

صدى أمسي  
AMSI VOICES



4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
AMSI VOICES  
CONFERENCE

#AMSIvoices صدی\_امسي

MAKING  
MY DECISIONS,  
OWNING  
MY OUTCOMES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
Al Mawakeb Al Khawaneej,  
Dubai, UAE

This booklet belongs to:



AMSI Voices is an AMSI Alumni initiative



المواكب  
AL MAWAKEB



International  
School of  
Arts & Sciences  
an AMSI managed school

ISAS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AL KOURA  
an AMSI School



Academia Management Solutions International, AMSI, and its schools, have been dedicated to transforming the lives of students for over 30 years.

AMSI schools have graduated over 6000 students and have been home to over 200000 students at one time or another.

As educators with a wealth of knowledge and international expertise, we have a daily quest for the betterment of our schools.

As parents, all we want is the betterment of children's education.

As a management company that combines family values with a professional approach, we developed a sense of the urgency at both the schools level and the investor level.

We became the solution provider we set out to be.



Visit us on [www.amsi.ae](http://www.amsi.ae).

*transforming lives since 1979...*

1979



AMSI launches the first Al Mawakeb School in Dubai, UAE

Mid 1990s



AMSI acquires IS Koura in Lebanon

Late 1990s



AMSI launches Al Mawakeb Al Barsha in Dubai, UAE

2004



AMSI launches N4B

2007



AMSI launches The International School of Arts & Sciences in Al Warqaa, UAE

2008



AMSI takes over the management of The Lebanese School in Qatar

2010

AMSI acquires 5-year corporate accreditation from AdvancED

2010



AMSI initiates Al Mawakeb Damascus

2014



AMSI appointed consultant & advisor to Al Ain English Speaking School

2014



AMSI appointed consultant & advisor to The German International School Dubai

2015



AMSI takes over the management of Alruwad International School in Oman

2018



AMSI launches Al Mawakeb - Al Khawaneej in Dubai, UAE

رؤيتنا أن نرُدَّ الجميلَ لصرحِ تهلُّنا من  
معينه وأن نُشكِّلَ لطلبتنا مصدرَ إلهامٍ  
يتركُ أثرًا في حياتهم.

«صدي أمسي» مبادرة أطلقها خريجو مدارس «أكاديمية الدولية حول الإدارة AMSI» ممن يشغلون حاليًا مناصب رفيعة ومرموقة وتجمعهم أفكار مشتركة، ويلتزمون بدعم الشباب في دبي لتطوير أنفسهم، مهنيًا وشخصيًا، وتحقيق طموحاتهم. تتطلع هذه المجموعة إلى الإسهام في تحقيق مستقبل مشرق لشباب دبي من خلال استضافة فعاليات وإتاحة فرص تدريب وإشراف مختلفة. كما أن أعضاء مبادرة «صدي أمسي» ملتزمون بدعم شباب اليوم لتحقيق ما يصبون إليه من مستقبل واعد عبر استثمار الوقت والموارد والحلول المتاحة لتوجيههم نحو ما يخدم مصلحتهم يحقق طموحات وطنهم.

“Our vision is to give back, inspire,  
make a difference and touch the  
lives of our students.”

AMSI Voices, whose members are all graduates from AMSI schools, is a team of like-minded professionals committed to enabling the career and personal development goals of youth in Dubai. This group of highly diverse, educated professionals are contributing to the future of Dubai's young people by hosting events and other mentorship opportunities. AMSI Voices is a proactive group linked by shared experiences and committed to a positive, outcome – driven future by dedicating time, resources and solutions to address current issues faced by young people in the UAE.





**Alissar Nasr Soubra - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1984**

AMSI Chief Academic Officer

- Masters of Education in Administrative Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University
- Has more than 25 years of experience in academic planning, curriculum development, and school operations

**Hind Abdul Hamied Seddiqi - Al Mawakeb Al Barsha, Class of 2001**

Chief Marketing & Communication Officer of Seddiqi Holding

- Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications from the American University of Sharjah
- Ranked #23 on Forbes Middle East list of Most Influential Arab Women in Family Business



**Mania Merrikhi - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2000**

Vice President Marketing and Business Development at Al Baddad

- Doctorate of Business Administration from Atlantic International University, USA
- Master in International Business from Wollongong University
- Former Head of Communications at Economic Zones World
- Has over 17 years of experience in Marketing and Communications and Business Development

**Mariam Al Afridi - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 1999**

Director of Government Communications Department of Economic Development  
Government of Dubai

- Doctorate of Business Administration from the British University in Dubai
- Sheikha Shamsa Award for Innovative Women in the trade category 2013
- Overall Professional Winner by Emirates Women Award 2010



**Mahra Al Khaja - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2005**

Project Manager at Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA)/Makeup Artist

