

# Dr. Walid El Abed

Founder and CEO of Global  
Data Excellence,  
Switzerland



## BIOGRAPHY

- Founder and CEO of Global Data Excellence. He is a worldwide renowned expert and visionary in AI and data-related topics, with 30 years of on-field experience across various sectors.
- He is a French linguist and computer scientist, and is known for the proposition of a new model called the Semantic Meta Model (SMM) (Meta Modèle Sémantique - MMS).
- In 2021, Dr. Walid el Abed joined the Association Mondiale des Droits de l'Homme Al AMDLAM as the General advisor and Ambassador for Human Rights.
- In 2022, Dr. Walid el Abed co founded UpEcos and is also the international chairman and Chief Scientist Officer of the company. He became a member of LIFE Lebanon as well.

# Rasha Al Abdali

Assistant Director General  
of Policies and  
Governance, MTCIT, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- 14+ years of experience in various IT domains and served at key national government projects related to IT Governance, Security Management and IT Compliance, and actively involved in reviewing national IT-related Laws.
- Overseeing the development of national policies and standards for governing the IT industry in Oman, providing guidance and consultancy services to government agencies, as well as conducting research on new technological trends.
- Masters degree in Information Security, DePaul University, Chicago, USA.
- Certificate of Artificial Intelligence, Said Business School, University of Oxford, UK.
- Fulbright Alumni.
- Certified COBIT Foundation, Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA).

# Husni Al Abri

CEO of SmartWay  
Investment, & Chairman  
of Misfat Al Abreen,  
Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Entrepreneur in a number of different disciplines, with over 16 years of experience in Management, financial portfolios, investment, joint ventures, takeovers and business development.
- Involvement with high profile investors, businesses, projects, and companies.
- A focused approach on in country value with national prioritization in line with Oman Vision 2040, Local Community projects and development, Environment and National Resources, Diversification.
- Continuous collaboration and interaction with Governmental Entities and Private Sector (locally and internationally) in cooperation, funding and propagating projects.
- In 2021 Misfat Al Abreen was awarded The World Tourism Organization Recognition as the best tourism village.

# Prof. Juha Alatalo

Department of Biological and Environmental  
Sciences / Environmental Science Center,  
Qatar University, Qatar



## BIOGRAPHY

- Associate Professor at the Dept. of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Qatar University.
- He received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree in Biology from University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and held a tenured position as Associate professor at Uppsala University before joining Qatar University in the fall 2015.
- Prior to joining QU in 2011 he worked 13 years with research coordination supporting Universities and Industry with EU research.
- He worked as Swedish National Contact Point (NCP) for EU framework programs for six years (as NCP for Transport, Energy Environmental Sciences and Support to SMEs).
- His research focus on the potential impact of climate change on ecosystems, vulnerability of rural/urban poor to climate change, ecosystems services and biodiversity

# Nayef Alawadhi

Senior technical support  
and operation engineer,  
CITRA, Kuwait



## BIOGRAPHY

- Senior technical support and operation engineer, currently supervising Network, Cybersecurity, Infrastructure, and Helpdesk teams at MIS department at Communication & Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Kuwait.
- Previously, at Ministry of Finance (MOF) with many roles such as computer engineer in the network and helpdesk teams, an ISO internal auditor and member of E-collection project.
- In academia, he is a part-time lecturer teaching computer science subjects at PAAET. He participated in many academic events as a speaker. He had published scientific articles in the field of AI and cybersecurity.
- Board member at Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS).
- Master's and bachelor's degrees in Computer Systems Engineering from University of South Australia, and from Edith Cowan University, Australia respectively.

# Ingrid Andersson

Vice President, Global Forum  
Senior expert IKED, Sweden  
and Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Ingrid is Vice President of the Global Forum, where she has served on the Steering Committee since 10 years.
- A senior business executive and analyst, she draws on rich experience as a serial entrepreneur with a strong track record of establishing private companies as well as not-for-profit associations.
- For more than 20 years, Ingrid engaged in the development of "zero-emission" infrastructure and vibrant local community co-creation. She is the co-founder of Sweden-Japan Eco-village.
- An experienced mentor in the field of start-ups and SMEs, she takes a strong interest in start-up and enterprise development, especially women entrepreneurship. She is a board member on the Qatar Investment Fund
- In the EU-funded URBiNAT project, she is responsible for digital enablers
- She holds an EMBA from HEC Paris.

# Prof. Dr., Thomas Andersson

CEO, Qualies, Oman,  
Chairman, IKED,  
Sweden



## BIOGRAPHY

- CEO, Organisation for Quality and Innovation Strategies (Qualies), Oman
- President, International Organisation of Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development (IKED), Malmö, Sweden
- Holds senior responsibilities in several EU Horizon-2020 projects, and a number of international board and expert positions,
- Previously President of Jönköping University, Sweden, Deputy Director of Science, Technology and Industry, OECD, Paris, France, and Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Sweden
- Prof. of Economics, Ph.D from Stockholm School of Economics. Has been a visiting scholar at Harvard University, Bank of Japan, Hitotsubashi University University and Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo .
- Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA)

Dr. Anixi Antonakoudi

Innovation Management,  
Innovation & Entrepreneurship  
Office, The Cyprus Institute,  
Cyprus



## BIOGRAPHY

- PhD & MEng in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Imperial College, London, UK.
- MBA, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- Experience as Innovation Hub Manager, KIOS Center of Excellence (ICT & Intelligent Systems), University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- Commercial and Marketing Experience as ICT Products and Services Manager of International Telco Company, Nicosia.
- Interested in technology transfer & IP protection, product/services development, acceleration of new entrepreneurial initiatives, application of open innovation processes targeting green transition and impact innovation.
- Member of Opinion Experts for Global Entrepreneurship Monitoring (GEM) Report, Cyprus.
- Mentor of CYSEC competition for young entrepreneurs, Nicosia.



# Muhammad Ashkanani

Director, W3C Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Chapter manager for the World Wide Web Consortium, Kuwait

## BIOGRAPHY



- Director of Direction company, and the W3C Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter manager for the World Wide Web Consortium. He is active in W3C and the Accessibility working groups.
- Has been working as digital accessibility specialist for 13 years. His specialty is managing, developing, and auditing websites and mobile applications. He and his team have a vision to make website accessible for people with disabilities.
- As well as being involved in research and conference presentations, Muhammad leads his team of accessibility professionals to provide consulting, audit and accreditation and training in all aspects of digital accessibility.
- Member of the Australian Computer Society (ACS), W3C WAI - Web Content Advisory Guidelines Working Group (WCAG) , WAI Education and Outreach Working Group and International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP).

# Dr. Jean-Eric Aubert

President, Société Française de  
Prospective, and Université  
Internationale de la Mer, France.



## BIOGRAPHY

- President of the Société Française de prospective (French Foresight Society), an association that organizes conferences, workshops, and publications on the long-term evolution of human societies
- President of the Université Internationale de la Mer, an organization, based in the southeast of France, that provides maritime training courses (for seamen and captains), and blue economy courses (at distance, for public and private sector cadres)
- Has had a career of international civil servant and consultant in international organizations, including OECD, the World Bank and UN agencies in the fields of countries' innovation policies and development strategies. Has worked in more than 30 countries of all development levels as policy evaluator and advisor.
- Trained as economist with a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics.

# Dr. Talal Al Awadhi

Head of Geography Department  
at Sultan Qaboos University



## BIOGRAPHY

- HOD of of Geography at Sultan Qaboos University.
- More than 20 years of experience in teaching and research in field of Geography and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
- PhD in GIS from University of Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Has led several funded research projects that include: Monitoring urban growth in Muscat project and Oman climate change strategic project for urban climate change section.
- He also played leading role in the International Accreditation of the College of Art and Social Sciences, and Geography Department by the German Accreditation agency (AQAS). The Geography Department at Sultan Qaboos University is the first in the Arab World to have such recognition.
- He has more than 60 publications between international referred journals and conferences proceedings.

