finland.

Since 2007, her efforts in internationalizing the curriculum have earned her school the British Council's International School Award for 15 consecutive years. Her contributions to education & collaboration with UK schools were recognized by HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex.

Beyond academics, Dr. Revathi actively supports her students by providing varied opportunities & fostering an environment conducive to growth in sports & co-curricular activities at national & international levels. She takes pride in every student's achievements & has empowered her team, creating 15 school leaders across the country from among her faculty. Dr. Revathi's visionary leadership continues to inspire & drive excellence in education.

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Priyanka Rajendra

Senior Vice President - Project Services & Regional Head, Hyderabad, Vestian Global Workplace Services

Priyanka Rajendra is a distinguished leader in architecture and project management, celebrated for her transformative impact on the industry. With nearly two decades of experience, Priyanka's career is marked by bold decisions, innovative strategies, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Priyanka's career began with a strong educational foundation, where she earned her degree in Architecture from a leading institution. Her initial roles at prominent firms showcased her talent in managing complex projects and leading multidisciplinary teams. Her early success laid the groundwork for her future endeavors, demonstrating her ability to deliver high-quality results under pressure.

In a daring move during the pandemic, Priyanka relocated to Hyderabad to launch a new team and redefine her career path. This decision, made amid global uncertainty, was driven by her desire for new challenges and greater achievements. Despite skepticism from peers and concerns about relocating with a toddler during a global crisis, Priyanka's vision remained clear.

Starting with a three-member team, Priyanka's strategic leadership and keen business acumen enabled the team to grow exponentially to over 60 professionals within three years. This remarkable expansion was driven by her innovative approach to strategic planning & execution. Under her guidance, the team established a strong presence across major grade A+ campuses in Hyderabad, securing new clients & achieving a 100% hit rate in project acquisitions.

Priyanka's leadership style fosters a culture of collaboration, innovation & excellence. Her commitment to optimizing the company's cost structure through diligent budgeting & cost control has significantly reduced operational expenses while maintaining the highest standards of quality & safety. This focus has enhanced the company's financial health & competitive edge.

In addition to her operational achievements, Priyanka has been a champion for employee development. She implemented comprehensive training programs, mentorship & career development opportunities, resulting in high employee satisfaction & retention. Her emphasis on balancing professional ambitions with personal responsibilities underscores her holistic approach to leadership.

As a working mother, Priyanka balances her professional and personal life with proactive planning, ensuring time for family while leading her team to new heights. Her journey reflects resilience, strategic foresight & an unwavering commitment to both professional excellence & personal fulfillment. Priyanka Rajendra continues to embrace the future with courage, shaping the industry with her vision & leadership.



Dr. Lilas Al Asfahani

Director, Technology Consulting, Ernst and Young

Dr. Lilas Al Asfahani is a distinguished leader in technology consulting, renowned for her expertise in government and public sector transformations. With a career marked by substantial achievements and a deep commitment to societal betterment, Dr. Al Asfahani has become a pivotal figure in both technology and community welfare.

Currently serving as a Director in the Technology Consulting team with a focus on Government and Public Sector, Dr. Al Asfahani has successfully contributed to numerous large-scale transformation projects. Her work has spanned across multiple ministries, driving significant improvements in public sector efficiency and service delivery. Her ability to manage and deliver complex initiatives has made a lasting impact on public administration, contributing to more effective and responsive government services.

In 2017, Dr. Al Asfahani founded the Child Abuse Prevention Educators (CAPE) initiative in Kuwait. This initiative focuses on raising awareness and providing education on child abuse prevention. Through CAPE, she has developed comprehensive programs designed to educate parents, teachers, and the wider community about recognizing and preventing child abuse. Her efforts have markedly increased awareness and education on the topic, fostering a safer environment for children and reflecting her broader commitment to community welfare.

Dr. Al Asfahani is also recognized for her pioneering research on the gendered impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her study, titled "Reinforced or disrupted ideal worker norms in the pandemic? Analysing the gendered impact of the pandemic on professional specialisms in a PSF in Kuwait," published in the journal Gender, Work & Organization, examines how the pandemic has redefined the concept of the ideal worker. This influential research focused on initiating broader discussions on workforce parity and impact on organizational policies towards achieving gender balance in the workplace.

Dr. Al Asfahani's career is underscored by her unwavering dedication to both technology and societal progress. Her extensive work in transforming public sector operations, combined with her commitment to community service and academic research, exemplifies her role as a visionary leader in her field.

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Harita Mehta

Global Project Manager,
FTI Group

Harita Mehta is a dynamic Global Project Manager with an exceptional background that merges aerospace engineering, flight testing, and commercial piloting. Born and raised in Dubai, UAE, Harita's career journey is a testament to her passion for aviation and her relentless pursuit of excellence.

Harita's aviation career took off at an early age. At just 16, she moved to Toronto, Canada, to follow her dream of becoming a pilot while studying Aerospace Engineering. By 17, she had earned her Private Pilot's License, and by 18, she became the youngest member of her flying club to hold a Commercial Pilot's License with a Multi-Engine Rating—a remarkable achievement that set the foundation for her future endeavors.

While Harita's passion for flying remains strong, she chose to channel her expertise into Aerospace Engineering. Her career trajectory spans multiple sectors, including Defence, Research & Development, Airlines & Aerospace, Flight Operations, Engineering, and Tourism & Hospitality. She has held key positions in leading multinational corporations across the globe, including in Canada, the USA, the UAE, and Japan.

Harita's role as a Flight Test Engineer stands out as one of her most significant contributions to the aviation industry. Working with Bombardier, Pratt & Whitney, and Mitsubishi Corporation Aircraft, she was among the few female Flight Test Engineers, a position that allowed her to collaborate with top test pilots and contribute to the development of cutting-edge aviation technology. Her work was instrumental in testing and certifying aircraft for commercial use, showcasing her unique blend of technical expertise and leadership.

After the birth of her son, Harita transitioned into Global Project Management roles, where she applied her diverse skill set to drive innovation and efficiency. At Emirates Group and FTI GROUP, she successfully led and delivered complex, large-scale projects, resulting in leaner and standardized process and operational efficiency, significant cost savings, and enhanced customer and stakeholder satisfaction. Her ability to lead cross-functional teams and navigate highly regulated environments has made her an invaluable asset in every role she undertakes.

Beyond her professional achievements, Harita is an avid hiker, singer, dancer, and swimmer. Her passion for continuous learning and adaptability is reflected in her belief in Charles Darwin's quote: "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most adaptable to change." This philosophy has guided Harita through her impressive career, making her a standout leader in the aviation and project management sectors.

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Ritika Saraswat

Founder & CEO,
Re-Defined

Ritika is a trailblazing entrepreneur & prominent advocate for immigrants & international students. As the Founder of Re-Defined, she has transformed the landscape of immigrant support in Canada, fostering a vibrant community of over 50,000 individuals. Re-Defined has organized more than 45 events, impacting over 10,000 attendees across three cities & six chapters. This initiative exemplifies her commitment to empowering marginalized communities & facilitating their integration into Canadian society.

A highly respected voice in her field, Ritika has delivered keynote speeches at over 40+ events including TEDX, One Young World Conference & Josh Talks, addressing critical issues such as education & empowerment. Her influence extends to LinkedIn, where she is recognized as a Top Voice among 1 billion users, boasting a following of 85,000 & garnering over 10 million impressions. Ritika's insights have made her a sought-after speaker & thought leader, shaping discussions on social impact & community development.

Ritika's professional acumen is further demonstrated through her role working in Human Capital Consulting at Deloitte. Her expertise in HR & organizational strategy complements her entrepreneurial endeavors, bridging corporate & social spheres. She serves on the advisory boards of UN-affiliated organizations like Girl Up & Teenvisor & is a social impact ambassador for One Young World & Youthopia. Her contributions have earned her accolades including the Iconic Women Award from the Women Economic Forum.

Her philanthropic efforts are equally commendable. Ritika co-funds a School on Wheels initiative in Ajmer, India, providing educational opportunities to 1,000 students from underprivileged backgrounds per year.

Ritika's impact has been widely recognized. She has been featured on prominent platforms such as at Times Square, CBC, CTV News & Global News, & has graced the cover of magazines like 'Thrivve' & 'We Today'. Her innovative approach & relentless drive have positioned her as one of the Top 50 changemakers to follow, as identified by Topmate & a Top 1% mentor.

We have no hesitation that Ritika will become a defining voice in the immigrant space in North America, empowering international students to get opportunities they have always dreamt of & showing them what is possible, because it may not have always looked rosy for Ritika, there have been financial, mental challenges that have come along the way alongside constant questioning of her ability & skill sets but she was able to persevere & wants to help others do the same !!!

Join her in her journey on LinkedIn & Instagram & follow her organization Re-Defined as well to join their community & learn more about what they do

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Dr. Concepcion M. Valadez Obregon

President,
oecozmo

Dr. Concepción stands as a formidable force in the fields of corporate PR, real estate & global advocacy. As the President of OECOZMO, a prestigious corporate PR agency, Dr. Concepción has demonstrated unparalleled expertise in shaping corporate communications & managing high-stakes public relations strategies.

Her career extends into the real estate sector as Partner & CFO of La Purísima, a historic company with over 65 years of operation. Under her leadership, La Purísima has not only thrived but has also provided employment & educational opportunities to underprivileged women, reflecting her commitment to CSR & empowerment.

Dr. Concepción's career is marked by her significant roles in various international companies & Mexican government agencies. Her tenure includes impactful positions at CIEN+ & CONACULTA, where she contributed to major projects & initiatives that influenced both corporate & cultural landscapes.

A recent highlight in her illustrious career is her role as a member of the G100: Mission Million organization, where she serves as Country Chair for Communications, Advocacy & Mediation in Mexico. Her involvement with G100 underscores her dedication to advancing communication strategies on a global scale. Additionally, she is a special representative for the PVBLIC Foundation in Mexico, where she champions impactful social causes & initiatives.

Her distinguished service extends to her role as Communications Delegate at the Order of Malta Mexico Dr. Concepción 's contributions have been recognized through her knighthood as a "Dame" of the Order, signifying her exemplary service & commitment.

Dr. Concepción is also a co-founder of the Asociación de Mexicanas Aliadas in New York, a non-profit organization that supports Latin American women in accessing loans to establish businesses in the US. Her global influence is further evidenced by her membership in UN Women's New York chapter & her role on the Board of Directors of the WEF in Colombia since 2022.

She is also a global public speaker and recently participated at the "Global Congress of Women Leaders" at Harvard University. Dr. Concepcion´s academic credentials include a degree in Art History from Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México, a BA in Administration & Accounting & certificates from NYU & Columbia. She also holds a Diploma in Protocol from L'Institute Villa Vierrefeu in Switzerland.

Dr. Valadez Obregón's achievements have earned her numerous accolades, including being named one of the "50 Memorable Women of Latin America," "Peace Ambassador" in 2023, "Woman of the Decade 2023" by the Women Economic Forum UK & several prestigious awards for her contributions to leadership & excellence.



Nour Hachem

Chief Executive Officer,
Divine local

Nour Hachem is the visionary founder of Divine Local, a distinguished hair care brand celebrated for its innovative approach and commitment to natural ingredients. With a career spanning over 12 years, Nour has transformed her personal struggles with hair issues into a successful business, establishing herself as a leading figure in the hair care industry.

Nour's journey began at a young age, driven by a passion for hairdressing and a personal quest to overcome common hair problems such as hair loss, slow growth, and dryness. Her early exposure to the world of hair care, starting from the age of 11, laid a strong foundation for her future endeavors. Through hands-on experience and extensive research, Nour developed a deep understanding of hair health and the efficacy of various treatments.

In 2015, Nour made history as the first Arab woman to invent her own hair care product, a milestone that marked the inception of Divine Local. Her initial success with a groundbreaking hair mask, which delivered remarkable results and garnered positive feedback from clients, fueled her ambition to expand her product line. Today, Divine Local boasts a comprehensive range of 23 effective products, each meticulously crafted to address various hair concerns and enhance overall hair health.

Nour's commitment to quality and innovation is evident in her dedication to sourcing the finest natural ingredients. Her products are designed not only to address specific hair issues but also to promote long-term hair health and confidence. This focus on natural and effective solutions has resonated with many, helping countless individuals restore their beauty and self-assurance.

Beyond her entrepreneurial achievements, Nour has made significant contributions through media appearances, including television programs where she has shared her expertise and insights. Her efforts to empower women by providing them with the tools to achieve their beauty goals have been widely recognized and appreciated.

Nour Hachem's career is a testament to her expertise, innovation, and unwavering commitment to improving hair care. Her journey from a passionate young hairdresser to the founder of a leading hair care brand exemplifies her dedication to excellence and her impact on the industry.

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Neelima Sharma

Principal Consultant-Executive Search, Seintiv Talent Solutions

Neelima Sharma is a highly respected Principal Consultant specializing in Executive Search, with a remarkable track record in leading & expanding global talent acquisition practices. With over a decade of experience in the industry & having worked with Adecco & RGF International Recruitment, she has established herself as a key figure in connecting high-caliber talent with top-tier organizations.

At the forefront of Neelima's career is her role in managing the Profit & Loss for the International Executive Search Business. This extensive responsibility spans across critical regions, including China, Europe, the Middle East, Africa (EMEA), Saudi Arabia (KSA) & Southeast Asia. Her strategic approach & deep understanding of these diverse markets have enabled her to drive significant growth.

Neelima's expertise lies in retained & exclusive searches, where she excels in delivering customized solutions tailored to the specific needs of both clients & candidates. Her approach is not just transactional but deeply relational, focusing on long-term partnerships that foster organizational success & career advancement. By adeptly managing the Executive Search practice, Neelima ensures that her clients gain access to top-tier talent while providing candidates with optimal career opportunities.

Her professional journey is underpinned by a strong educational background. Neelima holds a Master's degree in HR from SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, one of India's premier institutions. This academic foundation has equipped her with advanced knowledge in HR practices, strategic management & organizational behavior, all of which have been crucial in her career.

Neelima is widely recognized for her positive leadership style, which has been instrumental in cultivating a dynamic & collaborative work environment. Her leadership emphasizes motivation, innovation & teamwork, driving her team to consistently achieve exceptional results. This approach has not only inspired her team but has also fostered a culture of excellence within the organizations she has been a part of.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Neelima is passionate about contributing to a more joyful & fulfilling world. She is currently channeling this passion into a new venture: launching her own motivational podcast. Through this platform, she aims to share her insights, inspire positive change & uplift individuals by offering motivational content drawn from her wealth of experience.

Neelima Sharma's ability to turn around businesses, set up operations in new markets & help startups hire the right talent in challenging regions like China, Germany, Africa, and Turkey, underscores her as a thought leader and a driving force in the executive search industry.

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Jana Gutierrez Kardum

Global Account Planning & Sales Productivity Lead, Red Hat

Jana Gutierrez Kardum's nearly two-decade-long career has been driven by her passion for learning, human development & productivity. Her dedication to empowering individuals and organizations to reach their highest potential has shaped her remarkable professional journey.

In her Global Principal Learning Experience Manager role at Red Hat, Jana has spearheaded transformative sales enablement programs. By reimagining sales management, sales processes & cloud selling enablement, she has significantly enhanced the productivity and learning experiences of Red Hat's global sales team. Jana's innovative projects, including leveraging Red Hat's AI technology, have future-proofed these programs and improved the employee experience. Her exceptional work earned her the prestigious President's Club Award in 2024.

Jana's career is marked by the successful development & implementation of large-scale HR initiatives across diverse regions. At Red Hat, she increased organizational effectiveness in Sales & Services while nurturing the organizational culture in Central Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa & Turkey. Additionally, she played a key role in evolving career progression and role maturity at one of Red Hat's largest global engineering sites in the Czech Republic. These efforts earned her numerous awards, including Red Hat's highest global accolade, the General H. Hugh Shelton Chairman's Award. Her leadership also drove significant organizational changes at VITKOVICE Machinery Group, where she served as Global HR Director & board member, increasing per capita productivity & promoting kaizen methods.

Beyond her corporate achievements, Jana is committed to adult education & research. As a research fellow at the The Learning Mindset Organization, she collaborates with globally acclaimed author Katja Schipperheijn to study factors influencing human learning & develop strategies to enhance individual learning capabilities, transforming individuals into learning influencers in the age of technology. As a guest lecturer and teacher at institutions like Charles University in Prague and Anglo-American University, Prague, she shares her expertise and passion for learning with students and professionals.

Jana's holds a double degree in Law (LLM) and Economics (PhDr.), an Executive Certificate in Strategy and Innovation from the MIT Sloan School of Management, a MicroMasters in Instructional Design and Technology from the University of Maryland, and a Certified Professional in Training Management certificate from Training Industry.

Jana is also a passionate promoter of women in STEM, serving as a chapter leader in the Red Hat Women in Leadership Community and mentoring many female professionals.

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Sagarika Chakraborty

Head, Gulf and Africa,
IIRIS Consulting

Sagarika Chakraborty is a highly accomplished risk consultant and business leader, currently heading both the Gulf and Africa divisions at IIRIS GAC (since 2021) and overseeing Global Investigations at IIRIS (since 2015). She is a renowned expert in risk advisory, white-collar crime mitigation, and forensic investigations, with a diverse portfolio in security management, integrity due diligence, strategic business intelligence, and commercial risk advisory. Her expertise also encompasses social media analytics, behavioral sciences, and homeland security, making her a trusted advisor for complex risk management projects.

Sagarika holds a strong academic foundation in law and business, with a B.A. LL.B (Hons) in Corporate Law from National Law University, Jodhpur, and an MBA in Strategy and Marketing from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. Her career highlights include her role as Chief Security Officer for the Mumbai Film Festival since 2015 and leadership in risk mitigation efforts for global brands like Disney, Netflix, and the Anand Group. Additionally, her service on the Advisory Board of Gujarat Forensic Science University emphasizes her influence within the fields of forensic science and investigations.

Sagarika has received extensive industry recognition, having been featured among the 20 Leading Ladies of UAE in Cybersecurity and named one of the Top 10 Women Entrepreneurs in the Gulf Region for 2024. Her accolades include the Outstanding Investigator of the Year (2023) and Asia's 100 Women Power Leaders (2023). She has also been acknowledged as a Top Influencer in Security in India and has received multiple awards for Best Security Professional of the Year. An accomplished author and thought leader, she has contributed to respected publications like Live Mint, The Wall Street Journal, and The Hindu. Sagarika is also a TEDx speaker and has trained over 500 officials from major financial institutions on subjects ranging from cybersecurity to crisis communication.

Her contributions to policy have been recognized internationally, including her Fellowship with the Royal Society of Arts, UK. With a career marked by strategic impact and innovation, Sagarika continues to be a leading figure in risk management and advisory sectors across the Gulf and beyond.



Archana Mahajan

Director Account Development,
Savills Middle East

Archana Mahajan is a seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in strategy and business development. Currently serving as a Director at Savills Middle East, a global real estate service provider, Archana is at the forefront of delivering innovative solutions through new business development, key account management, and financial analysis.

In her decade-long tenure in the commercial real estate industry, Archana has made significant contributions while working with renowned companies such as Cushman & Wakefield, Colliers International, and Savills India and Middle East.

At Savills Middle East, she leads the regional account management and business development team, covering 14 locations across the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Muscat, and Egypt. Her role involves driving revenue growth by exploring new business opportunities and selling across service verticals. Engaging with key decision-makers, Archana meticulously analyzes portfolios to suggest solutions that enhance efficiencies and reduce costs.

Archana is an active member of several real estate forums and platforms. Since 2023, she has been a part of CoreNet Global's Middle East Chapter, which connects corporate real estate professionals, advances knowledge, and promotes personal excellence through diverse educational and networking opportunities.

Prior to her current role, Archana led business development in the National Capital Region at Savills India, collaborating with high-profile clients such as Microsoft, Apple, Whirlpool, and Rackspace Technologies. Her eight-year stint with British Airways saw her excel in customer service, sales, and key account management, where she was responsible for growing business in South India and managing relationships with key corporates and travel agents.

Throughout her illustrious career, Archana has been recognized with multiple awards. She received the Construction & Real Estate Leadership Conclave award in Dubai in October 2023. In June 2022, she was honored with the Jerry Maguire Award at Savills India for her exceptional contributions to new business development. Other notable accolades include the South Asia Trust & Refer Award from Colliers International in 2019 and the South Asia Award from British Airways in 2006. Archana embodies qualities of honesty, integrity, and effective communication, which she believes are the hallmarks of a good leader.

Archana's hobbies include canvas painting, cooking, and Zumba, reflecting her vibrant and dynamic personality. Residing in Dubai, UAE, with her family, she cherishes the diverse cultural experiences and the opportunity to learn from people of various backgrounds.

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Claude Mourey

Director, Hydrogen and Low Carbon fuels, Wood Mackenzie

Claude Mourey is a seasoned leader in the energy sector with a robust track record of steering strategic initiatives across matrix organizations. Her extensive career, spanning more than two decades & traversing over 10 countries, underscores her ability to navigate complex environments & deliver sustainable growth. An engineer from the esteemed French Grande Ecole system, Claude further honed her expertise by earning an MBA in Entrepreneurship from HEC Paris, where she graduated with top honors.

In her current role, Claude has been instrumental in advising energy companies, resource holders & financial institutions on strategies & capital projects involving hydrogen & its derivatives. Her notable achievements at Wood Mackenzie include spearheading the company's market entry in a new country in Africa & securing its first green ammonia consulting project. Claude's expertise is frequently sought after at international hydrogen & energy transition conferences, where she contributes as a speaker & panel moderator.

Previously, Claude worked with TotalEnergies across Algeria & Denmark. In this role, she led multidisciplinary teams in evaluating the economic, technical, legal, & environmental viability of business opportunities. Her strategic mindset was instrumental in negotiating contract extensions with Joint Venture partners & the National Oil Company (NOC).

Claude's journey also includes a significant stint at MAERSK as Director of Corporate Strategic Initiatives, where she supported the Global Executive team on new business growth & decarbonization efforts. Her leadership in the Maersk Oil cost transformation project aiming at optimizing the extended workforce ($500 million impactable spend) resulted in a 23% cost reduction. Additionally, Claude had the opportunity to be an early contributor to the launch of Maersk's geothermal business unit, now known as Innargi.

At SLB, Claude managed performance improvement & corporate strategy projects across the UK, Middle East, Central Asia, Africa & the Far East. Her & team's work led to significant gains, including a 30 KBOE/D net gain for a Middle East NOC & an 8% production increase for an IOC's North Sea assets.

Claude's early career saw her contributing to Sinapse Graphic International, Infosys & various other roles where she developed her expertise in sales, marketing & consulting. Her professional training includes programs at INSEAD, MIT Sloan & IESE, further enriching her strategic & leadership capabilities.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Claude is an avid ultra-light pilot, off-piste skier, mountain biker, (former) motorcycle racer & love dune bashing, reflecting her passion for adventure & teamwork.



Lucia Loyo

General Counsel, ETS EMEA

Lucia Loyo stands as a beacon of leadership and expertise in the legal and educational technology sectors. Currently, she is the General Counsel at ETS EMEA, a key subsidiary of ETS, a global education and talent solutions organization enabling lifelong learners to be future ready. Lucia's work is deeply embedded in the EdTech, where she aligns legal strategies with the organization's mission to drive positive change in education worldwide.

Lucia's career trajectory is marked by significant contributions to the education industry, particularly in the ethical and responsible integration of technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI), in educational assessments. As General Counsel at ETS EMEA, Lucia has provided strategic legal guidance with a strong emphasis on AI Governance and the ethical dimensions of AI.

She has overseen corporate governance, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory obligations, and established robust legal frameworks for global compliance, emphasizing ethical and privacy considerations. Lucia's leadership in progressive privacy strategies has fostered a responsible and transparent data-driven culture within the organization.

Before her current role, Lucia served as the Executive Director of Legal Affairs and Test Security at ETS Global in Amsterdam. Here, she maintained legal compliance, crafting frameworks aligned with business needs and ethical principles. She led the design and implementation of privacy strategies and led the Test Security team to ensure Test scores are fair and valid.

Lucia's commitment to gender equality and advancing women in the workplace is a driving force in her professional journey. She has actively contributed to several organizations dedicated to empowering women, including her work with the European Professional Women's Association (EPWN) and her current role on the Advisory Board of Women in AI. Her dedication to these causes reflects her passion for fostering an inclusive environment where women can thrive and lead.

Her board experience is extensive, including positions on the boards of Women in AI , ETS Global BV, ETS Assessment Beijing, EPWN, and Panamerican Beverages. Proficient in English, French, and Spanish, with working knowledge of Dutch and German, Lucia's skill set spans AI governance, compliance, corporate governance, inter-functional leadership and cross-cultural communication.

Lucia's unwavering dedication to ethical considerations, gender equality, and her passion for education make her a distinguished and inspirational leader in her field.

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Divya Janardhanan Pillai

Principal Specialist,
Dubai Municipality

Divya Pillai is a trailblazer in the UAE Public Sector, whose 19-year career, including over a decade of service with Dubai Government, exemplifies her dedication to excellence, resilience, and sustainable innovation. Specializing in organizational transformation, Pillai's extensive skill set spans Quality, Health, Safety, Environment (QHSE), Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), Crisis and Business Continuity Management (CBCM), and Sustainability. Her expertise, underpinned by certifications from leading institutions like the Business Continuity Institute (BCI), Project Management Institute (PMI), and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), has established her as a formidable force in the field. Currently serving as Principal Specialist at Dubai Municipality, Pillai spearheads initiatives that drive operational and environmental advancement, notably through Dubai's Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2050, presented at COP28. Her role has been pivotal in aligning Dubai Municipality's policies with the UAE's climate goals, demonstrating her strategic vision and commitment to impactful, future-oriented governance.

Throughout her career, Pillai has earned numerous accolades that attest to her leadership and influence. Her efforts during EXPO2020 were instrumental in coordinating transport services for millions of attendees, for which she received the EXPO2020 Service Delivery Award from His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Recognized internationally, Pillai was also named Continuity and Resilience Professional of the Year 2022 by the Business Continuity Institute, UK, for her contributions to resilience practices across the Middle East. During her tenure at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), Pillai played a critical role in strategic planning and operational oversight for high-profile events such as FIFA 2022, contributing to seamless and safe transport services for global audiences. Her contributions extend to her time at ServeU LLC, where she led COVID-19 contingency planning that maintained an infection rate of just 2.1% among over 5,000 employees, significantly below the national average. Pillai's achievements have been further recognized through the RTA's Best Female Employee Award in Strategy and Corporate Governance, underscoring her influence within Dubai's public sector. Her inclusion in the Global 200 Women Power Leaders 2024 celebrates her as an inspiring leader whose commitment to resilience, sustainability, and excellence continues to set benchmarks and inspire future generations in public service.



Gym Woiciechowski

Institutional Relationship Manager,
Banfers Bank INC

Gym Woiciechowski, is a formidable force in the banking and financial services industry. With over 25 years of experience, Gym has dedicated her career to fostering innovation, promoting financial inclusion, and driving sustainable growth. Born in Venezuela 47 years ago, her journey is a testament to resilience and determination.

Despite financial constraints preventing her from attending college, Gym pursued a self-taught path, learning through extensive reading, investigation, and various courses. This self-directed learning approach has made her stronger and more determined, fueling her eagerness to learn more every day. Her early career saw her as Vice-President and Publisher Director at Venezuelan Business News, the first Venezuelan newspaper specializing in economic, financial, and business news. This role marked the beginning of a career characterized by leadership and innovation.

At Banfers International Bank & Trust, Gym oversees customer relationship management, sales, customer services, negotiation, partnerships, budget management, lead generation, and market analysis. Her leadership was instrumental in the rebranding of the bank, revitalizing its image and strengthening its market presence. She played a crucial role in expanding the range of services, including integrating cryptocurrency and multi-currency account options, catering to the evolving needs of a diverse clientele.

Gym's achievements are remarkable. She has built an extensive network of clients, partners, and correspondents, significantly expanding the bank's reach. Under her leadership, Banfers International Bank & Trust has received prestigious awards such as Excellence in International Banking Dominica 2024 and Best in Financial Planning and Wealth Management Dominica 2024. She spearheaded the launch of cryptocurrency services, positioning the bank at the forefront of financial technology. Additionally, Gym has been a strong advocate for financial inclusion, developing products and services for underserved markets, contributing to economic growth in emerging markets.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Gym is passionate about community service and personal growth. A Lady Shriner since 2008 and a member of the Worldwide Women's Association, she lives by the motto, "If you grow, I grow," emphasizing mutual support and growth. She aspires to start a foundation to break down barriers to higher education for brilliant students affected by immigration status limitations.

Gym's journey, guided by a strong sense of purpose and commitment to excellence, continues to inspire.

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Jennifer McShane Bary

Chief Executive Officer,
JMB Project Management Co. LLC

Jennifer McShane Bary is a trailblazing entrepreneur and the CEO of JMB Project Management, a company renowned for its innovative and client-centric approach. With over two decades of experience in strategic business management and technology integration, Jennifer has established herself as a leader in the project management industry, particularly in the Middle East.

Jennifer's career began with a solid educational foundation in business and technology. She holds a Masters in Business Administration, complemented by advanced certifications in Project Management and Technology Integration. This academic background laid the groundwork for her entry into the corporate world, where she quickly demonstrated her aptitude for managing complex projects.

Her early career saw her taking on key roles in various multinational corporations, where she honed her skills in strategic planning, project execution, and team leadership. Her tenure at eHealth NSW in Australia was particularly notable, where she led major digital transformations that improved healthcare delivery and set new benchmarks for technology integration in the sector. This experience equipped her with the expertise to manage large-scale initiatives and paved the way for her future success.

In 2021, Jennifer made a significant move to the Middle East, marking a new chapter in her career. She was entrusted with a leadership role in the NEOM project in Saudi Arabia, one of the most ambitious smart city projects globally. Her work in managing the digital infrastructure and integration for NEOM showcased her ability to handle complex projects and drive them to successful outcomes. Her strategic vision and problem-solving skills were critical in navigating the challenges of such a cutting-edge technological project.

Jennifer's contributions extend beyond project management. She is the driving force behind the Middle East Summit of Excellence, an event dedicated to celebrating outstanding achievements across various sectors in the region. This summit reflects her commitment to fostering innovation, excellence, and leadership.

Her achievements have earned her numerous accolades, including the Business Lady of the Year 2024 and the CIO Bulletin's 5 Best Women in Business Awards 2024. These honors underscore her impact and leadership in the project management industry.

Under her leadership, JMB Project Management has become a trusted partner for prominent clients across the UAE, including Seddiqi Holding. Jennifer McShane Bary's visionary leadership and commitment to innovation continue to set new standards in project management, driving positive change and sustainable growth in the industry.

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Karine Noufaily

Commercial Director,
GEN and Director at Infomed

Karine Noufaily is a seasoned pharmaceutical professional with over 22 years of dedicated service in the industry, specializing in Immunology and currently advancing in the field of genomics. Her career trajectory is a testament to her unwavering commitment to patient-centric care and her ability to navigate the complexities of the pharmaceutical landscape with a blend of strategic insight and collaborative leadership.

Karine currently holds two prominent positions: Commercial Director at GEN and Life and Health Care Science Director at Infomed. In these roles, she is at the forefront of driving transformative change within the pharmaceutical industry, leveraging her extensive experience across sales, marketing & market access. Karine's leadership is characterized by a strategic approach that ensures successful brand launches, particularly in challenging markets such as the Levant & Egypt.

Karine began her career as a Medical Representative, a role that laid the foundation for her future success. Her progression through the ranks, from Sales Manager to Senior Brand Manager and eventually Brand Team Leader, reflects her ability to excel in diverse environments and her adaptability in the face of industry challenges. She has led numerous digital transformation initiatives, Multichannel Marketing (MCM) projects & brand excellence initiatives, further solidifying her reputation as a forward-thinking leader.

Throughout her career, Karine has demonstrated exceptional skill in managing both direct & cross-functional teams, often leading without formal authority. Her strategic acumen has been pivotal in launching mature brands, new products & new indications. Notably, during her tenure at AbbVie, Karine played a key role in maintaining Humira's market leadership for an impressive 12 years. Her innovative lifecycle management strategies, including the "Drop Out/Increase Recruitment" plan, resulted in a 68% decrease in dropout rates & a 74% increase in patient recruitment.

Karine's contributions have been recognized through several prestigious awards, including the President's Award, AbbVie Excellence Award & All Star Award, each honoring her exceptional performance & impact on patient care. Additionally, her leadership in the "Iraq Journey" initiative significantly increased the national demand for Humira, showcasing her ability to drive results in complex markets.

Karine holds a robust educational background in pharmaceutical sciences, which has equipped her with the technical knowledge & strategic mindset necessary for her roles. Her career is marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence, a commitment to innovation & a deep dedication to improving patient outcomes in the pharmaceutical industry.

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Juliana Salla

General Manager,
JW Marriott Hotel Muscat

Juliana Salla is a distinguished leader in the luxury hospitality industry, renowned for her extensive global experience and innovative approach. With over 15 years in the field, she has made significant contributions to renowned brands and settings, showcasing her expertise in hotel management, spa operations, and project leadership.

Juliana's career began on cruise lines, where she spent four formative years before transitioning to high-profile roles in the hotel industry. She joined W Hotels in 2007, where her strategic vision and operational expertise were pivotal in shaping the brand's global presence. Notably, she was part of the pre-opening teams for W Doha Hotel & Residences and W Bali - Seminyak, and contributed to the successful development and launch of W St. Petersburg.

Her tenure at W Hotels also included leading the renovation of W New York - Times Square while the hotel was operational, and developing brand training for the EAME division. As Director of Rooms at W Guangzhou and at The Slate in Phuket, Juliana excelled in managing rooms divisions and spa operations, earning accolades such as the Luxury Hotels of the World Certificate of Excellence and Asia Spa Awards' New Spa of the Year.

In February 2017, Juliana transitioned to The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C., where she has further cemented her reputation for excellence. As Executive Assistant Manager at The Ritz-Carlton, Bali, and later as Resort Manager at The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Island, she played a key role in operational management and guest satisfaction. Her leadership was instrumental in the resort's success, contributing to its reputation as a top luxury destination.

Currently, Juliana serves as General Manager at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat. Her role involves overseeing comprehensive operations, driving strategic initiatives, and ensuring the highest standards of guest experience. Her impactful leadership continues to set benchmarks in the industry.

Juliana holds a Bachelor's degree in Marketing & PR from Faculdade de Comunicação Social Casper Libero, where she graduated with honors. Her academic excellence was recognized with a 1st prize for her graduation project on marketing and guest services satisfaction. She also completed Associates degrees in Guest Services Operations and Hotel Management at USP - Universidade de São Paulo and Ahembi Morumbi University, respectively.

Juliana Salla's career reflects a blend of strategic leadership, innovative problem-solving, and a commitment to excellence in hospitality. Her achievements and experience position her as a trailblazer in the industry, consistently setting new standards for luxury and service.



Rachel Meuleman

Founder,
The Bizz Advisors

Rachel Meuleman stands as a prominent figure in the global business landscape, known for her exceptional versatility and pioneering spirit. Her career, spanning over 25+ years, reflects a remarkable journey marked by innovative achievements and transformative leadership across diverse industries.

Rachel's professional odyssey began in the dynamic performing arts scene of New York City, where she worked alongside luminaries like Alicia Keys, honing her skills and gaining invaluable experience. This initial foray into the world of entertainment set the stage for her transition into television production. At esteemed organizations such as Nickelodeon, Viacom, and HBO Downtown Productions, Rachel's contributions were pivotal in shaping successful media projects.

Her move to Dubai marked a significant turning point, highlighting her entrepreneurial acumen and commitment to excellence. In 2022, Rachel founded The Bizz Advisors, a consultancy renowned for its innovative approach to professional services. The organization has quickly established itself as a leader in its field, thanks to Rachel's strategic vision and dedication.

Rachel's entrepreneurial prowess was further demonstrated in 2024 with the launch of BizzAngels. This groundbreaking initiative revolutionized lead generation techniques, providing businesses with unparalleled expertise in capturing and converting leads at conventions and networking events. As the first and only service of its kind in Dubai, BizzAngels under Rachel's leadership has set new standards for success in the industry.

Her career is distinguished by a series of notable roles and achievements. Rachel has managed large-scale operations as Marketing Director for Dell Technologies Software - Emerging Markets, overseeing operations in 80 countries. Her global perspective and ability to drive business growth have been instrumental in her previous roles, including sales of luxury yachts and her tenure at Social Circles, a social network she successfully founded and sold.

In 2019, Rachel established Smarketing International, a digital marketing firm that has guided numerous corporations and individuals to prominence in the digital realm. Her ventures consistently reflect her ability to innovate and lead, demonstrating a keen understanding of market dynamics and emerging trends. Rachel Meuleman's impact extends beyond her professional achievements.

As a mentor for the Dubai Business Women Council and Reach Mentoring Community, she is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of leaders, embodying her commitment to giving back and fostering future talent.

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Jo Dourou Schrader

Head of PPMO Enabling Functions Technology, Finance Change & Tesco Labs at Tesco Plc

Jo Dourou Schrader is a trailblazer in project management with over a decade of distinguished experience across multiple industries, including retail, publishing, banking, education, consulting & IT. She currently holds the position of Head of PPMO Enabling Functions Technology, Finance Change, and Tesco Labs at Tesco Plc, where she continues to drive innovation and excellence in project management.

Jo's career is marked by exceptional achievements & rapid advancement. Beginning as a PMO intern, she swiftly rose through the ranks, leading a team of 30 PMO professionals & managing over 120 projects within just ten years. Her strategic expertise has been instrumental in setting up governance frameworks & standards, driving project delivery through data analytics & pioneering cost optimization initiatives. These efforts have resulted in significant savings, amounting to millions annually for her employers.

Her leadership at the Financial Times was particularly notable, where she earned accolades for excellence and contribution, and led her team to the finals of the RITA (Real Innovation Technology Awards) in 2018. Jo's influence extends beyond her direct roles; as a PMOGA - PMO Global Alliance ambassador and Project Management Institute UK member, and a judge for the PMI PMO Global Awards for the past five years, she has made substantial contributions to the project management community. Her role as a PMO UK ambassador for the The PMO Leader further reflects her commitment to advancing the profession. Jo's presentations at global PMO conferences, utilizing cutting-edge technology, have profoundly impacted the project management field worldwide.

Jo's educational credentials are as impressive as her professional achievements. She holds an MBA Core from Harvard Business School, an MSc from the The University of Edinburgh, & a BSc from the University of Athens- Ethnikon kai Kapodistriakon Panepistimion Athinon.

Additionally, she has earned various professional project management certifications, underscoring her expertise & dedication to continuous learning. Beyond her corporate achievements, Jo founded Eudemonia Coaching, a life coaching business, where she has successfully coached over 150 individuals, aiding their personal and professional growth. Her role as a mentor and coach extends to her workplace, emphasizing her commitment to fostering development in others.

Jo Dourou Schrader exemplifies excellence in project management and leadership, making her a transformative figure in her field. Her significant business outcomes and dedication to mentorship and professional development highlight her as a leading candidate for recognition among the "Global 200 Women Power Leaders 2024."

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Sofia Svanholt

Senior Strategic Account Executive, Microsoft

Sofia Svanholt is a distinguished business leader with a rich background in the IT and energy sectors, renowned for her commitment to driving sustainable success and fostering a culture of collaboration and openness. With nearly 25 years of experience in the IT industry, and almost a decade working with the energy sector, Sofia has held various pivotal roles across advanced sales, key account management, marketing, and business development. Her career is marked by a relentless focus on results, which has enabled her to close significant global deals and drive the growth of major clients.

In 2020, Sofia joined Microsoft as a Senior Strategic Account Executive, where she manages multi-million-dollar deals and associated deliveries. Her expertise in strategic account management has been instrumental in driving innovation and business success at Microsoft, earning her the prestigious Microsoft Gold Award of 2023. Her exceptional sales acumen and ability to navigate complex deal-making processes have been recognized by industry leaders, leading to her inclusion as a contributor and interviewee in the best-selling book hashtag#Megadeals by Johan Åberg and Christopher Engman, which explores the intricacies of high-stakes deals exceeding $100 million.

Sofia's leadership extends beyond her professional achievements. She is a passionate advocate for women in leadership, earning multiple nominations on prestigious lists recognizing her contributions to advancing gender equality in Sweden. Her dedication to making a positive impact on the world is evident in her active involvement with the Hult Prize Foundation. Since 2017, Sofia has served as a judge, mentor, coach, and expert in this global competition, helping to guide and support hundreds of social enterprises focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In 2023, she was appointed one of nine global Experts in Residence, an exclusive role in which she continues to lead and oversee the judging process.

Sofia also plays a significant role in the Global Wealth Forum as an Executive Steering Committee Member, where she advocates for financial literacy and sustainable wealth creation. Additionally, as an Expert Member of the World Innovation Alliance, she collaborates with experts worldwide to address global challenges through innovative solutions in areas such as technology, education, and political reform.

Balancing her professional and personal life, Sofia lives sustainably just north of Stockholm with her husband, two daughters, and their dogs, nurturing a deep connection to the environment and a commitment to family.

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Dr. Irene Ching

Serial entrepreneur, Women's Health Champion, Longevity Expert/Speaker

Dr. Irene Ching is a distinguished family physician and entrepreneur who has made remarkable strides in transforming the healthcare landscape. With a multifaceted career that spans medicine, property investment, and personal development, Dr. Ching has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence, innovation, and community well-being.

As the Founder and Leader of MEDICAL VILLAGE HEALTHCARE GROUP, Dr. Ching oversees four NHS GP practices in the North of England. Under her leadership, the group has grown to generate an annual turnover of £3 million, supported by a dedicated team of 60 employees. Dr. Ching's strategic vision is set to propel the group towards a turnover of £200 million through targeted acquisitions. Her efforts have not only improved patient care but also optimized operational efficiency, making a lasting impact on the healthcare industry.

A passionate advocate for women's health, Dr. Ching has spearheaded several initiatives that have significantly improved health outcomes for women in her community. Her work includes the establishment of a Menopause Clinic, Breastfeeding Initiatives, and the Baby Wellbeing Project, all of which provide comprehensive support and enhance the quality of life for women. Dr. Ching's dedication to these initiatives earned her the Global Woman Award in the Influencer category and the MF Prestige Award in 2023.

In addition to her medical career, Dr. Ching is a successful property investor, having completed multiple seven-figure transactions in high-potential areas like the Midlands, UK. Her ability to maximize property value is a testament to her business acumen and strategic thinking.

Dr. Ching is also the creator and host of the "Be Happy, Healthy and Wealthy" podcast, which ranks in the top 5% globally. Through her podcast, she shares insights on health optimization, anti-aging, and personal development, inspiring a worldwide audience.

Originally from Malaysia, Dr. Ching's journey was marked by overcoming significant challenges, including language barriers and professional bullying, which led to an eating disorder and self-doubt. However, her resilience and commitment to personal growth have allowed her to turn these challenges into strengths. She now integrates mindfulness, hypnotherapy, and mindset coaching into her practice, empowering both her patients and trainee doctors.

Dr. Irene Ching continues to push the boundaries of healthcare, driven by her motto to impact one life at a time. Her unwavering dedication to improving healthcare, empowering women, and fostering community well-being has left an indelible mark on the industry.



Dr. Pham Minh Phuong

(known by the English name as Felicia Pham)

Managing Partner, Sunwah English Education

Pham Minh Phuong, internationally recognized as Felicia Pham, stands as a pioneering force in education, commerce & entrepreneurship. As an International Managing Partner & Founding Shareholder of Sunwah English Education, Phuong plays a pivotal role in bridging Sunwah Group, a leading Asian conglomerate with a diverse portfolio spanning seafood, real estate, financial services & more, with University of Oxford. Her leadership in Sunwah English Education underscores her commitment to advancing English test assessment & educational ecosystems.

Phuong's role extends beyond education into commerce, where she serves as Vice Chairwoman of the VinatipcSouth - Vietnam Trade & Investment Promotion Club. This prestigious position, under the Ministry of Industry and Trade Vietnam, involves promoting trade relationships between Vietnam & global partners, particularly in Europe. Her strategic organization of international trade conferences has facilitated foreign direct investment into Vietnam & strengthened international business connections.

Academically, Phuong's credentials are distinguished. She is a Doctoral Candidate at the Swiss School of Business and Management, where she also lectures MBA courses. Her academic journey includes a scholarship-funded completion of the "Oxford Advanced Management Leadership Programme" at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, making her one of only two candidates to receive this honor. As the sole Regional Ambassador for Said Business School in Vietnam, Phuong has been instrumental in fostering the Vietnamese community at Oxford and representing the institution in Vietnam. Additionally, her role as an Advisory Council Member for Harvard Business Review highlights her expertise and thought leadership.

Phuong's impact as a keynote speaker is noteworthy. She has been a distinguished speaker at the "22nd Conference on Big Data and Data Analytics" in the Netherlands, and has received accolades from the Conference Series and Journal of Theoretical & Computational Science for her contributions to international conferences in Amsterdam and Paris.

In the realm of mentorship and coaching, Phuong is dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs. She has played a crucial role in initiatives such as EMpower and the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) 2023, connecting female-led startups in Southeast Asia with vital resources and networks for business success.

Phuong's versatility also includes acting as an ambassador for high-end fashion and jewelry brands. Over the past decade, she has gained recognition as a leading translator and simultaneous interpreter, contributing to over 100 international conferences and seminars.

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Dr. Archana Yemeshvary Ashok Upadhyay

Chief Human Resources Officer, Hindustan Colas

Dr. Archana stands out as a luminary in the realm of leadership coaching and human resources. With an illustrious career spanning nearly three decades, she has significantly contributed to the fields of leadership and executive coaching, mindfulness, employee wellbeing, strategy implementation, balanced scorecard and organizational development. Currently serving as the CHRO at Hindustan Colas, a joint venture of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited & COLAS SA, Dr. Upadhyay has been instrumental in shaping the HR & strategy functions of the company.

Dr. Yemeshvary's coaching prowess is internationally recognized. She is a Master Certified Coach (MCC) accredited by the International Coach Fédération (ICF) and has trained senior leaders and bureaucrats from organizations such as the Asian Productivity Organisation, the Civil Service Commission of the Philippines & the National Training & Productivity Centre in Fiji. Her mission is to help individuals & organizations unlock their limitless potential, fostering a world filled with love, light, & laughter.

Before her tenure at Hindustan Colas, Dr. Yemeshvary dedicated over 28 years to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. In her various different roles she handled all HR functions, including training and development, employee relations, payroll, and performance management. She was pivotal in co-creating the vision, values & strategy for HPCL, designing and implementing Balanced Scorecards (BSC) and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for various Strategic Business Units (SBUs). Her initiatives in organizational development & women empowerment, particularly through the flagship program LEAD_HER_SHIP, have left a lasting impact.

Dr. Yemeshvary holds a Ph.D. in Strategy Management from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, where she also earned her MA in Personnel Management & Industrial Relations. Her educational background is further enriched by certifications in Emotional Intelligence from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Balanced Scorecard Professional from Carlton Advanced Management Institute & public procurement from UNDP Denmark. Additionally, she is a certified NLP Practitioner & a Senior Certified Professional from SHRM.

Her collaboration with renowned industry experts like Daniel Goleman, Marshall Goldsmith & Peter J. Reding, coupled with her role as a keynote speaker at numerous national & international forums, underscores her expertise and influence. Beyond her professional life, Dr.Upadhyay is an avid yogi and nature lover, finding joy in meditation, mindfulness, and trekking in the Himalayas. Her dedication to creating a fulfilling life for herself and others truly sets her apart as a visionary leader & coach.



Dr. Nahla Kazim

Director of Fertility Preservation and Consultant in Reproductive Medicine & Infertility at Bourn Hall Fertility Centre - Mediclinic Middle East

Dr. Nahla Abdul Razzaq Kazim is a distinguished physician, renowned for her expertise in Reproductive Medicine & Infertility. With an unwavering commitment to advancing women's healthcare, Dr. Kazim has made significant contributions to her field through patient-centric care, academic excellence, leadership roles, innovative use of technology & dedication to uplifting healthcare in the UAE.

Dr. Kazim's journey into medicine was inspired by her family, particularly her aunt, Dr. Zeinab Kazim - the first Emirati Obstetrician & Gynecologist. She pursued her undergraduate medical education at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, India, on a scholarship from the UAE & then completed her MD in Obstetrics & Gynecology. Living her passion, she obtained a Master's in Reproductive Sciences from the The University of Edinburgh, UK, following which she earned a PhD in Reproductive Health from the same university, becoming the first UAE physician to hold this specialization. In her repertoire of achievements is also the prestigious Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Educational Excellence.

Dr. Kazim's career is marked by key positions in renowned institutions, which enriched her professionally & honed her capabilities. She began at Al Mafraq Hospital in Abu Dhabi. In 2010, after 7 years of specialization in Edinburgh, she joined Tawam Fertility Center under SEHA at Al Ain - the UAE's first public sector IVF facility. Here, she played a crucial role in setting up a state-of-the-art establishment under the Johns Hopkins umbrella.

In 2019, Dr. Kazim transitioned to Fakih IVF Fertility Center, Al Ain, where she led infertility treatment procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her use of advanced technologies like AR, VR & the Metaverse significantly enhanced fertility care. Currently, she serves as the Director of Fertility Preservation at Bourn Hall Fertility Centre, part of the Mediclinic group, focusing on fertility preservation to address challenges of age, physiological dysfunction & cancer treatments.

Dr. Kazim is a dedicated advocate for public education on fertility preservation & women's reproductive health. Her novel initiative - Kazim's Fertility Barza - engages the community to increase awareness of factors influencing fertility & longevity.

Her academic contributions are notable, with a chapter on "Oncofertility & Fertility Preservation" in the recent landmark publication, "Cancer Care in the United Arab Emirates." No stranger to recognitions, Dr. Kazim's recent accolades include CIO Top Woman Healthcare Leader, being featured in Kul Alusra magazine & Al Khaleej News, recognition by Medgate magazine & earning honors at the UAE's Next Mastermind Awards 2024.

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Rosa Metra

Founder and CEO,
Change Works Ltd

Rosa Metra is a distinguished leader whose career spans over two decades in change management and workforce excellence consulting. Her unparalleled expertise and visionary approach have established her as a pioneering force in the HR industry.

As the MD of Perk Protocol, Rosa is at the cutting edge of integrating blockchain technology into HR practices. Under her leadership, PERK Protocol is transforming the HR landscape by addressing critical challenges such as skills gaps, talent shortages, and high recruiting costs. Rosa's innovative approach leverages blockchain to enhance data security, transparency, and efficiency in HR transactions. This groundbreaking work not only streamlines HR processes but also sets new industry standards for leveraging AI and blockchain technologies.

Rosa also leads Thrive Vibe, a cutting-edge corporate skill management platform that incorporates gamified assessments to optimize HR functions and enhance employee engagement. Together with her leadership of MIA (Mission Impact Academy) and Change Works, a Fortune 100 technology-driven business change management company, Rosa continues to drive impactful innovation across multiple business fronts.

Before her role at PERK Protocol, Rosa made significant strides at THRIVE VIBE CONSULTING as a Corporate Workforce Excellence and Innovation Manager. Her role was instrumental in embedding AI capabilities that optimized HR functions and employee engagement.

Rosa's career also includes notable consulting roles with leading global firms such as Kering, Gucci, Unilever, and British Airways. In these roles, she conducted thorough health assessments of ERP and CRM systems, identifying key areas for improvement and proposing Center of Excellence models. Her insights into program framework capabilities and business readiness significantly enhanced governance & operational efficiency within these organizations.

Educationally, Rosa's foundation in business management & change management is complemented by advanced studies & certifications that underscore her expertise.

Rosa Metra's dedication extends beyond her professional achievements. She is actively involved in supporting women in business through her work with the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, EWA (European Women Organisation), & MIA (Mission Impact Academy). Her mentorship & strategic guidance have empowered numerous women entrepreneurs & leaders.

In sum, Rosa Metra's career is a testament to her transformative impact on HR management & workforce excellence. Moreover, as an advocate & leader across multiple business innovation companies, Rosa's influence continues to redefine the limits of industry standards & inspire growth & excellence in business practices globally.

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Carmen Hofmeester

HR Director,
Jetex

With a career spanning over 2 decades within the dynamic realm of Human Resources, Carmen has been exemplifying transformative leadership. Having commenced her illustrious journey in the Hospitality and the FMCG sector, Carmen orchestrated a symphony of successes by leading HR functions across various industries, including media, oil & gas, and aviation. Today, she is known to be a trailblazer pushing the boundaries of people strategy in the evolving business world.

In her previous roles as Global HR leader at Jetex, ITP Media Group and Coffee Planet Carmen's strategic prowess has left an indelible mark. A maestro in people management, she oversaw the People Strategy on a global scale, driving initiatives that enhance the employer value proposition and foster a high-performance culture. What sets her apart is not just the expanse of her career trajectory but the narrative of growth she has been at the helm of driving within the HR field.

Over the past decade, under Carmen's stewardship, her employers have seen remarkable growth and transformation, a testament to her unwavering commitment to fostering a thriving workplace.

Carmen has played a pivotal role in shaping global HR frameworks, driving key initiatives that have elevated organization's people strategy. Her expertise in talent acquisition, leadership development, and employee engagement has been instrumental in positioning her employers as an employer of choice within their respective industries.

Carmen has been at the forefront of designing and implementing leadership development programs that identify and nurture high-potential talent within the organizations. Her focus on building leadership capabilities has resulted in a pipeline of future leaders ready to drive business continued success.

Carmen's ingenuity shines through in her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I). She has spearheaded initiatives that promote an inclusive workplace culture, ensuring that her employer is a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Her work in this area has garnered recognition, further solidifying the trust she gained as a DE&I champion.

In the tapestry of Carmen's career, each thread weaves a story of growth, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to creating workplaces where individuals not only thrive but redefine success. With her CIPD and SHRM membership her commitment is underscored by continuous professional development and excellence in HR leadership. Carmen is not just a leader; her career is a testament to her ability to balance the intricate needs of employees with organizational goals thus driving both employee engagement and bottom-line results.

She is the architect of a future where careers are not just nurtured but crafted into legacies.

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Ghada Ghandourah

Chief Human Capital Officer

Ghada Ghandourah is a renowned C-suite executive, revered for her profound impact in strategy, human capital, and operational excellence across both public and private sectors. With a robust career spanning over 28 years, Ghada has consistently driven transformative initiatives that have significantly bolstered organizational efficiency, talent management & strategic execution.

Most recently serving as Advisor to the CEO & CHCO at the Royal Commission for Makkah City & Holy Sites (RCMC), Ghada played a pivotal role in the establishment of this high-profile government entity. As the first employee after the CEO, she meticulously orchestrated the formation of critical enabling functionalities & spearheaded collaborations with top-tier consulting firms like McKinsey, PwC, Deloitte, Korn Ferry, Gallup, Aberkyn, HNI & Impact in projects vary from core strategic institutional projects, HR function Setup, assessments, performance management to culture transformation initiative. Under her leadership, RCMC witnessed the seamless integration of competitive talent, the launch of major projects for maximum impact.

Prior to her tenure at RCMC, Ghada held key roles at AECOM Arabia Ltd.(AA), a KSA subsidiary of the Global500 AECOM engineering design firm. As the Operations Director, she was instrumental in mobilizing a formidable team for the Jeddah Stormwater Drainage Program (JSDP), attracting over 700 employees in just five months, initiating a SAR 3.33B JSDP program delivery roadmap, leading AA enabling functions, while serving as Program Support Package Project Manager for a team of 185, delivering comprehensive program support valued at SAR 239M. As VP of Strategic Initiatives, Ghada fostered crucial relationships with KSA Cultural Attaches & spearheaded training programs that bridged educational outcomes with industry needs. Her strategic initiatives significantly advanced Saudization efforts, securing a SAR1.7M grant & achieving a remarkable 35% Saudization within the project. One of her most enduring contributions was the launch of the AECOM Academy, which continues to thrive & generate revenue for more than a decade after its inception.

Ghada's career trajectory also includes her role as Special Projects Manager at Xenel Industries Ltd., where she was the sole female on the founding team of the first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) infrastructure project in Saudi Arabia. She played a critical role in establishing the operational framework for the Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT), managing recruitment & HR strategy during the corporate
establishment phase. Then appointed as Head of HR led the HR function in the RSGT recruiting 600 employees in 8 months, championed the creation of PM system, event management, internal communications and training.

Fluent in Arabic & English, Ghada holds an MSc in Information Systems from the University of Sunderland, an Executive MBA from the Arab Academy for Science & Technology & a B.Sc. in Computer Science from King AbdulAziz University. Her diverse educational background & subsequent experience has equipped her with a unique blend of technical & strategic expertise, enabling her to navigate complex corporate & governmental ecosystems adeptly.

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Dr. Rouwayda Zeid Dana

Chief Medical Officer,
Mersaco

Dr. Rouwayda Zeid Dana is a visionary medical professional whose career has been marked by a profound commitment to advancing healthcare & patient management. Currently serving as the Chief Medical Officer leading Mersaco's Medical strategy, Dr Dana's global expertise brings crucial skills in fostering a culture of innovation, bringing life saving therapies to patients while ensuring the highest standards of safety & efficacy. Dr Dana's efforts in advancing healthcare have significantly impacted the lives of countless patients with chronic, rare & life threatening diseases.

Dr. Rouwayda's professional journey includes notable decision- making roles & accomplishments across various global organizations where she led analytics in assessing medical gaps & led efforts in drug development of innovative therapies & improving access to innovation especially in emerging markets. She carried the role of the Medical Director at Mersaco for the last 2 years where her tenure was marked by clarity in vision & strategic leadership.

With her extensive expertise in clinical trials, she held a Senior global clinical project lead role at Biorasi for 2 years. In this role, she managed international projects spanning across the USA, Canada, Europe, Asia & ME

Her career began with Schering-Plough Research Institute as a Medical Manager, Oncology & Immunology & she subsequently advanced through key roles in pharmaceuticals like Schering Plough/organon, MSD & lastly in Roche where she held the medical director responsibility in Iraq then the Levant & UAE.

Dr. Rouwayda's educational background is distinguished by board certifications as an MD in Pediatrics & General Practice from the Lebanese University, an Executive Masters in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut & she has further enhanced her expertise through certifications in leadership & finance for non finance from Europe & advanced training in clinical research from prestigious institutions, including, kenilworth research institute, Harvard & the The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) USA.

Her passion for bringing out the best in people drove her to enhance her transformative coaching abilities & is currently an International Coaching Federation member pursuing a mastery in coaching from Coach Masters Academy Global.

Her contributions extend beyond her professional roles, she is actively engaged in global healthcare initiatives, in her role as a Board of Trustee member at Partners for Patients, She supported many charitable initiatives around the world. She is also contributing to many university health care problem solving forums for students like Kingston University UK. Dr. Dana is a member of the Lebanese Order of Physicians, reflecting her commitment to her hippocratic oath & professional excellence.

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Rimpal Sharma

Customer Loyalty & New Propositions Lead, First Abu Dhabi Bank

With nearly two decades of experience in the banking sector, Rimpal Sharma has cemented her reputation as a dynamic & visionary leader. Currently enjoying her assignment at First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), Rimpal's career is marked by a blend of strategic acumen, innovative thinking & a deep commitment to customer-centric excellence.

Rimpal's journey in banking began at HSBC, where she dedicated 20 years to various pivotal roles. Her tenure there was distinguished by her ability to lead & inspire high-performing teams. From 2007 to 2009, she was awarded the Best Team Manager for three consecutive years. Followed by which in 2012, Rimpal was recognised for being Open & Dependable in one of the key initiatives launched by HSBC. In 2014, she was recognized as the Best Innovation Lead, driving transformative programs across HSBC's distribution network.

Rimpal holds dual master's degrees, with the most recent being from York St. John University in UK and multiple certifications, reflecting her commitment to continuous learning & global perspective.

Rimpal's expertise spans across several core areas within banking, including CRM, product lifecycle management, everyday banking & Cards, along with financial planning & performance monitoring. Her strategic initiatives at HSBC have been groundbreaking. She successfully launched the first Channel Economics model in the banking industry to measure channel customer engagement ratios across Europe, ME & Africa. Her development of segment-based retention modelling and Customer Lifecycle Management Journeys has helped build engagement rates & reduce customer attrition rates.

Rimpal has a proven track record in digital innovation. She led the creation of digital customer lifecycle journeys, enhancing onboarding processes, relationship deepening & retention strategies. Her visionary approach to integrating intelligence layers into self-service channels has streamlined operations, reducing human interaction for simpler transactions & enhancing customer satisfaction.

Beyond her professional achievements, Rimpal is a dedicated advocate for social responsibility. She has partnered with initiatives like INJAZ & the , delivered financial education to young students & supported blue-collar workers in financial literacy. Her commitment to societal growth and community support is as steadfast as her dedication to her profession. Her continued & unwavering efforts to help educate children from underprivileged families helps her give back to the community.

On the personal front, Rimpal considers both her mom & dad to be her idols in the walk of life. She's a proud mom of two superstars who keep her engaged & motivated to be a better version of herself. Her spouse is her biggest cheerleader & pushes her to achieve greater heights.



Shaista Shaw

With over 17 years of experience in Marketing and Communications, Shaista has worked across diverse industries such as IT, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, Education, Banking, and Retail in regions including the Middle East, Africa, UK, Australia, Singapore, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and India.

She is responsible for a brand voice & purpose while curating engaging customer experiences, deepening the intersection of marketing and sales, and delivering tangible business outcomes.

She is an analytical, dynamic, and highly accomplished professional with extensive experience spearheading projects and implementing innovative marketing strategies to boost brand awareness.

Over the last 17 years, by donning different hats across strategy consulting, business/channel management and marketing, Shaista has thrived on business acumen, strategic insights, creative vision and a genuine sense of connection.

She transformed underperforming operations into success stories, revamped pricing strategies, implemented effective advertising systems, developed high-performing teams, and significantly boosted company revenues.

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Neha Gupta

Release Train Manager,
NatWest

Neha Gupta is a seasoned technology leader with over 18 years of experience in delivering strategic transformations within the banking and financial services industry. Currently, she serves as the C10 Release Train Manager at NatWest Group, where she leads a global technology team responsible for managing over 46 applications. Her focus on simplifying banking architecture while driving operational excellence has positioned her as a key player in the organisation's ongoing transformation initiatives.

Under Neha's leadership, her team significantly enhanced productivity, increasing delivery frequency from once every six weeks to once per week. This achievement not only demonstrates her capability to optimize processes but also aligns with strategic business goals. Her dedication to sustainability is evident from a one-third reduction in her team's carbon footprint, underscoring her commitment to responsible business practices.

Beyond her professional role, Neha is a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion. She currently leads the Women in Technology initiative in India at NatWest Group, where she has built a thriving community of over 250+ women, 30+ male allies, and 30+ lean-in leaders. Her initiative, "She Sparks," launched in 2024, focuses on uniting efforts across the bank to support and empower women in technology through networking, mentorship, and professional development opportunities.
Neha's leadership has been instrumental in fostering a culture of inclusion and has contributed to the retention and development of female talent.

In 2023, Neha was instrumental in launching "EmpowerHer," a mentorship program aimed at helping women progress in their careers within technology. The program has received exceptional feedback for its role in providing support and career growth opportunities for women at NatWest.

Additionally, Neha collaborated with NASSCOM to train over 50 women in new technologies, further solidifying her commitment to skill development in the tech industry.

Neha holds certifications in SAFE 6.0, Prince2 Agile, ICP-ACC (Agile Coach), and TOGAF. She earned a certificate in Digital Transformation from the Indian School of Business and recently completed a Diversity and Inclusion program at the UC Irvine.



Rakhee Basu

Head Digital Influencer Marketing
Business, TV Today Network Limited

Rakhee stands as a paragon of visionary leadership and innovation in the digital marketing landscape. With nearly 2 decades of experience, she has consistently demonstrated an exceptional ability to drive profitable growth and spearhead transformative initiatives in new digital media content strategy, mobile advertising & business intelligence.

Rakhee holds the esteemed position of Head of Digital Influencer Marketing Business at TV Today Network Limited. Since April 2022, she has been instrumental in establishing & expanding the influencer marketing division. Under her stewardship, the division has seen remarkable success, securing partnerships with major Indian brands across many categories like fintech , FMCG, Education, Lifestyle & Technology doubling revenues within 2 years.

Her strategic vision & robust execution have also garnered prestigious accolades for the Group's Influencer Marketing Campaigns including the ACEF Awards 2022 & the ADGULLY DIGIX Awards 2024 for brands like HDFC Life Insurance, Fuji Film India. Also bagged awards at ACEF 2024 for Influencer marketing campaigns for Dabur India, HDFC Life Insurance

Before her current role, Rakhee served as the Head of Indirect Revenue (Programmatic Digital Ad Sales) & Mobile Content Alliances at TV Today Network from June 2017 to July 2022. During this period, she played a pivotal role in launching programmatic advertising for the India Today Group Digital, significantly boosting revenues & onboarding key exchange partners

Rakhee's journey with India Today Group Digital began in 2008 as the GM of Mobile Services. She rose to Senior General Manager Her contributions were transformative, including the inception of the mobile advertising business & the diversification of the content VAS business across multiple telecom operators across India, Middle East, Africa & expanded the group presence

Prior to her tenure at India Today, Rakhee made significant strides at Rediff.com India Ltd. as the Associate Director of Rediff Mobile. From March 2005 to June 2008, she managed the Mobile VAS & Content Business, securing crucial deals & achieving top sales targets, earning the Top Achievers Award in 2006 & 2007.

Rakhee's career foundation was laid at Vodafone, where she worked for nearly a decade, ascending from Customer Care Executive to Deputy Manager – Retail. Her leadership in managing Hutch Teleshops across Delhi & NCR was marked by consistent sales achievements & service excellence.

Rakhee's contributions have significantly shaped the digital marketing & mobile advertising sectors, setting benchmarks for industry success.

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Sia Ashok

Managing Partner- Confity Capital Partners

Sia Ashok stands as a luminary in the realms of design thinking and product optimization, showcasing a career marked by strategic foresight and entrepreneurial vigor. Her exceptional acumen has propelled her to the forefront of various industries, cementing her reputation as a leader dedicated to sustainable growth and operational excellence. Sia's expansive expertise spans mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, growth equity, and large-scale digital transformation projects, underscoring her versatility and strategic depth.

Sia's academic journey is equally distinguished, crowned with an Executive MBA from Northwestern University - Kellogg School of Management of Business Management. This academic foundation complements her professional pursuits, while her personal commitment to holistic well-being is reflected in her passion for yoga, which she ardently practices and promotes.

Over a decade-long career, Sia has excelled as an Enterprise Business Transformation Program Director and Implementation Specialist. Her track record includes leading numerous large-scale enterprise software implementations, where she has demonstrated remarkable proficiency in managing complex projects with precision and efficiency. Her role in these high-stakes projects underscores her capability to drive significant operational improvements and digital innovations.

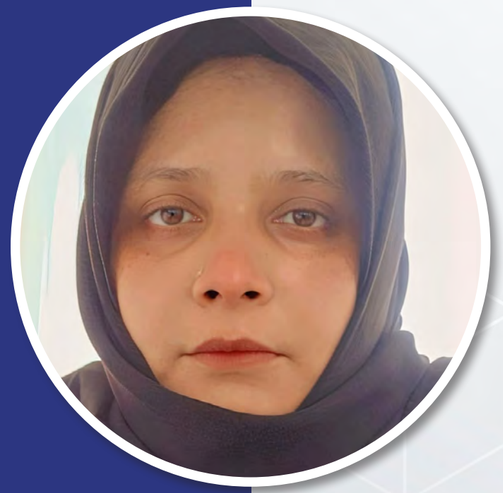
Currently, Sia serves as the Managing Partner at Confity Capital Partners. In this pivotal role, she leverages her vast experience to spearhead growth and innovation across key sectors such as healthcare, aviation, aerospace, technology, agritech, and manufacturing. At Confity, Sia's leadership transcends traditional business paradigms, acting as a catalyst for growth and inspiring entrepreneurs and industries across continents.

Sia's impact at Confity Capital Partners is profound, marked by her strategic investments in growth equity which have fostered innovation and long-term growth for numerous startups and established enterprises. Her belief in being the change she wishes to see in the world is reflected in her leadership philosophy and approach to life. Sia's perspective on life's rich tapestry is captured in her reflection: "Life isn't an either/or situation. Don't work so hard forcing everything to be only good, delightful, joyous, or pleasant, for when you reach the valley, you will become certain that life is only pain, sadness, and tragedy. Look around, see all the landscapes, valleys, oceans, plains, and yes, the mountaintops. That's what life is, all of it!"

Sia Ashok's multifaceted contributions extend beyond her professional endeavors; she is a dedicated advocate for healthy living and celebrating life's diversity.

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Dr. Saadia Farooqui

Senior Manager - Clinical Services, Aga Khan University & Hospital

Dr. Saadia is an accomplished professional whose career reflects a blend of academic excellence, leadership, and innovation. With a distinguished background and exceptional administrative abilities, she has consistently demonstrated her ability to drive strategic growth, enhance operational efficiencies, and lead transformative initiatives.

Her leadership style is defined by her visionary approach, focusing on both long-term growth and immediate organizational impact. Her roles have not only involved overseeing complex operations but also pioneering new strategies that have set industry benchmarks.

Academically, Dr. Saadia holds advanced degrees that have equipped her with a deep understanding of her field. Her educational background includes rigorous training and specialization in areas that directly influence her professional capabilities. Her commitment to lifelong learning is evident in her continuous pursuit of knowledge, further enhancing her skills through prestigious certifications and courses from renowned institutions.

Dr. Saadia's career is also marked by several notable achievements. She has successfully led large-scale projects, implemented cutting-edge solutions, and managed cross-functional teams, delivering measurable results that have propelled organizations forward. Her ability to blend academic insight with practical application has made her a valuable asset in both corporate and academic settings. She has also contributed to industry thought leadership, sharing her insights through speaking engagements, and mentoring future leaders.

For her exceptional contributions, Dr. Saadia received the prestigious Distinguished Leadership Award from the President and Provost of the Aga Khan University in 2023.

In addition to her professional achievements, Dr. Saadia is committed to giving back to the community. She actively participates in initiatives that promote education, innovation, and gender equality, serving as a role model and advocate for women in leadership.

Dr. Saadia's blend of expertise, leadership, and academic excellence continues to drive her success, making her a respected figure in her industry. Her ability to balance strategic vision with hands-on execution ensures that she remains at the forefront of her field, inspiring those around her to strive for excellence.

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Ghalia Sebti

Co- Founder,
Aït Manos

Ghalia Sebti is a visionary entrepreneur and champion sportswoman with a deep commitment to preserving Moroccan craftsmanship and expanding international trade. In 1995, together with her husband Tawfik Bennani, Ghalia co-founded Aït Manos, a pioneering Moroccan company specializing in traditional zellige tiles. These handcrafted tiles are renowned for their intricate designs and are created through meticulous research while preserving the authenticity of the ancient craft. Under Ghalia's leadership, Aït Manos has grown into an international brand, exporting its innovative products to four continents: North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

Ghalia's entrepreneurial success is grounded in her keen understanding of global markets and her structured approach to arts and crafts. Her business acumen has allowed her to elevate Moroccan artisanship on the world stage, driving growth while staying true to the authenticity of her cultural heritage. This balance between tradition and modern innovation has been key to Aït Manos' international expansion and success.

Beyond her entrepreneurial endeavors, Ghalia has an impressive background in sports. She was a champion alpine skier, representing Morocco at the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics—a rare and prestigious achievement that underscores her discipline and competitive spirit. As one of the few Moroccans to compete in the Winter Olympics, Ghalia's athletic career stands as a testament to her resilience and determination. She remains an active athlete to this day, regularly participating in IRONMAN 70.3 triathlons, embodying her lifelong passion for sports and competition.

In addition to her business ventures and sports achievements, Ghalia is deeply committed to empowering female artisans in Morocco. In 2020, she launched the Aït Manos Foundation, an initiative dedicated to preserving traditional arts and crafts while supporting the economic empowerment of Moroccan women. The foundation plays a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability and growth of these ancient trades, aligning with Ghalia's mission to promote Moroccan heritage globally while creating opportunities for local communities.

Ghalia Sebti's career is a powerful blend of entrepreneurial innovation, sports excellence, and cultural advocacy. Her contributions have had a lasting impact on both the global market for Moroccan craftsmanship and the empowerment of artisans in her homeland.