- Masters in General Management from the Canadian University in Dubai
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at American University in Dubai
- Diploma in Fashion/Photographic/Media Makeup Diploma from The London School of Makeup and Beauty
- Played the role of vice chairman of Emirates Aluminium Ladies Club to empower women



**Marwa Al Shaibani - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2008**  
Freelancer Event Planner (Honorary Steering Committee Member)

- Masters in International Relations from the University of Wollongong in Dubai
- Founder of Young Eager Steps 2009-2015
- Strategy Project Executive Jafza 2013-2015
- Created more than 50 events in community service
- Participated in TED talks at the age of 19
- Led a team in Jafza to be nominated in Hamdan Bin Mohamed Awards for the first time

**Dino Drimakis - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2005**

Founder of EMI/Operations Manager NMK Electronics Group

- Business Marketing degree from California State University (Northridge)
- Dino has been responsible for implementing new strategies, managing and developing growth opportunities within NMK Electronics Group, a major distributor of AV and communication equipment in the region



**Mohammed Al Harmi - Al Mawakeb Al Barsha, Class of 2000**

Director of Corporate Development Department at Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)

- M.S. in Aerospace Engineering at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)
- Al Harmi is the leader of the ground segment system engineering for the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) – Hope

**Tarek Berri - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2002**

Founder of Tarek Berri Architects

- Masters in Architecture from Barcelona Institute of Architecture, Barcelona, Spain
- Tarek is an architect, interior designer and experimental furniture designer





8:30 - 8:35	Registration
9:10 - 9:12	UAE National Anthem
9:12 - 9:16	AMSI Voices video
9:20 - 09:30	Opening Remarks - Ms. Alissar Nasr Soubra, AMS 1984
9:40 - 11:00	<p><b>Panel 1: Courageous Choices</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Mania Merrikhi, AMG 2000  <b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Noof Omar, AMB 2014</li> <li>•Fadl Safadi, AMG 2005</li> <li>•Amna Bin Thaneya, AMB 2009</li> <li>•Alia Lootah, AMG 2006</li> <li>•Mohammad Almansoori, AMB 2010</li> </ul>
11:00 - 12:20	<p><b>Panel 2: From Plan A to Passion</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Hind Seddiqi, AMB 2001  <b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hiba Nahawi, AMG 2002</li> <li>•Yasser Alkhoory, AMB 2007</li> <li>•Antonio Chidiac, ISAS 2013</li> <li>•Alya Didier, AMB 2007</li> <li>•Buthaina Rais, AMG 2002</li> </ul>
12:30 - 13:00	1st round of Breakout Sessions
13:00 - 13:35	Lunch
13:45 - 14:15	2nd round of Breakout Sessions
14:25 - 15:40	<p><b>Panel 3: Lessons Learned</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Alissar Nasr Soubra, AMS 1984  <b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Marjan Faraidooni, AMS 1995</li> <li>•Fadi Gwanny, AMS 1998</li> <li>•Talal Nasralla, AMB 1999</li> <li>•Feras Alshamsi, AMG 2001</li> <li>•Noora Alabbar, AMG 2000</li> </ul>
15:45 - 16:00	Closing Remarks



**Marjan Faraidooni - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1995**

Senior Vice President, Legacy Development & Impact - Expo2020 Dubai

- Bachelor of Science in Human Physiology from Boston University
- Masters degree in Public Health from Boston University
- Started her career as an instructor at the Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah
- Worked in government related entities focusing on Strategy and Planning
- Currently responsible for developing and implementing 3 programs at Expo2020 Dubai



**Fadi Gwanny - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1998**

Life Coach & Photographer

- Bachelor Degree in Photography from the American University in Dubai
- Passion for wedding photography
- Studied NLP, hypnosis, time paradigm and life coaching
- Opened his own institute, Gwannian Creative Coaching Institute



**Talal Nasralla - Al Mawakeb Al Barsha, Class of 1999**

Director - Private Banking

- Bachelor in Business Administration from the American University in Dubai
- Private banking professional with an investment banking background
- Talal worked in the worlds leading financial institutions providing financial solutions and advice to families in the UAE, and sovereign wealth funds
- Raised a Billion dollars in debt and equity
- Former board member in 3 large companies
- Co-founded several successful businesses in Dubai



**Noora Alabbar - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2000**

Director of Strategic Media Affairs at Dubai Government Media Office (DGMO)

- Bachelor Degree in Mass Communication/Major in Journalism from the Higher Colleges of Technology
- Master of Arts in diplomacy and international relations from the Emirates Diplomatic Academy
- 15 years of experience working in the dubai government/semi government entities in various industries
- Worked in business development, communication, strategy, governance and international affairs.



