

GUIDING INNOVATION TOGETHER

Advisory Council 2025
Technology Councils 2025



YBG



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PREFACE

This booklet is a tribute to the collective vision, expertise and commitment that drive NIC Karachi's mission to empower startups and transform Pakistan's innovation landscape. As the largest tech incubator in the country, we recognize that true entrepreneurial growth requires more than just funding and infrastructure, it demands deep mentorship, strategic advisory and meaningful industry linkages.

Through the formation of sector-specific councils and advisory committees, we have united industry leaders, ecosystem enablers, policy advocates and subject-matter experts who generously contribute their time and expertise voluntarily. Together, they form a single, powerful platform dedicated to guiding our founders at every stage of their journey. This publication introduces the brilliant minds behind each council, showcasing the diverse talent pool that strengthens our programming and champions Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

We hope this booklet not only informs but inspires, reflecting the strength of collaboration, the generosity of shared knowledge, and the transformative impact of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable, inclusive innovation across Pakistan.



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About NIC Karachi



The National Incubation Center Karachi (NIC Karachi) is Pakistan's largest tech incubation hub, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable business growth. Over the years, it has nurtured **376** startups, generating over **1 million** jobs, helping startups raise more than **PKR 12 billion** in investment and generating **PKR 10 billion** in revenue (as of 2025).

Since 2024, NIC Karachi has entered a new chapter: it is now jointly managed by **LMKT, Lucky Landmark** (part of YB Group), and **Orbit Startups**, with continued support from Ignite. Building on its legacy, the center offers cutting-edge workspaces, a vibrant innovation lab with FinTech, Industrial Automation and Podcast zones, plus recreational areas, an auditorium and modern meeting rooms.

NIC Karachi amplifies impact through tailored training, one-on-one coaching, inclusive mentorship, cloud credits, and investor access, including Ignite grants and AWS/Google Cloud support. With a dedicated team fostering ecosystem partnerships, it continues to accelerate startups from ideation to scalable success.



About Partners



NIC Karachi is powered by an unmatched alliance of public and private sector leaders, making it Pakistan's most formidable startup launchpad.

At its core, the Ministry of IT & Telecom (MoITT), through Ignite – National Technology Fund, drives digital transformation and invests in entrepreneurship and skills development. LMKT, Pakistan's largest incubation network operator, delivers world-class mentorship, infrastructure, and growth programs.

Since 2024, YB Group, one of Pakistan's most influential conglomerates, has brought industrial strength, financial resources and innovation-led vision to the ecosystem. Orbit Startups, the most active international accelerator in Pakistan with 23 local investments, adds global scaling expertise and investor access.

Together, these forces accelerate Cybersecurity, Industrial Automation, FinTech, Women-led startups and other high-growth sectors, enabling innovation, funding, and global market reach at an unprecedented scale.



Success Stories from NIC Karachi



From ride-hailing trailblazers to green-tech innovators, NIC Karachi has powered a roster of startups redefining Pakistan's tech landscape:

Bykea emerged as a homegrown logistics powerhouse. Within NIC Karachi's 1st cohort, it raised **\$22million** in SeriesA funding to scale Urdu-first bike-based transport, delivery and fintech services, now clocking millions of monthly bookings across four major cities.

EncorePay, Asani.io, EarthWarriorz, Autilent, Fortify, TicketWala and **Speedoy** have also graduated from NIC Karachi's ecosystem, forging new ground in sectors ranging from digital payments and e-commerce to climate action, cybersecurity, smart urban solutions and immersive tech.

Each startup reflects NIC Karachi's mission, combining local relevance with bold innovation.

They stand not just as alumni, but as ambassadors of the center's capability to incubate scalable, impact-driven ventures.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Syed Azfar Hussain,
Project Director, NIC Karachi

At NIC Karachi, we believe that innovation thrives at the intersection of ideas, expertise and collaboration. These dedicated councils reflect our deep commitment to building a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem through strategic guidance, industry linkages and collective wisdom.

Each council brings together domain leaders who serve not only as mentors, but as co-creators of the future we envision, one where Pakistani startups scale with purpose, resilience and global relevance. From ESG to Fintech, Academia to Corporate Innovation, these councils are designed to bridge knowledge, open markets and accelerate meaningful growth.