# Gilles Babinet

Co-president, National Digital Council;  
Digital Champion, representing France at  
the European Commission,  
France



## BIOGRAPHY

- French multi-entrepreneur, born in 1967 in Paris. Since 1989, he created 8 companies in various areas, such as mobile music (Musiwave), co-creation (Eyeka), Big Data marketing (CaptainDash). He is also co-president of the National Digital Council as well as Digital Champion, representing France at the European Commission for digital matters.
- He is a well know digital visionary in France. He has been collaborating with the Think Tank Institut Montaigne on several research works on digital competitiveness, digital inclusion, big data, IoT... In 2011, he was appointed chairman of the National Digital Council by the President Nicolas Sarkozy. Since 2012, Gilles has been appointed as the French Digital Champion, representing the French digital civil society at the European Commission for the digital topics. He is also a teacher at SciencesPo Paris, HEC and ENA and returned to the National digital Council as Co-Chair in Sept 2020.
- Finally he's member of several boards, including Bearing Point and EDF foundation

Dalia A. Badawi

Co-Founder, Save Faces Foundation,  
Futurist, Innovation Thought Leader,  
Egypt



## BIOGRAPHY

- Consultant of Innovation & Development, National Academy for Training in Egypt, International Accreditation surveyor at Accreditation Canada, and the CEO of General Authority of Accreditation & Regulation. Previously, she worked as the Chief Operation Officer at Dasman Diabetes Institute, Kuwait.
- Over 25 years of experience on effective Organizations & Health Systems, Governance, Institutional Excellence, Accreditation, Science Technology and Innovation systems, and driving strategic and sustainable cooperation among Ministries, Academia, Research and private institutions, at national, regional and international levels.
- Dalia has a MSc. in Innovation Leadership, and a certificate in Design Thinking 2.0 from Schulich School of Business, York University, Canada. As well as an MSc. in Healthcare Management & Leadership from the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland.

# Dr. Alireza Barzagan

Consultant, AA-Solutions,  
Dusseldorf, Germany



## BIOGRAPHY

- Consultant, AA-Solutions, Dusseldorf, Germany
- Series Editor in Chemical, Environmental, and Energy Engineering, by River Publishers (Delft, the Netherlands)
- Faculty member at the Graduate Faculty of the Environment, University of Tehran
- Ph.D. from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, on producing valuable materials from solid wastes
- Ph.D. research at the University of Cambridge, on producing briquettes for water treatment and renewable energy from aluminosilicates and biomass
- Awarded the TOTAL scholarship for MSc studies at Ecole des Mines de Nantes (IMT Atlantique)
- Gold medal at the “International Young Waste Researcher Award” in 2015.
- Authored more than 50 academic publications and conference presentations

# Fahd Batayneh

Senior Manager Stakeholder Engagement - Middle East  
ICANN - Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, Jordan

## BIOGRAPHY



- Fahd Batayneh works for ICANN as a Stakeholder Engagement Senior Manager covering the Middle East. He's been with ICANN as a staff member since October 2013, and held different positions during his time. Prior to ICANN, he led the Jordanian ccTLD and IDN ccTLD registries, and was an active ICANN community member with the ccNSO.
- Fahd holds a B.Sc. in Computer Engineering with honours, and an MBA. He calls Amman, Jordan his home.

# Prof. Marcela Brugnach

Ikerbasque Research

Professor at the Basque  
Centre for Climate Change,  
Spain



## BIOGRAPHY

- Currently Ikerbasque Research Professor at the Basque Centre for Climate Change in Spain.
- Trained as an interdisciplinary scientist, PhD in Ecology and in Bioresources Engineering (OSU, USA) and MSc in Computer Sciences (UNC, Argentina).
- Main research interests: collective decision making under uncertainty in water management and governance, participatory and collaborative processes, knowledge coproduction, inter and transdisciplinarity.
- Experienced educator and supervisor in the field of water management and governance.



# Mariane Cimino

CEO of HoA-ORA & Consultant in  
Digital Health Transformation  
(ITG), France



## BIOGRAPHY

- Engineer in biology and computer science, and has spent 10 years in the pharmaceutical industry as IT manager of an R&D department and 10 years in Public Institutions acting on behalf of the French Ministry of Health: GIP-CPS and ASIP-santé.
- Since 2010 she is an independent consultant in e-health and in e-agriculture.
- In 2017 she created a company (Hoa-Ora) dedicated to the intermediation of services in order to keep the elderly 3 to 5 years more at home. The objective is to coordinate different service providers with a digital companion between the hands of the user and his(her) family.
- She leads the network of French digital health companies, members of Numeum, interlocutor of the public health authorities, and partners for the digital transformation of the sector.

# Pierre De Geest

Senior Geologist, EurGeol  
Research, Methods Production  
and Engineering Department  
DEME NV



## BIOGRAPHY

- Started his career as engineering geologist (UGent), coordinating and studying soil decontamination projects.
- Ph.D. study, reconstructing the Holocene Palaeoclimate of the Arabian sea area, based on isotopic and geochemical research on speleothems of the island Soqatra (Yemen).
- Before obtaining his title he was hired as soil engineer in the UAE, where he worked as expat building Saadiyat Island and the Palm Jebel Ali, before moving to Oman to assist developing Duqm Port.
- Currently he is managing a team of geologists conducting soil and site investigations worldwide, ensuring full geo-risks knowledge for DEME NV by 3D modelling.
- Executive committee member of the Friends of Soqatra since 2000.

# François De Keuleneer

Business Development  
Manager DEME GREEN, DEME -  
Group, Belgium



## BIOGRAPHY

- Expert Engineer and business development manager in large-scale ecosystem restoration
- Software development project manager
- Co-Founder & Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Ecosystem Restoration Foundation
- MSc. in Hydrogeology and geothermal sciences

# George Dimitriou

Senior Advisor, Alexander  
Innovation Zone S.A,  
Greece



## BIOGRAPHY

- M.Sc. in Mathematics & Computer Science, from the Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany and a Business Administration degree from the University in New Orleans, U.S.A.
- Previous experience includes: As a Project Director, Team Leader or Expert of large international donor technical assistance projects in 20 countries; policy, planning, human resources, risk management, Governance structures, and monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and projects; design, implementation and evaluation of ICT Systems, e-government and e-business; In the design of IT systems for monitoring, management, and evaluation of Programmes and; In capacity building including training and the development of training material in Information Technology and Business Planning in public bodies in transition countries.

# Rowa Elzain

Managing Coordinator, Co-  
Founder, MCTspaceLab, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Managing coordinator and Co-Founder of MCTspaceLab, Oman since 2017.
- Working as Urban Planner and Architect in Germany. Member of the Chamber of Architects in Baden Württemberg, Germany.
- 10 years work experience in the field of Sustainable Architecture and Neighborhood Development.
- Active research and publications with a focus on 'Civic participation in neighborhood planning' and 'Local Governance' in Muscat, Oman.
- UN Habitat Local Consultant focusing on Urban Law and Governance, Oman.

# Prof. Guido Ferilli

Senior Researcher of Cultural Economics  
Director of the Cultural Industries and  
Complexity Observatory  
IULM University, Milan



## BIOGRAPHY

- His research focuses upon economics, data science and European programmes.
- Researches and consults internationally in the fields of cultural economics policy design and local development.
- He has a wide experience in coordinating research and policy design projects worldwide, and is currently unit responsible for IULM of a Horizon 2020 project URBINAT on Nature Based Solution in urban areas, with the responsibility of the Observatory of the project.

# Geneviève Fieux-Castagnet

Ethics Officer, SNCF Group,  
France



## BIOGRAPHY

- Ethics officer SNCF Group, Paris, France 2016 - present
- Ethical evaluations of digital projects: chatbots, recruitment with AI, augmented video surveillance in stations to find the owners of abandoned luggage or to detect fraudsters and abusers, virtual and augmented reality for training agents. Writing of the Group's AI Ethics Guide
- Calls for French and European tenders and projects for support to intra-SNCF stakeholders on AI Ethics.
- AI Ethics awareness raising campaigns in several bodies
- Management of the ethics alert
- Ethics Investigations
- Ethical Awareness and Ethics training
- Involvement in the anti-bribery program

# Dr. Abdullah Al Ghafri

Associate Professor and Director  
The Aflaj Research Unit  
University of Nizwa  
Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Associate Professor and Director of the Aflaj Research Unit, The University of Nizwa.
- PhD in Environmental Resources, Hokkaido University, Japan
- Languages spoken: Arabic, English, Japanese, and French.
- Published 99 scientific papers, abstracts and articles.
- Attended international conferences.
- Supervised three research projects for the Ministry of Defense, Oman, on 2014, 2015 and 2017.
- Established research cooperation with the University of Tubingen, Germany.
- Internationally recognized as an expert of Aflaj, oases and traditional agriculture.
- Peer reviewer for some scientific journals in Elsevier and Springer publishers in the field of Hydrology, agriculture and environment.