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Rumeysa Kaymakcı

Turkcell Academy Director,
Turkcell

Rumeysa Kaymakcı is an accomplished HR leader with over 14 years of experience in the technology and telecommunications industries. As the current Director of Turkcell Academy, she leads a team of 73 specialists, overseeing the design and implementation of innovative learning and development programs that impact an ecosystem of 70,000 individuals, including Turkcell employees, partners, and the dealer network. Under her guidance, Turkcell Academy has become a key driver of talent development and digital transformation, positioning the company at the forefront of the industry.

In 2018, Rumeysa joined Togg, Turkey's national automotive initiative, as the Human Resources Coordinator. She was instrumental in creating and implementing the HR strategy for this landmark project. Her work included end-to-end recruitment processes, compensation systems, leadership development programs, and employee engagement strategies.

Rumeysa's expertise in recruitment and talent management led her to Turkcell, where she initially served as Head of Recruitment, managing a team responsible for digital transformation in recruitment processes. Her strategic leadership in this area laid the groundwork for her appointment as Director of Turkcell Academy in 2021, where she expanded her focus to learning and development, digital learning platforms, leadership programs, and university collaborations.

Beyond her corporate roles, Rumeysa contributes to academia as a visiting lecturer at Bahcesehir University, sharing her extensive knowledge with HR master's students. She is also a board member of TEGEP Eğitim ve Gelişim Platformu Derneği, Turkey's Training and Development Platform Association, where she actively shapes the future of local learning cultures.

With a diverse background spanning recruitment, talent development, employee experience, and digital HR transformation, Rumeysa Kaymakcı continues to be a visionary force in the human resources field, making significant contributions to Turkey's evolving technology.

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Simone Martin

Founder & CEO,
IGNUS SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Simone E. Martin is a highly accomplished Director-level regulator with over 22 years of experience in financial services regulation. She is recognized for her strategic development of professionals through education, mentorship, and her active engagement with international bodies and local stakeholders. With deep expertise in Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), Simone has played a pivotal role in shaping regulatory frameworks in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Anguilla, and other international jurisdictions. Her career has been marked by a design-thinking approach to address complex regulatory challenges, particularly in sectors such as Trust and Corporate Service Providers (TCSPs) and Virtual Asset Services Providers. Simone's regulatory career began in 2001 with the BVI Financial Services Commission.

Over the years, her diverse experience has been forged across various sectors, including fiduciary services, insurance, banking, and investment business. Simone's contributions to legislative reforms have been instrumental in ensuring "right-touch" regulation, facilitating a balance between compliance and innovation. She has conducted numerous prudential and AML/CFT compliance inspections, developed training programs for regulators, and continues to influence policy and regulatory best practices through her current role as Director of Special Projects at the BVI Financial Services Commission.

In 2020, Simone spearheaded the creation of the Innovation Office at the Anguilla Financial Services Commission, coordinating its membership in the Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN). She played a key role in drafting regulatory frameworks for digital payment systems and other FinTech innovations, demonstrating her commitment to agile regulatory reform. Simone has also engaged actively in the FinTech space, fostering dialogue between innovators and regulators, and contributing to the TRISA Guide for Regulators on the Travel Rule.

Simone's academic credentials include a MBA and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. She is a Fellow of The Chartered Governance Institute (CGI), UK, a Fellow of the International Compliance Association, and a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

Additionally, she completed the Certificate Programme in FinTech & Regulatory Innovation from Cambridge Judge Business School. She is also a YouTuber & an author, having recently published her first book - Ten Tips To Help Compliance Officers Soar! Beyond her regulatory contributions, Simone founded IGNUS SOLUTIONS LIMITED, a platform dedicated to empowering compliance professionals, further solidifying her leadership in the financial services industry.

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Ivonne "Eve" Roque

Head of Risk Foundations within the Compliance Management Programs (CRMP) team at Citi

Ivonne Roque is an accomplished executive with over 17 years of experience in management & administrative oversight within the banking & investments industry. At Citi, she plays a pivotal role in overseeing the Compliance Risk Taxonomy, Risk Identification, Risk Scenarios, & Appetite Statements processes.

Ivonne holds a comprehensive array of industry licenses, including FINRA Series 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 24, 63, & 65, alongside an ACAMS certification. These qualifications, combined with her extensive hands-on experience, underscore her credibility in regulatory remediation initiatives, compliance risk & controls framework development, & AML compliance.

Her career at Citi spans over a decade, where she has held several high-impact roles. Since late 2023, Ivonne has served as Head of Risk Foundations for Citi's Compliance Risk Management Program team, where she oversees the enhancement of the Compliance Risk Taxonomy, Risk Identification, Risk Scenarios, and Appetite Statements processes at the enterprise & business level. She previously led enterprise-wide compliance controls and strategic initiatives related to Accountability & Consequence Management for the Compliance Risk Appetite process.

Prior to this, she held the role of Head of Client Workflow Supervision from December 2019 to March 2021, contributing to operational excellence in client services for a portfolio exceeding $58 billion in assets across five global booking centers. Ivonne also spent six years as Senior Vice President of Global AML Compliance Risk Management at Citi's Private Bank, International Personal Banking, & International Financial Services businesses, demonstrating her deep expertise in managing anti-money laundering (AML) compliance across global operations.

Before joining Citi, Ivonne held significant positions at other leading financial institutions. At Morgan Stanley, she was VP, Complex Risk Officer & AML lead, where she strengthened the firm's risk & control functions & also focused on AML risk management for its largest international complex. Her earlier experience includes six years at J.P. Morgan, where she served as Vice President, Supervisory Manager for the Private Bank's Risk & Control Management group in New York, further cementing her leadership in compliance & risk oversight.

Ivonne's educational background includes an MBA from Nova Southeastern University, BBA from Florida International University, & a Persuasive Leadership Development Certification from Wharton Executive Education. Her leadership is driven by a mission to uphold the highest standards of regulatory & ethical conduct while ensuring sustainable value for clients, employees, & stakeholders at Citi.

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Christine Seif

Regional Head of HR,
Orbit Communications Company

Christine is a distinguished human resources leader whose career encompasses a rich tapestry of roles & achievements. With a proven track record in talent acquisition, leadership development, business partnership & fostering inclusive cultures, Christine has made a significant impact across diverse sectors, including Automotive, Healthcare, FMCG, Media & Technology.

Christine's journey is fueled by her passion for championing people, a purpose that drives her career choices and initiatives. Her innate ability to identify and nurture top-tier talent has been instrumental in her success. Christine has excelled in identifying young talents, investing in their development to succeed their managers & fostering inclusive cultures that nurture the development of leaders & teams. She has organized numerous team-building activities to promote well-being, collaboration, communication and inclusion, thereby creating cohesive & self-reliant teams that trust in her leadership.

A proponent of continuous growth, Christine has equipped herself & others through various milestones. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Digital Media Engineering & Technology from the The German University in Cairo & a Professional Postgraduate Diploma in Executive Management from The American University in Cairo. She is also a Co-active Coach approaching accreditation through the Co-active Training Institute & the International Coaching Federation. Her Co-active Leadership experience has not only enhanced her own skills but has also been shared with leadership teams through her facilitation of the same course.

Christine's dedication to empowering individuals extends beyond her corporate roles. She hosts & produces the podcast "Career Fit with Christine," a pioneering platform that bridges the gap between employers & candidates. The podcast explores career opportunities, highlights relevant career trends, & showcases best practices from company policies & cultures across diverse industries. With over 100,000 listeners & viewers across various social media platforms, the podcast has become a valuable resource for both job seekers & companies.

Her achievements are numerous, including restructuring and building collaborative teams, delivering leadership workshops & giving back to the community through her involvement with non-profit organizations. Christine's leadership workshop at the Rotaract Club, focusing on Co-active Leadership, & her dedication to helping individuals polish their resumes & secure fulfilling careers, are testament to her commitment to personal & professional development.

Christine Seif's multifaceted career reflects her unwavering commitment to empowering individuals, fostering inclusive cultures & driving organizational success through strategic human resources leadership.



Aditi Singh

Chief Strategy Officer,
Satin Creditcare Network Limited

With a professional journey spanning 16 years, Aditi has consistently demonstrated her ability to recognize needs, overcome challenges, and drive positive change across diverse sectors.

Aditi's career commenced in the private equity sector, where she played a pivotal role in launching a Green Venture Capital fund, overseeing due diligence, investor relations, and business development. This foundation laid the groundwork for her entrepreneurial foray into the hospitality industry, where she managed a series of hotels and restaurants.

Her transition into investment banking in Chandigarh marked the beginning of a series of successful and pioneering deals. This trajectory eventually led her to Dubai, where she spearheaded strategic initiatives and fundraising efforts across the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, and North America. Aditi's extensive experience culminated in her current role at SCNL, a leading microfinance company, where she has made indelible contributions over the past six years.

As Chief Strategy Officer, Aditi oversees multiple verticals, including Investor Relations, Public Relations and Communication, Collections (PAR 90+ bucket and write-off recovery), Foreign Debt Raising from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Impact Lenders, Credit Ratings, Stakeholder Management, Environmental Social Governance (ESG), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and Social Performance Management. Her strategic insights have positioned SCNL as a promising investment opportunity, notably through the adoption of 'Integrated Reporting,' which streamlines communication for stakeholders.

Aditi's leadership has driven significant achievements. In FY23, she led the turnaround of collections in the PAR 90+ bucket and write-off recovery, surpassing industry standards in productivity and efficiency. Her successful fundraising initiative via Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) in December 2023, which was oversubscribed by 1.9 times, attracted prominent institutional investors, securing substantial funds. Additionally, under her stewardship, SCNL secured a Rs. 332 Crore Debt Funding from the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO), marking one of the company's largest transactions.

Aditi's strategic prowess also facilitated the upgrade of SCNL's long-term credit rating to A (Stable) by ICRA and garnered an "AA" Top ESG rating and Gold level certification on Client Protection Principles. Her role extends beyond corporate achievements, encompassing a deep engagement in community development initiatives through CSR and Social Performance Management programs, focusing on education, women empowerment, financial and digital literacy, and health awareness.

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Rana El Sharqawy

Corporate Data Science and Analytics Head, EFG Holding

Rana El Sharqawy is a prominent leader in data science and analytics, currently serving as the Data Science and Analytics Head at EFG Holding. Her career began with a top-notch education from the Faculty of Computers and Artificial Intelligence at Cairo University, where she graduated with highest honors. Early in her career, she collaborated with ITWorx and Advancys ESC for Engineering Services, focusing on data verification and KPI measurement, and contributed in achieving the ISO certifications.

Rana joined EFG Holding as a Data Analyst intern and quickly became a key player in advancing the organization's data capabilities. She was instrumental in establishing a centralized data team and played a pivotal role in the development of a robust data warehouse. Her efforts along with the team transitioned the manual work to automated data systems, leading to more streamlined operations. Collaborating with the Production Database Architecture team, Rana and her team assessed various data sources, developed a business model, and implemented the centralized data warehouse. This resulted in a 50% reduction in data retrieval and reporting time, significantly enhancing data accessibility.

Rana's leadership shone through as she drove the automation of reporting processes and played a critical role in forming the Business Intelligence team. Her expertise led to her being promoted as team leader within a short time compared to market averages, where she oversaw the successful launch of initiatives that further boosted reporting efficiency. Demonstrating her passion for data science, Rana also led a Data Science team that delivered impactful projects, starting the team from scratch.

Rana's strategic vision and innovative approach have greatly benefited the organization with The data warehouse and BI systems she helped develop have become integral to the company's operations and strategic initiatives. Furthering her impact, Rana's team built an Employee Virtual Assistant which has improved employee support and satisfaction.

Rana is deeply committed to leadership, empowerment, and continuous learning. She cultivates a culture of innovation within her team, supports their educational goals, and actively contributes to community activities. Recognized for her contributions, Rana led her team to win the Best Data Management Team award at the MEA Finance Awards in 2023 who are the future leaders as she mentioned. She continues to drive innovation and value in data science and analytics, shaping the future of data in her organization.

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Dr. Duaa Alahmadi

Board Member, Public Relations Representative, DR.HAMID SULIMAN AL AHMADI HOSPITAL

Dr. Duaa Alahmadi, a pediatrician based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, stands out for her exceptional contributions to pediatric medicine & her innovative approach to education. Born on October 21, 1993, Dr. Duaa's career reflects her dedication to advancing healthcare & educational technology.

Dr. Duaa began her academic journey at Alhekma High School in Al Madinah District, Saudi Arabia, where she achieved excellence with a remarkable 93.7% score. She pursued her undergraduate studies at Batterjee Medical College in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, laying a strong foundation in medical sciences. She further enriched her knowledge with specialized training, including a summer course in Medicine at the University of Oxford & clinical rotations in ophthalmology at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Dr. Alahmadi attended several notable conferences and workshops, such as the International Obesity Symposium, Arab Health Pediatric Conference & the Management of Diabetes Mellitus seminar, reflecting her commitment to staying abreast of the latest medical advancements.

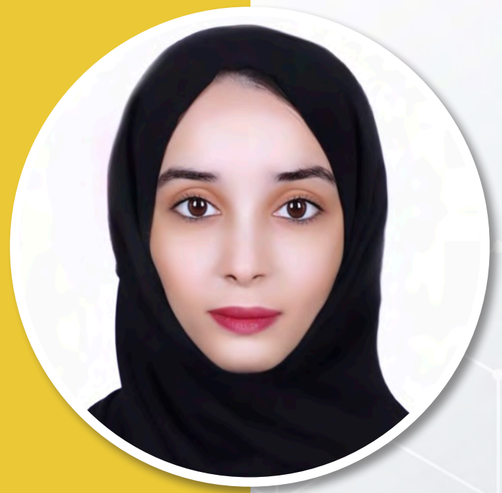
Dr. Duaa's professional journey includes a pivotal role as a Pediatric Resident at Prince Sultan Military Medical City, where she honed her skills in managing complex pediatric cases. Her expertise is further demonstrated by her various certifications, including Basic Life Support & Pediatric Advanced Life Support from esteemed institutions like the American Heart Association & the Saudi Red Crescent Authority.

Beyond her clinical work, Dr. Duaa has made significant strides in the e-learning sector. As the CEO & Founder of Tathaqaf | ! ! ! , a state-of-the-art e-learning platform, she has revolutionized educational access by connecting students with high-quality instructors. Under her leadership, Tathaqaf has expanded its reach across Riyadh, Al Madinah & Jeddah, with plans for further expansion. Her innovative spirit is also evident in her contributions to healthcare accreditation. Dr. Alahmadi played a crucial role in securing CAP Laboratory Accreditation & Joint Commission International (JCI) certification for Dr. Hamid Suleiman Alahmadi Hospital, ensuring adherence to the highest standards of patient care & safety.

Dr. Duaa inventive nature is highlighted by her creation of a sanitizing washing machine during the pandemic, which gained significant recognition. She also actively contributes to community welfare through volunteer work with the Saudi Red Crescent Association & King Fahad Hospital.

Fluent in Arabic and English, Dr. Duaa combines her clinical expertise, innovative mindset & dedication to education to make a lasting impact in her field, shaping the future of pediatric care & e-learning in Saudi Arabia and beyond.

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Jameela Almasoud

Scientist

Dr. Jameela Almasoud is an eminent scientist with a profound dedication to advancing our understanding of genetic diseases. Her impressive career reflects a seamless integration of academic brilliance, groundbreaking research, and impactful community engagement.

Dr. Almasoud's academic journey began at University College Dublin in Ireland, where she majored in Genetics with minors in Neuroscience and Microbiology. Her outstanding performance earned her the College of Science Award in 2018 and the Annual Science Undergraduate Student Award in 2019. Her consistent achievement of 1st Class Honors across all modules led to a prestigious scholarship and accolades from the Ambassador of Ireland in the UAE and the President of UCD. Her undergraduate research, particularly her graduation project on Neurogenetics, provided vital insights into Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia using Drosophila melanogaster as a model organism.

Dr. Almasoud's research trajectory is marked by significant milestones. Her first publication in Microbiology Resource Announcements emerged during her undergraduate years. She gained valuable experience through her internship at the University of Cambridge. Moreover, she was also offered an internship at Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd, funded by a scholarship from the Genetics Society. Her research contributions were showcased at the European Drosophila Research Conference in France, where she presented novel findings from her Ph.D. work in Cancer Biology. Currently, Dr. Almasoud is working on publishing research that promises to enhance the global understanding of Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition.

Dr. Almasoud's commitment to leadership and community service is evident through her various roles. She advanced directly to a Ph.D. in Cancer Biology at University College London, bypassing a master's degree due to her exceptional academic record. Concurrently, she pursued Management and Leadership studies at Harvard University and engaged in an entrepreneurial program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Her community impact is equally notable. As an elected member of the Global Youth Council in the UK, she contributes to international youth leadership initiatives. Her role as the Ambassador of UCD for the Middle East and as an MBRU Community Immunity Ambassador during the COVID-19 pandemic underscores her dedication to public health advocacy.

Dr. Almasoud is driven by a vision to merge scientific expertise with a passion for public service. She is committed to advancing therapeutic innovations for genetic diseases and supporting the UAE's ambitions in global scientific collaboration. Her blend of academic prowess, research acumen, and leadership makes her a formidable force in the scientific community.

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Lara Fayad

Chief Executive Officer, Skinvitality

Lara Fayad's journey from a successful optometrist to a renowned beauty entrepreneur is a testament to resilience, reinvention, and unwavering dedication. With a background in optometry, Lara spent years honing her expertise in the healthcare industry, mastering the nuances of precision and patient care. However, a challenging period in her personal life served as the catalyst for a profound transformation. Determined to reshape her path, she boldly transitioned from the clinical world of optometry into the vibrant and competitive beauty industry.

Embracing her passion for aesthetics, Lara pursued specialized courses in skincare and aesthetic medicine, building a strong foundation in the science and art of beauty. Her academic training, combined with an eye for detail, enabled her to craft a unique approach to skincare that blends clinical expertise with a deep understanding of client needs. Overcoming skepticism and the barriers of starting afresh, she established herself as a credible professional, quickly gaining recognition for her innovative treatment protocols and high client satisfaction.

Lara's breakthrough came through the strategic use of social media. She leveraged platforms like Instagram to share her journey, showcasing her evolving skills and building an authentic connection with a growing audience. Her ability to communicate her vision with transparency and passion turned her into a trusted voice in the beauty community. Clients were not just drawn to her expertise but also to her story of perseverance and courage, making her brand synonymous with empowerment.

Today, Lara is the proud owner of a thriving beauty clinic that offers a wide range of cutting-edge aesthetic treatments. Her entrepreneurial success is marked by her emphasis on continuous learning, quality service, and the creation of bespoke skincare solutions that cater to diverse needs. In addition to running her clinic, she serves as a mentor to aspiring beauty professionals, sharing her knowledge and encouraging others to find their own path to success.

Lara's journey from optometry to beauty entrepreneurship exemplifies her ability to turn adversity into opportunity. Her story inspires countless women to break free from societal expectations, embrace change, and pursue their dreams with resilience and passion.

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Michelle Chiou Thien Ling

Head of HR in Business and HR Excellence at Sarawak Energy Berhad

Michelle Chiou, also known as Chiou Thien Ling, is a highly regarded leader in HR with over two decades of experience across multiple industries. Currently, she serves as the Head of HR in Business and HR Excellence at Sarawak Energy Berhad, where she plays a pivotal role in shaping organizational strategies and enhancing employee engagement. Her journey in HR leadership has been marked by impactful contributions, including her tenure as Chief People Officer at Pertama Digital Berhad and her role as Vice President - HR (CHRO) at IDS Medical Systems (idsMED), where she oversaw HR operations across nine countries.

Previously, Michelle spent 13 years with Tan Chong Group, where she advanced from Councellor to Head of Group Human Resources and Head of Group Employee Relations. In this capacity, she managed HR initiatives for over 14,000 employees spread across six countries, driving transformative changes and implementing employee-centric programs. Her strategic mindset and deep understanding of organizational dynamics have been instrumental in creating inclusive workplaces that thrive on innovation & continuous development.

Michelle is celebrated for her expertise in mentoring & leadership development, making her a sought-after speaker & thought leader in HR forums globally. Her insights into people-focused management & industrial organizational psychology have influenced countless professionals. In recognition of her work, she was named one of the Global 200 Power Leaders in HR in September 2023 among other recognitions.

A strong advocate for equal opportunities, Michelle is dedicated to advancing leadership roles for women and underrepresented groups. Her academic background in industrial-organizational psychology provides a robust foundation for her strategic HR solutions, which blend behavioral insights with business acumen. A certified trainer, coach, and counselor, Michelle is also known for her empathetic approach, guiding individuals through career transitions, workplace challenges & personal development.

Throughout her career, Michelle has proven herself as an agent of change in various areas, including industrial relations, training, coaching, recruitment, organizational development, investigations, auditing, risk management, sales, & customer relations.

Michelle's leadership philosophy is grounded in ethical practices, transparency, & fostering a culture of continuous learning. Her commitment to creating high-performing & inclusive teams has solidified her reputation as a transformative leader & role model for HR professionals worldwide.

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Ankita Agrawal

Vice President and Member of the Founding Team, Marengo Asia Healthcare

Ankita Agrawal is a seasoned business strategist and Vice President of the Marengo Asia Strategy Office, playing a pivotal role in shaping the company's vision and strategic initiatives. As a founding team member, Ankita has been instrumental in the development and rapid expansion of Marengo Asia Healthcare, an emerging healthcare platform in India, established in 2020. Her expertise in strategy, growth planning, and innovation has significantly contributed to Marengo's transformation from a single hospital concept into a multi-state healthcare group with a robust presence across five states in India, setting the foundation for its valuation target of USD 1 billion by 2026.

With over 18 years of experience spanning healthcare, private equity, and technology, Ankita's diverse professional background includes senior roles at marquee organizations such as Evercare Group and GE HealthCare. At Evercare, she managed cross-border clinical expansion projects across South Asia and Africa, collaborating on impactful healthcare initiatives with international partners like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Her strategic contributions enabled Evercare to establish itself as a premier healthcare delivery platform in emerging markets, providing quality-driven care to underserved communities.

Prior to Evercare, Ankita held a leadership position at GE HealthCare as a National Product Manager, overseeing P&L, business development, and clinician engagement for digital healthcare solutions. Her tenure at GE was marked by multiple accolades, including the prestigious CEO Award and Star Excellence Award, recognizing her for her customer-centric approach, innovative product strategies, and thought leadership in the healthcare industry.

Ankita's academic credentials include an MBA in Sales and Marketing from the Balaji Institute of Management, Pune, and a Bachelor's in Computer Science Engineering from IET, Indore. She also completed an Advanced Program in Strategy for Leaders from the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, further honing her strategic acumen.

An advocate for driving innovation in healthcare, Ankita's achievements at Marengo include establishing the "Marengovation" platform to foster cutting-edge solutions, implementing the first bloodless heart transplant in Asia, and launching digital rehabilitation initiatives to enhance clinical outcomes. Her ability to blend strategic vision with operational excellence has positioned her as a formidable leader in the healthcare sector, committed to elevating patient care and healthcare accessibility.

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Audrey Lemmert

Founder & Managing Director, Trinnial L.L.C-FZ

Audrey Lemmert is a dynamic entrepreneur with over three decades of experience in the consumer goods industry. Her illustrious career spans leadership roles at industry giants such as L'Oréal, AB InBev and Bacardi, where she demonstrated her versatility by excelling in various functions, including Finance, HR, Commercial, Technology, and General Management. Audrey's bold career moves, which saw her taking on diverse roles across multiple countries, have endowed her with a rich set of cross-cultural leadership skills. This global experience has earned her multiple leadership recognitions and solidified her reputation as a transformative leader.

Audrey's passion for continuous learning has been a driving force throughout her career. She has consistently expanded her knowledge base with a diverse spectrum of relevant topics, enabling her to spearhead innovative transformations within her organizations. Her commitment to staying ahead of industry trends has not only kept her at the forefront of corporate leadership but has also made her a sought-after thought leader.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Audrey is a fervent advocate for women's empowerment. Throughout her corporate career, she has been deeply involved in mentoring and developing the careers of her female colleagues. Audrey's commitment to fostering gender diversity extends beyond her workplace; she is actively involved in various mentoring organizations dedicated to advancing women in business.

Now, as a newly minted entrepreneur, Audrey has channeled her extensive corporate experience into her latest venture—a boutique consultancy firm based in Dubai. Her firm specializes in Leadership Development, Strategy Development and Realignment, and Disruptive Innovation. Audrey's consultancy primarily serves SMEs and start-ups in the GCC region, particularly those in the inception phase or facing critical growth challenges that require organizational resizing or re-engineering. Leveraging her invaluable experience in strategy definition and implementation, Audrey provides bespoke solutions that drive sustainable growth and innovation.

Audrey's contributions to the industry have been recognized with numerous accolades, including the Regional Leadership Award from ABInBev in 2011 for her successful turnaround management of the Hungary Shared Service Centre, and a Thought Leadership Recognition from Gartner in 2017 for her pioneering work in Employee Experience at L'Oréal. Outside of her professional pursuits, Audrey is passionate about animal and nature conservation, enjoys traveling for culinary experiences, and cherishes time spent with family and friends.

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Belinda Smith

International Broker & Investment Specialist Europe - Emirates

Belinda Smith is a highly accomplished real estate professional and interior designer with over 25 years of experience in the industry, spanning Spain and Dubai. Renowned for her expertise in project management, sales strategy, and client relations, she has been a pivotal figure in the development and successful sale of numerous high-profile residential properties and resort complexes. Her career has been defined by a unique blend of real estate acumen and design expertise, allowing her to provide clients with an integrated approach that enhances property value and appeal.

Currently serving as the Head of Sales at 18 Bricks Real Estate in Dubai, Belinda is responsible for managing secondary and primary market operations, supervising marketing strategies, and leading channel partner relationships. Before joining 18 Bricks, she held several senior roles, including Sales Director at Amin & Wilson Realty and Secondary Sales Manager & Head of Global International Partnerships at AX CAPITAL Real Estate, where she managed residential sales and coordinated international partnerships and roadshows.

In Spain, Belinda's career highlights include her role as CEO and Director of EXOTIC Homes & Living, where she directed real estate and interior design operations, as well as her tenure as Sales Director at Villalux Estate Agents, where she provided strategic direction and enhanced the company's market presence. As CEO and Founder of Planet Properties C.B., she managed comprehensive sales processes, from product sourcing and marketing to client acquisition and after-sales services.

Belinda's expertise extends beyond real estate, as she also has a strong background in interior design. Her ability to translate client visions into tangible, aesthetically appealing projects has made her a sought-after consultant for design and architectural solutions. She has consistently demonstrated a keen ability to build and nurture relationships with top-tier clients, enhancing profitability and business growth.

Her educational background includes technical studies in Public Relations from Técnico en R.R.P.P. in Murcia and Property Management in Promotions and Buildings from G.Y.P.E. in Barcelona. Fluent in Spanish, English, and French, Belinda brings a diverse skill set that has enabled her to excel in complex, multicultural environments.

Belinda's professional journey is marked by her commitment to delivering excellence, building strategic partnerships, and guiding her teams and clients toward success.

Serving as an international broker, facilitating investment connections between Europe and Dubai to support diverse client needs. • Assisting clients in identifying and investing in a range of opportunities, including real estate, commercial projects, and sustainable initiatives across Europe and the Emirates. • Leveraging market insights to align investors with high-potential projects, fostering growth and promoting sustainable investment strategies.

Also remove Villalux, and just mention that I had senior positions in some of the most prestigious real estate and developers companies in the Costa Blanca Spain.

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Alina Valcarce

Founder & Design Director,
Valcarce Architects

Alina Valcarce stands as a paragon of visionary leadership in the architectural world. Her career, characterized by a relentless pursuit of innovative architectural forms and groundbreaking designs, has significantly shaped the firm's success and spearheaded its expansion across the MENA Region.

Alina's journey in architecture began with a robust educational foundation. She holds a degree in Architecture from a prestigious institution, where she honed her technical skills and nurtured her creative vision. Her early career saw her working with notable architectural firms across the globe, gaining invaluable experience and exposure to diverse architectural practices and cultural contexts. This rich tapestry of experiences laid the groundwork for her unique design philosophy.

With an unwavering passion for pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the built environment, Alina has created structures that are both unique and captivating, leaving an indelible mark on numerous cities around the world. Her portfolio boasts an array of award-winning projects, each a testament to her mastery of architectural and landscape design. Noteworthy among her achievements is her recognition as one of the best designers in Asia under 40 in 2018, a prestigious accolade that underscores her exceptional talent and dedication to her craft.

Alina's international experiences, having lived and worked in diverse locations such as Cuba, the UK, Spain, China, India, Vietnam, and the Middle East, have imbued her work with a truly global perspective. These experiences have enriched her understanding of different cultures and architectural traditions, enabling her to seamlessly integrate local nuances into her designs. Her ability to create contextually relevant yet innovative structures has earned her numerous accolades and design awards, solidifying her reputation as a trailblazer in the field.

Sustainability is at the core of Alina's design ethos. Her commitment to creating environmentally responsible and resource-efficient structures is evident in her impressive portfolio. Many of her projects, both completed and under construction, showcase her deep commitment to sustainability, leaving a lasting impact on the urban fabric.

Alina Valcarce's boundless creativity, technical expertise, and dedication to sustainable design continue to shape the architectural landscape. Her contributions have not only redefined the possibilities in architecture but have also set a benchmark for future generations of architects. As she continues to push the envelope in architectural design, Alina remains a formidable force, inspiring innovation and excellence in the industry.



Fajer AlSayegh

Manager,
Kuwait Insurance Company

Fajer Al Sabah Al Sayegh is an accomplished marketing and communications professional with a diverse set of leadership credentials. With a degree in Human Resources from an Australian University, Fajer's career journey blends academic excellence with hands-on expertise across multiple industries. Her professional path took off in 2014 when she ventured into entrepreneurship, launching a successful beauty business that demonstrated her ability to combine creative vision with business acumen.

Fajer further expanded her impact in the corporate sphere by taking on the role of Head of Corporate Communication for a prominent company in the insurance sector. In this capacity, she spearheaded strategic branding and visibility initiatives that strengthened the company's market presence. Her work was marked by effective project management and innovative communication strategies that drove organizational growth and enhanced stakeholder engagement.

Dedicated to continuous professional development, Fajer has earned several prestigious certificates from Harvard University in leadership and management, equipping her with advanced skills to navigate today's evolving business landscape. She has also completed a Digital Marketing certificate from the The University of Edinburgh, showcasing her commitment to staying at the forefront of industry trends and leveraging digital channels to amplify brand narratives.

Fajer's expertise spans across various domains, including PR, CSR, sustainability, social media management, content creation, and event management. Her versatile skill set and bilingual proficiency in Arabic enable her to connect effectively with diverse audiences and make meaningful contributions to her field.

In addition to her professional roles, Fajer is a respected content creator, using her social media platforms to engage and influence a broad audience. Her passion for the insurance industry and marketing has led her to develop a strong presence both online and offline.

Beyond her technical skills, Fajer has fortified her leadership capabilities with targeted certifications in Stress Management, Positive Leadership, and Team Building. These certifications highlight her focus on fostering a healthy work environment and driving high-performance team dynamics. With a unique blend of creative, strategic, and leadership expertise, Fajer Al Sabah Al Sayegh continues to make a significant impact in the realms of marketing and corporate communications.

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Deema Ghata-Aura

CEO, Founder & Executive Coach, Criterion Coaching

In the realm of executive coaching, few names command as much respect and admiration as Deema Ghata-Aura. With a rich tapestry of experience, a sterling academic background, and an unyielding dedication to empowering women leaders, Deema has carved a niche for herself as a beacon of guidance and transformation.

A scion of immigrant heritage, Deema's roots trace back to the vibrant tapestry of India and East Africa, a heritage that deeply informs her mission today. Raised amidst the cultural mosaic of Northern England, she developed an acute understanding of the complexities that accompany the expatriate and immigrant experience. This intimate familiarity with displacement and adaptation catalyzed her profound empathy and commitment to uplifting others.

Armed with a Master's in Education from the prestigious UCL, Deema seamlessly wove together academic prowess with real-world acumen, charting a trajectory that would leave an indelible mark on the corporate landscape. Her tenure as a team leader and Product Head at the UK's largest retail bank saw her navigate intricate corporate terrains with finesse, managing nationwide distribution channels and spearheading multi-billion-pound lending targets. Yet, it was her audacious leap from this corporate bastion to the frontline of societal change that truly underscored her boundless passion.

Embracing her true calling, Deema redirected her energies towards supporting vulnerable youth in her native England, a pivotal juncture that catalyzed her journey into the realm of coaching. Here, amidst the crucible of human resilience, her love affair with coaching blossomed, laying the foundation for Criterion Coaching, a testament to her commitment to amplifying human potential.

Bolstered by accreditation from iPEC and esteemed certification as an Energy Leadership Index Master-Practitioner, Deema embarked on a mission to empower individuals across the globe. Her bespoke coaching programs transcend geographical boundaries, resonating with clients from diverse backgrounds and nationalities, guiding them from the shackles of self-doubt to the zenith of self-assurance.

The accolades that adorn Deema's illustrious career stand as testaments to her transformative impact. From being named one of the Top 15 coaches in Dubai by Influence Digest to clinching the coveted Top Executive Coaching Voice accolade on LinkedIn, her journey is punctuated by milestones that underscore her commitment to excellence.

A firm believer in the ethos of community engagement, Deema's volunteer endeavors have catalyzed tangible change, raising thousands of dollars for local schools and earning her the prestigious Texas PTA Lifetime Membership Award for Outstanding Service to Children and Youth.



Dr. Poornima Prasad

Global Chief People Officer, Accion Labs

As Accion Labs' Global Chief People Officer, Dr. Prasad has established Accion University, a dedicated learning and development program. Her leadership also ensured the smooth integration of acquired entities, managing leadership transitions and fostering collaboration within new structures. Dr. Prasad's innovative spirit is further evident in her implementation of various programs, including homegrown HRMS tools, leadership training initiatives, and AI-powered employee engagement programs.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Prasad held key positions at Tech Mahindra and Infosys Group, where she led HR functions globally and regionally. She has led initiatives in compensation restructuring, compliance management, and talent strategy formulation.

Dr. Prasad holds a Ph.D. in Psychology with a specialization in Organizational Behavior, solidifying her understanding of human dynamics in the workplace. Her dedication to HR excellence and diversity initiatives has been acknowledged through numerous awards and recognitions. Furthermore, her commitment to social responsibility is evident through her active involvement in board memberships at nonprofit organizations like ScholarShot and her philanthropic activities.

One of Dr. Prasad's key achievements is the codification of Accion Labs' culture into core values and a core purpose that resonates with employees. The core purpose, "Impacting lives by transforming businesses through innovation," and values encapsulated in THRIVE (Total ownership mindset, Humility and Helpfulness, Result-oriented, Innovation everywhere, Value creation, Empathy & respect), later evolved into THRIVEZ, integrating values from acquired entities.

Dr. Prasad also introduced an AI companion, Amber, as Chief Listening Officer. Amber gathers employee feedback, providing valuable data on engagement and experience. This innovative approach has led to high employee engagement and a 93/100 score on 'Trust in Manager.'

Prior to Dr. Prasad's arrival, learning at Accion Labs was somewhat ad-hoc. She addressed this by establishing Accion University, a structured approach to talent development. Accion University offers enhanced rigor, focusing on technical programs for cutting-edge technologies and behavioral training aligned with role-specific competencies. Through these initiatives, Dr. Prasad has made significant contributions to Accion Labs' culture by fostering a culture of continuous learning and effective leadership.

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Indira Khurana

President & CEO,
Laser Cosmetics and Pain Treatment Clinic

Dr. Indira Khurana is a distinguished leader in integrative medicine, blending her expertise in conventional and alternative therapies to revolutionize healthcare. With a Ph.D. in Physics and a diverse professional background as a former professor in India and the USA, she transitioned seamlessly into entrepreneurship, establishing herself as a prominent figure in the health and wellness industry.

As the President and CEO of Laser Cosmetics and Pain Treatment Clinic, Dr. Khurana has made profound contributions by offering comprehensive care in pain management and addiction treatment. Her clinics have become renowned for pioneering integrative approaches, leveraging innovative treatment methodologies that have positively impacted countless lives. Under her leadership, these clinics have gained recognition for their cutting-edge services, earning several business excellence awards in the community builder category. Dr. Khurana's entrepreneurial acumen and commitment to holistic care have established her as a trusted healthcare leader and a role model for aspiring business professionals.

Dr. Khurana's accomplishments extend beyond her clinical expertise. She is a passionate philanthropist and motivational speaker, dedicating her time to various charitable initiatives. Her contributions to society include pledging significant funds for research on Integrated Disease Management and actively supporting local organizations that aid women, seniors, and youth. Notably, during the pandemic, she provided free meals and groceries to international students and seniors, further demonstrating her unwavering dedication to community service.

Her impact and leadership have been acknowledged through multiple prestigious awards, including the "Doctor of Humanitarian Service" by the World Organization of Natural Medicine and the Woman Achievement Award by GTA Northwest Community Health Services. Dr. Khurana's recognition spans professional and philanthropic realms, making her a sought-after speaker and advocate for integrative medicine.

Dr. Khurana's professional affiliations include serving as a Board of Governors member at the Canada India Foundation, Vice President of the Philanthropy Committee, and holding life memberships at prominent business chambers such as the Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Hindu Chamber of Commerce.

A true visionary, Dr. Indira Khurana exemplifies excellence in medicine, business, and community service. Her remarkable journey, marked by perseverance and a commitment to enhancing the well-being of others, continues to inspire professionals across industries.



Panchalee Weeratammawat

Chief People Officer,
Central Retail Corporation

Panchalee Weeratammawat is a transformative leader in the dynamic world of Human Resources. With her "Transform, Inspire, Sustain" philosophy and extensive experience across the Asia-Pacific region, Panchalee has significantly shaped CRC's workforce strategy and culture, solidifying its position in Thailand, where the majority of CRC Business is, as the top multi-format/category omnichannel retail and wholesale platforms. With almost 80,000 employees operating in Thailand, Vietnam and Italy, CRC's operations span to cover almost 2,000 stores across Fashion, Food, Home and Hardlines, Property as well as Brands and Specialty stores.

Panchalee's approach to HR transformation places people at the heart and emphasizes HR as the driving force behind the organizational changes. Her "One CRC, One HR" concept unifies HR functions, fostering consistency, collaboration, and collective success across all business units. Under her guidance, CRC's HR practices have been revolutionized, resulting in streamlined workflows, improved operational efficiencies and enhanced decision-making capabilities.

Panchalee's "GROWTH" framework underscores her commitment to holistic personal & professional development. This approach has led to significant improvements in employee engagement & retention, exceeding industry & market standards. The establishment of CRC Academy now offers a comprehensive curriculum, engaging over 40,000 participants & strengthening the talent pipeline by increasing a substantial result of internal career mobility & significant improvement of employee retention.

Panchalee's influence extends well beyond CRC. She is a prominent figure in national, regional, & global HR forums, sharing insights & advocating for innovative HR practices & redefinition of HR. Her accolades include the Gold Award for HR Leader of the Year 2023, the Most Inspiring Leader Award, & recognition as one of Thailand's most influential HR leaders in 2024.

A staunch advocate for sustainability, Panchalee leads CRC with a forward-thinking vision focused on employee well-being, environmental responsibility, & social impact. Her leadership earned CRC the prestigious Human Rights Award 2023 by the Ministry of Justice in Thailand. Her innovative Cap-Swap project, which upcycled plastic bottle caps into educational resources for underprivileged schools, exemplifies her commitment to environmental responsibility & to her vision in making the community a better place to live.

Panchalee champions DE&I, implementing programs that empower women, foster a multicultural workplace & support Thailand's aging society. Her efforts have increased the proportion of female executives to 46% and created a diverse workforce representing over 30 nationalities.

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Reetu Jain

Co-Founder,
Beta Makers Lab

Reetu Jain is a distinguished leader in the Corporate Real Estate (CRE) and Design & Build (D&B) sectors, with over 20 years of expertise in business development, client management, and strategic communications. Her career is defined by a commitment to driving innovation and excellence across diverse industries, including Aviation, Real Estate, and D&B. Known for her adaptability and visionary approach, Reetu has played pivotal roles in both national and international projects, contributing significantly to the evolution of workplace environments in India.

Reetu's professional journey includes impactful tenures with prominent design and build firms, where she seamlessly transitioned from the product industry to services, pioneering innovative solutions to meet emerging market needs. Her strategic insights and entrepreneurial spirit led her to co-found Beta Makers Lab (BML), a firm focused on delivering cutting-edge workplace design and upkeep services. Within just two years, Reetu has positioned BML as a leading player in the industry, expanding its footprint to tier-1 cities across India and achieving international visibility.

Under Reetu's leadership, BML has grown exponentially, achieving cash-positive status without incurring liabilities or debt. Her financial acumen and risk management skills are complemented by her ability to identify market gaps and capitalize on opportunities, making her a formidable force in the sector. Her dedication to sustainable business practices is reflected in her focus on promoting indigenous products, thereby supporting local industries and enhancing sustainability.

In recognition of her professional achievements and contributions to nation-building, Reetu was honored with the 'Emerging Company Award - 2024' by the Indian Achievers' Forum. This accolade underscores her influence as a thought leader and her ability to inspire change through innovation and strategic leadership.

With a global vision, Reetu has set her sights on building a world-class brand originating from India. She has been instrumental in driving BML's international growth across Asia and beyond, showcasing Indian expertise and ingenuity on the global stage. Her relentless pursuit of excellence, combined with a passion for empowering her team, positions Reetu as a transformative leader and a true inspiration for aspiring women entrepreneurs worldwide.

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Saswati Sinha

VP and Head of HR and CSR,
Evalueserve

Saswati Sinha stands out as a trailblazer in human resources with over 24 years of experience in shaping talent strategies and driving organizational excellence. Her career is marked by transformative leadership and innovative approaches that have redefined HR practices across multinational corporations.

Sinha's professional journey began with significant roles in leading organizations such as J. Walter Thompson Worldwide and Publicis Media. As Head of HR, at Zenith (2015-2017), she has led groundbreaking restructuring initiatives that aligned talent with skills, enhanced team productivity, and optimized talent costs. Her strategic interventions resulted in the positive financial and skill gains for the organization and earned her a global recommended promotion to Chief Talent Officer for Publicis Media Group (India).

At Cheil India, a Samsung Group Company, from 2017 to March 2022, Sinha spearheaded a comprehensive digital transformation in terms of upskilling and re-skilling talent to adopt digital in all aspects of work and think beyond the traditional ways. She also developed and implemented Cheil University- a comprehensive L&D initiative, transforming Talent and HR processes through digital content and platforms. Her initiatives in talent management led to a significant reduction in costs year on year, underscoring her ability to drive efficiency and productivity. Considering her capabilities, she was also given the opportunity to head the Legal and CSR functions of the organization during her tenure.

Since April 2022, Sinha has been pivotal in advancing Evalueserve's HR and CSR functions. Her innovative approach has led to the development of an in-house appreciation platform and a productivity-enhancing chatbot. She has also championed the integration of people analytics, creating global best practices from her initiatives in India.

Sinha's contributions have been widely recognized, earning her accolades such as being named one of the Top 100 HR Minds in India, and the Top 101 Fabulous HR Leaders in 2020. She was also honored with the Her-oes Award by ObserveNow and the Golden Glory Award for 'Most Inspiring HR Leader of the Year' in 2021. Her recent achievements include being recognized as one of Asia's Top 100 Power Leaders in HR and receiving the 'Most Distinguished Leader in Human Resource Management' Award by Brand Impact in 2023. Additionally, she has been awarded the 'Nari Shakti' Award by SRM University.

As President of the Evalueserve Education Foundation, Sinha leads impactful CSR projects, reflecting her commitment to giving back to society. Her extensive experience and innovative mindset continue to drive HR excellence and organizational growth across the India and MEA regions.

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Viridiana Bello Huitle

Director Project Management, Vestingrow

Viridiana Bello Huitle is a seasoned Sustainability Consultant and Chemical Engineer with over seven years of experience driving transformative projects in both public and private sectors. Her career has spanned multiple industries, including energy, agriculture, and consultancy, enabling her to develop a comprehensive skill set and a nuanced understanding of sustainable practices. Her journey is defined by a profound commitment to sustainability, a passion for innovative solutions, and a deep belief in the power of collective action.

Viridiana began her career in the energy industry, where she gained a deep appreciation for the complexities of energy transition and resource management. Her work in this sector solidified her expertise in the intricate dynamics of energy systems and the urgent need for environmentally responsible solutions. Building on this foundation, she transitioned to the agricultural sector, spearheading a sustainability strategy for producing export-quality habanero peppers. This project highlighted her ability to navigate diverse industries and translate technical knowledge into impactful solutions.

As a Climate Fresk Facilitator, Viridiana is a powerful advocate for climate action, using her platform to educate individuals about environmental responsibility and empower them to become agents of change. She has delivered keynote speeches at international forums, inspiring audiences to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to a greener future. Additionally, her leadership in developing 'Manzily,' an educational game promoting energy efficiency, has further emphasized her commitment to innovative sustainability initiatives. This project, part of the Ras Al Khaimah Energy Efficiency and Renewables Strategy for 2040, stands as a testament to her influence in regional sustainability efforts.

Viridiana is also the founder of Conexión Circular, a sustainability firm dedicated to advancing the circular economy through awareness programs and practical solutions. Her impact extends beyond consultancy, as she hosts a sustainability podcast that addresses climate change and fosters sustainable business practices. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed; she was recognized by Gulf Intelligence as one of the top Middle East Sustainability Voices.

Currently serving as Director of Project Management at VestinGrow, she oversees initiatives aligned with the company's motto, "Rethink, Grow, and Sustain," driving projects that contribute positively to environmental responsibility. As a judge for the Gulf Sustainability Awards, she continues to shape the industry with her vision, ensuring sustainability remains at the forefront of corporate strategies.



Nour Aljabri

Interior Designer and Influencer

Nour Aljabri, the founder of NJ Interiors and the first Decorista leading the way in the Middle East, has redefined the region's interior design landscape with her innovative vision and artistic flair. With a Master's degree in Interior Design from the prestigious University of Florence in Italy, Nour blends European sophistication with a deep understanding of Middle Eastern aesthetics, creating spaces that reflect luxury, functionality, and style.

Nour's journey in design began with a focus on interiors and furniture concepts, establishing herself as a trusted advisor for numerous brands looking to craft furniture lines that echo modern trends. Her extensive expertise has made her a sought-after figure for collaborations and endorsements, elevating her reputation as a design influencer across the GCC and beyond.

A significant milestone in her career is her role as an ambassador for Index in both the UAE and Saudi Arabia—one of the largest design fairs in the region. Through this platform, she has been instrumental in shaping design trends and advocating for innovation within the industry. Her influence extends to her media presence, having been the face of Sky News Arabia's weekly segment from 2019 to 2020, where she shared contemporary decor trends and practical design tips. Nour then transitioned to a regular guest expert on "Sabah Al Khair Ya Arab," where she continues to inspire audiences with her engaging insights and down-to-earth approach to design.

Nour's portfolio includes transforming the homes of high-profile celebrities such as Joelle Mardinian, Noor Stars, Shaza Hassoun, Abed Fahad, Saif Nabeel, and more, establishing her as a household name in celebrity design circles. Her unique style and eye for detail have also made her a favorite among luxury fashion and beauty brands, serving as a brand ambassador for Suncoast and collaborating on various trend workshops and styling sessions.

Beyond interiors, Nour has left her mark on outdoor styling, conducting celebrity garden makeovers for prominent figures such as DJ Bliss and Nina Ali, further expanding her repertoire. Her commitment to excellence and passion for elevating spaces have solidified her position as a leading creative force in the Middle East.

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Deepti Shanmughan

Head of Talent,
Eye for Talent

Deepti Shanmughan is a distinguished Human Resources leader with over 15 years of experience, bringing transformative strategies to diverse industries, including Real Estate, Technology, F&B, Retail, Fintech, Hospitality, Consulting, and Healthcare. As the Head of Talent at Eye for Talent, she has consistently proven her ability to build and lead high-performing teams, fostering innovation and driving significant organizational growth. Her comprehensive expertise in talent acquisition, employee relations, performance management, gamification, and organizational development has made her a sought-after leader in the HR domain.

Throughout her career, Deepti has been instrumental in establishing over 40 start-ups across the GCC and India. She excels at aligning business objectives with personalized employee development plans, which have significantly increased retention and productivity within these companies. One of her standout achievements includes supporting a U.S.-based packaging firm in establishing its Offshore Development Center (ODC) in India, hiring and managing a workforce of over 150 employees. This initiative not only improved operational efficiency but also reinforced Deepti's reputation for building effective HR frameworks from the ground up.

Beyond her professional contributions, Deepti is a passionate advocate for employee well-being and engagement. She currently serves as the National Head of the Work-Life Harmony wing at G100 in the UAE, a global network of influential women leaders. In this role, she is dedicated to promoting work-life balance, enhancing employee well-being, and integrating these values into organizations throughout the region. Deepti is known for her ability to forge meaningful partnerships with stakeholders while championing diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Deepti's leadership is guided by a deep sense of empathy and resilience, attributes inspired by the quote from Rumi, "Wherever you are, be the soul of that place." This philosophy is reflected in her commitment to creating environments where employees can thrive both personally and professionally. Her career exemplifies excellence in the human side of business, as she continually elevates talent and brings a people-first approach to every organization she touches.

With a track record of driving results through innovative HR practices, Deepti Shanmughan stands as a formidable leader in the world of talent management.

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Sudakshina Bhattacharya

President & CHRO,
HDFC ERGO

Sudakshina Bhattacharya is a transformative Human Resources leader and currently serves as the President and Chief Human Resources Officer at HDFC ERGO. With over two decades of experience spanning Hospitality, Communications, and Insurance, she has consistently championed building people-centric ecosystems that prioritize equity, inclusion, and organizational wellbeing. Her professional philosophy, "Future is now," reflects her dedication to nurturing future-ready talent and creating organizations of tomorrow.

In her role at HDFC ERGO, Sudakshina has redefined the company's people and culture practices, focusing on diversity enrichment, inclusive ecosystems, and employee engagement. With a mantra of "Last Mile First," she has spearheaded initiatives to ensure consistency in employee experience across 700+ locations. Under her leadership, gender diversity has grown significantly within the organization, with representation nearly doubling over the last three years. Her efforts to democratize inclusion through the "Love All" initiative have extended beyond HDFC ERGO, bringing more than 100 companies on board to build their inclusive workplaces.

Recognized as one of India's most impactful HR leaders, Sudakshina has received numerous accolades, including the ET Most Influential Woman, Innovative Woman Leader of the Year, Unconventional CHRO of the Year, and WEFT Most Influential Woman. Her accolades affirm her status as a thought leader in the HR space, known for her innovative thinking and unique approaches to building sustainable, people-driven organizations.

Sudakshina is also a certified Personal Coach (PCC) and a member of the International Coaching Federation (ICF). Her passion for holistic wellbeing and people-first transformations extends beyond her corporate role through her co-founding of Compassion Circle, a social platform that emphasizes inclusive leadership and community engagement.

At HDFC ERGO, her notable initiatives include the "Vidyaavriksh" learning academy, aimed at holistic employee growth, and the "Habit of Life" program, which promotes wellbeing across 550 cities and 1.25 lakh individuals. Through these pioneering efforts, she continues to build organizations that not only prioritize business outcomes but also place people and their wellbeing at the forefront of transformation.

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Priyanka Sengar

Founder & CEO,
Women First Jobs

Priyanka Sengar is a pioneering leader in the realm of women's empowerment and diversity in the workplace. As the Founder and CEO of Women First Jobs, a platform she launched in February 2023, Priyanka has dedicated her career to addressing job and pay disparities that women face. Her vision for the company is centered on creating opportunities for women and advocating for their unique strengths in the corporate world. Under her leadership, Women First Jobs has quickly gained recognition for its innovative solutions aimed at closing gender gaps in employment. Priyanka's approach goes beyond profits—her goal is to drive meaningful social change, redefining success as creating a lasting, positive impact on both businesses and the communities they serve.

Priyanka's professional journey spans over 14 years, marked by diverse roles in business development, marketing, and executive leadership. Before establishing Women First Jobs, she worked with Edenred in Dubai, where she led strategic initiatives for over three years. Prior to that, she worked with WaterHealth International in India, where she spearheaded marketing campaigns aimed at increasing access to clean water solutions. Earlier in her career, Priyanka worked as the International Marketing and Sales Manager at NCH, a role that showcased her ability to drive global marketing strategies and foster international business growth.

Priyanka's academic credentials are equally impressive. She is an alumna of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, where she completed a program in Marketing and Management, further sharpening her leadership acumen. Additionally, she holds an Executive Program in Sales and Marketing from the prestigious Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow. These educational experiences have provided her with a solid foundation for navigating the complexities of business and marketing, enabling her to make informed, strategic decisions that shape the future of her ventures.

Beyond her corporate achievements, Priyanka is also a passionate advocate for women's empowerment and is a sought-after keynote speaker on the topic. Her philanthropic endeavors extend into supporting diversity and inclusion initiatives, making her a catalyst for change in reshaping the corporate landscape for women worldwide.

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Prof. Sherley Louis

Professor of English & Director,
International Teaching Academy LLC

Professor Sherley Louis is a distinguished educator and entrepreneur with a career spanning decades in the international education sector. As the Founder and CEO of the International Teaching Academy, she has revolutionized education by focusing on culturally relevant teaching, inclusivity, and global perspectives. Through her visionary leadership, she has built a legacy of excellence in language education, particularly in teaching English to non-native speakers. Her programs have empowered students from diverse backgrounds, earning her recognition as a multi-award-winning educator.

In her current role as an English Professor at the International Teaching Academy, Prof. Sherley specializes in teaching English to non-native speakers, using innovative methods that emphasize practical application and real-world integration. Her passion for inclusive education extends to her position as an Inclusion Specialist Educator at Emirates International School Meadows, where she addresses cognition, learning, communication, and socio-emotional development, ensuring that students of all abilities thrive.

One of her hallmark initiatives, "As an American," launched in December 2022, focuses on enhancing English conversational skills for young and mid-career Arabs. Her impact continues with the launch of "Business English for Career Growth" in July 2023, a program designed to empower over 1000 young and mid-career women by 2027. Developed in collaboration with Women Choice and MasterCard, the initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting her commitment to advancing women's professional growth through education.

Beyond her contributions to language education, Professor Sherley is a respected education consultant. She provides tailored coaching services to educators and parents, fostering inclusive education and offering support to homeschooling families. Her dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion is evident in her advocacy and the design of inclusive curricula that create equitable learning environments.

Professor Sherley's leadership has had a significant impact in educational institutions. As the former English Language Coordinator and Head of Inclusion at a private school in Abu Dhabi, she played a pivotal role in raising the school's ADEK rating and Cognia accreditation. Her achievements also extend to Miami Dade County Public Schools, where she transformed a school's grade from 'F' to 'C' after years of underperformance.

Through her innovative programs, consulting work, and relentless advocacy for inclusive education, Professor Sherley Louis has cemented her place as a leader and trailblazer in the global education community.

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Rose Marie Sakr

Founder, RmS insurance Brokers and Consultants

Rosemarie Sakr is a seasoned insurance consultant and broker with over three decades of experience, having built a formidable career in the insurance sector. Her journey began with a strong educational background at Sainte-Famille Française and continued at the Lebanese American University (LAU), where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and Business Administration. This academic foundation laid the groundwork for her exceptional career in the insurance industry.

Rosemarie first entered the field in 1991, joining Bankers Assurance SAL as a corporate insurance account executive. Over her six-year tenure, she excelled in managing corporate insurance portfolios, handling everything from quotations to claims. Her meticulous attention to detail and strategic mindset quickly set her apart, allowing her to establish strong relationships with clients and build a reputation for delivering exceptional service.

In 1997, Rosemarie took on a new challenge as the manager of La 16 SAL, a role she held for 17 years. At La 16 SAL, she was responsible for overseeing operations and expanding the company's client base. Her leadership and in-depth knowledge of the industry helped the firm grow significantly during her time there, solidifying her status as an industry expert.

In 2014, Rosemarie took a bold step by founding RMS SAL, an insurance consultancy and brokerage firm. As the CEO of her own company, she focused on providing a full range of services to companies and organizations across the MENA region. RMS SAL specializes in offering technical expertise and tailored solutions, ensuring clients find the most suitable insurance covers available in the market. The firm has built a diverse portfolio, including prominent clients like Mission Laïque Française (Lebanon, Gulf, and Egypt), Agence Enseignement Français à l'Etranger (Lebanon and Egypt), and Fondation Hariri pour l'Enseignement (Lebanon).

Rosemarie's achievements reflect her unwavering commitment to the industry. She has grown from an account executive at Bankers Assurance to the CEO of her own successful insurance brokerage. Her expertise and leadership have positioned her firm as a trusted name in the insurance consultancy space, making significant contributions to the growth of the sector in the MENA region.



Sabiha MAHDID

Senior Drilling Engineer, Sonatrach

Sabiha Mahdid is a distinguished professional in the predominantly male-dominated oil and gas drilling sector, where she has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation for over 12 years. Her academic journey began with a Petroleum Engineering degree from Boumerdes University, Algeria. Excelling in her field, she earned a Master of Science in Drilling & Well Engineering from Robert Gordon University, a prestigious program that laid the foundation for her remarkable career. Her commitment to professional growth is evident in her pursuit of advanced training opportunities across the globe.

Sabiha's leadership journey began as a Drilling Supervisor in an onshore environment, where she managed end-to-end drilling operations, addressing complex challenges in diverse environment. Her ability to lead under pressure and solve critical problems set her apart early in her career. Transitioning to the role of Project Drilling Engineer, she assumed responsibility for designing and constructing wells across the MENA region, working extensively with both National Oil Companies (NOCs) and International Oil Companies (IOCs). Through her leadership, she not only delivered complex well projects but also cultivated high-performing teams and streamlined operational methodologies.

Recognized as an inspiring leader, Sabiha has spearheaded multidisciplinary teams, driving innovation and fostering a culture of safety, collaboration, and excellence. Her strategic vision has led to the optimization of well delivery processes, enhancing performance, reducing costs, and exceeding industry standards. As a mentor, she has empowered team members, encouraging creativity and building a resilient workforce capable of tackling the most demanding challenges in the energy sector. Her leadership philosophy emphasizes inclusivity, innovation, and a commitment to operational excellence, making her a role model in the industry.

In addition to her technical contributions, Sabiha is a visionary leader in advancing energy transition initiatives. Her thought leadership in hydrogen energy, a key driver for a sustainable future, was showcased when her technical paper was selected for the 2022 World Gas Conference, underscoring her contributions to global energy innovation. Complementing her technical achievements, she is pursuing a parallel career as an energy analyst, leveraging her expertise to shape solutions for a cleaner, more efficient energy future aligned with global net-zero goals.

Beyond her professional achievements, Sabiha is a passionate advocate for women in leadership, dedicating her time to empowering women and children through volunteer work and mentorship. As the co-founder of a children's help association, she embodies a commitment to creating a positive societal impact. Her ability to inspire others, combined with her technical expertise and dedication to inclusivity, positions Sabiha as a transformative leader who is shaping the future of the energy sector.

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Sara Hegazy

Founder & Holistic Counselor, Healenna

Sara Hegazy is an extraordinary professional whose career spans over two decades, characterized by a remarkable blend of expertise in transpersonal psychotherapy, bio-energy healing, human design, and couture fashion design. Her journey has been one of innovation and profound contributions to both mental health and fashion industries.

As the founder of Healenna Holistic Healing in Dubai, Sara has been dedicated to transformative therapy since 2020. Specializing in hypnosis, cognitive-behavioral therapy, trauma release techniques, traditional Chinese medicine, and transformational holistic breathing, Sara employs a comprehensive approach to healing. Her expertise in bio-energy healing, utilizing resonance, frequency, prana, and enneagram integral consciousness, has empowered countless clients to achieve profound self-awareness & healing. Sara's commitment extends to relationship coaching, psychology, family counseling, & alchemy healing.

Prior to Healenna, Sara spent two influential years as a fashion couture technology researcher in Dubai. Here, she explored the fusion of fashion and holistic healing, leading her to develop innovative wearable healing technologies that promote both aesthetic appeal & therapeutic benefits.

From 2009 to 2017, Sara held prestigious roles as a luxury brand manager & creative director, gaining international recognition for her collaborations with esteemed brands like Asfour International in Egypt. Her leadership & creativity were celebrated with numerous awards, solidifying her reputation as a luminary in the luxury fashion industry. Additionally, Sara's dedication to mentoring university students underscores her commitment to nurturing the next generation of designers & entrepreneurs.

Sara's educational journey is as diverse as her professional career. Holding a degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering, Sara has pursued extensive training in psychological counseling, traditional Chinese medicine, bio-energy healing & enneagram integral consciousness. She holds certifications in mind-body energy medicine from Pranic Healing and IEHA, and as a psychological specialist from the Knowledge Human Development Authority (KHDA).

As the visionary founder of The Soulhouette, Sara continues to push boundaries, merging modern medical practices with alternative energy healing to create a holistic approach to well-being. Her pioneering work in wearable healing technologies reflects her commitment to integrating fashion and therapy, offering a unique blend of science, spirituality & style. Her multifaceted expertise & visionary leadership continue to inspire a more harmonious & enlightened humanity.

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Mithu Gupta

CMO and Head of User Experience, iGCB, Intellect Design Arena

Mithu Gupta is an accomplished business and marketing leader with over 20 years of experience driving growth and transformation across the Banking, Telecom, and Technology sectors. With a career marked by impactful tenures at global Fortune 500 companies like GE, ABN AMRO Bank N.V., RBS, Nokia, YES BANK, Standard Chartered, and currently at Intellect Design Arena, she has established herself as a strategic leader adept at navigating complex business landscapes. Her expertise spans marketing analytics, product development, and P&L management, making her a key player in orchestrating large-scale transformations and delivering sustainable business growth.

Currently serving as the Chief Marketing Officer and Head of User Experience at iGCB, Intellect Design Arena, Mithu has been instrumental in building and leading the Marketing and UX Design teams from scratch. Her strategic initiatives have firmly positioned iGCB as a leading global technology player, significantly expanding its presence across Europe, the UK, and Canada. Her innovative approach to brand building and customer engagement has been demonstrated through initiatives such as the "Insights from Inside" podcast series, which gained over 2,000 unique views within a month of launch, enhancing iGCB's brand capital in key markets.

Mithu's leadership extends to curating major industry events, such as serving as Chairperson of the Global eMACH.ai Summit in April 2024. The summit brought together over 300 employees from 28 nationalities and strengthened Intellect's commitment to innovation and design thinking. Under her stewardship, Intellect Design Arena has garnered eight prestigious industry awards, including recognition from Globee and Asian Banker, and has been acknowledged by Chartis and Forrester for its technical strengths.

Her career highlights include leading multi-million-dollar sports sponsorships at Standard Chartered, such as the Liverpool FC partnership and the Mumbai Marathon, achieving 1.2 million radio listeners and 175 million digital impressions. At Yes Bank, she conceptualized the "YES COMMUNITY" program, transforming 600+ branches into engagement hubs and generating over 6,000 leads monthly.

Mithu holds an unwavering commitment to empowering women and promoting generational diversity, with a strong focus on mentoring young talent. Her strategic mindset and consumer-centric approach have made her a transformative force in elevating brands and driving business success.

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Paromita Ghosh Mukherjee

Lecturer & Trainer - Procurement & Supply, Learners Point Academy, Dubai

Paromita Ghosh is a highly accomplished procurement and supply chain professional with over 17 years of progressive experience across the UAE and India. Holding a Diploma in Procurement & Supply from the CIPS - The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply and currently pursuing her MCIPS certification, Paromita has established herself as an expert in strategic sourcing, contract management, and vendor negotiations. Her diverse experience spans multinational corporations, local enterprises, and entrepreneurship, giving her a well-rounded understanding of procurement, supply chain dynamics, and business ownership.

In her most recent role as a Senior Procurement & Contract Professional at EFS Facilities Services Group (EFS), Paromita was responsible for managing high-value contracts, supplier pre-qualification, risk management, and stakeholder engagement. She demonstrated an acute ability to drive cost efficiencies through strategic sourcing and rigorous supplier performance reviews. Her experience at Visionaire Technology Group further highlights her expertise in IT procurement, where she led successful bids and tenders, securing advantageous contracts that enhanced the company's competitive edge.

Paromita's career also reflects a passion for education and mentorship. As a part-time CIPS Trainer at multiple institutions across the UAE, India, and Saudi Arabia, she has played an instrumental role in shaping the careers of aspiring procurement professionals. She has coached students from senior management to entry-level trainees, preparing them for the challenging CIPS certification exams with tailored content and expert guidance.

A recognized leader in her field, Paromita's achievements include being selected for a fully paid procurement training program in the UK while at Kellogg Brown & Root International Inc. She also achieved the highest negotiated savings in the company, a feat recognized by both the UK and USA offices. Additionally, her role as a CIPS Northern Emirates Committee Member in the Education Domain reflects her ongoing commitment to advancing the procurement profession.

With an MBA in Marketing and HRD from KIIT University and a Bachelor of Science in Botany from The University of Burdwan Paromita brings a strong academic foundation to her roles. Her well-rounded expertise and commitment to excellence have made her a highly respected figure in the procurement and supply chain industry.



Amel Chadli

Vice President, MEA Digital Energy and Software, Schneider Electric

Amel Chadli stands as a distinguished leader and catalyst for change in the ever-evolving realm of energy management and building technology. Serving as the Vice President for Digital Energy and Energy Management Software at Schneider Electric for the Middle East and Africa, she has been instrumental in driving the company's digital transformation and growth in software solutions across the region.

With a career spanning more than 17 years at Schneider Electric, Amel's journey through the organization has been marked by her agility and adaptability across diverse geographies, including Europe, Africa, and Dubai. Her tenure as Chief Financial Officer in the Francophone Africa Cluster and Nigeria showcased her exceptional financial acumen and strategic thinking, particularly in crisis situations. Her commitment to reinforcing Schneider Electric's financial integrity and sustainability is evident throughout her career.

Beyond her role at Schneider Electric, Amel is an influential figure on the Executive Committee of RES4Africa Foundation, a foundation dedicated to supporting Africa's energy transition and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7). Her unwavering commitment to sustainability aligns seamlessly with Schneider Electric's core values, reflecting a strategy that prioritizes creating value across human, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Amel's visionary approach extends to the future of building technology and energy management, envisioning dynamic and adaptive spaces powered by artificial intelligence. She sees a future where buildings are interactive, agile, and responsive to various needs, utilizing AI-enabled tools for real-time measurement and optimization. This vision aligns with Schneider Electric's pioneering adoption of smart building technology, including the deployment of EcoStruxure Workplace Advisor in many offices worldwide, optimizing space utilization and enhancing employee comfort and productivity.

Amel's advocacy for MicroGrid Inc. technology is another testament to her forward-thinking approach, providing enhanced project cost control and powerful KPI monitoring hosted in the cloud. An example of her impact is evident in an innovative project in Egypt, where renewable energy sources will meet up to 20% of the energy demand of a hospital, significantly reducing CO_2 emissions and setting a benchmark for sustainable healthcare.

In summary, Amel Chadli's exceptional contributions to energy management and building technology highlight her as a transformative leader and catalyst for change. Her dedication to sustainability, innovation, and resilience has positioned her at the forefront of reshaping the industry.

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Irene Liu

Managing Director,
Accenture

Irene Liu stands at the forefront of the Banking & Capital Markets industry, recognized globally as a pioneering force in regulatory & financial innovation. With over two decades of multifaceted experience, Irene has consistently leveraged cutting-edge technology & deep industry insights to turn regulatory challenges into strategic business advantages.

Currently, Irene serves as the Leader in Digital Finance, Risk, Regulatory, and Compliance Strategy & Consulting for Southeast Asia at Accenture. Since 2022, she has guided numerous multi-million-dollar projects from conceptual strategy through to execution, focusing on compliance, finance & risk. Irene's leadership extends to collaborating with regional regulators on RegTech solutions, bolstering data governance & spearheading thought leadership in Responsible AI & Natural Language Processing (NLP) for regulatory & compliance purposes. Her notable contribution includes the development of the ASEAN Banking Interoperable Data Framework, a significant stride towards unified financial data standards across Southeast Asia.

Before joining Accenture, Irene was a key figure at PwC Southeast Asia Consulting, where she held multiple senior roles over 11 years. As the Lead Partner in Risk & Regulatory Consulting, she managed large-scale regulatory engagements, including high-profile initiatives such as LIBOR transition & BCBS 239 compliance. Irene also played a pivotal role in industry collaborations with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) & the ASEAN Bankers' Association, driving innovations in AI for reporting & data sharing.

Her career began in the trenches of financial management and regulatory reporting with top-tier banks like the Royal Bank of Scotland, National Australia Bank & UOB. Here, Irene streamlined reporting processes & integrated Basel capital reporting systems, contributing to operational efficiency & regulatory compliance. She also played a crucial role in the system merger during the acquisition of ABN Amro.

Irene's professional journey is complemented by her tenure at Arthur Andersen as a Senior Auditor, where she conducted audits and IPO due diligence for major MNCs & her strategic roles at non-banking institutions such as NOL & IPH.

A respected thought leader & advocate for gender diversity, Irene's contributions extend beyond corporate walls. She is an active board member of Singapore Management University's School of Accountancy Data & Analytics Board, Co-Chair of the Enterprise Data Management Council APAC Women Data Professionals Board & Chairman of Playeum Limited, a children's charity.

Academically, Irene holds a Bachelor's in Accountancy with a minor in Business Law & numerous certifications, including being a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, & Certified Scrum Master.

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Aisha Ahmed Alhammadi

HR Director,
Dubai Municipality

In the dynamic landscape of human resources, Aisha Ahmad Al Hammadi stands as a beacon of transformative leadership. With a robust educational background & a wealth of experience, Aisha has consistently demonstrated her prowess in driving organizational excellence & fostering a culture of innovation.

Aisha's journey began with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from UAE University, Al Ain, in 1995, laying the foundation for her analytical acumen & problem-solving skills. Eager to broaden her horizons, she pursued a Level 5 Diploma in HR Management from the prestigious CIPD in 2020, solidifying her expertise in the field.

Her professional trajectory is a testament to her unwavering commitment to excellence. Aisha's tenure at Dubai Municipality spans several pivotal roles, each marked by remarkable achievements. As the Human Resources Director since December 2018, she has spearheaded strategic initiatives, providing visionary leadership to her team & driving the organization towards unprecedented success.

Aisha's impact extends beyond conventional HR functions; she is a catalyst for change & innovation. Under her stewardship, Dubai Municipality witnessed the establishment of a professional academy, catering to the professional development needs of employees across the UAE & Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Her pioneering Emiratization initiatives have been instrumental in enhancing local talent & fostering inclusivity within the workforce.

Notably, Aisha's leadership played a pivotal role in steering the organization through institutional transformation, culminating in the adoption of remote work functions—a pioneering feat within the Dubai government. Her commitment to employee development is evident in the modernization of the Talent Center, equipped with cutting-edge technologies like virtual reality & digital learning platforms.

Aisha's contributions extend beyond organizational boundaries. As a thought leader in the field, she has been invited to speak at prestigious events such as the Gov HR Summit & HR Tech MENA Summit, sharing her insights on talent development & institutional change management.

Her accolades speak volumes about her exemplary achievements. From Global Business Excellence Awards to Stevie Awards for Distinguished Human Resource Management, Aisha's contributions have been recognized on a global scale. Notably, Dubai Municipality's HR Department, under her supervision, has received numerous accolades, including the Dubai Government Excellence Program's highest evaluation score for human capital & Emiratization.

In essence, Aisha Ahmad Al Hammadi embodies the essence of transformative leadership—an unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation & the holistic development of human capital.

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Hazleen (Ahmad) Panayiotou

Founder, Women Leaders On Mountains and Amazing Trekkers Club

We are delighted to announce that Hazleen (Ahmad) Panayiotou- Founder, Women Leaders On Mountains and Amazing Trekkers Club has been chosen among Global 200 Women Power Leaders 2024.



Harpreet Kaur Dhillon

Co-founder,
Community Care Collective

Harpreet Kaur Dhillon is a grassroots community organizer and mentor with over eight years of diverse leadership experience in gender, racial, and climate justice, both locally and internationally. As the first female in her family to complete high school and attend university, Harpreet's journey reflects her commitment to education as a transformative force for individuals and communities alike.

