



**The IBBC Autumn  
Conference**  
**'Growing Opportunities'**  
**A two-day event**

Thursday 12th - Friday 13th DECEMBER

Taj Hotel, Dubai

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

03	SPONSORS
04	WELCOME
05	EDUCATION DAY, 12TH OF DECEMBER, AGENDA
06	TECH FORUM AGENDA
07	BUSINESS DAY, 13TH OF DECEMBER, AGENDA
10	EDUCATION DAY ATTENDANCE LIST
12	BUSINESS DAY ATTENDANCE LIST
16	CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOS
47	SPONSORS AND PARTNERS
55	WHAT IS IBBC?
56	COUNCIL OF MEMBERS
58	CONTACT DETAILS



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# WELCOME

*Dear members & honoured guests* —

## **Welcome to Dubai and welcome to the IBBC's Autumn Conference 2024.**

Welcome to the IBBC's annual Autumn conference in Dubai, being held for the first time in Business Bay - the centre of Dubai's international commercial district.

2024, is the IBBC's 15th Year of operations in support of the private business sector in Dubai. In that time, Dubai has gone through difficult periods and has been impacted by regional and global circumstances. Yet in 2024, the business environment is now at its most positive, with substantial government and international investment bringing new infrastructure projects with long term consequences for business growth, jobs and the wider non energy economy.

This year, our conference is therefore focused on growing opportunities. Our Finance Panel are discussing how to source, consolidate and create value for international investors. Our Maritime and Infrastructure panel are looking at how the Al Faw Ports project will open up the development Road, Free Ports and enterprise opportunities. Our energy Panel will report on the move to de-flaring Iraq's oil & gas operations and increasing productions using modern, efficient technologies.

We are pleased that the World Bank considers in its new Business Ready Report that Iraq has move significantly towards better international standards and we are taking the time to look at how this aids the business sector, financial investment and job creation. We have a whole day session on Education, especially on the value of schools and vocational skills training to allow the people of Iraq to gain from the growth of stable, long term private sector jobs.

The IBBC has been at the heart of Iraq's business sector since 2009, advocating and persuading Government and Businesses to see the future in Iraq. We continue our work going forward and welcome all of our members, conference delegates and distinguished guests to this much anticipated conference.

We sincerely thank our sponsors: Sardar Group, Al Zaman, Hydro-C, SABIS, Trade Bank of Iraq, Basra Gateway Terminal, SAP, GEMS and partners: MSelect and London Sky for their invaluable support and commitment to making the IBBC Autumn Conference 2024 a tremendous success.



Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne,  
President, IBBC

# AGENDA

Education Day, 12th of December

Education & Training in Iraq - Taj Hotel

Thursday 12th December Pre-Conference Evening Reception, 19:00-21:00  
Treehouse. Taj Hotel, Downtown Dubai

**Chairmen of the day: Prof. Mohammed Al Uzri**, Health and Education Advisor, IBBC  
and **Dr Amir Saadati**, Gems Consult

## 08.00 Registration & Coffee

**09:00** Welcome Address:

**Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**, President of IBBC

**Professor Hamid Khalaf Ahmed**, PM Advisor & Executive Director, The Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq & PM office

**H.E. Dr Mohammed Shukri**, *Chairman of the Kurdistan Investment Board*

**Mr. Falah Hasan**, *Kurdish Regional Government*

**Professor. Dr Hayder Abed Dhahad**, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

**Professor Chris Bridle**, Vice President of University Kurdistan Hawler

## 10:00 Session 1: Higher Education

**Panellists: Dr Hazim Al-Zubaidi**, Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research

**Mr Peter O'Hara**, University of London

**Dr Kodo Aziz**, British International University Erbil

**Mr Rami Abu El-Hajja**, Ajman University

**Mr Stephen North**, Newcastle University;

**Mr Jon Wilks CMG**, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

**11:00** Tea & Coffee/ Networking

## 11:40 Session 2: Private Schooling

**Panellists: Mr Raed Mahmoud**, The International School of Choueifat - SABIS;

**Ms Nivar Mahmood Mohamad**, SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni;

**Mr Adam Jama**, Pearson;

**Mr Assim Algauood**, Queen Anne Schools;

**12:40** Tea & Coffee/ Networking

# AGENDA

Education Day, 12th of December

Education & Training in Iraq - Taj Hotel

## **13:20 Session 3: Vocational Training**

**Dr Yaseen Ahmed Abbas**, Iraqi Red Crescent;

**Dr Tony Degazon**, City and Guilds

**Dr. Nada Al-Abbadi**, Ministry of Higher Education;

**Ms Lena Ali Kadhim**, Toyota

**14:20 Closing remarks: Mr Christophe Michels, IBBC**

**14:25 Lunch**

**15:00 Start of the Tech Forum Online (See agenda on the next page)**

# AGENDA

Tech Forum, 12th of December

## 15:00 Tech Forum Online

Chairman of the day: **Mr Ashley Goodall**, IBBC

### Panellists:

- **Chilandro Fernandez** - Innovate UK - UK innovation funds and start up support
- **Mohammed Azzam** - Iraq tech ventures- overview of investment into Iraqi start-ups and scale ups;
- **Hady Al Samra** - Iraq tech ventures- scale ups and ITV fund
- **Manar Aldaigami** - Date Palm Development, AgriTech - new IBBC member
- **William Page** - 1001 - IP, streaming and protection of content.
- **Professor Sarah Hayes** - Bath Spa - overview on academic response to AI
- **Professor Kate Pullinger** -Bath spa - navigating AI for creative content and Bath's start up

## 16:30 End of Tech Forum

**REGISTER NOW**



# AGENDA

Business Day, 13th of December

Business in Iraq - Taj Hotel

**Chairman of the day: Mr Vikas Handa**, GCC Representative, IBBC

**8:30** Registration & Coffee

**10:00** Welcome Addresses

**Baroness Nicolson of Winterbourne**, President of IBBC;

**H.E. Abdullah Al Saleh**, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy UAE;

**H.E. Mohammed Al Darraji**, Senior Technical advisor to the Iraqi Prime Minister and the President of Sovereign Guarantee Initiative

**Mr. Falah Hasan**, Kurdish Regional Government

**Mr Sardar Al Bebany**, CEO Chairman, Sardar Group & President Toyota Iraq;

**Ms Azheen Falah Mustafa**, SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni

**10:40 Session 1: Iraq on the Region**

**Chairman: Mr Jon Wilks CMG**, IBBC

**Panellists: Ms Mina Al Oreibi**, The National,

**Mr Norman Ricklefs**, Namea Group

**11:20** Tea & Coffee/ Networking

**12:00 Crescendo Room: Women in Business, Driving Economic Empowerment**

**12:00 Session 2: Infrastructure & Maritime**

**Chairman: Mr Colin Findlay**, IBBC

**Panellists: Mr Tugrul Titanoglu**, CJ-ICM;

**Mr Ahmed Shaban**, Chairman of the IBBC Maritime Committee;

**Dr Abduladheem Kareem Khalil**, Iraq Supreme Maritime Authority;

**Mr Amar Shubar**, Management Partners

**Mr Ahmed Jasim Nadeem Al-Asady**, General Maritime Transport Company

**12:40 Keynote by Professor Frank Gunter on Ease of Doing Business in Iraq**

**12:40 Allegro Room: ARG Roundtable Discussion chaired by Jon Wilks**

**12:50 Session 3: Finance**

**Chairman: Mr Raed Hanna**, Mutual Finance Ltd

**Panellist: Mr Mohammed Al-Delaimy**, IBBC Advisory Council ,

**Mr Bilal Al-Sugheyer**, IFC,

**Mr Jamil Choucair**, Standard Chartered Bank,

**Professor Frank Gunter**, Lehigh University,

**Mr Ahmed Al-Haidary**, Management Partners;

**Dr Samir Fakhri Naama**, Central Bank of Iraq

**13:45** Lunch

# AGENDA

Business Day, 13th of December

Business in Iraq - Taj Hotel

**14:50 Crescendo Room: The Challenge of making Business easier in Iraq for International Investors & Operators: Roundtable Discussion with Professor Frank Gunter**, Senior Economist, Lehigh University  
**Panellists: Mr Jon Wilks CMG**, IBBC; **Ms Lena Ali Kadhim**, Toyota; **Dr William Page**, 1001Media; **Ms Mina Al Oreibi**, The National

## **14:50 Session 4: Energy**

**Chairman: Mr Vikas Handa**, GCC Representative, IBBC

**Panellists: Mr Marfa Al-Asady**, Basrah Gas Company, ;

**Mr Ellis Renforth**, Wood Plc;

**Mr Fakhre Bader**, Shell;

**Mr Zaid Elyaseri**, BP;

**Mr Rasheed Al Janabi**, GE;

**Mr Neil Beauchamp**, British Embassy Baghdad;

**Mr Hassan Heshmat**, Hydro-C

**16:30** Closing Remarks, **Mr Christophe Michels**, IBBC.

**End of Conference**

# ATTENDANCE LIST

## IBBC Autumn Conference Education Day 2024, Thursday 12th December 2024 Growing Opportunities – at the Taj Hotel, Downtown Dubai

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Job title</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
1	Dr William Page	Co-Founder, Chief Strategy Officer and General Counsel	1001 Media
2	Mr Mohsen Garcia	Co-Founder & MD	1001 Media
3	Mr Rami Abu El-Hajia	–	Ajman University
4	Mr Abdullah Shaban	Naval Architect Engineer	Alzaman Group
5	Mr Ahmed Shaban	Chairman	Alzaman Group
6	Dr. Housseem Jemili	Senior Partner, AMS and Digital Practices	Bain
7	Mr Marfa Al-Asady	Deputy MD & Production Director	Basrah Gas Company
8	Mr Bashar Kassab Hasan	Corporate Affairs Director	Basrah Gas Company
9	Mr Bayad Jamal Ali	CEO	Bayad Group
10	Mr Marc Eric Verbrugge	Regional Director	Boskalis Westminster Contracting Limited
11	Dr Kodo S Aziz	Board member	CISQ – Cambridge International School – Queen Anne
12	Dr Tony Degazon		City and Guilds
13	Mr. Haider Sabah Al Jorani	Iraq Director	CJ ICM FZCO
14	Mr Tugrul Titanoglu	COO	CJ-ICM
15	Mr Altug Sozalan	CEO	CJ-ICM
16	Mr Kei Watanabe	Manager	Diamond Gas Management Middle East Ltd
17	Mr Shayan Sultan	Partner	Fragomen LLC FZ
18	Dr Amir Saadati	Executive Director	Gems Consult
19	Prof. Dr. Sabih Gatea Khisaf	Infrastructure Lead MENA Region	HyperloopTT
20	Mr John Scott	Energy Advisor and Secretary to the ETHST	IBBC
21	Professor Mohammed Al Uzri	Health and Higher Education Advisor	IBBC
22	Mr Christophe Michels	Managing Director	IBBC
23	Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne	President	IBBC
24	Mr Ashley Goodall	Marketing Consultant	IBBC
25	Mr Colin Findlay	Strategic Development Officer & Honorary Advisor to the Board	IBBC
26	Mr Mohanad Al Khattab	Baghdad Office Manager	IBBC
27	Ms Agne Abramauskaite	Events Manager	IBBC
28	Ms Emma Joyce	Senior Events Coordinator & Office Administrator	IBBC
29	Ms Ghadeer Haider	Manager	IBBC
30	Mr Nabeel Moshin	Senior Administrator	IBBC
31	Mr Jon Wilks CMG	Senior Advsiior	IBBC
32	Mr Mohammed Al-Delaimy	Advisory Council	IBBC
33	Ms Noor Shaban	Intern	IBBC
34	Mr Bilal Al-Sugheyer	Resident Representative in Iraq	International Finance Corporation
35	Mr Watheq Abed	Senior Correspondent	Iraq Oil Report