I am deeply grateful to all council members for lending their time, insights and leadership to support our mission. Together, we are not just enabling startups, we are shaping industries, driving impact and laying the foundation for a more inclusive, tech-enabled Pakistan.

Let this book serve as both a record and a reminder of the power of partnership.


ADVISORY BOARD



The Advisory Committee at NIC Karachi is composed of visionary leaders, policy experts, ecosystem enablers and seasoned entrepreneurs who serve as strategic thought partners in shaping the incubator's future. This high-level body brings together diverse expertise across sectors, from innovation and impact investing to public policy, education and emerging technologies providing deep insight into the evolving needs of Pakistan's entrepreneurial landscape.

The committee's core mandate is to offer strategic direction, challenge assumptions and ensure NIC Karachi remains agile and responsive to both national priorities and global trends. As mentors and advisors, they help identify growth opportunities, anticipate risks and amplify the incubator's reach and relevance across stakeholder groups including government, academia, investors and international partners.

With a focus on long-term vision and ecosystem-level influence, the Advisory Committee helps NIC Karachi stay anchored in its mission while constantly pushing the boundaries of innovation, inclusion and impact.





ADVISORY BOARD

VLADIMIRA BRIESTENSKA CHAIRPERSON

Founder, Neem
vladimira@neemexponential.com, [Linkedin](#)

Vladimira Briestenska, Forbes-recognized entrepreneur and co-founder of Neem, champions financial wellness and inclusion across emerging markets. A vocal advocate for systemic change, she also co-founded The Future Farm to support entrepreneurs' mental health. Her work blends purpose, policy, and innovation to build dignified, resilient futures for underserved communities worldwide.



ADVISORY BOARD

PROF. DR. SAROSH HASHMAT LODI

Chairman, Charter Inspection and Evaluation Committee (CIEC), Sindh Higher Education Commission

saroshlodi@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Sarosh H. Lodi, Chairman of CIEC-SHEC and former Vice Chancellor of NED University, is a leading academic and structural engineer with 35+ years of service. A recipient of numerous national and international awards, he champions quality assurance, engineering education reform, and global academic collaborations across higher education institutions.



ADVISORY BOARD

AZAM MUGHAL

Founder and CEO, Secure Beans

mazam25@gmail.com; azam@securebeans.com, [Linkedin](#)

Azam Mughal, Founder and CEO of Secure Beans, is a cybersecurity expert with deep industry and academic experience. Former P@SHA board member and certified in C|CISO, CRISC, and ISO27001-LA, he delivers advanced security solutions, trains future professionals, and champions cyber resilience across Pakistan's finance, education, and tech sectors.



ADVISORY BOARD

SOPHIA HASNAIN

Founder, Linked Things
sophia.hasnain@linked-things.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sophia Hasnain, Founder of Linked Things, is a pioneering entrepreneur with 25+ years in IoT, telco, and innovation. A former GSMA and Deutsche Telekom executive, she builds market-shaping tech products across emerging markets. She advocates for women in tech and leads impactful innovations in smart homes, industrial IoT, and healthcare.



ADVISORY BOARD

ZIA UL ARFEEN

Senior Vice President, KCCI

zia@arfeens.com, arfeen.enterprises@outlook.com, svp@kcci.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Zia ul Arfeen, Senior Vice President of KCCI (2024–26), is a seasoned textile entrepreneur with 30 years of global export experience. Specializing in apparel and promotional merchandise, he champions trade diplomacy, sustainable business, and international collaboration to strengthen Pakistan's textile sector and representing Karachi's business interests on global platforms.



ADVISORY BOARD

SHAMIM RAJANI

Chief Operating Officer & Partner, Genetech Solutions
shamim@genetech.io, [Linkedin](#)

Shamim Rajani, COO and Partner at Genetech Solutions, is a seasoned tech entrepreneur with 20+ years in Pakistan's IT industry. She champions women in tech through initiatives like CodeGirls and ConsulNet. Her leadership drives innovation, global partnerships, and inclusive growth, positioning her as a role model in tech leadership.