From a young age, Harpreet actively engaged in community service, beginning her volunteering career with Sikh Youth Australia at age 12. This early involvement shaped her values of selfless service and compassion. At 15, she became a Youth Ambassador for the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network and a Young Women's Policy Advisor for the NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS). Her significant contributions at NCOSS led to her selection as an Australian Civil Society Delegate at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 61) in New York, where she advocated for women's financial empowerment.

Balancing her final year of high school with her advocacy work, Harpreet spoke at various forums, including as a keynote speaker at the SSI Employment, Education, and English Youth Forum. Following her impactful participation at CSW 61, she was invited to represent NCOSS again at CSW 62, further amplifying her voice for migrant and refugee women.

In 2018, Harpreet took on the role of Inaugural Chairperson and NSW representative of the YWCA Australia Young Women's Council, where she focused on empowering young women and addressing homelessness. Her leadership was pivotal during the campaign to decriminalize abortion in New South Wales, culminating in the successful removal of abortion from the Crimes Act in 2019.

Harpreet's commitment to community care led her to co-found Community Care Collective and organize Food Not Bombs initiatives across Sydney, Newcastle, and Canberra. In 2020, she was elected Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights. Her efforts to save Gender Studies and Social Justice programs at her university earned her accolades, including the 7 News NSW and ACT Young Achiever Leadership Award.

Today, Harpreet continues to be a fierce advocate, participating in large-scale protests and organizing workshops globally, reinforcing her commitment to building safe, inclusive, and just communities.

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Taqua Malik

Founder & CEO,
Freedomvisory Ltd

Taqua Malik is the visionary founder and CEO of Freedomvisory, a leading consultancy dedicated to helping businesses navigate the intricate markets of the Middle East. With a profound understanding of Amazon's marketplace, Taqua leverages her expertise to serve as an indispensable bridge for companies seeking to establish a presence in this vibrant region.

Taqua's educational background is rooted in business management and market strategy, equipping her with the foundational knowledge necessary for her entrepreneurial journey. Her deep understanding of cultural nuances and commercial dynamics sets her apart as a market entry expert, a title she has earned through years of dedication and successful endeavors.

Before establishing Freedomvisory, Taqua honed her skills at several prestigious firms, where she specialized in market entry strategies and business development. Her roles included consulting for multinational corporations and collaborating with local businesses to facilitate seamless transitions into the Middle Eastern market. This experience laid the groundwork for her future success, as she recognized the importance of tailored strategies in overcoming the region's unique challenges.

Under Taqua's leadership, Freedomvisory has garnered recognition for its comprehensive suite of services, which includes market research, Amazon account management, compliance guidance, and cultural adaptation. Taqua has successfully helped numerous brands, including Bambuyu and Natura Bloom, thrive on Amazon by implementing innovative strategies that resonate with local consumers. Her commitment to excellence ensures that clients not only enter the market but do so with a strong foundation for sustainable growth.

Taqua is also a respected thought leader, frequently featured in industry podcasts and media discussing market entry and development strategies. Her extensive network within the Middle East's business community has positioned her as a go-to expert, making her insights invaluable for any brand looking to succeed in this region.

Passionate about fostering international partnerships, Taqua remains dedicated to empowering businesses with the tools and knowledge they need to navigate the complexities of the Middle Eastern market confidently. With her at the helm, Freedomvisory is not just a consultancy but a catalyst for success, unlocking the potential of the Middle East for entrepreneurs worldwide.



Chhavi Lekha

Vice President, Corporate Communications & Brand Reputation, Indigo (Interglobe Aviation Limited)

Chhavi Lekha is a seasoned integrated communications professional with over 25 years of hands-on experience in shaping brand narratives and enhancing corporate reputation on a global scale. Currently serving as Vice President of Corporate Communications and Brand Reputation at IndiGo, she has successfully navigated challenges and propelled the airline's reputation as a leader in the aviation industry.

Chhavi's career began after earning her degree in Communications, equipping her with the skills needed to excel in the dynamic world of public relations and brand strategy. Over the years, she has held pivotal roles at prestigious companies, including Nokia, Uber, and GE, where she honed her expertise in customer marketing, digital engagement, crisis communications, and public affairs.

At Nokia, Chhavi served as Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications for India, where she led the company's marketing strategy during a crucial period of transformation. She was instrumental in orchestrating Nokia's restructuring efforts during the global acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent, showcasing her adeptness at managing complex communications in high-stakes environments.

Her tenure at Uber as Director of Communications allowed her to craft and execute strategies that supported business objectives, expansion efforts, and public policy needs across India. Chhavi's innovative approach to corporate communications helped elevate Uber's brand presence in a competitive market.
Before joining IndiGo, Chhavi held senior leadership positions at Spice Global Investments and Avaya GlobalConnect. At Spice, she initiated the Customer Responsiveness Awards, which became an industry benchmark, while her leadership at Avaya was marked by a successful brand transition for AGC Networks Limited (Black Box Limited).

Under her guidance, IndiGo has achieved significant milestones, winning numerous awards for excellence in corporate communications. Her initiatives, such as the Lean Clean Flying Machine campaign during the pandemic, showcased her ability to communicate effectively under pressure, reinforcing customer trust and driving business recovery.

Chhavi is not only a recognized industry leader but also a mentor for aspiring women leaders, actively participating in forums and sharing insights on the importance of diversity and inclusion in leadership. Her commitment to ethical communication and transparency has set a high standard in the industry, making her a respected figure in corporate communications worldwide.

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Tasneem Salma Islam

Founder,
Aurora Consulting

Tasneem Salma Islam is a dynamic professional with experience in data analytics, finance, and consulting. As the co-founder of IntellectHR, a groundbreaking data-driven HR platform, she is dedicated to helping businesses enhance their talent management and retention strategies. Under her leadership, IntellectHR leverages cutting-edge analytics to provide actionable insights, transforming how organizations approach workforce optimization.

In addition to her role at IntellectHR, Tasneem serves as an affiliate at Bangladesh Angels, a network that empowers early-stage startups by connecting them with angel investors. Her involvement in this initiative underscores her commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within Bangladesh's burgeoning startup ecosystem.

Tasneem also founded Aurora Consulting, a boutique firm that delivers tailored data analysis and strategic advice to clients across diverse industries. Through Aurora Consulting, she has successfully guided businesses in utilizing data to drive decision-making and improve operational efficiency. Her freelance work as a Senior Data and Analytics Consultant at Magnum Management Consulting has further solidified her reputation as a trusted advisor in the data analytics landscape.

Her educational background is impressive, with a Diploma in Data Science from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), an MBA in Finance from North South University, and a Bachelor's degree in Business Economics from Assumption University. These credentials have equipped her with a robust foundation in both analytical and financial principles, enhancing her capability to address complex business challenges.

Tasneem's dedication to professional development is evident through her multiple certifications in data mining, databases, and strategic thinking from LinkedIn, ensuring she remains at the forefront of industry trends. Her core competencies include data analysis, solution design, problem-solving, and leadership, making her a versatile asset in any organization.

Beyond her professional achievements, Tasneem values collaboration, diversity, and impact, actively seeking opportunities to partner with organizations that share these principles. Her passion for leveraging data and technology to create innovative solutions for social and business challenges positions her as a thought leader in the field, committed to driving meaningful change.



Ghida Barakat

Regional Deputy Director for MENA – Leadership Circle, Senior Leadership Consultant and Executive Coach

In the vibrant realm of executive coaching and organizational consultancy, Ghida Barakat stands tall as a trailblazer, leading leaders and teams towards unprecedented growth and achievement. With over two decades of rich experience and a wealth of qualifications, Ghida represents the epitome of business acumen, strategic insight, and profound empathy.

Ghida's educational journey, including a Bachelor of Business Administration and ongoing pursuit of a Masters in Psychology and Neuroscience of Mental Health from King's College London, underscores her dedication to understanding the intricacies of human behavior and organizational dynamics.

Throughout her esteemed career, Ghida has made a lasting impact on numerous multinational and market-leading organizations. From her influential roles as a Regional and Group Director in esteemed institutions across banking, retail, and hospitality, to her transformative leadership as the Director of Customer Experience and Acting Director of Marketing for a renowned international retailer, Ghida consistently delivers exceptional results.

However, it is in the domain of coaching and consultancy that Ghida truly shines. As a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) accredited by the International Coaching Federation, Ghida has accumulated over 2300 registered hours of individual and system/team coaching, shaping the paths of countless executives and teams. Her expertise extends to organizational Relationship System Coaching (ORSCC), where she serves as a distinguished faculty member at CRR Global, training coaches, psychologists, and corporate leaders worldwide.

Ghida's influence spans across borders and industries, having collaborated with prestigious entities such as EGA, Maersk, Ernst & Young, GSK Pharmaceutical, and First Abu Dhabi Bank, among others. Her strategic prowess and innate understanding of intercultural dynamics enable her to navigate complex challenges with ease, driving tangible outcomes even in uncertain times.

At the core of Ghida's methodology lies a profound commitment to unlocking the full potential of individuals and teams. Through her unique blend of Co-Active Coaching and Leadership Circle methodologies, Ghida empowers her clients to transcend personal limitations and embrace a collective identity rooted in purpose and synergy.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Ghida's journey embodies resilience and cultural diversity. As a Lebanese-Australian residing in Dubai with her family, she exemplifies inclusion and global perspective, enriching her practice with a deep appreciation for multiculturalism.

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Maryam Obaid Almheiri

CEO - Executive Director of Building Regulation and Permits Agency, Dubai Municipality

Maryam Obaid Almuhairi is the CEO and Executive Director of the Building Regulation and Permits Agency at Dubai Municipality, where she plays a pivotal role in regulating and overseeing the construction sector in Dubai. With over 22 years of experience in building, construction, and geospatial information systems, Maryam has been instrumental in shaping the future of urban planning and construction in the city, leading projects that significantly enhance efficiency and global competitiveness.

Under her leadership, the annual value of completed buildings in Dubai exceeds AED 20 billion, highlighting her impact on the emirate's infrastructure development. Maryam's key initiatives include the Dubai Building Information Modelling (BIM) Roadmap, a first in the region, and the "Dubai Construction Platform," both of which revolutionized construction processes with automated code compliance and smart inspection systems. She also launched the Dubai Unified Building Code in 2021 and pioneered the geospatial digital twin of Dubai, which raised geospatial maturity levels from 1.5 to 4, marking a substantial leap in the emirate's urban planning capabilities.

Among her many accolades, Maryam received the Women Leadership Award in Construction Technology in 2021 and the Best Woman Leader in Energy Award in 2019. She also led her team to win the Special Achievement Award for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in 2019, and she spearheaded Dubai's outstanding performance in the World Bank's global competitiveness indicators. Notably, her team ranked third globally for ease of issuing building permits and achieved top rankings in the Arab world for building permits handling and ease of doing business.

Her visionary projects extend to the future of urban mobility, with the launch of "Dubai Horizons," an initiative to plan low-altitude air corridors for unmanned aerial vehicles, positioning Dubai at the forefront of innovation in air mobility and logistics. She also provided critical geospatial infrastructure for Dubai's Metaverse strategy, creating economic opportunities for developers, businesses, and government agencies.

A strong advocate for team empowerment, Maryam's leadership style fosters collaboration, with a work team happiness index reaching an impressive 98.12%. She is also a member of nine senior committees within the Dubai government, underscoring her influence in shaping the city's future. Maryam's contributions continue to drive Dubai's transformation into a global leader in construction, technology, and urban planning.

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Jana Makarem

Director of Human Capital, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa

Jana Makarem is a distinguished HR and Operations Manager with 19 years of diverse experience across multiple industries. Renowned for her strategic foresight and operational excellence, she has played a pivotal role in shaping organizational success through adept policy development and effective team leadership. With exceptional interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills, Jana is well-versed in GCC labor laws, enabling her to navigate complex regulatory landscapes effectively.

Throughout her career, Jana has demonstrated her capacity to steer organizations through challenges and foster growth. During the COVID-19 lockdown, she formulated resilient business strategies that successfully avoided employee terminations while positioning the company for notable growth by year-end. Her astute negotiation skills have also delivered cumulative savings of 700K in rent contracts over the past three years, underscoring her financial acumen.

In her previous role at Union Trading Company, where she served as Director of HR & Admin and is part of the Executive Committee, Jana has been instrumental in restructuring and optimizing operations. She led an initiative to revamp staffing in retail locations, resulting in a 15% increase in sales. Additionally, her innovative inventory policies reduced merchandise errors by 30%, demonstrating her commitment to operational efficiency.

Jana has also left an indelible mark on HR practices. She successfully overhauled recruitment processes, achieving a remarkable 76% reduction in recruitment costs. Her leadership facilitated the hiring of 1,200 personnel for a major oil and gas project within six months, providing a two-month head start that resulted in a 24% cost reduction.

Her educational background includes a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration Management Emphasis and a certification in Strategic HR Mindset from INSEAD. At notable organizations such as Al Ostoura International Company, talabat, and Rotana Hotels & Resorts, Jana has consistently delivered results, building proficient teams and implementing strategic initiatives.

Jana's dynamic blend of strategic thinking, operational prowess, and people-centric approach positions her as a valuable asset for organizations seeking visionary leadership. References attesting to her professional prowess are available upon request.

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Archna Wadhwa

Founder and Executive Director, Analytics Saves at Work

Archna Wadhwa is a seasoned leader in the fields of data, AI, and analytics, with over 24 years of diverse experience in corporate and entrepreneurial settings. Throughout her illustrious career, Archna has held pivotal leadership positions at global institutions such as HSBC and GE. Most recently, she served as Managing Director and Head of Data and Analytics Scaled Services at HSBC, where she was known for her ability to drive transformative results through data monetization and strategic insights.

A pioneer in the field, Archna is also the founder of Analytics Saves at Work, an AI and business solutions company recognized as a startup by the Government of India. Under her leadership, aSaw has expanded its footprint across the US, India, and Hong Kong, delivering cutting-edge AI products and analytical services to a diverse clientele, including Fortune 500 BFSI companies, gaming firms, global enterprises, consulting firms, and startups. aSaw's rapid success was marked by the prestigious Indian Achievers Award 2024 for Promising Company of the Year. The company has sustained a robust 30% year-on-year growth, a testament to Archna's visionary leadership and strategic direction.

In addition to her entrepreneurial ventures, Archna has made notable contributions in the corporate world. At HSBC Group Headquarters in London, she served as Chief Data Officer, where she was instrumental in leading analytics and compliance initiatives. She also spearheaded the development of HSBC's offshore analytics operations in India. Her corporate journey includes co-founding Knowledge Consulting Group in 2016, where she developed the award-winning iKYC compliance software, a solution adopted by major financial institutions like AXA and Pacific Life Insurance. This innovation earned KCG the FinTech Awards 2022 in the RegTech category from Cyberport and HKETNet.

Archna's academic credentials include an MBA from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and a B.E. from Punjab University, along with an executive leadership program from Cornell University. A frequent speaker at global actuarial conferences and business schools such as New York University, she is recognized as a thought leader in data and analytics.

Beyond her professional achievements, Archna is passionate about art, travel, and theatre. She enjoys exploring diverse cultures and experiences, often sharing these adventures with her daughter.



Dr. Corinne Casha

Deputy Director Global Affairs, Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Malta

Dr. Corinne Casha is a distinguished career diplomat currently serving as Deputy Director of Global Affairs at the Maltese Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, a position she has held since 2020. With a robust academic background that includes a Bachelor of Arts in Law and International Relations and a Doctorate in Law from the University of Malta, Dr. Corinne has built a commendable career dedicated to advancing Malta's foreign policy interests.

Dr. Corinne joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2002, where she quickly gained recognition for her exceptional skills and dedication. During her early years, she served in various capacities, including a pivotal role during the Maltese Presidency of the Council of Europe in 2003 and at the High Commission in London in preparation for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2005. Her expertise in international relations was further developed during her tenure as Diplomatic Officer at Malta's Permanent Representation in Brussels from 2006 to 2009, focusing on Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and legal and financial issues within the EU.

In 2012, Dr. Corinne became Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Malta in Rome, where she specialized in political affairs at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Her leadership was evident when she was appointed Deputy Coordinator for the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017, where she coordinated high-level meetings and was commended for the seamless execution of the presidency.

Since assuming her current role, Dr. Corinne has overseen critical initiatives in ocean governance and cybersecurity. She played a key role in drafting Malta's National Cyber Security Strategy, launched in 2022, and has been instrumental in establishing cyber diplomacy training for diplomats. Her commitment to ocean governance was exemplified when she led Malta's delegation at the UN negotiations on the Treaty on the High Seas, ensuring Malta was among the first to sign and soon ratify the agreement.

Dr. Corinne's innovative approach has enhanced the Ministry's operations, including the implementation of new digital applications to streamline international organization candidatures. A respected speaker and moderator, she actively participates in forums focused on regional security and cybersecurity, contributing to Malta's international reputation as a proactive and engaged member of the global community.

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Prof. Dr. Ingrid Vasiliu Feltes

Founder & CEO,
Institute For Science, Entrepreneurship and Investment

Dr. Ingrid Vasiliu-Feltes is a distinguished global thought leader, deep-tech entrepreneur, and angel investor with an impressive career spanning healthcare, technology, and finance. She holds multiple leadership roles in prestigious organizations, including being an Expert Advisor to the European Union Blockchain Observatory and Forum, Advisory Partner at Virtue Consultants, and Executive Partner at GlobalReach BI. Additionally, Dr. Vasiliu-Feltes is deeply involved with the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF), where she plays a key role in promoting financial inclusion, as WBAF is affiliated with the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, chaired by Queen Maxima of the Netherlands.

As Founder and CEO of the Institute for Science, Entrepreneurship, and Investments and RevExpo Consulting, Dr. Vasiliu-Feltes has driven innovation in both the public and private sectors. She also serves on the board of the Partners in Digital Health Institute and the Government Blockchain Association, where she is Chief Innovation Officer. Her advisory and executive partnerships with Fortune 500 companies and UN-affiliated organizations have further solidified her as a leading force in digital transformation, blockchain, and AI technologies. Among her most recent consulting engagements are the European Central Bank and U.S. Bank.

Dr. Vasiliu-Feltes holds a Doctor of Medicine and an Executive MBA, with advanced certifications from esteemed institutions such as MIT, Harvard, Stanford, and Columbia University. Her expertise spans AI, blockchain, finance, bioethics, and innovation, and she remains a passionate educator, teaching at the University of Miami Business School and WBAF Business School. She also serves as Affiliate Faculty at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy and is a certified consultant at the U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights.

Throughout her career, Dr. Vasiliu-Feltes has been recognized with over 30 prestigious awards, including the WBAF World Excellence Award for Social Entrepreneurship, Columbia University's Award of Excellence in Research, and the University of Miami's Teacher of the Year honor. She has been named among the Top 10 Most Influential CEOs, Top 100 Investors, and Top 50 AI Business Influencers, reflecting her immense contributions to technology and global business. A prolific author and editor, she is also a media partner and publishing editor at IGI Global and Frontiers Media.

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Yamini Atmavilas

Director,
Dasra

Yamini is an accomplished professional with a diverse background spanning various industries and roles. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic insight, and a commitment to excellence. Her career trajectory is marked by her ability to deliver results across multiple domains, establishing her as a dynamic force in her field.

Yamini's expertise lies in navigating complex business environments, which she has honed through key roles in some of the most prominent companies. Her ability to combine technical acumen with strategic thinking has set her apart as a leader who not only understands the intricacies of operational processes but also excels at driving innovation and efficiency.

In her most recent position, Yamini played a pivotal role in transforming operational models and improving performance metrics, significantly contributing to the company's bottom line. Her contributions included streamlining workflows, optimizing resources, and enhancing cross-functional collaboration. This resulted in marked improvements in productivity and profitability, earning her recognition as a key player in the company's success.

Yamini's academic foundation in business management and operations has equipped her with the tools needed to thrive in fast-paced, competitive environments. She has consistently invested in her professional development, taking part in various executive leadership programs that have further sharpened her strategic approach and leadership capabilities.

Her career has also been defined by her commitment to mentorship and fostering talent. Yamini has been a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion within the workplace, championing initiatives that support underrepresented groups and promote equitable opportunities for growth and development.

In addition to her professional achievements, Yamini is a sought-after speaker and thought leader. She frequently shares her insights on business strategy, operational efficiency, and leadership at industry conferences and forums. Her ability to articulate complex concepts in an accessible manner has earned her a reputation as a forward-thinking leader who is not only focused on success but also on building sustainable business practices.

Yamini continues to inspire those around her, leaving a lasting impact on every organization she touches through her dedication, expertise, and innovative spirit.

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Ragah Dorenkamp

Director Corporate Communications, AIXTRON SE

Ragah Dorenkamp is a distinguished communications executive with over 15 years of experience in public relations, journalism, and corporate strategy. As the Director of Corporate Communications at AIXTRON SE, a global leader in semiconductor equipment, Ragah has transformed the company's communications landscape, driving growth, innovation, and sustainability through her strategic leadership. Her expertise in B2B and B2C communications has strengthened AIXTRON's market presence, reinforcing the company's corporate identity and message across multiple channels. AIXTRON's listing on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, as well as its inclusion in the MDAX and TecDAX indices, underscores the importance of her role in shaping its communications strategy.

Ragah's skill in crafting compelling narratives has played a vital role in elevating AIXTRON's profile, especially in high-stakes environments like technology and manufacturing sectors. Her approach to internal communications and social media storytelling has fostered transparency and innovation within the company. She has successfully professionalized AIXTRON's communication channels, ensuring consistency, engagement, and a strong brand message. Additionally, Ragah leads financial communications to national and international business media, where she has built a reliable network and established herself as a key figure in corporate communications.

Before joining AIXTRON, Ragah held notable roles at Ford Motor Company Germany, where she served as the company's spokesperson in Cologne, overseeing communications for two major manufacturing sites. Her proficiency in handling crisis communications and shaping the narrative around Ford's operations demonstrated her deep understanding of the manufacturing sector. Later, as the Manager of Sustainability, Safety, and Quality at Ford Europe, she navigated sensitive communications topics across 50 markets, showcasing her expertise in managing complex, cross-border communications.

Ragah's career also includes pioneering work with dpa Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH in Cairo, where she launched the Consumer News Service in Arabic, delivering daily consumer-related content to media outlets across the GCC region. This initiative expanded dpa's reach and established a strong presence in the Middle East.

Ragah holds a Diploma in Cultural Studies, which provides her with a keen understanding of societal and cultural dynamics. Fluent in English, German, and Arabic, she enhances her communications strategies by effectively engaging diverse audiences. Ragah's remarkable career highlights her versatility, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment to excellence in corporate communications.



Shameem Farouk

Executive Vice President & Head, Digital People Enablement, Maybank

Shameem is a distinguished leader in digital workforce transformation, currently serving as the Executive Vice President at Maybank Group in Malaysia. With over two decades in human capital management, she has a remarkable career marked by innovation & a commitment to diversity in technology.

In 2018, Shameem launched the FutureReady programme, Malaysia's first mass digital workforce transformation initiative in the financial sector. This programme achieved a 300% return on investment within six months & led to AI & ML applications across Maybank. She also developed other digital upskilling programmes e.g., the Social Media Marketing and Digital Market Intelligence programmes which has contributed significantly to business impact.

Shameem has also driven high-impact learning programmes to promote education equality & increase women's representation in technology. Notably, 52% of those certified in AI/ML at Maybank are women. She introduced the Maybank Excel AI Tool, a "No Code" platform that allows employees to execute machine learning algorithms quickly, enabling 70% of those employees trained to apply ML skills without needing extensive coding knowledge.

Shameem holds a PhD in Education, specializing in Human Performance Technology, from Indiana University, USA. She also has an MBA, a Master of Science in Educational Psychology & a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Indiana University. In 2022, she was a U.S. State Department Fulbright Research Fellow at INSEAD Business School in San Francisco, focusing on digital workforce transformation & Generative AI applications.

Under her leadership, Maybank has won multiple awards for talent management, leadership development & learning practices from HR Excellence. Her initiatives in digital marketing have aided frontline sales staff to transition well and interact with customers digitally during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shameem Farouk's career is a testament to her transformative impact on digital capability building & her dedication to fostering a diverse, inclusive & innovative workforce. Her contributions continue to shape the future of digital transformation within the financial industry & beyond. She remains committed to driving organizational success through cutting-edge technological advancements, strategic talent development & continuous learning initiatives that empower employees at all levels.

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Ekaterina Serban

Head of Privacy and Information Security, BOSCH

Ekaterina Serban is a distinguished leader in privacy, information security, and digital transformation, currently serving as the Head of Privacy and Information Security at BOSCH. With over 16 years of experience across Supply Chain, Logistics, and Global Operations, she has excelled in driving strategic digital transformations and fortifying cybersecurity frameworks for complex B2B and B2C operations across markets in the US, Mexico, China, India, Malaysia, Turkey, UK, Germany, and Russia.

Her work has been pivotal in establishing robust governance, risk management, and operational resilience frameworks, ensuring regulatory compliance and safeguarding sensitive data in rapidly evolving industries.

Ekaterina is a proven leader in managing cross-cultural teams and spearheading strategic initiatives that prepare industries for the digital age. She has consistently demonstrated her ability to transform organizations through the integration of IoT technologies and digital solutions, enhancing operational efficiency and resilience. Recognized as a “Next Horizon Leader,” she is regarded as a future-shaping force in the technology sector, known for her ability to envision and implement forward-looking strategies that align with global industry trends.

In addition to her role at BOSCH, Ekaterina is an International Partner at the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF), an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI). In this capacity, she collaborates with global business and political leaders to advance economic development and improve access to finance for startups and scale-ups, contributing to job creation and social justice worldwide. Her expertise extends to mentorship and advocacy, where she actively champions diversity and inclusion in the technology sector and supports the next generation of global leaders.

A recognized thought leader, Ekaterina is a sought-after speaker on emerging technologies, cybersecurity, AI, digital transformation, and leadership. Her ability to translate complex technical concepts into actionable insights has positioned her as an influential voice in industry discourse, making her a trusted advisor for organizations navigating the complexities of the digital era.

Ekaterina’s contributions reflect her unwavering commitment to transforming industries, securing digital ecosystems, and strategically shaping the future of business and technology.



Shannon Dunn

Strategic Global Advisor to CEO, Delos

Shannon is a visionary leader and a passionate advocate for wellness-centered architecture, shaping the future of built environments through her innovative approach. A Strategic Global Advisor to the CEO of Delos, Shannon has played an instrumental role in developing the framework for wellness-driven design in commercial and residential spaces worldwide. Her journey in this field began after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Pre-Med and Pre-Architecture and a Master of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. Her studies took her across Europe, enriching her architectural vision with global insights into design and sustainability.

Early in her career with Delos, Shannon focused on translating wellness principles into tangible design strategies, pioneering the integration of health-oriented features in modern architecture. Her collaborative work on the first wellness living spaces helped catalyze the development of The WELL Building Standard, a global benchmark for healthy building practices. Additionally, Shannon’s international development programs have propelled wellness design into diverse markets, influencing global standards for health, safety, and sustainability in the built environment.

In 2024, Shannon co-founded Delos Arabia and now serves as President, steering wellness architecture across the Middle East. Her time in the region has fostered a deep respect for its culture and a commitment to elevating the role of women in architecture, engineering, and construction. Her work with Delos Arabia underscores her dedication to wellness and sustainability, bringing a holistic approach to the forefront of the architecture industry in Saudi Arabia, MENA and beyond.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Shannon serves on the Children’s National Hospital Founders Auxiliary Board and contributes her talents to Capital Caring, a children’s hospice in Washington, DC. Her philanthropic work demonstrates her dedication to improving the wellbeing of communities, especially for children facing health challenges. Shannon Dunn’s career represents an impressive confluence of architecture, wellness, and social responsibility, making her a leader and pioneer in her field.

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Ranjika Mitra

Director- Growth and Outreach, B-School Mentor, Top One Percent & Founder of The Campus club

Ranjika Mitra is a trailblazing leader in global education and talent management, recognized for her outstanding contributions to growth, outreach, and mentorship. As the Director of Growth and Outreach and a Global B-School Mentor, Ranjika is deeply committed to transforming lives through education. Her journey spans a multitude of roles, each showcasing her dedication to excellence and her passion for fostering global talent.

Ranjika's professional journey is marked by her entrepreneurial spirit and her drive to connect the best minds to top-tier opportunities. She is the Founder and Mentor of The Campus Club, an initiative that empowers individuals to achieve their highest potential in the world's leading educational institutions, including the Ivy League and M7 business schools. Her role as a Global Admissions Counselor has seen her guide countless aspirants to secure places in prestigious programs like MBA, MiM, Deferred MBA, MiF, and MS, firmly positioning them within the top 1% globally.

In addition to her educational endeavors, Ranjika co-founded a dating app, showcasing her versatility and entrepreneurial acumen. She also serves as the Business Head of Eduweave NGO, where she leverages her business expertise to drive impactful educational initiatives aimed at broadening access to quality education.

Ranjika's global experience is extensive. She spent five years in various global talent roles in Dubai, where she worked on significant projects such as those with the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), along with 102 other clients across the region and worldwide. Her ability to navigate diverse cultural landscapes and manage relationships with people from 73 different nationalities underscores her exceptional people skills and leadership capabilities.

Ranjika's approach to leadership is defined by empathy, networking, and a growth mindset. Her TED Talk, " 'Strive for Excellence' emphasizes about networking as a life skill, connecting the dots and having global standards and striving for excellence.

Currently, Ranjika heads Growth, Branding, and Partnerships both locally and globally, constantly striving to take her ventures to the next level. Her top five strengths—global leadership and people management, networking, entrepreneurial vision, selling and negotiation, and analytical thinking—make her a formidable force in any endeavor she undertakes.

As she continues to juggle multiple roles with aplomb, Ranjika's unwavering ambition and dedication to global collaboration ensure that she remains a pivotal figure in the world of education and beyond.

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Rania Sellami

Chief Financial Officer, RATP Dev Mobility

Rania Sellami stands out as a highly skilled finance leader, currently serving as Finance Director for RATP Dev Mobility. Since stepping into this role in July 2021, she has played an essential role in shaping the financial strategy for the company's Cairo-based operations, driving its growth and long-term financial stability. Rania's strategic acumen is reflected in her successful initiatives to optimize financial planning, streamline operations, and deliver consistent, robust performance in a competitive market. Her financial insights and innovative approach have been pivotal to establishing a sustainable fiscal framework that supports both current operations and future expansions.

Prior to her current role, Rania contributed significantly as the FP&A Manager for RATP Dev Middle East, a full-time role she held from January to July 2021. Her expertise in financial planning and analysis facilitated key budgeting, forecasting, and financial strategy improvements across multiple projects in the Middle East. This seven-month tenure underscored her adaptability and deep understanding of the intricacies of multinational finance management, preparing her to take on the more demanding role of Finance Director with heightened responsibilities.

Rania holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) from IHECS, where she completed her studies. Her educational foundation has equipped her with a strong analytical approach, complementing her practical experience with theoretical knowledge and critical skills in financial management, compliance, and auditing. Her commitment to continuous improvement has been apparent through her many successes in financial strategy and team leadership.

Her excellence in strategic financial planning has ensured operational efficiency and growth for the company. Second, her leadership abilities shine through her efforts to build and nurture high-performing finance teams that consistently deliver results. Lastly, she has successfully implemented innovative financial initiatives and processes that significantly improved the company's financial performance and market competitiveness.

Rania's approach is grounded in strategic vision and operational excellence, making her an invaluable asset to RATP Dev Mobility Cairo. Her career is marked by consistent achievements that demonstrate her capability in driving financial stability, fostering team growth, and continuously enhancing organizational value.

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Roberta Werthein

Co-Founder, Business Development and Marketing, Win Investments

Roberta Werthein is a visionary in sports investment and wellness innovation, blending her rich experiences in athletics, design, and urban ecologies to drive impactful change. Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Roberta's journey began with a notable milestone at age 17 when she became the youngest athlete on Argentina's national field hockey team to compete in the 2012 Champion Trophy. This experience ignited her lifelong passion for sports and set the foundation for her entrepreneurial ventures.

Currently, Roberta is the Co-Founder and Board Member of WIN Investments, where she pioneers a groundbreaking sports securities ecosystem powered by blockchain technology. Under her leadership, WIN Investments made history by tokenizing the first-ever football transfer, revolutionizing how investments and engagement occur within the sports economy. Roberta's role focuses on strategic alliances, investor relations, and business development, driving partnerships that merge technology with sports finance. Her commitment to innovation and growth has positioned WIN Investments as a leader in sports securities, marking a paradigm shift in the industry.

Roberta's academic journey is equally impressive. She holds a degree in Graphic Design from the University of Buenos Aires, which provided a foundation for her creative ventures, including the "Feel The Void" podcast. This platform combines 3D design animations with discussions on health and wellness, aiming to inspire younger generations towards healthier, mindful living. Her pursuit of design continued at Parsons School of Design, where she completed a Master of Science in Design and Urban Ecologies. During her time at Parsons, she collaborated with the Worker's Justice Project in NYC, conducting research that explored community building, urban planning, and environmental justice, reinforcing her holistic approach to urban challenges.

In addition to her business and design pursuits, Roberta is a certified health and wellness coach from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. She co-founded Wellness Society NYC, a community initiative that champions sustainable living and holistic health. Through Wellness Society NYC, Roberta fosters initiatives that empower individuals to embrace wellness in urban settings, promoting sustainable and purpose-driven lifestyles for improved longevity and well-being.

Roberta Werthein's diverse portfolio showcases her dedication to pioneering change across industries. Her leadership, innovation, and passion for holistic well-being inspire a future-focused on sustainability, sports investment, and impactful community connections.



Claudia Schwinghammer

Founder, SPARK

Claudia Schwinghammer is a distinguished leader and seasoned professional with over 25 years of experience in the business world, including 15 transformative years within the pharmaceutical industry. She is the Founder of SPARK, an innovative platform designed to transform corporate mental health by offering accessible resources, coaching, and therapy to individuals across all organizational levels.

SPARK is among the top 10 mental health service providers in Europe. Claudia's journey reflects her deep commitment to bridging the gap between professional demands and personal well-being, advocating for mental health as an essential aspect of workplace culture.

In her extensive career, Claudia has held pivotal roles in major pharmaceutical firms, where her expertise in operations and strategic leadership directly contributed to significant growth and efficiency improvements. Her journey through the corporate ladder provided her with a deep understanding of the pressures faced by employees and leaders alike, which fueled her determination to focus on mental health and resilience in high-performance settings.

Beyond her industry experience, Claudia has continuously expanded her skill set to support her mission. She is an international business coach, licensed therapist, behavioral trainer, and certified hypnotherapist. Claudia's educational background includes certifications in hypnotherapy and behavioral therapy, which complement her coaching expertise and allow her to offer a comprehensive approach to personal development and mental well-being. Her blend of scientific methods with holistic practices positions her uniquely in the field, allowing her to provide targeted, evidence-based support to professionals navigating the complexities of modern workplaces.

Claudia champions an inclusive approach to wellness, firmly believing that mental health resources should be accessible to everyone, not just top executives. Through SPARK, she has pioneered an online platform that provides customized support for mental health within organizations, offering a range of tools from personalized coaching sessions to self-help resources tailored for the corporate environment. Her approach is grounded in addressing core issues rather than surface-level solutions, striving for lasting change and resilience among clients.

Claudia's dedication to mental health advocacy and her innovative work with SPARK have earned her a reputation as a forward-thinking leader and a compassionate ally to professionals worldwide. Her vision for a more supportive and mentally healthy workplace underscores her commitment to reshaping the future of corporate wellness, setting a new standard for how businesses approach the well-being of their people.

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Sara Talib Alattas

Governance Manager,
Saudia Group

Sara Alattas epitomizes dynamic leadership where innovation intersects with passion and purpose. A visionary in corporate governance and a disruptor in the fashion industry, Sara's career is a testament to resilience, creativity, and transformative impact.

Sara currently serves as the Governance Manager at Saudia Group, an illustrious organization with an 80-year history. In this role, she has redefined the company's governance practices, enhancing compliance, transparency, and ethical standards. Her innovative strategies have not only streamlined operations but also set new benchmarks for corporate governance excellence in the aviation industry. Sara's visionary approach is propelling Saudia Group towards a future marked by innovation and enduring success.

In the realm of fashion, Sara stands as the founder and creative force behind Theseen Eyewear. This groundbreaking venture has revolutionized the luxury eyewear market with its avant-garde designs and commitment to sustainability. Sara's curated collection of frames and sunglasses exemplifies her impeccable taste, deep understanding of consumer desires, and dedication to ethical production practices. Theseen Eyewear has carved a niche in the global market, setting new standards for style and quality.

Sara's journey is marked by significant academic achievements, including LLB from King AbdulAziz University and LLM from University of California, Irvine School of Law. Her educational background has equipped her with the knowledge and expertise to navigate complex regulatory landscapes and drive strategic growth in her professional roles. Sara is a certified compliance officer.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Sara is a formidable advocate for entrepreneurship in Saudi Arabia. She has played a pivotal role in the startup ecosystem, mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs and fostering a culture of innovation. Her guidance has been instrumental in the success of numerous startups, fueling growth and empowerment within the region's entrepreneurial community.

Sara's impact transcends industries, leaving an indelible mark on all who have the privilege of working with her. Her unwavering commitment to excellence, passion for creativity, and relentless pursuit of growth and transformation make her a formidable force in the business world. As a powerful woman leader, Sara exemplifies authenticity, empathy, and a deep-seated belief in the power of collective success.

In recognition of her outstanding leadership and profound impact, Sara Alattas is a beacon of excellence and inspiration. Her journey continues to inspire others to dream big, lead with purpose, and embrace their power to create positive change in the world.

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Mano Sheriff

Director & CEO,
DSL Lanka

Mano Sheriff, a distinguished Chartered Accountant and visionary entrepreneur, has carved an impressive path in the toy manufacturing industry, with a career defined by sustainable growth and groundbreaking innovation. Beginning her professional journey in finance, Mano gained a foundational background that would later bolster her business acumen in a rapidly evolving industry. Her first major foray into entrepreneurship came in 1993 when she led a U.S.-based toy sourcing company in Sri Lanka. This venture not only marked her transition from finance to business leadership but also laid the groundwork for her future impact on the global toy industry.

In 2007, Mano joined DSL Lanka as CEO and a minority shareholder, positioning the company on a path of substantial growth. Initially a small manufacturer with 200 employees focused on soft toys, DSL Lanka has since expanded its operations to three manufacturing plants employing over 1,400 people. Mano's transformative leadership drove the company to diversify its product line, adding rubber toys and baby clothing, while staying committed to ethical production and environmental sustainability.

Mano's entrepreneurial journey is adorned with significant milestones and accolades. Her passion for sustainable business practices and product innovation led to the creation of three globally recognized brands—Tikiri, Bonikka, and Meiya & Alvin—now sold in 55 countries. Her achievements include winning the prestigious "Woman Exporter of the Year" award in 2016, a testament to her influence and success within the industry.

Notably, Mano spearheaded the innovation of fabric-natural rubber combination toys in 2015, introducing a novelty in the market and a testament to her pioneering approach. Through her commitment to sustainability, Mano ensured DSL Lanka earned GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) and GOLS (Global Organic Latex Standard) certifications, making Tikiri the only toy brand with these credentials, aligning it with prestigious retailers such as FAO Schwarz and Barnes & Noble.

Mano's strategic vision has positioned DSL Lanka for long-term growth, marked by the establishment of Tikiri Toys LLC in the U.S., a major step into the American market. Amid challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, her resilience continues to drive the company toward a targeted export volume of Rs 5 billion by 2025. Her latest venture into compression-molded natural rubber baby products is set to combat plastic waste globally, solidifying her status as an industry leader with a deep commitment to eco-conscious innovation.

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Navaneeta Das

Global Client Lead,
Publicis Groupe

Navaneeta has carved a remarkable career trajectory defined by leadership, strategic insight, and unwavering dedication to excellence in the advertising industry.

Navaneeta's journey began in Dibrugarh, Assam, India, where she set an early standard of academic distinction, ranking as the top Commerce student in her state's Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate examination. Her educational path continued at the Symbiosis Institute of Arts and Commerce, where her accomplishments earned her the title of 'Best Outgoing Student' upon graduating with First Class Distinction. Furthering her studies, she attended the prestigious Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad, specializing in advertising and communications to sharpen her expertise.

Over a 25-year career, Navaneeta has held influential roles across three countries, demonstrating her adaptability and capacity to drive results in diverse cultural settings. She began her career with Ogilvy India, rapidly rising through the ranks due to her strategic acumen and contribution to high-impact campaigns. Her international tenure began at Mindshare WPP, where she transitioned from India to Singapore, earning the "Mindshare Purple Award: Best Business Planner – APAC" in 2010 for her business planning prowess.

A pivotal phase of Navaneeta's career unfolded at Johnson & Johnson APAC, where she leveraged her expertise to lead a $300 million media pitch across 14 APAC markets, ultimately generating $30 million in savings for the company. Her work during this period underscored her commitment to responsible marketing and corporate social responsibility, an ethos that defines her professional values to this day. Recognized as "Asia's Influential Digital Media Professional" by the World Brand Congress in 2015, she became an industry thought leader, known for her strategic insights and dedication to innovation.

Currently, as a key leader at Publicis Groupe, Navaneeta manages a dynamic global team spanning 92 countries, overseeing media, creative, production, and data-tech domains. Her tenure at Publicis has been marked by successful business pitches that collectively generated huge revenue and her leadership in restructuring teams and promoting geographic diversity. She champions Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives, fostering sustainable marketing practices and reinforcing her commitment to social responsibility.

Navaneeta's extensive expertise includes media strategy, marketing analytics, retail, e-commerce, and procurement, making her a versatile leader dedicated to advancing commercial success through innovative, responsible, and impactful solutions in the advertising industry.

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Kaisa Kauppinen

Design Lead,
Tietoevry

Kaisa Kauppinen is a distinguished design leader with over 25 years of expertise, spanning from foundational industries to mobile technology and software development. Currently serving as Design Lead at Tietoevry, she focuses on enhancing social welfare and healthcare solutions through human-centered design. Her career is built upon a deep commitment to understanding user needs and creating product and service experiences that are not only functional but truly delightful.

Graduating with a Master of Science in Economics from the University of Jyväskylä in 1999, Kaisa launched her career with American Management Systems, where she held consultancy roles across Sweden, Portugal, and Germany. Her career trajectory advanced further at Nokia Mobile Phones in Finland, where she spent nearly 14 years leading global user experience projects. She was instrumental in designing Nokia's earliest chat applications in the early 2000s—a pioneering step in digital communication that laid the groundwork for today's ubiquitous mobile messaging. Her tenure at Nokia was an invaluable learning platform, solidifying her understanding of global business and the strategic value of design.

Following her time at Nokia, Kaisa ventured into the start-up world as a founding member and partner in two innovative companies, bringing her expertise in user experience to new frontiers. Her pioneering mindset is exemplified by her unique approach to usability testing, including groundbreaking efforts in conducting usability tests in steel factory settings. She is also a certified educator in Design Thinking and Service Design and has contributed to training the next generation of design professionals.

A recognized thought leader in Design Thinking and Service Design, Kaisa frequently shares her insights at industry conferences. Notably, she recently spoke at the Med-Tech World Summit in Malta (2023) and is slated to present at the UX Healthcare Design conference in Prague (2024). Additionally, she is a qualified design expert for evaluating EU-funded business proposals, further underscoring her expertise and influence.

Currently, Kaisa is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Oulu, focusing on the intersection of Human-Centered Design and Benefit Realization Management within social welfare and healthcare. Her research hypothesis proposes that applying human-centered design methodologies in software projects amplifies benefit realization—a largely unexplored field with significant implications for future design strategies in healthcare.

In her leadership approach, Kaisa fosters a culture of authenticity, accountability, and psychological safety, creating environments where teams are encouraged to innovate.

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Iman Khalid Al Marzouqi

Group Chief Strategic Development Officer, REACH GRO

Iman Khalid Al-Marzouqi is a distinguished UAE national with over two decades of impactful experience across various sectors in the UAE, GCC, the UK, and the United States. Her multifaceted expertise lies in the strategic development of key support services and the oversight of operations in corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions due diligence, and board compliance for IPOs and listed companies.

Her influence extends across project management, commercial contracts, and human resources, with significant accomplishments that include managing procurement activities for over AED 1.2 billion and achieving annual savings exceeding AED 250 million. With a talent for integrating digital innovation into operations, Iman has supported the growth of several major organizations with revenues surpassing AED 5 billion and workforces exceeding 30,000 employees.

Currently, Iman holds the position of Chief Strategic Development Officer at REACH Group, a subsidiary of International Holding Company (ADX:IHC). She leads corporate strategy and KPI alignment, PMO management, and oversees legal, compliance, and marketing functions. In this role, Iman plays a crucial role in unifying the operational strategies of the group's subsidiaries with its corporate objectives. Her previous leadership role at Alpha Dhabi Holding as Group Director of Support Services emphasized her capacity for synergizing services through advanced, automated solutions in HR, administration, IT, and commercial fields, alongside completing key mergers and acquisitions.

Iman's career trajectory includes high-profile roles, such as Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Human and Administrative Resources and Training Center at Abu Dhabi Airports. There, she led a digital transformation for HR services and launched the "Take-Off (Eklaa)" program to train and employ Emirati graduates. Her commitment to Emiratization is evident in her pioneering initiatives, like the establishment of the first Emirati women's call center in Al Ain and launching national workforce training programs at Agthia Group PJSC and Al Ain Water.

Iman's early career with Schlumberger Middle East marked her as a trailblazer, where she managed training programs for Emirati engineers and oversaw the recruitment of female engineers in Oman's oil fields. Academically, Iman holds dual bachelor's degrees in Law (Abu Dhabi University) and Business Administration (American International University, Irvine). She is also a certified Federal Lawyer and is advancing her studies in Juridical Studies at Zayed University and an MBA in Project Management.



Nikki Davies

Founder, CoNEXTion

Nikki Davies is an influential leader and strategist in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. Her expertise in creating meaningful, action-driven DEIB interventions extends globally across organizations, conferences, festivals, and workshops. Through coNEXTion, Nikki provides consulting, coaching, and training that empowers clients to foster inclusive communities and dismantle systemic challenges in corporate and social environments.

With a foundation in business information technology from the University of Paisley and advanced credentials from Charles Sturt University, including an MBA in Educational Leadership and Internet Marketing, Nikki's academic achievements underpin her versatile skill set. She further refined her strategic acumen with a Board Directorship Program at the University of Hong Kong, enhancing her capacity for leadership in corporate governance.

Nikki's career spans nearly three decades across notable firms and industries. As VP of Training and Development for Morgan Stanley in the Asia-Pacific region, she led innovative learning initiatives from 2009 to 2012. Her work as Regional Lead for Diversity & Inclusion at Credit Suisse established programs in campus recruitment, talent development, and DEIB strategy. In her role as Group Diversity & Inclusion Director at Prudential plc, Nikki operationalized DEIB initiatives that improved representation, fostered belonging, and supported systemic change.

At coNEXTion, launched in November 2023, Nikki combines consulting, coaching, and event curation to promote resilience, purpose, and community. A certified ResilienceBuilder® coach, she leads workshops like hashtag#IamRemarkable and The Fearless Organization. Her recent leadership with Studio 8.5 for the launch of Jungle Island Music Festival exemplifies her commitment to inclusive event design, merging her DEIB vision with arts and entertainment. She is also consulting on the upcoming Suara Festival in Bali, extending her reach in the cultural sector.

Nikki's portfolio includes strategic partnerships with Meraki Executive Search & Consulting, TDC Global, and Resilio, addressing complex DEIB needs through customized frameworks. She integrates human-centered design principles, particularly INSEAD's Advancing Diversity & Inclusion framework, to uncover unique organizational challenges and tailor solutions that drive measurable results.

A thought leader and speaker, Nikki has contributed to articles like Conscious Inclusion and Collective Action Meaningful Progress, sharing insights on DEIB strategy and implementation. Her enduring impact is evident in the communities & clients she serves, fostering kindness, respect, and acceptance through every connection she builds.

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Karolina Kotarba

Partner and Group Operations Director, Solutions Group

Karolina Kotarba is a distinguished leader in the hospitality and lifestyle industry, with a career defined by transformative growth, operational excellence, and a commitment to innovation. Her career began in the UK in 2007, where she quickly ascended to high-profile roles in the London hospitality scene, including managing iconic venues like Pacha at The Qube and The Driver, both renowned for their exclusive experiences. With an unmatched ability to streamline and elevate operations, Karolina's leadership turned these establishments into benchmarks of success, attracting industry-wide recognition.

In 2015, Karolina joined Solutions Group as General Manager of the multi-award-winning bar LOCK, STOCK, & BARREL LLC in Dubai. Her immediate impact on the venue's success led to the launch of the flagship JBR destination, which quickly became one of the most awarded bars in the Middle East. By 2016, her expertise and dedication earned her the role of Operations Manager of Bars and Casual Dining for the group, overseeing a portfolio of high-performing venues such as Q43 and Inner City Zoo. Her significant contributions were acknowledged industry-wide when she received the Rising Star of the Year award at the 2018 Leaders in Hospitality Awards.

Promoted to Group Operations Manager in 2019, Karolina led the Bars and Restaurants Divisions, further expanding the group's footprint to include 10 venues, such as Asia Asia and Karma Kafé. Her leadership was especially instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, where she worked alongside a small core team to sustain operations despite the downsizing of over 800 employees. By 2020, her exceptional strategic insights earned her the position of Group Operations Director, and she was later made Partner alongside co-founders and senior leadership.

Today, Karolina oversees a team of over 1,500 employees and has been crucial in expanding Solutions Group's portfolio from six to 22 venues. Her forward-thinking approach has led to the diversification of the group into lifestyle sectors with groundbreaking concepts like So Much Trouble, an experiential retail bar, and Blended Wellness, a multi-wellness destination.

As one of the few female owners and operators in the Middle East's hospitality industry, Karolina is celebrated for her innovative approach, dedication to team development, and visionary impact on the future of hospitality. Her exceptional leadership continues to set industry standards, inspiring teams to deliver experiences that resonate deeply with clients and guests alike.



Joice Margo Momberger Nicolea

Chief Executive Officer, Voando Alto Aviation Business School

Joice Margo Momberger Nicolea is an accomplished CEO, mentor, and instructor, leading the Voando Alto Aviation & Business School from São Paulo, Brazil. A pioneer in her field, Joice has successfully expanded her school's reach to serve students in over 25 countries through online courses and strategic partnerships with prestigious institutions in Buenos Aires, Barcelona, London, New York, and Orlando. Under her leadership, Voando Alto has become a premier resource in aviation and business, especially known for training aviation professionals in technical English, a skill that has enabled countless flight attendants and ground agents to secure international roles by enhancing their communication, hospitality strategies, and service excellence.

Joice's approach to English language training is uniquely tailored to helping professionals stand out in selection processes and high-stakes presentations, leveraging her years of expertise to give her students a competitive edge. Her career began with a deep-seated interest in education and linguistics; in 2009, she presented a research project titled Daily Reading: Study of Literary Genres at the Scientific Initiation Fair at Feevale University, exploring the impact of reading in primary and secondary education. This early foray into language education set the stage for her future career, where she would go on to make an indelible mark on the aviation industry.

With over a decade of experience as an international press officer, Joice has demonstrated her ability to manage high-profile events with grace and professionalism. Her tenure included notable work as a volunteer for FIFA's World Cup in 2014, where her skills were put to use in an intense, multicultural environment.

Today, she is a member of the Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, where she expands her network within Arab countries, attending pivotal events like the Dubai Air Show in 2023, fostering valuable industry connections. Upcoming commitments include Dubai Smart Cities in 2024 and Submit Qatar in 2025, underscoring her commitment to global collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Recently, Joice launched a groundbreaking project within Voando Alto to support female entrepreneurs in using English to grow their networks and export their products and services globally. Known for her empathy, adaptability, and cultural sensitivity, Joice's mentorship style empowers professionals to thrive in diverse environments.

Through Voando Alto, she continues to be an inspiring force in aviation and business, supporting the next generation of industry leaders with a foundation built on communication, strategy, and international reach.

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Anitha Ganesh

TALENT ACQUISITION MANAGER, Bechtel Corporation

Anitha Ganesh is an esteemed Talent Acquisition leader with an 18-year career dedicated to excellence in the EPC sector, recognized for her expertise in strategic human resources planning and full-cycle recruitment. With a remarkable track record across regions including the Middle East, West Africa, CIS, and Asia, Anitha has consistently executed high-volume recruitment projects, championing diversity and inclusivity at every level.

A cornerstone of her achievements is her pivotal role in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, where she led transformative projects that exemplify her commitment to innovation. Among her signature initiatives is the "Returners Program" (RISE), a unique approach to talent reintegration designed to bring STEM professionals back into the workforce. This program, developed under her leadership, not only supports talent development but was also nominated for "Best Talent Development Strategy" at the HRSE KSA Awards 2024, showcasing her team's impact and commitment to diversity and inclusion. Anitha's strategic vision was further evident when she successfully recruited 200 Quality and HSE professionals for the high-profile Neom project within four months, achieving a 60% female and 40% male workforce—an accomplishment that significantly advanced her organization's Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) strategy.

During her tenure at Bechtel Corporation, one of the world's leading engineering and project management firms, Anitha's capabilities in policy implementation and stakeholder management shone. She led initiatives that enriched Bechtel's workforce diversity, including attaining the Mowaamah disability certification, thereby reinforcing the company's commitment to D&I within the region.

Anitha's leadership in overseeing talent acquisition for large-scale EPC, EPCM, and EPCI oil and gas projects has led to the successful hiring of over 200 senior professionals and the strategic employment of over 80 UAE nationals, further underscoring her ability to meet organizational goals. She was recognized with a milestone achievement certificate from Oman's PDO for her role in timely personnel mobilization.

Anitha's academic credentials include an MBA, a B.Com degree, and a Certified Diversity and Inclusion Recruiter certification, all of which reflect her strategic vision and commercial acumen. Her ability to leverage technology, demonstrated through the regional rollout of Taleo, streamlined recruitment processes, reduced hiring times and costs, and positioned her as a transformative leader in talent acquisition.

Anitha's dedication to mentoring & her emphasis on continuous learning have fostered a collaborative and empowered team culture, setting new benchmarks in Talent Acquisition through her strategic leadership and impactful contributions.



Rabab Galal Nagi

Vice President, Finance, Ecolab

Rabab Galal Nagi is an accomplished finance leader with a track record spanning over two decades of transformative financial leadership across the Middle East, Africa, and beyond. She brings a powerful blend of financial acumen, strategic foresight, and leadership, having driven the financial success and growth strategies of global enterprises. At Ecolab, Rabab oversees financial direction and optimizes resource allocation to enhance operational efficiency and profitability. Her expertise in high-level strategic planning, budgeting, and risk mitigation has made her a pivotal figure in shaping business outcomes.

During her tenure as Head of Finance at Huhtamaki Flexible Packaging Middle East LLC, Rabab co-led the transformative acquisition of Elif Holdings, realizing synergies while steering a critical business integration. Her role as Finance Excellence Director at Unilever across North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus (NAMETRUB) saw her develop a comprehensive five-year strategic plan, deploying advanced digital tools such as Microsoft Power BI. process automation, and data visualization. This digital-first approach facilitated exceptional operational transparency and efficiency, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her contributions as CFO at Unilever Mashreq and Pepsi Lipton International further underscore her command over cross-functional financial leadership. At Unilever Mashreq, Rabab led the finance and administrative functions across the Levant, Iraq, and Egypt, devising strategies that boosted operational efficiency and met complex regulatory requirements. At Pepsi Lipton International, she spearheaded market expansion initiatives in over 28 countries, including Thailand and Nigeria, contributing to exponential regional growth.

Rabab's academic background includes a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Alexandria and additional professional certifications, including the Test of Professional Competence in Management Accounting from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) in the UK. She also holds certifications in Executive Management from Cornell University and in Master Life Coaching from Florida, USA, underscoring her commitment to both technical excellence and leadership development.

Her ability to drive strategic financial initiatives across diverse markets and challenging economic climates, along with her proficiency in fostering stakeholder relationships and cross-functional collaboration, marks Rabab as an influential figure in corporate finance.

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Catherine R. Pastoret

Senior Project Manager,
Ministère des Sports, Luxembourg

Catherine R. Pastoret is a distinguished leader whose career has spanned sports health, international relations, and government service, consistently demonstrating a commitment to excellence, innovation, and national pride. With a robust foundation in physiotherapy, Catherine's journey began with a Master's in Kinesiology and Rehabilitation from Université Libre de Bruxelles, which launched her into an impactful career in sports physiotherapy and injury management.

She later served as a health manager for elite athletes across prestigious platforms like the Women's Tennis Association and the International Tennis Federation. Her expertise in sports medicine and injury prevention, honed through years of work with professional athletes, is complemented by her extensive tenure as a physiotherapist for Luxembourg's Olympic teams in Athens and Beijing, supporting athletes at the peak of competition.

In 2019, Catherine transitioned to a pivotal role within the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs as a key member in Luxembourg's nation branding initiatives. She managed strategic partnerships and events, notably coordinating Luxembourg's representation through the "Luxembourg House" initiative. Her diplomatic skills in fostering international collaborations were instrumental in elevating Luxembourg's global image. Catherine's success in this position led to her current role in the Ministry of Sports, where she holds a senior position overseeing analysis and project management in support of government priorities in sports diplomacy.

Her key projects include leading the establishment of the "Maison du Luxembourg" hospitality house for the Paris 2024 Olympics, a high-profile initiative aimed at bolstering Luxembourg's international standing in the sports sector. This complex undertaking has showcased her project management acumen, strategic foresight, and visionary leadership.

Catherine is also an esteemed educator, having lectured at the National School for Physical Education and Sports (ENEPS), where she trained future sports coaches in injury management and sports rehabilitation. Her dedication to fostering knowledge and professionalism within the sports sector has been recognized both within Luxembourg and abroad.

As an active board member of Luxembourg's National Olympic Committee and the Luxembourg Tennis Federation, Catherine remains deeply involved in national sports governance. Fluent in four languages and culturally adaptable, she is a skilled communicator who has seamlessly navigated both the sports and government sectors.



Dr. Uttara Pattanaik

Founder & Director, Uttara Pattanaik Consulting Services (UPCS)

Dr. Uttara Pattanaik is a globally recognized executive and leadership coach, an expert in personal mastery, and a transformative leader in strategic consulting. As the founder and Managing Director of UPCS, Dr. Pattanaik has pioneered a unique approach to human-centered leadership. UPCS, a boutique management consulting firm, integrates mindfulness and strategic leadership to build resilient, purpose-driven leaders.

With a transformative approach, UPCS has empowered over 30,000 leaders across industries and regions, impacting clients in the U.S., Europe, Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East. Under Dr. Pattanaik's vision, UPCS champions leadership that transcends hierarchical boundaries, fostering emotional intelligence, adaptive capability, and a commitment to positive social impact.

Dr. Pattanaik's distinguished career includes influential roles in prominent organizations, notably in the life sciences and healthcare industries. With over 23 years of strategic experience at Eli Lilly and Company, Bristol Myers Squibb, and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, she led critical business initiatives and global strategies across Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and EMEA regions. This extensive background provides her with a nuanced understanding of cross-cultural leadership, high-performance team development, and strategic organizational growth.

As a certified coach, Dr. Pattanaik holds multiple qualifications, including certifications from Erickson Coaching International, Coach for Life, and Marshall Goldsmith Stakeholder Centered Coaching. She also brings academic rigor to her work, with a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Life Sciences from Visva-Bharati University and a Ph.D. in Cardiovascular Toxicology from the University of Saskatchewan. A certified NLP Practitioner, Dr. Pattanaik is adept at utilizing diverse methodologies to tailor coaching for senior leaders, women's excellence initiatives, and social development organizations.

Dr. Pattanaik has received numerous accolades, including the 100 Most Influential Coaching Leaders Award 2023 and the 100 Most Impactful Coaching Leaders Award 2024. UPCS has also been honored with the Outstanding Contribution to Coaching Award 2021 by India Mentors & Business Coaching.

Her contributions as the former Vice President and CSR Director for the ICF Delhi/NCR Chapter and as a current Global Ambassador for the ICF Foundation underline her commitment to driving sustainable social change through coaching aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Her work continues to inspire leaders to pursue purpose-driven transformation, creating a profound impact within their organizations and beyond.

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Rohini Vasudev

Vice President – Corporate Communications, Vestian Global Workplace Services

Rohini Vasudev is a dynamic force in marketing and communications, with over 18 years of impactful experience across multiple industries. Her strategic leadership, collaborative ethos, and innovative approach have not only driven her professional success but have also positioned her as an influential figure in the field. Currently a pivotal figure at Vestian, Rohini's expertise and insight have proven invaluable in establishing and expanding the company's brand across international markets.

Rohini began her career in the hospitality industry, where she developed a deep understanding of customer experience and brand loyalty, foundational principles that have since shaped her marketing philosophy. Transitioning into corporate communications, Rohini brought her refined approach to Vestian, where her contributions have significantly defined the brand's identity and set new standards for excellence. As a member of Vestian's pre-opening team, she took on the responsibility of creating brand guidelines, building standards, and establishing a cohesive brand identity that has enabled Vestian to stand out in the competitive landscape.

Rohini's expertise has been instrumental in leading Vestian's expansion efforts in new regions, including the strategic establishment of offices in Bangalore, Shanghai, and the MEA (Middle East and Africa) region. Her ability to effectively navigate and leverage cultural nuances in each of these diverse markets has proven critical to Vestian's global success.

Among her notable accomplishments is the revamp and relaunch of Vestian's website, which she led with a focus on digital marketing innovation. Her strategic direction in enhancing the platform's usability, coupled with targeted campaigns, dramatically increased the site's reach and engagement, solidifying Vestian's standing as an industry leader.

Known for her people-centric approach, Rohini is highly respected for her warmth, inclusivity, and commitment to fostering a collaborative workplace culture. She is recognized as a "people's person" who values and elevates every team member's contributions, promoting an environment of trust, empowerment, and creativity.

Rohini's commitment to lifelong learning has kept her at the forefront of marketing trends, allowing her to introduce cutting-edge strategies that drive impactful change. Beyond her professional role, she advocates for a safe and inclusive workplace, contributing positively to both her organization and the community.

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Dr. Rajinder Atwal

M.D., C.C.F.P., F.C.F.P., Physician, Medical Director and CEO, Bathurst Walk-in Clinic and Family Practice CEO and Founder of Women Stem Mentorship

Dr. Rajinder Atwal is a highly respected family physician, medical director, and entrepreneur whose multifaceted career exemplifies her unwavering commitment to healthcare, social equity, and empowerment. Serving as the CEO & Medical Director of the Bathurst Walk-In Clinic and Family Practice for over 22 years, Dr. Atwal has provided exceptional patient care, especially advocating for immigrants, refugees, and marginalized communities, which earned her the esteemed Top Doctor Award in 2020 and recognition as one of The Leading Physicians of the World in 2016.

A trailblazer in nonprofit leadership, Dr. Atwal is the founder and CEO of five impactful organizations, including Women STEM Mentorship, Beyond Boundaries Soccer, Green Teen Generation, Covid 24-7 Canada, and Covid Kids Canada. Through Women STEM Mentorship, she provides free mentorship programs, forms partnerships with industry leaders, and supports gender diversity within STEM fields. This work earned her a place among the "100 Women Power Leaders of Asian Origin in 2023" and "The 10 Most Inspiring Women Leaders to Follow in 2024."

A passionate advocate for inclusive sports, Dr. Atwal co-founded Beyond Boundaries Soccer, which provides youth with intellectual and physical disabilities opportunities to participate in soccer. Her work promotes social inclusion by offering resources to youth facing challenges such as autism and mobility impairments, allowing them to experience the benefits of sports participation.

Dr. Atwal's environmental advocacy as the co-founder of Green Teen Generation has empowered youth to engage in conservation efforts, leading initiatives such as educational workshops and community-based projects. Her accomplishments in healthcare extend to founding Covid 24-7 Canada, a virtual nonprofit that provided critical round-the-clock COVID-19 support, and Covid Kids Canada, which offered free mental health services to children affected by the pandemic.

Dr. Atwal's influence has also been recognized with the "Waterfront Award for Science & Technology 2023," "Women in Business Women of the Year for Healthcare, Medical & Biotech 2023," & "Female Achiever Lifetime Achievement Award 2023." She serves on the board of the Girls Action Foundation & is an examiner for the Canadian College of Family Physicians, further demonstrating her leadership in healthcare.

A published author, her recent book, Breaking Barriers: Women in STEM, is set to inspire the next generation. Dr. Atwal's legacy of patient advocacy, social entrepreneurship & commitment to empowering marginalized groups reflects her as a visionary leader who continues to drive lasting change.

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Sara Aldaous

Sr. Head of innovation, Badael Company

Sara Aldaous is a pioneering force in the fields of Research & Development, Product Development & Entrepreneurship, boasting over 19 years of strategic expertise. With an impressive track record across Fortune 500 companies & private equity-backed enterprises, Sara has driven innovation & growth within the health & wellness industry, crafting consumer-centric products that have set industry standards.

As the Executive Director of R&D at Worldwide Sport Nutrition Supplement Inc., Sara demonstrated her visionary leadership by orchestrating the strategy behind $480 million worth of protein brands. Her strategic initiatives in commercialization & pipeline development propelled the company's US-based protein products to new heights, solidifying her as a leader in the wellness market.

Following this, her transformative role as Director of Product Development & R&D lead for The Bountiful Company's Sport & Active Franchise oversaw a $350 million portfolio. Under her leadership, the franchise saw a 64% increase in consumption & a 2% rise in market share over two years, highlighting her ability to drive growth through strategic partnerships & innovative solutions. Her earlier roles at The Bountiful Co. as Senior Product Development Manager & Product Development Manager further underscore her commitment to building competencies & expanding talent, bolstering her reputation as a transformative leader.

Sara's career is also marked by her significant contributions to Kraft Heinz and PepsiCo, where, as a Senior Product Developer and Senior Scientist, she exemplified a forward-thinking approach to product innovation, continuously pushing industry boundaries. Her tenure at Energizer Personal Care further reflects her talent for pioneering new products in consumer wellness.

Currently, Sara serves as the Senior Head of Innovation at Badael Co., a Public Investment Fund (PIF) subsidiary based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Since October 2023, she has led the company's growth strategies, product development initiatives, and partnership opportunities, fostering a collaborative culture and creativity that keeps Badael at the cutting edge of innovation.

Academically, Sara's foundation is equally robust. She holds a Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology from the University of Florida, an M.S. in Food Science and Human Nutrition from the University of Maine, and a B.S. in Food and Nutrition from King AbdulAziz University. This strong academic background supports her ability to bridge scientific rigor with practical applications seamlessly.

Sara Aldaous, Ph.D., is not only a skilled leader but also an inspiring trailblazer committed to driving impactful innovation and mentoring emerging talent in the industry, setting a high standard for future generations.

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Ruchika Malhan Varma

Chief Marketing, Customer and Impact Officer, Future Generali India Insurance Co. Ltd.

Ruchika Malhan Varma is a distinguished leader in India's marketing landscape, serving as the Chief Marketing, Customer, and Impact Officer at Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited. This role places her at the helm of one of India's prominent insurance providers, a joint venture between Generali, one of the world's largest insurers with a 190-year legacy, and the Future Group. With over 23 years of expertise across India and Asia, Ruchika has successfully driven growth and innovation in sectors including financial services, media, entertainment, travel, and consumer goods.

A results-driven strategist, Ruchika is renowned for her ability to scale both startup and established brands. At Future Generali, she oversees a comprehensive portfolio, leading brand and marketing communications, digital marketing, product strategy, customer experience, and digital sales. Additionally, she champions the company's Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) and Sustainability initiatives, reflecting her commitment to driving positive impact and corporate responsibility. Her multifaceted role also includes enhancing digital capabilities and implementing transformative product innovations that align with evolving customer needs.

Ruchika's career is marked by a series of impactful roles in leading organizations. Before joining Future Generali, she served as the Chief Marketing Officer at IDFC FIRST Bank, where she played a pivotal role in building and managing the brand identity of both IDFC Bank and IDFC FIRST Bank. Her career journey also includes prominent positions at BBC Worldwide News, Lonely Planet and the Singapore Tourism Board in Singapore, along with senior roles at VIP Luggage and Electrolux Group in India. Each of these roles enriched her diverse skill set, blending her expertise in brand strategy, digital transformation, and customer engagement across multiple industries.

Her professional accomplishments have garnered widespread recognition. Ruchika has earned several prestigious awards, including the WARC International Awards and Marketing Effectiveness Awards (The Effies). In 2023, she was named Financial Express Visionary Leader and Innovator of the Year at the Women Leading Change Awards. Her accolades include CMO of the Year 2023, Asia's 100 Power Leaders in Marketing & Communications 2022, and Iconic Woman Leader 2021. Additionally, she has been celebrated as India's 50 Best Marketing Leaders and Global Woman of Worth in 2021, and Asia's Finest Insurance Leader in Marketing in 2020.

Ruchika Malhan Varma stands as a thought leader and a transformative force in the marketing domain, bringing visionary leadership to every role she undertakes.

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Julia Veglesi

Vice President of Strategy & Partnerships, Richmond Global Sciences (RGS), President of Hungarian Association of British Alumni (HABA)

Thrilled to announce that Julia Veglesi -Economist, Vice President of Strategy & Partnerships at Richmond Global Sciences (RGS), President of the Hungarian Association of British Alumni (HABA), and Co-Founder of Beyond Goals – is named one of the Global 200 Women Power Leaders for 2024 in the Rising Leaders category.

Julia is an exceptional leader whose expertise in impact investing, entrepreneurship, international relations, and community building across the UK, UAE, and Hungary exemplifies her commitment to innovation, sustainability, and empowerment. Her achievements as a triathlete also reflect her resilience in both her professional and personal pursuits.

Originally from Hungary, she graduated from University College London (UCL) – a top 10 university globally - with a BSc in Economics degree in 2018. She excelled academically and in extracurricular activities, serving as the VP of Competitions for the UCL Business Society.

Julia began her professional journey as a Corporate & Investment Banking Analyst at Citibank, contributing to major financial transactions in the CEE region. Her passion for impact investing led her to Impact Ventures, where she spearheaded investments in startups that generated both financial returns and positive social and environmental outcomes.

In 2021, Julia joined RGS, a London-based tech startup co-founded by Harvard Business School Professor George Serafeim, pioneering impact accounting for investors at scale. In her current role as VP of Strategy & Partnerships, Julia is instrumental in shaping the company's brand, forging strategic partnerships, and driving its growth alongside the CEO. She represented RGS at events such as the UN COP28 in Dubai and the WEF in Davos, and has delivered a TEDx talk on impact accounting.

During the COVID lockdowns, Julia co-founded Beyond Goals, a program aimed at enhancing young professionals' motivation and self-awareness through workshops, positively impacting 40+ participants to date. During this time, she also began her triathlon journey: initially planning to complete just one race, she went on to place as runner-up in a Hungarian National Championship and completed 3 Ironman 70.3 races within 2 years.

Since becoming the President of HABA in 2023, she has organized several professional networking events with the British Embassy in Budapest, the British Council, and the Hungarian Embassy in London. Under her leadership, HABA has grown into a vibrant community of 750+ members. As an advocate for women in leadership, Julia organises the HABA Women Forum in Budapest, the first large-scale English-speaking event in the city focused on this topic.

Her achievements include selection for McKinsey's Inspiration for Tomorrow and the British Council's Leadership for Gender Equality program, recognition as a NOVA Member and Top 50 Hungarian Young Talent, and a Certificate of Excellence from the office of H.H. Sheikh Abdulhakim Obaid Suhail Buti Almaktoum of the Dubai Royal Family.

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Dr. Hema Prem

Vice President of Insurance, Europe, Infosys

Dr. Hema Prem is a transformative leader with over 25 years of expertise in the insurance and technology sectors. As Vice President of Infosys, the P&L leader & Portfolio Head for the company's European insurance business; driving sustainable growth and executing large-scale transformation initiatives for clients in Europe. Her leadership spans across North America and Australia for marquee clients ensuring strategic alignment with global accounts through cross-border delivery teams operating from EMEA, the Americas, and Asia-Pacific.

Dr. Prem's deep industry knowledge, combined with her expertise in IT, agile processes, and large-scale operations, has enabled her to spearhead numerous successful transformation programs. She has supported clients in post-merger integrations, infrastructure modernization, location strategy, and the adoption of emerging technologies. Recent highlights include (a) leading a consolidation effort for a large multinational insurer, where she was instrumental in setting up a single target operating model across six EMEA regions. Her work resulted in multimillion-dollar savings and positioned Infosys as a strategic partner for further initiatives across numerous additional regions (b) driving strategic collaboration with a European credit insurance group to modernize its IT infrastructure, support business efficiency, and cost optimization. With an aim to accelerate the cloud journey, enhance its AI capabilities to enhance its workplace services to deliver a simpler and better customer experience.