36	Dr Yaseen Ahmed Abbas	President	Iraqi Red Crescent
37	Ms. Rasha Saad Akram		Iraqi Red Crescent Society
38	Mr Euan McCulloch	Director, Operations	KBR
39	Mr Ritesh Jain	Director, Business Development	KBR
40	Mr Sarmad Al-Khudairi	Advisor to the Board of Directors	Khudairi Group
41	Mr Mohammed Khaldoun Ali	President- Energy Solutions Business Unit	Khudairi Group
42	Dr Mohammed Shukri	Chairman of Investment Board	Kurdistan Regional Government
43	Mr Osama Majid Hameed	Deputy General Manager	Larsa Security Services
44	Mr Adam Cameron	Country Security Manager	Larsa Security Services
45	Professor Frank Gunter	Professor of Economics	Lehigh University
46	Mr Ahmed Al-Haidary	Financial Service Practice Head & Principal Consultant	Management Partners
47	Mr Amar Shubar	Partner	Management Partners
48	Mr Burhan Argoshi	First Consultant	Ministry of Education Kurdistan
49	Dr.Nada Al-Abbadi	Head of the Women's Affairs Department	Ministry of Higher Education
50	Dr Hazim Al-Zubaidi	Director of Governmental Programme	Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research
51	Dr. Hayder Abed Dhahad	Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research	Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research
52	Mr. Masahiro Morimoto	General Manager	Mitsubishi Corporation
53	Mr Raed Hanna	Managing Director	Mutual Finance Ltd
54	Dr Norman Ricklefs	Chief Executive Officer & Chair	Namea Group
55	Mr Amjad Saidgul Babashekh Barzandji	Group Chairman & CEO	Oilserv Kuwait
56	Ms Sara Akbar	Chairperson & CEO	Oilserv Kuwait
57	Mr Adam Jama	-	Pearson
58	Mr Assim Algauood	-	Queen Anne Schools
59	Ms Azheen Falah Mustafa	International Relations Manager, Kurdistan international Islamic Bank	SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni
60	Ms Nivar Mahmood Mohamad	Student, Kings College London	SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni
61	Ms Dilveen Mustafa	Deputy HR Manager, Vision Education	SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni
62	Ms Hima Karwan Rashid	Senior Technical Engineer, SLB	SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni
63	Ms Shireen Nawzad Yahya Bajigar	Founder and CEO, Ora Iraq	SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni
64	Ms Janan Luay Ghanim	Founder & Op Manger, EmployIQ	SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni
65	Mrs Batoul Hussein	Head of MENA Strategic Markets - Government affairs	SAP Middle East & North Africa LLC
66	Mr Ahmed Abushomi	Government Affairs, Strategic Markets	SAP Middle East & North Africa LLC
67	Mr Riad Chehayeb	Aviation Advisor	Sercio IAL
68	Mr Fakher Bader	Country Chairman UAE & Iraq	Shell
69	Mr Jabbar Ali Hussein Al Luaibi	Executive Director	Tec Cnslt
70	Professor Hamid Khalaf Ahmed	PM Advisor & Executive	The Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq & PM office
71	Mr Raed Mahmoud	Regional Operations Director	The International School of Choueifat - SABIS Iraq
72	Ms Mina Al Oreibi	Editor in Chief	The National News
73	Ms Aveen Karim	Assistant Foreign Editor	The National News
74	Mr Mohamad Ali Harisi	Foreign Editor	The National News
75	Professor Iain Gillespie	Principal & Vice-Chancellor	University of Dundee
76	Mr Peter O'Hara	-	University of London
77	Ms Nadia Namiq Rafeeq		Weinheim Company
78	Mr Ellis Renforth	President, EMEA Operations	Wood Plc
79	Ms Noor Alsheikh	CEO	WTA _London

# ATTENDANCE LIST

**IBBC Autumn Conference Business Day 2024, Friday 13th December 2024**

**Growing Opportunities – at the Taj Hotel, Downtown Dubai**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Job title</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
1 Dr William Page	Co-Founder, Chief Strategy Officer and General Counsel	1001 Media
2 Mr Mohsen Garcia	Co-Founder & MD	1001 Media
3 Mr Abdullah Shaban	Naval Architect Engineer	Alzaman Group
4 Mr Ahmed Shaban	Chairman	Alzaman Group
5 Dr. Housseem Jemili	Senior Partner, AMS and Digital Practices	Bain
6 Mr Marfa Al-Asady	Deputy MD & Production Director	Basrah Gas Company
7 Mr Bashar Kassab Hasan	Corporate Affairs Director	Basrah Gas Company
8 Mr Bayad Jamal Ali	CEO	Bayad Group Boskalis Westminster Contracting Limited
9 Mr Marc Eric Verbrugge	Regional Director	BP Iraq
10 Mr Zaid Elyaseri TBC	President Director General of the Department of Statistics and Research	Central Bank of Iraq
11 Dr. Samir Fakhri Naama	Iraq Director	CJ ICM FZCO
12 Mr. Haider Sabah Al Jorani	COO	CJ-ICM
13 Mr Tugrul Titanoglu	CEO	CJ-ICM
14 Mr Altug Sozalan	Manager	Diamond Gas Management Middle East Ltd
15 Mr Kei Watanabe	Partner	Fragomen LLC FZ
16 Mr Shayan Sultan	Strategic Account Director (Government Services) Iraq	G4S
17 Mr Jon Allen	CEO	GulfTek Arabia
18 Mr Vikas Handa	Infrastructure Lead MENA Region	HyperloopTT
19 Prof. Dr. Sabih Gatea Khisaf	Energy Advisor and Secretary to the ETHST	IBBC
20 Mr John Scott	Health and Higher Education Advisor	IBBC
21 Professor Mohammed Al Uzri	Managing Director	IBBC
22 Mr Christophe Michels	President	IBBC
23 Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne	Marketing Consultant Strategic Development Officer & Honorary Advisor to the Board	IBBC
24 Mr Ashley Goodall	Baghdad Office Manager	IBBC
25 Mr Colin Findlay	Events Manager	IBBC
26 Mr Mohanad Al Khattab	Senior Events Coordinator & Office Administrator	IBBC
27 Ms Agne Abramauskaite	Manager	IBBC
28 Ms Emma Joyce	Senior Administrator	IBBC
29 Ms Ghadeer Haider	Senior Administrator	IBBC
30 Mr Nabeel Moshin	Senior Advisor	IBBC
31 Mr Jon Wilks CMG	Advisory Council	IBBC
32 Mr Mohammed Al-Delaimy	Intern	IBBC
33 Ms Noor Shaban	Resident Representative in Iraq	International Finance Corporation
34 Mr Bilal Al-Sugheyey		

35	Mr Watheq Abed	Senior Correspondent	Iraq Oil Report
36	Dr Abduladheem Al-Saymaree	Director General & Chairman of the Board	Iraq Supreme Maritime Authority, Ministry of Transport
37	Dr. Ali Abbas Khayoon Al-Naseri	Director of Legal Affairs Department & Senior Legal Adviser	Iraq Supreme Maritime Authority, Ministry of Transport
38	Mr Ismael Cobos Delgado	Deputy Director	Maritime Safety Division
39	Ms. Rasha Saad Akram		Iraqi Red Crescent Society
40	Mr Euan McCulloch	Director, Operations	KBR
41	Mr Ritesh Jain	Director, Business Development	KBR
42	Mr Sarmad Al-Khudairi	Advisor to the Board of Directors	Khudairi Group
43	Mr Mohammed Khaldoun Ali	President- Energy Solutions Business Unit	Khudairi Group
44	Mr Osama Majid Hameed	Deputy General Manager	Larsa Security Services
45	Mr Adam Cameron	Country Security Manager	Larsa Security Services
46	Professor Frank Gunter	Professor of Economics	Lehigh University
47	Sheikh Salih Al Barzinje	CEO	London Sky Company
48	Mr Mathew Joseph	Business Development Manager	London Sky Company
49	Ms Bernadette Pereda	Sales Executive	London Sky Company
50	Mr Mahmood Scott	General Manager	London Sky Company
51	Mr Ahmed Al-Haidary	Financial Service Practice Head & Principal Consultant	Management Partners
52	Mr Amar Shubar	Partner	Management Partners
53	Mr. Masahiro Morimoto	General Manager	Mitsubishi Corporation
54	Mr Mohammad Al Mossawi	Director - Developing Market	Moodys
55	Mr Henry Le May	Recruitment Manager	MSELECT
56	Mr Raed Hanna	Managing Director	Mutual Finance Ltd
57	Dr Norman Ricklefs	Chief Executive Officer & Chair	Namea Group
58	Mr Amjad Saidgul Babashekh Barzandji	Group Chairman & CEO	Oilserv Kuwait
59	Ms Sara Akbar	Chairperson & CEO	Oilserv Kuwait
60	Dr Jaafar Oklany	General Manager & Founder International Relations Manager, Kurdistan international Islamic Bank	OSJ Energy Solutions
61	Ms Azheen Falah Mustafa		SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni
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68	Mr Ahmed Abushomi	Government Affairs, Strategic Markets	SAP Middle East & North Africa LLC
69	Ms Leena Zeyad	Deputy General Manager BOD Admin Office	Sardar Group
70	Mr Sardar Al Bebanly	CEO & Chairman, President Toyota Iraq	Sardar Group
71	Mr Steve Alexander	Branch Manager	Sardar Trading Agencies
72	Mr Riad Chehayeb	Aviation Advisor	Serco IAL
73	Mr Fakher Bader	Country Chairman UAE & Iraq	Shell
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78	Ms Mina Al Oreibi	Editor in Chief	The National News
79	Ms Aveen Karim	Assistant Foreign Editor	The National News
80	Mr Mohamad Ali Harisi	Foreign Editor	The National News
81	Mr. Bilal Al Hamdani	President & Chairman of the Board	Trade Bank of Iraq

82	Speaker Tbc		Trade Bank of Iraq
83	H.E. Mr Abdullah Al Saleh	Undersecretary	UAE Ministry of Economy
84	Ms Nadia Namiq Rafeeq		Weinheim Company
85	Mr Ellis Renforth	President, EMEA Operations	Wood Plc
86	Ms Noor Alsheikh	CEO	WTA _London



# EDUCATION DAY

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

## CHAIRMEN OF THE DAY:



### **Professor Mohammed Al Uzri, IBBC**

An Honorary Professor with College of Life Sciences at the University of Leicester and is a Consultant Psychiatrist and Associate Medical Director at the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. Prof. Al-Uzri has significant experience working on various initiatives in Iraq including having coordinated, delivered and advised on numerous health and education developments in Iraq since 2003 and modernising medical education in Iraqi universities. Prof. Al-Uzri's vast experience in the sectors of health and education in the UK and Iraq, as well as a determined desire to improve the situation of Iraqis, makes him an ideal candidate to help IBBC facilitate lasting and effective changes in the areas of health and education.



### **Dr. Amir Saadati, Gems**

Currently a Executive Director at GEMS, bringing experience from previous roles at Iran Technical & Vocational Training, IELTS Iran, Center for Globalization - Iran Presidential Office and International University of Chabahar. Amir Saadati holds a 2010 - 2015 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Imperial College London. With a robust skill set that includes Leadership, Sales, Marketing Strategy, Business Strategy, Business Planning and more, Amir Saadati contributes valuable insights to the industry

## WELCOME ADDRESSES:



### **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, IBBC**

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne is President of IBBC and chairs the AMAR International Charitable Foundation. She is a member of the House of Lords, where she serves on the Select Committee for European Affairs. She is a former computer software developer and software engineer, working in Africa, the City of London and in the USA, and holds seven honorary doctorates from universities in the UK, Romania, and the USA. Her Alma Mater is the Royal Academy of Music. She was elected as a member of parliament for four terms of office, first to the House of Commons and second to the European Parliament. Her interests lie in foreign affairs, human rights, and defence and security.