# Dr. John Giusti

Chief Regulatory Officer, GSMA  
President-Elect, Mobile for  
Development Foundation, United  
Kingdom

## BIOGRAPHY



- As CRO for the GSMA, he is responsible for leading the organization's public policy and industry advocacy agenda with governments, regulators and international institutions worldwide. He also oversees the GSMA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, that brings together mobile operators, donors and the international development community to harness the power of mobile to achieve social impact and to broaden digital and financial inclusion.
- Previously, he spent 17 years at the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC), working in a variety of capacities. Most recently, he served as chief of staff and senior policy advisor to Commissioner Michael Copps.
- Giusti was educated in the United States, earning a Juris Doctorate from Boston University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications from the University of Florida. He has been a member of the Massachusetts bar since 1994.

# Patricia González Ayala

Business development,  
H2O Biofouling  
Solutions, Spain



## BIOGRAPHY

- Country Manager for H2O Biofouling Solutions Iberia S.L. (Spain)
- Business Development and project manager H2O Biofouling Solutions B.V. (Netherlands)
- With H2O participates in In-No-plastic - This is an EU-funded project within Horizon 2020 framework programme "Pilot action for the removal of marine plastics and litter"
- +15 years work experience with operations and project management, and Business Development.

# Dr. Anna Grichting

Senior Research Fellow, University of Vermont  
Lead Research Consultant, Qatar University



## BIOGRAPHY

- Dr. Anna Grichting is an architect and urbanist with a Doctor of Design in Urbanism from Harvard University.
- Her academic experience includes teaching and researching as a Professor and fellow at the Universities of Geneva, Harvard, MIT and Qatar.
- Research interest focuses on co-creative, interdisciplinary, holistic and regenerative systems-based approaches to urban and landscape design, in particular on the Food-Water-Energy Nexus Design, Urban Biodiversity, Urban Forestry, Blue Urbanism, the Urban Legacies of Mega Events and Border Urbanisms.
- Currently a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Vermont (US) and Lead Research Consultant at Qatar University.

# Dr. Stephane Grumbach

Senior Scientist, Inria (French National Institute for Research in Digital Science & Technology), France



## BIOGRAPHY

- Senior scientist at Inria, the French National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology, he is a specialist of data systems.
- He has worked on theoretical issues in informatics regarding the processing of complex data types, such as spatial, statistical, as well as biological, and has designed the first compression algorithm, Biocompress, for DNA sequences.
- He joined IXXI, the Complex Systems Institute at ENS Lyon, in 2014, is affiliated with the GEODE Project on the Geopolitics of the Datasphere, and works in collaboration with the Research Institute on Humanity and Nature, RIHN in Kyoto and teaches Digital Economy in Sciences Po Paris.

# Alessandro Guarino

Founder and CEO, StAG, Italy



## BIOGRAPHY

- A senior Information Security professional and independent researcher. The founder and CEO of StAG, a consultancy firm based in Italy and active since 2000, serving clients both in the private and public sector. StAG provides cybersecurity, privacy, and data protection consulting services.
- He is also a digital forensics analyst and consultant, as well as expert witness in Court.
- Holds an M.Sc in Industrial Engineering and a B.Sc. in economics, with a focus on Information Security Economics.
- An ISO active expert in JTC 1/SC and contributed in particular to the development of cybersecurity and digital investigation standards. R
- Represents Italy in CEN-CENELEC JTC13 and ETSI TC CYBER & currently serves as the convenor of JTC13/WG 5 "Privacy, data protection and identities management".

# Ali Al Hashmi

General Manager of Networks at  
Omantel



## BIOGRAPHY

- He is the General Manager of Networks at Omantel managing the activities of Network Division to ensure that Omantel's network solutions are designed to meet business requirements, comply with legislative rules and regulations, deployment of fixed and mobile network, and associated networks are done in a fast and efficient manner.
- He is managing the 5G program in Omantel and also a member of the Oman 5G national group. He played an active role in the planning and design of the first 5G network in Oman with deployment of more than 1500 5G sites so far. In addition, his responsibilities covered the design and deployment of the first NFV in Oman to support 5G core (NSA/ SA) and upcoming 5G use cases (IoT, network slicing, uLLR).
- PhD in operation and strategy management, Strathclyde University, Glasgow, UK.

# Hashil Al Hatmi

Health Psychologist



## BIOGRAPHY

- BSc in Psychology from City University, London
- Experience in career guidance, coaching and youth development.
- Previously Assistant Psychologist at SQUH, Behaviour Medicine Department.
- Currently working at Royal Hospital as a psychologist with both the National Diabetic and Endocrine Centre and Psychosomatic Unit.

# Dr. Alexandre Babak Hedjazi

Global Governance &  
Urban Sustainability  
Transition Expert,  
University of Geneva



## BIOGRAPHY

- Dr. Alexandre Hedjazi has received a doctoral degree in Urban Planning from University of Grenoble in France and a Ph.D from School of Public Affairs - University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).
- Since joining the University of Geneva in 2007, he has taught many courses on comparative politics, and organized multiple seminar series on the Caspian Sea, Regionalization and Urban development bringing scholars and practitioner to explore and discuss the nexus of development, security and the environment. Bridging his academic research and his knowledge of Central Asia and the Caucasus.



# Wilfried Hoffman

CEO Axionomic, Co-founder Ambrac, The Netherlands



## BIOGRAPHY

- CEO and co-founder of Axionomic, a boutique management consultancy firm which aims to help companies embrace emerging technologies, such as blockchain IoT, AR/VR and RPA.
- Co-founder of Ambrace, a technology firm that unlocks the potential of 3D printing in global supply chains
- Partner of 2 innovation field labs:
  - 3dMakersZone: Smart Industry / Industry 4.0 field lab, specialized in industrial 3D printing with related complementary digital technologies
  - Bouwlab R&Do: a living lab, community of practice where partners in the construction industry collaborate in innovative (digital) construction techniques
- Studied Economics at the University of Groningen and holds a degree in Business Administration. Began his career in Management Consulting.

# Prof. Ekkehard Holzbecher

Associate Professor,  
Hydrogeology, German  
University of Technology  
in Oman, Muscat



## BIOGRAPHY

- Associate Professor in Hydrogeology at the German University of Technology in Oman, Muscat. His specialisations include Modelling & Simulation, Hydraulics, Multiphysics.
- Previously:
  - Georg-August Universität Göttingen (Applied Geology)
  - Weierstraß Inst. for Applied Analysis and Stochastic (Berlin)
  - Humboldt Universität Berlin
  - Inst. of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (Berlin)
  - Kyoto University (Japan), Beppu Geophysical Research Institute
  - Tech. Univ. Berlin (Inst. for Hydraulic Engineering)

# Laszlo Horvath

President, Activemedia,  
USA



## BIOGRAPHY

- Founded award winning global online search, advertising and media agency ActiveMedia in 1996. Prior to launching his business, Laszlo was tapped as a Strategic Consultant for America Online in 1995. His clients included the Greenhouse /AOL Studios, the AOL Finance and a wide range of interactive brands like the Motley Fool, iVillage and NetNoir.
- Founder VirtualIncubator.us, assisting overseas companies entering the US marketplace.
- Investor / advisor for US Angels and Kyto Technology- and Life Sciences.
- Horvath has been appointed to the Virginia - DC District Export Council of the US Department of Commerce in 2008 and the Industry Trade Advisory Council in 2009 by the US Secretary of Commerce.
- MBA from Harvard Business School in 1995

# Fariz Ismailzade

Executive Vice Rector, ADA  
University, Azerbaijan



## BIOGRAPHY

- Executive Vice Rector at ADA University, Baku, Azerbaijan
- Board member of the State Examination Center and American Chamber of Commerce.
- Holds an Executive MBA from IE Business School.
- Regularly published with Eurasianet.org, Transitions on Line, Jamestown Daily Monitor and Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, Institute for War and Peace Report, East-West Institute, Analysis of Current Events, Freedom House and Caucasus Context.
- Most recently he co-edited the book “South Caucasus 2021: Oil, Democracy and Geopolitics” (2011, Jamestown Foundation Press, 2012) and “Azerbaijan in Global Politics: Crafting Foreign Policy” (2009, ADA Press).