Dr. Prem's leadership extends beyond operational execution, as she consistently builds agile, high-performing teams through inclusive leadership across numerous disciplines. She excels at navigating matrix models, managing global teams, and establishing strong stakeholder relationships. Feedback from clients highlights her decisiveness, grit & perseverance, commitment, and ability to take ownership of complex challenges, further reinforcing her reputation as an excellent team player and strategic leader.

Dr. Prem is a UN UK delegate and a BAME leader at the confederation of British industries. She has worked with Intel and SAP Labs, and was selected as a Lieutenant in the Indian Navy. Dr. Prem holds an engineering & management degree. Hema js a Ph.D. from the prestigious research institute IISC and is an alumnus of Stanford University.

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Sharesz T. Wilkinson

Founder and CEO,
Resilient Power

Sharesz T. Wilkinson is an accomplished change and resilience expert, success mentor, and CEO & Founder of Resilient Power, with a remarkable career that spans entrepreneurial leadership, philanthropy, and international network-building. Renowned as a 22-time international award-winning change agent, Wilkinson has consistently empowered high-level executives and multinational corporations to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

As a member of both the Forbes and Harvard Business Review Advisory Councils, Wilkinson is recognized globally for her expertise in resilience and her commitment to fostering positive change. She serves as a Senator for the USA in the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) and is an active member of the WBAF Global Women Leader Committee, as well as the Executives' Global Network (EGN). Her leadership and influence have garnered numerous accolades, including Asia's 100 Women Power Leaders (2023), Top 50 Global Women to Look Out For (2023), and the Visionary Leader Award (2021). Additionally, she was honored with the Exceptional Women of Excellence Award at the Global Woman Economic Forum (WEF) in 2018 and was a nominee for the prestigious Tallberg/ Eliasson Global Leadership Prize in 2019.

In addition to her work in executive mentorship and leadership, Wilkinson is a celebrated author. Her co-authored book, Success Mindsets: How Top Entrepreneurs Succeed in Business and Life (Simon & Schuster, 2021), achieved #1 on Amazon for Entrepreneurship and made The Wall Street Journal and USA Today Bestseller lists, solidifying her role as a thought leader in personal and professional development. Her insights have been featured across top publications, including Forbes, BBC, Authority Magazine, Thrive Global, and Hollywood Weekly.

As a sought-after speaker, Wilkinson has addressed audiences of over 3,000 people worldwide. Her recent speaking engagements include the Peace City World Congress 2023 (aligned with the UN SDGs 2030), the Global Women Leadership, Empowerment, and Transformation Forum 2022, and the FamCon Family Office Conference. She has also delivered keynote speeches at the WBAF World Congress and World Leader Summit, and she was invited by Dr. Abdullah Al Qahtani to the Corporate World Intelligence event, where she spoke alongside prominent leaders.

Through her impactful leadership, Sharesz T. Wilkinson continues to shape the global discourse on resilience, women's empowerment, and transformative change. Her pioneering approach to success mentoring and leadership development has left a lasting mark on the international business landscape.



Angelina Chua

Head of People & Culture, Asia Pacific South, SIG Group

In the fast-evolving landscape of Human Resources, Angelina Chua stands as a beacon of transformative leadership. With an illustrious career spanning over two decades, she has seamlessly woven strategic brilliance with empathetic guidance, becoming a luminary in the global HR domain.

Angelina's journey is a testament to her visionary approach. Her strategic acumen, coupled with an innate understanding of empathetic leadership, has propelled her to spearhead progressive HR practices across diverse industries. Her knack for leading successful transformations is unparalleled, redefining workplace dynamics and reimagining talent management paradigms.

At the heart of Angelina's ethos lies an unwavering commitment to fostering inclusive and forward-thinking workplaces. Her initiatives have redefined how companies approach talent acquisition and team retention, establishing an extraordinary track record in attracting top-tier talent and nurturing high-performing teams.

The HR community reveres Angelina's contributions, adorned with prestigious accolades and profound recognition for her pioneering work. She isn't just an achiever; she's an influencer and mentor, generously imparting her wealth of knowledge to empower and embolden aspiring HR professionals. Her voice resonates powerfully on various stages, as an influential speaker shaping the future of HR practices.

Angelina Chua's passion for effecting lasting change and her unwavering dedication to cultivating thriving work cultures set her apart as an exceptional HR leader. Her impact reaches far beyond the boardrooms, inspiring individuals and organizations to aim for unprecedented success, nurturing not just business growth, but holistic development.

In a realm where leadership often hinges on metrics and methodologies, Angelina's approach is a symphony of innovation and empathy, crafting a narrative that places people at the core of organizational success. Her enduring legacy continues to shape the ever-evolving HR landscape, fueling a collective aspiration for workplaces that are not just productive, but also nurturing and empowering.

Angelina Chua isn't just an HR leader; she is the architect of a future where work isn't just a means to an end, but a journey towards collective growth and fulfillment. Her exceptional ability to blend strategy with empathy makes her an irreplaceable force driving the evolution of workplaces toward a brighter and more inclusive tomorrow.

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Preeti Dmello

Global Head and Chief Diversity Officer, Tata Consultancy Services

Preeti D'mello is the Chief Diversity Officer and Global Head of Organization Development, Leadership, Coaching, Diversity (DEI), and Culture at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). With over three decades of experience, Preeti has been at the forefront of transforming TCS' global leadership and diversity ecosystem, shaping the company's culture with her innovative, results-driven approach. Her work centers on a five-pillar DEI framework—Representation, Ecosystem, Enablement, Engagement, and Development—underpinned by the philosophy "Inclusion without Exception."

As the architect of TCS' Diversity and Culture initiatives across 49 countries, Preeti has integrated DEI into TCS' business imperatives, consulting with clients to redefine their diversity strategies. Her efforts contributed to TCS receiving the 2021 Google Cloud Partner of the Year Award in the Global Diversity & Inclusion Partner category and inclusion on the Bloomberg Gender Equality Index. She also founded the Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) at TCS, creating spaces for employees to engage in dialogue and foster inclusion.

Preeti's leadership extends to the creation of the LeaD Academy and Coaching Centre of Excellence (CCoE), which focuses on senior leadership development and women's leadership education. Her programs have won multiple global awards, including the prestigious PRISM 2021 from the International Coaching Federation (ICF). She has trained over 12,000 senior leaders and built a global cadre of 500 internal coaches, establishing a robust culture of mentoring within the organization.

Before joining TCS, Preeti held a pivotal role at Pearson Learning Solutions as Regional Director for South Asia. There, she spearheaded regional strategy, operations, and service delivery across seven countries, driving a 40% revenue increase for two consecutive years. Her work in education included the re-launch of the Edexcel brand in South Asia and leading a World Bank project to design a five-year training plan for Bhutan's educators.

Preeti holds a Master's degree in Positive Organization Development and Change from Case Western University, certifications in Adult Development and Coaching Psychology from Harvard University, and a PCC certification from the ICF. Currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Wisdom Studies from Ubiquity University, Preeti also plays advisory roles in organizations such as the Gestalt Institute of Asia and the International Coaching Federation.



Narine Kotikyan

Co-Founder & General Manager, Spacetab

Co-Founder & COO at Spacetab has been chosen among the Global 200 Women Power Leaders 2024

Narine Kotikyan is a distinguished innovation, growth, and marketing professional with over 18 years of experience in managerial roles across leading global companies in the technology, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), and advertising sectors. Currently, she leads the growth and operations at Spacetab, a Swedish-Armenian software development company. In this capacity, Narine is instrumental in providing digital transformation services and technical solutions to partners, while also assisting scale-ups from Europe in building and managing R&D teams in Armenia.

Narine is deeply engaged in Armenia's startup and innovation ecosystems, actively helping tech-enabled early-stage ventures to access global networks and international markets. She serves as a regular jury member and panelist at various startup competitions and tech events throughout Armenia, Georgia, MENA, and Europe. Her extensive experience includes consulting and mentoring hundreds of startups, as well as organizing community events and entrepreneurial education programs. As a representative of two major global networks in Armenia—Founder Institute and Startup Grind Global—she has designed and delivered multiple regional acceleration programs for founders in over 35 countries, partnering with organizations such as UNDP and various European governments.

Narine is a member of the Science & Technology Angel Network of Armenia, a member of the global Digital Economy Commission in the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and serves as the local chair of its respective commission in ICC Armenia.

Before her current roles, Narine held prominent positions in marketing and growth at renowned companies. She built and led teams at Monitis TeamViewer, directed a global growth team at Silicon Valley-based DevTeam.Space, and served as a Chief Marketing Officer at Ashtarak Kat, a leading FMCG company in Armenia. Earlier in her career, she established and led the Media Department at McCann Worldgroup in Armenia, managing a prestigious client portfolio that included global brands such as L'Oréal, Coca-Cola, Austrian Airline, Kimberly-Clark, Ferrero Rocher, and more.

Narine is a graduate of Stanford University's executive program on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, holds an MA in International Economics from Yerevan State University, and teaches in the MBA program at the American University of Armenia.

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Christina Khater

Founder & CEO,
Kristies Lab

Christina Khater stands as a transformative force in the world of luxury brand communications as the Founder and CEO of Kristies Lab. With a passion for storytelling and a keen understanding of market dynamics, Christina has successfully positioned Kristies Lab as a premier creative agency in the MENA region, specializing in marketing, advertising, and events management.

Christina's career is marked by her unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation. Under her guidance, Kristies Lab has earned a stellar reputation for its expertise in events management, conceptualizing and executing high-profile gatherings across Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Lebanon, and Kuwait. The agency's ability to create unforgettable experiences reflects the luxury and prestige of its clients, enhancing their brand visibility and fostering meaningful connections within the industry.

Her leadership has not gone unnoticed; Christina has received numerous accolades for her contributions. In 2023, she was honored at the Mother Iconic Records Awards, celebrated in the company of leading media figures and Arab influencers. Christina's commitment to social impact is evident through initiatives like "One Home at a Time," which restored 87 homes after the Beirut port explosion, and the subsequent "Flip For Beirut" art initiative, supporting 90 families affected by the tragedy. These efforts underscore her dedication to community upliftment and resilience.

In 2019, Kristies Lab was recognized by the UN Global Compact for its commitment to gender equality, scoring an impressive 88% on women's empowerment principles. This recognition was complemented by the agency being named a Pioneer for Sustainable Development Goal 5 by the United Nations Global Compact Network Lebanon. Christina's participation in the Vital Voices VVGROW fellowship program at Harvard further solidified her role as a global advocate for women in business.

Her accolades extend back to 2014 when Kristies Lab received the People's Choice Award at the Brilliant Lebanese Awards. In 2016, the agency represented Lebanon at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit hosted by President Barack Obama, and Christina earned the Silver Stevie Award for Woman Entrepreneur of the Year in the EMEA regions.

Christina Khater's unwavering belief in the transformative power of creativity continues to drive Kristies Lab's success, setting new standards in luxury communications while inspiring the next generation of female leaders in the region.

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Shalini Vohra

Group Head – Leadership Development, Talent Management and Culture, Landmark Group

Shalini Vohra is a distinguished global HR professional with over 26 years of extensive experience in the retail and aviation sectors. Currently, she serves as the Group Head of Leadership Development, Talent Management, and Culture at Landmark Group in Dubai, UAE. In this pivotal role, Shalini spearheads the Group's Talent Management Strategy, focusing on proactive management of top talent, succession planning, and the design of a comprehensive cultural framework aimed at enhancing employee engagement.

Before joining Landmark Group, Shalini was the Head of Human Resources for Home Centre, a leading home retailer in the Middle East. Her career commenced in the dynamic startup environment, where she was instrumental in building organizations from the ground up, significantly contributing to their expansion and profitability while establishing robust operational processes and teams. Shalini's diverse career spans notable companies such as Air Sahara, SpiceJet Limited, Wataniya Airways in Kuwait, and Infiniti Retail Limited., A Tata Enterprises(Croma), where she adeptly managed a workforce representing over 50 nationalities across various geographies.

With a strong analytical mindset, Shalini is celebrated for her innovative and strategic approach to HR initiatives. She has successfully navigated various HR functions throughout her career, including Global Talent Acquisition, Talent Management, Organizational Learning & Development, Change & Culture Management, and Performance & Rewards. Her leadership style is marked by resilience and a solution-oriented approach, excelling in complex, multi-tasking environments with a focus on timely execution and quality deliverables.

Shalini holds a Bachelor's degree from Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi University, and an MBA in Human Resources from EMPI – B School, India. Additionally, she completed a Strategic Human Resources Management Program at IIM Ahmedabad, India, and is a certified auditor in Social Accountability – 8000.

Recognized for her significant contributions to the HR field, Shalini has received numerous accolades, including the Laureate in Human Resources by the Laureate Assembly 2024, Asia's 100 Women Power Leaders 2023 by White Page International. Beyond her corporate responsibilities, Shalini is passionate about mentoring young girls and actively engages in social causes, making her a role model for many.

In her personal time, Shalini is an avid traveler and enjoys watching movies, further showcasing her multifaceted interests.

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Olivia Bauda

Al Tayer Insignia

Olivia is a dynamic and accomplished professional in the luxury retail and hospitality industry, bringing nearly a decade of experience and a passion for excellence to her work. Her journey began in Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean, where she was born and raised, before moving to the UAE in 2016 to pursue her career ambitions after completing her bachelor's degree. Her dedication to her craft and her natural leadership abilities have propelled her into a senior role in one of the region's most prestigious companies.

Currently working with Al Tayer Insignia in Dubai, Olivia expertly crafts PR and events strategies for an array of luxury brands, spanning department stores, fashion, fine jewelry, lifestyle, and home goods. Her role involves constant communication with brands, departments, and suppliers to develop customer engagement strategies and ensure successful product launches that leave lasting impressions on customers. As a mentor to two coordinators on her team, Olivia shares her wealth of knowledge and experience, encouraging them to strive for excellence and embrace continuous growth.

Olivia's career trajectory has been marked by significant achievements in luxury hospitality and retail. Her meticulous approach to creating tailored client experiences has solidified her reputation as an expert in the field. In 2023, she further honed her skills by earning an MSc in Luxury Management and Guest Experience from Glion Institute of Higher Education in Switzerland. This advanced education provided her with cutting-edge insights into the luxury industry, which she has effectively applied to her professional endeavors.

Her prior roles, including Hospitality, Corporate and Luxury Retail Sales Management in Dubai, have given Olivia a comprehensive understanding of the luxury market. She has proven her ability to adapt to the evolving landscape of the industry post-COVID, employing innovative strategies to engage with customers and contribute significantly to her teams' success.

This recognition inspires her to continue leveraging her creativity and confidence to forge a sustainable future for herself and her community. She is committed to expanding her personal branding and core values, aiming to become a prominent figure in the world of luxury retail.

In summary, Olivia's dedication, vision, and passion for the luxury industry have distinguished her as a rising star in her field. Her commitment to excellence and ability to inspire others make her a valuable asset to any organization and an exemplary candidate for the honor of being recognized among the Rising Women Leaders 2024.



Maryam Naim

Chief Marketing Officer
BusinessJot

Maryam Naim is an accomplished marketing professional with over 18 years of experience spanning sales, marketing, data, IT, and leadership roles. With her versatile skill set and deep understanding of business dynamics, she has successfully steered numerous companies toward achieving their goals and elevating their brand presence.

Maryam's educational background is as distinguished as her professional experience. She holds a Mini MBA in Leadership from the European Institute of Learning and Management in Dublin, Ireland. Additionally, she is a Google Certified Professional, Sun Certified Java Programmer, and a Certified Web Application Developer. Her continuous pursuit of knowledge also includes HarvardX's certification in the R programming language and IBM's Data Science Certification.

Maryam held senior executive positions at leading IBM and Microsoft business partner firms, including Royal Cyber Inc. and Evincible Solutions.

Maryam's expertise lies in developing comprehensive 360-degree marketing strategies, both Above the Line (ATL) and Below the Line (BTL), across various channels such as search engines, social media, and Google AdWords campaigns. She is adept at leveraging Enterprise Business Solutions from Google, IBM, Microsoft, and Oracle to deliver impactful results for her clients.

In 2007, Maryam launched her company, BusinessJot, which grew from a freelance project into a registered digital marketing agency in Sharjah, UAE, in 2013. Through her visionary leadership, the agency has been instrumental in providing cutting-edge digital marketing solutions to businesses worldwide. Her most recent venture, Mark8ng.ai, is a hybrid of AI and marketing solutions tailored to niche businesses, reflecting her commitment to staying ahead of technological trends.

Maryam has been recognized for her work by reputable universities in Pakistan. On International Women's Day, she was honored as a "Women Tech Entrepreneur" at Bahria University and introduced the "Marketing for Developers" course series at Jinnah University for Women. These initiatives showcase her dedication to empowering young IT and marketing professionals and promoting women's leadership in the tech industry.

As an advocate for corporate social responsibility, Maryam has conducted numerous digital marketing and sales trainings, workshops, and seminars to educate and mentor youth, especially women. She integrates CSR into her programs, including sessions on workplace sexual harassment awareness.

In summary, Maryam Naim's Her strategic vision, entrepreneurial spirit, and commitment to excellence have established her as a respected leader in the fields of marketing, data science, and AI.

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Daniela Camberos

Head of People,
DD360

Daniela Camberos stands as a visionary force in HR technology and social leadership, known for her innovative application of AI to revolutionize recruitment processes and champion inclusivity. As the Head of People at DD360, a prominent proptech fintech firm, Daniela has led transformative initiatives that redefine industry standards in equitable hiring, diversity, and workplace fairness. Her visionary approach to AI integration has set new benchmarks, notably through the creation of an AI-powered recruitment platform that uses avatar-based technology to mitigate biases, increase hiring efficiency by 50%, and foster a truly inclusive workforce.

Daniela's academic foundation, with degrees from the prestigious Tecnológico de Monterrey and Anáhuac University, is complemented by her specialized leadership training at the University of Cambridge. Her educational background equips her with both the technical and strategic skills essential for leading complex HR transformations. Daniela's roles extend to influential global networks, including a significant position with the Wo+Men's Leadership Centre at Cambridge. These affiliations underscore her commitment to advancing global discussions around gender equity, diversity, and leadership innovation.

Throughout her career, Daniela's achievements have gained international recognition. She was honored as Chief People Officer of the Year by the WomenTech Network, a testament to her integration of advanced technology and data analytics in HR practices that drive efficiency and equity.

In addition to her corporate achievements, Daniela is actively involved in the G100, serving as the Country Chair for the AI, Data, and Cybersecurity wing. In this capacity, she has led high-impact initiatives promoting digital transformation and cybersecurity awareness, demonstrating her expertise at the nexus of technology, HR, and social responsibility.

Daniela's influence reaches beyond corporate borders through her roles as a speaker and mentor. Her dedication to fostering fair, inclusive workplaces has positioned her as a thought leader within the tech industry, and her advocacy inspires a global movement towards innovative and equitable work environments.

Her journey at DD360 and her impact through platforms like G100 illustrate her unparalleled capability to drive meaningful organizational change while promoting inclusivity, innovation, and integrity on an international scale.

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GLOBAL 200 INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS 2024

Pali Tripathi - Taabi Mobility (RPG Group Company)
Ts. Dr. Steven Gan Sau Phin - Boost Digital Bank
Bob Philips - Skills Cafe
Dr. Adil Dalal - PINNACLE PROCESS SOLUTIONS, INT'L, LLC
Makiko Hirano - MBDGs Association
Harsh Pandey - Takumi International
Rajesh J Jain - FUTURA
Sajith Kumar - Howden UAE
Ajay Nambiar - PYP & M3M
Bruno Pegado - Grupo Bruno Miguel Pegado Ltd.
Dr. Corrie Block - Paragon Consulting
Amit Baveja - Jindal Stainless Limited
Oussama Barkia - IBM
Juan José de La Torre - Raven, a Virtus company
Noor Hanna - INTERNO
Abul Hassan Khan - Oriental Shuraa
Angad Bedi - BCD Group
Omar Al Ammary - MEDGULF Saudi Arabia
Bassem Awada - MENA, Terrapay
Asli Erem - Tuncerler Holding
Humaira Nasim - DreamWeavers Coaching & Consulting Services
Wael Hammad - XS.com
Michelle Lauren Field - Essex Girl Beauty Ltd
Dr. John V. Francis - ZtartUp.com
Dr. Hayder Al Zubaidy - Occucare Middle East
Dr. Indira Khurana - Laser Cosmetics and Pain Treatment Clinic
Dr. Kazi E. Hossain - Al Shaheen Technical Contracting
Company, WLL
Kranthi Puppala - Pragmatic Design Solutions Limited
Rani Majzoub - KPMG Saudi Arabia
Dr. Ajay Bakshi - Metamorphosis Unlimited
Dania Salha Quaglio - Camouflage Productions
Dr. Valdet Decani - Albaqeramika
Tarun Khullar - PACIFIC LINK COLLEGE
Dr. Kate Barker - Chief Future of Work Officer
Annabella Nassetti - A Living Concept Ltd.
Jushak Rahman Chukkan - Abu Dhabi Precast LLC
Narayanan Krishnan - Falcon Eye Cyber Security
Shabir Momin - One Digital Entertainment, New Media Holding
Avinash Ananda - #1 Global Leadership & Happiness Guru and Founder of the World Happiness Movement
Manish Mohapatra - Holistic Essentials Ltd
Sandeep Chatterjee - IBM Consulting
Dr. Saeed Al Mansoori - Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)
Comte Sébastien de Beauffort - Tonic Teaching and Coach Me Academy
Abdul Wahab Mohammed - Infosys limited
Kad Djehaf - FiberLean Technologies
Ayman El Tanbouly - Exits MENA
Dr. Sankaraiah Sreeramula - Turilytix.AI
Madhu Jain - IIFL Foundation
Girish Chandrashekhar - Pharma Global Partners
Krishna Ramanujam - RFID & AI, Data Capture Systems
Dr. Mahmoud Seif - ALSTOM
José Antonio Sánchez Marín - SOLANELLAS NUTS
Ashok Prabhu - Atos
Dr. Dima Rachid Jamali - Canadian University Dubai
Darryl Custer - KEO International Consultants
Denny Januar Ali - The Indonesian Survey Circle (LSI)
Indira Bunic - EmpowerU - Ignite Your Leadership Journey
Hesham Almekkawi - Tim Hortons Middle East
Dr. Raza Siddiqui - Arabian Healthcare Group LLC, RAK Hospital
Rizvi Farook - Heartland General Trading Co LLC
Selina Yuan - Alibaba Cloud International
Shiraz Adarbad Jamaji - AL HUZAIFA FURNITURE INDUSTRY
Dr. Adrian-Victor VEVERA - National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics – ICI Bucharest
Irfan Khan - Evercare Group
Burny Johnson - Emirates General Petroleum Corporation
Burak YAKA
Gagan Sehgal - Lals Group
V Manjunath Rao - Jakson Group
Sven Kienesberger - Kienesberger Maschinen Erzeugungsund Handels - GmbH
Andre Eckholt - Hettich India
May Bahjat Kanoun - Grooming Wear
Ghassen Knani - Mining Contracting and Infrastructures International
Kamal Satsangi - Air India Ltd (TATA Group)
Vijayanand Choudhury - Sterlite Technologies Ltd
Solange Gregorio - Future Healthcare Group
Pramod Jasraj Bharati - PSA Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals
Talal Alhabib - Soogista Studios
Bashar Mezher - Kaplan Professional ME
Nirav Patel - CUNQ.GOLD
Mervan Telmesani - Saudia Group
Dr. Rajiv Modi - Cadila Pharmaceuticals
Dr. Syed A. Syed - PJ Lot Group
Mahuran Sanusi Mat Ali - Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad
Abraham Joseph Abou Jaoude - Prime Stay Holiday Homes
Hajeer Nainan Koya - Ace Inspire Group of Companies
Dania Daoud - Credit Suisse AG
Dr. Vikas Mishra - Mawarid Mining LLC.
Nishant Monani - KH FOGES PTE LTD

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Pali Tripathi

Chief Executive Officer,
Taabi Mobility (RPG Group Company)

Pali Tripathi's leadership along with a specialised core team at Taabi Mobility Limited has been nothing short of transformative, driving innovation & reshaping the landscape of mobility solutions. Her strategic prowess, coupled with a commitment to excellence, has not only propelled Taabi Mobility to new heights but has also earned her recognition on the global stage.

Pali's journey is one of resilience & innovation, marked by a keen ability to turn uncertainty into opportunity. As the architect of CEAT's groundbreaking tire-as-a-service business, she pioneered an analytics-enabled model that charged customers based on a pay-per-use system. In a short span of three years, this venture scaled remarkably. Now at the helm of Taabi Mobility, Pali continues to push boundaries, steering the company towards new heights with IoT-based SaaS solutions.

Yet, Pali's impact goes beyond profit margins; it's about strategic triumphs & market leadership. At CEAT, she led the initiative of doubling the distribution network in just two years, deploying cutting-edge technology for location mapping. This not only enhanced CEAT's strategic footprint but also established its dominance in the competitive two-wheeler segment.

Taabi Mobility, under Pali's adept leadership, is rewriting the playbook. In a mere 100 days, the flagship fuel solution product reached a milestone of 100 customers, making Taabi Mobility one of the RPG Group's fastest-growing success stories. Pali doesn't just lead; she transforms industries, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of logistics.

However, Pali is not confined to boardrooms; she's a mentor, a guide & an advocate for change. Pali has served on the boards of Tyresnmore.com & eFleet Systems Pvt. Ltd. & extends her expertise to guide startups towards operational excellence and scalable growth. Additionally, she champions EmpowHer, a forum within RPG dedicated to mentoring and empowering women, embodying the spirit of leadership with a purpose.

Pali's accolades speak volumes, with prestigious awards such as the ET Prime Women Leadership Award adorning her journey. In a world crowded with leaders, Pali stands out as an architect of change, a growth strategist & a woman empowering others to rise. Join us in celebrating the journey of an inspiring leader who continues to shape the future with innovation & purpose.



Ts. Dr. Steven Gan Sau Phin

CTO,
Boost Digital Bank

In the dynamic realm where technology meets finance, Dr. Steven Gan emerges as a beacon of innovation, seamlessly blending strategic planning, product innovation & a fintech evangelist's mindset. With a distinguished career spanning over 18 years, Dr. Gan has navigated the intricate landscapes of Global HOST software delivery, digital banking & financial technology, leaving an indelible mark on each venture he undertakes.

Pioneering Global Ventures
Dr. Gan's journey began with spearheading the delivery of HSBC Group's First Islamic Subsidiary in Malaysia. From steering the OneHSBC Gold Suite project in North America to leading HSBC Digital's department in Malaysia, he has consistently demonstrated a flair for business streamlining & digital transformation.

As the Country Head of Digital for Malaysia at HSBC, Dr. Gan played a pivotal role in driving digital initiatives, propelling sales to unprecedented heights. His charismatic leadership also earned him the chairmanship of the Internet Banking Task Force for Bank Negara Malaysia.

Innovative Leadership at Axiata Digital
Transitioning to Axiata Digital, Dr. Gan took on the mantle of CTO for Boost Digital Bank. His collaborative approach enabled the establishment of a robust consortium, securing the Digital Banking license from BNM. Dr. Gan's leadership facilitated the successful transition of Boost, Malaysia's leading e-wallet, to the groundbreaking Boost Digital Bank.

Under his guidance, Boost not only surpassed its targets but also forged strategic partnerships with industry giants like Huawei, Alipay+ & UPI. Dr. Gan's achievements extend to overseeing the business strategy development plan, obtaining regulatory approvals & kickstarting the construction of the first homegrown Digital Bank in Malaysia.

Dr. Gan's accolades include the "Global Outstanding Technology Leadership Award" at the Internet 2.0 Conference in 2023. He has been recognized with the "Fintech – Financial Technology" awards in multiple consecutive years for groundbreaking programs such as "BoostBills" in 2022 & the "BoostUP" loyalty program in 2021. Dr. Gan's achievements also extend to international recognition, including the "World's Best Consumer Digital Bank 2016" by Global Finance & the "Best Retail Online Banking Experience" at The Asset Triple A Digital Awards in 2017.

Educational Prowess
Dr. Gan holds a Doctorate in Technology Management from the European International University - Paris (Official), complemented by a MBA & Bachelors of Information Technology (Hons.), majoring in Software Engineering at a prestigious Malaysian university.

As he forges ahead, Dr. Steven Gan remains a driving force in the ever-evolving landscape of digital finance.

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Bob Philips

Founder,
Skills Cafe

The turning point in Bob's career came in 2009 when he shifted his focus from corporate leadership to full-time operations consulting, with a special dedication to developing resources for growing leaders. This pursuit led to the establishment of Lamad Academy, an initiative that has become instrumental in distributing his invaluable resources to multinational companies & nurturing leaders across nations.

As Lamad Academy's influence mushroomed, so too did the demand for its offerings. Recognizing the unique needs of the business community, Bob partnered with great minds & leaders at Transcendix to form what is now globally recognized as Skills Café. This partnership enabled the enrichment of their educational repository, catering to a diverse range of industries. Skills Café has achieved remarkable milestones, touching the lives of over 200,000 leaders from more than 200 corporations in upwards of 10 countries.

Moreover, Bob's selfless vision gave rise to Lamad Ventures, a non-profit dedicated to empowering students in developing countries, proudly supporting over 400 scholars since 2012. "In my mind, Skills Café & Lamad are not merely educational platforms, they are examples of a leadership movement that instills profound values, behaviors & inspires living by them", Bob reflects, "That's what makes me so passionate about what we are doing, it's about making a tangible, positive difference in millions of lives".

Bob often recalls a harrowing event in 1999, surviving a shipwreck & capture by sea pirates, which he believes was a turning point that reinforced his purpose "I was fortunate to come out alive" he shares, "That ordeal convinced me there was more I was meant to do, more I could contribute to people's lives.

Bob's contributions have been acknowledged through numerous accolades. He has penned a USA National bestseller on Persuasive Leadership. His forthcoming book "Echoes of Genesis" draws inspiration from the life lessons of historical figures mentioned in the Bible. Beyond writing, Bob is a distinguished speaker & adjunct university faculty member.

Yet, the core of Bob's message is not captured by his triumphs; it is a narrative of resilience in the face of adversity. He counsels, "Dont count your losses; count your lessons". It is a testament to his belief that there is a silver lining to every setback & that our failures, not just our successes, forge our wisdom.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Bob for his relentless dedication & wish him success & a profound impact as he continues to inspire individuals around the globe. To explore more about Bob's contributions & philosophy, be sure to explore his website at bobphilips.com



Dr. Adil Dalal

President & CEO,
PINNACLE PROCESS SOLUTIONS,
INT'L, LLC

Dr. Adil Dalal is a transformative leader, globally revered for catalyzing organizational metamorphoses. His unique blend of strategic acumen and hands-on expertise propels businesses toward operational excellence. A distinguished international keynote speaker, he has delivered over 100 talks on technology and humanistic subjects worldwide.

As an award-winning author, coach, and consultant, Dr. Dalal acts as a catalyst, empowering teams to unprecedented performance levels. Committed to fostering continuous improvement, he stands as a thought leader. His presentations, more than speeches, are transformative experiences, resonating beyond the professional sphere.

Globally acclaimed, he has received prestigious awards, including the Most Inspiring Thought Leader, Global Award for Quality & Leadership, Shingo Award, ASQ Crosby Medal, Teaching Excellence Awards, and the Axiom Best Business Book Award.

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Makiko Hirano

Chairperson,
MBDGs Association

In the ever-evolving landscape of global education, there are few luminaries whose dedication & innovation stand as beacons of inspiration. Among these, Makiko Hirano emerges as a pioneering force, a visionary whose tireless efforts have reshaped the paradigm of learning. With a career spanning decades, Makiko's journey embodies the essence of transformative education, grounded in compassion, resilience & an unwavering commitment to progress.

At the heart of Makiko's illustrious career lies the inception of Mind-Based Development Goals (MBDGs), a groundbreaking initiative aimed at instilling Mind Fundamental Education for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Born out of a fervent desire to empower individuals across the globe, MBDGs epitomize a holistic approach to personal growth & societal change. Through six meticulously crafted goals, including Self-Establishment & Vision Awareness, Makiko's brainchild heralds a new era of education, one rooted in self-awareness and collective empowerment.

Makiko's indomitable spirit and visionary leadership have garnered widespread acclaim, earning her accolades such as Asia's 100 Women Power Leaders and the Outstanding Leadership Award. Her transformative impact reverberates far beyond borders, with her work being featured prominently in esteemed publications and conferences worldwide.

With an unwavering dedication to fostering positive change, Makiko has collaborated with a diverse array of organizations, from multinational corporations to grassroots initiatives. Her efforts extend to the furthest reaches of the globe, where she spearheads training programs in schools, companies, and local governments. Through her work, Makiko transcends barriers of geography and culture, championing the cause of education as a universal right and a catalyst for societal transformation.

In regions plagued by inequality and limited resources, Makiko's teachings offer a beacon of hope. In Africa, where access to education is often constrained by socioeconomic factors, MBDGs have emerged as a catalyst for change. Empowering students and educators alike, these programs nurture the seeds of self-confidence and resilience, paving the way for a brighter future.

Makiko's journey is a testament to the power of education to transcend boundaries and ignite the flames of possibility. As she continues to trailblaze new paths in the realm of global education, her vision remains unwavering: to create a world where every individual has the opportunity to realize their full potential, and where education serves as a catalyst for lasting, meaningful change.



Harsh Pandey

Managing Director,
Takumi International

In the dynamic realm of market research, there exists a rare breed of visionaries who not only navigate the complexities of consumer behavior but also sculpt unparalleled strategies that redefine industry standards, Harsh Pandey, a luminary in the field, whose illustrious career spans over 22 years, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of market intelligence.

Trailblazing Career Path:
Harsh's journey reads like a narrative of relentless pursuit of excellence. Armed with a distinguished academic background, Harsh embarked on his professional voyage, swiftly ascending the echelons of the industry. His tenure saw him traversing through esteemed organizations where he honed his craft & garnered invaluable insights that would later shape his illustrious career.

A Legacy of Achievements:
Harsh's indomitable spirit & strategic acumen have earned him a plethora of accolades & achievements. From spearheading groundbreaking research initiatives to orchestrating seamless operational activities, Harsh has consistently delivered results that exceed expectations. His leadership prowess is evident in his role as the MD of Takumi International, where he has been instrumental in steering the company towards unprecedented growth & acclaim.

Pioneering Innovation:
At the helm of Takumi International, Harsh has championed a culture of innovation, propelling the company to the forefront of the market research domain. Under his stewardship, Takumi has pioneered cutting-edge methodologies & technologies, revolutionizing how insights are gleaned & applied. From harnessing the power of AI-driven analytics to deploying sophisticated data collection techniques, Harsh's visionary approach has ushered in a new era of market intelligence.

Educator and Mentor:
Beyond his corporate endeavors, Harsh is a revered figure in the industry, revered for his role as an educator & mentor. His passion for nurturing talent & fostering growth has seen him mentor a legion of aspiring market researchers, imparting invaluable wisdom & guidance along the way. Harsh's commitment to excellence extends beyond organizational boundaries, as he continues to inspire & empower the next generation of industry leaders.

A Visionary for Tomorrow:
As we look to the future, Harsh's unwavering dedication to excellence, coupled with his visionary leadership, ensures that Takumi remains at the vanguard of market intelligence, poised to navigate the ever-evolving landscape with precision and prowess.

In the annals of market research, Harsh's legacy is etched in the fabric of innovation and excellence, a testament to his unwavering commitment to shaping the future of the industry.

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Rajesh J Jain

Chief Executive Officer, FUTURA

In the dazzling realm of lighting solutions, one name illuminates the path to success—Rajesh, the dynamic CEO of FUTURA. With an unparalleled passion for work & an unwavering leadership ability, Rajesh has carved an indelible mark in the industry, proving himself to be a beacon inspiring the future generation.

The saga begins in 1984 when Shri Jayanti Lal Jain, Rajesh's father, ignited the spark by establishing a modest 100 sq.ft retail shop. However, fate intervened when health issues confined Shri Jayanti Lal Jain to bed, thrusting young Rajesh into the world of business at the tender age of 13. Undeterred by the challenges, Rajesh seized the reins in 1997, initiating a transformative journey.

What followed was a testament to his grit & ambition. Recognizing the future in the lighting industry, Rajesh strategically embraced the distributorship of GOLDEN LIGHTS from Taiwan, making him a national player in the industry. As he soared to greater heights, Rajesh delved into technical lighting, steering the focus towards Architectural Lighting.

The evolution continued & establishing FUTURA occurred in 2007 as a symbol of innovation with a 1000 sq.ft showroom in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Amidst the peaks, adversity struck in 2015, testing Rajesh's resilience. Yet, fueled by unwavering enthusiasm & an unyielding spirit, he redefined FUTURA's trajectory. By 2016, he envisioned a corporate culture for FUTURA, opening its first experience center in Ahmedabad.

The subsequent years witnessed strategic expansions, with setting its Head Quarter at Chennai & 16 channel partners experience centers across India with flagship stores in Mumbai, Delhi & Pune.

FUTURA crowning achievement came in 2022, marked by a prestigious merger with the "Pagariya Group" of Nagpur. FUTURA's growth trajectory saw a quantum leap, culminating in the construction of a factory in Oragadam, Chennai Tamil Nadu in 2023. Rajesh embarked on a new chapter by establishing a manufacturing unit in Chennai, displaying a keen foresight into self-sufficiency.

Beyond his business acumen, Rajesh is an active participant in institutions like JITO, where he serves as a CP member, JATF Patron & Convener B2B. As a trustee in various organizations like Mahavir Camel Sanctuary, Navratna Dham Palitana & Mahaveer Rajasthani International School he exemplifies his commitment to community & social causes.

FUTURA accolades, including ET- Inspiring Business Icon Award, ACE Tech Exhibition Grand Stand Platinum Award & TOI Business Icon Award, attest to Rajesh's prowess as an industry luminary. FUTURA, under his leadership, is not just a brand; it's a visionary force shaping the future of architectural lighting.



Sajith Kumar

CEO and Managing Director, Howden UAE

A seasoned professional, Sajith's illustrious career is adorned with milestones that attest to his prowess in the insurance sector. Armed with a comprehensive education background, Sajith brings a blend of academic acumen and practical wisdom to the helm of Howden UAE. His journey commenced with stints in notable companies, honing his skills and shaping his perspective on the intricacies of the insurance landscape.

Upon assuming the role of CEO at Howden UAE in 2018, Sajith embarked on a mission to redefine the company's standing in the market. Under Sajith's leadership, the organization witnessed a transformative facelift, elevating its market presence and positioning it among the top brokers in the region.

Sajith's strategic acumen is evident in the comprehensive growth plan he implemented for Howden UAE supported by the region and headquarters. Focused on sustainable growth while upholding a "People first" culture, Sajith's approach has proven to be a catalyst for success. Under Sajith's guidance, Howden UAE has made substantial investments in talent, technology, and infrastructure, catapulting it to the forefront of the international brokerage arena by bringing specialism and talents closer to our clients. His unwavering commitment to innovation has led to groundbreaking solutions that have redefined the client-broker relationship. The company's market recognition, including being awarded many coveted recognitions from insurers and industry.

In the face of challenging market conditions, Sajith's dynamism and passion distinguish him as a leader who transforms adversity into exemplary performance. His visionary approach has not only set a new benchmark for competitors but has also instilled a sense of commitment and ownership among Howden team.

Under his visionary leadership, Howden in the region consistently raises the bar for excellence, serving as a model for the entire industry. With a commitment to innovation and client satisfaction, Sajith Kumar inspires his team to surpass expectations and achieve unprecedented success.

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Ajay Nambiar

COO, PYP &
CSO, M3M

In the dynamic landscape of modern business, where innovation & excellence are paramount, stands Ajay Nambiar, a seasoned leader renowned for his transformative impact across diverse industries. With over 3 decades of rich experience spanning hospitality, technology & real estate sectors, Ajay has earned his stripes as a visionary leader, a trailblazer in customer experience (CX) & a catalyst for organizational growth.

Ajay's journey into the realms of business excellence commenced with his enrollment in the prestigious Management Training Program at ITC Hotels, where he honed his skills in hospitality management. A decade-long stint in leading hotel chains such as ITC Hotels & Holiday Inn, coupled with ventures into timeshare with Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited & Mahindra Group, laid the foundation for his illustrious career.

As the Indian technological revolution unfolded, Ajay seamlessly transitioned into the realm of technology, spearheading groundbreaking initiatives at the forefront of innovation. He was among the pioneering professionals to embrace the telecom revolution with BPL US West, followed by a pivotal role at Sify, India's pioneering Internet service provider. At Sify, Ajay orchestrated the establishment of India's first broadband portal, sifymax & engineered a nationwide service network from scratch.

Subsequently, Ajay's journey led him to Yahoo India!, where he made significant strides in content innovation by introducing regional channels & pioneering live streaming of cricket & fashion events, revolutionizing digital media consumption in India.

However, it was in the realm of real estate that Ajay's transformative leadership truly flourished. Over the past decade, he has left an indelible imprint on the industry, spearheading game-changing initiatives at renowned organizations such as Emaar India, L&T Realty & presently, M3M & Smartworld Developers. Ajay's shift towards a process-based approach in service delivery set new benchmarks in the real estate sector, with his strategies being adopted by top developers nationwide.

As the CSO at M3M & Smartworld, Ajay oversees the service organization, while also donning the hat of COO at Port your Property (PYP), a pioneering platform for second-sale real estate units exchange.

Ajay's stellar achievements extend beyond organizational realms. He has earned global recognition as one of the Top 150 Global CX Thought Leaders & Influencers & Global Inspirational Leader in 2023 underscores his unwavering commitment to excellence.

Ajay's remarkable journey is characterized by a relentless pursuit of excellence, a penchant for innovation & an unwavering dedication to customer-centricity.



Bruno Pegado

Chief Executive Officer,
Grupo Bruno Miguel Pegado Ltd.

Armed with a blend of automotive engineering and business administration expertise, Bruno embarked on a journey that would reshape the automotive landscape. His tenure at renowned companies honed his skills and deepened his understanding of the industry's nuances, setting the stage for his entrepreneurial endeavors.

Founding the Bruno Miguel Pegado Group and Pegado Motors marked a pivotal moment in Bruno's career. These ventures weren't just business enterprises; they were catalysts for change in African markets. From design and research to production and distribution, Bruno's companies introduced customized solutions that addressed the continent's unique needs, setting new standards for quality and innovation.

A crowning achievement in Bruno's career is his distinction as the first Angolan to own a car brand. This milestone symbolizes not only his entrepreneurial prowess but also his unwavering determination to defy conventions and carve his path.

Bruno's impact extends far beyond boardrooms and factories. His initiatives have tangible, transformative effects on communities. In just 45 days, he created over 400 jobs across Africa, demonstrating his commitment to socioeconomic progress and empowerment.

Moreover, Bruno's ethos of inclusivity and social responsibility shines through in his creation of the first 6-seater passenger tricycle for disabled individuals in Africa. This innovation isn't just about mobility; it's about fostering self-employment opportunities and promoting dignity and independence.

Bruno's collaborative spirit is evident in his partnerships with leading factories and developers in China. These alliances facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology to Angola, driving sustainable development and fostering global synergies.

Looking forward, Bruno's vision is as bold as ever. With plans to establish assembly line factories across Africa, he seeks to democratize entrepreneurship and create economic opportunities for young Africans. His commitment to supporting aspiring entrepreneurs, especially those lacking financial literacy skills, underscores his dedication to inclusive growth and prosperity.

In essence, Bruno Pegado's journey is a testament to the transformative power of vision, perseverance, and purpose. Through innovation and leadership, he continues to leave an indelible mark on the automotive industry and inspire change that transcends borders and transforms lives.

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Dr. Corrie Block

Chief Executive Officer,
Paragon Consulting

Dr. Corrie Block is a distinguished authority in executive coaching and business strategy, renowned for his transformative impact on leadership and organizational performance. With over 30 years of global experience, Dr. Block has established himself as a pivotal figure in the realms of business strategy, organizational behavior & leadership development.

Dr. Block's career spans three continents, where he has provided strategic consulting to a diverse array of organizations including the World Bank, the United Nations & major multinational enterprises. His work has influenced over 150 companies across 30 countries, showcasing his expertise in driving business transformation & enhancing executive performance. His role as Chief Executive Coach at Paragon Consulting, UAE, underscores his commitment to shaping high-impact leaders & organizations.

An accomplished serial entrepreneur, Dr. Block has founded five successful businesses in Europe & the MENA region. His innovative approaches have garnered numerous awards, reflecting his ability to spearhead product innovations & develop effective training programs. His entrepreneurial ventures have not only contributed to his success but also to the advancement of business practices across various sectors.

Dr. Block's educational background is equally impressive. He holds a Doctor of Business Administration from Monarch, Switzerland, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Exeter, UK. His academic credentials are complemented by a Master of Arts in Global Leadership from Fuller, USA & a Master of Arts in Business Administration from Monarch, CHE. Additionally, Dr. Block has earned certificates in Artificial Intelligence for Business from MIT & Leading with Finance from Harvard, underscoring his commitment to continuous learning & adapting to emerging trends.

In addition to his consulting and entrepreneurial achievements, Dr. Block is a respected academic. He serves as a Professor of Strategic Management at Monarch, Switzerland, where he imparts his extensive knowledge to the next generation of business leaders. His thought leadership is further exemplified by his contributions to major publications, including Forbes, Entrepreneur & Fortune, as well as leading academic journals such as Oxford Journals & IGI Global.

Dr. Block's coaching methodology has been praised for its effectiveness in fostering personal and professional growth. Testimonials from clients like Mark, Marcel Bruyere, and Hussam Baghdadi highlight his ability to inspire significant improvements in leadership, career progression & personal development.



Amit Baveja

Chief Business Officer,
Jindal Stainless Limited

In the tapestry of India's modern leadership, Amit Baveja stands as a distinguished figure, his career a testament to excellence across military, business & strategic spheres. A graduate of the esteemed hashtag#IIM Ahmedabad & a military veteran, Amit's journey epitomizes a relentless pursuit of excellence & a fervent commitment to Nation-building & capability development.

With a career spanning over 25 years, Amit's military achievements shine as brightly as his unwavering dedication. Widely recognized as a Scholar Warrior in the Indian Army, the impact created during planning, instructional & regimental tenures bears testimony to his strategic brilliance, technical acumen, operational mastery & seamless execution. As the Commanding Officer of an Air Defence Unit, he orchestrated a remarkable transformation, catapulting his unit to the pinnacle of performance within a vast cohort.

His pivotal role during Earthquake Relief Operations in the aftermath of the Bhuj Earthquake of 2001 saved countless lives, a testament to his courage, commitment & compassion. His leadership also facilitated technological empowerment & augmentation of training standards of Army units, resulting in significant enhancement in operational efficiency.

Transitioning seamlessly into the corporate realm, Amit's prowess as a startup specialist has left an indelible mark on India's defence, security &medical devices sectors. Joining Adani Defence and Aerospace as the first Army veteran, he spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives, pioneering the establishment of Small Arms & Ammunition businesses. Amidst the pandemic's tumult, he played a pivotal role in setting up B Medical Systems manufacturing capabilities for vaccine cold chain solutions.

Amit's tenure as CBO for Small Arms Business at Jindal Stainless showcases his unwavering commitment to fortifying India's defence & security capabilities. Under his stewardship, a state-of-the-art weapons manufacturing facility was set up & operationalized, bolstering the Nation's self-reliance & ushering in a new era of indigenous defence equipment production.

Amit's legacy as a well-rounded leader is defined by transformative cultural shifts & thought leadership. His advocacy for agile, capability-driven & collaborative organizations has yielded unparalleled results, while his contributions to think tanks, study groups & advisory committees have helped shape governmental policies across sectors.

Amit's guidance has illuminated the paths of countless individuals & propelled their careers to new heights. His mantle of awards & accolades, including multiple awards by the Army's apex leadership and recognition as one of LinkedIn's Top Voices, stands as a testament to his enduring impact & influence.

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Oussama Barkia

EMEA Marketing Leader,
IBM

Oussama is a senior marketing and corporate communication professional with extensive experience in developing and putting into practice marketing strategy, ABM, media, public relations, event strategies, and creative initiatives in the technology sector. He is a true brand ambassador who is dedicated to the success of his business and his clients. Oussama is a global citizen and a diversity ambassador.

Leaders from a diverse array of backgrounds and industries, representing UK , Japan , Spain , Canada , US , Cyprus , Saudi Arabia , UAE , Kuwait , Kosovo , Turkey , Australia , India , Singapore , Italy convened to create a melting pot of inspiration at the Global Business Conclave 2024.

And let's not forget the luminaries in attendance – the distinguished presence of figures like Lord Michael Abraham Levy, Lord Swraj Paul, and Virendra Sharma Member of Parliament UK lent an air of prestige to the proceedings!

Adding a touch of global flair were esteemed ambassadors such as H.E. Mr. Ilir Kapiti from Kosovo , H.E. Mr. Rafael Ortiz Fabrega from Costa Rica , H.E. Karen Mae Hill from Antigua , H.E. Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda from Angola , H.E. Ivan Romero-Martinez from Honduras , H.E. Sofia Katsarava from Georgia , and Vesta Ratkevičiūtė from Lithuania , Vivian Kabouroglou, Minister of Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Embassy of Greece to the UK, and Iszam Khail Ishak, 2nd Minister at the High Commission of Malaysia to the UK who added an international touch of sophistication to the affair!



Juan José de La Torre

Chief Executive Officer,
Raven, a Virtus company

Juan Jose is the dynamic force behind RAVEN and a digital disruption trailblazer from Madrid. With a journey spanning continents and nearly two decades, Juan José's passion for innovation and digital transformation is unmatched. As CEO, he's combined strategy, design, and technology to help clients globally redefine their processes and accelerate growth through digital. Juan José's visionary leadership has not only propelled RAVEN to the forefront of digital disruption but has also inspired countless individuals within the industry. His ability to seamlessly merge strategy, design, and technology showcases a rare talent for navigating the complexities of modern business landscapes.

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Noor Hanna

Founder & CEO
INTERNO

Educational Foundation:
Noor A. Hanna's journey into leadership within architectural engineering began with a solid educational foundation. Equipped with a degree in architectural engineering, he embarked on a path fueled by a profound passion for creating spaces that transcend the ordinary.

Pioneering Interno Designs:
Noor's impact on the industry crystallized with the inception of Interno Designs. This venture embodies his vision for setting new benchmarks in quality & ethical business practices within construction & design. Under his stewardship, Interno Designs has not merely built structures but has woven narratives of innovation & sustainability into every project.

Storied Career Trajectory:
Noor's professional journey is marked by a series of notable achievements & impactful roles. From formative experiences that honed his skills to pivotal positions within renowned companies, each step has contributed to his evolution as a leader of distinction.

Hands-On Leadership:
A defining feature of Noor's leadership style is his hands-on approach. He leads by example, immersing himself in projects & guiding his team through challenges with expertise & inspiration. His dedication & work ethic serve as a guiding light, inspiring excellence in those around him.

Resilience & Adaptability:
Throughout his career, Noor has navigated through turbulent waters with resilience & adaptability. From navigating risky environments to overcoming unforeseen obstacles, his ability to innovate and problem-solve under pressure sets him apart as a true visionary.

Financial Acumen & Strategic Vision:
Noor's astute negotiation skills & financial acumen have been instrumental in steering Interno Designs towards sustainable growth & success, even amidst economic uncertainties. His strategic vision & ability to leverage critical information have consistently secured advantageous outcomes.

Commitment to Safety and Well-being:
Noor places a premium on the safety & well-being of his team, implementing proactive measures to ensure their welfare, particularly in hazardous work conditions. His commitment to fostering a culture of safety underscores his responsible and compassionate leadership.

Building Reputation and Community Impact:
Under Noor's guidance, Interno Designs has not only earned acclaim for its exceptional projects but has also made significant contributions to the community. Through strategic initiatives and impactful partnerships, he has cemented the company's reputation as a trusted partner and a force for positive change.

With passion, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to excellence, Noor has reshaped the construction and design industry while inspiring countless individuals to pursue greatness.

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Abul Hassan Khan

Chief Operating Officer,
Oriental Shuraa

A Thriving Beginning
Abul Hassan's journey began in 1982 when he embarked on a career in the tobacco industry. My dedication and commitment forced the company to send me on training. After successful training I was awarded a certificate as Classified Tobacco Grader (Gold medalist).

A Global Vision
Throughout his career, Abul Hassan's dynamic leadership has taken him to diverse corners of the world. From leading successful ventures in Pakistan's tobacco industry to making groundbreaking strides in Saudi Arabia's logistics sector, his impact has been felt internationally.

Unveiling New Horizons
During his tenure at Lakson Tobacco Company, Abul Hassan's visionary spirit shone brightly. He spearheaded the production of a groundbreaking new variety of Air-cured tobacco, NC 609. Through collaboration with farmers and unwavering dedication, they achieved a staggering 3000 tons of production in the very first year. The tobacco's chemistry even surpassed that of North Carolina, solidifying Abul Hassan's reputation as a trailblazer in the industry.

The Pursuit of Knowledge
Abul Hassan's thirst for knowledge knows no bounds. Alongside his professional triumphs, he earned an MBA in Marketing, fueling his strategic acumen and leadership prowess. His relentless pursuit of self-improvement inspires us all to aim higher and reach for the stars.

A Multifaceted Journey
From excelling as an Area Manager at a Mutual Funds company, earning accolades from both the government and banking sectors, to negotiating groundbreaking joint ventures in the telecom industry, Abul Hassan's diverse experiences have shaped him into a seasoned business leader with unparalleled expertise.

Embracing Global Connections
In his current role as Chief Operating Officer at Oriental Shuraa LLC, Abul Hassan has solidified the company's position as an industry leader. Successfully negotiating a joint venture with a renowned telecom company in Texas, USA, and establishing a branch in Bahrain.

An Inspirational Message
As we applaud Abul Hassan Khan's incredible journey, let us be reminded of the power of seizing opportunities and making the most of every chance that comes our way. Join us in celebrating the extraordinary career of Abul Hassan Khan, a true icon in the world of business!

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Angad Bedi

Managing Director,
BCD Group

Angad Singh Bedi, Managing Director of the BCD Group, has redefined the company's trajectory, evolving it from a legacy construction firm into a dynamic real estate conglomerate with a global presence. Known for his strategic foresight and innovative mindset, Angad has spearheaded BCD Group's diversification into low-income housing, luxury residences, corporate centers, and middle-income housing. His leadership has solidified the company's reputation for delivering high-quality commercial and residential projects through strategic partnerships and pioneering developments.

Armed with an MBA and Chartered Accountant certification, Angad began his career in consulting with esteemed firms KPMG and PwC. During his tenure, he mastered the intricacies of cross-border mergers, acquisitions, taxation, and financial restructuring. His expertise in these areas laid a solid foundation for his transition to BCD Group, where he joined the family business with a clear vision to scale new heights in the real estate sector. Today, under Angad's stewardship, BCD has achieved an impressive expansion, overseeing more than 60 million square feet of development across India and internationally.

BCD Group, now operating in seven Indian states and several countries—including the UAE, Mauritius, Singapore, and Iraq—has completed high-profile projects, including an oil refinery, IT parks, and factories for Fortune 500 clients like Delta Electronics, The Times of India Group, Oppo, and OLA. In the past year alone, the company achieved 24% year-on-year growth in the first quarter and managed 20 million square feet of ongoing projects. BCD's expansive reach and success are also attributed to its unique model of employing the largest in-house skilled labor force in India, a strategy that ensures consistency and high-quality project delivery.

Among Angad's notable accomplishments is the launch of Vanaprastha, India's first affordable rental community for senior citizens, which embodies his commitment to social innovation. Recognized as a "40 Under 40" leader in Indian real estate, he has propelled BCD Group to receive accolades such as the "Fastest Growing Construction Company in India" in 2023. Furthering his contributions to the industry, Angad pioneered a SEBI-regulated real estate fund, in partnership with Nissus, dedicated to financially stressed ventures, underscoring his dedication to sustainable growth.

Angad's visionary leadership, coupled with his dedication to quality and social responsibility, continues to drive BCD Group's growth and reshape the landscape of real estate in India and beyond.

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Omar Al Ammary

Chief Shared Services Officer,
MEDGULF Saudi Arabia

Omar is a seasoned professional with over 22 years of experience, excelling across technology and communications, FMCG, and office automation industries. His current role as Chief Shared Services Officer at Medgulf Saudi Arabia highlights his pivotal role in steering the company's strategic initiatives in human capital. Omar's leadership ensures that critical organizational milestones are met, underscoring his commitment to excellence and growth.

Before his tenure at Medgulf, Omar served as General Manager for Shared Services at Sunbulah Group. In this role, he managed a wide array of services including HR, Legal, QAHSE (Quality, Health, Safety, and Environment), and PR and Corporate Communications. His leadership at Sunbulah Group was marked by a dedication to operational efficiency and service excellence.

Omar's expertise extends beyond organizational management into strategic HR transformation. As Chief HR Transformation Advisor, he worked with both government and private entities, driving HR initiatives and collaborating with consultants to implement industry best practices. His role in these advisory positions reflects his ability to lead change and foster development in diverse organizational settings.

During his tenure as Vice President at Musaed El Seif Group, Omar was instrumental in crafting and executing the HR strategy. His leadership at Aljomaih Bottling Company was equally impactful, where he spearheaded HR transformation efforts, overseeing all HR activities and project delivery. Notably, Omar established a world-class mentorship program at Aljomaih Bottling Company, which played a crucial role in developing future leaders and ensuring a robust internal talent pipeline.

At Aljomaih Company, Omar also founded a Sales Academy aimed at addressing skill gaps in the market. This initiative demonstrated his commitment to workforce development. His visionary approach continued at Medgulf Company, where he established an academy dedicated to nurturing transformative leaders within the insurance industry. Under his guidance, the Medgulf Academy successfully implemented over 1,000 training programs in 2022, highlighting his dedication to continuous learning and leadership development.

Omar's multifaceted career, marked by his strategic vision and dedication to HR excellence, has solidified his reputation as a leading force in achieving organizational success. His contributions have been recognized at prestigious platforms, including being honored as a top HR leader at the House of Lords, UK Parliament.

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Bassem Awada

SVP MENA and Global Accounts, Terrapay

Bassem Awada's exceptional leadership, strategic vision, and dedication have undoubtedly propelled Terrapay to new heights, solidifying its position as a key player in the MENA region and beyond. His unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence sets a shining example for aspiring leaders worldwide. This well-deserved recognition not only celebrates Bassem's achievements but also serves as inspiration for future generations of business leaders to strive for excellence and make a positive impact on a global scale.



Asli Erem

Board Member, ARSAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

Dr. Aslı Erem is a prominent leader and academic with over three decades of experience in strategy, future planning, and social impact. She earned her Bachelor of Science from Hacettepe University, followed by a Master of Science from The Johns Hopkins University, and a PhD in Organizational Behavior. Her diverse educational background underscores her deep expertise in organizational dynamics and strategic management.

Erem began her career in 1995 as a Financial Analyst at Prudential, a Fortune 100 company in the USA. Her tenure there laid a strong foundation in financial analysis and strategic planning. In 1998, she returned to Turkey and joined a leading Holding Group in Istanbul as Vice President of Strategic Planning. Her role involved steering the company through critical growth phases and shaping its long-term strategic vision.

Her career trajectory continued to impress as she transitioned to the energy sector as CFO, followed by leadership positions in international real estate development and hospitality groups. Currently, she serves as CEO and Board Member of a major international group, where she oversees global operations and drives sustainable growth initiatives. Erem's leadership is characterized by her ability to navigate complex business environments and implement effective strategies.

In addition to her corporate roles, Erem is a Visiting Professor of Project Finance and Organizational Behavior, where she shares her expertise with the next generation of leaders. Her academic contributions enhance her practical experience, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

Erem's career is marked by a profound commitment to social impact. She advocates for gender equality, women's empowerment, and poverty alleviation. Her involvement extends to global platforms; she represented Turkey at the Grand Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum and engages with Y and Z generation students as a mentor and visiting professor at international universities.

Her contributions have earned her significant recognition, including the Whitepage International Global Power Leader Award from the UK House of Lords in 2024 and membership in the Forbes Finance Council since 2022. She was also named one of the Top 10 CFOs to Watch by Entrepreneur Magazine in 2023.

Aslı Erem's career reflects a blend of strategic acumen, academic excellence, and a deep commitment to social causes, making her a respected figure in both corporate and academic circles.

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Humaira Nasim

CEO, DreamWeavers Coaching & Consulting Services

Humaira Nasim is a visionary leader and transformational coach dedicated to empowering individuals and fostering personal growth. With over 22 years of diverse experience, she has seamlessly transitioned from her beginnings as a computer engineer to become a prominent figure in the realms of coaching, education, and leadership.

As the founder of Humaira Nasim Life Coaching, Humaira has developed innovative methodologies that inspire self-discovery and resilience. Her acclaimed book, Rediscover: The Roadmap to Inner Peace, Balance, and Fulfillment in Your Relationship with Life, has resonated with many seeking profound change. In recognition of her impactful work, she received the 2023 Mastermind Outstanding Life Coaching Award and the 2022 Outstanding Leadership Award in Education & Learning, highlighting her ability to transform lives through her unique coaching style.

Humaira's academic background includes a degree in Computer & Information Systems Engineering from NED University, complemented by her studies in psychology and NLP at the Mindbridge International NLP Training Institute. Her multidisciplinary expertise allows her to connect with individuals from varied backgrounds, fostering meaningful relationships and facilitating personal growth.

Her career reflects a commitment to holistic well-being and community development. Notably, Humaira has been recognized as a Legend by NED University for her contributions to shaping young minds and has earned accolades for her leadership in healthcare at global conferences. As a yoga expert specializing in trauma release, she guides clients through emotional and physical healing processes, further demonstrating her commitment to well-rounded personal development.

In addition to her coaching endeavors, Humaira actively champions women's rights and gender equality, leading the UAE's Women Leadership initiative for a major Pakistani political party. Her influence extends beyond coaching; she has been featured in prominent publications like Khaleej Times and Grazia Magazine, amplifying her voice in the community.

As a founding member of Namal University, she plays a crucial role in global mentorship, nurturing future leaders. Humaira Nasim is not just a coach; she is a catalyst for positive change, dedicated to planting the seeds of consciousness and transformation in every life she touches.



Wael Hammad

Group Chief Commercial Officer, XS.com

Wael Hammad's career in the financial services industry is marked by strategic innovation and exceptional leadership. Currently serving as Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) at XS.com, Wael has played a pivotal role in transforming the company into a leading name in the global finance and FinTech sectors. His nomination for this distinguished award highlights his remarkable contributions and lasting impact on the industry.

Before his tenure at XS.com, Wael honed his expertise in various significant roles. As Senior Regional Manager for the MENA region at ICM Capital, he was instrumental in spearheading strategic expansions that enhanced the firm's market presence. His earlier experience at GKFX Prime (now Trive) further solidified his understanding of business development and market strategy. These positions equipped Wael with a comprehensive skill set and fostered his unique leadership style, preparing him for the multifaceted challenges at XS.com.

Since joining XS.com, Wael has embarked on a mission to drive global revenue growth. Under his guidance, the company has witnessed extraordinary advancements, demonstrating his ability to craft and execute strategies that align with XS.com's ambitious goals. His leadership philosophy promotes a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement, ensuring that XS.com remains at the forefront of FinTech innovation.

Wael's passion extends beyond commercial success; he is dedicated to enhancing the trading experience for XS.com's clients worldwide. His foresight has led to the creation of a seamless and integrated service offering, tailored to meet the evolving demands of the market. This holistic approach not only accelerates XS.com's growth but also establishes the firm as a frontrunner in the financial services arena.

Recognition of Wael's influence includes accolades such as being named one of the "Most Influential Figures" and receiving the title of "Best CCO" at the Forex Traders Summit. These honors underscore his unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation within the sector.

Wael Hammad's journey reflects a dedication to foresight and excellence, making him a transformative leader whose contributions continue to shape the future of finance. His strategic vision and relentless pursuit of advancement exemplify the qualities that this award seeks to celebrate.

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Michelle Lauren Field

Managing Director,
Essex Girl Beauty Ltd.

Michelle Lauren Field is the innovative founder of Essex Beauty Girl, a brand that stands as a beacon of authenticity and empowerment in the beauty industry. With a remarkable ability to navigate challenges, Michelle has cultivated Essex Girl into a potential legacy brand, consistently adapting to market demands without compromising its core message. Under her leadership, Essex Girl has engaged in selective collaborations, including a notable partnership with Dior, exemplifying the brand's commitment to quality and its ability to resonate with its audience.

Michelle's entrepreneurial journey began with a modest investment of £300, and within her first year, she achieved profitability. By the third year, Essex Girl had turned over £100,000, earning recognition in leading publications like The Daily Mirror and The Telegraph, as well as accolades from HM Government for her success in driving global exports. This early success reflects her keen business acumen and dedication to sustainable growth.

Her contributions to the beauty sector have been widely acknowledged. In 2019, Michelle was honored as the runner-up for the Beauty Entrepreneur of the Year at the English Women's Awards, recognizing her efforts to provide a platform for women entrepreneurs and inspire future generations. The awards ceremony celebrated influential women making significant impacts in their industries, reinforcing Michelle's role as a pioneer in promoting women's empowerment.

In 2022, Essex Girl received the Corporate Livewire Prestige Award for Beauty Brand of the Year, a testament to the brand's commitment to service excellence and innovation. The judging panel recognized Michelle's leadership in creating a brand that not only excels in performance but also prioritizes quality and creativity.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges, but Michelle's resilience shone through. When her plans to roll out a branded product in retail chains were thwarted, she pivoted to create Michelle Lauren Hair Innovation, introducing the Hair Envy product line. This strategic move allowed her to stay true to her values while innovating in response to market needs.

Currently, Michelle is collaborating with a British university to develop patented ingredients targeting hair aging. As she oversees the project's initial stages, her unwavering commitment to excellence continues to drive Essex Girl forward, ensuring its place as a transformative force in the beauty industry. Through her vision and determination, Michelle Lauren Field is not only reshaping the beauty landscape but also empowering women entrepreneurs around the globe. Winner of "Cosmetic Brand of the Year Award 2024



Dr. John V. Francis

Chief Executive Officer,
ZtartUp.com

Dr. John V. Francis's visionary leadership at ZtartUp.com has not only propelled the company to new heights but has also inspired countless individuals in the global business community. His innovative strategies, unwavering commitment to excellence, and passion for fostering growth and innovation have undoubtedly made a lasting impact. This prestigious award serves as a testament to his exceptional leadership and outstanding contributions to the world of business.

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Dr. Hayder Al Zubaidy

Chairman,
Occucare Middle East

Dr. Hayder Al Zubaidy's leadership and dedication in the field of healthcare exemplify excellence. His innovative contributions have undoubtedly made a significant impact, not just regionally but globally. This recognition is well-deserved, underscoring his relentless commitment to advancing healthcare solutions and improving lives. Dr. Al Zubaidy's visionary leadership continues to inspire and shape the future of healthcare, setting a benchmark for others to emulate.



Dr. Indira Khurana

President and CEO,
Laser Cosmetics and Pain Treatment Clinic

Dr. Indira Khurana, Doctor of Integrative Medicine and Ph.D. in Physics is the President and CEO of Laser Cosmetics and Pain Treatment Clinic, a chain of clinics based in Toronto, Canada specializing in Pain, Addiction, and Dermatological conditions. Dr. Khurana's outstanding contributions to medical research and her humanitarian efforts have earned her several prestigious awards. These include the "Doctor of Humanitarian Service" award from the "World Organization of Natural Medicine" and the "Asia's 100 Women Power Leaders Award 2023," celebrating her visionary leadership and impact on healthcare and entrepreneurship.

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Dr. Kazi E. Hossain

Managing Director and Partner, Al Shaheen Technical Contracting Company, WLL

Iqbal embarked on his visionary leadership journey in 2003 with Al Kulaib International Co. Despite facing obstacles, he founded Al Shaheen Technical Contracting Company W.L.L. (ASTC) in 2009, under the guidance of mentor Mr. Shaheen Pervaiz. Today, through Kazi's unwavering dedication, ASTC has evolved into a trusted authority in Electro-Mechanical, Civil Construction, and Maintenance Works. Iqbal's exceptional foresight and resilience have earned him widespread acclaim in the industry. His ability to navigate challenges with grace and determination is truly commendable. Under his leadership, ASTC has not only thrived but has also set new standards of excellence.



Kranthi Puppala

Founder & Managing Director, Pragmatic Design Solutions Limited

Kranthi Puppala is a dynamic leader in the engineering and IT services sector, serving as the Founder and Managing Director of Pragmatic Design Solutions Limited (PDSL). Established in 2010 at Coventry University Technology Park, PDSL has gained a reputation for specializing in niche technologies within the digital engineering landscape. The company partners with globally renowned OEMs to advance cutting-edge technologies across various domains, including game theory, analytics, data mining, and cryptocurrency.

With over 14 years of experience at PDSL, Kranthi has driven significant growth and innovation. He is directly responsible for the leadership and overall profitability of the firm, focusing on business development and strategic policy formulation. Under his stewardship, PDSL has developed strong relationships with clients, prioritizing a thorough understanding of their business needs to foster long-term partnerships. His commitment to quality and cost-effective offshore services has positioned PDSL as a trusted partner for many small and micro-cap companies.

Before founding PDSL, Kranthi honed his expertise at prominent firms such as Bombardier Transportation, where he served as Lead Electro Mechanical Engineer. In this role, he was pivotal in designing electrical wiring harnesses for major transportation projects, including Eurostar and the Victoria Line. His earlier career includes significant contributions as a Mechanical Design Engineer at Cyient, where he ensured high-quality design work packages for the European market, and as a Graduate Engineer at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, where he worked on India's prestigious Fighter Jet project.

Kranthi's educational background is equally impressive. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Madras and an MBA from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University. He further enhanced his business acumen with a specialization in Business Design Strategy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

In addition to his role at PDSL, Kranthi is a Director at Rootspace.ai, a fintech platform that empowers small businesses and individuals with AI-driven financial management solutions. His leadership continues to inspire innovation in engineering and technology, reflecting his unwavering commitment to excellence and collaboration in the industry.

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Rani Majzoub

Head of Real Estate,
KPMG Saudi Arabia

Amidst the dynamic and rapidly growing Real Estate landscape in Saudi Arabia, where innovation meets strategy, Rani Majzoub stands tall as a seasoned leader, revered for his unparalleled expertise and visionary approach. With over two decades of experience in the real estate industry, Rani has not only carved a standing for himself but has also left a positive mark on Saudi Arabia's real estate sector.

Rani's journey began with a solid foundation in Civil Engineering from the esteemed American University of Beirut, setting the stage for a career characterized by excellence and innovation. His thirst for knowledge led him to further hone his skills through prestigious programs at Harvard Business School, London Business School, and among others.

Throughout his successful career, Rani has graced the corridors of renowned institutions, previously at JLL, and Emaar, The Economic City, where his strategic foresight and leadership skills were instrumental in driving strategic initiatives and projects.

At KPMG, in his role as Head of Real Estate Advisory, he spearheads the development of the firm's real estate practice, positioning it as a beacon of excellence in Saudi Arabia. His deep market knowledge and hands-on real estate experiences played a pivotal role in advising on strategic projects, aligning with the visionary goals of Saudi Arabia's 2030 Vision.

Rani's achievements speak volumes of his dedication and commitment to excellence. His role in advising on mega projects, delivering housing strategy initiatives, and fostering innovative solutions underscores his unwavering dedication to advancing the real estate socio-economic objectives of the Kingdom.

As Head of Real Estate Advisory, Rani's leadership skills have shone brightly, guiding teams through the complexities of the market with finesse and expertise. His ability to navigate competitive landscapes and his comprehensive understanding of regional markets have been instrumental in driving success for his teams and clients alike.

In summary, Rani Majzoub's illustrious career stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and visionary leadership. With a rich tapestry of achievements and a drive for transformative initiatives, Rani continues to shape the future of Saudi Arabia's real estate industry with his unparalleled expertise and strategic foresight.