### **Dr Mohammed Shukri, Kurdistan Board of Investment**

Dr Mohammed Shukri, Chairman of the board, Iraq Council of Ministers, Board of Investment, Kurdistan Regional Government. Practicing government work since 2001, he was the Director of the Follow-up and Planning Department at the Ministry of Interior, after which he became the Director of the Strategic Research Department in the Kurdistan Region Security Council. In 2011, he became the General Director of the Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Department in the region, also, he worked as an effective member of the Economic Reforms Committee in the Kurdistan Region's Presidency for the years 2011 to 2019. He is now the Chairman of the Kurdistan Investment Board in the 9th cabinet of Kurdistan regional government.



### **Professor Hamid Khalaf Ahmed, Advisor to the PM**

Executive Director for the Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq & Advisor to the Prime Minister. Hamid worked as Secretary General for the Council of Ministers(COMSEC) (2014-2015), and as a Chief of Staff for the Ex Prime Minister(2010-2014). He is also PM advisor for Education and HE. He is involved in drafting many policy papers and has worked with UNICEF, UNESCO, and the World Bank, along with relevant ministries to write the national strategy for Education and Higher Education in Iraq.



### **Dr. Hayder Abed Dhahad, MOHE**

Dr. Hayder Abed Dhahad is the Undersecretary for Scientific Research Affairs at Iraq's Ministry of Higher Education. He holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Technology, Baghdad, with research conducted at Brunel University, UK. Dr. Haydar has held leadership roles, including Assistant President for Scientific Affairs at the University of Technology, and is a consultant in energy generation and sustainable systems. With over 140 published papers and multiple patents, his research focuses on energy systems and engineering innovation. Dr. Hayder is an active member of the Iraqi Engineers Union, ASME, and the Libyan Engineers Union. He has received numerous awards, including the University of Al-Ain's Distinguished Researcher Award.



SESSION 1: HIGHER  
EDUCATION

## PANELLISTS:



### **Dr Hazim Al-Zubaidi, MOHESR**

Dr. Hazim Abdulrazzaq Al-Zubaidi, Ph.D. in Chemistry, is the Director of the Governmental Programs Department at Iraq's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. With a Ph.D. from Western Michigan University, he has extensive teaching experience, diverse research contributions in chemistry, and industry insights from his tenure at BASF. Since 2019, he has led initiatives to enhance collaboration between academia and industry, earning numerous awards for his leadership. Dr. Al-Zubaidi is dedicated to bridging gaps between education and industry to strengthen Iraq's scientific and academic landscape.



### **Peter O'Hara, University of London**

Peter O'Hara is Associate Director of New Business at the University of London, specialising in commercial partnerships and strategic opportunities. With over 13 years of experience, he led negotiations and project management for partnerships aligned with the University's strategy. Previously, he was a Regional Business Development Manager for the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, expanding the University's Transnational Education offerings. Peter has also managed Global MBA market development and Teaching Centres, focusing on building international relationships and driving business growth.

## PANELLISTS:



### **Rami Abu EL-Hajja, Ajman University**

Rami Abu-El-Hajja has over 9 years of experience at Ajman University, currently serving as the Continuing Education Manager since June 2020. In this role, he is responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of learning and development plans for internal employees and clients in the private sector, government entities, and the oil and gas industry. Previously, as Operations Manager for the Continuing Education Center from November 2015 to June 2020, Rami managed customer relationships, training delivery, team development, and day-to-day operations. He oversaw trainers, teachers, and training coordinators, while also handling agreements, training initiatives, and projects.



### **Stephen North, Newcastle University**

With over 30 years of experience in Russell Group universities and 14 years in the Middle East, including 4 years as Co-Chair of the UK Saudi Interest Group, he has extensive expertise in international education. Previously an Executive Board member of the British Universities Iraq Consortium, he worked with Iraqi-sponsored students, particularly through HCED. He is also the current IBBC representative for Newcastle University, attending educational events and meeting senior Iraqi delegations. Newcastle holds particular significance for Iraq as the custodian of the UNESCO Gertrude Bell Archiv



### **Jon Wilks, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies**

Jon has been Registrar and Azman Hashim Fellow in International Relations at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies since January 2024. He is also a Distinguished Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute. He retired from HM Diplomatic Service in 2023 after 34 years working mostly on the Middle East. He was British Ambassador to Qatar (2020-23), Iraq (2017-19), Oman (2014-2017) and Yemen (2010-11). He was also Special Envoy for Syria (2012-2014). Jon worked in and on Iraq more than any other country and has been captivated by its history and its people. He is fluent in Arabic and continues to be active in building UK relations with the Middle East.



SESSION 2: PRIVATE  
SCHOOLIG

## PANELLISTS:



### **Raed Mahmoud, Regional Operations Director, SABIS**

Raed Mahmoud is the Regional Director of Operations at SABIS® educational systems, overseeing schools in the Sabis® school network, which serves nearly 70,000 students across more than 20 countries. Since joining in 2001, he became Sabis® representative in Iraq and now oversees operations in Iraq, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. He has been instrumental in expanding the network and working on public-private partnerships. Mr Mahmoud also assists the Iraqi government in shaping international education policies and holds a business management degree and a teaching diploma from Cambridge.



### **Nivar Mahmood Mohamad, SABIS Schools Iraq Region Alumni**

Nivar, a 2013 graduate of the International School of Choueifat-Erbil, holds a bachelor's in Business and Management from the University of Kurdistan-Hewler and a 2024 master's in Public Policy from King's College London. She worked on climate change, sustainability, and women's leadership at the Kurdistan Regional Presidency and is now pursuing a PhD. Nivar advocates for equality, education, and sustainable development.



# SESSION 3: VOCATIONAL TRAINING

## PANELLISTS:



### **Dr Yaseen Ahmed Abbas**

Dr. Yaseen Al Mamori is the President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, leading the organization since 2010. With the Society since 1994, he has guided it through financial challenges and expanded its national and international mission, directing humanitarian responses in Iraq's most difficult areas. He works closely with donors, officials, and partners to ensure effective relief delivery. A physician and surgeon since 1982, Dr. Al Mamori previously served as CEO of multiple hospitals and led the State Company for Marketing Drugs (KIMADIA). He was instrumental in post-2003 medical reforms and has authored numerous studies. He is an active member of several Iraqi medical associations and the Islamic Committee of International Crescent.



### **Dr Tony Degazon, City and Guilds**

Dr. Tony Degazon is the Regional Manager for City & Guilds Group, overseeing operations across the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. With over 30 years of experience, he manages a network of 400+ vocational centers, certifying around 30,000 individuals annually. Tony has held senior roles at the Higher Colleges of Technology (UAE) and contributed to the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, supporting migrant labor coordination in the GCC. He holds a Doctorate in Education from the University of Nottingham, specializing in vocational teaching practices, and is dedicated to empowering individuals through skills development.



### **Dr Nada Al-Abbadi, Ministry of Higher Education**

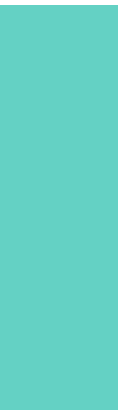
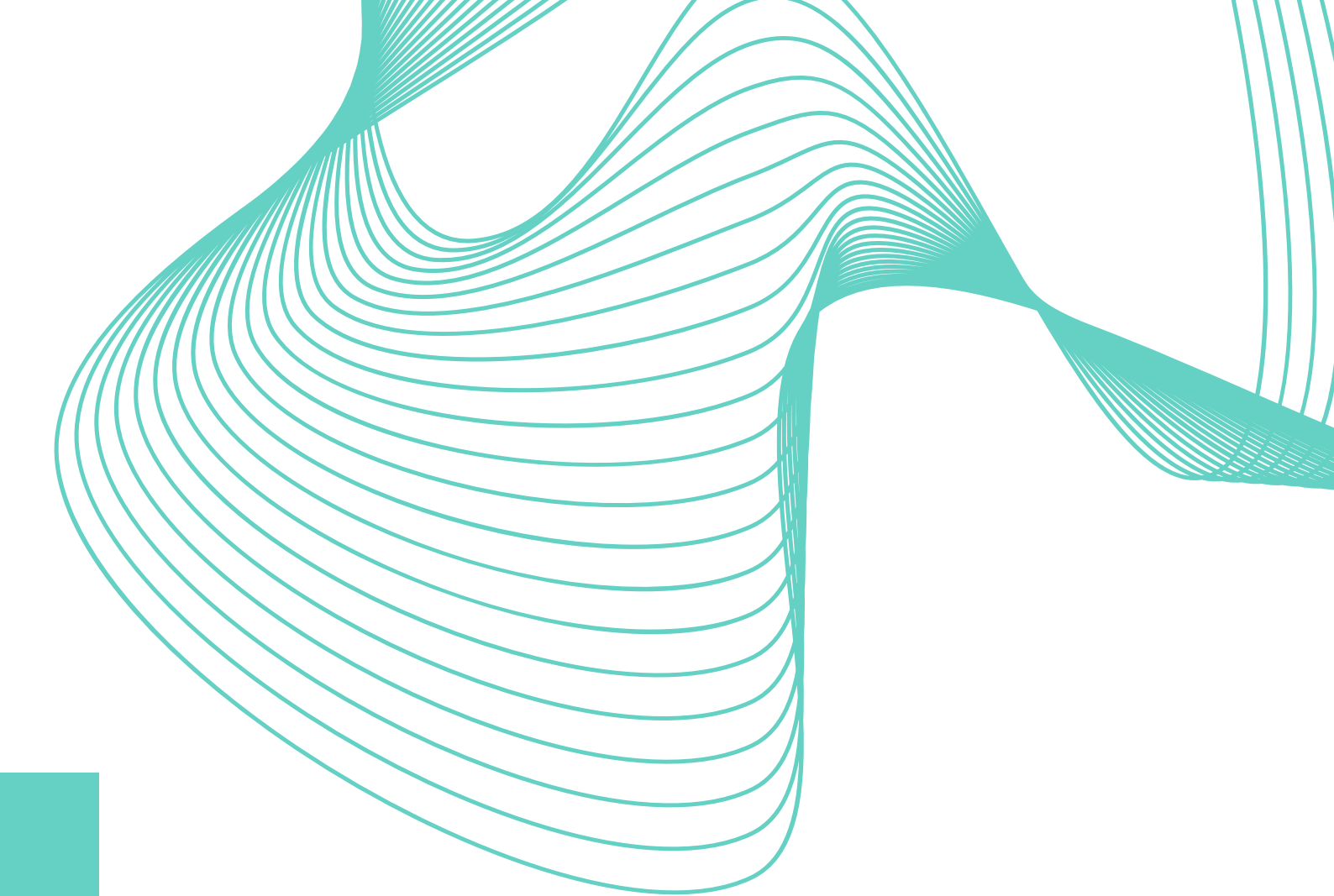
Dr. Nada is a Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Baghdad, specialising in inorganic polymer and bioinorganic chemistry. She holds a B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. from the University of Baghdad. She has published research on nanocomposites and renewable energy catalysis. Dr. Nada has taught various courses, supervised graduate students, and held leadership roles. She is a member of the Iraqi Chemists Association and has received multiple awards for his academic contributions.