# Dr. Azimeh Jafari Sadr

Researcher and Lecturer at  
Monash University Malaysia



## BIOGRAPHY

- Currently a lecturer in the psychology department of Monash University Malaysia.
- Earned her doctorate in Child Development Psychology from University Putra Malaysia (UPM).
- The research interests include maternal reading beliefs, mother-child interaction, emergent literacy, parenting, child psychology, and parent-child interactions.
- Particularly interested in teaching children and adolescents about water conservation and engaging them in pro-environmental activities

# Dr. Amir E. Johri

Environmental/public health professional,  
currently working with Ministry of Health,  
Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Worked as national/international civil servant with different national governments and UN Organizations, namely WHO, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR and others.
- 28 years of experience in public/environmental health in number of countries around the globe
- Developed national and international policies, strategies and actions plans for international organizations and national governments in public/environmental health
- Wide-ranging experience in emergency situations, such as humanitarian crisis, displaced populations, natural and man-made disasters, etc.
- Extensive experience in university teaching and training (short courses, workshops, conferences, etc.).

# Dr. Nitya Karmakar

Professor School of Business (Higher Education), Le Cordon Bleu, Australia



## BIOGRAPHY

- He has had different senior roles in relation to teaching, research and academic governance at a number of institutions of higher education globally including LE CORDON BLEU AUSTRALIA.
- Previously Visiting Professor of Information Systems in the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, and at the International College of Business and Technology Colombo. Has worked as post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Kiel, Germany, Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron, DESY, University of Hamburg, Germany, European Council of Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland, Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois, and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, International Atomic Energy Agency and UNESCO in Trieste, Italy.
- BSc (Hons), L.L.B, MSc and PhD. degrees in India.

# Hugo Kerschot

Managing Director IS-  
practice, Belgium



## BIOGRAPHY

- Founder and Managing Director of the program management office "IS-practice". IS-practice is based in Belgium and delivers project management and high-level advice for major projects within the international and national public sector in the broader field of the Information Society.
- More than 25 years of experience in communication, IT, consultancy and project management and with IS-practice an international network of expertise in Digital Government, Cyber security, Smart Cities and smart information and visualisation system.
- Master in Communication Sciences (University of Leuven, Faculty of Social Sciences). After a career in the financial sector (internal and external communication), he launched in 1995 the first Belgium public service website in his function as Director of Information of the Services of the Belgian Prime Minister.



# Aasia Saail Khan

Director, Schazoo Zaka and women's  
business development expert, Pakistan



## BIOGRAPHY

- Advisor for gender at the policy level in Pakistan, specifically for women in business
- Mentor at women led institutes, international conferences and gender-based projects in Pakistan and South Asia.
- Over 28 years of hands-on experience as a woman entrepreneur and founder of fashion retail brand.
- Chevening scholar and MA in Gender Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.
- Serving on board of directors at Quaid-e-Azam Thermal Power.
- Trained as pharmacist, and currently serving as director for supply chain at Schazoo Zaka / Schazoo Laboratories.

# Dr. Majid Labbaf Khaneiki

Assistant Professor on UNESCO Chair on  
Aflaj Studies, University of Nizwa,  
Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Human geographer who specializes in hydro-sociology in local communities, integrated water resources management, indigenous water knowledge, traditional irrigation, water history, sustainable water governance and role of water in social dynamics.
- Guest Researcher on Water, Energy & Environmental Engineering Research Unit at The University of Oulu, Finland.
- Scientific Advisor to the Director at The International Center on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures (UNESCO-ICQHS), UNESCO Category II Center, Iran.
- PhD in Geography and Rural Planning from the University of Tehran, Iran.

# Andile Khoza

Founder and CEO of Metsi  
Water App (PTY) LTD South  
Africa



## BIOGRAPHY

- CEO, Metsi Water App, South Africa
- Research on International & Central Banking, University of South Africa)
- Regulations & Ethics of the South African Financial Markets, South African Institute of Financial Markets
- Co- Founder of PheZulu Air Aviation Group
- Winner of the Gauteng Best Innovation Award Presented, by Provincial Premier
- Inventpreneur
- Member of 2030, a sustainability agenda for Africa
- Bachelor of International Relations (Witwatersrand University)

# Dr. Khalifa Mohammed Al-Kindi

Assistant Professor on UNESCO Chair on Aflaj Studies, University of Nizwa, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Currently Assistant Professor in the UNESCO Chair on Aflaj Studies-Archeohydrology, University of Nizwa in Oman.
- Experienced, multilingual, geospatial professional with more than 13 years of experience utilizing geospatial technologies to advance information management and deliver decision support on an international level.
- Proven expertise in utilizing industry-standard commercial and open-source geographical information systems (GIS), remote sensing (RS), and satellite image-processing software. Comprehensive knowledge of progressive spatial planning methods directly supports natural resource management, stability, and economic development program objectives in the Sultanate of Oman and developing countries.

# Dr. Paris Kokorotsikos

President & CEO,  
EuroConsultants SA, Greece



## BIOGRAPHY

- President and CEO of Euroconsultants S.A. Group; He serves both a CEO of an innovation and technology advisory group of companies listed in Athens Stock exchange and operational in more than 20 countries in SE Europe and MENA areas, as well as Expert at high level advisory groups to international institutions and governments on SMEs, economic, innovation regional and interregional development programs, planning and management.
- Involved in: Development of innovation entrepreneurship ecosystems; Regional / Country smart specialization strategies in several European and GCC countries; Strategy, Planning, Governance of Development of Specialized Infrastructures for enhancing entrepreneurship and Competitiveness; Key member of development teams and shareholder in Technology incubators and Co-Investor in over 25 start ups and early stage innovative companies.

# Latif Ladid

Founder & President, IPv6 FORUM and  
Chair, ETSI IPv6 Industry Specification  
Group, Luxembourg



## BIOGRAPHY

- Latif Ladid is Founder & President, IPv6 FORUM and Chair, ETSI IPv6 Industry Specification Group. He is the Founding co-chair, IEEE 5G World Forum and Co-Chair, IEEE GET Blockchain Forum. He is active in the IoT Forum as Board Member and Chair of the Global IoT Summit and Member of 3GPP PCG (Board).
- Latif held previous voluntary positions as Former Chair, IEEE IoT World Forum, Former Chair, IEEE ComSoC IoT subcommittee, Former Chair, IEEE ComSoC 5G subcommittee, Former Vice Chair, IEEE ComSoC SDN-NFV subcommittee, Emeritus Trustee, Internet Society - ISOC and Emeritus World summit Award Board Member.
- Latif is currently Research Fellow @ University of Luxembourg on multiple European Commission Next Generation Technologies Projects and Member of the European Commission Future Internet Forum EU Member States (representing Luxembourg)

Prof. José Miguel Lameiras

Professor, University of Porto

Researcher, BIOPOLIS/ CIBIO

Portugal



## BIOGRAPHY

- Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto | Researcher at Research Center on Genetic Resources and Biodiversity (BIOPOLIS/ CIBIO)
- Research focus on urban regeneration and Nature based solutions (NBS), with a special emphasis on urban Biodiversity, water management and the use of digital technologies for sustainable landscape design and planning.
- Has more than 15 years experience in landscape design, having been involved in landscape architecture projects both in Denmark and Portugal. All the projects he has been involved in promote soil permeability, water infiltration and groundwater recharge.
- NBS expert and local partner for the City of Porto in the H2020 European project URBiNAT - Urban inclusive and innovative Nature.