**Feras Alshamsi - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2001**

Senior Manager at Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA)

- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering/Minor in Engineering Project Management from the American University of Sharjah
- Talal has been working in EGA for the past 12 years in different departments (Project Management, Business Development and Sales and Marketing)



**Buthaina Rais - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2002**

Founder and Managing Director of Mixari

- Bachelor of Arts in Graphic design from Zayed University
- Worked for the government for around 10 years



**Hiba Nahawi - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2002**

Managing Partner at Nahawi Design Studio

- Bachelors in Interior Architecture from the American University in Dubai
- Masters in Interior Design from Florence Design Academy in Italy
- 11 years of work experience in the field of Interior Design
- Headed the ID for the new Dubai Airport
- Most popular projects designed: Lock stock & Barrel, Black Tap, The Hide & RTA offices



**Fadi Safadi - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2005**

Business Development Manager at Al Safadi Restaurants

- Bachelor in Marketing from the American University of Dubai
- Masters in Business Administration from the London Business School
- Setup and opening of Al Safadi Restaurant - Erbil, North of Iraq
- Restructuring of the top management of Al Safadi Restaurants (620 employees)
- Managed the expansion plan of Al Safadi 3 outlets opening in the last 2 years
- Led the negotiation for the sale transaction between Al Safadi Restaurants and Audacia Capital (DIFC based Private Equity)



**Alia Lootah - Al Mawakeb Al Garhoud, Class of 2006**

Assistant Curator - Modern and Contemporary Art at the Louvre Abu Dhabi  
Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi

- Bachelors of Fine Arts from the University of Sharjah



**Alya Didier - Al Mawakeb Al Barsha, Class of 2007**

Consultant at GE Healthcare

- Masters of Science in Health Administration from Georgetown University
- Process improvement expert with 5 years in the healthcare industry
- Worked with a wide range of healthcare institutions including specialized centers of excellence, medical and travel security assistance and healthcare management start-ups.
- Prior to moving to Dubai, Alya was based in Singapore working at Johns Hopkins Singapore and International SOS where she introduced new processes, developed performance dashboards, created policies and procedures, and implemented operational standards.





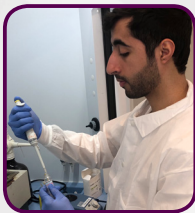
**Yasser AlKhoory - Al Mawakeb Al Barsha, Class of 2007**  
Drilling Supervisor - ADNOC

- Masters in Project Management from Queeboland University, Australia
- Record holder for fastest ERD Well Drilled
- Is the youngest Drilling Supervisor in UAE Sour Fields



**Amna Bin Thaneya - Al Mawakeb Al Barsha, Class of 2009**  
Assistant Development Manager at Emaar Development

- Bachelors Degree in Architecture from the American University in Dubai
- Started her career with Meraas Holding where she worked in the entertainment sector on projects like Box Park, Citywalk, Dubai Parks and La Mer to name a few
- Currently working with the development team in Emaar on Emaar South near the Expo and Al Maktoum area site in Dubai South



**Mohammad Almansoori - Al Mawakeb Al Barsha, Class of 2010**  
1st Lieutenant Assistant Expert/Forensic toxicologist in the Department of Forensic Science and Criminology at Dubai Police

- Bachelor of Science in Physiology from the University of Manchester
- Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology from the University of Glasgow
- Member of the Federal Youth Science Council
- Finalists for the Ideas4action World Bank competition
- Founder of Tech Start up: Designfort
- Member of Dubai Police Science Council
- Member of Dubai Government Accelerators Program as Dubai Police representative
- Head of Dubai Police Forensic Science module initiative for GEMS schools
- Vice head of Crime Scene Game Initiative
- An enthusiastic linguistic, currently fluent in almost 5 languages, native language Arabic, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Esperanto with an intermediate level in Italian



**Antonio Chidiac - International School of Arts & Sciences (ISAS), Class of 2013**  
Strategy Consultant at PwC

- Masters in Psychological & Brain Sciences from Boston University
- Master of Science in Management from Boston University
- Minor in Economics
- 1st Place - PwC Fiercest Competitor Case Competition
- Dean's Achievement Scholarship Award - Boston University Questrom School of Business
- Dean's List (Spring '16, '17 & Fall '16) - Boston University College of Arts and Sciences
- Class of 2013 AMSI Leadership Award



**Noof Omar - Al Mawakeb Al Barsha, Class of 2014**  
First officer at Emirates Airlines

- Commercial Pilot License, Spain
- Joined Emirates National Cadet Pilot programme in 2014
- Youngest emirati female pilot
- AMSI Leadership award
- Outstanding athlete award
- Recognition and high distinction awards in senior year

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# My Notes



“قراراتي تصنع مكتسباتي”

“Making my Decisions,  
Owning my Outcomes”

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# VOICE YOUR THOUGHTS

In this space, tell us how you felt about this conference and what you are walking away with.

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Nov. 2018

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