## CLOSING REMARKS:

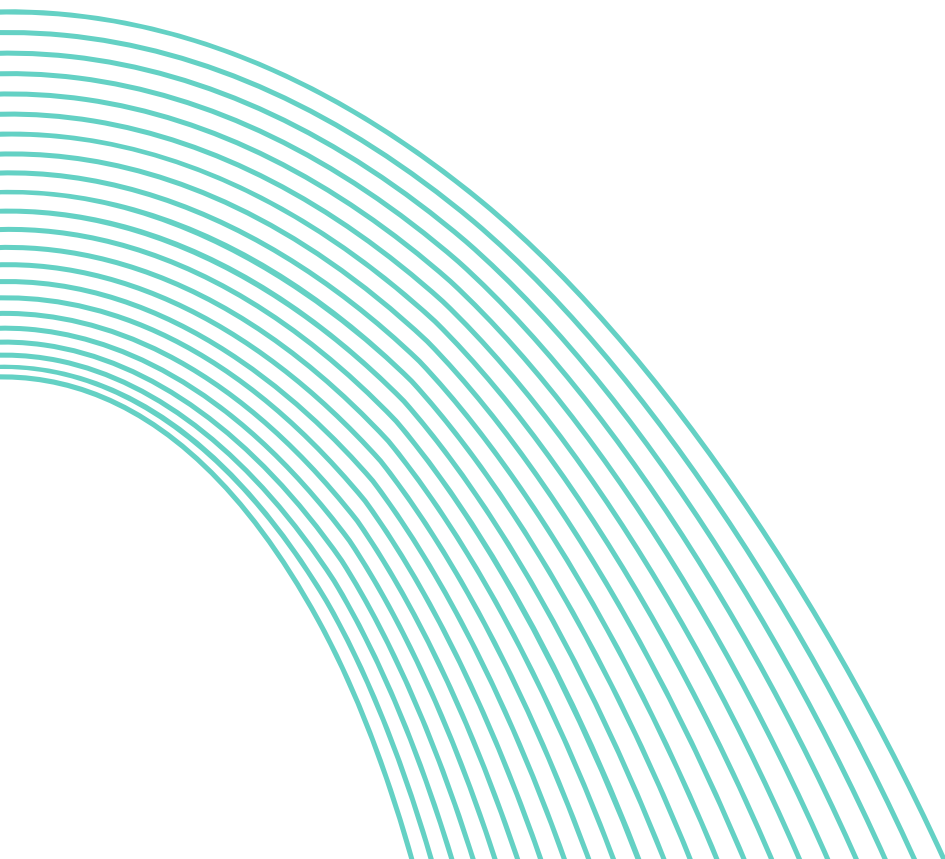


### **Christophe Michels, IBBC**

Christophe is the Managing Director, Iraq Britain Business Council (IBBC). Christophe helped establish the IBBC in 2009 and joined its board of directors in 2017. Prior to IBBC, Christophe headed Baroness Nicholson's political office in the European Parliament (EP). In 2008 he worked for the EP as a consultant in the Iraqi Council of Representatives. He observed the 2012 elections in Yemen, and volunteered for the Amar Foundation in Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and the USA, and for the Russian Booker Prize in Moscow. In 2023 he established the Ukraine Britain Business Council with Baroness Nicholson. Christophe graduated from the Lycée Franco-Allemand in Paris and studied History and Art History in Berlin, Amsterdam & Duesseldorf



# TECH FORUM ONLINE:



CHAIRMAN:



**Ashley Goodall, IBBC**

Ashley Goodall is an experienced Marketing consultant to charitable, business, cultural and financial brands and has worked with IBBC since January 2017. As MD of Saatchi & Saatchi Design Ashley ran large branding projects for clients such as Barclays Capital, Raifeissen bank, The Post office, A1 telecom Austria, Head and Shoulders and T-Mobile. He is a Marketing professional with expertise in brand positioning, brand identity, digital communications, PR, business development and digital entrepreneurs. Ashley has worked for IBBC since 2016 also enjoys music and performs and records albums for [circlemusic.co.uk](http://circlemusic.co.uk).

PANELLISTS:



**Hady El Samra, Iraq Ventures Partners**

Hady El Samra is the Head of Investment and Programs at Iraq Venture Partners, where he oversees the Catalyst Fund and investment readiness programs. Hady has a successful track record in the consultancy sector at a leading firm working on entrepreneurship, market linkages, and manufacturing businesses across a variety of industries. He holds a Master's degree from the University of Sydney and has pursued advanced certifications in Financial Modeling and Valuations, and Venture Capital. He has also published several academic works on Governance and Entrepreneurship.



**Mohammed Azzam, Iraq Ventures Partners**

Mohammed Azzam serves as the Investment Lead at Iraq Venture Partners, where he leverages his expertise in mechatronics engineering and his MBA to foster innovation and drive business growth. With over seven years of experience in the startup ecosystem, Mohammed has founded his edutech startup, consulted for numerous startups and SMEs, and collaborated with various entrepreneurship support organizations in Iraq.

## PANELLISTS:



### **Dr William Page, 1001**

Dr. William Page is an entrepreneur and dual-qualified corporate lawyer, serving as Co-Founder, Chief Strategy Officer, and General Counsel of 1001, a leading video-on-demand platform in the Middle East. With a background in law, strategy, and entrepreneurship, he has driven innovation in the tech and media sectors. Prior to 1001, William worked at top law firms like Herbert Smith Freehills and Vinson & Elkins, where he helped launch STC Ventures Fund. He holds a PhD from the University of Sydney, focusing on corporate-startup collaborations, and an MBA from MGSM. William also sits on 1001's board, guiding the company's growth in the Middle East.



### **Basam Falah, Iraq Tech Ventures**

Basam plays a key role in the Middle East's entrepreneurial ecosystem, serving as General Partner at IVP and CEO of Innovest Middle East, an incubation and investment firm supporting regional startups. He is also the founder of Iraqpreneurs - Ruwwad Al Iraq, a prominent startup competition that offers bootcamps, incubation, mentorship, and pitch events to emerging businesses.

With an Executive MBA from the University of Leicester, Bassam leverages his expertise to empower entrepreneurs and drive growth in the region's vibrant startup scene.



### **Omar Al Handal, Iraq Tech Ventures**

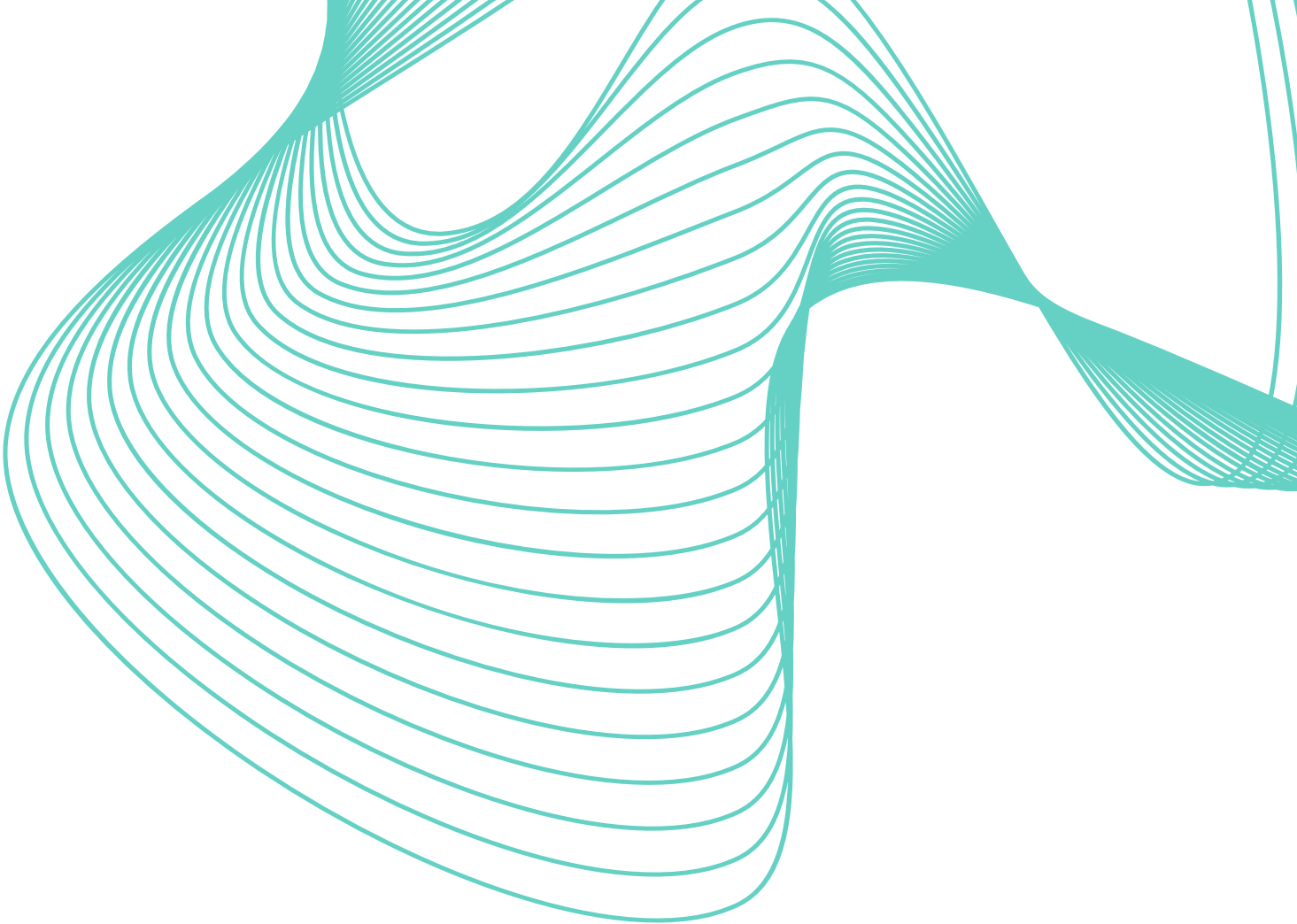
Omar is a General Partner at IVP and Managing Director of Al-Handal International Group, a prominent Iraqi conglomerate with a 40-year legacy in sectors like banking, real estate, tourism, hospitality, and agriculture. He also co-founded The Station Foundation for Entrepreneurship, an incubator that supports Iraqi startups. With a BBA in Management from the American University of Dubai and deep local expertise from Baghdad, Omar drives growth and innovation in every venture he leads.