ADVISORY BOARD

SAQUIB FAYYAZ MAGOON

Senior Vice President, FPCCI

saquib.fayyaz@fpcci.org.pk ; linkstextile@hotmail.com ; info@fpcci.org.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President and Senior Vice President of FPCCI, is a seasoned business leader advocating for economic reforms, digital trade infrastructure, and global trade expansion. He champions policy alignment, foreign investment, and innovation, positioning Pakistan's business community for sustainable growth through strategic partnerships and international economic diplomacy.



ADVISORY BOARD

KHUSHNOOD AFTAB

Co-founder and Chairman, Viper Group
k.aftab@viper.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Khushnood Aftab, Co-founder and Chairman of Viper Group, is a tech industry veteran driving Pakistan's digital transformation. A vocal advocate for "Made in Pakistan," he champions local innovation, OEM manufacturing, policy reform, and youth skill development—shaping a dynamic, self-sustaining tech ecosystem through strategic leadership, advocacy, and public-private collaboration.



ADVISORY BOARD

SHABISTA BAKHTIAR

President, WCCI-Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Korangi, Karachi
info@wccik.org.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Shabista Bakhtiar, President of WCCI Korangi, is a driving force behind women's entrepreneurship in Pakistan. She empowers women-led businesses through advocacy, mentorship, and capacity building, while championing policy reforms for gender-inclusive economic growth. Her leadership fosters a supportive ecosystem for women to thrive locally and in global markets.

GOVERNMENT & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT COUNCIL



This council creates a formal interface between startups and public sector institutions, development agencies, and policy stakeholders. Its purpose is to ensure startups are kept informed by regulatory trends, policy incentives, and institutional procurement opportunities. By including mentors from government, think tanks, and public-private partnerships, the council enables smoother engagement with formal systems, increases regulatory compliance, and creates a pathway for startups to influence national innovation agendas. The council also helps unlock non-dilutive funding and long-term institutional partnerships.



TECH COUNCIL
Government & Institutional
Support Council

AASIM NAWAZ TIWANA

CHAIRPERSON

Director General, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan - TDAP
aasim.tiwana@tdap.gov.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Mr. Aasim Nawaz Tiwana, Director General at the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, is a seasoned public policy expert with 20+ years in trade, governance, and institutional reform. With global training and leadership roles across key government bodies, he drives strategic economic development, trade facilitation, and policy innovation nationwide.



TECH COUNCIL
Government & Institutional
Support Council

KHURSHEED KOTWAL

Chief Executive Officer, Aasman International
kotwal.khursheed@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ms. Khursheed Kotwal, award-winning finance leader and founder of Aasman International, chairs ICAP's Digital Assurance Board and serves on PIPFA's Board.

With 30+ years across FMCG, logistics, and micro-finance, she champions digital upskilling, governance, and inclusion—earning acclaim as Pakistan's Most Influential Woman and a pioneer in corporate finance.



TECH COUNCIL
Government & Institutional
Support Council

PROF. DR. NOMAN AHMED

Pro Vice Chancellor, NED University of Engineering and Technology
deanams@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Professor Dr. Noman Ahmed, Dean at NED University and Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Urban Regions, is an award-winning architect, planner, and academic. With 30+ years of global experience, he leads urban policy, research, and planning initiatives, contributing to sustainable cities through teaching, writing, and strategic development.



TECH COUNCIL
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ENGR. PROF. DR. SAMREEN HUSSAIN

Vice Chancellor, DUET
vc@duet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Engr. Prof. Dr. Samreen Hussain is Pakistan's first female Vice Chancellor of an engineering university. Currently leading DUET Karachi, she's a nationally recognized academic, researcher, and policymaker. With two civil awards and founding two universities, she pioneers inclusive leadership, innovation, and institutional transformation in higher education.



TECH COUNCIL
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SHAFQA FAUZIL AZIM

Acting President & CEO, Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance: PICG
shafaq@picg.org.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Shafaq Fauzil Azim is the President & CEO of the Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG) and a Fellow Chartered Accountant. With 25+ years of experience in governance, audit, and risk, she is a certified IFC trainer, board director, and advocate for ethical leadership, transparency, and ESG best practices.