# Jean-Yves Le Gall

Former President CNES (French Space Agency), ESA Council (European Space Agency) and Arianespace, France



## BIOGRAPHY

- An engineer and scientist who has devoted his entire career to the European space programme, holding positions within the French national scientific research agency CNRS, several French ministries, at Novespace, Starsem and then Arianespace, where he was Chairman & CEO.
- From 2013 to 2021, Jean-Yves Le Gall was President of the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), the French space agency. In this capacity, he was also interministerial coordinator for satellite navigation programmes. In addition to leading CNES, he was also Chair of the Council of the European Space Agency (ESA) and Chair of the Administrative Board of GSA.
- Honorary Ambassador and former President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). In 2001, he received the Astronautics Prize from the French Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AAAF).



# Prof. Olof Lindén

Professor Emeritus at the  
World Maritime  
University, Sweden



## BIOGRAPHY

- Professor (Linnaeus University) and Professor Emeritus (World Maritime University). PhD (Stockholm University).
- Senior Advisor, World Maritime University, and Senior Expert contracted by a number of international organizations (IMO, UNEP, World Bank, FAO, IUCN).
- Project experience in the Indian Ocean Region, Arabian Gulf, China, Nigeria, Mexico and Colombia,
- Initiated and coordinated research programs funded by Sweden, Finland, UK, World Bank and Japan.
- His research fields include: Impacts of pollution and climate change on ecosystems; Management and recovery of ecosystems following disasters and conflicts; Rehabilitation of ecosystems such as mangroves and forests; Restoration of pastures and meadows; Oil pollution, and oil spill contingency planning.

# Muna Luqman

Founder & Co Founder,  
Food4Humanity & Women in  
Solidarity Network, Yemen



## BIOGRAPHY

- A Yemeni activist, peace builder, founder of the organization Food4Humanity and co-founder of the Women in Solidarity Network.
- Her career includes social work in the areas of health care, water projects and demining with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. She has also worked with Save the Children and the Hayel Saeed Anam Group. In 2015 she founded Food4Humanity a Yemeni Foundation composed of Yemeni women volunteers, focusing on the cities of Hodeida, Sanaa, and Taiz.
- She is a member of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership. She co-founded the Women in Solidarity Network which encourages women to participate in peace and security efforts.

# Ghalib Al Maamari

Vice President, Low  
Carbon Molecules, OQ  
Alternative Energy, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Ghalib Al Mamaari is Vice President, Low Carbon Molecules at OQ Alternative Energy, part of OQ Group, an integrated energy company specialising in sustainability and business excellence.
- Prior to his role at OQ Alternative Energy, he worked as the VP of Information & Digital Solutions where he spearheaded the digital transformation journey of OQ. Previously, he worked for the Implementation Support and Follow-up Unit, Takamul Investment Company and Occidental Petroleum Corporation.
- Mr. Al Mamaari is also the vice chairman of Vale Oman Pelletizing Company. Further, he served on the board of Sohar Aluminium, Muscat Gases, Majis Industrial Services & Takatuf Oman.
- He holds a bachelor's degree in Electronic Commerce and a Master's in Business Information Systems from the University of Queensland, Australia.

# Wafa Al Maamari

CEO, Sustainability for Environmental Services  
and consulting and Associate Expert with Qualies,  
Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- CEO of Sustainability for Environmental Services and consulting company
- A master's degree in process engineering at the National University of Oman bachelor's degree in chemical engineering
- A young Omani researcher with strong interest in water research, water desalination and emerging ,innovations in chemical and process engineering, winner of the best wastewater research prize for the Omani Young Water Researcher Award in 2019, organized by MEDRC, and the winner of outstanding research at the National University of Oman in the same year.
- Since 2019, engaged by Qualies in the "Water and Humanity" project agenda for work on environmental projects linking water research, reforestation, and new solutions for irrigation, part of the team preparing a series of Water & Humanity workshops In Muscat, February 2020.

# Dr. Américo Mateus

Director, TRIE, Transdisciplinary Research Center  
for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ecosystems



## BIOGRAPHY

- Director of the TRIE-transdisciplinary research for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Ecosystems, as well as director of ISMAT's Master of Design for the Circular Economy in Portugal.
- Director, GUDA, and responsible for the implementation of several projects oriented towards the Innovation of organisations. Responsible for projects with: EDP; IMPRESA; TWINTEX; VOKA Academy; MICROSOFT Benelux; Bregenz Tourism, among others. He leads research in several European projects with focus on participatory and co-creation processes through Design.
- Has published more than 50 scientific articles and coordinated the implementation of more than 48 real cases, applying and validating the IDEAS (R)EVOLUTION methodology in different sectors.
- PhD in Business Management from University of Évora

# Marwa Al Mahdouri

Senior Planning Engineer  
with the Water and  
Wastewater Services  
Company (OWWSC), Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- More than 10 years of experience in wastewater management. She is responsible for wastewater process control and treated effluent quality, as well as undertaking to seek water and wastewater international best practices.
- Co-author on a paper that was published as part of a strategic national project research application of re-use of end-of-life reverse osmosis membrane (REROM).
- No stranger to environmental issues and water security, having worked for ten years as a senior process engineer in the research and development department and a member of scientific committees at institutions such as the Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC), Sultan Qaboos University, and The Research Council.
- Qualified environmental engineer and holds a master's degree in environmental engineering from Sultan Qaboos University.

# Mohammed Al Mahrouqi

General Manager of Anwar  
Almajed United at National  
Energy Centre, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Water Technology Specialist with more than 16 years in water related service.
- Has a comprehensive technical and managerial experience in development, construction and Operation of Water / waste Water Utility, with a wide exposure in new related technology and projects management in Oman.
- Currently he is General Manager of Engineering Arm at National Energy Center focused in Water and Green Energy development.

# Etienne Monbaron

Head of Hydrology & Hydraulics Sector of Geneva State Water Protection Agency (OCEau), Geneva, Switzerland



## BIOGRAPHY

- Engineer and Hydrologist with a master degree from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne. He has a long experience of work in the water sector and hydrology, for public or private agencies, in Switzerland and abroad.
- Developed his international experience as a consultant in several projects, especially during 3 years as a technical advisor in Nepal for Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (in a road maintenance programme), as well as in Iran for a UNDP mission about rehabilitation of Karun River.
- Currently Head of Hydrology & Hydraulics Sector of Geneva State Water Protection Agency (OCEau), and thereby has an extensive experience of water resources management, disaster risk reduction and hydrometry.



# Fatma Al Mukhaini

Senior Robotic Process  
Automation Consultant,  
PDO, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- High energy and results oriented IT professional , having over 10 years of experience in the IT industry with proven leadership skills.
- Currently Leading Robotics process automation and Emerging Technologies journey at Petroleum Development Oman.
- Began her career in software development in Royal Oman Police and was a member of the eVisa project.
- Worked with several government projects including government cloud project.
- Winner of best intelligent Automation project in in Digital twin show Middle East 2022.

# Dr. Rahma Al Nadhairi.

Expert in ocean, atmospheric, and climate sciences at the environmental authority (EA), Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- She is an Expert in ocean, atmospheric, and climate sciences at the environmental authority (EA), Oman
- Her research is primarily concerned with how ocean dynamics, marine ecosystems, and the global climate interact. She worked at Max Plank and Max Plank for three years as a research scientist in oceanography and ocean circulation. She is undertaking research on eddies, low-oxygen zones, and ocean upwelling.

# Dr Rajamohan Natarajan

Associate Professor, Chemical  
Engineering, Sohar University, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

Specialised areas:

- Environmental Chemical Engineering
- Water and air pollution control
- Modelling and simulation
- Controlled environment Agricultural Engineering

# Prof. Gunnar Norstedt

Senior Professor at Karolinska  
Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden



## BIOGRAPHY

- Gunnar Norstedt obtained MD and PhD exams at the Karolinska Institutet (KI) in Stockholm, Sweden. His main research has been carried out in endocrinology and he has published around 200 scientific publications.
- He has spent many years as a professor at KI and he has also spent extended research time in the USA and Australia. Most recently, he worked as a professor in medical chemistry at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman.
- Besides an interest in molecular mechanisms of hormone actions, Gunnar has an interest in bio-entrepreneurship. He has taken part in the start-up of several small companies, and he has also held a position in a large pharmaceutical company (Pfizer). His current interests include diabetic/inflammatory conditions, international research exchange and entrepreneurship.