PANELLISTS:



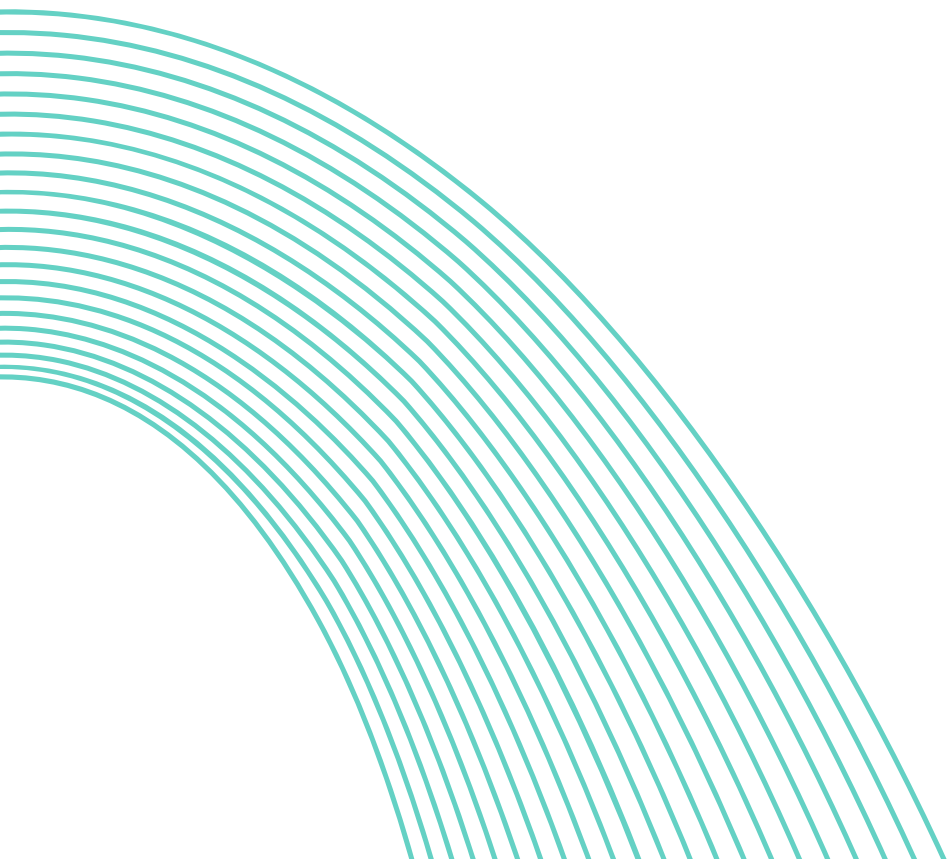
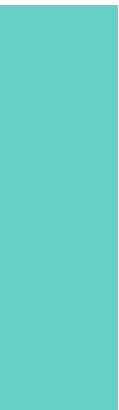
**Professor Sarah Hayes, Bath Spa University**

Sarah Hayes, PFHEA, is Professor of Education & Research Lead at Bath Spa University. Sarah's research includes linguistic analysis of Higher Education policies and examining society through a postdigital lens. Her books include: *The Labour of Words in Higher Education* (2019), *Postdigital Positionality* (2021) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council funded *Human Data Interaction, Disadvantage and Skills in the Community*. Sarah has taught Sociology, Education and Computing, is an Honorary Professor at Aston University and is an Associate Editor for the Springer journal: *Postdigital Science and Education*.



# BUSINESS DAY

Friday, December 13th, 2024



## CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY:



### **Vikas Handa, GCC Representative, IBBC**

Vikas Handa is the IBBC GCC Representative and Managing Director of GulfTek, an API-certified oilfield equipment manufacturer serving the Oil & Gas and Power sectors. He chaired IBBC's Autumn Conference 2017 in Dubai and has been an active member of IBBC. Previously, Vikas led Weir Oil & Gas operations in the Eastern Hemisphere for 17 years, establishing Middle East manufacturing and managing operations in Europe, Africa, and CIS regions.

## WELCOME ADDRESSES:



### **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, President of IBBC**

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne is President of IBBC and chairs the AMAR International Charitable Foundation. She is a member of the House of Lords, where she serves on the Select Committee for European Affairs. She is a former computer software developer and software engineer, working in Africa, the City of London and in the USA, and holds seven honorary doctorates from universities in the UK, Romania, and the USA. Her Alma Mater is the Royal Academy of Music. She was elected as a member of parliament for four terms of office, first to the House of Commons and second to the European Parliament. Her interests lie in foreign affairs, human rights, and defence and security.



### **H.E. Abdullah Al Saleh, Ministry of Economy UAE**

His Excellency Abdulla Al Saleh is the Under Secretary for Foreign Trade and Industry at the UAE Ministry of Economy, leading global trade, Free Trade negotiations, and trade policies. He is Vice-Chairman of the UAE's WTO Committee, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Exports, and holds key roles in various organizations. Al Saleh has served as a diplomat in the UAE Embassies in the US and France and holds an MSc in International Politics and a Bachelor's in Political Science.



### **Sardar Al-Bebany, Sardar Group and Toyota**

Sardar Al-Bebany is the Chairman and CEO of Sardar Group and President of Toyota Iraq. With a background in Civil Engineering, he has led the group since the 1970s, originally focused on motorcycle sales and leasing. By the 1980s, Sardar became a key player in Iraq's automotive market. Under his leadership, the company expanded in 2005 to include vehicle leasing, heavy equipment, and servicing. Today, Sardar Group represents top global brands like Jaguar Land Rover, Toyota, and Polaris, while prioritizing corporate governance and Iraq's future development.



### **Azheen Falah Mustafa**

Azheen Falah Mustafa, International Relations Manager at Kurdistan International Islamic Bank, is a passionate advocate for human rights, gender equality, and community development. With experience at UNDP in New York, the International Organization for Migration, and Canal France International's Mekanati Project, she has supported global development, migration management, and women's empowerment. Azheen holds a master's in International Affairs from the American University of Paris, a bachelor's in Business and Management from the University of Kurdistan-Hewler, and speaks Kurdish, English, Arabic, French, and Turkish.



# SESSION 1: IRAQ AND THE REGION



## CHAIRMAN:



### **Jon Wilks, CMG IBBC Senior Advisor**

Jon has been Registrar and Azman Hashim Fellow in International Relations at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies since January 2024. He is also a Distinguished Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute. He retired from HM Diplomatic Service in 2023 after 34 years working mostly on the Middle East. He was British Ambassador to Qatar (2020-23), Iraq (2017-19), Oman (2014-2017) and Yemen (2010-11). He was also Special Envoy for Syria (2012-2014). Jon worked in and on Iraq more than any other country and has been captivated by its history and its people. He is fluent in Arabic and continues to be active in building UK relations with the Middle East.

## PANELLISTS:



### **Mina Al-Oraibi, Editor in Chief, The National**

Mina Al-Oraibi is the Editor-in-Chief of The National, a daily English-language newspaper in Abu Dhabi. With over 20 years of experience, she has covered Middle Eastern, European, and American affairs and interviewed notable figures like former US President Barack Obama and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. Previously, she was Assistant Editor-in-Chief and Washington Bureau Chief at Asharq Alawsat. Mina also writes for Foreign Policy and Asharq Alawsat and was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. She holds a BA and MA in Modern History from University College London.



### **Norman Ricklefs, Chief Executive Officer & Chair, Namea Group**

Dr. Norman Ricklefs has over 25 years of experience in the Middle East, including more than a decade in Iraq. He served with the Australian and U.S. governments from 2005 to 2010, holding advisory roles during critical events like Iraq's national elections and the Battle of Basrah. In 2013-2014, he advised Libya's Prime Minister on national security. He has been awarded multiple honors, including the U.S. Department of Defense's Outstanding Civilian Service medal. In 2015, he founded NAMEA Group, an advisory firm focused on the Arab and Islamic world. Dr. Ricklefs is also a published historian and a member of Chatham House.



SESSION 2: INFRASTRUCTURE  
& MARITIME

CHAIRMAN:



**Colin Findlay, IBBC**

Colin Findlay is the Executive Director of Severn Glocon Group plc, overseeing operations across eight companies in the UK, Norway, the Middle East, North America, and the Caspian region. With 35 years in oil & gas and power plant maintenance, including 15 years in offshore hook-up and commissioning, he has significantly improved MRO activities and operational costs. Colin is also the Chairman designate of the British Valve & Actuator Association, influencing the £3bn UK valve industry's strategy. He holds a Master's in Engineering Project Management from Aberdeen University and has led major oil & gas projects, including a key valve management contract in the North Sea and strategic investments in Iraq to develop local capabilities.

PANELLISTS:



**Tugrul Titanoglu, CJ-ICM**

Tugrul Titanoglu, COO of CJ ICM Group, has over 25 years of logistics experience in the Oil & Gas, Power Generation, and Defense sectors. A Business Administration graduate from Marmara University, he transitioned from finance to logistics in 2003. He has led key projects in Iraq, including the New Basra Refinery and Majnoon Oilfield CPF 2, and worked on projects across Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Africa. His collaborations include the US Army Corps of Engineers, KBR, and USAID.



**Ahmed Shaban, IBBC Maritime Committee**

Ahmed Shaban, an entrepreneur and CEO with over 25 years of experience, has led ventures across industries including shipbuilding, oil and gas, investment, and trading in Iraq, South Korea, the UK, and Turkey. As the exclusive Yanmar marine engines dealer in Iraq, he has built strategic global partnerships. Holding an MBA from the University of Mustansiriya, Ahmed is a member of the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce and Iraqi Economists Association. He founded the Iraqi Korean Business Council to enhance Iraqi-Korean trade relations and chairs the IBBC Maritime Committee, focusing on Iraq's shipbuilding, port development, and maritime education.



### **Abduladheem Kareem Khalil, Iraq Supreme Maritime Authority**

Dr. Abdul-Adheem Karim is the Director General of the Supreme Iraqi Maritime Authority and a renowned expert in public policy and strategic planning. With extensive experience in Iraq's Ministry of Transport, he has made significant contributions to the country's transportation sector. An academic, Dr. Karim lectures at Iraqi universities and has authored three books, with two more in progress, along with numerous research articles. His work continues to impact both academic and professional fields in Iraq and internationally.