Dr. Ajay Bakshi

Managing Director,
Metamorphosis Unlimited

With a career spanning over three decades, Dr. Bakshi's expertise lies in transforming organizations by optimizing their human capital. His tenure as CHRO at notable firms such as Vodafone Global Services India, Prudential Global Services Private Limited, and STL - Sterlite Technologies Limited underscores his profound impact. At Vodafone, he led a substantial expansion, growing the workforce from 1,000 to 12,000 FTEs, and orchestrated the acquisition of Cables & Wireless India. His strategic initiatives in performance management and talent development, including collaborations with prestigious institutes like IIM-Ahmedabad and IIT-Mumbai, have been pivotal.

Dr. Bakshi's contributions extend beyond HR. His international experience includes a significant role at Prudential plc, where he spearheaded talent management strategies across the UK, Europe, and Asia. As Head of HR at STL - Sterlite Technologies Limited, he facilitated the successful merger of the telecom cables and power transmission businesses, demonstrating his adeptness in managing complex organizational changes.

Educationally, Dr. Bakshi holds a Mechanical Engineering degree from MIT Manipal and an MBA from Pune University. His academic prowess is further evidenced by a PhD in Philosophy, specializing in Human Resources and Organizational Development, from California Public University. He is a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) by the International Coaching Federation (ICF) and a Fellow Member of the Institute of Directors (IoD).

His certification portfolio includes international credentials for psychometric instruments like Hogan Inventory, MBTI, DISC, and OPQ 32. His coaching repertoire boasts over 5,000 hours, having guided more than 15 CEOs and numerous senior executives globally. Recognized as a visionary leader, Dr. Bakshi's accolades include the Visionary Leader by Times of India and Inspirational Leaders of Asia in 2022, among others.

Dr. Bakshi's literary contribution, "Build to Outperform: Creating High Performing Teams," is a testament to his commitment to fostering high-performance cultures. The book offers invaluable insights into team building and leadership, reflecting his dedication to excellence.

In essence, Dr. Ajay Bakshi embodies the quintessence of leadership, transformation, and strategic HR excellence, making him a distinguished figure in the corporate and academic spheres.

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Dania Salha Quaglio

Executive Producer/ Owner,
Camouflage Productions

Dania Salha Quaglio's dedication, vision, and innovative spirit have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the global business landscape. Her leadership at Camouflage Productions reflects a commitment to excellence and creativity that inspires both colleagues and competitors alike. This prestigious award serves as a well-deserved recognition of her immense talent, hard work, and significant contributions to the industry. Here's to celebrating her continued success and influence in shaping the future of global business and entertainment!



Dr. Valdet Decani

Managing Partner,
Albaqeramika

Dr. Valdet Decani is a medical doctor, leading entrepreneur in Kosovo, Eastern Europe, Spiritual Seeker and a philanthropist. Congratulations Valdet Decani once again on this remarkable accomplishment!

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Tarun Khullar

President & CEO,
PACIFIC LINK COLLEGE

In the realm of global education, few names resonate with as much reverence and admiration as Tarun Khullar. With a career marked by visionary leadership and unwavering dedication, Tarun has become synonymous with excellence in the educational landscape. His journey, from humble beginnings as an international student to the esteemed position of President and CEO of Pacific Link College (PLC), is a testament to his unparalleled passion for empowering students and fostering a culture of success.

Tarun's academic prowess is as impressive as his professional achievements. Armed with a degree in Computer Science and International Business, he embarked on a path that would shape the trajectory of his career and impact countless lives along the way. His journey led him to Canada, where he not only pursued higher education but also found his calling in supporting fellow international students in their quest for success.

Throughout his career, Tarun has demonstrated a remarkable ability to bridge the gap between academic excellence and real-world applicability. His tenure at PLC has been nothing short of transformative, with the institution evolving from a modest language instruction center to a global powerhouse of education. Under his leadership, PLC has expanded its reach to over 73 countries, welcoming students from diverse backgrounds and providing them with unparalleled opportunities for growth & development.

Tarun's vision for PLC transcends geographical boundaries, with plans to establish the institution as a global center of excellence by 2025. His strategic collaborations with renowned institutions, such as the AHLEI - American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute, exemplify his commitment to offering students a truly immersive learning experience aligned with global industry standards.

Beyond academia, Tarunk's philanthropic endeavors underscore his dedication to making a positive impact on society. Through initiatives like the Global Philanthropy Outreach program, PLC extends its reach to orphanages in over 100 countries, instilling a sense of global citizenship in its students & fostering a culture of social responsibility.

Tarun's leadership extends beyond the boardroom, with a keen focus on nurturing diversity & inclusion within the PLC community. As Tarun looks towards the future, his aspirations for PLC are grounded in a continued pursuit of excellence, innovation & social responsibility. Tarun Khullar is more than a name; he is an opportunity for students around the world, guiding them towards a brighter & more prosperous future.

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Dr. Kate Barker

Chief Future of Work Officer

Dr. Kate Barker is a recognised global thought leader in the Future of Work, digital transformation & GenAI, leadership, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Recognized as a Chief Futurist and Global People Leader, her impressive career spans over three decades, influencing boards, Fortune 500 companies, and governments worldwide. Her accolades include the prestigious International Association of Top Professionals 2023 award as No.1 Chief Future of Work Officer, and her recent rankings further solidify her influence: Top Global Power Leader 2024, Global Top 10 Women in Tech 2022 & 2024, Most Admired Women Leader 2024, Global No. 1 Voice on Future of Work 2023, and Global Top 10 Executive Coaches.

Dr. Barker's academic prowess is demonstrated through her extensive education, including a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) focusing on Leadership in the GenAI era, an MBA, and a Master's in Organizational Psychology. Her 14-year tenure in academia, serving as an adjunct faculty member at Harvard Business School, MIT Sloan Management, INSEAD, and Duke Corporate Education, underpins her ability to provide evidence-based, cutting-edge insights to her clients.

Her professional journey is marked by influential roles and strategic partnerships. As Chief HR Futurist at NEOM, a $500 billion futurist city in Saudi Arabia, she has been instrumental in shaping the future of urban living. Her strategic advisory roles to His Highness and the Prime Minister of the UAE highlight her esteemed reputation in governmental circles. Additionally, her tenure as a Global Consulting Partner at EY New York and PWC Singapore, Asia, underscores her deep expertise in consulting and strategic advisory services.

Dr. Barker's influence extends to her role as an external advisor to Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and McKinsey, where her insights drive impactful organizational change. She has collaborated with high-profile clients, including Microsoft, SAP, Amazon, Unilever, HSBC, Deloitte, Aramco, GE, Novo Nordisk, Singtel, Virgin, and Google, delivering real-world results and advancing significant industry trends.

A globally recognized keynote speaker, Dr. Barker addresses topics such as the Future of Work, Workplace Technology Innovation, and Leadership in the Digital Era at executive summits and roundtables worldwide. Her publications on leadership, innovative workplace strategies, and workforce transformations are highly regarded in executive circles.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Barker is a seven-time marathoner with a passion for cooking, dancing, and singing, despite humorously acknowledging her lack of talent in these hobbies.

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Annabella Nassetti

CEO & Founder,
A Living Concept Ltd.

Annabella Nassetti's visionary leadership and innovative approach undoubtedly set her apart in the world of architectural interior, product design, and construction. As CEO and Founder of A Living Concept Ltd, her dedication to transforming spaces into vibrant and functional works of art has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the industry. This award not only celebrates her achievements but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring designers and entrepreneurs worldwide.



Jushak Rahman Chukkan

Chief Operating Officer,
Abu Dhabi Precast LLC

In modern business, where innovation is the driving force behind success, Jushak Rahman Chukkan stands out as a luminary figure. At 39, Jushak is the Chief Operating Officer of Abu Dhabi Precast LLC, epitomizing visionary leadership with a blend of seasoned expertise and dynamic foresight.

Jushak's journey through top-tier management spans over a decade, marked by a tapestry of achievements that reflect his strategic acumen and commitment to organizational evolution. His professional landscape is characterized by multifaceted proficiency, from pioneering profit and loss management to leading large teams with exceptional skill. Jushak's ability to embrace technological advancements and foster a culture of innovation sets him apart in today's competitive business environment.

In 2023 & 2024, Jushak was honored with the prestigious "Thought Leader of the Year" award at The Stevie Awards, affirming his status as an industry thought leader. His insights on Industry 4.0 at the esteemed Future Factory Show 2023 further cemented his role as a torchbearer of progressive ideologies within the manufacturing sector.

Educationally, Jushak is a powerhouse of knowledge and expertise. He holds an MBA from the University of Bradford, an M.Tech in Computer-Aided Structural Analysis and Design, and a foundational degree in Civil Engineering. His academic credentials are further bolstered by a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, highlighting his comprehensive grasp of project management methodologies and best practices.

As Jushak stands on the cusp of receiving the " Global Power Leader 2024" award, his narrative is one of remarkable achievements and profound impact. His story is one of transformative milestones within his domain. Jushak Rahman Chukkan is more than a business leader; he is a beacon of inspiration, blending wisdom, innovation, and transformative leadership. His contributions illuminate the path for future aspirants, making him a standout awardee for the Power List 2024.

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Narayanan Krishnan

Chief Technology Officer,
Falcon Eye Cyber Security

An award was bestowed for the heroic act of saving the life of a British citizen in South Africa on March 10, 2023. The individual had suffered a heart attack at 1:30 AM, with medication administered promptly at 1:40 AM. By 3:00 AM, the heart was stabilized, and complete stability was achieved by 5:30 AM, as confirmed by paramedics who verified both the incident and the successful recovery.

Also, Narayanan has performed in a variety of global Information Security roles. His core skills lie in defining Information Security strategies to build and maintain compliance to strict Information Security and Data Privacy regulations and standards. Narayanan Krishnan is a seasoned InfoSec professional with a diverse and global experience spanning 30 years.



Shabir Momin

Founder & Managing Director,
One Digital Entertainment, New Media Holding

Shabir Momin is a distinguished figure in technology & entrepreneurship. Starting his career as the youngest Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at just 21, he has since amassed numerous accolades, reflecting his substantial contributions to technology, digital innovation & business.

Shabir has been honored with three honorary doctorates in Blockchain, Entrepreneurship & Innovation from prestigious institutions, including the European International University and Azteca University. He is honoured as the Global Power Leader 2024 for his exceptional achievements & profound influence in technology, Digital innovation & Entrepreneurship at the Global Business conclave at the House of Lords, UK Parliament, London.

He received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from Asia’s Best Employer Brand Awards in Singapore & has been featured in the HighFlyers 50 book. Additionally, Shabir has been recognized as Business Leader of the Year by the Indian Achievers’ Forum, Inspirational Leader of Asia 2022, and Trendsetter CIO at the 3rd Elets National Conclave. His accolades also include the Fame Times International Excellence Awards-International Global Leadership Awards 2021, Entrepreneur of the Year by TiE Global in 2013 & the Rex Karamveer Chakra.

Shabir’s entrepreneurial ventures include founding & co-founding several successful enterprises such as NewMedia Holdings, Inc , Zengamedia, One Digital Media Entertainment, OneAxcess.com, InnovCrowd Pte Ltd, Clinical Nutrition, FuelWings, Neoma Ventures, TorusChain, SpaceVrse & QuizKart. His ventures span diverse industries, including robotics, space tech, media tech, OTT services, digital content, crowdfunding, cab services, women-only travel, AR/VR technology & food supplements.

Shabir’s New Media Holding, based in Singapore, manages over 25 media brands across sectors such as media, technology, travel & health. The portfolio includes notable names like One Digital Entertainment, ZengaMedia, Social Nation, Blush, Instant Bollywood, Digital2Sports, one.game, Being Indian, SpaceVrse, and Food Scientist.

His media tech ventures include OneAxcess, Engagepoints, Fancom, Podone, & Streambay. Shabir has also made significant contributions to the space industry with SpaceVrse & Space Village, which offer unique experiences in space tourism.

Shabir has advanced blockchain and Web3 through ventures like Neoma Ventures, TorusChain, FunNFT, ODP, Toric Wallet, Torus Tokenizer, Torus Scan, and Torus Swap.

In e-commerce and retail, he has made strides with MerchGarage and Quizkart, while Clinical Nutrition focuses on specialized food products for critical care patients. Shabir also supports NGOs like Voice Of Slum.

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Avinash Ananda

#1 Global Leadership & Happiness Guru and Founder of the World Happiness Movement

Avinash is global leadership & happiness master coach. Avinash is a recognised leadership advisor, happiness strategist, and a motivational keynote speaker Over the course of more than 30 years, Avinash has personally mentored more than 1000 leaders and trainers and trained more than 1 million individuals from all walks of life in 30 countries.



Sandeep Chatterjee

Supply Chain and Sustainability Leader, IBM Consulting

With a career spanning over two decades, Sandeep Chatterjee stands as a luminary in the realm of supply chain management & sustainability leadership. A graduate of the esteemed Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from the prestigious Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST), Shibpur, Sandeep's academic prowess lays a robust foundation for his illustrious career.

Sandeep's journey began with Tata Motors, where he honed his skills in maintenance planning & control, embracing methodologies like Kaizen & Six Sigma. His early exposure instilled a passion for efficiency & optimization that would define his future endeavors. From there, he ventured into the realm of consulting, serving stalwarts like Infosys & Oracle, where he spearheaded ERP implementations & upgrades, leaving an indelible mark on their supply chain strategies.

His tenure at Deloitte & KPMG solidified his reputation as a visionary leader, where he led digital transformation initiatives, leveraging emerging technologies to revolutionize supply chain dynamics. As Director at Deloitte, Sandeep helmed the South Region, driving business development & pioneering solutions that propelled organizations into the digital age.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Sandeep's stint at IBM as Supply Chain & Sustainability Leader underscores his commitment to innovation. Advising clients on harnessing technology for supply chain optimization & environmental stewardship, Sandeep epitomizes the convergence of business acumen & social responsibility.

Sandeep's influence extends to academia & advocacy. As a member of the Board of Governors at IIM Kozhikode & CEO of ISCEA India, he shapes the next generation of supply chain leaders and fosters global awareness. His TED talks & publications delve into the complexities of last-mile delivery and the enigma of work-life balance, showcasing his thought leadership in diverse domains.

Sandeep's accolades, including the Economic Times Inspiring Leader Award & recognition as one of the top 100 Supply Chain Professionals in India, underscore his impact on the industry. His role as a board member at KARE School Hyderabad reflects his commitment to social equity, championing education for underprivileged youth.

In essence, Sandeep Chatterjee embodies the quintessential modern leader – adept at navigating the intricacies of global supply chains, passionate about sustainability & dedicated to empowering others. His journey is a testament to the transformative power of vision & a relentless pursuit of excellence.

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Manish Mohapatra

Head of Global Operations,
Holistic Essentials Ltd.

Manish's journey from humble beginnings to global leadership stands as a powerful narrative of resilience, vision, and extraordinary accomplishment. Born into a modest family in a developing nation, he chose early employment over an engineering career to support his family, yet excelled academically, earning a degree in Physics with honours. His drive for excellence and self-dedication led him to serve in one of the world's largest military forces, where he held critical leadership roles for almost 2 decades. During his tenure, Manish made significant contributions to anti-terrorism and peacekeeping efforts, shaping operational readiness with unwavering dedication. His commitment to beyond the call of duty was honoured with multiple commendations, service medals for gallantry and strategic-cum-tactical leadership including the prestigious General Officers Commanding-in-Chief commendation and badge—twice within the same tenure while serving with the largest operational command headquarters, a rare achievement for any military leader.

After his distinguished military career, Manish transitioned to corporate leadership, furthering his education at the esteemed Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and earning an MBA with distinction from a leading UK business school. His analytical acumen and creative strategies quickly became evident in a consultancy project for the UK's largest McDonald's franchise, where his innovative and strategic business strategies drove operational excellence and earned him accolades from top management.

As Head of Global Operations for Holistic Essentials Group, a London-based group of companies, Manish led a remarkable transformation, expanding the company's international footprint and significantly enhancing operational efficiency. Under his leadership, Holistic Essentials Group evolved into a globally recognized brand, celebrated for its eco-friendly, sustainable, and ethically sourced products, contributing to holistic wellness and environmental sustainability. His notable achievements across the board in brand transformation, international expansion, and innovation across human and digital infrastructure have earned him a promotion to Group Chief Operations Officer (Group COO) for the Holistic Essentials Group of companies, which operates from the UK, EU, and the USA with a global presence.

In 2023-2024, Manish set new benchmarks in leadership, guiding a strategic operational overhaul across manufacturing and retail businesses in the UK, Netherlands, and the USA, yielding substantial growth and profitability. His implementation of high-impact projects achieved significant cost savings and efficiencies through optimized supply chains and competitive outsourcing. With a stellar record in crisis management, he maintained a 100% success rate in enhancing customer experience and ensuring regulatory compliance, ultimately restoring critical UK, EU and US regulatory approvals. His initiatives further included creative design and launching a luxury, natural and organic cosmetics line, embedding robotics fulfilment services across EU and UK operations, and strategically outsourcing functions to reduce fixed costs and overall financial re-structuring.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Manish contributes selflessly to social causes, serving voluntarily as the CEO of Sunshine Charity, a London-based UK charity. In this role, without financial benefit, he is dedicated to eradicating social isolation and enhancing mental well-being on a national scale. Through close collaboration with corporate, health, wellness, and other sectors, he is helping to create lasting social impact across the UK.

Manish's unique blend of military valour, corporate acumen, and social commitment makes him an exceptional awardee for the Global Leadership Award 2023-2024. His invaluable contributions to global operations, transformative leadership, and unwavering dedication to social welfare set him apart as a visionary leader whose journey inspires and exemplifies the impact of purpose-driven excellence, for which, he has been conferred with the prestigious 'Global Power Leader 2024' award in a gala ceremony held at the British Parliament (House of Lords).



Comte Sébastien de Beauffort

Co-founder & COO,
Tonic Teaching and CEO at Coach Me Academy

Sébastien de Beauffort is a multifaceted entrepreneur and educator with a fervent belief in the transformative power of education. His extensive career spans over a decade, showcasing significant contributions in technology, project management, and digital innovation. With a Master of Science in IT and Management from Supinfo International University, Sébastien has cultivated a robust foundation in both theoretical knowledge and practical application.

As the co-founder and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Bamsell, Sébastien led an IT startup project focused on developing innovative web applications across various European markets, including Sweden, Norway, and the Netherlands. His leadership as Full Stack Developer and Tech Lead from May 2018 to March 2020 further solidified his expertise in cloud transitions and agile project management.

In parallel, he served as the CTO of Zurich Insurance, where he spearheaded an international media team for paintball enthusiasts, demonstrating his capability to blend technology with niche market engagement. As the Technical Director for The Maghreb and Orient Courrier, Sébastien has played a pivotal role in shaping digital media strategies that resonate with audiences across the Arabic world.

Sébastien's commitment to education extends into academia, where he has been a dedicated teacher since 2014, instructing at prestigious institutions such as Tecnológico de Monterrey, Institut des Mines-Télécom, and Geneva Business School. His courses focus on entrepreneurship, blockchain, and digital marketing, reflecting his passion for equipping future leaders with essential skills.

Beyond his teaching endeavors, Sébastien has contributed to international development projects, including his role as a transformation strategy consultant at STC, where he guided companies in adopting agile methodologies. As the CEO and co-founder of I&F Entreprenariat, he champions ed-tech initiatives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, aiming to foster entrepreneurship through innovative digital platforms.

A recipient of multiple accolades, including awards from the ICT4REHAB appathon and Shell Eco-Marathon, Sébastien exemplifies leadership and innovation. His certifications as a Supinfo Certified Trainer and in developer security highlight his commitment to professional development and expertise in IT.

With a dynamic career that bridges technology and education, Sébastien de Beauffort continues to inspire and empower through his multifaceted contributions to society.

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Dr. Saeed Al Mansoori

Director of Remote Sensing Department, Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)

In the intricate realm of remote sensing, Saeed Al Mansoori stands tall as a beacon of innovation & leadership. With over a decade of dedicated service, Saeed has carved a distinguished path marked by transformative achievements & unwavering commitment to excellence.

Armed with a B.Sc. in Communication Engineering from Khalifa University, UAE & an M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the American University of Sharjah (AUS), Saeed embarked on a journey fueled by curiosity & a relentless pursuit of knowledge. His academic foundation laid the groundwork for a career defined by groundbreaking contributions & visionary leadership.

Saeed's professional journey reached new heights as he assumed the role of Director of the Remote Sensing Department at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre.

Central to Saeed's legacy are his pioneering contributions to satellite imagery enhancement. His development of an effective super-resolution tool revolutionized the spatial resolution capabilities of DubaiSat-1 and DubaiSat-2 satellites, pushing the boundaries of clarity and detail to unprecedented levels.

This technological breakthrough not only showcased Saeed's technical prowess but also underscored his unwavering commitment to advancing remote sensing capabilities.

Moreover, Saeed's expertise extends beyond technological innovation; he is a trailblazer in the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and artificial intelligence (AI). Through cutting-edge solutions, he has facilitated advancements across diverse domains, from urban planning and environmental analysis to disaster management and climate change predictions. By harnessing the power of AI and GIS, Saeed has laid the groundwork for intelligent, remote sensing-based solutions that promise to revolutionize our interaction with the environment.

Beyond his professional achievements, Saeed's commitment to mentorship and knowledge sharing stands as a testament to his exemplary leadership. Over the past five years, he has mentored over 15 undergraduate students, nurturing the next generation of industry trailblazers and fostering a culture of innovation.

In recognition of his contributions, Saeed has been entrusted with key leadership roles, including chairing prestigious conferences and establishing pivotal platforms such as the Emirati Society of GIS and Remote Sensing (ESGRS). These accolades serve as a testament to Saeed's enduring legacy as a visionary leader, whose tireless pursuit of excellence continues to shape the future of remote sensing technology.

As the vanguard of technological advancement, Saeed's journey serves as both an inspiration and a guiding light for generations to come.

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Kad Djehaf

Managing Director, FiberLean Technologies

In the dynamic landscape of global business, Kad Djehaf stands as a luminary figure, with a career spanning nearly two decades across diverse sectors.
With an unparalleled blend of expertise in healthcare, renewable energies, logistics, and nanotechnology, Kad has continually demonstrated his visionary leadership, driving innovation and fostering growth wherever his path has led.

Kad's journey is one marked by significant milestones, each reflecting his commitment to excellence and his unwavering dedication to driving positive change.

As the Managing Director of FiberLean Technologies, a leading player in the nanotech arena, Kad orchestrated the strategic acquisition and seamless integration of the company into the esteemed German Werhahn Group. This move not only showcased his astute strategic acumen but also facilitated sustainable growth within the burgeoning nanotech sector.

Beyond his role at FiberLean Technologies, Kad's influence is extensive. As a board member of HealthIQ Plus Inc., an AI-driven firm, and advisor to several innovative startups in the healthcare and sustainability industries, he offers strategic insights that significantly enhance value and shape business strategies across Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. His commitment to innovation encompasses initiatives that empower both professionals and customers, illustrating his comprehensive approach to leadership.

In venture capital, Kad actively contributes to various VC funds and international associations, championing technology startups that revolutionize industries. His efforts in fostering innovation align with his philosophy of nurturing growth and encouraging breakthroughs.

His impact transcends borders, evidenced by his advisory role to the European Commission. Here, Kad lends his expertise in economics, finance, leadership, and artificial intelligence, contributing valuable insights that inform policy decisions and drive innovation within the European Union.

Kad's illustrious career trajectory is underpinned by a robust academic foundation. With a Master of Science degree in Economics and Management from the esteemed University of Strasbourg, complemented by specialized studies in AI for Business at the University of Pennsylvania and leadership coursework at HEC Paris, Kad's commitment to continuous learning is evident.

Throughout his career, Kad Djehaf has not only achieved remarkable success but has also paved the way for future innovation and growth.

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Abdul Wahab Mohammed

General Manager and Senior Director – Service, Utilities, Resources & Energy business (SURE), Middle East & Africa at Infosys limited

In the intricate realm of remote sensing, Saeed Al Mansoori stands tall as a beacon of innovation & leadership. With over a decade of dedicated service, Saeed has carved a distinguished path marked by transformative achievements & unwavering commitment to excellence.

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Dr. Sankaraiah Sreeramula

Chief Executive Officer, Turilytix.AI

Dr. Sankaraiah Sreeramula, stands as a luminary figure at the forefront of the data science & artificial intelligence landscape, boasting an illustrious career spanning over 17 years of groundbreaking contributions across diverse sectors. With a profound academic foundation anchored by a Ph.D. in Information Technology from Multimedia University, Cyberjaya, Malaysia, Dr. Sankaraiah embarked on a journey of exploration into the transformative power of data.

His voyage commenced with seminal research endeavors, where he uncovered the transformative potential of AI in reshaping industries & addressing multifaceted challenges. This formative period not only honed his expertise but also served as a springboard for his subsequent forays into the corporate realm.

Dr. Sankaraiah's professional odyssey took flight with a pivotal role as a Data Scientist in a leading technology enterprise. Here, he spearheaded the development & implementation of cutting-edge machine learning algorithms, leveraging vast datasets to distill actionable insights. Collaborating seamlessly with cross-functional teams, he orchestrated the design & deployment of scalable, data-driven solutions that drove tangible business outcomes.

Fuelled by an unwavering commitment to innovation, Dr. Sankaraiah embarked on a daring entrepreneurial venture, birthing Turilytix.AI —a beacon of excellence in the realm of AI-based solutions. As the Founder & CEO, he assumed the mantle of leadership, orchestrating a symphony of ingenuity & vision. His multifaceted role spanned the gamut from crafting overarching business strategies to assembling a cadre of exceptionally talented individuals who shared his passion for AI.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Sankaraiah has unfurled a tapestry of achievements that underscore his indelible imprint on the global stage. From stewarding multi-million-dollar accounts in multinational conglomerates to earning accolades as one of the Top 100 Artificial Intelligence Researchers in 2016, his trajectory is punctuated by milestones of unparalleled significance.

Not content with resting on his laurels, Dr. Sankaraiah has continually sought avenues to elevate the discourse surrounding AI & data science. His distinguished presence on the Business of Data Global Advisory Board bears testimony to his stature as a luminary in the field. Moreover, his contributions as a key contributor to the Indonesian Health Department in combating COVID-19 underscore his unwavering commitment to leveraging technology for the greater good.

In essence, Dr. Sankaraiah Sreeramula epitomizes the quintessential fusion of academic acumen, entrepreneurial zeal & visionary leadership.

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Ayman El Tanbouly

Co-Founder & CEO,
Exits MENA

Ayman El Tanbouly, a seasoned finance professional & entrepreneur, is a transformative force in the Middle East & North Africa's (MENA) financial landscape. Ayman has elevated Exits MENA to prominence as the region's leading investment advisory platform, specializing in mergers & acquisitions (M&A), fundraising & exit opportunities.

Under his leadership & in collaboration with his Co-Founders, Exits MENA has successfully closed eight M&A deals across four countries & seven sectors, with a robust pipeline of over 42 deals valued at more than USD 300 million.

Before embarking on his entrepreneurial journey, Ayman honed his expertise over an eleven-year tenure in investment banking & advisory roles. His distinguished career includes significant contributions to globally renowned institutions such as the IFC - International Finance Corporation of The World Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD) & the Arab African International Bank (AAIB).

During his time at the IFC, Ayman played a pivotal role as a Public-Private Partnerships Advisor, driving major infrastructure projects across the Middle East, Africa & Central Asia. His portfolio boasts high-impact projects like the expansion of Rafik Al Hariri Airport in Lebanon, a mega fiber broadband project in Jordan & solar power initiatives in the West Bank, Iraq & Senegal.

At the EBRD, Ayman's expertise in energy finance came to the fore. As a member of the MENA Energy team, he was instrumental in arranging up to USD 80 million for Egypt's first green hydrogen facility in the Suez Canal Economic Zone—the first of its kind in Africa. This groundbreaking project aims to produce green ammonia & significantly reduce CO2 emissions by 130,000 tons annually.

Ayman's tenure at AAIB marked a milestone in Egypt's banking sector with the closure of the first Renewable Energy Finance Transaction, financing a 50MW solar energy plant in Benban, Aswan. This project was a significant component of Egypt's Feed-in Tariff Program & set a precedent in the nation's renewable energy sector.

Beyond his financial acumen, Ayman has been a key figure in climate finance. As the Climate Finance Advisor to the Egyptian Ministry of Environment during COP27, he served as the Climate Finance Champion on the Steering Committee. His efforts were crucial in organizing the Finance Day in Sharm El Sheikh & in presenting policy papers that shaped climate finance strategies for COP28 & beyond.

Ayman's academic credentials are as impressive as his professional ones. He holds an MBA from the University of Warwick, a Bachelor of Accounting from The American University in Cairo & a specialized certificate in project finance from Harvard University's Harvard Kennedy School.



Madhu Jain

Director,
IIFL Foundation

(The Champion of Girl Child Education in India) In the landscape of Indian philanthropy and social impact, Ms. Madhu Jain has emerged as a guiding force, earning the moniker of 'The Champion of Girl Child Education.' 'Sakhiyon Ki Baadi' program under her leadership has brought over 36,000 out-of-school girls into education system through 1,200 schools. IIFL Foundation has also adopted over 7,600 government schools and leveraged the power of technology to impart digital education to over six lac students.

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Dr. Sanjay Muthal

CEO at ArgoLynx,
Advisor to the Board at Refyne,
Independent Director at LIC AMC & MF

Sanjay is a visionary entrepreneur and business leader known for his passion towards Human Resources, leadership development and technological innovation. Sanjay has built a successful career spanning 4 decades during which he has led the Human Resources function at several large multinational Corporations and Indian Business Houses. The last decade has seen him embark on an entrepreneurial journey that has been characterised by a relentless pursuit of innovation, a commitment to excellence and a focus on creating value for all stakeholders. He is widely respected in the business community for his thought leadership and deep network of relationships. His other areas of interest include management education, coaching & mentoring and keynotes at various international conferences.



Krishna Ramanujam

Regional Head of RFID & AI,
Data Capture Systems

Visionary leader at the helm of Global High technology sales with legacy of foot print across the continents. Leader in the RFID , RTLS, IOT , data science & Artificial intelligence landscape, boasting an illustrious career spanning over 20+ years with across diverse verticals .

Sales Leadership and Achievements at early career as a General Manager in Enterprise Server sales in HP and as a Highest performing Sales Partner in Asia -Pacific during career first stint

Krishna's strategic acumen was evident when he played a pivotal role in the consolidation of JobsAhead with Monster.com for chennai, India , resulting in record sales & the hiring of top-notch sales resources. His efforts led to exceptional performance, marked by excellence in sales & customer satisfaction for Monster. com

Krishna transitioned to the Software Solutions Company , as the Business development Manager- UK & Nordic countries managing bespoke software projects for high-profile clients such as Cambridge University & the Medical Defense Union, representing the NHS in the UK.

Krishna's move to the Middle East marked a new chapter in his career, focusing on cutting-edge technologies such as RFID, RTLS, AI & robotics achieving remarkable success in these areas, with multi-million dollar outcomes in track & trace industries . with Multi-million dollar projects in Qatar, Saudi arabia, Oman & in UAE. His innovative approach out of the Box led to a global first in blood vial tracking using RFID technology, a country-wide implementation of tire & white goods authentication using RFID, also Retail wide RFID deployment for a large retail entity Pan GCC ,all this led to substantial increases in sales & revenue for every organization he has represented.

Throughout his career, Krishna has consistently demonstrated a strategic mindset, exceptional leadership & a passion for empowering the next generation of technology enthusiasts and mentoring young minds .

Krishna Ramanujam's contributions have made a significant impact in every role he has undertaken, positioning him as a visionary leader in the High growth Technology sector.

Krishna Ramanujam has been recently awarded "Achievers X -CIO" Award by "Enterprise IT World MEA" as a contribution to the industry and Organization by adopting the right Strategy and technology Practices .

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Girish Chandrashekhar

Managing Director,
Pharma Global Partners

Girish, a visionary leader at the helm of global business development, weaving success stories in the dynamic landscape of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals. Being a British citizen of Indian origin, Girish brings a unique blend of cultural insights to his strategic endeavors and has been pivotal in bridging east & west.

A Trailblazer in strategy and execution with multiple Chapters of Success in Lupin, Norbrook Laboratories ltd, Oman Pharmaceutical Products, where he achieved unprecedented growth rates in various global markets. Girish is the chief architect of sustained growth and revenue generation. His strategic vision transformed business landscapes, leading to substantial revenue growth and operational efficiency. Girish's journey is anchored in education from esteemed institutions like University of Oxford, where he honed his leadership skills.

Mastermind in Global Business Development:
In the intricate dance of international business, Girish orchestrates success and his journey, characterized by a rich tapestry of accomplishments, speaks volumes about his acumen. Having concluded and executed deals surpassing $500 million mark during his career, Girish stands as a maestro in navigating complex negotiations and fostering lucrative partnerships.

Architect of Market Expansion:
Girish is not just a leader; he is a market expansion virtuoso. His successful foray into the Americas, EMEA, CIS, and APAC regions, building networks in over 60 countries, attests to his prowess. Turning loss-making ventures into profitable enterprises is a testament to his strategic brilliance.

Strategic Innovation and Turnaround Specialist:
Girish is a catalyst for change and master in carving a success narrative. At Pharma Global Partners, he steers the ship towards strategic advice, directions, and solutions for pharma and biopharma companies worldwide. His approach involves not only growing business but also creating sustainable ecosystems that transcend geographical boundaries leading to the clients and customers achieving their growth aspirations.

Girish's commitment to excellence, innovation, and leadership has set him apart as a beacon of inspiration within the consulting industry. His dedication to delivering top-notch solutions, fostering meaningful relationships, and driving positive change has made a significant impact not only on his clients but also on the broader business community. His leadership and achievements serve as a shining example to aspiring professionals and seasoned veterans alike, demonstrating the transformative power of passion, integrity, and hard work.



José Antonio Sánchez Marín

Chief Financial Officer,
SOLANELLAS NUTS

José Antonio Sánchez Marín stands as a beacon of excellence in the financial realm, with a career spanning over 25 years. His extensive experience encompasses roles as CFO, External Consultant, and Independent Non-Executive Director, reflecting his versatile expertise across multiple sectors and continents.

Currently, José holds the position of CFO at Solanellas Nuts and Sabana Foods, two prominent entities within the Spanish food industry. His strategic vision and financial acumen drive these companies toward sustainable growth and profitability. Simultaneously, he serves as an Independent Non-Executive Director for Karoon Energy in Brazil, Rapp Petróleo in Brazil and Australia, and Worl Super Holding in Hong Kong, guiding these organizations through the complexities of the global energy and oil markets.

José's earlier career is marked by pivotal roles that have shaped his robust financial expertise. As the Financial Director at the CES Group and the SM Global Service Holding of the Repsol brand, he was instrumental in restructuring processes that delivered significant tax and organizational benefits. His tenure at the Marina d'Or Group was highlighted by his management of one of Spain's most significant bankruptcy competitions, successfully navigating the construction company through a challenging period and ensuring its continuity.

His consultancy roles have been equally impactful. As an External Consultant for Ipiranga in Brazil, Depthwize in Nigeria and AlphaSights in London, José has provided invaluable insights that have fostered business growth and operational efficiency.

Educationally, José is a powerhouse. He holds a degree in Economics and Business from the University of Valencia and has further honed his expertise with multiple master's degrees and postgraduate studies from prestigious institutions such as IE Instituto de Empresa, ESADE, Universitat de Barcelona and Harvard Business School.

José's career is distinguished by numerous accolades, including the Award of the Year by Banco de Santander and the 2023 Internationalization Award for Foreign Trade. His strategic contributions to mergers, acquisitions, and debt restructuring have earned him a stellar reputation in the financial community.

Beyond his professional pursuits, José is a passionate advocate for sports, having served as a futsal referee for the National Futsal League in Spain for three decades. His commitment to balancing work, studies, and sports exemplifies his belief in the importance of maintaining physical and mental health.

José Antonio Sánchez Marín is not only a leader in finance but a versatile professional whose contributions resonate across industries and geographies.

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Dr. Mahmoud Seif

Head of Material Management, SDPM & Customs, ALSTOM

Mahmoud Seif is an accomplished professional with over 16 years of experience in procurement, logistics & supply chain management. His extensive career showcases his strategic leadership & ability to drive successful outcomes.

Seif began his career in 2008 with LEONI Wiring Systems Egypt as a procurement & logistics administrator, where he managed warehouse operations & international supplier relations. Later that year, he joined Scimitar Production Egypt Ltd. (SPEL), overseeing foreign purchasing & logistics operations. During this period, Seif completed his Master of Science in management of international transportation & logistics from the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport.

In 2012, Seif joined Alstom/GE as a logistics specialist, taking on logistics manager duties & managing transport budgets exceeding 10 million euros across projects in the MENA region. His outstanding performance earned him promotions within Alstom, culminating in his appointment as Projects Logistics Supervisor in 2015 & later as Lead Logistics Specialist in 2016.

Seif's ability to handle complex projects independently has been instrumental in his success. He played a key role in managing a major French-funded project in the North & Central Africa region, overseeing significant transport budgets & leading high-profile projects to successful outcomes.

In 2017, Seif became the Transport & Customs Leader at ALSTOM Egypt, managing project logistics & taking on new responsibilities in indirect procurement.

In 2021, Seif managed the integration of logistics through the Alstom/Bombardier acquisition & was promoted to Head of Material Planning Management, SDPM & Customs. His leadership during the largest project in the AMECA region—the Monorail project—streamlined processes & established a new integrated system.

Seif's commitment to continuous improvement in 2021 he had been awarded by first tire professional organizations in Management, Procurement & Logistics also accomplished his Six Sigma Black Belt certification in 2022.

In 2023, Seif's exceptional talents were recognized by Global Talent Management at ALSTOM, which selected him for the Global Development Program. He remains the only professional from the AMECA region's supply chain management organization to participate in this prestigious initiative.

With over 16 years of experience in project management, risk management, arbitration, industrial engineering & process improvement, along with his expertise in supply chain management, procurement, and logistics, awarded by various international organizations, he has received numerous recommendation letters that attest to his exceptional abilities and expertise.



Dr. Dima Rachid Jamali

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Canadian University Dubai

Dima Jamali, a globally renowned scholar and thought leader in sustainability and higher education, has been appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs at Canadian University Dubai. With over 20 years of experience in academia and an extensive list of accomplishments, Dr. Jamali is poised to lead the university's academic vision and strategy.

Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Jamali has held leadership positions at prestigious institutions, including the American University of Beirut, the United Nations Global Compact Network Lebanon, and the University of Sharjah. She has also made significant contributions to the field through her research, publications, and advocacy for sustainable development in the Middle East.

Dr Jamali's vision and commitment to academic excellence will undoubtedly drive Canadian University Dubai's continued success in providing quality education and fostering a culture of innovation with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, sustainability, employability and industry collaborations within the UAE and the Canadian Ecosystem.

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Ashok Prabhu

General Manager,
Atos

With over 25 years of proven success in consulting & delivery management across India & the US, Ashok Prabhu stands as a beacon of excellence in the realms of corporate governance, strategic transformation & leadership. His vast experience & expertise in managing people, processes & programs have made him an invaluable asset to any organization.

Ashok's career is marked by his dedication to customer satisfaction, transparency, employee empowerment & developing future leaders. His professional journey is distinguished by his role as a key member of the leadership team at Atos Global Delivery Centre India, where he played a pivotal role during the integration in India of acquired companies such as Siemens Information Systems, Xerox ITO & Syntel. This integration not only streamlined operations but also fortified the company's market position.

One of Ashok's most notable achievements is leading cross-functional transformational initiatives, including the technology upskilling of thousands of employees. This initiative ensured that the workforce was future-ready, aligning with the rapidly evolving technological landscape. Additionally, his efforts along with the Atos KITE team in driving cultural transformation , enabled Atos GDC India to earn & maintain the prestigious "Great Place to Work For" certification for several years, reflecting his commitment to employee engagement & towards fostering a positive & productive workplace environment.

Ashok's credentials are further bolstered by his certification as an Independent Director by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. This lifetime certification, underscores his capability & readiness to serve on the boards of directors for Indian companies. He is also a certified ESG professional & an active member of the Atos Change Ambassadors' network & of Atos' Global Environment Network Committee, highlighting his commitment to sustainability & environmental responsibility.

Ashok's behavioral strengths, as identified by the Clifton Assessment, include harmony, responsibility, deliberative, analytical & belief. These qualities have consistently underpinned his professional demeanor, driving his success in various leadership roles. His specialties encompass digital transformation, program management, global service delivery management, international experience, & leading large teams & senior managers. His coaching & mentoring skills further enhance his professional portfolio.

Ashok Prabhu's contributions continue to inspire & lead the way in corporate governance & strategic management, setting a benchmark for aspiring professionals in the field.



Denny Januar Ali

Political Researcher & Consultant,
The Indonesian Survey Circle (LSI)

Denny JA, popularly known as Denny JA, stands as a towering figure in Indonesia's political & literary landscapes. With a career spanning over four decades, Denny's multifaceted contributions have left an indelible mark on political consulting, literature & public discourse.

Denny JA's academic journey laid a strong foundation for his illustrious career. He earned his LLB from the University of Indonesia, followed by a Master of Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh, & culminated with a PhD from The Ohio State University. His academic credentials are a testament to his dedication to learning & his quest for knowledge.

In 2005, Denny JA founded LSI, Indonesia's first national-scale political consulting firm. Under his leadership, LSI has been instrumental in shaping the political landscape by providing critical insights & strategies to numerous political figures. The firm's pioneering work has earned it a reputation as a trusted source of political intelligence, helping win five presidential elections, 37 gubernatorial races & 96 mayoral & district head elections. LSI's innovative approach to integrating scientific methodologies into political campaigns has set new standards in the industry.

Denny's influence extends beyond political consulting. He has been a trailblazer in utilizing social media to shape public opinion, recognized by TIME in 2015 as one of the 30 most influential people on the Internet. His strategic use of social media during Indonesia's 2014 presidential election was a game-changer, showcasing his ability to adapt to & leverage new technologies for political purposes.

In the literary domain, Denny JA has made significant contributions by creating a new genre known as essay poetry. His book "In the Name of Love" spearheaded this genre, inspiring around 150 poetry books in Indonesia & Southeast Asia. His literary prowess was further acknowledged when his book "Fang Yin's Handkerchief" became a best-seller on Amazon Kindle in July 2015. He was also a nominee for the The Nobel Prize in Literature in 2021.

Denny's accolades include the 2020 ASEAN Humanitarian & Diplomacy Literature Award from Malaysia's Sabah Language & Literature Agency & the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indonesian Writers Guild Satupena. His groundbreaking work in political consulting earned him the Guinness World Records in 2018 for the largest political education session.

Denny JA's journey from an academic scholar to a revered consultant & literary figure underscores his versatile genius & unwavering dedication to his fields.

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Darryl Custer

Managing Director,
KEO International Consultants

Darryl Custer is a distinguished leader in architectural design & project management, currently serving as the Managing Director of the Design Division at KEO. With an impressive 34-year career, Darryl has consistently demonstrated a profound understanding of development, design, & operations across various sectors on a global scale. His expertise spans multiple regions, including China, SEA, US, GCC, and North Africa.

Darryl's passion lies in urban mixed-use project design. He is dedicated to enhancing communities through innovative, sustainable & creatively stacked mixed-use configurations. Under his leadership, KEO's Design Division has tackled significant sustainability issues by integrating intelligent, community-centric & vertically integrated environments. These projects are designed to meet both contemporary needs & future challenges, positioning sustainability as a strategic investment rather than a mere cost.

At KEO, Darryl leads a diverse team of architects & engineers, pushing boundaries in 3D digital concept design & leveraging new AI platforms to enhance client interactions & project management. This strategic focus has not only improved the efficiency & effectiveness of the design process but also produced thought-provoking & meaningful designs.

Darryl's commitment to fostering a diverse & inclusive work environment is evident in KEO's Nationalization program, which aims to attract, empower & develop national talent. This initiative is part of his broader effort to cultivate the next generation of architects, designers & business leaders.

Among Darryl's notable projects is the U View mixed-use tower in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. This cutting-edge development along the Jeddah Corniche features luxury retail, a five-star hotel, serviced apartments & Class A office space, all within a single vertically stacked plot. Additionally, he has overseen prototype designs for major residential developers in the region, creating homes that blend modern & traditional architecture to serve diverse communities.

Darryl's educational background includes a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the United States. He is a licensed architect, NCARB certified, a LEED Green Associate, & an executive-at-large member of the The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Middle East.

Recognized for his contributions to the field, Darryl was voted the #5 influential architect in the Middle East Power Ranking 2023. Since being promoted to Managing Director of KEO Design Division in 2022, he has led his team to win numerous design awards, cementing KEO's reputation as one of the top design consultancies in the Middle East.

Darryl's career is marked by his dedication to mentorship, innovation & the creation of environments that improve the human condition & inspire communities worldwide.



Hesham Almekkawi

Chief Executive Officer,
Tim Hortons Middle East

Hesham Almekkawi is a visionary leader with a career spanning over 29 years in the restaurant industry, both in the USA and the Middle East. As the CEO of AG Café International Management Company since 2021, Almekkawi drives Tim Hortons' ambitious growth strategy in the Middle East, blending strategic foresight with operational excellence to expand the brand's footprint.

Hesham's entrepreneurial journey includes founding ATK Consulting in the United States and Ahramiz FZ LLC in Dubai, both dedicated to leadership development and management consulting. His strategic acumen and deep industry insights have influenced countless businesses and leaders.

Before his current role, Hesham held several high-profile positions with major conglomerates. As Vice President of Hospitality for Majid Al Futtaim Group and, Chief Operating Officer for Kuwait Food Company (Americana Foods) in the UAE.

Hesham's impact extends to his 13 years with Yum! Brands in the United States, where he served as Regional Director of Pizza Hut for the Mid-Atlantic Region. His leadership there was marked by the successful execution of strategies that significantly boosted regional performance and turn around the region into profitability.

His academic credentials include an Executive MBA from the Zicklin School of Business in New York, where he later served as an adjunct professor from 2003 to 2006, teaching service strategies and operations management. His commitment to lifelong learning and professional development is evident in his certifications as a Certified International Life Coach, NLP Practitioner, and Certified Public Speaker, Mentor, and Coach.

Hesham is also the author of "The 9 Traits of HERO Brands," a book that delves into the characteristics of successful brands. His thought leadership and industry contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including being named one of the 200 global influential leaders in 2023 by White Page International and one of the revolutionary CEOs to watch in 2023 by CIOlook Magazine. He was also recognized as one of the 100 Food and Beverage ICONS by Image Retail ME in 2023.

Hesham Almekkawi's relentless pursuit of excellence and his innovative approach continue to redefine the hospitality and food and beverage industries, making him a revered and influential figure in the business world.

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Indira Bunic

Founder & CEO,
EmpowerU - Ignite Your Leadership Journey

Indira's illustrious career spans roles as a diplomat, international law enforcement leader & a key player in industry-multinational collaborations and media. Her leadership in these diverse fields has set new standards for cross-border cooperation, strategic growth & ethical governance.

As the Founder & CEO of EmpowerU - Ignite Your Leadership Journey Indira has ushered in a renaissance in boardroom dynamics & leadership philosophies, empowering countless leaders to embrace ethical conduct, integrity & accountability. Her inspirational book, "Rise Above and Empower Yourself," has become a beacon of empowerment, igniting the inner strength of many and encouraging them to transform their lives and communities.

Indira's profound academic background further underscores her expertise, providing a solid foundation for her innovative approaches & strategic insights. Beyond her entrepreneurial ventures, Indira's dedication shines through her multiple board memberships & advisory roles, where she contributes her expertise in strategy, governance & stakeholder engagement. Her work as a Goodwill Ambassador has championed humanitarian causes, diversity, and inclusion on a global scale.

Indira's leadership philosophy is rooted in service, empowerment & creating environments where everyone can thrive. Her mission to inspire and uplift others is reflected in her passionate advocacy for women in leadership and her commitment to fostering a united and inclusive future. Through her efforts, she has not only transformed organizations but also touched countless lives.

Indira's story is one of resilience, vision & unwavering dedication. She has shown that with integrity and a commitment to ethical leadership, it is possible to create lasting positive change.

Join us in celebrating Indira Bunic's remarkable achievements & her well-deserved recognition as one of the Global 200 Inspirational Leaders for 2024!

To learn more about Indira's work & her book "Rise Above & Empower Yourself" visit her LinkedIn profile or reach out directly. Let's continue to be inspired & empowered by her incredible journey!



Rizvi Farook

Group General Manager,
Heartland General Trading Co LLC

Rizvi has carved an impressive niche in the fields of advertising, media, integrated marketing, and sales over his illustrious three-decade career.

Rizvi's professional odyssey began in Sri Lanka, where he honed his skills with multinational giants such as Wunderman Thompson and Leo Burnett. His strategic acumen and creative flair soon led him to the Axiata Group.

Over a remarkable 17-year career with Dialog Axiata PLC, Rizvi established a fully integrated in-house media agency for Dialog, making it a unique feature within the Axiata Group. His innovative strategies and leadership significantly bolstered Dialog's brand equity, positioning it as the #1 telecommunications brand in Sri Lanka. This cemented Dialog to gain the Telecommunication Brand of the Year Award in 2011 and maintained this status for 12 consecutive years. This success has cemented the company's place among Sri Lanka's top five entities.

In 2023, Rizvi took a bold step, relocating to Dubai and joining Heartland General Trading Co. His encounter with the Chairman of Heartland at the Gulf Food exhibition that year was a turning point. Embracing the opportunity to learn and adapt, Rizvi began his journey with Heartland through an internship. His swift grasp of the retail landscape and insightful market research & analysis, including a comprehensive study of 100 outlets across the UAE, underscored his commitment to driving growth.

Rizvi's tenure at Heartland has been transformative. His strategic initiatives, re-structuring the organization, introducing new processes, policies and systems, establishing new staff welfare, training and recognition, including renegotiating credit terms with international suppliers and adjusting product pricing, increasing customer base, Focused on "Cash Cows" & controlling operational expense led to a remarkable turnaround. Under his leadership, the company transitioned from losses in 2022 to profitability by 2023, doubling sales volume & instilling a culture of trust & innovation among the staff.

Moreover, Rizvi's launch of Heartland's inaugural CSR program, "Heartland to Homeland," demonstrated his commitment to community impact. The initiative, supporting welfare projects in Sri Lanka, garnered widespread recognition and solidified his standing within the Sri Lankan business community in the UAE.

His leadership at Heartland General Trading Co LLC has not only driven financial success but also positioned the company as a formidable player in the MENA region, poised for continued growth & international acclaim. Heartland General Trading Co LLC has been operating for 24 years & is the leading distributor of 200+ Sri Lankan dry food products.

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Dr. Raza Siddiqui

CEO Arabian Healthcare Group LLC,
Executive Director RAK Hospital

Dr. Raza Siddiqui is a pioneering figure in the healthcare industry, renowned for his innovative vision and transformative leadership. As the Group CEO of Arabian Healthcare Group LLC and Executive Director of RAK Hospital, he has significantly impacted healthcare in both India and the UAE, driving excellence through strategic initiatives and groundbreaking projects.

Dr. Siddiqui's career commenced at Apollo Hospitals in India, where he played a pivotal role at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. His tenure was marked by the introduction of premium healthcare services, corporate wellness packages, and positioning the hospital as a leading healthcare provider globally.

His move to the UAE in the late 1990s as Director of Operations for Belhoul Specialty Hospital, Dubai, under the Apollo Hospitals Group, marked a new chapter of achievements. He successfully led the hospital to prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation and promoted India as a premier medical tourism destination.

In 2007, Dr. Siddiqui took on the role of Executive Director at RAK Hospital. His mission was to establish the institution as a key player in UAE's medical tourism. His innovative approach, blending premium healthcare with hospitality, placed RAK Hospital on the map for medical tourists. Under his leadership, the hospital introduced numerous firsts in the UAE, including advanced departments in cardiology, orthopedics, laparoscopy, stem cell therapy, and more. Notably, RAK Hospital was the first in the UAE to use gyroscope-based technology for precise knee replacement surgeries.

Dr. Siddiqui's efforts in medical tourism have been transformative, fostering collaborations with top institutions like Apollo Hospitals, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre - Company & Shalby Hospital. His initiatives, such as the RAK Diabetes Centre in Dubai & the "NAZAR AYENI" mobile eye-screening program, underscore his commitment to comprehensive healthcare.

His contributions have been widely recognized. Dr. Siddiqui has received numerous accolades, including the Healthcare CEO of the Year by CEO Club International & the Healthcare Excellence CEO award from the Indo UAE Business Forum.

Dr. Siddiqui also holds several board memberships, including being the first Indian on the RAK Chamber of Commerce & Industry board & serving on the advisory boards of CEO Club International & Arab Health. His educational background & professional experiences have positioned him as a leading voice in healthcare innovation & excellence.

With a career marked by visionary leadership & a commitment to quality healthcare, Dr. Raza Siddiqui continues to shape the future of the healthcare industry in the UAE & beyond.



Shiraz Adarbad Jamaji

Chief Executive Officer,
AL HUZAIFA FURNITURE INDUSTRY

Shiraz Jamaji, CEO of Al Huzaifa Furniture Industry, embodies the mantra, "When opportunities present themselves, grab them with all your might." With an impressive 28-year career spanning manufacturing, construction, FMCG, retail, furniture, real estate & property development, Shiraz has established himself as a versatile and forward-thinking leader.

Throughout his career, Shiraz has honed exceptional administrative and people skills, training, mentoring, and retaining over 7,500 employees. His expertise has been instrumental in fostering a collaborative and productive work environment, ensuring the success and growth of every organization he has led.

For the past 14 years, Shiraz has been at the helm of Al Huzaifa Furniture Industry, a venerable company founded over four decades ago in the UAE. Under his stewardship, the company has reinforced its reputation as a leader in the bespoke manufacturing furniture industry which is also renowned for its design services and retailing. Shiraz has masterfully guided the company to embrace innovation while preserving its 48-year legacy, solidifying its position as a market leader.

Key achievements at Al Huzaifa include driving strategic initiatives that have significantly expanded the company's market presence and improved operational efficiencies. Shiraz's focus on customer satisfaction, quality & sustainability has set new industry standards. His commitment to continuous improvement & forward-thinking approach has kept Al Huzaifa dynamic & resilient.

Beyond his role at Al Huzaifa, Shiraz is the Co-Founder & Director of Build Well Holdings Limited, a property development company specializing in major projects such as warehousing, staff accommodations & malls. The company's focus on high-return investments through property development & rental or sales has been highly successful.

Shiraz also serves as a Global Committee Member at the Della Leaders Club (DLC), the world's first business platform of its kind. Shiraz's leadership philosophy emphasizes personal & professional growth, adaptability & integrity. His dedication to mentorship & team development at Al Huzaifa has cultivated a culture of innovation & collaboration. Embracing diversity & inclusion, Shiraz fosters an environment where every team member is valued & empowered.

In summary, Shiraz Jamaji's extensive experience & leadership at Al Huzaifa Furniture Industry underscore his commitment to excellence & innovation. His nomination for CEO of the Year reflects his impactful contributions & the collective effort of his team. Shiraz continues to lead with vision, integrity & a relentless pursuit of progress.

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Selina Yuan

President of Alibaba Cloud International

Selina Yuan is a distinguished leader in the technology sector, currently serving as President of Alibaba Cloud International and Vice President of Alibaba Group. Her career is a testament to her exceptional leadership and strategic vision, which have significantly shaped the global cloud computing landscape.

Selina's journey began with a deep fascination for digital solutions and their potential to revolutionize industries. Her experience across various organizations honed her skills and positioned her for future leadership roles in the tech industry.

In 2018, Selina joined Alibaba Cloud, where her impact has been transformative. Her appointment as President of Alibaba Cloud International marked a critical turning point for the company. Under her guidance, Alibaba Cloud has emerged as a leading player in the cloud computing sector, particularly in Southeast Asia. The company's international business has grown over 30 times in the past six years, solidifying its position as a top cloud provider in the region.

Selina is renowned for her commitment to digital transformation and her advocacy for women in technology. She spearheaded the 'Tech for Change' initiative, which collaborates with educational institutions, NGOs, and NPOs to develop AI talent and support women in STEM careers. This initiative offers free online courses and empowers female programmers, particularly in marginalized communities, addressing the gender gap in tech and fostering a more inclusive industry.

Her influence extends beyond Alibaba Cloud, as she is a sought-after thought leader in the technology sector. Selina has been a keynote speaker and panelist at over 30 global summits, discussing topics ranging from digital trust to AI and esports. Her expertise is also recognized through her roles on advisory committees, including the Digital Trust Centre of Excellence at SGtech and the Esports Commission of the International Olympic Committee – IOC. Selina's leadership style is marked by efficiency and personal connection.

Known for her hands-on approach and direct communication, she emphasizes building a strong team spirit and addressing issues promptly. Her "In Local For Local" policy ensures that Alibaba Cloud's solutions are tailored to regional needs, fostering local innovation and adoption.

Through her exceptional leadership, strategic vision, and dedication to digital transformation, Selina Yuan continues to drive innovation and shape the future of cloud technology on a global scale.

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Irfan Khan

Chief Executive Officer, Evercare Group

Irfan Khan is a transformative leader in the global healthcare sector, with over 25 years of extensive experience in healthcare leadership, educational planning, & entrepreneurial ventures across multiple continents.

Born in Kenya, Irfan Khan pursued his higher education in the United Kingdom, where he earned an Honors degree in Chemical Engineering from University of Leeds. His academic curiosity led him to obtain a Master's in Engineering & Physical Science & Medicine from IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY & MEDICINE. Furthering his expertise, he completed an MBA with a focus on Customer Focused Strategy & Entrepreneurship from Imperial College Business School in London.

Irfan's professional journey began with the Aga Khan Development Network, where he played a crucial role in integrating medical services with research & medical training across several countries. This role honed his skills in institutional building & strategic planning, laying the foundation for his future leadership positions in diverse regions, including Africa & South Asia.

As the Group CEO of the Evercare Healthcare Group, Irfan oversees an extensive network comprising five hospitals, 20 clinics & over 75 diagnostic centers across Kenya, Nigeria & Pakistan. His leadership is marked by strategic insight, innovative problem-solving & a profound empathy for the needs of individuals at all levels within the organization.

Under his leadership, Evercare Group has developed a platform-based service that spans three countries. This initiative fosters synergies across the platform, allowing staff to share best practices & adhere to international standards. It includes comprehensive governance, financial impact assessment & profitability metrics, setting a new standard for quality healthcare delivery in emerging markets.

Irfan has also been a staunch advocate for talent development & training. Evercare Group emphasizes the continuous professional development of its staff, particularly nurses. In 2023, the group delivered over 110,000 training hours, covering life safety, clinical skills & leadership development, ensuring a skilled & motivated workforce dedicated to exceptional patient care.

His commitment to social impact is evident through Evercare's public/private partnerships & programs aimed at low-income families & children. The Evercare Foundation, established in 2022, enhances equitable healthcare access in low & middle-income countries. Notable initiatives include the "Hear This!" program in Pakistan, providing cochlear implant surgeries for children with hearing impairments & the "Safe Births, Safe Babies" initiative in Kenya, which focuses on improving maternal & child health through community health worker training & enhanced healthcare access.

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Dr. Adrian-Victor VEVERA

General Director,
National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics – ICI Bucharest

Dr. Adrian-Victor Vevera, stands at the forefront of national security, cybersecurity & digital innovation. With a robust academic foundation in military and information sciences, national security, and industrial engineering, Dr. Vevera has dedicated his career to advancing critical infrastructure protection and cyber diplomacy.

Dr. Vevera holds a Doctorate in Military & Information Sciences, alongside qualifications in National Security & Industrial Engineering. His extensive experience spans several high-level managerial & advisory roles within state bodies, where he has significantly influenced the fields of national security, critical infrastructure protection (CIP), cybersecurity & high-performance computing (HPC).

As the president of the IF Idea Factory Think Tank & chairman of the Digital Innovation Summit Bucharest (DISB), Dr. Vevera has been pivotal in shaping key conferences including the Critical Infrastructure Protection Forum (CIP Forum) & the International Conference on Cyber Diplomacy (ICCD).

Dr. Vevera's contributions extend to international bodies where he serves as a member of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), the International Council for IT in Government Administration (ICA), the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI), and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). In 2023, he was elected Vice-President of ICA, underscoring his global influence.

His scholarly work is extensive, comprising seven books, six book chapters, over 40 scientific articles, and more than 30 papers presented at international conferences. As editor-in-chief of the Romanian Journal of Information Technology and Automatic Control (RJITAC) and the Romanian Cyber Security Journal (ROCYS), and founding editor of the International Journal of Cyber Diplomacy (IJCD), Dr. Vevera has made significant contributions to the academic discourse on national and international security, energy security, and cybercrime.

Among his notable achievements are the establishment of the Blockchain Intelligence Academy (BIA) in partnership with ChainArgos and the launch of ICI D|SERVICES, Europe's first institutional platform for trading digital assets based on decentralized blockchain and Web3 technologies. The BIA aims to develop independent blockchain intelligence capabilities, while ICI D|SERVICES represents a groundbreaking initiative in digital asset management.

Through his innovative research and strategic insights, Dr. Vevera has influenced policy decisions and established best practices, solidifying his status as a leading figure in his field.



Burak YAKA

Burak Yaka is an accomplished engineer & production manager with a diverse background spanning electrical engineering, occupational health & safety & facility management. Graduating from Anadolu University with a degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering in 2009, Burak furthered his expertise with a master's degree in Occupational Health & Safety. Committed to continuous learning, he pursued advanced studies at prestigious institutions worldwide, including Harvard Business School, MIT Sloan School of Management, Waseda University & Stanford University, focusing on disciplines such as MBA, Leadership, Innovation, Japanese Business Management, Toyota Production System & Facility Management.

Burak's career began at the Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Defense, where he served as a Project Application and Control Specialist. In this role, he successfully completed multiple military investment & maintenance projects across various cities, earning commendation from the Ministry for his contributions. His technical acumen & project management skills led him to the Turkish State Railways (TCDD) as a Technical Affairs Supervisor. During his tenure, he played a pivotal role in the installation & maintenance of signalization systems, collaborating with international teams from Nippon Signal (Japan) & Thales (Spain).

Transitioning to the private sector, Burak joined DEZEGA SP, a Ukrainian safety equipment company, as Maintenance, Investment & IT Manager. He was instrumental in establishing three facility buildings & managing comprehensive maintenance & IT operations. His expertise in facility management earned him certifications as a Certified Facility Manager, Certified Maintenance & Reliability Professional & Energy Management Specialist, among others.

Burak's career took a strategic turn when he joined Mecalac, where he implemented digital systems for data collection & lean management tools. His success in this role led to his appointment as Production Manager at Janoschka, a German company, where he collaborated with Obeya Akademi Co-Founder Ömer Tekin to implement the Toyota Production System, setting new production records.

In subsequent roles, Burak served as a Production Supervisor at CMS Group Light Alloy Wheels, where he implemented systematic approaches in maintenance & production. At ERGA Global, he managed all technical operations for the startup's Turkish branch, establishing a plant from scratch.

His dedication extends beyond his professional life, as he actively volunteers with organizations like Türk Kızılay, TEMA Foundation & LOSEV - Losemili Çocuklar Saglık ve Egitim Vakfı, contributing to social welfare & environmental sustainability.

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Burny Johnson

Senior Vice President, Lubricants, Emarat - Emirates General Petroleum Corporation

Burny Johnson's rise in the global business arena is a testament to his dedication and expertise. With a Bachelor's in Economics from Kerala University and a Master's in Business Management specializing in Marketing, alongside an IATA Diploma in Aviation Commercial Management, Burny has built a distinguished career over two decades.

Starting in 1998 with Indian tire giant MRF, Burny achieved significant market development in Western and Southern India. His subsequent roles in the downstream petrochemical industry with Pennzoil Quaker State Company and other multinationals exposed him to diverse business models and led him to the role of Vice President of Lubricants and Aviation. Burny excelled in turnaround strategies, especially in the aviation sector, driving record gains and expanding lubricant market share across the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa. Notable achievements include managing high-profile automotive lubricant deals in the UAE and successful roll-out of automotive Quick Lube concepts established a multinational presence and growth in the UAE Lubricant Retail market and transformed its automotive service landscape.

Burny's career is marked by his ability to innovate and execute regional strategies that drive growth and profitability. His strategic initiatives and strong professional networks have enhanced brand presence with sustainable growth. His expertise spans various sectors, including tires, fuels, aviation, lubricants, fuel additives, car care, and solar energy, showcasing his adaptability and success in dynamic environments.

Beyond his corporate achievements, his long-term approach, governance skills, including policy implementation, legal knowledge, and stakeholder engagement, reflect his integrity and dedication. Burny is also committed to mentorship and advocacy, helping young professionals grow and organizing successful events through his companies. His inclusive leadership style is respected among culturally diverse teams, reinforcing his status as a global leadership beacon.

In his current role as Senior Vice President of Lubricants at Emarat - Emirates General Petroleum Corporation, Burny oversees global strategies, utilizing his extensive experience to elevate the brand globally. He is a member of global organizations like (All India Management Association (AIMA)) and International Association of Agricultural Economists, and his recent certification in AIMA's Sustainability Management underscores his commitment to sustainable business practices.



V Manjunath Rao

President, Human Resources, Jakson Group

V. Manjunath Rao is a transformative leader in the field of global human resources, currently serving as President of HR at Jakson Infra. With decades of experience spanning diverse industries, Rao has built a reputation for his innovative approach to HR management, focusing on Compensation & Benefits, Talent Acquisition, Rewards, Analytics, Talent Enhancement, and Relationship Management. His visionary leadership is driving HR strategies that shape workforce dynamics and foster long-term organizational success.

Before joining Jakson Infra, Rao held the position of President and Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) at Transrail Lighting Limited., where he spearheaded impactful HR initiatives, including the design and execution of HR processes that were directly aligned with the company's strategic goals. His leadership saw the creation of successful internship programs and innovative staff training initiatives that bolstered employee skills, creating a diverse and inclusive workplace.

Mr. Rao's professional journey features a wide array of leadership roles across both Indian and multinational conglomerates. Notably, he served as Director of HR for the Sharaf Group in Dubai and as Head of Employee Relations and HR Services at Emirates Aluminium, one of the world's largest aluminum smelters in the UAE. As Senior Vice President at DODSAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION PTE. LIMITED (DUBAI BR.), he played a critical role in expanding the company's workforce and build an strong EPC organisation. His work also included establishing HR infrastructure and policies that promoted a collaborative and inclusive work environment.

In addition, Rao held key roles within the RPG Group at KEC International Ltd., CEAT Specialty Tyres India, and RPG Life Sciences Ltd., where he led change management initiatives that significantly transformed manufacturing operations. His expertise in modernizing incentive schemes and aligning HR policies with business objectives was instrumental in fostering operational efficiency and employee engagement.

Rao's educational background includes an MSW in HR from the School of Social Work, Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore. His academic excellence is reflected in his numerous accolades, including being named "Most Iconic HR Leader" and receiving the Laureate in Human Resources award from The Laureate Assembly.

Recognized as a thought leader and mentor, Rao frequently shares his expertise at global conferences. His deep understanding of cultural contexts and commitment to HR innovation have positioned him as a visionary leader in shaping the future of HR on a global scale.

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Gagan Sehgal

Deputy Chief Executive Officer,
Lals Group

Gagan's exceptional educational foundation began with his recognition as the National Topper in Economics from Fergusson College, Pune University, followed by a PG Degree from XLRI Jamshedpur & a Law degree, where he topped his university. This solid academic background paved the way for an illustrious career spanning sectors such as banking, telecom, healthcare, apparel & retail.

Gagan's career commenced in banking, where he worked with leading institutions like American Express & HSBC, gaining significant experience in risk management. His career trajectory took a leap when he transitioned to the telecom industry, spending a decade with Vodafone India. During his tenure, he held senior sales roles & earned a reputation as a turnaround specialist. He was also recognized globally for his potential & was part of Vodafone's prestigious Global Inspire Program. He is passionate about coaching & mentoring, creating future leaders & empowering employees to reach their full potential

In 2014, Gagan moved into healthcare in leadership roles, including Zonal Director at Fortis Healthcare & COO at Apollo Hospitals. Notably, he became one of the youngest P&L heads in Indian healthcare, where his expertise in operational efficiency & innovation garnered him several prestigious awards. He has been decorated with many prestigious awards like Top 200 Global Inspirational Leaders 2023 by White Page International, Iconic Leader of the Year by Economic Times, Iconic COO of the year, Iconic Leader of the Year, Top 24 Operational Maestro's of 2024 by HR Association of India, Top COOs of the year by StartUpLanes..

Gagan represented Indian healthcare at numerous international forums & collaborations, contributing significantly to policy discussions with industry bodies like FICCI & CII. He has also extended his experience to consulting, serving as an Independent Advisor to top Private Equity Funds & Investment Banks across the APAC region, providing valuable insights for informed decision-making into healthcare & CPG industries.

In 2020, Gagan transitioned to the retail apparel sector, joining Page Industries Ltd (Jockey International, Inc. & Speedo India) as President Sales, later serving as Senior President & COO. Under his leadership, revenue soared by over 60% within two years & the company's distribution footprint expanded by over 100% despite the challenges of the pandemic. His leadership style, grounded in empathy, transparency & merit-based growth, inspired his team of over 27,000 employees to consistently exceed performance expectations.

Since July 2024, Gagan has been based in Dubai as the Deputy CEO of Lals Group, a prominent conglomerate in the GCC. We wish him all the best & are confident that he will continue to lead with purpose & dedication in all his future endeavors.



Andre Eckholt

Managing Director,
Hettich India

Andre Eckholt serves as the Managing Director of Hub Hepo, a position he has held since February 1, 2009. A true change agent, Andre's multifaceted leadership has driven Hettich Group to receive numerous accolades, including the Best Brands 2022 & 2023 by the Economic Times and the Most Trusted Brands of India 2023 & 2024 by Marksmen Daily. These recognitions are a testament to his transformative impact on the company.

With over 14 years of extensive experience at Hettich, Andre has excelled in both national and international environments. His robust intercultural background, spanning Germany, India, and the Czech Republic, has equipped him to navigate diverse markets and cultures adeptly. Currently overseeing operations in multiple countries as Managing Director of India, the Middle East, SAARC, and Africa, Andre's tenure in India is particularly notable. As the Plant Head in Vadodara during 2013-2014, he led a greenfield project to establish a new plant, marking a significant milestone in Hettich's expansion.

Andre's leadership philosophy centers on the belief that "Investing in our people is investing in our future." He prioritizes holistic development for his team, emphasizing skill enhancement, building a strong company culture, promoting diversity and inclusion, and fostering employee engagement. His strategic and general management expertise, coupled with his change management acumen, has positioned him as a networker and bridge builder within the Hettich Group.

Known for his communicative approach, Andre engages with colleagues, works councils, and stakeholders at eye level, fostering a collaborative and inclusive work environment. Under his leadership, Hettich India has expanded its manufacturing footprint to four state-of-the-art plants, with a fifth plant underway. These facilities epitomize the "Made in India, Made for the World" ethos, producing cutting-edge German fittings while adhering to stringent sustainability principles.

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Sven Kienesberger

Chief Executive Officer,
Kienesberger Maschinen Erzeugungs- und Handels- GmbH

Sven Kienesberger's leadership journey is a testament to the fusion of diverse disciplines, encompassing music, business, and martial arts, all of which have profoundly influenced his career and professional achievements. Sven's educational foundation was laid at Upper Austria's Business School, where he developed a keen understanding of the critical role of knowledge in leadership. This foundation was further enriched by his pursuit of a music degree at the Los Angeles College of Music in California, an experience that broadened his horizons and deepened his ability to connect with people.

Transitioning from the realm of music to a more structured environment, Sven undertook military and private bodyguard training in Tyrol, Austria. These rigorous experiences ingrained in him values of discipline, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to protect and serve—essential qualities for any leader. A pivotal chapter in Sven's journey unfolded at the Shaolin Monastery in China, where he immersed himself in the teachings of discipline, focus, and inner strength, blending martial arts and mindfulness into his leadership style.

Sven's professional career took a significant turn in 2020 with the management buyout of Kienesberger Maschinen GmbH, where he assumed the role of CEO. Under his leadership, the company achieved remarkable milestones, reflecting his dedication to excellence and sustainability. His leadership prowess was recognized with the prestigious Julius Award 2023 by the Wirtschaftsbund Oberösterreich, honoring outstanding quality businesses in Upper Austria and reflecting Sven's commitment to traditional values and economic prosperity.