# Sven Oehme

President & CEO at The  
European-American Business  
Organization, Inc., USA



## BIOGRAPHY

- Founder and president of the American Business Forum on Europe, Inc.
- Member of the Executive Board of the Trans Atlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) which is the official dialogue between American and European business leaders and U.S. Cabinet Secretaries and EU Commissioners. He is part of the U.S. Delegation at the U.S.-EU Best Practices Workshop for SMEs under the auspices of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC). Mr. Oehme was appointed Honorary Representative of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg in New York by the First Mayor in 2005. Project Manager for Enterprise Europe Network and its predecessor EIC/EICC network since 2005.
- Member of the Advisory Committee of the European Union Studies Center of the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York and a member of the Board of Advisors of the Weissmann Center for International Business at Baruch College.

# Roberto Ordonez

Managing Partner, Alkimya Catalyst,  
Dubai, President NWU Kellogg GCC  
Alumni association



## BIOGRAPHY

- Strategic Negotiations advisor to companies, governments, and large family business.
- Founder Alkimya Catalyst, a global consulting firm specialized in complex negotiation and conflict resolution strategies.
- President - Northwestern University's Kellogg GCC Alumni association.
- Over 20 years of experience in the Oil & Gas Industry (Occidental Petroleum, Hess Corporation, and BP).
- Executive Education Negotiation Professor at Northwestern University (Qatar), Georgetown University (Qatar), and Central European University (Hungary/Austria).
- Member - Advisory Board of the College of Communications at University of Sharjah (UAE).
- Advisor at ProColombia (Colombia's export agency).

# Dr. Armen Orujyan

Founding CEO, Foundation for Armenian  
Science and Technology (FAST), Armenia



## BIOGRAPHY

- Founding CEO of the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology & founded and was the CEO and Chairman of Athgo Corporation, a leading entrepreneurship platform in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, the UN Department of Public Information, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.
- Pioneered initiatives in support of educational and entrepreneurial opportunities to nearly 10,000 young innovators (600 universities, 80 countries), helping build start-ups, incubation and acceleration programs, and innovation-stimulating policies in North America, East Africa, Europe, and Asia.
- One of the top under-40 young leaders by Asia Society.
- Ph.D. from the School of Politics and Economics at Claremont Graduate University (CGU). He is a recipient of CGU's Distinguished Alumni Award.

# Hervé Rannou

CEO, Items International,  
France



## BIOGRAPHY

- Master in mathematics and Telecom Engineer. After first experiences in telecommunications, stock exchange network and consulting, he co-founded AUSY in 1991, a professional services company specialized in telecommunications and IT.
- Co-founded ITEMS International in 1994 to develop strategic consulting on Telecommunications services & infrastructures, Digital strategies, Smart Grids and Smart Cities. It includes strategic assistance, operational assistance, public tenders and grants applications, business plans, regulatory issues.
- 30 years experience in telecom and digital sector. Assisted the French and local authorities in their broadband and mobile strategy, worked with Telecom Operators to develop their infrastructures and their internet services in Europe.
- Since 10 years, he has developed new businesses in the field of the IoT and Big Data.



# Prof. Alfredo M. Ronchi

Professor, Politecnico di  
Milano, Italy



## BIOGRAPHY

- Professor at Politecnico di Milano (Engineering Faculty), Expert/advisor in e-Services, Head of the JRC S2D2 (Safety, Security, Defence, Disaster Recovery and Management) Politecnico di Milano, General Secretary of the EC-MEDICI Framework of Cooperation, delegate at UNESCO IFAP and active member of the WSIS since the establishment (2003- /).
- Member WSA Grand Jury and President of eContentAward Italy, member of the Scientific Committee of Global Forum (F-USA), Sacred World Foundation (New Delhi), Fondazione Nuove Comunicazioni (Italy). Further, member of the following Boards of Directors: Global Forum, World Summit Award, European Youth Award, European Education New Society Association (ENSA), Fondazione Italiana Nuove Comunicazioni. Member of the Keio University NoE. Member of the Advisory Board of the School of Law under the aegis of GD Goenka University (New Delhi, India).

# Dr. Carl Safi

Senior Project Manager and a business consultant at Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands



## BIOGRAPHY

- Senior project manager and business consultant at Wageningen University and Research, a Dutch University and research institution with an excellent worldwide reputation
- Long experience in coordinating large projects on a Dutch, EU and international level
- Extensive expertise in building biorefineries and valorisation of renewable resources, agricultural leftovers and marine biomass
- Coordinates projects related to start-up incubation and acceleration, and provide scientific guidance
- Gives lectures and workshops to increase awareness on topics related to biomass valorisation, protein transition, circularity and value creation
- Published more than 20 peer reviewed articles in renowned journals
- Trained as process engineer with a Ph.D. in Agri-Resources valorisation
- Trained in Leadership and management

# Prof. Jumana Saleh

Professor of Biochemistry, Sultan Qaboos  
University, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Research focuses on metabolic alterations and oxidative stress in relation to obesity and cardiovascular risk. Particular interest in causes and metabolic effects of different fat distribution patterns and the relation to hormonal alterations.
- Member of several academic committees at SQU including promotion and program evaluation committees. In addition, she is a member in local societies including World Obesity Federation, Canadian Obesity network and served as a board member in the Oman Society of Lipid and Atherosclerosis (OSLA).
- PhD degree in Lipid Biochemistry at the Division of Experimental Medicine/ Department of Medicine at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

# Gérald Santucci

Ambassador INTEROP VLab, Adviser AI Ethics, Member Sustainable Advisory Board, France



## BIOGRAPHY

- Since 2017, he is Ambassador of the INTEROP VLab, an adviser on AI Ethics for the Z-inspection® initiative, and a member of the Sustainable Development Advisory Board.
- Previously advisor and Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT). From 1999 to 2016 he was Head of Unit for eGovernment (1999-2002), Trust & Security (2003), eBusiness (2004), Networked Enterprise and RFID (2005-2012), and Knowledge Sharing (2012-2016). In 2016-2017 he was Advisor for Cross-Cutting Policy/Research Issues, with focus on knowledge management, integration of research/innovation and policy, and 'data for policy'.
- He has a PhD in Microeconomics from University Paris XII Val-de-Marne and graduated from the Paris Institute of Political Studies.

# Juliane Schillinger

PhD Candidate, University of Twente,  
Netherlands

Research Group Coordinator, World Youth  
Parliament for Water



## BIOGRAPHY

- Research focus on water management and climate adaptation in fragile and conflict-affected regions. Further research interests include water diplomacy and environmental impacts of conflict.
- Coordination of WYPW Research Group comprises a network of 150+ students and young water researchers from around the world, who participate in the Group for networking and skill-building activities and to conduct joint research projects.
- M.Sc. in International Land and Water Management from Wageningen University, Netherlands

# Neeshad Shafi

Executive Director,  
Arab Youth Climate Movement  
Qatar (AYCMTQA), Doha, QA



## BIOGRAPHY

- Youth Environmentalist, educator and social change advocate.
- He is a Design Engineer in water and waste water industry, who holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering and resides in Doha, Qatar.
- He has over 4 years of experience in analysing global environmental & climate politics with a special focus on the Middle East.
- An active member of several global environmental youth groups and contributed actively in international summits including UNFCCC negotiations in Paris (COP21), Marrakech (COP22), Katowice (COP24), World Economic Forum in Davos 2019, upcoming WEF MENA Amman, Jordan and COY summits related to climate policy, sustainable development goals (SDG's) and youth's role in development.