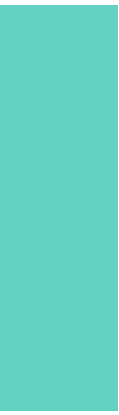
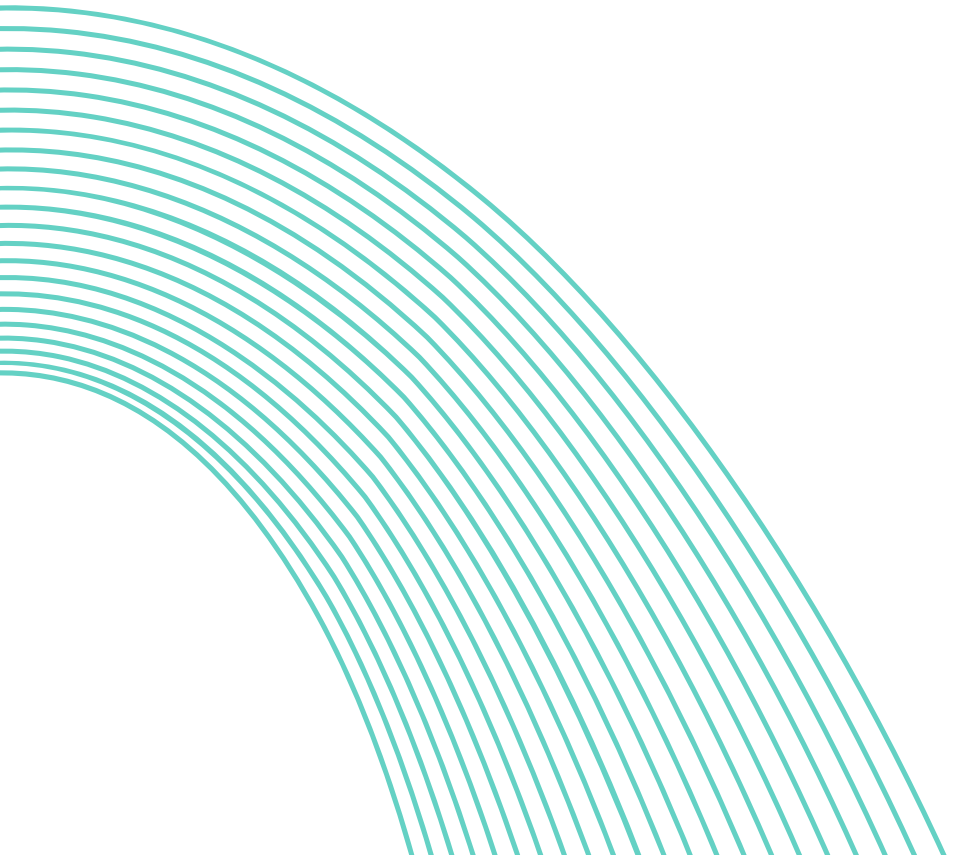
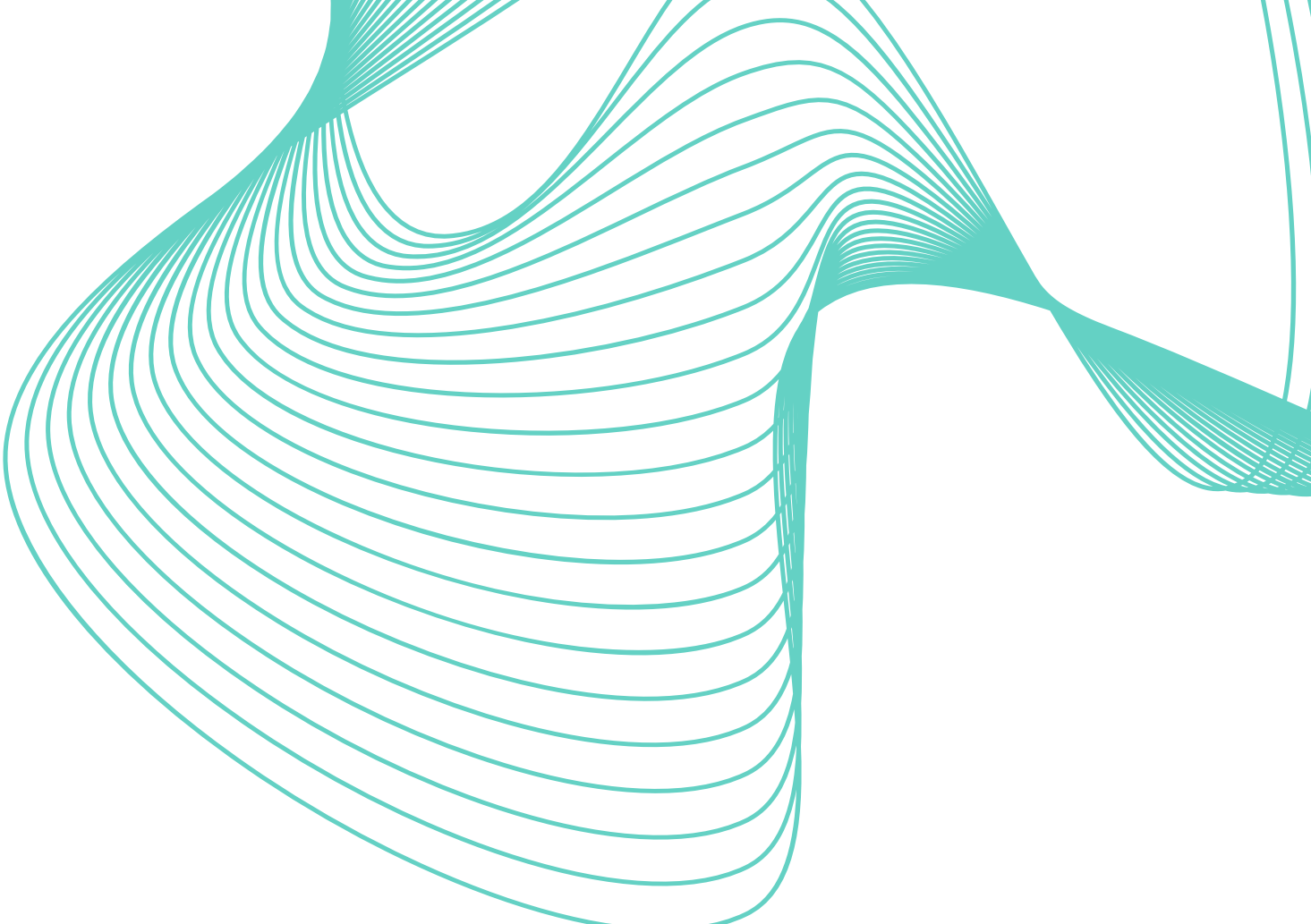
### **Amar Shubar, Management Partners**

Amar Shubar is a Partner at Management Partners (M-Partners), an international consultancy focused on the GCC and Iraq. As co-leader of the Iraq practice, he has supported several Iraqi ministries in their reform and modernization efforts and advised the Prime Minister's Office on addressing Iraq's financial crisis. Amar has also guided both international and local clients on market and investment strategies related to Iraq. Prior to M-Partners, he was a Junior Partner at McKinsey & Company, working in their European and Middle Eastern offices for over 10 years.



### **Ahmed Jasim Naeem Al-Asady, General Maritime Transport Company**

Ahmed Al-Asadi is the General Manager of the General Maritime Transport Company in Iraq, a position he has held since January 2023. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering and has completed various specialized courses in maritime safety, project management, and leadership. Al-Asadi has extensive experience in the maritime sector, having served in key roles, including Assistant Director General of the General Company for Ports of Iraq and Director of multiple Iraqi ports. He has represented Iraq at international forums and worked to enhance the company's regional and global competitiveness. He is dedicated to modernizing the company through electronic automation, increasing revenues, and improving staff training.



# SESSION 3: FINANCE

## CHAIRMAN:



### **Raed Hanna, Mutual Finance Ltd**

Raed was born to a business family with ancient roots in Basrah. He went on to obtain a BSc (Hons) MSc degree from City University in London. In 1990, Raed established Mutual Finance in the UK with a branch in Basrah, to cater for corporates, project finance and infrastructure finance. Mutual Finance has quickly become one of the largest property / project finance intermediary in the sector, with lending of more than £2bn per annum. It is typically involved in the financing of the most high-profile properties and international projects worldwide.

The team at Mutual Finance have the ability to assist with the structuring and procure finance packages for varying infrastructure project types, among others.

## PANELLISTS:



### **Mohammed Al-Delaimy, IBBC**

Mohammed Al-Delaimy is a prominent leader in the banking industry, recognized for his strategic vision and deep understanding of banking operations. As CEO/President of major banks in Iraq, he has driven their success and growth.

With a background at institutions like Bank of America, J.P. Morgan, and Standard Chartered, Al-Delaimy has developed expertise in business growth, risk management, and regulatory compliance. His extensive experience enables him to make informed decisions that benefit stakeholders. A passionate advocate for financial literacy and community development, he promotes economic education initiatives, reflecting his commitment to positive impact. Al-Delaimy holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Grand Canyon University and dual MBAs in International Business and Marketing. With over 30 years in finance, he remains a leader and innovator in the sector.



### **Bilal Al-Sugheyer, IFC**

Bilal al-Sugheyer, a Jordanian and Palestinian national, has over 20 years of global experience in investment, corporate and Small and Medium Enterprises finance and banking advisory support accumulated over his career in IFC, financial and regulatory institutions. Mr. al-Sugheyer joined IFC in 2006 as an Operations Officer in IFC's Financial Infrastructure Group covering the Middle East and Northern Africa, Eastern Europe and Africa, focused on banking and financial infrastructure Advisory Services. He later moved to become an Investment Officer covering financial markets in MENA, Africa and Eastern Europe. Over and starting 2020 was appointed as IFC's Resident Representative in Iraq. Prior to joining IFC, Mr. al-Sugheyer managed the European Union Loan Guarantee Program in Jordan, assumed the responsibility of Senior Credit and Investment Officer in Arab Palestinian Investment Bank, SGBJ, and worked in the Palestinian Monetary Authority in Banking Supervision Department.



### **Jamil Choucair, Standard Chartered Bank**

Jamil Choucair is an experienced banking professional with over three decades in leadership roles across multiple regions. Currently the CEO of Standard Chartered Bank in Baghdad, Jamil previously served as Country Manager for Bank Audi Iraq, where he led the establishment of annual business strategies. His expertise spans corporate banking, project management, and credit management, having held key positions at Bank Audi in both Syria and Iraq.



### **Professor Frank Gunter, Lehigh University**

Frank R. Gunter is a Professor of Economics at Lehigh University, a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and a retired U.S. Marine Colonel. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy from Johns Hopkins University and has received multiple awards for teaching excellence. Frank's two years as an economic advisor in Iraq led to his book *The Political Economy of Iraq* (2021), which was recognized as an "Outstanding Academic Title" by Choice magazine. He has authored several IBBC reports on Iraq's economy, including topics such as exchange rates, privatization, and corruption. Frank lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and three children, and their home houses over 4,000 books.



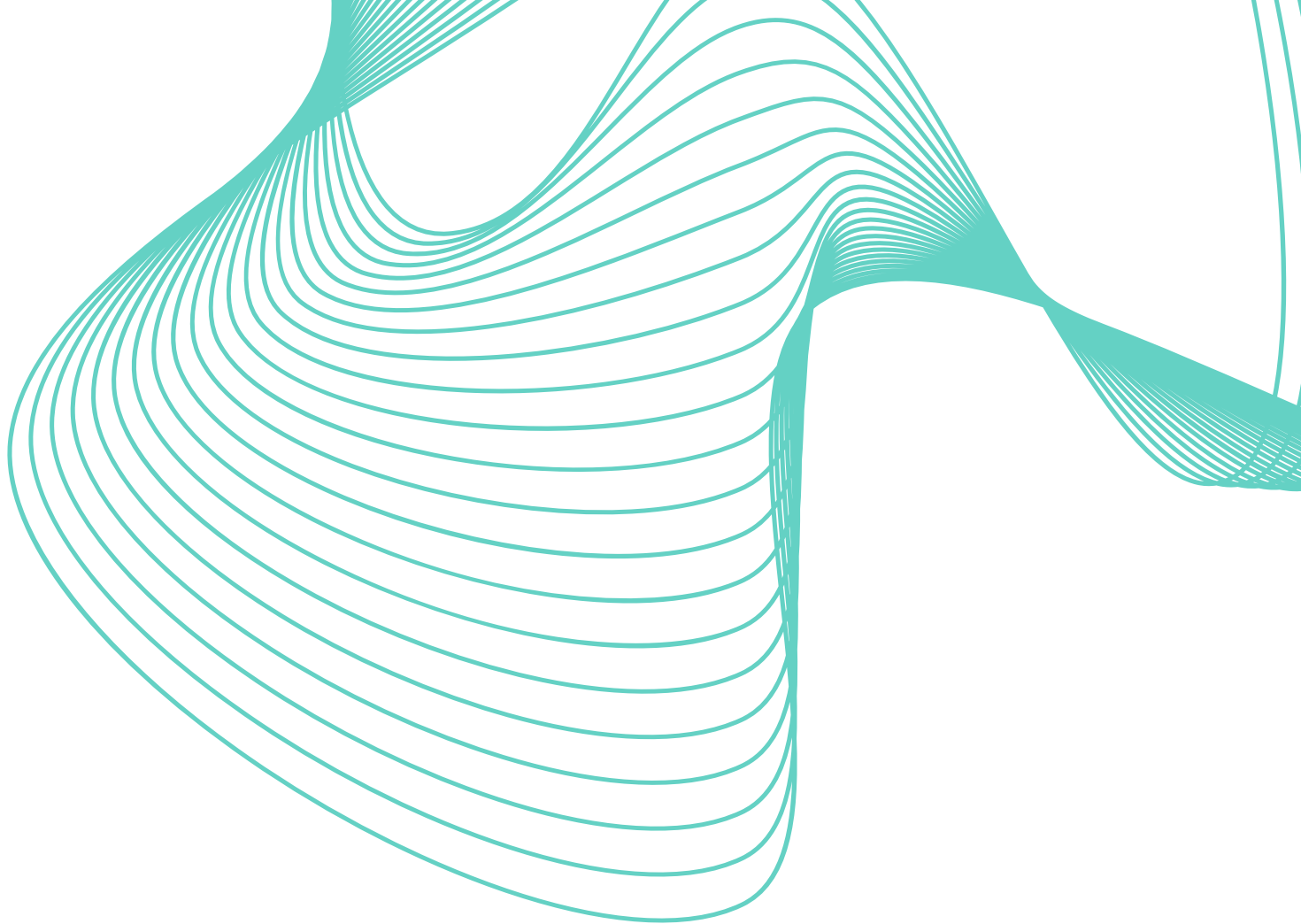
### **Ahmed Al-Haidary, Management Partners**

Ahmed Al-Haidary is a seasoned financial strategist and digital transformation leader with two decades of impactful experience across the MENA region. He has led transformative initiatives spanning financial services, healthcare, and digital ecosystems, with expertise in investment strategy, public sector reform, and financial advisory. As founder of the Financial Services Practice and co-leader of the Iraq Practice at Management Partners Consultancy, Ahmed has pioneered cashless economy policies, crafted strategies for state-owned enterprise reform, and launched innovative fintech solutions.