Moreover, Kienesberger Maschinen GmbH received the INEO Award twice, in 2019 & 2023, for exemplary apprenticeship training, underscoring Sven's belief in nurturing future leaders. His vision extended globally with the acquisition of toma GmbH, enhancing their product portfolio & a significant mining investment in Guinea, West Africa, showcasing his commitment to global economic development.

Beyond business, Sven's corporate social responsibility is evident through his financial support for cultural & social initiatives, including the Jagdhornbläsergruppe Mattigtal, NYC Musik Marathon Mattighofen, Inn's Kulturfenster, Freiwillige Feuerwehr St. Peter am Hart, Braunauer Tafel, Tierschutzverein Braunau am Inn, & Elternverein der Volksschule St. Peter am Hart. These contributions reflect his dedication to fostering creativity, culture, & community well-being.

In sum, Sven Kienesberger's multifaceted journey exemplifies a leader who seamlessly integrates diverse experiences into a cohesive and impactful leadership style, marked by integrity, empathy & a global perspective.



Ghassen Knani

Chief Executive Officer,
Mining Contracting and Infrastructures Internationale

The awards highlight that the actions and commitment of Ghassen Knani in making a significant positive ESG impact and excelling in climate change, responsible water, protecting nature, circular economy, transparency, economic empowerment, community engagement, labour standards, and diversity, equality, and inclusion.

The Group is committed to sustainability and social responsibility and believes it is fundamental to its success as a mining company. Community engagement and the respect for the culture and welfare of the local communities are of fundamental importance and cornerstones of the business philosophy of MCI.
MCI seeks to establish environments that are conducive to improving living conditions through investments in community projects, job creation, training, and improving the quality of life of the people and communities.

Protecting the environment and maintaining a social licence with the communities where MCI operates is integral to the success of the Group. In particular, MCI group has developed specific voluntary policies and standards with a commitment to best practice management.

MCI is focused on local recruitment and training to demonstrate its commitment to the countries and mining and site areas in which it operates. Most specifically, one of the fundamental contributions of MCI sustainable and responsible development is to help its local employees obtain or complete their professional qualifications, thereby ensuring long careers.

Headquartered in Dubai, UAE, MCI has emerged as a reliable infrastructure and mining group that develops currently employs thousands of professionals and individuals across West Africa and Dubai. Through Ghassen Knani's determination, commitment and ability to see the bigger picture, MCI has emerged as a key player building key infrastructures and providing contract mining services to the natural resources sector generating jobs and significant socio-economic impact.

Ghassen Knani has focus on creating long-term value which guides MCI as they develop infrastructure and mineral assets, evaluate new assets, and navigate industry cycles.

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May Bahjat Kanounji

Chief Executive Officer,
Blooming Wear

May Bahjat Kanounji is a visionary CEO and influential leader with over 20 years of experience in shaping business strategies, growth management, and industry innovation. Recognized by Forbes as one of the top 50 impactful marketing and communications executives in 2020, May has continuously demonstrated her prowess in navigating complex markets and leading organizational change. She holds a Master's degree in Financial Economics, which has empowered her to strategically steer businesses toward sustained profitability and growth.

Currently serving as the CEO of Blooming Wear, May has been instrumental in transforming the company's business model and guiding it into a new era of generational fashion. Her strategic leadership has redefined the company's operations, brand positioning, and product lines, making Blooming Wear synonymous with timeless style and innovation. Under her guidance, the brand has achieved double-digit growth rates and expanded its market footprint, showcasing her unique ability to drive financial success and brand elevation.

A seasoned professional, May's career spans diverse sectors, with a particular focus on the fashion industry. She has been a pioneer in Saudi Arabia's market, leading the feminization of the retail sector and implementing innovative marketing strategies that blend below-the-line and above-the-line approaches. Her extensive expertise in both retail and wholesale operations has enabled her to modernize business models, keeping her companies agile and competitive in an ever-evolving landscape.

May's financial acumen and deep understanding of consumer behavior are complemented by her strategic use of analytics to optimize the customer journey. She is known for building high-performance teams, fostering a culture of innovation and excellence, and mentoring the next generation of leaders. Her commitment to nurturing talent is further exemplified by her role as a public speaker, mentor, and Effie Awards Jury Member.

With a reputation for transformative leadership, May Bahjat Kanounji is not just a CEO—she is a trailblazer who continues to set new benchmarks in business strategy, brand development, and industry influence, making her a respected figure and role model in the global business community.



Vijayanand Choudhury

Global Head SCM,
Sterlite Technologies Ltd

Vijayanand Choudhury is a seasoned senior executive with extensive expertise in transforming Supply Chain Management (SCM), Sales, and Operations across diverse industries. With over two decades of experience, his strategic leadership has consistently driven growth and profitability for prominent organizations, including STL - Sterlite Technologies Limited, Tata Technologies, Wipro, EXL Services Ltd, and IBM.

Currently serving as the Global Head of Supply Chain Management at Sterlite Technologies, a Vedanta Group Company, Vijayanand oversees SCM for multiple business divisions. He spearheaded a major cost transformation initiative across manufacturing units, generating a robust order book and building a huge pipeline. His role extends to championing ESG initiatives, with a focus on achieving zero emissions and ensuring a sustainable supply chain.

Prior to this, Vijayanand was the Global Head of Procurement at Tata Technologies, where he managed procurement across India, the US, UK, China, and other major markets. His strategic engagements and deal structuring enabled business acquisition and streamlined complex procurement processes, driving efficiency and enhancing time-to-market capabilities for customers.

At Wipro Limited, as General Manager, he transformed the company's procurement landscape by digitalizing Source-to-Pay (S2P) processes and managed over $1 billion in spend across categories like IT, Infrastructure, and Facilities. His contributions led to significant savings of $40 million annually and positioned the company as a leader in procurement innovation.

Vijayanand's early career includes pivotal roles at Exl Service, where he centralized procurement across global geographies, and IBM India, where he managed sourcing for large-scale system integration projects and led process re-engineering initiatives. His expertise in building strong vendor partnerships, deploying RPA and AI solutions, and managing complex M&A contracts has been instrumental in optimizing operations and driving value.

Holding an MBA in Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management from S.P. Jain Centre of Management, and certifications from the University of Houston, Vijayanand is also a Board Member at the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) in India. His accolades include the "Procurement Leader of the Year 2018" award, recognizing his excellence and transformative impact in the field.

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Kamal Satsangi

Vice President,
Air India Ltd (TATA Group)

Kamal Satsangi is a seasoned business leader with over two decades of experience in General Management, Strategy, and Operations, showcasing his expertise in transforming organizations and driving operational excellence across diverse sectors. Currently serving as the Group Vice President – General Management Admin & Facilities at Air India Limited, Kamal has been at the forefront of strategic transformation and integration across the TATA Group Airlines, which include Air India, Air India Express, and Vistara - TATA SIA Airlines Ltd.. He plays a pivotal role in steering the merger of these entities, implementing best practices, and establishing an innovative culture while aligning operations across 40+ international and domestic locations.

Kamal's career is marked by several high-impact roles, including his tenure as Assistant Vice President – Facility Management & Support Services at TATA SIA Airlines Limited (Vistara). He was a core member of the startup team that launched Vistara and was instrumental in setting up a robust operational infrastructure, opening over 78 offices with 216,000 square feet across India. His strategic oversight extended to global operations, managing 42+ locations, and ensuring seamless compliance with regulatory standards. Kamal also contributed to achieving Vistara's position as the 16th best airline globally, playing a key role in its international expansion to 16 overseas locations.

Before joining Vistara, Kamal held leadership roles at Tata Teleservices, Quatrro Global Solutions, Bharti Tele Tech Limited., and Wipro BPO Ltd, where he honed his skills in project management, cost optimization, and business continuity planning.

Academically, Kamal holds a Master's in Personnel Management and a Bachelor's in Business Management from DAVV, Indore. He has further enhanced his expertise through certifications, including the General Management Program from Harvard University, Project Management from U21 Global University, and a Six Sigma Green Belt qualification. He is also a certified TBEM (Tata Business Excellence Model) Assessor.

Kamal's leadership was crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he established a 24/7 command center, implemented safety protocols, and coordinated healthcare resources for employees and their families, ensuring business continuity and employee well-being during unprecedented times. His visionary approach and dedication continue to set benchmarks in corporate governance and strategic transformation.

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Solange Gregorio

Head of Portugal Retail,
Future Healthcare Group

Solange Gregório is a dynamic leader whose career spans multiple industries, reflecting both her personal resilience and the broader transformation of Portugal over the last 50 years. Solange was born in an era when women's participation in the workforce was just beginning to rise. With perseverance and a commitment to self-improvement, she defied societal limitations to pursue education and carve out a remarkable career in business.

Solange holds an Executive MBA and a college degree, both of which she earned while overcoming significant health challenges. Her academic achievements laid the foundation for a career characterized by strategic leadership and innovative thinking. Her entrepreneurial spirit shone through early on when she co-founded a clothing store, which eventually became part of the Inditex Group's Massimo Dutti franchise. She led the project from inception, managing everything from franchise negotiations to bank partnerships, and executing the store acquisition process. This venture, launched with no safety net, provided her with invaluable business lessons that shaped her professional journey.

Currently, Solange is at the helm of Future Healthcare Group as Head of Portugal Retail, where she drives healthcare management forward through continuous innovation. In addition, led marketing and communications for both Future Healthcare and Saúde Prime brands, she has been instrumental in enhancing the group's market presence."

Her career also includes pivotal roles in the automotive industry, where she specialized in marketing and advertising for Renault Group, and managed public relations for Subaru and Hyundai Motor Company ( ) at the Entreposto Group. Solange's versatile expertise extends to coaching and consulting, particularly in ISO 9001 quality projects, further demonstrating her diverse skill set.

A strong advocate for stepping outside her comfort zone, Solange embraces challenges and operates with the motto "Always Further." Her journey is a testament to persistence, illustrating the importance of resilience and learning from setbacks. Her strategic expertise in brand development, digital marketing, and public relations is coupled with a deep passion for excellence.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Solange is family-oriented, the fourth of four children, and deeply inspired by her daughter and talents like Cristiano Ronaldo, for being an icon of hard work and resilience. Her career is not just a series of roles but a reflection of her unwavering commitment to personal growth and authenticity.

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Pramod Jasraj Bharal

Managing Director,
PSA Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals

Pramod Bharal is a distinguished entrepreneur and philanthropist committed to creating a disease-free world through innovative pharmaceutical solutions. As the founder of PSA Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, he has developed a portfolio of over 400 registered products that address various health challenges. His company, established in 1985 with just Rs. 500, has grown to become a global leader in the pharmaceutical industry, with a presence in over 40 countries.

Pramod's journey began in Arvi, Wardha, Maharashtra, where he overcame numerous personal and professional obstacles, including financial hardships and a speech impediment that tested his resolve. Motivated by his parents' entrepreneurial spirit, he pursued a career in engineering and innovation, ultimately dedicating himself to the pharmaceutical field after 12 years in the industry. His vision for PSA has consistently prioritized safety, efficacy, and accessibility, transforming the company from consultancy to a manufacturer of high-quality medicines.

Beyond his corporate success, Pramod is a passionate philanthropist, initiating numerous social projects aimed at improving healthcare access for underserved populations. His commitment to providing safe and affordable medicines led to the creation of Rainbow Life Sciences, focused on developing 100% plant-based Ayurvedic treatments accessible to all. Pramod's dedication extends to addressing the treatment of complex illnesses, including sclerosis, breast tumors, and various pain therapies, and he has pledged aid for each of the conditions treated by his companies.

Pramod's philanthropic efforts encompass a wide array of humanitarian causes. He has championed initiatives to provide water, electricity, education, and healthcare to marginalized communities, particularly in desert regions. His focus on research and development has contributed to advancements in drugs and vaccines for neglected diseases such as leprosy, tuberculosis, and malaria. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he offered free or subsidized medicines to those in need, reflecting his unwavering commitment to public health.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Pramod was awarded the Samaj Bhushan by the Governor of Maharashtra in 2022. This honor serves as a testament to his unwavering dedication to his vision of a healthier world. Pramod Bharal's legacy is one of compassion, innovation, and relentless pursuit of a disease-free future for all.

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Talal Alhabib

Founder & CEO,
Sooqista Studios

Talal Alhabib is a visionary entrepreneur, renowned for his pioneering contributions to the Web3 gaming industry and his diverse business ventures. As the CEO and co-founder of Sooqista Studios, Kuwait's leading Web3 gaming studio, Talal has positioned himself at the forefront of digital entertainment, particularly in the rapidly evolving blockchain space. His latest project, FRACTALIANS, a cross-play Web3 game that combines ARPG, MOBA, and Battle Royale elements, has garnered international attention, winning the community vote at the F100 Hackathon organized by Fractal.is in 2022. The game is now one of the most anticipated releases in the Web3 gaming world.

Talal's career spans over two decades and is marked by an impressive array of entrepreneurial achievements. In 2016, he founded T&A Carbon, a fashion brand that specialized in men's accessories crafted from carbon fiber. The brand achieved significant success, eventually selling for a seven-figure sum. This venture highlighted Talal's ability to blend innovation with business acumen, a hallmark of his entrepreneurial journey. He also co-founded Go Kayak Co., a company that focuses on kayaking equipment and accessories, and launched Fireball Café, a sports café catering to Kuwait's growing foosball community.

Beyond his entrepreneurial pursuits, Talal has made a profound impact in the public sector. Since 2002, he has served as Chief Electrical Engineer at Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water & Renewable Energy, where he has played a critical role in the development of the country's power infrastructure. His contributions include designing specifications for underground 400KV cable systems and introducing live line maintenance for overhead lines (OHL), adhering to national and international standards.

Talal's multifaceted career exemplifies a unique blend of traditional business leadership and cutting-edge technological innovation. His ventures across industries, from fashion to gaming to renewable energy, reflect his diverse talents and forward-thinking mindset. Through his leadership at Sooqista Studios and his commitment to innovation in every field he enters, Talal continues to inspire future leaders and push the boundaries of what's possible in both the digital and real-world industries. His work, particularly in bridging the Web2 and Web3 worlds, showcases his unwavering dedication to advancing technology and business in tandem.

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Bashar Mezher

Regional Director, Business Development, Kaplan Professional ME

Bashar Mezher is an entrepreneurial-minded senior executive with over 20 years of experience in driving profitability, performance, and value for multinational and multicultural organizations. He holds a master's degree in Business Administration, a foundation that has empowered him to excel in business strategy, customer dynamics, and corporate leadership across diverse industries, including professional education, express logistics, and global transportation.

During his tenure as General Manager, KSA for the IMA | Institute of Management Accountants, Mezher was instrumental in spearheading business development initiatives in Saudi Arabia. His leadership was crucial in strengthening relationships with key stakeholders, including government entities, corporations, and training providers. By fostering these critical alliances, he significantly enhanced IMA's market reputation, growing its membership and Certified Management Accountant candidates. His collaboration with internal teams for marketing, communication, and exam management helped drive organizational success in the region.

Prior to his role at IMA, Mezher was the Regional Director at Morgan International, where he successfully managed operations across the GCC. His strategic leadership and focus on performance metrics were vital in enhancing operational efficiency and delivering clear, accountable results. He held profit and loss responsibilities and implemented initiatives that improved customer service excellence, driving commercial success and ensuring alignment with the company's goals and objectives. His contributions included conducting training needs analysis for corporate clients, streamlining processes, and unlocking new business opportunities.

Mezher's career journey includes valuable tenures at renowned global organizations such as DHL Express and Emirates Airlines. His experience at these multinational companies provided him with a deep understanding of business complexities in the logistics and global transportation industries, further reinforcing his reputation as a forward-thinking leader who thrives in dynamic environments.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mezher is committed to continuous learning. He holds certifications in Microsoft Dynamics 365 and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, demonstrating his dedication to staying ahead of industry trends. He is also an active member of professional organizations such as the Institute of Management Accountants, the Society for Human Resource Management, and the American Production and Inventory Control Society.



Nick Patel

Founder & CEO, CLINQ.GOLD

Nick Patel, Founder and CEO of Clinq Gold and Bank of Bullion, brings over 25 years of exceptional experience across global financial markets. Known for his depth in commodities and blockchain tokenization, Nick has become an influential figure, navigating complex industry shifts and building extensive networks across 30+ countries.

Nick began his career as a stockbroker and equity sales specialist, focusing on metals and diamond mining. His early accomplishments include securing funding for over 100 companies spanning diverse industries, from tech startups to pharmaceuticals and recycling. This foundational experience allowed him to broaden his financial acumen and build a comprehensive understanding of market dynamics. Later, Nick served as Investment Director for a prominent family office, where he led strategic investment partnerships, particularly in infrastructure. His ability to liaise with governments and corporate leaders globally has played a pivotal role in achieving large-scale investment and infrastructure objectives.

Nick's academic background includes a BA in Finance & Economics and a Master's in Philosophy, underscoring his commitment to continuous learning. Recently, he pursued advanced studies on Cryptocurrency and Disruption with the The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), keeping him at the forefront of financial innovation. Nick is also a respected voice in the industry, frequently speaking at global conferences on topics like tokenization and blockchain's potential in reshaping financial transactions.

At Bank of Bullion, one of Dubai's top bullion suppliers, Nick leads a thriving enterprise specializing in gold procurement, trading, and commodities. The company trades over 100kg of physical gold daily and has gained recognition for its state-of-the-art online trading platform. Nick's vision extends to Clinq Gold, where he has pioneered a system enabling individuals to save gold in local currency via mobile apps, with payments routed back to central banks. This model supports central banks in bolstering gold reserves and allows for digital twin creation, enhancing trade capacity among participating countries.

Beyond his ventures, Nick serves as a non-executive director at Bank FX, a trading platform for currencies, equities, metals, and more. His recent achievements include initiatives in Africa to empower the unbanked through mobile financial services, infrastructure support, and advocating for ethical mining practices.

Through these impactful projects, Nick Patel continues to set new standards for financial inclusion and responsible leadership within the mining industry, while fostering economic growth in underserved regions.

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Maryam Telmesani

Vice President of Sustainability, Saudia Group

Maryam Telmesani stands out as a leading figure in sustainability, making significant strides in corporate social responsibility and environmental stewardship across the MENA region. She was honored as one of the top 100 most influential Arab leaders in Corporate Social Responsibility for 2023, awarded the Woman Icon of The Year 2023 by SACWFM, and included in the power 50 most influential sustainability leaders of 2022 in the MENA region.

With over 15 years of expertise, Maryam has demonstrated a proactive and dynamic approach to sustainability. She has developed multi-sectoral sustainable strategies, business strategies, strategic communications, advisory and consulting services, project management, capacity building, impact analysis, and reporting across various industries.

Maryam previously served as the Chief Sustainability Officer of MBL, where she provided sustainability consulting to key organizations, including government entities. Her previous roles include CSO at Al-Dabbagh Group and Red Sea International. She was also appointed Chair of the Board for the Global Compact Local Network Saudi Arabia from 2020 to 2022. Her advisory roles extend to several esteemed organizations, such as Prince Sultan University Center for Sustainability and Climate, Earth Academy, and the Global Ambassadors of Sustainability. Additionally, she serves as an Expert in Residence for the HULT Prize Foundation and an Advisory Board Member for Updapt – ESG Tech Co.

Her educational background is equally impressive, holding an Executive MBA from HULT International Business School & numerous sustainability certificates from ISSP & Cambridge Judge Business School. Maryam's commitment to education is reflected in her active participation in over 40 key global sustainability events & talks.

Maryam's career is marked by notable projects & achievements. She successfully launched & expanded the UN Global Compact in Saudi Arabia, creating a strategic plan to engage the country's largest companies. She developed an innovative environmental audit system for the Jeddah Central Development project, significantly improving compliance by 70% in the first month. Her work with the Fashion Commission, Ministry of Culture in KSA, included designing a comprehensive sustainability strategy for the fashion industry, culminating in the establishment of a Research Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Fashion.

Maryam has also made significant contributions to the development of sustainability training programs & workshops, aligning them with global standards such as ESGs, SDGs & GRIs. Her efforts in transforming corporate sustainability have set the foundation for sustainability KPIs & reporting across various industries, driving continuous assessment & improvement.



Dr. Rajiv Modi

Chairman & Managing Director, Cadila Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Rajiv Modi, Chairman and Managing Director of Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and IRM Group of Companies, is a transformative leader in the pharmaceutical and business world. Steering India's largest privately held pharmaceutical company, Dr. Rajiv has amplified Cadila Pharmaceuticals' global footprint and influence. Cadila, founded by his father Shri Indravadan Modi in 1951, has grown to become a trusted multinational, recognized for providing high-quality, affordable medications in over 100 countries.

Upon assuming leadership in 2012, Dr. Rajiv introduced a multi-faceted growth strategy that emphasized manufacturing excellence, cutting-edge research, and broad global distribution. His dedication to innovation has yielded world-first pharmaceuticals, including ThRabis, a critical rabies treatment, and Polycap, a unique cardiovascular therapy. Under his guidance, Cadila Pharmaceuticals has established manufacturing facilities internationally, including in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, alongside three major sites across India. Dr. Rajiv's unwavering commitment to innovation and research has positioned Cadila Pharmaceuticals as a pioneer in the global healthcare landscape.

Education has been a foundation of Dr. Rajiv's career. He earned his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Michigan, after completing an M.Sc . in Biochemical Engineering from UCL and a B.Tech . in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. His academic accomplishments and research expertise have garnered recognition, including the Genetic Society of America's Best Scientific Poster Award at the International Genetics Congress (1988) and an invitation as a speaker at the prestigious Gordon Research Conference on Microbial Evolution.

As a thought leader, Dr. Rajiv serves on the Wall Street Journal CEO Council and has been an active participant in India's "Make in India" mission and the "Vibrant Gujarat Summits." His corporate social responsibility initiatives have also been instrumental, advancing healthcare access through the Kaka Ba Hospital and supporting underdeveloped villages with essential healthcare services and regular free check-ups.

Dr. Rajiv's commitment to education is further reflected in his role as Chairman of the Board of Governors at IIT Guwahati and his leadership as the former Chairman of the Research Council of the Central Drug Research InstituteÊ(Cdri),ÊLucknow. Elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), Dr. Rajiv continues to bridge industry and academia, fostering a legacy of excellence and societal impact through his leadership at Cadila Pharmaceuticals.

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Dr. Imad A. Syed

Co-Chief Executive Officer,
PiLog Group

Dr. Imad A. Syed is a distinguished leader in enterprise digital transformation, serving as Co-CEO at PiLog Group, where he leverages over 22 years of experience to drive forward-thinking strategies in data governance, analytics, and digital innovation. His tenure at PiLog has been marked by visionary leadership and a deep commitment to transforming data into strategic assets, guiding global organizations toward digital maturity.

As an acclaimed digital strategist, Dr. Imad's impact at PiLog began in 2002, initially in systems engineering before rising to senior leadership roles. In 2007, he became COO and Managing Director, overseeing R&D, business development, & operational growth from PiLog's Hyderabad offices. In 2016, he was promoted to Group Chief Information Officer, where he architected complex digital ecosystems and spearheaded customer-centric strategies that have become cornerstones of PiLog's success across the Middle East and APAC regions. Since assuming the role of Co-CEO in 2024, Dr. Imad has focused on advancing PiLog's global reputation as a leader in enterprise data quality and analytics solutions.

Dr. Imad is the architect behind numerous pioneering software products, including iMDRM, iTransform, and iVisualize, and the advanced iVision Business Technology Platform. These innovations encompass SaaS solutions with microservices, ensuring data-driven business processes that streamline data acquisition, governance & analytics for diverse enterprises. His work also includes the design of comprehensive data lifecycle management processes like iDataAcquisition and iDataGovernance, which empower organizations to effectively manage and monetize their data assets.

With expertise in ISO standards, AI/ML, & automation solutions, Dr. Imad has consulted for top-tier organizations, offering critical insights as a digital advisor & data strategist. He has also contributed as a member of the International Board & a Topline Advisory Board member at AdvisoryCloud since 2023. His influence extends beyond PiLog, marked by numerous accolades including the Golden Pinnacle Award for CEO of the Year 2023 & the Man of Excellence 2022.

Dr. Imad holds a Bachelor's & Master's degree in Computer Science along with two honorary doctorates in Data Analytics & Technology from National American University and California Public University, respectively. A multilingual professional, he is proficient in English, Urdu, Telugu, Hindi, and elementary Arabic & Afrikaans, underscoring his capacity to connect across cultures & industries.

With a career dedicated to harnessing the transformative power of data, Dr. Imad is a leading force in the digital domain, shaping the future of data management and enterprise technology solutions.



Mahuran Saro Sariki

Vice President Group Research Development Policy & Malaysian Professional Talent, Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad

Mahuran Saro Sariki is an influential leader in human resources, known for her dedication to advancing HR practices and fostering inclusive workplace environments. With a background rooted in both academic and hands-on expertise, Mahuran has shaped HR policies across various industries, enabling organizations to meet evolving workforce demands in the digital age. Her early education in organizational psychology provided a strong foundation, while her ongoing commitment to professional development, including certifications in strategic HR management, has cemented her authority in talent management and workforce development.

Throughout her career, Mahuran has held prominent HR roles in leading companies, contributing to the transformation of their people practices and culture. In her most recent position as Senior Director of Human Resources at a multinational corporation, she spearheaded initiatives that aligned HR strategies with business goals, directly enhancing employee engagement and retention.

Mahuran's adeptness at identifying emerging trends in talent acquisition and retention has made her a sought-after speaker at HR forums and industry conferences worldwide. She regularly shares insights on topics such as the future of work, digital transformation in HR, and effective talent retention strategies, with her thought leadership recognized both locally and internationally.

Beyond her corporate roles, Mahuran's contributions extend to academic partnerships, where she collaborates with universities to bridge the gap between theoretical HR practices and practical application. Her initiatives have fostered innovation in HR by supporting research projects that explore new approaches to workforce management. An advocate for the next generation of HR leaders, Mahuran actively mentors young talent, emphasizing the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

In addition to her professional achievements, Mahuran is deeply committed to social impact. She volunteers with community organizations that empower marginalized groups through skills training and employment opportunities. Through these efforts, she works to create a more equitable society and promote inclusivity, embodying the principles of servant leadership.

Mahuran's leadership philosophy is rooted in trust, empowerment, and accountability, guiding her teams through complex challenges while promoting a culture of collaboration and continuous learning. Her journey epitomizes the transformative power of HR leadership in shaping inclusive, resilient workplaces.

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Anthony Joseph Abou Jaoude

Chief Executive Officer,
Prime Stay Holiday Homes

Anthony Joseph Abou-Jaoude stands at the forefront of the UAE's real estate sector, recognized for his visionary leadership as the CEO of Primestay, the largest and most innovative holiday homes company in the region. His journey is marked by a steadfast commitment to excellence and a keen understanding of the dynamic property market in Dubai.

With a specialization in off-plan property investment deals, Anthony has successfully cultivated relationships with high-net-worth investors and end-user clients, ensuring their unique requirements are met with tailored solutions. His approach is deeply consultative, focusing on delivering maximum value while navigating the complexities of Dubai's evolving real estate landscape. This client-centric philosophy is complemented by his availability 24/7 and multi-lingual support, establishing a solid reputation for Primestay and his consultancy ventures.

As the founder of Anthony Joseph Consultancy, he has leveraged his extensive market insights to provide expert advice, underpinned by meticulous research and analysis. Anthony's ability to secure pre-launch VIP access to exclusive projects has empowered his clients to seize the best opportunities in prime locations, contributing significantly to their investment portfolios.

In addition to his role at Primestay, Anthony is the CEO of Prime Cleaning, showcasing his versatility and commitment to enhancing the standards of property management services in the UAE. His strategic vision extends to his partnership with Provident Estate, where he serves as an associate partner. This collaboration enables him to offer a comprehensive suite of services, including residential and commercial sales, leasing, property management, and even second citizenship options, thus addressing a broad spectrum of client needs.

Anthony's proficiency in investment properties and real estate transactions is matched by his strategic acumen in business development. His holistic approach, coupled with a focus on customer service, has led to remarkable achievements, positioning him as a trusted advisor in the competitive property market.

Whether assisting bulk buyers seeking capital appreciation or helping individuals find their dream homes, Anthony Joseph Abou-Jaoude remains dedicated to providing unparalleled service and expertise. His ongoing commitment to fostering growth in the real estate sector not only enhances his clients' investments but also contributes to the overall vibrancy of Dubai's real estate landscape.



Hajeer Nainan Koya

Chief Executive Officer,
Ace Inspire Group of Companies

Under Hajeer's leadership in the past three years, Ace Inspire Group has flourished, with a cumulative paid-up capital of $36M and 850 employees working on various government projects in the State of Kuwait. Hajeer's expertise in business development, strategy marketing, and contract negotiations has helped secure new contracts with two multinational companies worth $20M, even in the face of the pandemic. In addition, Hajeer's keen operational insights have enabled him to turn around the performance of his companies within three years, securing projects that were downsized due to the pandemic.

The growth of Ace Inspire group has been fuelled by his innovative approach of providing numerous subcontracting & supply services which are distinct to each other in nature under one roof, for his clients, this ensures ease of use and simplicity in procurement process , effective cost control and smooth operation than depending on different sub contractors for each distinct service.

He also served as a legal advisor for the Embassy of India in Kuwait, providing legal advice to Indian residents in the country. He has also provided low-cost legal aid to underprivileged workers.

He is an expert in EPC subcontracts, strategic growth & development , corporate legal policy making, construction contracts, civil construction, global business expansion, legal compliance, and corporate acquisitions. With his Bachelor of Laws degree from Mahatma Gandhi University, Hajeer has been instrumental in streamlining legal processes, drafting and negotiating highly sensitive infrastructure contracts worth $700M, and representing several companies in international contract negotiations.

Beyond his work, Hajeer is a reader and poet who practices the meditation technique "Vipassana" and is a professional First Class cricketer with the Kuwait Cricket Board.

In short, Hajeer Nainan Koya is an accomplished entrepreneur and business leader with over 15 years of experience driving growth and revenue strategies. His passion for providing subcontracting services to multinational companies combined with his legal expertise and contract negotiation skills make him a valuable asset to any organisation.

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Dania Daoud

Senior Director,
Credit Suisse AG

Dania Daoud boasts over 24 years of extensive experience in wealth and asset management across the GCC and MENA markets. She commenced her career at HSBC Bank Middle East in 1999, where she excelled as a financial consultant within the Financial Planning & Wealth Management division. Her analytical skills and client-focused approach quickly propelled her into significant roles, leading her to Emirates NBD's Asset Management division in 2003, where she specialized in meeting the investment needs of corporate and high-net-worth individuals.

In 2011, Dania joined Credit Suisse AG – Private Banking, where her career flourished. Renowned for her exceptional investment advice, she has become one of the top senior bankers in the UAE, providing tailored financial strategies to ultra-high-net-worth individuals. Dania's dual proficiency in financial acumen and interpersonal skills enables her to adeptly navigate the diverse cultural landscapes of her clients.

Dania holds a Bachelor of Arts and an MBA with a focus on Banking and Finance from the American University of Beirut, where she actively contributed to various volunteer initiatives, including health awareness and fundraising for underprivileged children. During her studies, she also established a professor associate program, providing free academic assistance to fellow students, enhancing their learning experiences.

Her commitment to social causes culminated in her participation in Credit Suisse's Global Citizenship Program in 2016. In collaboration with Plan International Hong Kong, she played a pivotal role in raising GBP 700,000 to support the "Because I Am a Girl" campaign, dedicated to educating girls in the Philippines. Dania's efforts in this program were not only impactful but also highlighted her advocacy for education and gender equality.

As a passionate proponent of women's empowerment, Dania has actively participated in initiatives within the UAE, serving on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee at Credit Suisse. She has been a panel speaker at various conferences, including those hosted by INSEAD Business School, where she champions women's financial literacy. In recognition of her contributions, she was honored as the 'Best Women Leader' at the ME Women Leaders Summit 2022.

Dania Daoud is widely recognized for her compassionate leadership and dedication to delivering results, making her a respected figure in the wealth management industry and a powerful advocate for women's empowerment.

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Nishant Monani

Chief Financial Officer,
KH FOGES PTE LTD

Nishant Monani is a distinguished finance professional with over 10 years of comprehensive experience across multiple markets, including Singapore, India, and the Middle East. Currently serving as Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director at KH Foges Pte Ltd, he has built a solid reputation for his expertise in corporate finance, business leadership, and financial planning and analysis (FP&A). His career reflects a commitment to excellence and innovation in financial management and strategic growth.

Since joining KH Foges Pte Ltd in May 2017, Nishant has been pivotal in steering one of Singapore's largest piling and EPC construction companies. In his role, he oversees operations not only in Singapore but also in Myanmar, Malaysia, and India, spearheading initiatives that drive growth and sustainability across the group. He plays a critical role in decision-making related to capital expenditure and the strategic evolution of the company.

Nishant's key responsibilities encompass ensuring compliance with corporate laws, taxation, and stock exchange regulations for both the Singapore Exchange (SGX) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). His expertise in project costing and variance analysis enables him to provide timely insights to stakeholders, while his advisory role to the board emphasizes key performance indicators (KPIs) and the financial positioning of the group.

Among his notable achievements, Nishant successfully implemented an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system across all group companies, consolidating operations onto a single platform for enhanced reporting and governance. He led the transition to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), significantly improving the accuracy of financial statements. Additionally, he secured approximately $70 million in project and acquisition financing from banks and financial institutions, effectively managing over $150 million in borrowings across three countries.

Prior to his role at KH Foges, Nishant served as Finance Manager and Senior Cost Controller at Bikram Industries International FZC in Dubai. There, he developed robust information systems for budget reporting and successfully reduced group borrowing costs through strategic negotiations and improved working capital structures.

Nishant Monani's career is characterized by a strong foundation in finance, strategic vision, and an unwavering commitment to driving business success through innovative financial solutions. He holds a proven track record of business turnaround, capital raising, and enhancing corporate finance functions, making him a valuable asset to any organization seeking growth and transformation.

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Dr. Vikas Mishra

Chief Organizational Planning & Development Officer, Mawarid Mining LLC.

Dr. Vikas Mishra is a high-impact business leader and global authority in Business and Human Resource Management, with over 20 years of experience driving transformation across diverse industries. He currently serves as the Chief Organizational Planning & Development Officer at Mawarid Mining LLC, where he is also the Director of Rwanda Operations. Dr. Vikas has spent more than 18 years working internationally, gaining extensive expertise in manufacturing, automobiles, service industries, education services, construction, and mining, among others.

A strategic architect, Dr. Vikas is recognized for his ability to translate business priorities into actionable plans. He has successfully developed and implemented business-aligned HR functions at Mawarid Mining, enhancing organizational effectiveness and culture. His innovative approach to management has led to streamlined processes and capitalized growth opportunities, fostering continuous improvement and excellence in workforce development.

Dr. Vikas has a rich history of leading business transformation initiatives, having conceptualized and executed a comprehensive HR business plan for Mawarid's global operations. His leadership was instrumental in developing a business plan for a Tantalum Mining project in Rwanda, showcasing his capability to steer complex projects in emerging markets.

Before joining Mawarid, Dr. Vikas held significant positions at various prestigious organizations, including Action Group of Companies, FIITJEE Limited, and Condrill Aktibolag (AB) in Sweden. His ability to navigate multiple geographies and diverse cultures has equipped him with a unique perspective on best practices in business management and HR functions worldwide.

Academically, Dr. Vikas holds a Professional Doctorate (PD) in Business & Human Resource Management from European International University, Paris, and a Master's degree in Personnel Management from the University of Pune, India. He also possesses an Executive Diploma in HR from XLRI, Jamshedpur, along with several other certifications. Notably, he is a SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) and a Certified International HR Manager (CIHRM).

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field, Dr. Vikas has received prestigious accolades, including the "100 Most Influential Global HR Leaders" and the "101 Global HR Heroes" awards by the World HRD Congress and CHRO Asia in 2018 and 2019, respectively.



Bishoy Edward

Chief Operating Officer, Al Dhabi Contracting LLC

In the dynamic realm of construction, few possess the multifaceted expertise and unwavering dedication exhibited by Bishoy Samy Edward. As the esteemed Chief Operating Officer at Dhabi Contracting LLC, Bishoy stands as a paragon of operational proficiency, steering the company's success with his unparalleled vision and astute management.

With over a decade of steadfast leadership within Dhabi Contracting LLC, Bishoy has sculpted a sterling reputation for his adept handling of the intricate facets that construction demands. His responsibilities extend far beyond the confines of a traditional COO role. Bishoy is the linchpin, the orchestrator-in-chief of all operational activities, expertly navigating the complexities that come with overseeing day-to-day operations.

At the core of his mandate lies a commitment to excellence. Bishoy seamlessly liaises with clients and architectural consultants, effortlessly resolving intricate design dilemmas. His prowess in ensuring unwavering quality and maintaining project timelines stands as a testament to his dedication. Bishoy's acumen extends beyond the surface - he meticulously monitors QA standards and manages productivity, ensuring each project surpasses expectations.

His academic journey stands as a testament to his thirst for knowledge and excellence. From a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Biotechnology to a PhD candidacy in Digital Twins at Middlesex University, Bishoy has continuously pursued academic prowess. His arsenal of academic accomplishments includes a Master of Science in Engineering Management, a Masters Diploma in Project Management, and a Masters Diploma in Organizational Leadership from esteemed institutions such as University of Oxford and Middlesex University.

Yet, it's not merely his academic laurels that define Bishoy. His ability to seamlessly amalgamate theoretical wisdom with pragmatic, on-ground application is the hallmark of his success. He doesn't just manage construction projects; he orchestrates them with an unparalleled finesse that showcases a rare blend of strategic thinking and tactical execution.

Bishoy Edward stands as the epitome of a modern leader. His relentless pursuit of knowledge, coupled with his unwavering commitment to deliver premium projects within budget and on schedule, embodies a visionary in the construction realm. His story is one of leadership, expertise, and an unwavering dedication to excellence - a beacon for aspiring professionals and an invaluable asset to Dhabi Contracting LLC.

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Mudhit Gupta

Founder & CEO,
EMGEE GROUP

Mudhit Gupta's journey is a testament to resilience, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit. From a young age, he was inspired by his father's entrepreneurial pursuits and his mother's unwavering support, which instilled in him the values of hard work and integrity. At just 14, Mudhit developed a keen interest in business, laying the foundation for a career marked by significant achievements and contributions.

Mudhit's initial foray into entrepreneurship began in his father's ceramics business. Demonstrating remarkable strategic insight and determination, he increased the business's profits by 300% within a year, a feat that earned him significant autonomy by the age of 16. This early success fueled his ambitions to explore larger ventures.

Mudhit's academic journey took him to London, where he aimed to further his education at prestigious institutions such as the London School of Economics. However, unforeseen circumstances led him back to India. At the age of 18, Mudhit assumed the role of de facto CEO of his family business due to his father's need to attend to his ailing grandfather in Gurdaspur. Despite the challenges posed by limited communication tools and his youth, Mudhit navigated these responsibilities with determination, driving the family business forward during trying times.

Faced with a downturn in the real estate market, Mudhit's entrepreneurial spirit led him to diversify into the rice export business. He acquired and revitalized a struggling rice mill, turning it into a profitable venture and eventually selling it for a significant profit. This experience underscored his belief in the power of innovation and resilience.

In 2002, Mudhit founded the EMGEE Group, which has since become a prominent name in the Indian real estate sector. Under his leadership, the company has developed over 3 million square feet of luxurious residential space in Mumbai, Khandala, and Goa. His vision for creating dream homes and his commitment to delivering projects on schedule have earned EMGEE a reputation for excellence and a debt-free status.

Expanding his horizons, Mudhit ventured into the hospitality sector, launching projects such as Sterling Resorts Lonavala and the Oakwood Premier 5-star hotel and branded residences in Lonavala. These initiatives reflect his dedication to merging innovative design with an understanding of local culture, redefining luxury hospitality, and contributing to the socio-economic development of the communities served.

Mudhit Gupta's entrepreneurial journey is characterized by resilience, innovation, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the real estate and hospitality industries, transforming dreams into reality and creating lasting value for stakeholders.

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GLOBAL 200 POWER LEADERS IN MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS 2024

Harish Sarma - Pluxee India
Rana Al-Maeeni - Maristo Hospitality
Omar Abdulkarim Faden - Saudi Air Navigation Services - SANS
Shivkumar S. - GMR Airports - Manohar International Airport
Christina Fabito - JW Marriott Hotel Muscat
Akanksha Jain - BharatPe
Manish Bhatt - CMO Council, Airbus, YOLOH, Bhrish and Value Invest
Elitsa Krumova - Global Thought Leader and B2B Tech Influencer
Ravi Prakash - BVM Digital Media
Ajay Kumar Chaurasia - RupeeRedee
Sandeep Kumar - Epsilon Carbon
Kunjan Kumar Singh - GenQore Drug House LLC
Prakash Katariya - Silicon Valley Bank

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Harish Sarma

Marketing & Product Director,
Pluxee India

Harish Sarma, a visionary leader with over 14 years of diverse experience, embodies the seamless integration of technical prowess & strategic acumen, propelling organizations into the future. Commencing his journey at Accenture, he quickly ascended as a trailblazer, earning the Excellence Award for exceptional performance, notably orchestrating the automation of critical processes & delivering a remarkable cost saving of $40,000.

Harish's trajectory reached new heights with an MBA from IIM Calcutta, where he gained diverse experience in sales & distribution at ITC Limited. His analytical journey culminated at Idea Cellular, refining a strategic mindset while working extensively with large datasets, laying the foundation for his impactful trajectory.

As the Marketing & Product Director at Pluxee India, Harish became the architect of a digital transformation that reshaped the organization's identity & market presence. Meticulously developing annual plans aligned with functional roadmaps, he showcased strategic planning prowess, that underscored his leadership.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Harish's foresight took center stage. Spearheading the three-sixty-degree digitization of benefits administration, he introduced the Multi-Benefit platform - a future-ready solution ensuring seamless support for clients' employees during tumultuous times. This agile response not only showcased adaptability but also cemented Pluxee's position as a leader in the dynamic employee benefits landscape.

Harish's commitment to employee well-being translated into avant-garde benefits through the Multi-Benefit platform, aligning with the evolving expectations of the modern workforce. His dedication to keeping the platform agile & future-ready reflects a commitment to addressing dynamic market needs.

The rebranding journey of Pluxee under Harish's strategic guidance was a triumph, overcoming challenges of brand transition by maintaining the association with the legacy of Sodexo, achieving an impressive 98% brand recall.

As Pluxee International executed a spin-off in 2024, Harish continues to steer the ship in India towards deeper brand connections, optimized offerings & a pioneering role in the evolving employee benefits & rewards space. His impact is characterized by transformative digital initiatives, innovative benefits solutions & strategic brand positioning echoing excellence & forward-looking leadership.

Looking ahead, Harish remains a poised trailblazer, navigating the evolving landscape of payments, fintech & employee experience in India. As a technology, marketing & product enthusiast, he envisions a pivotal role in shaping the country's benefits & rewards space, solidifying Pluxee's position as a global frontrunner.



Rana Al-Maeeni

Group Marketing Director,
Maristo Hospitality

Rana Al Maeeni stands at the forefront of the F&B industry as the Marketing Director of Maristo Hospitality. With a career spanning over a decade, she has garnered a reputation for her strategic acumen, innovative thinking, and leadership excellence. Her journey in the industry is marked by significant contributions and numerous accolades, underscoring her role as a pivotal figure in shaping F&B marketing strategies in the UAE and beyond.

Rana's professional journey began in 2013 after graduating with a BA in Business & Marketing from Middlesex University, London. She joined Azadea Group as a Senior Marketing Specialist, where she made an immediate impact. During her five-year tenure, she launched a brand loyalty app for PAUL across eight markets, demonstrating her ability to drive customer engagement and brand loyalty.

In 2019, Rana took on a new challenge with AWJ. Her role involved brand creation and development, working closely with the CEO on company and brand strategy. She played a crucial part in the expansion of AWJ's unique culinary concepts, including Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, and International flavors. Her efforts culminated in the acquisition of AWJ by Kitopi, a significant milestone that she proudly cites as a testament to the team's hard work and dedication.

Under her leadership, AWJ's marketing department saw tremendous growth, tripling in size over five years. This expansion contributed to the company's overall success and positioned AWJ's brands as leaders in the market. Her achievements at AWJ include winning several prestigious awards such as the What's On Awards 2021, the Leaders in F&B Awards for Best Family Friendly Restaurant for Catch22, and Best Casual Dining Restaurant for Operation: Falafel.

Rana's passion for food and entrepreneurial mindset have been the driving forces behind her success. Her ability to blend creativity with strategic vision has led to the successful launch and expansion of several brands, including Sushido and other concepts now thriving in new markets like KSA.

In her current role at Maristo Hospitality, Rana oversees marketing for prominent brands such as popeyes, Sisi's Eatery, and GDK (German Doner Kebab). Her leadership continues to inspire her team and drive the company's growth.

Rana Al Maeeni's career is a testament to her dedication, hard work, and passion for the F&B industry. Her strategic insights and innovative approach have made her a key player in the field, with a legacy of success that continues to grow.

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Omar Abdulkarim Faden

Corporate Communications and Marketing Director, Saudi Air Navigation Services - SANS

Omar is a distinguished executive leader whose career is marked by leadership roles in some of Saudi Arabia's most reputable organizations.

As an executive leadership team member, he established and structured the Corporate Communications & Marketing Directorate at SANS. His efforts were instrumental in driving internal and external communications, overseeing all marketing activities to enhance the brand's visibility, awareness, and reputation across the region. He has significantly increased internal communication activities by 433%, created & launched the new internal communication Matrix of channels & implemented a robust employee wellbeing program that helped earning SANS the Top Employer 2023 & Best Places to Work 2023 awards.

Previously, Omar was the Head of Corporate Communications at the King Abdulaziz Road Mega-Project (MASAR Makkah). Here, he established the Corporate Communications Department, PR & Media system & developed comprehensive communication strategies that enhanced the project's brand presence.

Before that, At King Abdullah Economic City, Omar was instrumental as the Public & Media Relations & Community Engagement Manager of the city. He managed diplomatic relations, organized high-profile events & maintained strong media relations, significantly enhancing KAEC's brand image. His tenure saw the successful execution of the first International Art Exhibition of Salvador Dali in the Middle East, among other notable international events such as MARKATHON Competition & City Quest International Forum..

Omar's early career includes many managerial roles at the International Medical Center in Jeddah, where he led the Patient Care & PR departments. At Phenomenal Group, he managed PR and Media for major clients like KIA Motors and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, further honing his skills in strategic communication.

Omar holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from King AbdulAziz University & The Certificate of Management Excellence from Harvard Business School after completing many executive education programs at Harvard Business School, earning certificates in Corporate Revitalization, Innovation in Negotiation & Decision Making & Leadership over more than 3 years. He is also a Certified International Professional Trainer, Business Coach and a Birkman Certified Consultant.

Recognized for his exceptional public speaking abilities, Omar has been an official speaker & host for many royal & diplomatic VIP visits & delegations. His contributions have been acknowledged by ambassadors of Saudi Arabia in various countries such as South Korea, Italy, Germany, Qatar underscoring his influence & expertise in the field.



Shivkumar S.

Chief Marketing & Passenger Experience, GMR Airports - Manohar International Airport

Shiv Kumar is a seasoned business management professional with 19 years of extensive experience in B2B & B2C marketing, brand management, sales operations & business development across the automotive & FMCG industries. His work at the intersection of brand strategy, digital transformation, international operations & social media strategy has been instrumental in establishing the airport as a global brand in aviation & destination tourism.

Under Shiv's leadership, the Manohar International Airport brand was created & rapidly gained global recognition. His strategic vision & communication strategy led to a 40% increase in passenger inflow from the first month of operations. In 2024, the airport was rated among the top 100 airports in the world by Skytrax & won accolades for best airport design & best retail experience from the ET Retail Awards 2023. Additionally, CNN rated it as one of the best in passenger experience in 2023.

Shiv has driven the digital transformation of Manohar International Airport, pioneering initiatives such as the widespread use of self-baggage drop services & biometric entry, with 45% of passengers actively using these services. His expertise in digital marketing & the digital ecosystem has been showcased through his successful implementation of strategies that increased revenue & consumer lifetime value in both the FMCG & automotive sectors. Notably, he pioneered the omni-channel approach in the tire industry, leading to significant improvements in consumer experience & NPS scores.

An alumnus of Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai & Illinois Tech Stuart School of Business, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Shiv has a rich history of managing international brand portfolios in beverages & automotive industries. His tenure at The Coca-Cola Company & MRF Tyres saw the launch of iconic brands in India & South Asia, with his innovative rural & channel marketing campaigns earning him the Rising Star Award & Channel Marketer of the Year Award.

Shiv's leadership & collaborative approach have fostered groundbreaking innovations & activities involving multiple stakeholders & creative agencies. His commitment to continuous learning has led him to attend leadership programs at Harvard Business School, Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad & Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad.

Recognized for his contributions, Shiv has received multiple awards in marketing and digital transformation, including the Brand Equity Award from Economic Times. His passion for driving brand awareness and product performance continues to propel his career and the success of the brands he manages.

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Christina Fabito

Director of Marketing,
JW Marriott Hotel Muscat

Christina Fabito is a distinguished marketing professional with a proven track record of elevating brand visibility and driving impactful campaigns across the hospitality industry. Currently serving as the Assistant Director of Marketing at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat since February 2024, Christina has been instrumental in the hotel's successful reopening after a two-year closure. Her strategic vision and successful campaigns positioned JW Marriott Muscat prominently in the market.

Her career in the hospitality industry began in her noteworthy tenure as a Marketing Executive at The St. Regis Doha, where she worked from April 2018 to February 2021. In this role, she played a key part in developing and executing marketing strategies that boosted the hotel's market presence and guest engagement. Her innovative approach to storytelling and content creation led to the production of compelling videos that resonated with audiences and drove market awareness.

She then moved to another property in West Bay Doha as Marketing & PR Manager from May 2021 to February 2024. Here, she spearheaded several high-profile marketing initiatives and public relations campaigns, solidifying the hotel's reputation in a competitive market. Christina's efforts were pivotal in enhancing brand engagement and establishing strong connections with the target audience.

Notable achievements in Christina's career include the creation of a captivating wedding video for the Exotic Wedding Planning Conference (EWPC), which garnered significant positive feedback and support. Additionally, her collaboration with JW Marriott Marquis City Center Doha for an Eid campaign successfully increased traffic from Doha to Muscat, significantly enhancing business levels during the holiday period.

Christina's commitment to sustainability is exemplified by her initiative to turn discarded pillowcases into eco-bags, leading to the Green Key certification—the first Marriott hotel in Oman to receive this prestigious award. Her strategic expertise also contributed to the successful repositioning of hotel outlets through new taglines and marketing strategies.

Christina Fabito's career is a testament to her strategic acumen, creative prowess, and dedication to excellence in the hospitality marketing sector.



Akanksha Jain

Head, Public Relations and
Communications, BharatPe

Akanksha Jain is a seasoned Reputation Architect with over 17 years of experience in crafting & safeguarding brand reputations across India & 30 international markets. Known for her strategic acumen & innovative approach, Akanksha has been a transformative force in the communications industry.

Also known as the pioneering 'Startup Communications Specialist,' Akanksha ventured into this uncharted territory, at a time when few were eager to embrace the challenges of building brands from scratch. She played a pivotal role in shaping the public image of emerging startups, positioning founders as thought leaders in their respective fields. Her efforts were instrumental in developing & executing PR & communication campaigns that significantly enhanced brand awareness & recall. To date, she has been the driving force behind elevating over 11 startup brands from ground zero to esteemed names in their domains.

Akanksha's career spans a range of sectors, including consumer technology, business mobility, e-commerce & fintech. Notably, she led PR efforts for Nokia's Eseries phones, defined communication strategies for building brand equity amongst SMEs, and has been influential in creating awareness about the fintech industry and digital payments.

At BharatPe, Akanksha's strategic brand communications initiatives have empowered millions of offline business owners through fintech products & unsecured loans, significantly impacting their business growth. Her work at BharatPe included leading successful strategic partnerships under the CSR mandate & showcasing impactful stories of entrepreneurs.

Her expertise extends into crisis communication, where she has excelled in managing high-stakes situations. In early 2022, during a major crisis at BharatPe, Akanksha spearheaded a comprehensive crisis communication strategy that safeguarded the brand's reputation amidst intense scrutiny. Her efforts not only mitigated negative impacts but also contributed to BharatPe's turnaround, leading to remarkable business growth & enhanced employee morale.

Akanksha's achievements include building a thriving online community of 1.5 million sellers for AskMe Group & designing award-winning campaigns that have positioned BharatPe as a leading fintech company that is empowering millions of offline merchants across the country . She has also been a prominent figure in sustainability, working with industry associations to drive public policy & foster thought leadership.

With a proven track record in building brand equity, crisis management & strategic communications, Akanksha Jain remains a leading authority in her field, consistently delivering impactful results & driving business success across diverse markets.

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Manish Bhatt

Advisory Board Member at CMO Council, Strategic Marketing Manager at Airbus, CMO at YOLOH, Independent Non-Executive Director at Bhrish and Value Invest

Manish Bhatt, is a distinguished marketing executive whose career spans over 25 years of global marketing & business development success. As a Chartered Marketer, Mentor, NED & Advisory Board Member at the CMO Council, Manish has demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic thinking, & a profound ability to drive growth across various industries.

Manish's career is marked by significant contributions to some of world's leading companies. His journey began with 3Com & HPE, where he honed his global marketing & business development skills in IT & telecommunications. He later moved on to hold strategic roles at VMware, Thales & Airbus, within Cloud computing, Cybersecurity & Aerospace markets playing a pivotal role in shaping global marketing strategies & strategic partnerships & has been instrumental through his career in advancing market positions driving quantum growth. At CMO Council he solidified his overall industry reputation as a visionary leader.

At YOLOH, Manish leverages his extensive experience to lead innovative marketing with strategic insights & leadership to position for future growth. Additionally, as an Independent Non-Executive Director at Bhrish & Value Invest, Manish brings his wealth of knowledge to the consultancy services & investment sector, guiding strategic decisions & fostering sustainable growth.

Manish's educational background includes an MBA, that has provided a strong foundation for his career. His commitment to continuous learning & professional development is evident in his fellowship with the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Manish is a passionate award winning mentor & educator. He has mentored talent at prestigious institutions such as London Business School, Stanford University, University of Sydney, University of Warwick, University of Westminster, Chartered Institute of Marketing & Institute of Directors. His role as a mentor has allowed him to impart valuable knowledge & inspire the next generation of marketing leaders.

Recognized as a Top Marketing Voice, Manish's influence extends far beyond his immediate professional circles. His thought leadership & innovative approaches have earned him accolades & a loyal following.

Manish's dedication to social causes is exemplified by his 20-year tenure as a trustee for Aim For Seva, a non-profit organization providing education & opportunities for children in Asia. His commitment to giving back to the community is a testament to his character & values taking inspiration from BAPS Pramukh Swami Maharaj core value 'In the joy of others lies our own."



Elitsa Krumova

Global Thought Leader and B2B Tech Influencer

Elitsa Krumova stands at the forefront of B2B tech influence and thought leadership, seamlessly merging her extensive knowledge in marketing, advertising, and IT. Her academic journey is marked by a BA (Honours) in Advertising and Marketing Communications from London Metropolitan University, an MA in Creative Advertising from Solent University, and a Bachelor's degree in IT and Computer Sciences. This unique blend of expertise equips Krumova to anticipate trends across consumer behavior, technology, and broader societal shifts.

As the founder and independent consultant at ElitsaKrumova.com , she offers a suite of services including influencer marketing, thought leadership, blogging, social media strategy, content creation, and public speaking. Her consultancy focuses on demystifying emerging technologies and promoting their benefits, with a strong commitment to empowering women and girls globally. Krumova's mission is rooted in translating complex knowledge into actionable insights, aiming to inspire and educate across various platforms.

Krumova's impact has been widely recognized in recent years. In 2024, she received accolades such as "Best Technology Influencer," "Best B2B Influencer Marketing Service of the Year," and was named among the "Top 100 Thought Leaders and Influencers" in personal branding. Her 2023 honors include "Best Thought Leadership Entrepreneur" and placements among the "Top 100 Thought Leaders and Influencers" in 5G, AR/VR, and IoT sectors.

In December 2022, Krumova was celebrated with the "IoTPL Woman of the Year Award" and ranked 1st in the "IoT Premier League Top 100 Thought Leaders and Influencers" list. She also earned recognition from CBT as one of the "Top 100 IoT Influencers for 2022." Earlier, in 2021, she was awarded "IoT Premier League Woman of the Year" and secured a spot in the "Top 25 Industrial IoT Influencers." Her 2021 accolades also include being listed among the "Top 50 Women in Tech Influencers" by The Awards Magazine and "5 IoT Influencers You Should Follow" by Davra.

Krumova's influence extends back to 2020, where she was ranked 5th in the "Top 100 Thought Leaders & Influencers" by IoT Community's IoT Premier League and was recognized as one of the "Top 100 Global Thought Leaders and Influencers to Follow."

Elitsa Krumova's career is a testament to her relentless pursuit of innovation and her ability to inspire and lead in the ever-evolving tech landscape.

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Ravi Prakash

Vice President, Digital Marketing, BVM Digital Media

With a distinguished career spanning over 18 years, Mr. Ravi Prakash stands out as a visionary leader in the branding and marketing industry. His journey, marked by significant achievements and strategic innovations, has made him a key figure in shaping marketing landscapes across various global markets, including India, the USA, the UK, Sweden, Australia, and the Middle East.

Ravi's career began at Ranbaxy, where he honed his skills in a dynamic environment. His expertise was further developed through leadership roles at JK Business School, Analytix Business Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd. , and Rishabh Software.

Currently, as Vice President of Marketing at BVM Digital Media—a leading digital marketing arm of the prestigious Kapil Group based in Hyderabad, India—Ravi is pivotal in driving the company's growth and innovation. His role involves overseeing a world-class digital marketing team dedicated to crafting compelling narratives that enhance shareholder and customer value.

Ravi's strategic leadership has been instrumental in building a high-performance digital marketing team from scratch. His efforts have expanded the company's market reach, created demand, and significantly raised brand awareness. A notable accomplishment includes spearheading a major rebranding initiative that repositioned a client company as a tech solutions leader, resulting in a remarkable 300% increase in website traffic.

A champion of digital innovation, Ravi has developed and executed global demand generation campaigns that align seamlessly with sales efforts. His campaigns, leveraging best practices in SEO, content marketing, email marketing, webinars, and account-based marketing, have consistently contributed over 35% to the marketing pipeline. His focus on creating upsell and cross-sell opportunities has further resulted in a 45% marketing-influenced pipeline.

Ravi's commitment to cultural sensitivity and diversity is reflected in his ability to craft industry-specific digital strategies that resonate across different cultural contexts. His deep understanding of regional nuances has enhanced the effectiveness of campaigns for international, regional & local brands.
An advocate for diversity, equity & inclusion, Ravi fosters a collaborative work environment that encourages psychological safety and freedom of expression. His leadership is underscored by a dedication to nurturing talent through ongoing training & professional development.

Educationally, Ravi pursued an Executive Management Development Program (eMDP) in Advanced Marketing Strategy & Analytics from Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, underscoring his commitment to continuous learning and staying at the forefront of marketing innovation.



Ajay Kumar Chaurasia

Vice President, Marketing, RupeeRedee

Ajay Kumar Chaurasia is an accomplished professional with over nine years of expertise in the Fintech, Payments, and NBFC industries, demonstrating significant proficiency in digital marketing, product management, strategic alliances, and business development. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in driving business growth and establishing strategic partnerships across diverse domains. Ajay has worked with industry-leading organizations, including Zeta, Paytm, and FincFriends / RupeeRedee , contributing to their success with his innovative approach and leadership acumen.

Currently serving as Vice President of Marketing, Product, and Business at FincFriends Private Limited/RupeeRedee, Ajay has played a pivotal role in the company's expansion. Under his leadership, the acquisition of new customers has grown from 3,000 to over 80,000 per month, while repeat loans increased from 7,000 to 100,000 per month, all while maintaining a stable cost of acquisition. He has successfully managed a multi-functional team across different geographies and spearheaded marketing initiatives, product development, and business strategies that positioned RupeeRedee as a prominent player in the digital lending space.

Ajay also established strategic partnerships with renowned financial institutions and technology providers such as Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, RazorPay, and AWS. He has a proven track record of securing funds, having raised over $20 million in debt funding and strategic alliances for FincFriends in just two years.

Earlier in his career, Ajay held influential roles at Paytm and Zeta, where he led corporate client acquisition, developed go-to-market strategies, and contributed to product launches that significantly impacted market growth. His diverse experience is complemented by his ability to navigate complex regulatory environments and forge alliances, making him a formidable leader in the fintech landscape.

Ajay holds a deep understanding of the fintech ecosystem, with a specialized focus on digital marketing, product management, lending, and strategic partnerships, solidifying his reputation as a dynamic leader driving innovation and success in every organization he has been part of.

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Sandeep Kumar

Group Head - Corporate Communications & PR, Epsilon Carbon

Sandeep Kumar's career spans over 17 years, marked by his evolution from a Customer Support Executive to a distinguished leader in Marketing and Communications. His strategic thinking and creative approach have consistently driven growth and innovation across a range of industries.

He began his professional journey at E2E Servizsol Solutions Limited - Tata Sky Ltd in Pune, where he developed a strong foundation in customer relations. This experience proved to be a steppingstone to his future roles in marketing. At Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business BALCO, Sandeep managed plant operations, where his keen attention to detail improved operational efficiency and highlighted his capabilities in managing complex systems.

During his time at LG India, Sandeep demonstrated his expertise in corporate sales management. His strategic initiatives led to significant business expansion, earning him recognition for outstanding performance. His role at Parle Global Technologies Pvt. Ltd. marked a pivotal shift, where his innovative marketing strategies led to substantial business growth and increased brand visibility globally.

Sandeep's role at Mumbai Metro One Pvt. Ltd. involved the successful launch of key products, which were instrumental in boosting customer engagement and satisfaction. His creative campaigns significantly enhanced brand presence and digital interactions. At MOVIN Express (UPS + InterGlobe JV), Sandeep's leadership was instrumental in establishing a nationwide marketing and communications framework. His digital and communication strategies achieved exceptional organic engagement, cementing his reputation for driving high-impact results.

Currently, as the Group Head of Corporate Communications & PR at Epsilon Carbon Pvt. Ltd., Sandeep continues to lead global branding efforts and strengthen stakeholder relationships. His expertise in digital media and communications, complemented by various industry accolades, highlights his stature as a leading figure in the marketing domain.

Sandeep Kumar's career reflects a journey of transformation, leadership, and excellence, making a lasting impact in every role he has undertaken.



Kunjan Kumar Singh

Product Marketing Manager, GenQore Drug House LLC

With over a decade of experience, Kunjan Kumar Singh is a distinguished figure in pharmaceutical marketing and strategic innovation. His career is marked by pioneering achievements, each reflecting his relentless pursuit of excellence and his commitment to transformative change.

Kunjan's journey is a remarkable one, spanning diverse regions—from India to the dynamic GCC markets and the challenging landscapes of Sub-Saharan Africa. His strategic initiatives have significantly advanced flagship brands, often breaking new ground in the chronic disease segment.

A master of strategic execution, Kunjan has led numerous successful endeavors, including the launch of therapies in Cardiology, Diabetes, CNS, Anticoagulation, and Critical Care in untapped markets. His innovative digital marketing strategies have illuminated pathways in a field still realizing its full potential.

Beyond conventional successes, Kunjan has redefined pharmaceutical marketing through unique diagnostic tools and patient-centric initiatives. His expertise in tailored KOL engagement and impactful patient awareness programs has created a distinct presence in an industry ripe for inventive disruption.

In addition to his professional achievements, Kunjan is a published author and a sought-after speaker, contributing thought leadership and creative insights beyond the confines of his field. His work exemplifies not just professional success, but a commitment to innovation and resilience.

Kunjan Kumar Singh's journey is a compelling narrative of strategic vision and groundbreaking accomplishments. As he embarks on a new chapter at GenQore, he serves as an inspiration for aspiring marketers and strategists, encouraging them to challenge existing paradigms and embrace innovative pathways to success.

Notably, Kunjan has played a pivotal role in the establishment of National Lipid Day and the Red Ring initiative, creating awareness about lipid health—an initiative recognized globally for its significance in public health.

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Prakash Katariya

India Lead, Marketing and Communications, Silicon Valley Bank

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Prakash Katariya is a seasoned marketing and communications leader with over two decades of experience, currently serving as the India Lead for Marketing & Communications at Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and First Citizens Bank (FCB). Based in Bangalore, Prakash has earned a stellar reputation for his expertise in brand management, strategic communications, and corporate reputation, making significant contributions to organizations across diverse sectors.

Throughout his career, Prakash has held pivotal roles where he has spearheaded business development, crisis management, market reputation enhancement, and brand positioning strategies. His leadership has been instrumental in driving innovation, fostering high-performance teams, and delivering measurable results.

One of Prakash's key achievements was during his tenure at Allstate, one of the largest insurance companies in the United States. He was integral to establishing the company's presence in India, where he designed and delivered an integrated enterprise communications model. Under his leadership, Allstate's India operations expanded tenfold in just five years, earning recognition from industry bodies such as GPTW, NASSCOM, and Zinnov for its excellence.

Prakash also made a notable impact at Barclays, where he was a part of the global communications team. In this role, he acted as the communications business partner for the bank's CIOs in the Asia-Pacific region, helping shape the bank's strategic narrative and communications initiatives. Additionally, during his time at Capgemini, he led the launch of a nationwide employer branding campaign and delivered a reality TV show, further demonstrating his creative and strategic prowess.

In his current role at SVB and FCB, Prakash plays a pivotal role in shaping their India Global Capability Center. He has overseen communication strategies for large-scale initiatives, including business integration and transformation, actively engaging stakeholders and managing industry and public relations. His hands-on approach to problem-solving and his ability to influence high-performance teams have contributed to driving business excellence and fostering a culture of innovation within the organization.

Prakash's work has garnered numerous accolades, including recognition as part of the Digital Marketing Team at PR Daily's Digital & Social Media Awards in 2021. He was also featured among India's 50 Best Corporate Communications & Marketing Leaders at the WP Leadership Conclave in 2021. He holds an MBA in Marketing and is a certified Risk, Reputation, and Strategy professional from Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.

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GLOBAL 200 POWER LEADERS IN HUMAN RESOURCES 2024

Nawaf Kably - Gulf International Bank
Omkar BN - Continental Autonomous Mobility India
Ali Abuhaliqa - Mubadala Energy
Cecile Umaña Tangram – HR Solutions
Ma Theresa Llamas - Travellers International Hotel Group, Inc.
Riad Baroudy - United Steel Industrial Co
Dr. Said Al Darmaki - Arabian Industries
Pramod Kumar Jha - LTIMindtree
Azam Chiragh - Avani+ Palm View Dubai Hotel & Suites and La Suite Dubai Hotel & Apartments
Amit Singh - PNB Housing Finance
Md Motaleb Bhuiyan- ASA International
Alexey Chistyakov - Talent Craft
Mainak Ranjan Chaki - Birla Sugar (K K Birla Group of Sugar Industries)
Anurag Kumar - E3 Energy
Kriti Sarna - AON Middle East
İlkşen Çetintaş - ŞA-RA Group Inc.
Gaurav Mehta - Cvent
Priyanka Taikar - VTEST Software
Maher Sabbagh - DAMAC Group
Jyotsana Saxena - Schenker India
Animesh Kumar - Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited
Raghava Avvari - Brane Enterprises India
Krishnan T S - Canon EMEA
Ali Reza - Ascend Solutions
Dr. Subhash Chandar - Laminaar Aviation Infotech Group
Shradha (AH) Ahuja - Gulf Marine Services

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Nawaf Kably

Chief Human Resources Officer,
Gulf International Bank

As the esteemed CHRO of Gulf International Bank (GIB), Nawaf has pioneered a paradigm shift in organizational dynamics, spearheading tangible transformations that have redefined the landscape of HR practices. Armed with a distinguished academic background, including a Postgraduate degree in HRD & Performance Management from the prestigious University of Leicester, UK, Nawaf stands as a beacon of expertise & innovation in the field.

Nawaf's stellar achievements speak volumes about his unwavering commitment to excellence. Recognized as the recipient of the coveted CHRO of the Year awards for consecutive years in the Middle East by esteemed institutions such as the Global Society of Human Capital Management (GSHCM) & the Human Resources Summit & Expo (HRSE), Nawaf's impact resonates across borders.

At GIB, Nawaf's visionary leadership has catalyzed a holistic metamorphosis within the HR landscape. From strategically transforming the HR department into a value-added business partner aligning with the bank's strategic imperatives to pioneering initiatives that foster a culture of diversity, inclusion & employee well-being, Nawaf has left an indelible mark on the organization.

His strategic acumen and innovative prowess have played a pivotal role in positioning GIB as a trailblazer in the digital banking sphere, driving cost efficiencies, and enhancing operational effectiveness. Under his stewardship, Nawaf orchestrated the successful transition of GIB from an international branch to a fully-fledged Saudi bank subsidiary.

Nawaf's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of continuous learning is unparalleled. From launching groundbreaking talent development initiatives, including executive leadership development programs in collaboration with renowned business schools, to spearheading recruitment drives that have significantly bolstered Saudization levels and diversified the workforce, Nawaf's impact extends far beyond conventional HR paradigms.

Moreover, his pioneering endeavors in leveraging cutting-edge technologies, such as implementing video interviewing and cloud-based HR systems, underscore his foresight and commitment to staying at the vanguard of HR innovation.

In essence, Nawaf Kably epitomizes the quintessential HR leader of the modern era – a visionary strategist, an inspirational leader, and a relentless champion of organizational excellence.



Omkar BN

Head of HR,
Continental Autonomous Mobility India

In the dynamic world of Human Resources, Omkar stands out as a luminary, boasting an illustrious career spanning more than twenty years. With a unique blend of strategic acumen, transformative leadership, and unwavering commitment, Omkar has etched his name as a paragon of excellence in the HR domain.

Omkar's journey began with a solid educational foundation, where he honed his skills and nurtured his passion for HR. Armed with academic prowess and a hunger for knowledge, he embarked on a professional odyssey marked by stellar achievements and remarkable contributions.

Throughout his distinguished career, Omkar has left an indelible mark on prestigious organizations, each chapter adorned with groundbreaking initiatives and transformative endeavors. From steering the HR ship at industry giants like Wipro, Unisys, SKF Group to his current role as the GM and Head of HR Autonomous Mobility at Continental Automotive, Omkar has consistently elevated the standards of HR excellence.

His tenure at Continental Automotive serves as a testament to his visionary leadership and strategic foresight. Leading a team of 2500 employees, Omkar spearheaded monumental projects that redefined HR paradigms. Noteworthy among these is the pioneering "Zero Data Error" reorganization project, ASCENT India, which not only streamlined operations but also catalyzed the establishment of a robust legal entity in India.

Omkar's mastery in leveraging technology to revolutionize HR operations is unparalleled. From spearheading comprehensive digitization initiatives to designing cutting-edge HR dashboards using Power BI, he has continuously pushed the boundaries of innovation, setting new benchmarks along the way. His commitment to corporate social responsibility is equally commendable, with initiatives such as planting 150K trees, underscoring his dedication to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Omkar's accolades speak volumes about his impact on the industry, from being recognized as a "Top HR Leader in Bengaluru" to receiving esteemed "HR Leadership" Awards for his exemplary contributions.

Beyond his professional accolades, Omkar is revered for his exceptional communication skills and his adeptness in navigating complexities with finesse. His ethos revolves around nurturing talent, empowering teams, and fostering inclusive work environments where every individual can thrive.

In summation, Omkar's journey is not merely a testament to his professional prowess but a testament to the transformative power of HR in shaping organizational destinies. As he continues to chart new horizons and redefine paradigms, Omkar remains a guiding light and an inspiration for HR professionals worldwide.

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Ali Abuhaliqa

Senior Vice President Human Capital & Corporate Services, Mubadala Energy

With over 14 years of illustrious experience in the dynamic realm of Human Capital, Ali AbuHaliqa stands as a beacon of transformative leadership & strategic innovation. Currently serving as the Senior Vice President of Human Capital & Corporate Services at Mubadala Energy, Ali's journey is marked by a series of remarkable accomplishments that have redefined industry standards & propelled organizational success.

Ali's expertise in strategic planning, change management & goal attainment has been the cornerstone of his distinguished career. Notably, his tenure at Mubadala Energy has been characterized by a relentless pursuit of excellence, evidenced by the implementation of a strategic initiative resulting in a notable 10% increase in employee engagement. This achievement underscores Ali's commitment to cultivating an excellent workplace culture.