# Dr. Saif Al Shaksy

President, Oman Water  
Society,  
Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- He is currently the Chairman of the Oman Water Society and CEO of Mazoon for Sustainable Solutions
- He held many positions, the most important of which were Director General of Water Resources, Director General of the One Million Palm Tree Planting Project, and Executive Director of the National Field Research Center for Environmental Conservation.
- He also chaired the boards of directors of several investment companies.
- He participated in many conferences and published many research papers in the field of water, Agriculture and environment. He is the author of Water Demand Management in Arid countries book.
- Ph.D. in Water Demand Management from the University of Nottingham, UK, in 2004, a Master degree in Water Management from the University of Wales in 1996.

# Dr. Salim Al-Shuaili

Director, AI & AT Projects Unit,  
National Center for Space, AI, & AT



## BIOGRAPHY

- Holding MSc in Technology Management and PhD in Technology Adoption
- More than 20 years of working experience
- Expert in Digital Transformation & e-Government
- Working on 4IR Projects
- Leads the official eGovernment Service Portal



# Dr. Ajay Shukla

Managing Director  
Middle East and India,  
Global Study, UAE



## BIOGRAPHY

- He is the Managing Director, Middle East and India for Global Study - an edtech platform that is revolutionizing study abroad.
- Previously, CSO of Higher Education UAE and has helped bring elite institutions to UAE through his well-regarded research and business planning consulting work. He also served as the CEO of UAE's leading education investment holding company - part of GEMS/Varkey Group.
- Before relocating to UAE he was the VP and MD of McGraw-Hill Education Asia/Pacific where he was awarded the company's highest individual honour - Excellence in Leadership Award.
- He has worked at CXO level at world's leading brands like Reader's Digest as CEO, American Express as head of business development and as the founder Vice President of ABN AMRO Bank Credit Cards.
- He is an Engineering graduate from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), a MBA from FMS, Delhi University and is a National Talent Scholar.

# Sanith de S. Wijeyeratne

Director / Chief Executive Officer, The  
Climate & Conservation Consortium, Sri  
Lanka



## BIOGRAPHY

- Director / CEO of The Climate & Conservation Consortium (formally know as The Carbon Consulting Company - CCC) which has a portfolio of services including, Carbon & Water Footprinting, Carbon Asset Management and Life Cycle Analysis.
- Under his leadership CCC was acknowledged as The Best Provider of Environmental Solutions in the Middle East - Asia by the World Leadership Federation .
- Awarded the Global CSR Leadership Award. Active projects in Sri Lanka, India, Laos, Myanmar , Thailand, Oman, and Hong Kong has clients in Sweden, Norway, The U.S.A. and The U.K. CCC has certified The World's First CarbonNeutral® Tea Company, Asia's First CarbonNeutral® Apparel Manufacturer and The World's First WaterNeutral® Apparel Factory.
- Executive Education in Sustainability Leadership at Harvard University, holds an MBA, and is a former Corporate Lawyer.

# Dr. Michael Stankosky

Professional Lecturer,  
Engineering Management &  
Systems Engineering, GWU,  
USA



## BIOGRAPHY

- A Professorial Lecturer in Engineering Management & Systems Engineering at George Washington University (GW).
- An author, scholar, and consultant Knowledge Management (KM), General Management, Innovation, and Organizational Behavior. His latest work: 21 for 21: Leading the 21st Century Global Enterprise has been published
- Founded and directed the Institute for Knowledge & Innovation, comprising of over 80 scholars and practitioners worldwide.
- Editor Emeritus of Vine: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems

# Dr. Bahram Taheri

Director at Nexus & HSE Center, Amirkabir  
University Technology Park, Iran



## BIOGRAPHY

- Director of the Nexus & HSE Center at the Amirkabir University Technology Park, Iran. Further he directs the Nexus project of the Niroo (Power) Research Institute and the Iranian Power Sector's GHG emissions MRV project.
- He is a member of the Energy and Environment Research Center, the Water Thinktank of the Ministry of Energy (and Water), the Water and Agriculture Committee of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce as well as the head of Pillar III (Science & Research) of NENA region of FAO's Global Soil Partnership.
- Previously senior research scientist at GM HQ R&D dpt., senior member of the superfund environmental project in Oscoda, Michigan, and developed a phytoremediation model and software for clean-up of heavy metal contaminated groundwater and soil.
- He has a PhD in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

# Mariam Al Taie

Co-Founder, MCTspaceLab, Oman, & Urban Law & Governance Consultant with UN-HABITAT



## BIOGRAPHY

- Architect and Urban Planner with a master's degree in Urban Analytics and an interest in smart city planning and design governance.
- Has a comprehensive technical and managerial experience in design and construction industries, with a wide exposure to healthcare, hospitality, retail, residential and administrative projects in Oman and was awarded Rising Star of the Year at Construction Week Awards 2019. Also, has extensive experience in community engagement and empowerment with local communities in Muscat as voluntary work.
- Currently she is an Urban Law and Governance Consultant with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).

# Dr. Sylviane Toporkoff

Founder & President, Global Forum  
/ Shaping the Future, France



## BIOGRAPHY

- President & Founder of the Global Forum / Shaping the Future
- Partner & founder of ITEMS International - a company specialized on strategic Digital consulting.
- More than 25 years of experience in communication, IT, consultancy and project management, with an international network of expertise in Digital Government, Smart Cities and smart information.
- As Professor at Paris University, cofounder of the Institute of European studies, Paris 8, France.
- Founder of ENSA "European Education New Society Association" - an association on the future of education and ICT.
- Trained as economist with a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Paris I Pantheon Sorbonne, France
- "Chevalier of the Legion of Honor" and medal of "Arts, Sciences and Letters".

# Chloe Treger

Designer & Researcher,  
TreesAI @ Dark Matter  
Labs, UK



## BIOGRAPHY

- Urban Systems Designer & Researcher.
- Research & Analysis Head, Dark Matter Labs: lead on projects relating to long-termism, capital innovation, innovative business models & community wealth. For the past year have been co-leading the development of TreesAI Invest platform & Glasgow Pilot Business Case.
- Main research interests: Delivery & Maintenance of Urban Nature Based Solutions; Modelling and monitoring of ecosystem services; Natural hedging & impact insurance; Valuation & Financing of civic assets; Innovative governance & business models; Open source technologies & approaches.
- Education: MSc in Maths & Philosophy (Oxford) and Urban Design & City Planning (UCL).

# Prof. Daniele Tumietto

Owner Management, Business and Tax  
Consultant & Adjunct Professor,  
Politecnico di Milano (Polimi), Link  
Campus & O.M. Beketov University,  
Italy



## BIOGRAPHY

- A management, business and tax consultant for enterprises, professionals and public administration bodies with over 30 years of experience.
- In the last 10 years, his main professional activity has been focusing on the management of digital processes and documents. At the same time, participating as a qualified expert or national delegate on technical committees of the UN, ITU, ISO, CEN and UNI-UNINFO as co-author of technical standards, white papers and recommendations for legislative and regulatory authorities, publishing over 30 official documents.



# Daniel Van Lerberghe

Founder & Director, Innogage,  
Estonia



## BIOGRAPHY

- Since 2015, as co-founder of InnoGage, he is active in Horizon 2020 projects by leading their dissemination and communication strategy and activities, as well as in shaping open innovation in the public sphere across Europe.
- In September 2017, Daniel became advisor for Citizen Participation at the Cabinet of David WEYTSMAN, Alderman for Citizen Participation and later at the Cabinet of Clémentine BARZIN, Alderwoman for Citizen Participation at the City of Brussels.
- In 2004, Daniel founded POLITECH Institute, the 1st European Centre of Excellence in Political Technologies based in the heart of Europe to provide policy and innovation responses to the emerging transformational agenda of the European Union.
- Co-founded initiative.eu to shape the debate around the European Citizen Initiative and its launch in 2012.