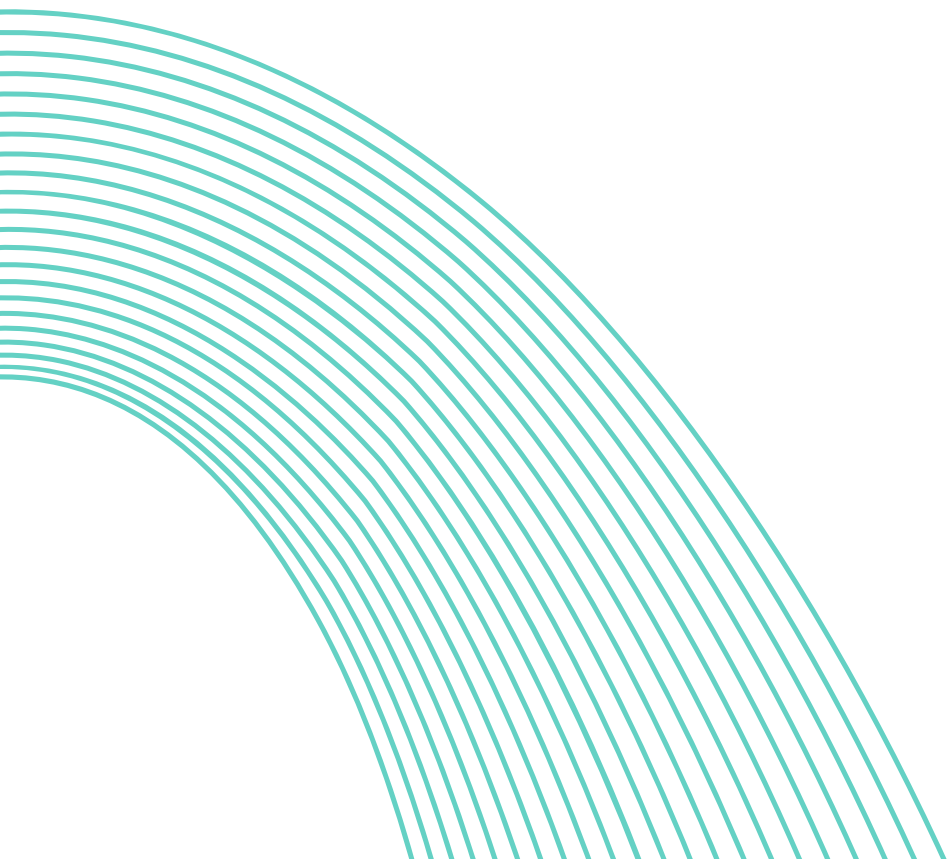


### **Dr Samir Fakhri Naama, Central Bank of Iraq**

Dr. Samir is the Director General of the Statistics and Research Department at the Central Bank of Iraq. He holds advanced degrees in Economics from Baghdad University and has taught at multiple universities. With extensive experience in both academia and administration, Dr. Fakhri has authored several research papers and books on the Iraqi economy. He is also an active member of various economic and academic organizations and has contributed to key national economic policy initiatives.



## SESSION 4: ENERGY



## CHAIRMAN:



### **Vikas Handa, GCC Representative, IBBC**

Vikas Handa is the IBBC GCC Representative and is also the Managing Director at GulfTek (Gulf Technical Factory), which is an API certified oilfield equipment manufacturing and service facility, providing world class products and services to Oil & Gas and Power sector. Vikas chaired IBBC's Autumn Conference 2017 in Dubai and has been an active member of IBBC. Vikas previously headed Weir Oil&Gas operations in the Eastern Hemisphere for 17 years, where he set up the Middle East manufacturing operations and oversaw management of the European, African and CIS regions.

## PANELLISTS:



### **Marfa Al-Asady**

Marfa Kadhim Al Asady is a Chemical Engineer and a graduate of Basra University. He became Deputy Managing Director of Basrah Gas Company (BGC) in August 2020, overseeing production processes, maximizing output, and ensuring safety standards while developing the workforce. He joined BGC during its inception in 2013 and held various roles, progressing from construction engineer to Project Management Authority. Marfa has extensive experience in project management and received the Associated Management Program (AMP) certificate in 2019. Prior to BGC, he worked at South Gas Company, focusing on industrial design and operational solutions. In 2018, he supported the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and has been involved in corporate social responsibility initiatives, including a partnership with Basra University that established a Graduate Recruitment program for engineering students.



### **Ellis Renforth, Wood Plc**

Ellis became President of Operations for EMEA at Wood in 2022, after three years as Senior Vice President for the company's upstream business in the UK and Europe. Based in the UAE, he leads a team of over 7,000, focusing on operations, decarbonisation, and asset optimisation. With 20+ years in the oil and gas industry, Ellis has held senior roles at Aker Solutions and CNOOC International, where he supported subsea development for a major UK North Sea oil discovery. He is committed to driving sustainable growth across EMEA through integrated solutions in oil, gas, new energies, life sciences, and the circular economy.



### **Fakher Bader, Shell**

Fakher is Chairman of Shell Group in Iraq and the UAE, overseeing Shell's Upstream business in Iraq, Kuwait, and the UAE. He joined Shell in 2006 after completing a Finance postgraduate degree in the UK. Starting in the Gas & Power division, he later moved to Dubai to support transactions in the Middle East. In 2016, he became Government Relations Advisor for MENA at Shell's headquarters, and in 2018, he led Oman LNG before becoming GM for Petroleum Development Oman in 2021.



### **Zaid Elyaseri, BP**

Zaid Elyaseri is Country Manager for BP Iraq and responsible for managing BP's business integration in Iraq where BP is the lead contractor for developing the Rumaila oil field, Iraq's largest field contributing over 40% of Iraq's production. Mr. Zaid is responsible for driving business agenda in Iraq, working closely with key energy officials in country. He also held various central and regional roles within BP and was involved in starting up the Rumaila business.



### **Rasheed Al Janabi, GE**

Based in Baghdad, Rasheed leads GE Vernova's partnerships with government, ministries, and private sector customers across Iraq. He serves as the main contact for all country-level matters and collaborates with various GE Vernova businesses, including Gas Power, Grid Solutions, Digital, and Financial Services, to drive Iraq's energy transition. Passionate about developing local talent, Rasheed has led CSR initiatives and projects to nurture the next generation of Iraqi STEM and energy professionals. He holds an EMBA from City, University of London, and an LLM in International Business Law from City Law School.



### **Hassan Heshmat, Hydro-C**

Hassan Heshmat is CEO to group of British, Iraqi and UAE companies operating within energy sectors, established the family business in March 2013 in the UK, Scotland. Inspired by Shell company when established in 1903 as trading company. Evolved the business from trading only to trading and services, providing services to energy companies and IOCs at sites, with main focus on transitioning the energy sector to fully green, renewable and sustainable by 2050. Introducing new technologies and innovations to energy sector which can help transform to greener solutions.

CLOSING REMARKS:



**Christophe Michels, IBBC**

Mr Christophe is the Managing Director, Iraq Britain Business Council (IBBC). Christophe helped establish the IBBC in 2009 and joined its board of directors in 2017. Prior to IBBC, Christophe headed Baroness Nicholson's political office in the European Parliament (EP). In 2008 he worked for the EP as a consultant in the Iraqi Council of Representatives. He observed the 2012 elections in Yemen, and volunteered for the Amar Foundation in Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and the USA, and for the Russian Booker Prize in Moscow. In 2023 he established the Ukraine Britain Business Council with Baroness Nicholson. Christophe graduated from the Lycée Franco-Allemand in Paris and studied History and Art History in Berlin, Amsterdam & Duesseldorf

# GEMS

At GEMS, we are dedicated to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to receive a high quality education. We do this by being a facilitator, an adviser, a catalyst for change and a critical friend to our clients.

Government ministries, universities, colleges and schools are the institutions whose staff deliver education. We work with our clients to enable them to improve learning outcomes, enhance skills, and enrich the lives of the children and young people of their country.

In the last five years, we have worked with hundreds of schools, colleges and universities and supported the professional development of thousands of teachers – ultimately improving the education of over millions of children. Our many years of experience in the design and delivery of large and technically complex education projects sets us apart. We bring proven and practical know-how to the delivery of education services in a wide variety of contexts.

### **Improving lives through education**

At GEMS our mission is to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to improve their lives through access to high quality education. We do this by providing governments and clients with access to the best expertise available and by actively managing our programmes and projects to ensure that governments, schools and teachers have the tools to improve learning outcomes and build better futures.

# GOLD SPONSOR



المصرف العراقي للتجارة  
TRADE BANK OF IRAQ  
بانكى عيراقى بو بازارگانى

Trade Bank of Iraq (TBI), wholly owned by the government of Iraq, was established in July 2003 to facilitate Iraq's international trade and the reconstruction of the country after the expiration of the UN Oil-For-Food Program.

Upon establishment, a consortium of international banks led by JPMorgan Chase Bank, New York assisted TBI in starting its operations. TBI quickly developed into a highly credible and effective organization and built banking relationships with reputable banks within geographical locations that serve our clients' interests and needs. TBI has contributed to revitalizing the Iraqi economy by facilitating imports and exports and also through offering new and innovative services to the public and private sectors.

The Board of Directors is composed of five directors consisting of:

- Mr Mohammed Al Delaimy, Chairman of the Board – Trade Bank of Iraq
- Member (representative of General secretariat for the Council of Ministers)
- Member (representative of Ministry of Finance)
- Member (representative of Ministry of Oil)
- Member (representative of Ministry of Trade)

Today, the bank has developed its network of correspondent banks gaining it a wider geographical coverage and offering it more services at competitive conditions. The bank has established a wide network of correspondent banks throughout the world and built close ties with top international banks; currently the network of correspondent banks is in excess of 400 located in more than 60 countries. The banking network includes: JPMorgan, Citibank, UniCredit, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Standard Chartered Bank, MUFG and many regional banks like: ArabBank, First Abu Dhabi Bank FAB, Ahli United Bank, Emirates NBD, Mashreq Bank, National Bank of Kuwait, The Saudi National Bank. Moreover, in 2017, the Trade Bank of Iraq Letters of Credit, Guarantees and remittances departments received ISO 9001-2015 certification being the first bank in Iraq to achieve the certification for its transaction banking activities.