A trailblazer in talent development, Ali has spearheaded initiatives that have significantly enriched the capabilities of the workforce. The effective rollout of a Learning Management System boasting an extensive library of 77,000 courses exemplifies his dedication to nurturing talent & fostering continuous growth. His enhancements to talent review processes & training systems ensure that individual development aligns seamlessly with organizational objectives, driving sustained success.

Beyond his strategic acumen, Ali has been at the forefront of incorporating technology into Human Capital processes, revolutionizing operations & enhancing efficiency. From deploying the Oracle System to automating the Promotions System & introducing a new Global Recruitment System, Ali's proficiency in leveraging cutting-edge tools underscores his commitment to staying ahead of the curve in the rapidly evolving landscape of Human Capital management.

Ali's journey with the esteemed Mubadala Group, which commenced in 2010 following a successful tenure in the UAE private sector, reflects his unwavering dedication to continuous growth & excellence. Armed with degrees in Human Resources Management from Abu Dhabi University, Ali seamlessly blends academic knowledge with practical experience, equipping him with a comprehensive understanding of diverse Human Capital functions.

In his current role, Ali oversees critical functions related to Human Capital & Corporate Services, playing a pivotal role in shaping organizational strategy & driving business objectives forward. His involvement in strategic initiatives such as Emiratization & workforce planning underscores his strategic thinking & dedication to aligning Human Capital practices with broader business goals.

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Cecile Umaña

CEO & Founder, Tangram – HR Solutions

With a distinguished career spanning nearly three decades, Cecile Umaña has become a beacon of innovation and leadership in the corporate world. Hailing from Costa Rica, her professional journey has spanned Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia, driving transformative impact across diverse industries.

As the Founder and CEO of Tangram HR Solutions, Cecile has redefined the role of HR as a strategic driver of organizational growth. Tangram empowers businesses with tailored solutions that go beyond improving HR functions to deliver measurable results across entire organizations.

Cecile's proven track record includes guiding companies through complex transformations in industries such as Technology, Telecommunications, FMCG, and Manufacturing. By combining deep expertise with a collaborative, people-first approach, she has developed and led high-performing teams to achieve outstanding results that align with each organization's unique goals and culture.

Her leadership has been instrumental in prestigious organizations like Unilever, Dell Technologies, Samsung Electronics, and Ooredoo Myanmar. At Ooredoo, Cecile led a groundbreaking digital HR transformation, working closely with her team to reduce attrition from 48% to 13% and boost employee engagement scores from 68% to 88%. Under her guidance, Ooredoo became Myanmar's first recipient of the Great Place to Work certification, securing 21 awards and cementing its status as a top employer.

In other roles, Cecile has driven HR transformations across 24 countries, aligning HR functions with business objectives and enabling organizational agility. She also played a pivotal role in facilitating a seamless acquisition, doubling the workforce in record time while maintaining high employee satisfaction—achievements made possible through the efforts of the exceptional teams she built and led.

Her career is marked by a relentless focus on empowering people and delivering results. Whether steering global HR initiatives or leading Tangram's innovative projects, Cecile's ability to inspire trust and collaboration has consistently driven business success. Her strategic insight and inclusive leadership have earned her multiple accolades, including being named one of the Global Power Leaders in HR 2024 by White Page International—a testament to her enduring influence and commitment to excellence.

Cecile's academic foundation includes a Bachelor's in Organizational Psychology and an Executive MBA, alongside certifications in Six Sigma, Transformational Coaching, and Lean Methodology.

At Tangram, Cecile's vision is simple yet bold: to be the partner of choice for organizations seeking transformative growth. Through cutting-edge HR strategies, organizational development, and leadership coaching, Tangram equips businesses and their people to navigate challenges and seize opportunities in an ever-evolving marketplace.

Cecile's collaborative leadership continues to earn the trust of businesses and employees alike, empowering teams to achieve shared success and shape the future of work together.

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Ma Theresa Llamas

Chief Human Resources Officer,
Travellers International Hotel Group, Inc.

Ma. Theresa Llamas, affectionately known as Terri, stands out as a distinguished Human Resources Executive, boasting over three decades of unparalleled experience in Human Resources Management. Her career trajectory is a testament to her profound expertise and leadership in various HR disciplines, including Talent Acquisition, Manpower Planning, Organizational Development, Talent Learning and Development, Compensation and Benefits Administration, as well as Labor and Industrial Relations.

Terri's professional journey is marked by her significant contributions to some of the most prominent local and international companies within the customer service industry. Her diverse career includes pivotal roles at Newport World Resorts, Okada Manila, Star Cruises, Pure Jatomi Fitness, Robinsons Retail Holdings Inc. , Fitness First, Asian Hospital and Medical Center and Manila Mandarin Hotel. This extensive experience has enriched her perspective and honed her ability to navigate and lead multicultural teams effectively.

As the Chief Human Resources Officer at Newport World Resorts, Terri leads a robust workforce of over 5,000 employees. Her leadership philosophy centers on putting people at the heart of the organization, fostering an environment where employees are engaged through both their minds and hearts. Her approach has been instrumental in creating outstanding employee experiences, contributing significantly to the organization's success and its distinction as the oldest Integrated Resort (IR) in Manila.

Terri's expertise and leadership have been recognized on numerous prestigious platforms. She was honored with the Best HR Leader in Asia award during the HR Fest Awards 2023 in Singapore, a testament to her exceptional contributions to the HR field. Additionally, she earned the Top Most HR Leader Award in Asia, further solidifying her reputation as a leading figure in human resources.

Beyond her corporate achievements, Terri is also a sought-after speaker at both domestic and international conferences. Her latest speaking engagement was at the Association of Talent Development Southeast Asian conference held in Singapore last 2023 where she shared her insights and experiences with a wider audience.

Terri Llamas's career is a beacon of excellence in human resources management. Her strategic vision, coupled with her unwavering commitment to employee engagement and organizational development, continues to inspire and drive the HR landscape forward. Through her leadership, she exemplifies the vital role of human resources in shaping the success and sustainability of modern enterprises.



Riad Baroudy

Chief Human Resources Officer,
United Steel Industrial Co

Riad Baroudy stands as a distinguished leader in the area of human resources, renowned for his transformative contributions across a variety of HR functions. Riad is an award winner HR leader with multiple contributions, interviews, articles, and a jury member for well known HR awards.

His career is marked by a series of high-impact initiatives that have fundamentally shaped the organizations he has served. With a profound understanding of the intricate relationship between human capital and organizational success, Riad has carved a niche as an innovative and results-driven HR professional.

Riad's extensive background in human resources includes leadership roles in several prestigious companies. Early in his career, he quickly ascended to a senior HR role, marked by significant improvements in employee engagement and the implementation of cutting-edge talent management systems. His innovative approach to HR technology streamlined processes and enhanced workforce analytics, setting new standards.

As he advanced, he continued to demonstrate his prowess in digital transformation by leading a comprehensive overhaul of HR systems, integrating advanced digital solutions that improved operational efficiency and employee satisfaction. His efforts in succession planning and organizational design were instrumental in positioning organizations for sustainable growth in competitive markets.

Further solidifying his reputation as a change agent, he successfully guided organizations through major transitions, including restructuring efforts and the adoption of new technologies. His strategic vision and exceptional communication skills facilitated smooth transitions, minimized resistance, and maximized employee engagement. His commitment to culture change fostered a collaborative and innovative work environment, driving continuous improvement and growth.

Throughout his career, Riad has been a staunch advocate for aligning HR strategies with broader business objectives. His holistic approach has consistently delivered tangible results, enhancing shareholder value and driving organizational success. His work transcends traditional HR functions, transforming them into strategic drivers of business excellence.

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Dr. Said Al Darmaki

HR Director,
Arabian Industries

Dr. Said Al Darmaki is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management (CMI), UK, and a distinguished leader in Human Resources Management. His academic credentials include a Ph.D. in HRM & Innovation from the University of Technology Malaysia, an MBA from University of Hull, UK, and a CIPD Level 7 Advanced Diploma in Strategic People Management from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

With over two decades of professional experience, Dr. Al Darmaki has held pivotal leadership roles in diverse industries within both the private and public sectors. Currently, as the HR Director at Arabian Industries , Dr. Al Darmaki excels in strategic HR planning, talent development, employee engagement, reskilling, labor law compliance, and policy development. His ability to navigate HR complexities in different organizational settings showcases his adaptability and strategic insight.

Dr. Al Darmaki has developed and implemented an innovative talent management strategy celebrated for its excellence. His efforts to attract, cultivate, and retain top-tier professionals, alongside upskilling nationals for leadership roles, highlight his strategic vision. Under his leadership, strategic initiatives have been crafted to foster an organizational culture that attracts elite talent, emphasizing professional development, inclusivity, and a nurturing environment.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Al Darmaki is committed to the HR community. He shares insights at international conferences, serves as a certified peer reviewer for Elsevier, and has published papers in prestigious journals. His contributions have provided valuable perspectives to the HR field.

Dr. Al Darmaki's accolades include being named one of the "501 Fabulous Global HR Leaders of the World" and a "Global HR Champion." He has also been honored as a "Top 200 Middle East HR Tech Champion" by People Strong Academy, and recognized as a "Top Human Resources Voice" and "Top Leadership Voice" by LinkedIn, affirming his exemplary leadership.

Dr. Al Darmaki is also dedicated to nurturing future HR professionals. He serves as an adjunct staff member at respected institutions in Oman and is certified as a coach and consultant by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation in Oman. His publication, "Enhancing Employee Engagement and Innovation through HRM Practices," showcases his thought leadership and comprehensive understanding of HRM's role in enhancing employee engagement and driving organizational innovation.

Through his knowledge and innovative HRM strategies, Dr. Al Darmaki significantly contributes to the HR discipline and inspires practices that ensure sustainable organizational success.



Pramod Kumar Jha

Senior Director HRBP,
LTIMindtree

A science graduate from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, with a B.Sc. in Physics, Pramod's analytical prowess is evident in his application of HR analytics to create quantifiable business impacts. He holds an MBA in HR from Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi & began his career with Tata Consultancy Services. as a Business HR Partner. During his tenure at TCS, Pramod was instrumental in obtaining OHSAS 18001 & ISO 14000 certifications, a pioneering achievement in the industry. His initiative to analyze occupational illnesses using HR analytics significantly reduced absenteeism, increased billing days & boosted revenue.

Pramod played a pivotal role in expanding TCS Bhubaneswar from 25 to over 2000 employees, establishing it as a greenfield project. He also developed a compliance framework for the Government of India's Passport Seva Kendra project, ensuring smooth operations across all 28 states. His contributions to corporate governance include strengthening TCS's inquiry & investigation procedures, enhancing fairness & adherence to natural justice principles.

At Tata Motors, as the Business HR Leader for Medium & Heavy Commercial Vehicles, Pramod drove the company's transformation into a role-based organization. He also served as a certified external assessor for the Tata Business Excellence Model (TBEM), contributing over 100+ man-hours in assessments based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Model.

Pramod's role in the Dell-EMC merger, the largest deal in the IT industry valued at $67 billion, involved managing employee transitions, policy harmonizations, & employee relations, ensuring a seamless integration. At Dell Technologies, he introduced peer mentoring to enhance managerial effectiveness, a best practice recognized across the Asia Pacific & Japan region. He also developed an analytics-based HR consulting model to proactively address HR issues, significantly impacting talent retention & collaboration.

In his current role, Pramod spearheads multiple transformation initiatives, fostering a diverse & inclusive workforce & promoting a culture of reward & recognition.

Pramod is an honorary member of CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY's Corporate Advisory Board & a founding member of the Vishwamaya Charitable Trust. His commitment to social causes is reflected in programs like Compu-Kid, which provides IT education to underprivileged children in remote Indian villages.

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Azam Chiragh

Cluster Director of People & Culture, Avani+ Palm View Dubai Hotel & Suites and La Suite Dubai Hotel & Apartments

Azam Chiragh began his career with remarkable promise, starting as an intern in April 2007 at Towers Rotana. Over a six-year tenure, Azam's exceptional performance saw him rise through the ranks, achieving the position of HR Manager at Centro Hotels by Rotana, Sharjah. He was the youngest HR professional within Rotana to open the largest Centro at that time.

In March 2014, Azam joined Millennium Hotels and Resorts as Director of HR at Millennium Plaza Dubai Hotel. His exemplary performance earned him a transfer to the regional office, where he spent two years & contributed to the opening of M Hotel Makkah By Millennium . His career trajectory continued upward with IHG Hotels & Resorts, at Crowne Plaza® Hotels & Resorts Dubai. Amid the uncertainties of COVID-19, Azam transitioned to Minor Hotels, where he played a pivotal role in the opening of Avani+ Palm View Dubai Hotel & Suites.

Azam single-handedly hired 53 team members from 23 nationalities within four months without external agencies, sourced accommodation & negotiated favorable contracts.

Azam's creativity in problem-solving is demonstrated by his initiative to train a building caretaker for team member housing management & his strategic use of internal taskforce opportunities to support the F&B department, enhancing profitability. His dedication to making a difference is highlighted by his support of team members facing personal challenges & organizing impactful CSR activities, including the "Locks of Hope" campaign & tree planting initiatives. Also, in 2024 collaborating with Al Noor Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities Dubai & performing several activities to support the organization.

Azam's proactive approach & innovation are further showcased by his recruitment strategies targeting hotel schools in Nepal, Kazakhstan & Morocco, & his work on the Avani brand's heart of house standards, recognized by the company's Founder & CEO.

Recent achievements:
Winning Hotel Team of the Year – Midscale during Hoteliers Award 2022
Shortlisted for Hotel Team of the Tear – Midscale during Hoteliers Award 2023
Winning Best Hotel Opening Team award during Minor Hotels Awards of Excellence 2022, Best People Programme award during Minor Hotels Awards of Excellence 2023

Georges Farhat, Cluster General Manager, praises Azam as a "results-oriented leader who delivers talent acquisition, retention & motivational solutions that harness the full power of one of their most valuable assets – their people." Azam Chiragh's career is a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence, creativity, and transformational leadership in human resources.

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Amit Singh

Chief People Officer, PNB Housing Finance

Amit Singh is a distinguished human resource professional with over two decades of experience in crafting performance-led, competitive teams in dynamic, fast-growing organizations. Renowned for his extensive expertise in leading HR transformation journeys, Amit has consistently created substantial value for business enterprises.

Currently, as the Chief People Officer at PNB Housing Finance, Amit spearheads comprehensive transformations across Human Resources, Corporate Services, CSR, and ESG functions. Additionally, he serves as a Director at PHFL, a wholly owned subsidiary of PNB Housing, and at PEHEL Foundation, the CSR arm of PNB Housing. Amit's role is pivotal in supporting organizational growth and managing people strategy, focusing on leadership capability, succession planning, talent acquisition, learning and capability building, performance management, reward strategy, HR digital strategy, and fostering an inclusive work culture.

Under Amit's leadership, PNB Housing Finance has achieved numerous milestones, including the prestigious "Great Place to Work" certification. His strategic interventions in talent attraction and development, employee engagement, diversity and inclusion, and individual well-being have significantly transformed the company's people culture.

Before joining PNB Housing Finance, Amit held significant roles in several prominent organizations. At SBI Funds Management Limited, he was instrumental in transforming the people agenda, contributing towards the company becoming the leader in the asset management sector in the country. During his tenure, SBI Funds received the "Great Place to Work" certification for two consecutive years, a unique achievement among State Bank subsidiaries.

Amit's career reached a pivotal moment in 2015 at IDFC FIRST Bank, where he played a key role in the company's transition from an NBFC to a Bank. He successfully led various change management initiatives and established the entire Shared Services functions for the bank. His earlier roles also include significant stints at IDFC Bank, TCS, and Blue Star Infotech.

Amit holds an MBA in Human Resources from ICFAI Business School, Mumbai. Passionate about mentoring budding HR professionals, he actively engages in various social and environmental development initiatives. Amit's extensive experience and domain knowledge have fortified PNB Housing Finance's foundational values of meritocracy, equality, and inclusivity, making it an engaging and admired workplace.

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Md Motaleb Bhuiyan

Director of Human Resources,
ASA International

Md Motaleb Bhuiyan has 18 years of extensive HR experience with a proven track record in Fortune 500 companies, multinational corporations, and local businesses. Known for strategic leadership and adaptability, he has led HR operations through various organizational stages, including startups, growth phases, and mergers & acquisitions.

At ASA International, he managed HR functions across 12 countries in Asia and Africa. Key achievements include:

Talent Management: Developed and implemented a performance management system and 9-box talent framework, boosting performance, productivity, and succession planning.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Led DEI initiatives that strengthened the company's reputation, improved talent acquisition, and enriched workplace culture.

Employee Engagement: Implemented strategies that improved morale, productivity, and employer branding.

HR Technology: Successfully deployed HR software solutions across multiple markets, streamlining processes, ensuring regulatory compliance, optimizing talent management, and elevating employee experience.

- Mr. Bhuiyan's career includes roles at British Council Bangladesh, Unique Group, Digicon Technologies, The Westin Dhaka - Marriott International Inc., Tech Valley Networks Ltd., Avery Dennison, and Shanta Industries Ltd. His career highlights:
- Implemented KPI-based performance systems and 360-degree feedback.
- Scaled HR functions for rapid growth, managing large-scale recruitment and onboarding.
- Fostered a culture of development and well-being to drive engagement.
- Established HR departments, ensured compliance, and led complex changes like mergers and acquisitions.
- He successfully onboarded 1,000 employees for a major telecom's customer care operations and rapidly staffed a 4-star hotel to begin operations. He standardized HR reporting in South Asia and contributed to the Avery and Paxar merger. At Shanta Industries, he implemented key certifications such as ISO, WRAP, SRM, and C-TPAT.

Mr. Bhuiyan holds an MBA in HRM from the University of Dhaka, ranking second in his class. He is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources - International (SPHRi) from HRCI, USA. Mr. Bhuiyan recognized as the 'MOST ICONIC HR LEADER' by the World HRD Congress in 2024, he is also a fellow of BSHRM (Bangladesh Society for Human Resource Management) and a founding member and former Vice President of DUSHRM (Dhaka University Society for Human Resource Management).



Alexey Chistyakov

Chief Executive Officer,
Talent Craft

Alexey Chistyakov is a distinguished HR expert and SHRM Senior Certified Professional with extensive experience in strategic business partnership, performance management, succession planning, talent acquisition, and employee engagement. Currently, he is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Talent Craft, where he focuses on unboxing the potential of people and businesses through strategic HR consulting, Gallup coaching, and the development of comprehensive HR processes.

At Talent Craft, Alexey has been instrumental in developing HR strategies, building HR functions from scratch, and coaching senior management teams. His work extends to individual and team coaching, HR mentorship, and the creation of educational programs aimed at fostering effective teams and line management skills. His leadership at Talent Craft is a testament to his ability to drive business results through innovative HR practices.

Before founding Talent Craft, Alexey served as the Human Resources Director at ALIDI Group, where he led a transformative HR strategy for over 2,700 associates. His initiatives in talent acquisition, leadership development, and succession planning significantly improved the company's performance and employee engagement. His ability to drive organizational change and implement performance management systems has been pivotal in aligning employee performance with the company's strategic goals.

Alexey's role as Central Asia Cluster HR Business Partner at IDS Borjomi International further showcased his strategic HR acumen. He developed and executed HR strategies that supported business objectives across Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan.

In his tenure as Group Human Resources Director at "AO "Aitas KZ"", Alexey built human capital processes from the ground up, covering talent acquisition, learning and development, performance management, and succession planning for a group of 15 companies with over 3,500 associates. His leadership ensured the harmonized implementation of HR standards across the group, significantly enhancing employee experience and engagement.

Alexey also has a notable history with Mars., where he spent a decade in various HR roles. As People and Organization Contact Center Head, he established an HR Contact Center that served over 6,000 associates, achieving operational excellence from its inception. His leadership in HR shared services and his efforts in reducing employee turnover and enhancing succession planning were particularly impactful.

Alexey's career is marked by his ability to drive HR innovation, foster leadership development, and enhance organizational performance across diverse industries.

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Mainak Ranjan Chaki

Chief Human Resources Officer,
Birla Sugar
(K K Birla Group of Sugar Industries)

Mainak Ranjan Chaki stands as a distinguished leader in the field of Human Resources, celebrated for his transformative approach and significant contributions across multiple sectors. With over 25 years of experience, Mainak has excelled in FMCG, Engineering, Alco-Beverages, Retail, IT-ITES, and Insurance, establishing himself as a visionary HR strategist. Educational and Professional Foundations

Mainak's academic journey underscores his expertise in HR. He holds an MBA in HR from the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM), Calcutta University, Kolkata. Further enhancing his credentials, he has completed advanced programs such as ECHRM from XLRI and HRBL from Cornell University. These educational achievements have equipped him with the skills to design and implement forward-thinking HR strategies.

Mainak's career is marked by notable achievements and recognition. At SKIPPER LIMITED, his leadership resulted in the company earning consecutive "Great Place to Work" certifications. His adept handling of challenges during the pandemic, including visionary crisis management, highlighted his capacity for resilient and strategic leadership.

His excellence has been acknowledged through various awards, including White Page International's Global 200 HR Power Leaders 2023, and the prestigious Carlsberg Group Crown Award. Additionally, he has been honored as one of the "Top 50 HR Leaders" and awarded "CHRO of the Year," reflecting his commitment to redefining HR excellence.

In his current role at Birla Sugar, Mainak has pioneered significant changes. He introduced KPI-driven performance metrics into the sugar-cane industry, enhancing employee-farmer engagement and driving organizational growth. Under his leadership, the Sugar Group achieved a top 10 ranking as a "Dream Company to Work For" in India and was recognized among Asia's Top 50. Furthermore, ASEL, a company within the Sugar Group, earned a Silver ranking in the HR Technology Domain at the BW People Awards.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Mainak is dedicated to social causes. He actively supports rural education and career development through initiatives like EduconKlavo and Skill-ConKlavo. His role as a speaker and committee member in management schools further demonstrates his commitment to shaping future HR professionals.

Mainak Ranjan Chaki's exceptional blend of academic prowess, diverse experience, and innovative practices marks him as a leader who is not only transforming businesses but also shaping the future of HR.



Anurag Kumar

Global Head of HR,
E3 Energy

Anurag Kumar is a transformative leader in global HR, currently serving as the Global Head of HR for E3 Energies. With decades of experience, he is renowned for his innovative approach and expertise across HR functions, including Compensation & Benefits, Talent Acquisition, Rewards, Analytics, Talent Enhancement, and Relationship Management. Anurag's leadership is marked by a commitment to advancing HR on a global scale, directing initiatives, and shaping workforce strategies worldwide.

Prior to his role at E3 Energies, Anurag held pivotal positions at several prestigious organizations. At Sing Fuels, GP Global Group, and Essar Group, he played a crucial role in revitalizing HR functions and redefining organizational frameworks. His strategic insights and ability to implement effective HR practices led to significant improvements in employee engagement and organizational performance.

Anurag's impact extends to the technology sector, where he held influential roles at Patni Computers and NESS Technologies. In these positions, he set new standards in HR practices, driving innovation and enhancing HR capabilities. His work in these organizations showcased his ability to integrate advanced HR solutions with business objectives, resulting in improved operational efficiency and employee satisfaction.

Anurag's academic background is equally impressive. He is an alumnus of the International Management Institute, where he earned an MBA in HR. His academic excellence is complemented by practical leadership, and he has been recognized with numerous accolades for his groundbreaking contributions to the field of HR.

Throughout his career, Anurag has significantly enhanced HR capabilities across continents, fostering a robust network spanning the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, India, and Central Asia. His global perspective and deep understanding of diverse cultural contexts have enabled him to implement HR strategies that are both innovative and inclusive.

Anurag stands out as a visionary architect of progressive HR ecosystems, driving transformative leadership that reshapes the future of HR globally. His dedication to excellence and his ability to inspire and lead teams have made him a respected figure in the HR community. Under his leadership, E3 Energies continues to thrive, setting new benchmarks in HR practices and contributing to the company's overall success.

In addition to his professional achievements, Anurag is a mentor and thought leader, regularly sharing his insights at industry conferences and forums. His commitment to continuous learning and development ensures that he remains at the forefront of HR innovation, consistently contributing to the advancement of the profession.

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Kriti Sarna

Senior Associate Consultant, AON Middle East

Kriti Sarna is a dynamic force in Middle East's HR sector recognized as one of the industry's standout young leaders under 30. In a brief span of only 5 years from the inception of her professional journey, she has already amassed a remarkable portfolio of accomplishments.

Her career trajectory showcases a strong blend of strategic acumen and hands-on expertise, underpinned by a master's degree in HR with CIPD Level 7 accreditation from University of Westminster, UK, and a suite of advanced certifications. As a certified Organizational Development (OD) and Rewards Practitioner, a psychometrics expert with Hogan Assessments proficiency and ADEPT-15 certification & a McKinsey Forward Program graduate, Kriti's multifaceted skillset has positioned her as a rising star in the HR realm.

Driven by her passion for innovation, Kriti has been at the forefront of exploring the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) & HR. She has been one of the early movers in preparing herself for the vast future possibilities that AI can unlock in the HR domain worldwide.

Kriti excels as a strategic advisor at AON translating complex business requirements into actionable HR strategies with enriching client engagements at C-Suite level. She is an expert at crafting & implementing bespoke human capital solutions tailored to client objectives. Her psychometrics and OD certifications, coupled with her hands-on experience in designing innovative organizational change strategies, executive compensation plans, performance & talent management programs & leading market benchmarking initiatives, have been instrumental to her success.

Before joining Aon, Kriti made notable strides in the HR function of Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group, comprising a 3500 + workforce, where she spearheaded the HR Business Partnering and Talent Development initiatives. Her leadership in strategic workforce planning, global recruitment, HR advisory and facilitation of L&D programs for executives, resulted in notable improvements in talent engagement, retention & organizational profitability. Her efforts earned her the Rising Star Award at Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group, underscoring her impact on the company's HR landscape.

Kriti's career foundation was built at Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited in India. Her contributions included spearheading talent identification & development initiatives, driving internal promotions, & designing impactful learning & development programs. These portfolios solidified her reputation as a talent management expert. She was awarded the CEO Excellence Award thrice in succession for her exceptional contribution to the business & the HR Team.

Her remarkable career achievements make her a leading figure in shaping the future of HR in the Middle East Region & beyond.

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İlkşen Çetintaş

Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, ŞA-RA Group Inc.

İlkşen Çetintaş is a distinguished senior HR professional with over 20 years of experience in shaping & implementing HR strategies that align with organizational objectives. Currently serving as the CHRO at ŞA-RA Group Inc. İlkşen Çetintaş has played a pivotal role in institutionalizing HR processes & leading transformative change management initiatives.

Before joining ŞA-RA Group Inc., İlkşen was the Head of HR at Nurol Teknoloji Inc., where she excelled in designing & executing HR processes aligned with the company's long-term success. Her tenure at Nurol Technologies was marked by the creation of impactful internship programs & innovative staff training methods, significantly enhancing employee skills & fostering a diverse & inclusive workplace.

Her career also includes notable achievements at IC ENERGY Investment Holding, where she served as Deputy General Manager - HR. There, she spearheaded the digitalization of HR processes. Her efforts to increase female representation in technical roles were particularly noteworthy, resulting in a significant rise in female technical employees from 4% to 25% within a year.

Her journey began at TAI - Turkish Aerospace Industries, a high-tech defense company where she made significant contributions to enhancing HR policies & launched the company's first periodical journal.

She then joined Siemens Industries Inc., where she was one of the key team members sharing a common vision in implementing the Siemens Leadership Excellence program, setting a benchmark for HR excellence across Europe. During this period, she took a pioneering role in transforming the HR Department to function as a "profit center" rather than a "service center". "The Project, along with other HR initiatives, led Siemens Turkey to win the 'HR Management Leadership Award'.

İlkşen's earlier roles include HR Director at TED University - Turkish Education Association University & Swissotel, where she established & expanded HR departments, implemented employee engagement surveys & promoted open, collaborative work environments. Simultaneously, her leadership & employee development capabilities were recognized, leading to her election as President of PERYÖN İç Anadolu, a non-profit HR organization.

A graduate in Management from METU - Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi / Middle East Technical University, İlkşen Çetintaş has been acknowledged for her pioneering work in gender equality & social responsibility. She was honored by the Ministry of Energy in 2018 as one of the top three successful businesswomen in the mining & energy sector & received the Gold Award from the EBRD for her environmental & social best practices initiative.

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Gaurav Mehta

Associate Vice President Human Resources, Cvent

Gaurav Mehta is an accomplished HR professional with over 22 years of multifaceted experience spanning IT Products (SaaS), ITeS, and Infrastructure. Gaurav's passion for HR extends to designing sustainable HR programs integrating People Analytics, HR Technology, and Human Behavior to attract, engage, and retain top talent. His expertise lies in managing complex change-management programs to drive organizational growth and aligning HR strategies with business objectives.

Through his career with organizations like GE Capital, Hughes Software Systems Limited, Reliance Industries Limited, and Cvent, Gaurav has built a reputation for leading HR initiatives during high-stakes corporate transitions, such as mergers, acquisitions, and IPO preparations, while navigating economic cycles and restructuring for business turn-around.

An alumnus of the Asian Institute of Management – Manila (a Harvard co-founded School), Gaurav continues to expand his knowledge by pursuing practitioner-oriented research on emerging technologies like AI and ML to personalize employee experiences and improve decision-making for effective talent management.

Currently, Gaurav serves as the Associate Vice President for APAC at Cvent, where he heads the Central HR Team. His strategic leadership has been instrumental in re-forming and re-tooling core aspects of Total Rewards and People Ops. to support back-to-back business transitions within a short period, likes of multiple private equity takeovers, IPO listing, numerous mergers and acquisitions, Covid, recession scenarios and re-aligning from high-growth to profitable-growth mandate.

At Reliance Infrastructure, Gaurav worked on a clean-slate World Bank project in partnership with Bain Consulting and Power Grid-NHPC-BSES Consortium to rebuild Ethiopian Electric Utility from ground zero. The project involved (Re) deployment of manpower of 12000+ employees and develop & kick-starting Talent Management programs and driving large-scale HR Transformation.

At Hughes Software, he was selected as part of the first corporate-sponsored executive batch for a postgraduate program at IIM Kozhikode, where he ensured that classroom learnings translated to on-ground action for keeping continual-change engine fired up during a time when the organization was going through PrivateEquity takeover transition and changing gears from HighGrowth phase (organic and M&As) to a value-pick!

At GE Capital, Gaurav was one of the youngest trainers to clock 20,000 training man-days and learned the Six Sigma way of life for 'Process Excellence' and experienced 'Build to Scale' Operations first-hand!



Priyanka Taikar

Chief People Officer, VTEST Software

Priyanka Taikar is an accomplished HR & People professional with over a decade of extensive experience across diverse HR functions. Her expertise spans Talent Acquisition, Business Partner, Operations & Management, Performance Management, Admin & Payroll, Learning & Development, Organization & Change Development, Statutory Compliances, Diversity-Equity-Inclusion, People & Culture Analytics, Employee & Employer Strategies, Project Management, Vendor & Client Engagements, Employee Engagement & more, demonstrating a solid commitment to fostering organizational success.

Priyanka began her career as an IT Assistant Manager & HR Head at Technoriya Biz-e-Soln, where she honed her skills in both technical & HR domains. She subsequently advanced to Adroit Infotech Limited., where she played a crucial role in recruitment & HR operations. Her journey continued at VSquare Systems Pvt. Ltd. where she significantly enhanced recruitment, operations & management efficiencies. Her current role as Chief People Officer at VTEST has solidified her reputation as a visionary leader in HR.

At VTEST Software, Priyanka has been instrumental in driving several transformative initiatives. She spearheaded the introduction of flexible working policies & an effective performance management system. Her efforts in upskilling & reskilling programs, including technical & behavioral training, have been pivotal in boosting team productivity. Priyanka also implemented innovative wellness programs & employee experience surveys, contributing to a more engaged & satisfied workforce.

Priyanka's commitment to employee welfare is exemplified by her development of policies like menstrual leave & business referral incentives, which have positively impacted workplace culture. She has also championed the use of advanced technologies & tools, such as AI-driven recruitment platforms & cybersecurity measures, enhancing operational efficiency & security.

Priyanka holds a Bachelor of Engineering in IT. She has furthered her expertise through certifications from Google Digital Garage, Hirist.com, Devskiller & others. Her exceptional contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including the HRAI - 40 Under 40 Award + Young HR Leader of The Year, HR Excellence – Asia Pacific (APAC), Global Exception Women, Super 30 HR Leader for Excellency in HR Leadership, Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award, Young Women Leadership Award- Talent Acquisition, Chief People Officer of the Year, Iconic Leadership Award.

Priyanka is a passionate motivational speaker & writer, actively sharing her knowledge through blogs & speaking engagements with organizations like NASSCOM & NHRD Network. Her dedication to continuous learning & her strategic impact on HR make her a standout leader in the field.

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Maher Sabbagh

AVP, People and Performance, DAMAC Group

Maher Sabbagh, a visionary C-suite leader renowned for orchestrating impactful change within global Fortune 500 companies & leading FMCG enterprises across diverse continents. With over two decades of multifaceted expertise in the intricate realm of Human Resources & a distinct flair for strategic leadership, Sabbagh stands as a paragon of excellence in transformative business initiatives.

Maher's journey through the corridors of corporate landscapes has been marked by remarkable achievements. At JT International, he spearheaded an awe-inspiring business transformation endeavor. His meticulous design & implementation of a comprehensive HR strategy across varied geographies were pivotal in steering the company towards unprecedented success.

Notably, during his tenure in Iran, his strategic prowess & adept leadership played a pivotal role in amplifying the business expansion & manpower planning positioned business as key market player. Also catalyzed an exceptional revenue leap from double digit million USD to an impressive three-digit USD million within a span of three years.

Maher's indomitable spirit for change & his instrumental role in the largest headcount restructuring at Japan Tobacco International remains etched in corporate lore. Reducing headcount by a staggering 15,000 individuals in one single market while driving an efficiency surge of over double digit million USD exemplifies his unwavering commitment to efficiency & organizational optimization.

However, his contributions transcend mere numbers. Sabbagh's dedication to fostering diversity & inclusivity is evident through initiatives such as pioneering the 1st Women in Leadership program in Bangladesh & the Asia Pacific region. This groundbreaking initiative became a beacon of empowerment, nurturing a robust pipeline of women leaders within the organization.

A trailblazer in HR strategies, Sabbagh's exceptional ability to streamline acquisitions, navigate complex business integrations & optimize workforce operations is unparalleled. His adept leadership in the acquisition of a $450 million business in Sudan & subsequent restructuring, leading to an exponential rise in operational cost control, stands as a testament to his strategic acumen. Sabbagh's dedication to fostering leadership & talent nurturing is evident through initiatives such as pioneering the 1st Talent Nurturing program in Leadership development in Sudan.

Being AVP for People & Performance for DAMAC Group – Projects division with over 700 people in play. Being board member at AMICA Holding is a Web3 powered VR metaverse built on blockchain technology & NFTs, offering users an engaging & immersive experience across a variety of themed islands.



Jyotsana Saxena

Chief People Officer - India and Indian Sub-continent, Schenker India

Jyotsana Saxena is an accomplished Human Resources leader with over two decades of experience driving transformative strategies across diverse industries. Her career has been marked by a steadfast commitment to fostering talent development, shaping inclusive organizational cultures, and continuously innovating HR practices.

Currently serving as the Human Resources Head for Schenker India and Bangladesh, she oversees a workforce of over 4,000 employees across 80+ locations, working as a strategic partner and change leader to Executive Teams, and Business Groups; thought leader with business acumen analysing change requirements with operational management putting in place sustainable solutions for leveraging employee and organizational performance, driving revenue, and increasing ROI.

Jyotsana's academic foundation is solid, holding an MSc in Statistics and an MBA in Human Resources. She has furthered her expertise by completing the Senior Executive Development Program on Advanced Human Resource Management at XLRI Jamshedpur and earning a Six Sigma Black Belt certification from QAI. This extensive background in both quantitative and strategic management has enabled her to lead HR teams with a data-driven and people-centred approach, optimizing operations and employee engagement.

At Schenker India, one of Jyotsana's hallmark achievements was securing the prestigious Great Place to Work certification, underscoring her commitment to fostering an inclusive and empowering workplace. Her leadership in launching initiatives like the "Good to Great" managerial development program has equipped over 100 managers with the tools to lead effectively in an ever-evolving industry. She has also been instrumental in integrating transgender employees into the workforce and establishing the HR function in Schenker Bangladesh, contributing to a more diverse and globalized organization.

Jyotsana's focus on digital transformation has been central to her leadership. She has led efforts to streamline recruitment, onboarding, and other HR processes, enhancing operational efficiency and boosting employee satisfaction. During the COVID-19 pandemic, her initiatives, including flexible working arrangements and comprehensive welfare programs, ensured employees and their families were supported during difficult times.

Throughout her career, Jyotsana has been dedicated to Learning and Development (L&D), implementing strategic training programs tailored to various learning needs. Her focus on fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation has driven both personal and organizational growth, positioning Schenker India as a leader in employee engagement, development, and excellence.

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Raghava Avvari

Managing Partner,
Brane Enterprises India

Raghava Avvari is an accomplished HR Leader and a thought leader, whose nearly 30-year career in human capital management has significantly influenced the evolution of HR strategies across high-profile global organizations. His work bridges visionary leadership and practical innovation, aiming to shape workforces that are not only skilled and efficient but also resilient and adaptable in the 21st century.

Throughout his career, Raghava has held key HR leadership roles at industry giants like Baan Info Systems, Microsoft, IBM, and Deloitte Consulting, where he has collaborated closely with executive leaders to cultivate HR solutions that anticipate future needs. His tenure at Baan Info Systems, in particular, saw him initiate the “Not Just a Number” program, an early effort to incorporate empathy into HR interactions—a philosophy that still underpins his work today. This program fostered a culture where empathy became integral to employee engagement and morale, tracked and measured through detailed qualitative assessments.

At Brane Enterprises, Raghava has made transformative strides, scaling the company from a 40-person startup to a global organization of over 2,900 employees. His strategic focus on establishing a knowledge-driven enterprise has led to the development of a 21st-century disruptive solution platform, underpinned by HR policies and processes tailored for growth and inclusivity. By implementing over 21 distinct policies, he has fostered a professional environment that mirrors the dynamics of a supportive family, providing employees with a robust yet scalable framework for professional and personal growth.

Raghava’s forward-thinking approach is evident in the high-impact HR programs he has designed. For example, in 1998, he pioneered a ticketing-based system to streamline employee services, a solution that significantly reduced turnaround times and improved service ratings. A decade later, in 2008, he introduced an early warning system for potential attrition, reducing turnover by 2% over 18 months. Today, he continues to leverage cutting-edge technology, currently implementing a Large Language Model (LLM) to automate empathetic employee query resolutions, enhancing both response times and the quality of employee engagement.

His influence extends beyond process and policy; Raghava is a proponent of “Passion-Hustling,” a philosophy that balances ambition with focus, driving innovation and engagement across generational lines. By fostering a multi-generational workforce that combines seasoned insight with fresh perspectives, Raghava champions an HR approach that not only addresses present-day challenges but actively prepares for the future.



Animesh Kumar

President - HR and Transformation,
Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited

Animesh Kumar is a transformative leader in human resources and organizational change. With nearly three decades of experience across sectors including FMCG, financial services, and media, Animesh has been instrumental in shaping ZEE’s people strategy, diversity, and organizational culture, enabling the company’s ambitious ZEE 4.0 transformation. Since joining ZEE in 2018 as Chief People Officer, he has spearheaded initiatives that have elevated ZEE to be recognized as an Employer of Choice and one of India’s Top 50 Workplaces for Women.

At ZEE, Animesh is committed to fostering a culture of inclusivity, leadership development, and internal mentorship, working closely with the Corporate Responsibility and CSR teams to align company values with broader social impact goals. He has also made significant strides in strengthening ZEE’s employer brand, making it a competitive player in India’s media landscape.

Animesh’s career spans influential roles in leading Indian and multinational companies, where he has consistently driven impactful change. Before his tenure at ZEE, he was the Chief People & Transformation Officer at Future Group India, where he guided transformation initiatives within one of India’s largest retail companies. Prior to that, Animesh spent nearly a decade with IDFC Group, where he held key leadership positions, including as a member of the Executive Committee. In this role, he directed Human Resources, Marketing, and Corporate Communications, along with serving as CEO of IDFC Foundation. Through the Foundation, he advanced IDFC’s corporate responsibility initiatives, focusing on community engagement and social impact, thereby embedding sustainable practices into the corporate ethos.

Animesh’s earlier professional experiences include significant tenures with prestigious organizations like RBS, Standard Chartered, Thomas Cook, and Marico Limited, where he honed his expertise in organizational development and people management across various industries. Known for his commitment to diversity and inclusion, Animesh has actively contributed to building inclusive workplaces and mentoring senior leaders.

In addition to his corporate work, Animesh has served on boards of non-profit organizations, leveraging his expertise to enhance their operational capacity and increase their social impact. His interests lie in leading transformative initiatives across both for-profit and non-profit sectors, with a focus on coaching, diversity, and cultivating dynamic organizational cultures. Animesh Kumar stands as a visionary in HR, committed to driving progressive, sustainable change across industries.

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Krishnan T S

HR Specialist,
Canon EMEA

Krishnan T S is a seasoned HR professional with a remarkable track record of over 16 years in talent acquisition and HR business partnering across India, the Middle East, and Africa. Renowned for his people-oriented approach and results-driven mindset, he has successfully crafted and executed HR strategies for a range of organizations, from startups to established conglomerates.

Krishnan's career includes pivotal roles at prestigious companies such as ITC (FMCG), Starbucks, Aditya Birla Group (Retail), and Landmark Group (Retail). Currently, he serves in a strategic capacity at Canon EMEA, where he continues to influence talent acquisition and HR practices. His commitment to integrity, respect, empathy, grit, and frugality underscores his professional ethos and has contributed to his recognition as one of the Top 100 Young HR Leaders and as a member of HR 100 under 40.

Throughout his career, Krishnan has demonstrated exceptional leadership by developing and implementing innovative talent acquisition strategies aligned with organizational goals. His initiatives have included leveraging cutting-edge technology and data analytics to enhance candidate selection processes and implementing diversity and inclusion programs to create an inclusive workforce. Notably, he led efforts to attract UAE nationals as part of Emiratization, positioning his organization as an employer of choice among local talent.

Krishnan is also passionate about coaching and mentoring young HR professionals. In collaboration with Jombay, he has mentored aspiring HR leaders aged under 30 in 2023 and 2024, demonstrating his commitment to paying it forward in the industry.

His accomplishments include significant cost optimization initiatives that resulted in $2.25 million in savings and enhanced operational efficiency. Krishnan's adeptness in utilizing key talent acquisition metrics, such as time to hire and quality of hire, has consistently elevated organizational performance. His ability to foster collaboration among senior leadership and cross-functional teams has led to high-performing, diverse teams that exceed management expectations.

In summary, Krishnan T S is a transformative leader in human resources, dedicated to connecting talented individuals with their dream careers while driving organizational success through innovative HR strategies and a commitment to excellence.

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Ali Reza

Education Solutions Director,
Ascend Solutions

In the dynamic realm of Human Resources, few luminaries shine as brightly as Ali Reza Mukhtar. With a prestigious MBA under his belt & a pedigree boasting credentials such as Chartered MCIPD, SHRM-SCP, KPI-P, PMP & CPTD, Ali's journey epitomizes the fusion of expertise & innovation. With over 15 years of immersive experience in orchestrating transformative HR initiatives, he stands as a beacon of strategic leadership, guiding organizations towards unparalleled success.

Ali's illustrious career narrative is a testament to his unwavering commitment to driving tangible results through the prism of human capital. His tenure at Bechtel, where he currently serves in Bechtel as the Talent & OD Head for the Middle East & Africa, underscores his prowess in sculpting high-performance cultures. Here, he orchestrates a symphony of talent management, learning & development & organizational design, redefining paradigms & amplifying business value.

However, Ali's journey to excellence didn't begin at Bechtel; it's woven through a tapestry of transformative roles across esteemed organizations. His tenure in previous leading organizations exemplifies his ability to catalyze change & innovation. In his last company (a leading ICT company in Saudi Arabia), Ali joined in 2016 swiftly ascended the ranks, showcasing his adeptness in navigating complex landscapes. As a Learning Business Development Expert/Advisor, he spearheaded a multitude of projects, from HR transformation to cultural metamorphosis, leaving an indelible mark on the organizational fabric.

Ali's impact transcends organizational boundaries, reverberating within academic & professional circles alike. As a Visiting Facilitator for Executive Education at the Institute of Knowledge & Leadership in Pakistan, he imparts wisdom, shaping the next generation of HR luminaries. Additionally, his role as a Registered Facilitator for SHRM-CP & SHRM-SCP certifications underscores his commitment to nurturing talent & fostering excellence.

Ali has had a remarkable professional journey, spearheading groundbreaking initiatives that have revolutionized the realm of human resources. He has successfully demonstrated business impact through HR practices with his unique blend of strategic thinking, data-driven decision-making, strong business acumen, effective talent management skills & the ability to align HR initiatives with overall organizational goals. He played a pivotal role in securing esteemed accolades for his organizations in the field of HR, including the Silver Technology of the Year award & the Best L&D Program award presented by CIPD.

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Dr. Subhash Chandar

Global CHRO,
Laminaar Aviation Infotech Group

Dr. Subhash Chandar has built an exemplary career spanning over three decades, defining the HR landscape across Fortune 500 companies in Aviation, Manufacturing, Defence, IT, Oil & Gas, and Healthcare sectors in the EMEA and APAC regions. Renowned for his innovative approach to aligning human capital with strategic business objectives, Dr. Chandar has navigated complex corporate environments, consistently creating value through cross-functional expertise in Finance, Business Development, Corporate Governance, and ESG.

Currently serving as the Global CHRO at the Laminaar Group, one of the world's foremost aviation software enterprises, Dr. Chandar shapes the company's human capital strategy, fostering an inclusive, forward-thinking organizational culture. His leadership is particularly impactful in managing multi-cultural teams and directing large-scale HR projects, including multi-million-dollar initiatives and complex mergers and acquisitions (M&A). His role involves building resilient workforce structures that adapt to evolving market demands, making him a key driver of the organization's strategic growth.

Dr. Chandar's core competencies are extensive, covering Business Leadership, Workforce Transformation, Organizational Development, Change Management, and a comprehensive suite of HR functions. His efforts to cultivate diversity and inclusion have led to enhanced workplace environments that prioritize both performance and employee well-being. Through data-driven insights, Dr. Chandar continuously refines talent management and HR technology initiatives, ensuring the Laminaar Group remains a competitive and progressive player in the aviation software sector.

In addition to his role at Laminaar Group, Dr. Chandar is widely recognized as a thought leader and subject matter expert. His insights on workforce transformation, change management, and talent development have earned him multiple awards and feature contributions as an author on Forbes, where he shares industry perspectives that resonate with HR professionals worldwide.

Throughout his career, Dr. Chandar's commitment to education and personal growth has been unwavering. His pursuit of knowledge and professional development underscores his belief in continuous improvement, making him a sought-after advisor in the field of Human Resources. With an extensive history of empowering organizations through transformative workforce strategies, Dr. Chandar remains a visionary leader whose expertise in HR technology, change management, and business growth consistently inspires the industry. His journey epitomizes the profound impact of strategic HR leadership on organizational success.



Shradha (AH) Ahuja

Chief Shared Services Officer,
Gulf Marine Services

Shradha is a transformational leader with over 20 years of experience in Human Resources and Shared Services. In her current role as Chief Shared Services Officer at Gulf Marine Services, a London Stock Exchange-listed company, Shradha has been instrumental in driving a corporate turnaround. Shradha spearheaded the creation of and now leads the Shared Services Department, overseeing critical corporate functions including Human Resources, IT, Procurement, Facilities, and Public Relations. Under her management, this department has significantly contributed to improved performance and employee retention across the organization.

Prior to her current position, Shradha held pivotal roles at notable organizations such as Tanfeeth, an Emirates National Bank of Dubai - Emirates Nbd company, where she spearheaded the development of the award-winning Underwriters' Certification Program. This innovative initiative received an Association for Talent Development (ATD) Excellence in Practice Award and a Gold HCM Excellence award by Brandon Hall Group, underscoring her talent for designing impactful training programs that enhance employee capabilities and ensure long-term business continuity.

Shradha's career also includes valuable experience at GE Capital (now Genpact), where she contributed to operational training and process improvements. Her educational background includes a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from XLRI Jamshedpur School of Management, complemented by a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification.

Throughout her career, Shradha has consistently demonstrated her ability to align people strategies with business objectives, driving enhanced organizational performance and employee engagement. She is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, actively mentoring emerging women leaders and promoting a diverse skillset within her teams.

Shradha's journey from operational training roles to C-suite leadership exemplifies her adaptability, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment to driving organizational success through effective people management and business transformation.

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GLOBAL 200 POWER LEADERS IN FINANCE 2024

Mostafa Taher Mostafa - Safi Health & Beauty
Koray Tulgar - TOSYALI HOLDİNG
Mohamed Helal - Al Watania for Industries
Basant Modani - ETIHAD CREDIT BUREAU P.J.S.C.
Muhammad Salman - Almunajem Foods Company
Sachin Jaiswal - Aza Fashions
Anil Suneja - Medtronic PLC
Dr. Sabry Ali Hassan Mohamed - Emdadat Alatta Group
Ahmed Ezzat - Impact 46
Basem Waheed - Golden Chicken Company
Dr. Mohamed Rdali - La Mamounia Palace
Rehan Ahmed - Arabio - Arab Company for Pharmaceutical Products
Darrell Edon - PJP Investments Group LLC
Noura Zein - Worley
Pratap Daruka - Tredence Inc.
Muhammad Farhan - Abdul Latif Jameel Enterprises
Mohamed ELRouby - Pharmanovia
Samir Derbas - Madr Investment
Walid Medawar - Jadarat Al Bina Group & Al Dara Medical Center
Sultan Sindi - United Cooperative Assurance
Muhammad Anis Younus - AlFadhili Housing Co.
Eyad Abdulrahim - Power International Holding

Dr. Mohamed Alyamany - Zahran Holding Co.
Mobeen Faisal - Sulzer
Mohamed Rishad Ismail - Danah Real Estate
Sumit Kukreja - PV Advisory
Shakeel Summun - National Insurance Co. Ltd.
MD Maksudul Amin - Ex-ASA International (a London Stock Exchange Listed Company) and Ex-HSBC
NS Rao - Ramky Group
Riyas Ahamed - Eram Holdings
Moiz Danish Khan - KSA, ADNOC Distribution
Jibanananda Pani - AJEX
Kapil Bagadia - PV Advisory
Nand Kishore Khandelwal - Premier Energies Limited
Anand Venkatasubramanian - NTT Data Services North America
Gautam Sharma - Brainbees Solutions Limited (FirstCry)
Sumil Mathur - EMAAR INDIA LIMITED
Yashpal Jain - Sandhar Technologies Limited
Jishore Malola Abic - Fakih Reproductive Medicines Holding Ltd.
Abhay Maheshwari - Jupiter Capital
Dayan Silva - MHI Power Middle East LLC

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Mostafa Taher Mostafa

Finance Director,
Safi Health & Beauty

Mostafa Taher is a distinguished finance professional with over 20 years of proven success in facilitating transformational change and advancing financial strategies across various industries and organizations. His career is marked by a relentless pursuit of financial excellence, underpinned by an exceptional ability to navigate complex financial landscapes and drive organizations toward sustainable growth.

Taher holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Maastricht School of Management, and a Bachelor of Commerce from Cairo University. This strong educational foundation, combined with his certifications in Data Analysis and Strategic Management, forms the bedrock of his expertise.

In his current role, Taher oversees strategic decision-making and daily financial operations across branches in Kuwait, UAE, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, and KSA. He leads with precision and foresight, implementing robust policies and procedures to strengthen company governance and optimize profitability. His efforts have resulted in the successful restructuring of the company's organization, finance structure, and ERP applications.

During his tenure as Head of Finance & Administration at Fresh Foods Company, Taher directed operations across finance, accounting, HR, and IT departments. He played a pivotal role in restructuring internal administrative and financial processes, streamlining budgeting and forecasting to improve cash flow and profitability. His expertise in strengthening strategic bank partnerships facilitated significant capital expansion projects, leading to tangible operational improvements.

Taher's tenure as Financial Manager at Arabian Beverage Company saw him spearheading financial procedures and designing frameworks that aligned with sales and marketing goals. His keen ability to evaluate ROI and track financial trends allowed him to guide the company through transformative strategies and ensure compliance with regulations and legislation.

Earlier in his career, as Financial Manager at Al Dana Group, Taher managed finance departmental processes for several entities, excelling in tender and contract pricing and conducting feasibility studies for new companies. Throughout his career, Taher has demonstrated proficiency in advanced financial analysis, strategic planning, risk management, and data-driven decision-making. His leadership extends to mentoring and developing high-performing finance and accounting teams, fostering a collaborative work environment that aligns with broader organizational goals.

Mostafa Taher's reputation as a visionary financial leader is characterized by his ability to innovate, adapt to changing trends, and build strong relationships with business partners and stakeholders.



Koray Tulgar

Chief Financial Officer,
TOSYALI HOLDİNG

In the dynamic landscape of corporate finance, Koray Tulgar emerges as a luminary, charting a trajectory of excellence across a span of three decades. Armed with a Master's in Banking & Finance from the esteemed University of Wales, alongside a BBA Engineering from Istanbul Technical University, Koray's journey epitomizes a blend of academic rigor & practical acumen.

Koray's foray into the financial realm commenced with a foundational stint at Boğaziçi University, where his scholarly endeavors earned him a prestigious full-state scholarship to the University of Wales.

Venturing into the banking sector, Koray honed his skills in pivotal roles within esteemed institutions such as Pamukbank & McKinsey & Company. Notably, his leadership in the groundbreaking "Banking of the Future" project catalyzed a paradigm shift within the industry, heralding an era of operational efficiency & strategic agility.

Undeterred by challenges, Koray's tenure as CFO & DGM at BTR (Banca Turkco Romana) in Romania exemplified his ability to navigate turbulent waters with finesse. Instrumental in steering the bank through precarious financial straits, his astute stewardship earned BTR accolades, including the prestigious "Best Foreign Bank Award."

Embracing entrepreneurship, Koray founded the Profit Institute, a bastion of financial innovation & thought leadership. His seminal work in profit optimization culminated in the bestselling book "Profit Increasing Methods," a compendium of insights gleaned from his extensive consultancy endeavors, where he meticulously honed the financial prowess of over 120 companies.

Transitioning seamlessly across diverse sectors, Koray's tenure at Bayraktar Holding witnessed the implementation of groundbreaking financial systems, including the revolutionary DBS system. This innovation not only fortified receivables but also catalyzed exponential growth, underscoring Koray's transformative impact as a catalyst for organizational change.

His stewardship at Turkish Petroleum & Zülfikârlar Holding A.Ş. further exemplifies his indomitable spirit & strategic foresight. Instrumental in doubling group bank limits & orchestrating strategic financial maneuvers, Koray's leadership ensured not just survival but sustainable growth, even in the face of adversity.

Currently at the helm of finance for Tosyalı Holding, Koray continues to epitomize excellence, overseeing a multifaceted portfolio encompassing finance, accounting, IT & strategic planning. Koray Tulgar's indelible imprint on the annals of corporate finance resonates as a testament to the power of visionary leadership & unwavering resolve.

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Mohamed Helal

Group CFO,
Al Watania for Industries

With a sterling career spanning over three decades, Mohamed Helal stands as a paragon of excellence in the realm of finance and corporate leadership. As an astute strategist and growth accelerator, Mohamed's indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to financial excellence have propelled him to the zenith of success in the dynamic landscapes of Egypt, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Mohamed's journey towards becoming a beacon of financial acumen commenced with his academic pursuits, culminating in an illustrious MBA degree, which he complemented with prestigious certifications in Certified Management Accountancy (CMA) and Certified Treasury Professional (CTP). These formidable educational pillars laid the foundation for his future triumphs, equipping him with the knowledge and expertise to navigate the intricacies of corporate finance with finesse.

Embarking on his professional odyssey, Mohamed graced the corridors of esteemed organizations, leaving an indelible mark of excellence wherever he treaded. Notably, his tenure as Group CFO at Al Watania for Industries, a premier packaging manufacturing conglomerate with a regional footprint, epitomizes his prowess as a strategic finance leader. Here, Mohamed orchestrated a financial transformation of unparalleled magnitude, steering the organization towards unprecedented growth and profitability. His adeptness in mergers and acquisitions played a pivotal role in identifying strategic opportunities, fueling the company's expansion across borders.

Throughout his illustrious career, Mohamed has been a harbinger of change, spearheading initiatives that have redefined financial paradigms. His crowning achievements include orchestrating the company's successful IPO execution, a monumental milestone that catapulted Al Watania for Industries onto the global stage. Furthermore, his adept management of financial strategies ensured impeccable cash flow management, laying the groundwork for sustainable success.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Mohamed is a beacon of thought leadership and critical thinking, captivating audiences with his insights on corporate finance, mergers, and risk management. His global mobility and unwavering dedication to excellence underscore his status as a true visionary in the finance domain.

In essence, Mohamed Helal's journey is not merely a testament to his individual triumphs but a saga of resilience, innovation, and unwavering dedication to the pursuit of financial excellence. As he continues to chart new frontiers and inspire future generations of finance leaders, his legacy remains etched in the annals of corporate history—a timeless testament to the power of visionary leadership.



Basant Modani

Executive Director - Finance & Administration, ETIHAD CREDIT BUREAU P.J.S.C.

Basant Modani is a distinguished financial leader whose career epitomizes transformative impact across diverse industries. With certifications as a CA and Certified Management Accountant, Basant's expertise spans Multinational Corporations, Private Family-owned Businesses, Federal & State Government Organizations & Private Equity-backed enterprises. His diverse experience includes Hospitality, Healthcare, Insurance, FMCG & Durables, Retail & the Credit Reporting Industry, highlighting his versatile ability to navigate complex challenges & drive success.

Basant's journey through Multinational Corporations showcases his adeptness at managing global financial intricacies. At ITC Limited, he achieved the best functional rating for finance processes on the International Quality Rating System (IQRS) scale. This accolade was a result of his successful implementation of SAP across the company, where he led the core implementation in Finance & Costing processes.

As a Finance Specialist with The Coca-Cola Company, Basant spearheaded the Data Standards vertical of the Revenue Growth Management Project, covering 18 bottling countries across four continents. His efforts in standardizing reporting & acquiring best international practices significantly contributed to Coca-Cola's success. Additionally, he played a pivotal role in resolving VAT litigation cases at the High Court of India, securing favorable settlement & led six sigma projects that turned a loss-making venture profitable.

In government organizations, Basant's financial leadership has been exemplary. His work with Federal Government & Abu Dhabi Government entities in UAE demonstrates his ability to tailor financial strategies to complex organizational structures. He introduced innovative digitization methods & his pioneering early payment plan for healthcare service providers in the UAE maintained a robust revenue cycle & fostered strong partnerships with insurance companies. His exceptional scores in government localization efforts further underscore his capabilities.

Basant's acumen extends to private companies, where he has orchestrated strategic cost savings & efficient financial capital leadership. At Landmark Group, he conceptualized & executed the transition to an internal Finance Shared Service model, resulting in a substantial reduction in staff requirements & operational efficiency improvements. His strategic initiatives in capex projects & winding up underperforming businesses showcase his meticulous approach to aligning financial strategies with overarching business objectives.

Basant's profile is a testament to his transformative financial leadership, his ability to navigate diverse industries & his strategic vision that consistently yields successful financial outcomes.

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Muhammad Salman

Chief Financial Officer,
Almunajem Foods Company

Muhammad Salman, a distinguished finance leader, currently serves as the CFO at Almunajem Foods Company, a publicly listed entity in KSA with a market capitalization nearing SAR 6 billion. A veteran in the fields of accounting, finance & auditing, Muhammad boasts over a decade of rich & diverse experience across KSA, Qatar & Pakistan.

A proud member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Muhammad's career is marked by significant milestones & transformative achievements. At Almunajem Foods, he is a pivotal figure in steering the company's financial strategy & operations. He adeptly oversees the preparation & distribution of financial reports, ensuring rigorous compliance with regulatory mandates & providing stakeholders with accurate, timely information.

He has skillfully optimized the working capital & enhanced the working capital to sales ratio from 19% to 14%, ultimately boosting free cash flow to SAR 401 million. These strategic initiatives have not only improved operational efficiency but also significantly increased shareholder value.

Before his tenure at Almunajem Foods, Muhammad held the role of Financial Controller at an The Olayan Group Subsidiary. There, he directed financial operations, playing a crucial role in organizational growth & stability. He played a key role in mergers, acquisitions & due diligence projects, further solidifying his expertise in corporate finance & strategy.

Muhammad's career began at Deloitte & Touché as an External Auditor, where he gained invaluable auditing experience. He developed a keen eye for detail & compliance, meticulously reviewing financial statements & internal controls. His ability to identify weaknesses in systems & provide strategic recommendations to clients was honed during this formative period. He ensured financial statements adhered to International Financial Reporting Standards & other regulatory frameworks, demonstrating his deep understanding of global financial standards.

One of Muhammad's most notable achievements includes orchestrating a remarkable business turnaround, steering a company from -5% net margins to break even through meticulous analysis & operational streamlining. His efforts have earned him industry recognition, including being named one of the top 50 emerging CFOs in KSA for 2024.

Today, Muhammad aims to drive innovation & digital transformation within organization, streamlining processes & fostering a culture of continuous improvement & adaptability. By leveraging digital tools & innovative solutions, he aims to enhance operational efficiency & maintain a competitive edge in the market.

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Sachin Jaiswal

Chief Financial Officer,
Aza Fashions

Sachin Jaiswal is a distinguished finance professional with over 22 years of experience across IT, healthcare, biotech startups, retail & e-commerce and FMCG sectors. Renowned for his expertise in governance, compliance, risk management, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A), Sachin has consistently driven transformational initiatives and delivered exceptional financial outcomes.

He is a Chartered Accountant and an alumnus of both the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, and Columbia Business School. This strong educational background has equipped him with the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to excel in complex financial environments.

Currently serving as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at Aza Fashions in Mumbai, Sachin oversees global finance operations for the US and India. Leading a team of 50, he reports to the Managing Director and the Board. Among his notable achievements at Aza Fashions, he developed a US business operating model that resulted in significant savings in logistics, collection, and bank charges, enhancing the company's competitive edge. He also integrated an in-house ERP with a global tax tool, reducing tax exposure and ensuring compliance across geographies.

Additionally, he automated finance processes to address key business pain points such as real-time invoicing, strengthened the controllership function and transitioned the finance team from traditional reporting to data-driven analysis for more effective decision-making.

During his tenure as Deputy CFO at Sentiss Pharma Pvt. Ltd. from 2020 to 2022, Sachin led a global finance team of 30, covering operations in Russia, CIS, the US, India, and Switzerland. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine crisis, he achieved significant EBITDA margin growth. His strategic initiatives led to a CRISIL rating upgrade and significant cost savings. Notably, he navigated the complexities of the Russia-Ukraine crisis through proactive financial strategies, including hedging Rubles and transitioning to a direct invoicing system.

At Strides Arcolab , Sachin played a crucial role in transforming the biotech division from a startup to a business with a significant top line growth. He secured Foreign Direct Investments and government grants, raised substantial funding through external commercial borrowings and INR loans, and managed large-scale financial operations with skill and precision.

Sachin Jaiswal's career exemplifies leadership, strategic vision, and an unwavering commitment to financial excellence. His diverse experience and proven track record make him an invaluable asset to any organization striving for sustainable growth and robust financial health.

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Anil Suneja

CFO - India, Finance Director, Medtronic PLC

With around two decades of experience, Anil Suneja exemplifies financial excellence & leadership. His holistic perspective , people centric leadership , growth mindset have forged a distinguished career in P&L transformation, digital innovation, sustainable growth & team empowerment.

A Legacy of Achievement:
Anil's career is adorned with multiple recognition highlighting his significant contributions to finance. Recognized with multiple accolades such as a Business World CFO BW 40 under 40 & a recipient of the esteemed CFO India Award, his professional journey showcases his relentless pursuit of excellence.

Educational Foundation:
Anil's entry into finance was built on a strong educational background. He holds the prestigious CA designation from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) & a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons.) from Delhi University, laying the groundwork for his successful career.

Stellar Professional Experience:
Anil has been associated with global corporations like Medtronic PLC & Baxter International Inc. At Baxter, he held over twelve diverse roles across five international geographies, demonstrating his versatility and adaptability. His leadership in digital transformations and strategic initiatives across Asia and the United States has driven sustainable growth for these organizations.

Pinnacle of Leadership:
Anil is dedicated to fostering high-performing teams and nurturing future finance leaders. Believing in purposeful leadership driven by passion and perseverance, he aims to be a leader of impact. His tenure has seen significant improvements in talent development, with reduced attrition rates and increased diversity within the finance team. Under his guidance, financial performance has soared, and a culture of engagement, learning, and growth has flourished.

Driving Digital Innovation:
Anil's visionary leadership has been pivotal in guiding organizations through digital transformation. He has championed the digitization of operational processes and spearheaded intelligent automation initiatives, positioning finance as a strategic enabler of innovation and efficiency.

A Beacon of Inspiration:
Anil's influence extends beyond organizational boundaries. As a mentor and thought leader, he actively engages with industry forums and educational institutions. His dedication to nurturing the next generation of finance professionals underscores his commitment to giving back to the community.

In summary, Anil Suneja's career is a testament to his dedication, visionary leadership, and transformative impact on the finance sector. He continues to inspire aspiring finance leaders worldwide as he charts new frontiers.



Dr. Sabry Ali Hassan Mohamed

Chief Financial Officer, Emdadat Alatta Group

His academic odyssey commenced with distinction at Sohag University in Egypt, where he emerged as valedictorian, laying the foundation for a trajectory marked by excellence. This foundation was further fortified with a bachelor's degree in finance, followed by a postgraduate diploma in accounting auditing from South Valley University.

Dr. Sabry's academic pursuits culminated in an MBA with distinction from the prestigious Arab Academy for Administrative, Financial & Banking Sciences, underscoring his unwavering dedication to scholarly pursuits. Currently on the path to obtaining a Doctorate in Business Administration from Mansoura University, Dr. Sabry epitomizes the ethos of lifelong learning & intellectual curiosity.

In the professional arena, Dr. Sabry's journey has been nothing short of illustrious. His tenure as CFO at Emdadat Alatta Group in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stands as a testament to his prowess in financial management & business development. Here, he spearheaded transformative initiatives, navigating complex challenges with finesse & charting a course towards sustainable growth & profitability.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Sabry's tenure at Astrum Technical Services Co., a subsidiary of the renowned El Rajhi Group in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, showcased his versatility & leadership acumen. Rising through the ranks in many positions (Finance, HR & operation) until DGM & Business Development Director, he played a pivotal role in driving strategic initiatives & fostering organizational resilience in dynamic market landscapes.

Also in Egypt, Dr. Sabry worked in the field of tourism industry & all the companies in which he worked testify to his Professionalism & skills in the work.

Dr. Sabry's achievements reverberate beyond the confines of boardrooms, as evidenced by his commendable contributions to the broader professional community. Armed with certifications in Project Management Professional (PMP) & a plethora of diplomas in various business domains, he exemplifies a commitment to continuous professional development & mastery of multifaceted skill sets.

As Dr. Sabry embarks on his journey towards the Finance-Global Power Leaders 2024 course, his indomitable spirit, coupled with his rich tapestry of accomplishments, positions him as a beacon of inspiration and a catalyst for transformative change in the global financial landscape.

Finally, Dr.Sabry would like to thank God, his parents and family for his success.

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Ahmed Ezzat

Chief Financial Officer,
Impact 46

Ahmed Ezzat stands as a paragon of excellence & innovation in the financial sector. With an array of distinguished qualifications, including CPA, CIMA, CGMA, CFC, SA, AFA, MIPA, PBA-Canada, ChBC, and CIAT, Ahmed's multifaceted expertise underscores his commitment to continuous learning and professional development. His career trajectory is a testament to his profound impact on the financial landscape, particularly within the Gulf Region.

As the Chief Financial Officer of a leading financial institution, Ahmed's leadership and strategic acumen are pivotal. His role is not merely administrative but transformative, guiding the organization through complex financial terrains with precision and foresight. His tenure has been marked by exceptional achievements, including being honored as the "Logistics CFO of the Year" in 2021, a recognition of his strategic prowess in driving operational efficiency and financial stability within the logistics sector. Ahmed had been awarded as one of the top 50 CFOs in Ksa during 2024, the best CFO in KSA (VC and private equity)

Ahmed's professional journey is characterized by a series of notable positions with some of the biggest names in the industry. His expertise in Startup Finance and Project Leadership in Fintech has made him a sought-after figure for leading-edge projects. He has successfully steered critical initiatives, such as ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) and ISO (International Organization for Standardization) implementations, and has been instrumental in IPO (Initial Public Offering) preparations, showcasing his deep understanding of both technical and strategic financial elements.

A key strength of Ahmed's is his adeptness in data transformation. He leverages data analytics to craft financial strategies that drive performance and foster growth. This capability is crucial in today's data-driven economy, allowing organizations to harness insights for competitive advantage.

Beyond his technical skills, Ahmed embodies a visionary approach to financial leadership. His advocacy for financial agility highlights his belief in the necessity of adaptable and responsive financial frameworks. This vision is not just theoretical but is practically implemented in his leadership, where he simplifies complex processes to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

With over two decades of experience, Ahmed's contributions extend beyond his organization. His thought leadership and innovative approaches are shaping the broader financial landscape. He is instrumental in guiding companies toward stability and growth, transforming them into agile entities capable of thriving in a dynamic global economy.



Basem Waheed

Chief Financial Officer,
Golden Chicken Company

With over 16 years of rich and diverse experience, Basem Waheed stands as a distinguished Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and a vanguard in financial and digital leadership. His career, marked by a trajectory of transformative achievements across industries like Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), poultry, and healthcare, is a testament to his strategic vision and unparalleled expertise.

Basem's journey is punctuated by his certifications as a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and Certified Treasury Professional (CTP), reflecting his commitment to excellence in financial management. A graduate with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Finance from Benha University, his academic foundation is complemented by specialized training in valuation from the Institute for Mergers, Acquisitions, and Alliances, guided by esteemed Prof. Aswath Damodaran.

In his current role as CFO at Golden Chicken Farms Co., Basem has orchestrated financial strategies that have significantly bolstered the company's profitability. His oversight has streamlined budgeting, planning, and analysis processes, fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making. Basem's astute financial acumen was pivotal in the company's IPO readiness and M&A valuation, marking him as a key player in high-stakes corporate maneuvers. His leadership in executing cost-benefit analyses on digital initiatives yielded a remarkable increase in ROI, demonstrating his knack for aligning financial stewardship with technological advancement.

During his tenure as Finance Manager at the same company, Basem led the implementation of SAP, revolutionizing financial reporting efficiency leading finance digital transformation ,leading His initiatives in cost modeling and process optimization achieved a reduction in production costs and enhanced the company's financial consistency, facilitating substantial business-wide improvements.

A visionary CFO, Basem Waheed is dedicated to transforming finance teams into strategic partners, propelling businesses towards sustainable success through a blend of innovation, strategic planning, and relentless pursuit of continuous improvement.

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Dr. Mohamed Rdali

Group CFO,
La Mamounia Palace

Dr. Mohamed Rdali is a distinguished financial expert who has helmed the financial operations of La Mamounia Palace for the past two decades, bringing his exceptional strategic acumen & unwavering commitment to the luxury hotel industry. With a career marked by remarkable accomplishments, Dr. Rdali has successfully positioned La Mamounia as a global benchmark of luxury & excellence.

Under his financial stewardship, La Mamounia Palace was named the best hotel in the world three times by Conde Nast Traveller-USA, a testament to his visionary leadership. Dr. Rdali's financial strategies & operational insights have led to the highest revenue records in the hotel's history over the last two years, showcasing his prowess in maximizing profitability & driving sustainable growth.

One of Dr. Rdali's crowning achievements was overseeing the comprehensive $150 million renovation of La Mamounia in 2009. His expertise as a Chartered Public Accountant was instrumental in managing the project's finances, ensuring that the Palace retained its mystique while embracing a noble new appearance. His dedication to preserving heritage while embracing change was further demonstrated in the partial renovation of La Mamounia in 2023, coinciding with the Palace's unparalleled 100th anniversary celebrations.