# Valentina Vassallo

Researcher in Digital  
Cultural Heritage, The  
Cyprus Institute, Cyprus



## BIOGRAPHY

- Research focused on digital technologies for documentation, analysis, conservation, preservation and valorisation of Cultural Heritage.
- Expertise in data management and semantics of digital cultural heritage assets
- PhD candidate in Science & Technology in Cultural Heritage (The Cyprus Institute) and Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, (Lund University, Sweden)
- MA, Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage (Archaeology and Art History), University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Cassino, Italy & MA, Conservation of Cultural Heritage (Archaeology), University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy
- Former fellowship researcher at the National Research Council of Italy
- Archaeologist

# Dr. Sampath Wahala

Chairman of the Sri Lanka  
Accreditation Board for Conformity  
Assessment, Sri Lanka



## BIOGRAPHY

- Currently serves as the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment. Further Senior Lecturer in the EcoBusiness Management Special Degree Program, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka & Visiting Lecturer at the Universities of Colombo, Moratuwa and The Rajarata University.
- Trained as Greenhouse Gas Verifier and as a Cleaner Production Consultant trained under UNIDO methodology. He has trained on Clean Development Mechanism under the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency.
- Technical expert for the proposed national Eco Labeling Scheme under the Ministry of Environment and in collaboration with Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovations.

# Dr. Buthaina Al Wahibi

Research, development and innovation  
director, Oman wastewater service  
company, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Head of Research and Development with 12 years of professional experience in water and wastewater treatment processes and technologies. Initiated The Water Sustainable Research Center within Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company. Experience in Chemical Process engineering and Environmental Industries.
- Nominated as the Technical Expert in water and wastewater research centers: The Research Council (TRC), Water Research Centre (WRC) at Sultan Qaboos University, Middle East Desalinated Research Center (MEDRC), E-Ejaad Research Platform. Further as an advisory board member at several universities: Sultan Qaboos University, Military Technological Collage, and Vocational Collage Water Technology. Finally, selected as a member of National Strategic Water Committee and member of the water technical committee (MECA).

# Marc Watum

Co-Founder, Vertex  
Ecosystems, South Africa



## BIOGRAPHY

- Entrepreneurial empowerment specialist with backgrounds in development consulting and project finance. Advised over 1000 entrepreneurs across EMEA region.
- Founder of the Vision 2030 Fund, a sustainability agenda for Africa
- Private consultancies include commodities (trading, mining, supply chains and logistics across the UK and Central/East Africa), and urban infrastructure & technology.
- MSc Globalisation and Development, School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- Organiser of key summits: MENA Innovation 2018 (under patronage of the Egyptian Ministry of Information & Technology); Vertex Summit 2018 in London, the Global Impact Summit 2019 in Nairobi, and the Vision 2030 Food Systems Summit Dialogue in 2021 in partnership with the United Nations

# Johan P. Wikander

President and Founder, Scandinavian Quality Care, and Director International Development, AFRY, Sweden



## BIOGRAPHY

- President and founder, Scandinavian Quality Care, a hospital and medical education consortium representing leading universities and university hospitals, Government funds, innovation technology companies etc., with a global presence, incl. the Middle East
- Director International Developments AFRY, leading sustainability engineering company with large engagement in water, sewage treatment, reserving, preserving, and conserving water, desalination plants, solar panel, etc.
- Board member in funding capital company, NewTech Invest, involvement in private and public infrastructure investments
- Rich experience of successfully executing complex infrastructure projects

# Dr. Craig Wright

Chief Scientist,  
nChain, United-Kingdom



## BIOGRAPHY

- He is the inventor of Bitcoin and the author of the Bitcoin white paper.
- Established nChain in 2015, where he is the Chief Scientist and where his ideas have led to thousands of patent applications. Dr Wright has more than 30 years of experience in the fields of information technology and IT security, having conducted more than 1,200 engagements for hundreds of private and governmental organisations. Dr Wright worked on systems protecting the Australian Stock Exchange, and helped design the architecture for the world's first online casino.
- Dr Wright is currently a candidate for two additional PhDs, in Law and Applied Mathematics, adding to the major industry certifications and several advanced academic degrees he already holds.

# Bart Wubben

Founding  
Partner/Principal  
Landscape Architect,  
Muscat Landscaping, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- He is one of the founding partners of Muscat Landscaping, a company which specializes in contemporary landscape architecture.
- As a registered landscape architect he has been active as a lead designer in Oman for 7+ years.
- Currently the company is involved in a series of projects where the addition of green and planting in large quantities by Leed and Estidama requirements. Smart use of irrigation technologies, water resources and plant selections have become key in their design approach.



# Abdul Rahman Al Yahyaei

Chief Executive Officer, Oman Society for  
Petroleum Services (OPAL), Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Experienced energy professional with 19+ years of business marketing, planning, finance, asset management & business development experience across the full oil and gas value chain.
- Previously Director of Arab Gulf Crude Oil Operations and Marketing for Occidental Energy Marketing.
- Began his career in the energy industry with Schlumberger Middle East and Oman LNG in a variety of positions with increasing responsibilities.
- Member of several governmental committees such as In Country Value of Oil and Gas, Labour Think Tank and Vice Chair of board of Trustee of the college of Management and Engineering.
- Chosen as one of the top 100 powerful CEOs in Oman by Alam al-Iktisaad Wal A'maal magazine for years 2020 & 2021 respectively.

# Halah Al Zadjali

Senior Executive of Governance Standards in the  
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information  
Technology, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- 15+ years of experience in ICT sector.
- Master degree in Artificial Intelligence for Public Services in Universidad Politécnica de Madrid.
- Expert in the development of eGovernance instruments, such as Smart Cities and Disruptive technologies policies, standards, frameworks and guidelines for the adoption of the public sector with the collaboration with the service providers from the private sector.
- Expert Researcher in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and developed the first AI policy in Oman "Artificial Intelligence Systems Policy" for the public sector.
- Joined the United Nations (UNU-eGov) fellowship program in 2019 in Portugal.
- Author and presenter of the research paper "Building the right AI governance model in Oman" at ICEGOV 2020.

# Ibrahim Al Zakwani

Lecturer, Environmental  
Science Section  
Applied Sciences Department  
Higher College of Technology,  
Muscat, Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- B.Sc in Environmental biology and M.Sc. (Environmental Science, SQU, Oman.
- Worked as marine biology consultant at Five Oceans Environmental Services LLC, in and abroad the country for provision of environmental consultancy in many diverse development projects.
- Awarded of TRC research project (Graduate Research Grant Program), call 2019 (Title: Estimating the importance of different primary producers and organic pools to the most abundant and keystone species in Barr Al Hikman intertidal aquatic system using  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  Stable Isotopes).
- Research cooperation with the Royal Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), the Netherlands.
- Currently a Lecturer at Higher College of Technology in Oman.

# Prof. Fahad Al Zadjali

Associate Professor and Vice Dean of  
Research, Sultan Qaboos University,  
Oman



## BIOGRAPHY

- Associate Professor of Medical Sciences.
- Works on studies of metabolic disease and its associated complications including non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, dyslipidemia, Colitis and renal manifestation.
- Involved in Medical education for Medical doctor and nursing program and at postgraduate levels for medical residents and MSc and PhD
- Science member of national committee for UNESCO
- Visiting scientists and professor in USA, Italy, Denmark, Spain and Sweden.

# Dr. Giovanna Giulia Zavettieri

Geography Researcher, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy.



## BIOGRAPHY

- Geographer with a Ph.D. in Visual Studies.
- Geography Researcher at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Department of History, Cultural Heritage, Education and Society, where she holds the teachings: Geography and Communication in the Global Age; Geography, Cartography and Cultural Heritage.
- Post-Doc and Research Assistant at Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems Center, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat.
- Main research interests: Cultural Geography of the Arabic Peninsula; cultural itineraries in the Arabic Peninsula; ports and the sea of the Arabic Peninsula; comparative cartography of Sicily and the Arabic Peninsula; peripheries and inland areas in Italy.

# Sarah Zhao

Partner, Rimon Law, USA



## BIOGRAPHY

- Helps clients solve the challenges associated with international commercial transactions. She advises Fortune 500 companies on corporate and regulatory issues related to corporate formation and maintenance, mergers and acquisitions, technology transactions, and privacy and cybersecurity. Sarah leverages an understanding of Chinese culture and language to adeptly negotiate and close transactions between China and other countries.
- For more than 20 years, Sarah has advised clients in broad industries of information technology, Internet and e-commerce, telecom, broadcasting, energy, financial services, life sciences, agriculture, aviation, shipping, transportation, manufacture, real estate, publishing, data protection, sports and entertainment, and other related industries. She also has arbitration and litigation experiences related to China.