## GOLD SPONSOR



AZG is a Multinational Manufacturing , Engineering and Services companies with special focus on Shipbuilding and offshore service. Our Shipbuilding production division aims to support our multinational Energy transporters and Ports operators. With more than 25 years of experience, our Energy division provides turnkey Production and Procurement solutions for the Oil and Gas industries across the Globe; in doing so AZG uses only the best and latest Technologically and Environmentally advanced processes. We strive to partner with a multitude of companies from Energy, Shipbuilding as well as Project Management in order to give our valued customers an integrated state of the art solution that is diverse and fitting for tomorrow's requirements. In working with you we will dovetail to achieve your needs and requirements in the most effective manner which will make us your partner of choice today, tomorrow and beyond.

AL ZAMAN Group companies aims to excel in ship building by carrying out new building and ship repair activities in full compliance with the national and international rules, regulations and standards; by keeping customer satisfaction, environmental and occupational health & safety in the forefront; by being open to innovative ideas in the light of continuous improvement and proactive approach, by reaching total quality, safety and environment excellence, without making any concessions from the professional ethics and principles; by ensuring active participation of all employees in a corporate structure and under the top level professionalism with fair and reliable.

We are the partner of choice for high quality, cost effective modular offshore accommodation solutions From small 50- man Living Quarters right through to a luxurious 300-man offshore complex and up to 700-man accommodation barge. We operate a construction method which is safe, efficient and uses fewer simultaneous trades during the build process to ensure interface conformity through to installation and hook up. Internal cabin modules are also utilized to reduce the onsite construction schedule during fit-out and services installation.

GOLD SPONSOR

# Toyota Iraq تويوتا العراق

In March 2016, Toyota Iraq was established through a partnership between Sumitomo Corporation and Iraqi businessman, Mr. Sardar Al-Bebany, owner of Sardar Group. The company was founded with a shared understanding and ambition to become the leading automotive company in Iraq and contribute to a better society. Toyota Iraq is the first exclusive and official distributor for Toyota, Lexus, and Hino in Iraq.

تأسست تويوتا العراق في آذار 2016 من خلال شراكة بين شركة سوميتومو ورجل الأعمال العراقي ومالك مجموعة شركات سردار، السيد سردار البيباني. تم الاتفاق بهدف وطموح مشترك لتصبح الشركة الرائدة في خدمات بيع وصيانة السيارات في العراق والمساهمة في مستقبل أفضل للمجتمع العراقي. تويوتا العراق هي الموزع الرسمي الأول والحصري لسيارات تويوتا ولكزس وهينو في العراق.



Drive with Confidence  
قيادة بكل ثقة



Experience Amazing  
تجربة مذهلة



PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE  
BUSINESS  
شراكة من أجل عمل مستدام



10  
CITIES COVERED  
مدن تم تغطيتها



7  
DEALERS AUTHORIZED  
وكلاء معتمدين



32  
DEALER FACILITIES  
مستودعات لوكلاء



Sardar Group  
مجموعة شركات سردار

Sardar Group aims to achieve sustainable growth and become the leading company in the Iraqi market. We adhere to local laws and regulations while implementing world-class business practices to satisfy our stakeholders. Our commitment extends to contributing to the broader Iraqi society through continuous business development and innovation. We strive to blend our local expertise with international approaches, treating people from all backgrounds and communities with respect and fairness. Additionally, we value our employees, providing them with opportunities to enhance their skills through corporate training, business development, and education.

## OUR BUSINESS PORTFOLIO



GOLD SPONSOR



SABIS®: A GLOBAL LEADER IN EDUCATION SINCE 1886,

SABIS® is a multi-national education management organization and international network of schools backed by over 135 years of experience. Originating from a small school in Choueifat, Lebanon, in 1886, the network has expanded its presence to reach 21 countries on five continents today.

Guided by core values and a commitment to research and development, SABIS® and its global team of professionals and experts aim to create a better world through education. As a result, SABIS® students develop into well-rounded individuals with strong knowledge, real-life experiences, and 21st-century skills, empowered to thrive as independent, lifelong learners in an ever-changing world.

# GOLD SPONSOR



**HYDRO-C**

EXCEEDING LIMITS, PUSHING HORIZONS

Hydro-C is a British family business operating from the United Kingdom, with offices in Iraq and UAE. Hydro-C was established in March 2013, focusing on supporting energy providers and operators worldwide with a focus on energy rich zones i.e. Middle East, GCC, Iraq and Kurdistan region.

The company was established to bridge the gap between Middle East and the European markets by means of supplying and distributing specialised energy related products made in the UK, EU, USA and China. Our aim for 2022 is to transforming the conventional energy sector to greener and more sustainable by building solar powered solutions with private and governmental departments.

Our vision is to merge green energy solutions with Oil and Gas operations, by offering renewable energy options to be used in the process of operations, maintenance and exploration for fossil fuel or in the process of petrochemicals. Then ultimately transform the sector into fully renewable clean energy.



# 5 Game-Changing Capabilities in Generative AI for Business

It's no surprise that generative artificial intelligence is starting to have a profound impact on businesses. With its ability to unlock valuable insights, help make better decisions, automate tasks, and personalize experiences, the use cases are endless. As businesses increasingly recognize the potential of generative AI, key capabilities have emerged, reshaping lines of business and industries, and opening up new avenues for innovation and growth.



**Let's take a look at five capabilities in generative AI that are changing the way businesses are run.**



## RECEPTION SPONSOR



*An ICTSI Group Company*

Basra Gateway Terminal (BGT) is Iraq's premier container and multi-purpose cargo handling facility. It is situated in Umm Qasr, 50 km from Basra and 500 km from Baghdad.

Operated by International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), BGT's team of high-performing Iraqi and International port professionals deliver customer-focused, high productivity and congestion-free port services to Iraq's economy.

In April 2014, ICTSI signed a contract for 26 years with General Company for Ports of Iraq (GCPI) to operate, develop, and expand the cargo handling facilities at the Port of Umm Qasr with an investment of over USD 250 million. BGT is operating six berths catering for container, general, project and RORO cargo supported by state-of-the-art technology in Iraq's port sector. BGT is the first and only terminal operator in Umm Qasr capable of handling 14,000 TEU container vessels in an efficient manner in Iraq.

International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) is an internationally recognized expert in port construction, operation and management with more than 30 years of experience. It is one of the major maritime terminal operators in the world present in 6 continents, operating 33 marine terminals positioned in some of the world's most strategic trade lanes.

## TRAVEL PARTNER



**LONDON SKY**

## WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PARTNER

**mselect.**

# WHAT IS THE IRAQ BRITAIN BUSINESS COUNCIL?

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Founded in 2009, the Iraq Britain Business Council brings together business, trade and investment, for the benefit of the Republic of Iraq and its members. It is a powerful network of some of the most important global corporations, Iraqi and British companies, chambers of commerce and universities and enjoys support from governments and international institutions. Committed to a free, prosperous and diverse Iraq, IBBC has created strong relationships to benefit business, industry and education for the people of Iraq. IBBC is more than a business initiator, it promotes best practice and international standards as well as transferring technology and know-how.

IBBC is fully funded by its members and is registered as a not for profit company in the UK with number 06929280 and as an NGO in Iraq with registration number 2D76104.

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS

Company	Principal Activities	Contact
AAA Holding Group	Fertilisers	Mr Amet Selman
Alzaman Group	General Trading	Mr Abdullah Shaban
Al Busttan	Oil & Gas	Mr Ismael Al Busttan
Al Burhan Group	Logistics, life support	Mr Abir Burhan
Al Hadeel Al Hasan LLC	Legal Services	Mrs Hadeel Hasan
Alkhorayef Group	Agriculture, Energy, Manufacturing	Mr Salaheldin A. Eisa
Al Maseer Insurance Company	Insurance	Mrs Sarah Safa
Basra Gateway Terminal	Logistics	Mr Romeo A. Salvador
Basrah Gas Company	Oil & Gas	Mr Bashar Kassab Hasan
Bath Spa University	Higher Education	Professor John Strachan
BP	Oil & Gas	Mr Zaid Elyaseri
Cambridge City Company for educational services	Education	Ms Chapka N.Othman
CISQ - Cambridge International School	Education	Dr Kodo S Aziz
Control Risks	Security	Mr Chris Boaler
CJ-ICM	Logistics	Mr Altug Sozalan
DAAX	Construction	Mr Hossein Gozal
Defaf Alkhaleej Security	Security	Mr John Kitchen
D.P.D. Ltd (Date Palm Developments)	Business Development	Ms Joanne Bayley
Dolavon GB	Financial Services	Mr Jorge Vila
Ecolog International	Professional Services	Mr Kurtish.Kurtishi
Etihad Law	Legal Services	Mr Ahmed Hankawi
ENKA UK	EPC O&G / Energy/ Infrastructure	Mr Mustafa Kevser
Ernst & Young Iraq	Financial Services	Mr Waddah Barkawi
G4S	G4S Secure Solutions	Mr Jon Allen
GE	Digital Industrial Services	Mr Rasheed Al Janabi
GEMS Consult	Education	Dr Amir Saadati
GulfTek Arabia	Oil & Gas	Mr Vikas Handa
Glory Auto Group	Retail	Mr Amjed Abdullah
Hogan Lovells International LLP	Legal Services	Mr Ardil Salem
Hydro C	Professional Services	Mr Hasan Heshmat
International Islamic Bank	Financial Services	Mr Haider F. Al-Shamaa
Iraqi Fed. of Chambers of Commerce	Business Development	Mr Abdulrazzaq Al-Zuhairi
International Development Bank	Financial Services	Dr Zead Khalaf
KBR	Const. & Eng. & Servicing	Mr Ritesh Jain
KAR Group	Energy	Mr Balen Ako
Khudairi Group	Oil & Gas	Mr Aziz Khudairi
London Sky Company	Travel Agency	Sheikh Salih Al Barzinje

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS

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Martrade Shipping & Logistics	Logistics	Mr Armit Agrawal
Management Partners	Consulting	Mr Amar Shubar
MHDInternational	Consulting	Mr Montadhar Najem
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MSELECT	Staffing and Outsourcing	Mr Hal Miran
Mutual Finance	Finance	Mr Raed Hanna
National Bank of Iraq	Finance	Mr Ayman Abudhaim
Newcastle University	Higher Education	Mr Stephen North
Oilserv Kuwait	Oil & Gas	Mr Hussain Al-Mosawy
Petrofac	Oil & Gas	Mr Ammar Ishaq
Protechnique	Engineering, Procurement & Construction	Mr Basem Hasan
PwC	Professional Services	Mr Riyaz Dhalla
Queen Mary University	Education	Mr Lee Wildman
SAP	Software/IT	Ms Batoul Housseini
Sama Hammurabi Law Firm	Legal Services	Mr Mohammed Al Asadi
Sardar Trading Agencies	Car Retail & Distribution	Mr Sardar Al Bebany
Siemens	Energy, Mobility, Automation	Mr Darren Davidson
Standard Chartered Bank	Banking	Mr Jamil Choucair
Stirling Education	Education	Mr Timothy Donald Fisher
Shahan Company	Architecture	Mr Dlovan Barakat
The International School of Choueifat -	Education	Mr Raed Mahmoud
SABIS Iraq		
Turnkey	Logistics	Brigadier James Ellery
Trade Bank of Iraq	Banking	Mr Mohammed Al-Delaimy
UB Holding	Group of Companies	Mr Khalil Nezir
Unihouse Global	Education & Training	Mr Aows Abdallah
University of Dundee	Education	Mr Jason Norris
University of Liverpool	Education	Mrs Christine Bateman
UK Education in Iraq	Education	Dr Victoria Lindsay
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Wood	Engineering & Construction	Mr Shaun Dewar
Zaha Hadid Architects	Architecture	Mr Charles Walker
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# IBBC



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