In 2020, Dr. Rdali's strategic negotiations in collaboration with his GM, Pierre Jochem, led to global alliances with renowned chefs Pierre Hermé & Jean-Georges Vongerichten, enhancing the brand's market share & image. His innovative approach extended to the successful opening of a world-class 18-hole golf course in Ifrane, designed in collaboration with golf legend Jack Nicklaus, elevating the offerings of the luxury Michlifen Resort & Golf.

Dr. Rdali's commitment to excellence is reflected in his educational background as a Harvard Business School alumnus & a member of the GMP community. His adherence to international standards & effective risk management has facilitated the establishment of new companies under the parent organization, expanding its scope.

His expertise in implementing IFRS has strengthened financial transparency & compliance, benefiting the parent company & optimizing operational efficiency. Dr. Rdali's career is also highlighted by the grand opening of the luxury five-star Marchica Lagoon Resort in 2019 & his ongoing efforts in the restoration of the iconic Palais Jamai in Fès.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rdali has fostered an environment of innovation and continuous improvement, always seeking to resolve challenging issues and create long-term value. His passion for excellence and strategic leadership continues to drive organizational success & set new standards in the luxury hospitality industry.



Rehan Ahmed

Chief Financial Officer,
Arabio - Arab Company for Pharmaceutical Products

Rehan Ahmed is a seasoned senior executive with over fifteen years of profound finance expertise, with keen focus on supply chain, procurement, tech, and strategic partnerships within the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical sectors. His extensive knowledge spans Pharma, Vaccines, and Consumer Healthcare, demonstrating a nuanced understanding of diverse business landscapes. Rehan has successfully led pivotal projects across both global and regional enterprises, including renowned companies such as GSK, AstraZeneca and Arabio.

Throughout his career, Rehan has consistently exhibited a hands-on leadership style, adept personnel management, and a remarkable track record of swift career advancement. His professional endeavors have predominantly focused on the MENA markets, particularly Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and the Near East/Levant regions. His accomplishments have earned him prestigious accolades, not limited to; "CFO Vision for People Leadership", " CFO Financial & Operational Strategist of the Year", and also being named among the "CFO50," a recognition honoring top finance leaders in the region.

Currently, Rehan serves as the CFO at Arabio, a position he has held since January 2021. In this role, he oversees both financial and operational functions, contributing significantly to the organization's growth and success, resulting in unprecedented topline and bottom-line CAGR growth over the years. His visionary leadership continues to propel Arabio and its stakeholders toward new heights, solidifying his reputation as a formidable force in the industry.

Rehan's educational background is equally impressive. He holds a Global MBA from Alliance Manchester Business School and prestigious accreditations such as Fellow Chartered Management Accountant (FCMA), Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) from AICPA & CIMA, and Fellow Certified Public Accountant (FCPA).

We welcome Rehan among the Global 200 Power Leaders in Finance 2024.

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Darrell Edon

Chief Financial Officer,
PJP Investments Group LLC

Darrell Edon is a seasoned CFO with over 25 years of financial leadership experience, renowned for his adeptness in driving profitability, corporate development & revenue growth. He is a strategic visionary with a proven track record of integrating major acquisitions, negotiating favorable contracts & managing financial operations to enhance shareholder value across various sectors, including retail, food & beverage & hospitality.

Darrell's career is marked by his expertise in financial analysis, which has consistently improved internal controls, optimized cash flow & mitigated risks. His ability to develop robust business models, monitor key performance indicators & refine procedures has significantly contributed to the operational excellence of the organizations he has served. Furthermore, his exceptional commercial acumen & ability to forge strong partnerships with senior executives & key stakeholders have been instrumental in fostering accountability & building consensus.

One of Darrell's most notable achievements is the exponential growth of his current company, where he successfully increased profitability and tripled the business size in under four years. His leadership in digital transformation has been pivotal, particularly through the implementation of cutting-edge technologies like Robotic Process Automation & AI, which have dramatically improved the efficiency & accuracy of financial decision-making processes.

Darrell's career milestones include leading the successful merger & acquisition of multiple units & brands from Eastern Europe into a Saudi Arabian organization, as well as spearheading the expansion of PJP Investments Group. Under his guidance, the company expanded from 43 locations in one country to 120 locations across three countries within four years.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Darrell is deeply committed to team development. He excels in recruiting, training & managing cross-functional teams, ensuring they meet objectives & achieve personal growth.

His approach to regular coaching & professional development has consistently enhanced the value delivered by his teams to their organizations.
Darrell Edon's educational background complements his extensive professional experience. He holds a degree in Economics, further augmented by being a Fellow member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accounts. His continuous pursuit of knowledge & improvement underscores his dedication to excellence.

Throughout his career, Darrell has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to enhancing organizational performance, leveraging his comprehensive expertise to deliver substantial & sustained value. His contributions to the financial landscape are a testament to his leadership, innovation & strategic foresight.



Noura Zein

Finance Manager,
Worley

Noura Zein is a distinguished finance professional with over 18 years of broad international and cross-cultural experience. She has excelled in various roles across multinational sales, manufacturing, and product development environments. Noura specializes in operational and financial strategy, governance, risk management, and the assessment of both organic and acquisition expansion opportunities. Her expertise has been instrumental in executing numerous acquisitions, particularly across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia (MEAA) region.

Her career spans multiple industries, including manufacturing, FMCG, automotive, and aviation. She has held significant leadership positions at prominent multinational corporations such as Worley, Menzies Aviation, and Ford Motor Company. These roles have honed her business acumen and equipped her with the capability to drive performance improvements across diverse business sectors.

Noura holds a Bachelor of Finance & Accounting degree from Beirut Arab University and an MBA in Management from Université La Sagesse - ULS. She is a certified accountant and holds a diploma in corporate taxation, underscoring her comprehensive knowledge and expertise in finance.

In addition to her professional achievements, Noura is a passionate advocate for financial wellbeing. She frequently shares her insights as a speaker at industry conferences, where she is renowned for her deep understanding of financial strategies and her ability to communicate complex financial concepts clearly and effectively.

Recently appointed as the Chair of Women of Worley UAE, Noura is dedicated to fostering a supportive environment for women in business, enabling them to fully realize their potential and achieve professional growth.

Outside of her professional life, Noura enjoys scuba diving and horseback riding, activities that reflect her adventurous spirit and commitment to maintaining a balanced lifestyle.

Noura Zein's exceptional contributions to the finance industry, coupled with her dedication to promoting financial wellbeing, make her a respected leader and a sought-after speaker in the Middle East.

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Pratap Daruka

Chief Financial Officer,
Tredence Inc.

Pratap's illustrious career began after earning his Chartered Accountancy degree, laying a robust foundation for his future endeavors. His professional journey commenced at Future Retail, where he honed his expertise in financial management as a Finance Manager.

Pratap's tenure at Wipro, a global IT leader, marked a significant chapter in his career. Here, he distinguished himself through exemplary profitability & cash flow management, earning multiple organizational accolades. His success at Wipro underscored his capability to navigate complex financial landscapes & drive sustainable growth in large-scale enterprises.

The transition to Tredence Inc. represented a turning point in Pratap's career. Inheriting a finance function traditionally viewed as limited to payments & payroll, he embarked on a transformative journey. Through visionary leadership & strategic initiatives, he metamorphosed the department into a high-performance team integral to the organization's core decision-making process.

At Tredence Inc., Pratap's financial acumen has been instrumental in realizing a monumental 600% revenue growth over four years. His strategic overhaul of the rate card & pricing strategy, coupled with stringent operational cost control, led to a remarkable revenue surge & a significant 19% increase in EBITDA. His adeptness in turning around financial strategies for large-scale impact is evident in these achievements.

Amidst a decelerating private equity market, Pratap showcased strategic foresight during the Series B funding round, securing $175 million from Advent International & $30 million in Series A funding from Chicago Pacific Founders. His direct involvement in negotiating favorable terms underscored his proficiency in securing essential capital for Tredence's growth.

Pratap's role extended beyond equity fundraising. He led a sophisticated capital mix strategy, balancing equity & debt to maintain financial agility while ensuring sustainable growth. His implementation of a robust capital allocation process post-fundraising championed a culture of ROI-driven decision-making, optimizing resource allocation & ingraining financial discipline across the organization.

Furthermore, Pratap's commitment to integrating technology within the finance function has been transformative. His advocacy for data-driven platforms like Falcon has enhanced decision-making processes, propelling Tredence into a new era of tech-enabled financial strategy.

Beyond his immediate professional sphere, Pratap nurtures early-stage startups as an active angel investor.



Muhammad Farhan

Chief Financial Officer,
Abdul Latif Jameel Enterprises

Industry veteran Muhammad Farhan has been deservedly included in the prestigious 2024 Global 200 Power Leaders in Finance list. This recognition underscores his exceptional career trajectory & impactful contributions to financial leadership across the Middle East.

A Visionary with Proven Expertise:
Farhan boasts over 18 years of experience honed through strategic financial management, meticulous planning & a keen eye for risk assessment. He has demonstrably bolstered the financial stability & growth of numerous prominent organizations.

Currently serving as the CFO at Abdul Latif Jameel Enterprises in Saudi Arabia, Farhan oversees the company's corporate finances & guides financial functions across all subsidiaries. His strategic direction fosters strong financial partnerships, ensures adherence to corporate standards, manages group cash flow & steers investments through assisting M&A.

A Track Record of Success:
Prior to his current role, Farhan served as Group CFO at Al Munif Holding Company in Riyadh. There, he demonstrably minimized financial risks by establishing robust management mechanisms & spearheaded the public listing process for key entities. His efforts culminated in the successful preparation of an IPO of a company on the Saudi Secondary Market. Additionally, his optimization strategies yielded an impressive improvement in the group's gross margin.

Farhan's experience extends beyond traditional corporate finance. As Vice President of Finance & Investor Relations at SEEDRA Ventures, he adeptly managed investments for an active fund with substantial assets under management. He played a pivotal role in establishing the fund's governance structure & mentoring portfolio companies across diverse sectors like fintech, e-commerce & SaaS. His guidance facilitated successful fundraising rounds.

Farhan's exceptional skills were further honed during his tenure at Securitas Group in Riyadh, where he excelled as both CFO & Risk Director. He implemented effective financial forecasting & internal control systems, while optimizing cash flow management to ensure the company's financial health & regulatory compliance.

A Well-Rounded Professional:
Farhan's impressive career began with roles at PwC, where he managed audits for major clients & Unilever, where he handled financial & credit reporting. This foundation, coupled with an MBA in Accounting & Finance & various professional certifications, positions him as a well-rounded & highly qualified financial leader.

Muhammad Farhan's inclusion in the Global 200 Power Leaders in Finance list is a well-deserved recognition of his exceptional talent & dedication to financial leadership across the Middle East.

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Mohamed ELRouby

CFO Middle East & Africa and Global Commercial Finance Lead, Pharmanovia

Mohamed Elrouby is a highly accomplished Global Finance and Strategy leader with over 20 years of experience in multinational giants such as Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Allergan, Takeda and Energizer Holdings. His career is distinguished by his transformative leadership and strategic innovation, driving significant growth and success for these renowned organizations.

Mohamed's educational background is extensive and impressive. He holds the prestigious Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) in the UK. Additionally, he is a Certified Corporate FP&A Professional (FPAC) from the Association for Financial Professionals (AFP) in the USA, and a Certified Strategy & Competitive Analysis (CSCA) expert from the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) in the USA.

He is also an OKR Practitioner certified by the OKR Institute, and he has earned an MBA in Finance & Investment. These credentials underscore his deep expertise and commitment to excellence in finance and strategy.

Throughout his career, Mohamed has excelled in senior finance and strategy roles across various regions. At Energizer, he implemented a fully automated integrated planning model across Egypt and North Africa, transforming the finance function from a controlling entity to a value-creation business partner. His tenure at Takeda Pharmaceuticals was marked by his development of a best-in-class FP&A function and the automation of performance management reporting using Robotic Process Automation (RPA) technology.

At Novartis, Mohamed established the FP&A function in the OTC Africa division and introduced 360-degree performance management tools, a practice he also implemented at Johnson & Johnson and Energizer. His strategic initiatives at Allergan involved establishing a robust business planning process for the IMEA region. He also supported the new go-to-market model in Energizer Middle East & Africa and reviewed distribution landscapes and agreements for GCC at Shire.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Mohamed is a respected International Finance & Strategy author & speaker. He published tens of educational content, articles, podcasts and blogs about Strategy, FP&A, finance business partnering and finance digital transformation

Mohamed Elrouby's career is a testament to his exceptional leadership and expertise, making him a distinguished figure in the global finance and strategy landscape.



Samir Derbas

Group Chief Financial Officer, Madr Investment

Derbas holds an impressive array of academic credentials, including an MBA, a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, and a specialized Master's Degree in Real Estate and Property Management from the The University of Salford. He is also a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and a Certified Islamic Professional Accountant (CIPA), showcasing his comprehensive knowledge of both conventional and Sharia-compliant financial practices.

Throughout his illustrious career, Derbas has held pivotal leadership roles in financial and strategic management across diverse markets such as Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. His expertise has been honed through significant contributions to esteemed organizations like SAUDI AIRLINES, Khomasiah Group, Tebyan Real Estate Development Enterprises LLC, and Diyar Al-Kuwait Real Estate Company.

At مدر للاستثمار | Mdr Investment, Derbas has made remarkable strides in optimizing the company's capital structure. By securing favorable financing terms, negotiating debt refinancing, and strategically managing the balance between debt and equity, he has successfully reduced financing costs by 20% and improved project IRR by more than 3%, enhancing overall financial flexibility.

In the realm of risk management and compliance, Derbas has implemented robust strategies to navigate market uncertainties and ensure adherence to regulatory requirements. His efforts have achieved a balance between risk mitigation and strategic growth, averting compliance risks that could have cost the company around 10% of its revenue.

Derbas has also led initiatives to enhance the performance of the real estate portfolio. By identifying underperforming assets, implementing cost-saving measures, and optimizing the overall property portfolio mix, he has driven substantial improvements. His portfolio optimization strategies have resulted in the development of a new corporate strategy and business model.

Samir Derbas's extensive experience, academic credentials, and strategic acumen make him an invaluable asset to Madr Investment. His contributions continue to drive the company's success, reinforcing its position as a leader in the financial and real estate sectors. Beyond his professional achievements, Derbas is known for his commitment to mentoring emerging finance professionals, further solidifying his legacy in the industry.

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Walid Medawar

Group CFO,
Jadarat Al Bina Group & Al Dara Medical Center

Walid Medawar's illustrious career in finance spans over two decades, leaving an indelible mark on some of the most esteemed companies in Saudi Arabia & the region. From Azadea Group to INDEVCO Group, Almutlaq Group, M.A. Abdulkarim Co., Guthmi Group & presently Jadarat Al Bina Limited Group & Al Dara Medical Center, his contributions to operational & financial strategies have positioned him as a powerhouse in the realm of finance.

Walid's journey began at a young age, marked by challenges that he masterfully transformed into opportunities. Starting as an acting accounting manager for Azadea Group at the age of 23, he swiftly ascended to the role of CFO. His career is a testament to his tenacity, flexibility & astute strategy, consistently delivering exceptional results while upholding the highest standards of integrity, ethics & professionalism.

Walid's expertise is unparalleled in business operations through effective financial management. He is a maestro in process reengineering, ERP implementation, financial restructuring, auditing, compliance, taxation, risk management, budgeting & forecasting.

Currently, he is spearheading the restructuring of Jadarat Al Bina Group's administrative & financial aspects, leading its new ERP integration & the Governance & ESG Initiatives, which resulted in the company proudly earning its first ISO certificate. Simultaneously, Walid is directing the restructuring of a billion-dollar debt for Al Dara Hospital & Medical Center, working closely with board members & external parties to navigate all aspects of the restructuring process, from strategy to cash conversion/liquidity management to business plan development & implementation.

One of Walid's most notable accomplishments is successfully restructuring millions of dollars' worth of debt for a ten-year term at zero percent interest. In his capacity as CFO, he orchestrated a remarkable coup that put his company back in the black, cleverly navigating the complex landscape of finance through strategic maneuvering & negotiations with banks & major lenders.

Beyond his professional achievements, Walid is known for his commitment to mentorship & leadership development. He has been instrumental in nurturing talent within his teams, fostering a culture of excellence & continuous learning. His leadership style is characterized by empathy, collaboration & a genuine passion for helping others succeed.

Walid's academic background further illustrates his multifaceted approach to life & work, holding dual degrees in Business Administration (Audit & Finance) & Tourism Sciences and Management.

Walid Medawar's journey is one of continuous growth, adaptation & innovation, serving as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring leaders & finance professionals alike.



Sultan Sindi

Chief Financial Officer,
United Cooperative Assurance

Sultan Sindi's career spans over 18 years, marked by transformative leadership and strategic financial management. Currently serving as CFO at UCA, Sultan has demonstrated his financial acumen by restructuring the finance department & optimizing credit policies. His management of substantial financial assets and investments, including a $2 billion deal with Time Warner and a $942 million transaction with Barneys New York, highlights his proficiency in navigating complex financial landscapes and securing major investments.

Previously, Sultan's pivotal role as Executive Director of Financial Planning & Analysis at the Royal Commission for Al-'Ula (RCU) underscored his exceptional leadership. At RCU, he spearheaded the preparation of annual budgets and secured multi-billion SAR funding for developing a UNESCO World Heritage site, aligning with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

Sultan's leadership in the 2024 budget cycle was particularly noteworthy; he completed the budget well ahead of the Ministry of Finance's deadlines and obtained early approval from the Executive Committee. His introduction of an automated budgeting tool significantly enhanced the process, achieving a 98% cash execution rate—the highest in RCU's history—and reducing the publication time of the quarterly Budget Execution report from over two months to three weeks.

As Deputy CFO at Wataniya Insurance Company , Sultan implemented cost optimization initiatives that led to rapid reductions in expenses. His efforts in executing quarterly financial statements and integrating the GAZT e-invoicing solution demonstrated his adeptness in regulatory compliance and financial governance.

At Bupa Arabia, his leadership as Director of Financial Planning, Collection Services, and System Solutions was marked by significant digital transformation initiatives, including a 5-Year Plan Strategy Framework and strategic ERP implementations. Sultan's efforts led to a 10% savings through procurement optimization and an increase in employee engagement scores from 65 to 80.

Sultan's foundational experience includes roles at Chalhoub Group where he managed finance functions for multiple companies. His strategic oversight in real estate projects and partnerships with luxury brands like Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior Couture highlights his ability to handle high-value operations and complex ventures.

Sultan holds a MBA from London Business School and a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a minor in Economics (Honours) from the American University of Sharjah. He is a member of the CFA Institute, CAIA Association, and FRM—Global Association of Risk Professionals, and has obtained the FMVA certificate from the Corporate Finance Institute® (CFI).

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Muhammad Anis Younus

Chief Financial Officer,
AlFadhili Housing Co.

Muhammad Anis, a highly acclaimed Chief Financial Officer and senior finance leader, has made significant strides in the world of finance and treasury management. A UK Chartered Accountant (CA, ICAEW), Fellow Chartered Certified Accountant (FCCA) and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA, IIA), Anis has consistently demonstrated excellence in various finance disciplines, including business operations, budget management, financial forecasting & auditing. His visionary approach & ability to lead motivated teams have driven organizational success across diverse industries & sectors, even in challenging economic conditions.

Anis's career highlights include his current role as the Chief Financial Officer & Board Secretary at Al Fadhili Field Housing for Real Estate Company, a joint venture between aramco & MASIC. Here, he is responsible for the overall finance function, including treasury management, strategic reporting, project management & compliance with zakat and tax laws. His notable achievements include redesigning a 23-year financial model, renegotiating loan margins & hedging rates to improve shareholder returns. Anis has also successfully implemented MS Dynamics ERP & VAT integration.

Previously, as Senior Finance Manager at Ports Development Company, Anis oversaw the finance & accounting functions for the King Abdullah Port. He led the implementation of Oracle ERP, SOCPA-IFRS conversion, and VAT implementation across the organization. Anis standardized financial processes, enhanced financial reporting & optimized work processes. His strategic reviews with senior management ensured budgetary adherence & continuous financial improvements.

Anis's tenure at Ernst & Young further solidified his expertise, where he rapidly progressed through seven designations to become a Senior Manager. He provided audit, assurance & advisory services to over 100 national and multinational clients across various industries. His leadership & technical proficiency were instrumental in client satisfaction, consistently ranking him in the top 20% of his peer group.

Anis has completed numerous executive education programs from prestigious institutions, including London Business School, Stanford University, Harvard Business School & the London School of Business and Finance LSBF. He is also a certified Non-Executive Director from the Non-Executive Directors' Association (NEDA) in the UK & a member of the GCC Board Directors Institute (GCC BDI).

Anis has recently been named one of the Top 50 CFOs of KSA. Recognized as a thought leader, Anis has spoken at multiple finance & digital transformation conferences & Summits. Anis is Advisory Council Member at Harvard Business Review, Customer Advisory Board Member at Finance Alliance, and an Ambassador for the Gartner Peer Community & Finance Alliance. He is also a Member of the Treasury Advisory Council at AFP MEA & Exec Member of the GENCFO Community.

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Eyad Abdulrahim

Group CFO,
Power International Holding

Eyad E. M. Abdulrahim is a distinguished business leader with over 20 years of experience steering multinational companies through transformative phases. As a Group CFO and board member, Eyad's career is marked by a series of strategic achievements and innovations that have shaped his reputation as a key player in the global corporate landscape.

Eyad's journey began with a strong academic foundation in finance and business strategy, which laid the groundwork for his ascent through various high-profile roles. His career includes notable tenures at prominent organizations such as Power International Holding, Emaar, Al-Futtaim Group Real Estate, Arabtec Holding PJSC, Dubai Properties (DP), and Depa Group

Within his tenure at DEPA Ltd which was particularly noteworthy; Eyad orchestrated a remarkable turnaround to a successful IPO, listing on Nasdaq Dubai and the London Stock Exchange with a market capitalization of approximately $1 billion. This achievement underscored his expertise in financial restructuring and strategic growth.

Eyad's strategic acumen was further demonstrated during his time at Dubai Properties (DP) Group and Al-Futtaim Group Real Estate. Here, he led financial restructuring initiatives that enhanced profitability and market dominance. At Power Intl Holding (PIH), Eyad spearheaded the IPO of Baladna Food & Industries Dairy Company and led the first reverse acquisition IPO in Qatar for Estithmar Holding, marking a pioneering moment in the region's financial market.

His leadership within his career also included creating financing lines locally and internationally and developing programs for Sukuk, Private Placements, and rights issues in addition to successfully leading multiple local and international M&A activities.

One of Eyad's landmark achievements was at Emaar, The Economic City (KAEC) in Saudi Arabia, where he co-led a groundbreaking 3-way debt equity capital increase swap transaction. This effort restructured the company's debt portfolios and introduced the Public Investment Fund (PIF) as a strategic investor. His development of a 10-year business plan for KAEC was instrumental in stabilizing the company's financial position and aligning its growth with long-term objectives and restructuring.

Eyad's career reflects a commitment to strategic foresight, innovation, and ethical leadership. His contributions extend to advisory and mentorship roles, where he imparts his wealth of experience to the next generation of business leaders. Eyad E. M. Abdulrahim's career is a testament to his unparalleled dedication to excellence and profound impact on the global business stage.

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Dr. Mohamed Alyamany

Group CFO & VP Finance,
Zahran Holding Co.

Mohamed Alyamany is a distinguished professional with an extensive career spanning various pivotal roles & industries. With a profound dedication to excellence & innovation, he has made significant contributions that have left a lasting impact on the business landscape.

Alyamany began his academic journey with a Bachelor's degree in Acounting & Auditing, which laid a solid foundation for his technical prowess. He furthered his education with a Master's degree in Auditing & MBA in Finance and PhD in Finance and DBA in Business Administration equipping him with the strategic and managerial skills necessary for his multifaceted career. This robust educational background has been instrumental in his ability to navigate complex challenges and drive organizational success.

In his professional trajectory, Alyamany has held key positions in several prestigious companies. His career commenced at Central Auditing Organization In Egypt, where he served as a Senior Auditor. In this role, he spearheaded numerous projects that enhanced operational efficiency & fostered innovation within the CAO. His technical acumen & leadership abilities quickly set him apart as a valuable asset to the organization.

Transitioning to KPMG Egypt, Alyamany took on the role of Audit Manager. Here, he led cross-functional teams to deliver high-impact projects on time & within budget. His strategic vision & meticulous attention to detail were pivotal in achieving project milestones & exceeding client expectations. Alyamany's tenure at KPMG Enterprises is marked by a series of successful project completions & a reputation for excellence in project management.

Continuing his upward trajectory, Alyamany joined Almunajem Group, Abnaiee holding group, Erkaz investment Group & Zahran Facilities Management as CFO. In this capacity, he implemented innovative financial strategies that significantly improved efficiency & profitability. His ability to streamline processes & drive continuous improvement initiatives was instrumental in positioning these companies as a market leader.

Alyamany's career is also highlighted by his contributions to industry thought leadership. He has been a keynote speaker at numerous conferences & seminars, sharing insights on engineering innovation, project management & operational excellence. His thought leadership extends to published articles and whitepapers that have influenced best practices across the industry.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Alyamany is committed to giving back to the community. He actively participates in mentorship programs, guiding young professionals in their career development. His philanthropic efforts also include supporting educational initiatives aimed at nurturing the next generation of engineers & business leaders.



Mobeen Faisal

Head of Finance & Controlling,
Sulzer

Mobeen Faisal is a highly accomplished finance professional with over 20 years of experience in shaping & driving financial strategies for multinational corporations. Based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Faisal combines his extensive knowledge in finance with exceptional strategic & analytical skills to deliver unparalleled results across various sectors.

Faisal's career is marked by significant achievements in mergers & acquisitions, demonstrating his adeptness in complex financial transactions. He has played a pivotal role in two major M&A deals—once as a buyer & once as a seller—showcasing his ability to navigate intricate financial landscapes & drive successful outcomes.

As the Country Head of Finance for Sulzer Saudi Pump Company, an engineer-to-order firm, Faisal was instrumental in transforming a single-owner company with no established financial policies into a robust multinational entity. Under his leadership, Sulzer implemented comprehensive financial & commercial policies, enhancing operational efficiency & strategic oversight.

Establishment of a Management Information System: Faisal spearheaded the creation of an MIS with a comprehensive reporting financial package within just four days, streamlining financial operations & reporting.

Standard Costing System Implementation: By introducing a standard costing system, he improved job cost performance & hit ratios, contributing to more accurate financial forecasting & analysis.

Plant Performance Management Initiative: His efforts in plant performance management led to increased visibility & productivity, optimizing operational efficiencies.

Negotiations & Financial Agreements: Faisal played a key role in finalizing a CPA with aramco & negotiating facilities with banks, further enhancing the company's financial stability & growth prospects.

Advanced Financial Practices: He introduced advanced financial practices such as hedging, intercompany netting, factoring, VAT compliance & transfer pricing, which significantly improved financial management & risk mitigation.
Faisal's expertise extends to ERP implementations, where he has led major projects in two prominent systems: SAP at Sulzer & Microsoft Dynamics AX at ACWA PIPE. His role in these implementations, particularly in financial accounting (FI) & controlling (CO), highlights his proficiency in integrating sophisticated financial systems to support business objectives.

A Certified Financial Modeler, Faisal excels in financial reporting, modeling, budgeting, controlling, and performance management. His technical skills include proficiency in SAP, Tagetik, Qlik Sense & Microsoft Dynamics AX, all of which complement his strategic financial insights and executive reporting capabilities.

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Mohamed Rishad Ismail

Finance Director,
Danah Real Estate

Rishad Ismail is a distinguished figure in the corporate finance sector, renowned for his remarkable ability to transform businesses & drive financial excellence. With a career spanning over two decades, he has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to achieving corporate objectives & delivering outstanding results across multiple industries.

Currently serving as the Finance Director at Danah Real Estate, Rishad is pivotal in formulating & evaluating corporate & financial strategies. His responsibilities include statutory & management reporting, enacting business & operational policies aligned with global best practices & financial planning & analysis. As a key member of Danah's strategic initiatives team, Rishad engages in mergers, acquisitions, projects & divestments. Notably, he spearheaded the overall ERP system migration project to SAP & SAP Analytics Cloud, successfully operational since 2023, integrating cross-functional departments such as finance, HR, project management & supply chain management.

Before joining Danah Real Estate, Rishad played a crucial role at Al-Faisaliah Group (JSC), where he led financial planning & analysis, corporate, statutory & tax reporting & process and controls re-engineering functions. He championed integrating technology to automate processes & enhance reporting functions through systems like BI & SAP BPC, facilitating informed strategic decision-making. His key achievement at Al Faisaliah Group was leading the successful listing of the healthcare sector on the Saudi Stock Exchange in 2022. This involved roles in valuation, modeling, audit, collaborative partnerships with strategic stakeholders & roadshows.

Rishad's career began at Moody's Analytics, where he honed his skills in financial analysis & investment research. His tenure was marked by exceptional results, particularly in covering Asian large-cap conglomerates. He rapidly ascended the organizational ladder, eventually leading a team awarded the best in investment research in 2013.

Educationally, Rishad is a Chartered Manager from the Chartered Management Institute (UK), a Chartered Management Accountant from UK and Sri Lankan accounting bodies & a member of Public Accountants from Australia. He also holds Master's degree in Business Administration.

Recognized as one of the Top 50 CFOs in Saudi Arabia in 2024, Rishad is a regular participant & panelist at regional CFO forums, where he shares his insights & expertise. He is a visionary, results-oriented leader focused on transforming businesses towards commercial feasibility, growth & sustainability.

Committed to ESG initiatives, Rishad actively strives to implement ESG goals & projects embodying a commitment to sustainability & responsible governance.



Sumit Kukreja

Founding and Managing Partner,
PV Advisory

Sumit Kukreja is a seasoned finance expert with over 15 years of experience in corporate finance, restructuring, and transformation. Armed with an honors degree in Economics from Delhi University and an MBA in Finance, Sumit has built a distinguished career, working with clients across various industries such as investment banking, manufacturing, healthcare, garments, real estate, telecom, and consulting.

Sumit has consistently demonstrated his leadership by managing complex projects and guiding cross-functional teams across APAC, EMEIA, and the Americas. His expertise lies in steering large-scale corporate restructuring initiatives, including mergers, demergers, acquisitions, and spin-offs. Sumit has been instrumental in streamlining finance functions, designing effective finance processes, and implementing innovative solutions to drive organizational efficiency.

As the Managing and Founding Partner of Panchavaktra Advisory LLP, Sumit has led many Finance Transformation projects for several Fortune 500 clients, he is currently vCFO to many SMEs and Startups leading a team of 100+ FTEs. Implementation of large corporate restructurings like mergers, demergers, acquisitions, spin-offs, incorporation and setting up of companies, integration of finance functions, designing finance processes and finance function effectiveness or performance improvements are his areas of expertise.

Beyond his core finance roles, Sumit is passionate about financial literacy and education. He has conducted over 2,000 hours of training in finance for non-finance professionals, personal finance, and behavioral competency, both in India and internationally. His ability to build strong relationships and effectively lead large teams—skills honed through his experience as a cricket captain—further enhances his professional impact.

Sumit Kukreja's career is a testament to his dedication to transforming financial processes and guiding organizations through complex changes, solidifying his reputation as a leading figure in the finance and advisory industry.

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Shakeel Summun

Group Chief Financial Officer, National Insurance Co. Ltd

Shakeel Summun stands as a paragon of financial acumen & leadership, boasting a career rich with diverse experiences & prestigious qualifications. A Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), Shakeel's credentials are further solidified by his status as a CFA Charterholder. With over 25 years in the financial services sector, he has carved a niche for himself through his unwavering dedication and expertise.

Currently serving as the Group CFO for NIC Group, Shakeel oversees critical areas such as Finance, Investment, Actuarial, Pensions & the lending cluster. His extensive purview also included ICT, Procurement, Facilities and Logistics, Premium Management, and Arrears Collections. His leadership has been instrumental in supporting the NIC Group's strategic initiatives and operational efficiencies.

Shakeel's professional journey began with the 'Big Four' firms, Deloitte and EY, where he honed his skills as an auditor. Transitioning to the offshore sector, he worked as a Client's Accountant, further broadening his expertise. His career trajectory includes numerous C-Level positions within the insurance industry, notably as COO & CFO, where he demonstrated his adeptness at navigating complex financial landscapes and steering organizations towards success.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Shakeel's commitment to governance and community service is noteworthy. He serves as a trustee on the Board of Trustees of the NIC Multi-Employer Pension Scheme, ensuring the stability and growth of the pension funds. He is a Fellow member of the Mauritius Institute of Directors (MIoD) and a member of the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants. His involvement extends to being a former Panel Network Member of ACCA Mauritius, a lecturer for the ACCA Advanced Financial Management paper & a grader for CFA Level 3 exams, showcasing his dedication to mentoring the next generation of finance professionals and contributing to the advancement of the profession.

Shakeel's governance acumen is further highlighted by his role as a Board member of SBM Bank Mauritius, where he provided independent oversight & strategic guidance. His early achievement as a CFO & being honoured with the "Young Achiever Award 2014" by the Africa Leadership Awards underscore his exceptional contributions & leadership in the financial sector.

Shakeel's meticulous attention to detail & proven track record of delivering results position him as a formidable presence in the ever-evolving landscape of finance & corporate stewardship.



MD Maksudul Amin

Ex-Group Head of Internal Audit at ASA International (a London Stock Exchange Listed Company) and Ex-Vice President at HSBC

Maksudul Amin is a distinguished professional whose career reflects a commitment to excellence, innovation & leadership across multiple industries. With a solid educational foundation and a diverse range of experiences, Maksudul has consistently demonstrated his ability to drive significant organizational success.

Maksudul's academic journey began with a focus on Finance, where he earned a Bachelor in Business Administration degree that sharpened his analytical and problem-solving skills. This technical expertise has been a cornerstone of his approach to addressing complex business challenges since the inception of his career. In addition to his Finance background, Maksudul pursued advanced studies in Accountancy and Auditing, which broadened his understanding of Governance, Risk Management and Internal Control Structure, and equipped him with the skills necessary to navigate the complexities of modern industry landscapes.

Throughout his career, Maksudul has held key positions in renowned multi-national companies, making substantial contributions to their growth and development. His adaptability has allowed him to excel in a variety of roles, ranging from operations, trade-finance, compliance, audit to executive leadership at Global level. In every position, Maksudul has been recognized for his strategic thinking, operational excellence, and his ability to lead cross-functional teams to achieve ambitious goals.

One of Maksudul's most significant accomplishments has been his role in the Audit sector, where he has spearheaded digital transformation initiatives along with the implementation of innovative and latest auditing methodologies; such as risk based, agile and shorter-sharper auditing. His leadership in adopting and implementing cutting-edge technologies and methodologies has not only streamlined the audit processes but also successfully positioned the organizations in their respective fields. Maksudul's efforts have resulted in enhanced efficiency & improved governance & risk management, contributing to increased & sustainable organizational growth.

Beyond his professional achievements, Maksudul is dedicated to mentoring & developing the next generation of leaders. He is a fellow member of ACCA & completed one term (2021-2023) serving ACCA Bangladesh Subcommittee for Member Development & Networking. His commitment to continuous learning is evident in his pursuit of certifications & advanced degrees, such as Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) in 2017, Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) in 2021 along with the active participation in industry conferences & seminars.

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NS Rao

Group CFO,
Ramky Group

Mr. N.S. Rao is a distinguished financial executive with an illustrious career in finance, banking, and corporate restructuring. He currently serves as the Group CFO of Ramky Group, where his leadership has been instrumental in transforming the company into a profitable powerhouse in diverse sectors including infrastructure, real estate, waste treatment, and pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Rao's academic foundation is robust, beginning with a B.Sc in Agriculture and an M.Sc in Economics from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University. He furthered his expertise with a PG Diploma in International Management from IMI India, McGill Montreal, and IMEAD Geneva. His commitment to lifelong learning is demonstrated through certifications as a Certified Lead Assessor from Nigel Bauer & Associates, UK, a Certified Insolvency Professional from the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), and advanced programs in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning and Prompt Engineering. Currently Pursuing his doctoral research in Generative AI and Emerging Technologies.

Mr. Rao commenced his career at Canara Bank as a Priority Sector Specialist Officer, where he implemented innovative rural sector programs, earning several state awards over an eight-year tenure. His roles at Canfina and CANBANK VC as Group Executive and Assistant VP saw him develop a comprehensive techno-economic evaluation methodology that gained recognition from the World Bank.

At Brescon Advisory Services, Mr. Rao served as President & Executive Director, successfully leading project finance and capital raising efforts. His tenure saw all five major IPOs outperform market listings. His innovative spirit shone at Pardeshi.com, where he developed India's first gaming product, "Fantasy Cricket."

His 18-year stint at Brescon & Allied Partners LLC as Partner and Special Situation Advisor was transformative. He evaluated over 200 business plans across 24 industrial segments.

As Group CFO of Ramky Group, Mr. Rao's strategic innovations in digitalization, project costing, supply chain management, and dynamic cost-to-completion monitoring led to a CAGR of 25% over three years. His turnaround of a listed infrastructure company made it the most profitable in its space, and his strategic planning provided a 5-year growth framework for the group's real estate, pharma, and life sciences companies.

Mr. Rao's numerous accolades include the GSE Scholar Award by the Rotary Foundation, Chicago, in 1987, the Indira Gandhi Excellence Award in 1996, and recognition for his dissertation on "Foreign Exchange Risk Management – Indian Corporate Experience." His venture capital investment in renewable energy systems achieved a 2500% return in two years. Notably, he led the restructuring of CEAT Specialty Tyres India in 1997, which went on to win the Deming Quality Award in 2024.



Riyas Ahamed

Chief Financial Officer,
Eram Holdings

Riyas Ahamed is a seasoned finance professional with over 20 years of experience, currently serving as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Eram Holdings, a diversified global conglomerate. Throughout his illustrious career, Riyas has driven strategic financial growth, merging business acumen with sustainability and innovation to transform corporate finance.

At Eram Holdings, Riyas leads with a vision focused on integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into financial decision-making. Under his stewardship, the company has successfully implemented business restructuring initiatives to enhance operational efficiency and profitability. He is also a key advocate for embedding sustainability into corporate strategies, ensuring Eram's leadership in ethical business practices across its global footprint.

Riyas's financial leadership has earned him significant accolades, including the prestigious "CFO Innovation in ESG 2024" award, alongside his recognition at the Saudi CFO Awards, where he received the "Best Finance Transformation" award in 2023 and "Best Strategy Execution (Private)" Award in 2021.

Riyas's academic and professional credentials are equally remarkable. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and an MBA in Finance. His certifications include being a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) from Australia, Executive CFO Program from London Business School, and obtained a Certificate in International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) from ACCA. Riyas is also a Fellow of the Institute of Financial Accountants, UK, and the Institute of Public Accountants, Australia. Additionally, he holds a Financial Modeling & Valuation Analyst (FMVA) certification and has received extensive training in sustainability for finance.

With a strong commitment to sustainable financial practices, strategic growth, and ethical leadership, Riyas Ahamed continues to make a profound impact on Eram Holdings and the broader business community.

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Moiz Danish Khan

Head Of Finance - KSA,
ADNOC Distribution

Moiz is a highly accomplished finance leader with 17+ years of diverse experience. Renowned for his strategic vision and transformative leadership, he has consistently demonstrated an ability to optimize financial operations and drive organizational growth.

Moiz has successfully led finance functions across a broad spectrum of national and international organizations, showcasing an exceptional aptitude for enhancing business performance. His commitment to continuous improvement is evident in his embrace of the KAIZEN philosophy, guiding him through various industries while obtaining advanced degrees and certifications.

Throughout his career, Moiz has been regarded as a key contributor to the success of every organization he has worked with. Notably, he has helped numerous companies establish strong financial infrastructures and played an instrumental role in facilitating the IPO of TIBBIYAH (the Medical Division of Alfasaliah Group) on the Nomu (Parallel Market), an accomplishment that earned him recognition from senior management. He has also been actively involved in several vertical acquisitions, M&A deals and joint ventures, significantly contributing to business expansion.

Moiz's career is distinguished by his ability to design and implement efficient financial systems, spearhead transformative business and finance initiatives, and deliver strategic insights. His expertise and leadership make him an invaluable asset in any finance leadership capacity.

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Jibanananda Pani

Chief Financial Officer,
AJEX

Jibanananda Pani is an accomplished CFO with over two decades of experience in driving sustainable growth, fostering value creation, and delivering strategic financial leadership across various industries. Throughout his career, he has played a pivotal role in scaling businesses, streamlining financial processes, and securing capital for high-impact projects. His expertise spans the logistics and financial services sectors, where he has excelled in liquidity management, risk mitigation, and investor relations.

Since joining AJEX in March 2021, Jibanananda has been instrumental in transforming the company from a start-up into a major player in the MENA region. AJEX, a joint venture between Ajlan & Bros Holding and SF Express Ltd., has thrived under his financial guidance, growing its workforce to over 1,500. Jibanananda has led critical initiatives, including securing initial funding, expanding the company's network, and implementing cutting-edge financial systems and ERP solutions. His leadership also ensured the successful negotiation of additional investment, enabling AJEX's ongoing expansion.

Prior to AJEX, Jibanananda served as CFO of NAQEL Express Company, where he managed a large team and contributed to the company's remarkable growth over four years. His key achievements included securing debt financing, restructuring finances for improved efficiency and multifold expansion bringing 3 fold growth. He was also instrumental in expanding NAQEL's operations across multiple countries. He has experience across three distinct regions: the Middle East, Africa, and India.

Earlier in his career, Jibanananda held senior financial roles with APM Terminals (Maersk Group), Multiple ICD (Kenya) Ltd, Philips Carbon Black and Everonn Education Limited, where he gained valuable experience in financial management, internal controls, and process automation. He began his professional journey in auditing with Srb and Associates, working with leading clients such as NALCO and Steel Authority of India Limited

Jibanananda is a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and holds a CFA Level 2 certification from the CFA Institute (US).

Jibanananda remains a leading figure in strategic financial leadership.

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Kapil Bagadia

Country Managing Partner,
PV Advisory

In the dynamic world of finance and corporate governance, Kapil Bagadia has emerged as a leading figure known for his strategic vision, transformative leadership, and unwavering dedication to driving change.

Kapil's journey in finance began with an internship at Narendra Singhania & Co., which laid the foundation for his long-term association with Ernst & Young (EY). His early career was marked by a passion for learning, an intense work ethic, and the ability to manage complex financial challenges with ease.

Kapil's rapid rise within EY speaks volumes about his financial expertise and leadership capabilities. Starting as an assistant manager in finance, he climbed the ranks swiftly, and within 11 years, he took on the role of Chief Financial Officer. This achievement showcased not only his financial acumen but also his ability to lead in a highly competitive environment.

A defining moment in Kapil's career was his role in the successful integration of Arthur Andersen and EY, where he demonstrated his skill in managing corporate transitions. Throughout his tenure at EY, he led key initiatives such as the centralization of financial functions, the establishment of a 'Shared Service Centre' model, and spearheading significant cost-saving measures.

Kapil is also a strong advocate for the integration of technology into financial operations. He has consistently championed technological advancements within EY and beyond, promoting the use of digital tools to streamline processes and improve efficiency.

With an entrepreneurial mindset, Kapil founded PV Advisory, where he serves as Country Managing Partner. In this role, he provides innovative financial solutions, focusing on finance transformation, process automation, analytics, and IT integration for clients ranging from startups to established corporations.

Kapil's outstanding contributions to the financial sector have earned him numerous accolades, including 14 Best CFO awards, recognition in the prestigious CFO Powerlist, and a place among Asia's most influential finance leaders. His legacy is one of innovation, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in the financial industry.



Nand Kishore Khandelwal

Group Chief Financial Officer,
Premier Energies Limited

Nand Kishore Khandelwal is a seasoned financial expert with a career spanning over three decades, marked by leadership roles across diverse industries. Currently serving as the Group Chief Financial Officer at Premier Energies Limited since September 2023, he brings strategic financial leadership to the organization, ensuring robust financial systems, budgeting, and effective financial reporting in alignment with organizational goals.

Before this role, Nand was a Senior Financial Advisor at Premier Energies from January to September 2023, where he provided financial guidance and advisory services, reinforcing the company's financial stability. His previous role as President Corporate Resources & Chief Financial Officer at Pitti Engineering Limited from 2016 to 2022 saw him lead significant initiatives such as SEBI-compliant financial reporting, board interactions, and managing debts of over INR 650 Crores. He also spearheaded the implementation of SAP S/4HANA, strengthening IT and financial systems.

Nand's diverse leadership experience extends to being Managing Director of Pitti Castings Pvt. Ltd. and Deputy Managing Director & Chief Financial Officer of ALUMECO INDIA EXTRUSIONS LTD, where he managed strategic planning, treasury, and financial operations. His tenure at Alumeco highlighted his expertise in establishing efficient processes and internal controls while managing capital effectively for both domestic and international trade.

He also served as GM (Finance & Accounts) at Dukes India and General Manager Finance & Commercial at Ruchi Soya, where he was pivotal in formulating budgets, managing treasury functions, and ensuring compliance with statutory regulations.

Nand kishore began his career as a proprietor of N K Khandelwal & Associates, where he managed audits and taxation for small and medium enterprises across various industries. His extensive experience across finance, treasury management, ERP implementation, corporate strategy, and leadership makes him a key figure in driving financial growth and operational efficiency in the organizations he leads.

Throughout his career, Nand Kishore has remained committed to driving growth, innovation, and financial stability within organizations. His exceptional ability to bridge the gap between financial objectives and broader business goals makes him a dynamic force in any corporate setting. His contributions continue to inspire both peers and the next generation of business leaders, setting a benchmark for excellence in the financial and business management sectors.

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Anand Venkatasubramanian

Vice President Finance,
NTT Data Services North America

Anand Venkatasubramanian is a highly accomplished finance executive with over two decades of global experience, specializing in corporate finance leadership, business transformation, and M&A integration.

Currently Vice President of Finance at NTT DATA North Americas Region, Anand oversees the financial performance of the Healthcare and Life Sciences Business Unit. His strategic acumen and operational focus have positioned him as a trusted leader, consistently driving profitability in fast-paced, complex environments.

Anand's career began at Sundram Fasteners in India, where he developed a solid foundation in finance and treasury management. Over the years, he has worked across many brands such as ICICI, Wipro and Dell leading significant financial transformations. His move to the United States marked a new chapter in his career, where he took on leadership roles at globally recognized brands and expanded his expertise in P&L management, corporate finance, and team leadership.

During his tenure at Astreya, Anand served as Vice President of Corporate Finance, tasked with strengthening the company's financial framework and leading global FP&A initiatives.

At NTT DATA Services, Anand's journey spanned multiple leadership roles, from Director, Senior Director of Finance to Vice President. He led finance, playing a pivotal role in cost transformation, cost optimization, and acquisition of companies. Anand's expertise in M&A shone through as he helped acquire and integrate many companies while divesting non-strategic units, all while improving margins and restructuring operations. His ability to turn around underperforming business units, streamline financial processes, and foster a culture of excellence in his teams earned him recognition for leadership excellence.

Anand is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He also holds Bachelor's degree in Commerce from University of Madras. Known for his integrity, financial expertise, and visionary leadership, Anand continues to elevate corporate value and deliver transformative results across the global finance landscape.



Gautam Sharma

Group CFO,
Brainbees Solutions Limited (FirstCry)

In his current role, Gautam's financial acumen has been integral to the company's remarkable transformation. With nearly 20 years of experience in corporate finance, legal, and company secretarial functions, Gautam has significantly contributed to the company's growth. His tenure has seen FirstCry expand from just 10 stores to over 900 across India and the UAE, establishing it as the largest platform for mothers, babies, and kids' products in these regions.

An Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and a Fellow Member of the The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Gautam is recognized for his strategic financial leadership. He has spearheaded more than 10 successful fundraising rounds over 12 years, securing nearly $1 billion from marquee investors, including Softbank, Elevation Capital, Premji Invest, and Mahindra & Mahindra. His exceptional fundraising efforts culminated in the establishment of a "FirstCry-Mahindra Venture" and successful secondary transactions, gaining confidence from esteemed family offices like Premji Invest and the Bharti Family.

Gautam's M&A expertise has been crucial in expanding FirstCry's footprint. He has evaluated over 200 entities and successfully executed more than 25 M&A transactions, including the acquisition of Mahindra's "Babyoye" in 2016 and OI Playschool in 2019. His leadership has also driven the company's expansion into international markets, including the UAE and KSA, while managing a portfolio of over 35 subsidiaries.

Currently guiding FirstCry through the preparation of its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) for an upcoming IPO, Gautam's oversight ensures compliance and precision, while showcasing the company's growth potential. Gautam's forward-thinking approach has also revolutionized FirstCry's financial operations through technology and automation, optimizing processes for enhanced efficiency and accuracy. His ability to foster strategic business partnerships has solidified his role as a key contributor to the company's long-term success.

Gautam's blend of financial expertise and strategic vision truly exemplifies modern CFO leadership, making him a distinguished figure in his field.

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Sumil Mathur

Chief Financial Officer,
EMAAR INDIA LIMITED

Sumil Mathur is a highly accomplished Chartered Accountant with over 27 years of experience in leading financial operations across prominent sectors. Recognized for his strategic vision and meticulous attention to operational excellence, Sumil has distinguished himself as a pivotal leader within Emaar, guiding the company through transformative financial and operational milestones.

Sumil joined Emaar India with a mandate to refine and innovate financial processes, enhance operational efficiencies, and drive organizational growth. One of his most notable achievements was the successful launch of the Urban Oasis project in 2023. Working closely with EY, Sumil pioneered a structured approach to price discovery, implementing robust procedures for Expressions of Interest and draw-of-lots, setting a new industry benchmark for transparency and customer engagement.

A key proponent of digital transformation, Sumil has championed technological advancements to streamline Emaar India's operations. Under his guidance, the company rolled out Oracle Fusion, integrating backend processes to achieve real-time reporting & facilitating seamless communication between Emaar's global operations. He also led the integration of customer management systems, including Apna Complex, to enhance customer experience & optimize resource allocation. These innovations have significantly improved process efficiency & data accessibility, fostering more informed decision-making across the company.

In financial operations, Sumil's strategic foresight has resulted in substantial cost savings & increased liquidity. By renegotiating bank facilities, he secured lower interest rates & transitioned collateral requirements to collateral-free arrangements, freeing valuable assets to support upcoming projects. His efforts have minimized manual intervention, enhanced litigation management & enabled automated banking integration, underscoring his commitment to operational streamlining & fiscal prudence.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Sumil has been instrumental in Emaar India's CSR Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) initiatives. Notably, he introduced "Ujaala," a program focused on food distribution & stationary donations for underserved communities. His emphasis on environmental sustainability led to a 42% increase in renewable energy consumption within the company, aligning Emaar with global sustainability goals.

In recognition of his transformative contributions, Sumil was recently honored with the "Best CFO - Real Estate" award by ASSOCHAM at The ASSOCHAM Vibrant Bharat CFO Summit. This accolade is a testament to his exceptional leadership in finance & digital transformation.

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Yashpal Jain

Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary, Sandhar Technologies Limited

Yashpal Jain stands out as a visionary finance leader with over 25 years of distinguished experience in global and multi-locational operations. As a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and an Associate Member of both the The Institute of Company Secretaries of India and CPA Australia, his academic portfolio includes a law degree and a Bachelor of Commerce.

Yashpal's career trajectory is marked by his strategic prowess and financial acumen, having significantly impacted several leading industrial houses. His professional journey includes pivotal roles at KALPATARU POWER TRANSMISSION LIMITED, Dharampal Satyapal Group (DS Group), Sintex Plastics Technology Limited, and Dalma Energy. Currently, at Sandhar Technologies Limited, a BSE/NSE-listed entity, he has been instrumental in steering the company towards substantial growth and operational efficiency.

In his capacity as CFO, Yashpal oversees Finance & Accounts, Legal & Secretarial, Business Strategy, Central Procurement & Supply Chain, Information Technology, Asset Maintenance & Management, and the Plastics and After-market Business Vertical.

Yashpal redefined Sandhar's business strategy, navigating the challenges posed by the pandemic and geopolitical tensions. His leadership resulted in Doubling the Revenues from to Rs 3,532 Crores in a span of 3 years triggered by the establishment of seven greenfield plants in India and one in Romania, thereby enhancing the market share and profitability. All the Joint Ventures saw a remarkable turnaround by turning into PAT positive.

Under his stewardship, the company's working capital was optimized, reducing levels to ₹30 Crores amidst significant revenue growth. His innovative approach to debt restructuring brought down the cost of debt from 8.50% to 5.50% per annum, while also mitigating currency risks through strategic conversion of overseas debt to Foreign Currency based instruments.

Yashpal has fortified investor confidence, elevating Sandhar's market cap from ₹1000 Crores to ₹4000 Crores. His commitment to transparency and robust governance has earned the company unmodified audit reports from Big4 firms, reinforcing its reputation as a well-governed entity.

Yashpal's contributions have been recognized through numerous accolades, including the Dun & Bradstreet Finance Elite 2024, CFO100 Roll of Honour, Asia's 100 Power Leaders in Finance, Global 200 Power Leaders in Finance, Times Power Icon 2024, ASSOCHAM Best CFO for Excellence in Capital Sourcing 2023 and Best CFO for Excellence in Turnaround for 2024. His forward-looking vision includes a revenue target of USD 1 billion and achieving carbon neutrality within 6-7 years, underscoring his dedication to sustainability and growth.

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Jishore Malola Abic

Group Chief Financial Officer, Fakih Reproductive Medicines Holding Ltd.

Jishore Abic is a dynamic Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with over 25 years of distinguished experience in financial leadership across various sectors. Renowned for his strategic acumen and exceptional communication skills, he has earned a reputation as one of the most sought-after CFOs in the Middle East, consistently delivering impactful results.

Jishore's career is marked by his expertise in strategic formulation, business restructuring, mergers, acquisitions, and divestments. He played a pivotal role as Transaction Director during the acquisition of Fakih IVF Group by NMC, successfully managing the seamless takeover of a 100% stake valued at AED 1.5 billion. This achievement underscores his strategic leadership and meticulous execution in high-stakes transactions.

In addition to his core financial responsibilities, Jishore has significantly contributed to board advisory positions, providing strategic insights that shape the direction of the organizations he has served. His extensive skill set encompasses corporate accounting, financial planning and analysis, risk management, and corporate governance, positioning him as a versatile leader in financial operations.

Notably, Jishore has introduced innovative concepts in finance, particularly within the healthcare sector in the UAE. His initiatives include Strategic Operational Finance, a framework that aligns financial strategies with operational goals for optimal efficiency; Sustainable (X) Financial Planning and Analysis (S(X)FPA), which integrates sustainability principles into financial strategies across various functions; and Value Added Corporate Finance, Controllership, and Consolidation (VACCC), enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of financial operations.

He also spearheaded the Data Catalyst Lab, an AI-driven initiative that leverages analytics to enhance decision-making and reporting processes. Furthermore, he established the Knowledge and Growth Hive, an internal development program that fosters continuous learning and professional growth.

The Hidden Asset, an internal newsletter he created, enhances communication within the organization and positions medical professionals as thought leaders.

Jishore is a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and holds a postgraduate degree in IFRS from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (UK). He began his career in 1999 as Audit In-Charge at Vishnu Rajendran & Co. in India and led finance at Stallion Group of Companies before joining Fakih Medical Group in 2012.

Guided by the philosophy that "success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out," Jishore continues to pursue excellence and drive impactful results in his field.



Abhay Maheshwari

Chief Financial Officer, Jupiter Capital

Abhay Maheshwari stands as a paradigm of financial expertise and dedication, exemplified in his role as CFO. His solid academic foundation includes a PGCP from IIM Indore, Chartered Accountancy, a PGDM from Symbiosis, and a B.Com, anchoring his expertise in finance.

Over his 15-year career, Abhay has occupied pivotal roles in leading organisation, evolving into a strategic CFO. Since January 2023, he has been the CFO of Jupiter Capital, where he efficiently handles Fund raise, Treasury, Compliance, and Investor Reporting, progressing from Deputy CFO to CFO in six months, underlining his key role in the company's financial strategy.

A transformative role at CARS24 Services saw Abhay as the AVP, orchestrating financial prowess as a Finance Controller as well as leading the Process Automation for Finance. His strategic work, including fundraising, cost-saving initiatives, and setting up finance operations for international markets, steering strategic project aligned with long term objectives, facilitated his quick rise from Director to AVP.

In his tenure at Flipkart from 2016 to 2020, Abhay led various verticals, contributing significantly to Myntra and Jabong.com's O2C, Flipkart.com's inventory reporting & control and R2R for the Logistic business arm. He was instrumental in various strategic initiatives, including seller portal development for Myntra.com, acquisition integrations, FDI compliance, and Walmart's financial due diligence.

Abhay's achievements have earned him numerous accolades, including Young CFO of the Year in 2023, and recognition at Flipkart for his leadership as Best Manager and Best Team. As a panelist, he has shared his insights on the evolving CFO role, reinforcing his thought leadership in finance.

Across his professional journey, Abhay has shown subject matter expertise and leadership acumen. He has led substantial teams within multiple organizations and demonstrated a keen ability to navigate and fulfil stakeholder expectations, a key factor in his success and in advancing initiatives that garner widespread support from all parties involved.

Recognizing his stellar career, Abhay earned a nomination in the White Page International 200 Global Leaders 2024, a testament to his profound impact on the financial landscape. With Abhay steering the course, financial excellence is not merely a goal but an unwavering commitment to charting new heights and guiding organizations towards remarkable success.

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Dayan Silva

Head of Finance, Accounting and Tax, MHI Power Middle East LLC

Dayan Malinga Silva is a distinguished finance professional with over 14 years of comprehensive experience across various industries, including construction, shared services, and oil & gas. His career is marked by exceptional achievements in finance, accounting, and taxation, supported by an impressive educational and professional background.

Dayan holds an MBA from the University of West London and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (ACMA) in the UK, also earning the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation. His educational pursuits are complemented by Executive Leadership Training from Rice Business in 2023, underscoring his commitment to continual professional development.

Currently, Dayan serves as the Head of Finance, Accounting & Taxation at MHI Power Middle East LLC, a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Japan. In this role, he oversees corporate finance, project management, treasury, and taxation, reporting directly to the CEO. His responsibilities encompass formulating the company's strategic direction, managing corporate tax operations across the Middle East, and ensuring robust internal controls and revenue maximization.

Under his leadership, Dayan has driven significant improvements in financial operations, including the management of profit & loss, balance sheet oversight, and forecasting. He collaborates closely with the sales department to produce accurate revenue forecasts and assess business opportunities, ensuring alignment with the company's financial objectives.

Dayan's technical expertise spans a range of ERP systems such as SAP and Oracle, reporting tools like Oracle Hyperion Financial Management (HFM), and accounting software including Xero and QuickBooks. His analytical skills are complemented by a deep understanding of IFRS, SLFRS, IAS, LKAS, and US-GAAP standards, as well as UAE Labor Law, VAT Law, and Corporate Tax Law.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dayan is an active member of the Harvard Business Review Advisory Council, reflecting his thought leadership in the field. His extracurricular involvement includes serving as Assistant Area Director for Toastmasters International and Vice President of Membership at Inthilaaqua Toastmasters Club.

Dayan's achievements extend beyond his professional and academic endeavours. His strategic contributions have led to increased sales conversions, innovative advertising strategies, and strengthened brand equity in various roles. With a positive attitude, self-motivation, and strong leadership abilities, Dayan Malinga Silva continues to make a significant impact in the finance sector.

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GLOBAL 200 POWER LEADERS IN TECHNOLOGY 2024

Abhinav Sharma - Cisco Systems
Dominic Schonken - Presight
Rajesh Puneyani - Kenvue Solutions India
Dr. Mohammad Khaled - Reach Group
Padam Sundar Kafle - Aster Hospitals UAE and Oman
Narasimha Raju Nagubhai

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Abhinav Sharma

CTO & Director - AI and Automation Leader,
Cisco Systems

Abhinav Sharma stands as a pivotal figure in the realm of AI & automation, with a distinguished career spanning over two decades. Currently serving as the CTO & Director – AI & Automation Leader for Customer Experience (CX) at Cisco Systems, Abhinav has cemented his reputation as a trailblazer in enterprise IT platforms, renowned for designing & deploying innovative AI-led automation solutions.

At Cisco, Abhinav is the Chief Technologist for CNAAP, Cisco's flagship Unified Enterprise Automation Platform. His work involves leveraging advanced AI and analytics to drive service assurance, compliance, and provisioning. His expertise in integrating batch and real-time data pipelines and utilizing machine learning algorithms has enabled significant advancements in automated situation management, proactive monitoring & IT service management. His efforts have not only increased customer satisfaction by 34% but also boosted bookings by 24% over the past year, demonstrating his profound impact on Cisco's operational efficiency & customer relations.

Before joining Cisco, Abhinav held the position of VP, Head of Cloud Engineering & Customer Success at HCLTech. There, he led the $150 million Elastic Ops outfit, managing a global team of over 300 professionals. His strategic vision & leadership were instrumental in establishing multiple cloud business units & driving large-scale digital transformations for over 65 strategic customers. Abhinav's work encompassed consulting on cloud-native architectures, site reliability models & automation accelerators, significantly enhancing HCL's cloud delivery & operations.

Abhinav's tenure at HCL also included leading the Cloud Managed Services Platform, where he pioneered the DRYiCE Autonomics and Orchestration framework. This AI-enabled automation framework simplified complex multi-cloud operational environments, reinforcing HCL's capabilities in cloud operations across various hyperscalers such as Google, Azure & AWS.

In his earlier career, Abhinav served as Head of IT Infrastructure Operations at Infosys Technologies, where he garnered numerous accolades, including the Infosys Special Recognition Award & the Infosys Service Delivery Excellence Award.

Academically, Abhinav holds a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from AMU, an MBA in Systems Management from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and a PG Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning from BITS Pilani. His technical proficiencies span enterprise architecture, cloud transformation, and advanced data analytics, underpinned by extensive certifications in AWS, Azure & DevOps.

Recognized among the Top 23 CTOs in India for 2023, Abhinav Sharma continues to be a thought leader & technology evangelist.



Dominic Schonken

CISO,
Presight

Dominic Schonken is a distinguished expert in information security, renowned for his strategic foresight and solution-oriented approach. His career is a testament to his ability to manage and enhance technology and cybersecurity functions across high-profile organizations.

Currently, Dominic serves as the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Presight, where he spearheads initiatives to safeguard sensitive information and ensure robust security measures. His role involves crafting and implementing comprehensive security strategies, showcasing his deep understanding of global security practices and risk management.

Dominic's previous role as Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Kraken Digital Asset Exchange, from 2021 to 2024, highlights his exceptional leadership in the cryptocurrency sector. Kraken is renowned for its stringent security measures, and Dominic's tenure saw him overseeing the security needs of all EEA clients while holding the pre-controlled functional role of PCF-49, regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

His effective risk-based approach, backed by certifications including ISO 27001, CISM, CISSP, OSCP, and Principal ISMS Auditor, was instrumental in securing digital asset licenses from multiple central banks and regulators. His contributions significantly minimized technology and cybersecurity risks, reinforcing his reputation as a trusted advisor on information security for Boards of Directors.

Dominic also excelled as Chief Information Security Officer at Crypto Facilities from 2021 to 2024, where he enhanced the security framework for trading futures on Bitcoin, Ethereum, and other cryptocurrencies. His ability to translate complex security concepts into actionable insights was crucial in navigating the regulatory landscape and communicating risks to a diverse range of stakeholders.

Prior to these roles, Dominic was the Head of Information Security at Anglo-Gulf Trade Bank (AGTB) in Abu Dhabi from 2019 to 2021. At AGTB, a pioneering digital bank, he played a critical role in developing a robust security framework from scratch. He designed the security management system and crafted the emergency and crisis management plan, significantly strengthening the bank's security posture. His expertise in Microsoft Security in Azure and Microsoft 365, including Identity and Access Management and Information Protection, further bolstered AGTB's security infrastructure.

Dominic Schonken's career is marked by his unwavering commitment to advancing information security. His strategic leadership and comprehensive understanding of risk management continue to drive significant improvements across the industry.

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Rajesh Puneyani

Managing Director & VP Technology, Kenvue Solutions India

Rajesh Puneyani is a seasoned technology leader with over 28 years of global experience, having held prominent leadership roles across Europe, APAC & the US. His expertise spans setting up & maturing Centers of Excellence (COE) & Global Capability Centers (GCC) making him a pivotal figure in both service-based strategic outsourcing & GCC type setups. Rajesh's diversified career includes leadership roles at notable organizations such as Dell Technologies, IBM, Wells Fargo, Lowe's India & Kenvue, where he earned recognition as a "Transformation Leader" & "People Leader Champion" for his commitment to functional & people excellence practices.

Rajesh has demonstrated unparalleled success in key areas like business governance, Infrastructure, technology operations transformation (primarily in enterprise service management & reliability engineering areas). His deep understanding of operational excellence has allowed him to lead transformative initiatives, including digital operations support, automation, & self-service platforms. One of his standout achievements is leading a multi-million-dollar transformation that enhanced customer and employee experiences globally while optimizing cost efficiencies for the organization. For this, he received accolades from the U.S. senior leadership team.

A champion of diversity and inclusion (D&I), Rajesh has been instrumental in building frameworks that foster inclusivity within organizations. He successfully built and led D&I transformation in one of his previous assignments and was recognized as a "D&I Champion Leader" by a prestigious D&I organization. His efforts in this area have included awareness and talent acquisition strategies, as well as the creation of a mature D&I charter. He also served as a member of the POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) Internal Committee, reflecting his dedication to fostering a safe and inclusive work environment.

In 2023, Rajesh started working on setting up Global capability center for Kenvue & in Jan 2024,, he was appointed as a GCC Site Leader of the same, where he is working with various global business and functional leaders to grow the center and drive the same into value acceleration entity for the parent company. He was recently awarded "Outstanding People engagement Strategy" by a leading HR industry body in a premium industry excellence event.

In addition to his leadership roles, Rajesh is a certified professional coach, actively developing a coaching practice in India. His ability to blend deep technical expertise with strong leadership, operational excellence, and a commitment to fostering inclusive workplaces marks him as a transformational leader in the digital era.



Dr. Mohammad Khaled

VP of Growth and Business Transformation at Reach Group

Dr. Mohammad Khaled is a distinguished leader and innovator with over 21 years of experience at the intersection of technology and business transformation. Currently serving as the Vice President of Growth and Business Transformation at Reach Group, Dr. Khaled plays a critical role in driving strategic initiatives that fuel innovation, operational excellence, and organizational growth.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Khaled has consistently demonstrated an exceptional ability to harness cutting-edge technological solutions to transform businesses. His expertise spans various domains, including artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity for AI, cognitive AI, Smart Data, and the development of Safe Cognitive Cities. These areas of specialization have enabled him to build innovative and successful business models that are both technologically advanced and aligned with the evolving needs of global markets.

Dr. Khaled's role as a trusted advisor to CEOs and Chairmen, combined with his experience on multiple boards of directors, has equipped him with invaluable insights into corporate governance & strategic decision-making. This unique combination of technical & strategic expertise has made him a key figure in navigating the complexities of digital transformation & global expansion for organizations.

A pioneer in the AI landscape, Dr. Khaled has led the development and deployment of AI-driven solutions that significantly enhance business operations and decision-making. His work in cognitive AI has advanced AI capabilities, making them secure, scalable & adaptable across various sectors, from public governance to private enterprises. His forward-thinking approach to cybersecurity for AI ensures that these systems are resilient against emerging threats, embedding security into the very fabric of AI development.

One of Dr. Khaled's most notable achievements is his leadership in the Safe Cognitive City project. This initiative integrates advanced AI and cognitive technologies to create smart, safe & sustainable urban environments, reflecting his commitment to leveraging technology for the greater good. Beyond his professional endeavors, Dr. Khaled is a respected educator & mentor. He serves as a board member & advisor for institutions such as Abu Dhabi University & the The British University in Dubai. As an adjunct professor, he inspires the next generation of leaders, sharing his knowledge & encouraging innovation.

Dr. Khaled holds a PhD in Computer Science, a Master's in Engineering Management, and a Bachelor's in Computer Science. His strong academic foundation, coupled with his vast practical experience, positions him as a thought leader in governance, risk, compliance & digital transformation.

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Padam Sundar Kafle

Head IT and Automation,
Aster Hospitals UAE and Oman

Padam Sundar Kafle is a renowned leader in healthcare IT and automation, boasting over 19 years of expertise in Healthcare Information and Operational Technology. He earned his Master of Business Administration in Innovation and Change from the University of Liverpool, UK, and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Artificial Intelligence from Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, with an expected completion date in April 2026.

In his current role as the Head of IT and Automation at Aster Hospitals across the UAE and Oman, Padam has revolutionized healthcare IT operations and strategy across 14 facilities. His leadership has been pivotal in integrating cutting-edge technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Artificial General Intelligence, the Internet of Medical Things, Robotic Process Automation (RPA), Big Data, and Robotics.

Padam spearheaded the full automation of IT operations within Aster Hospitals, setting a regional benchmark for efficiency and reliability. This transformation has streamlined processes, substantially reduced operational costs, and minimized human errors.

Demonstrating visionary leadership, Padam successfully implemented generative AI across various operational facets. This initiative has enhanced decision-making processes, improved patient care, and optimized resource allocation, setting a precedent for technological integration in healthcare.

Padam's groundbreaking research focuses on healthcare superintelligence. His development of a patent-pending algorithm, 'HIS-CDSS,' aims to reduce doctors' documentation time from five minutes to two minutes. This research also explores AI applications in imaging, inpatient care, drug administration, Virtual Care, and remote monitoring, aiming to transform healthcare delivery.

Padam's contributions to AI in healthcare are profound. His implementation of AI-driven solutions has significantly enhanced healthcare systems, particularly through the HIS-CDSS algorithm. This innovation streamlines documentation, allowing healthcare professionals to focus more on patient care. His advancements in AI-powered imaging, inpatient care, and remote monitoring have contributed to safer, more effective treatments and improved patient outcomes.

Under Padam's leadership, AsterMate has pioneered robust IT automation and patient-centric systems, leading to two hospitals achieving HIMSS Level 6 validation, with a goal to attain HIMSS Level 7 validation in Dubai. His innovative approach has saved over 100 million AED in seven years, maintaining low IT budgets while upholding high standards of service.

Looking ahead, Padam envisions a future where AI and technology seamlessly integrate into healthcare, enhancing efficiency, accessibility, and patient-centered care.



Narasimha Raju Nagubhai

Narasimha Raju is a visionary leader whose career spans multiple industries, with a strong focus on telecommunications, technology, and inclusive leadership. Rooted in a childhood shaped by India's rich cultural heritage and guided by a deep belief in the power of intention, Narasimha's professional journey reflects a passion for empowering others and bridging cultural divides.

Narasimha began his academic journey with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, where his interest in education and mentorship took hold. He eagerly shared his knowledge with peers, taking on informal teaching roles and consistently fostering a collaborative learning environment. His commitment to education extended beyond personal achievement, forming the foundation of his leadership ethos—one centered on service and the empowerment of others.

He pursued further studies in Telecommunications in the United States, a decision that shaped the trajectory of his career. Equipped with a global perspective, Narasimha entered the telecommunications industry, where he quickly distinguished himself as an innovative leader. Throughout his career, he has successfully led multinational teams, fostering a culture of inclusion and collaboration across continents. His ability to navigate complex, culturally diverse environments has been a hallmark of his leadership style, allowing him to create communication frameworks that unite teams and drive innovation.

Narasimha's professional experience includes roles with several prominent companies in the telecommunications and technology sectors, where his leadership has been instrumental in driving transformative change. His work has often diverged from traditional leadership methods, opting instead for an approach rooted in empathy and individual growth. He believes in nurturing talent and empowering employees to realize their potential—values that have defined his management philosophy and earned him respect in an industry known for its high demands and competitive nature.

Today, as he stands at the intersection of career achievement and future aspirations, Narasimha is driven by a singular vision: to leverage his expertise to create a more inclusive and connected world. With a focus on mentorship, education, and cross-cultural communication, he aims to leave a lasting impact on future generations, fostering a legacy of empowerment and progress. His ultimate goal is to build a world where communication and understanding are the cornerstones of a compassionate and inclusive global society.

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