TECH COUNCIL
Government & Institutional
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AYAZ AHMED UQAILI

Member Industry Development, Government of Sindh
ayaz.uqaili@sindh.gov.pk ; a8219899@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ayaz is an accomplished IT leader with roles across public and private sectors, currently shaping Sindh's IT landscape as Member IT Industry Development. With expertise in digital transformation, governance, and cybersecurity, he's led innovation at HBFC, Telenor Bank, and EOBI—blending strategy, technology, and public impact across diverse ecosystems.



TECH COUNCIL
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DR. NOSHEEN RAZA

Student Advisor and Assistant Professor at Department of Sociology, University of Karachi
studentadvisor@uok.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Nosheen Raza, Assistant Professor and Student Advisor at the University of Karachi, specializes in collective behavior, social change, and human rights. A UNFPA national observer and ICNC Curriculum Fellow, she actively collaborates with NGOs to advance education, demography awareness, and community development at both national and global levels.



TECH COUNCIL
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DR. OWAIS H. SHAIKH

Founder , Hassan Shaikh & Co

owais@hassanshaikh.pk, owaishs@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Owais Shaikh is an IP law expert, researcher, and startup mentor with a PhD from LMU Munich. Tutor - Intellectual Property Management at WIPO and founder of Hassan Shaikh & Co., he empowers universities and startups to commercialize innovation.

His work bridges law, emerging tech, and entrepreneurship in global and local contexts.



TECH COUNCIL
Government & Institutional
Support Council

DR. FAKHARA RIZWAN

Corporate Secretary & Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer, Pakistan Stock Exchange Ltd
fakhara.rizwan@psx.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Prof. Dr. Fakhara Rizwan is a scholar, author, and governance expert, she leads Legal and Corporate Affairs at the Pakistan Stock Exchange. With a PhD in corporate law, bestselling books on takeovers and financial crime, and global credentials in ESG, Shariah governance, and mediation, she drives reform, strategy, and ethical leadership in complex environments.

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL



The Women in Technology Council was formed to champion gender equity within Pakistan's tech ecosystem and ensure women-led innovation receives the visibility, support and mentorship it deserves. This council brings together accomplished women leaders from technology, entrepreneurship, policy and academia to mentor female founders, build pipelines for women in STEM and foster inclusive workplace cultures within startups. Beyond mentorship, it works to shift narratives, challenge biases and influence ecosystem-wide practices that promote diversity and inclusion as a strategic business advantage.



TECH COUNCIL
Women in Technology Council

NIGHAT AFSHEEN CHAIRPERSON

Unit head release management, HBL
nighat.afsheen50@hbl.com, [Linkedin](#)

Nighat Afsheen leads Release Management and Agile teams at HBL, with 20+ years of global tech and project leadership experience. She champions digital transformation and women in tech leadership across Pakistan, Germany, UAE, and the US. A passionate traveler and photographer, she finds inspiration in cultures and untold stories.



TECH COUNCIL

Women in Technology Council

FAIZA YOUSUF

Co-Founder, CaterpillHERs
faiza.yousuf@live.com, [Linkedin](#)

Faiza Yousuf is a seasoned product leader and serial founder dedicated to advancing gender equity in technology. She founded WomenInTechPK and co-founded CodeGirls and CaterpillHERs. With expertise in product management, operational efficiency, and community building, she also serves on the board of trustees for Destination Imagination.



TECH COUNCIL
Women in Technology Council



ZAINAB HAMEED

CEO & CoFounder, TeeSquare

zainab.hameed@teesquare.org, [Linkedin](#)

Zainab Hameed is a senior IT leader with 25 years of expertise in enterprise governance, cybersecurity, and strategic transformation. As CEO of TeeSquare and President of Women in CyberSecurity Pakistan, she drives inclusive innovation, empowers women in tech leadership, and advises organizations on risk, compliance, and sustainable impact planning.





SARAH MUNIR

CEO, invest2innovate

sarah@invest2innovate.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sarah Munir is CEO of invest2innovate, a Fulbright Scholar, and strategic storyteller with 15 years at the nexus of media, entrepreneurship, and innovation. She advises startups on brand strategy and investor readiness, leveraging experience with Meta and X to drive purpose-led growth and amplify social impact across sectors.





TECH COUNCIL
Women in Technology Council

AMBREEN KOKAB SHAH

AI & Analytics Solutions Architect (Digital Transformation Consultant), Ericsson
ambreen.kokab.shah@ericsson.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ambreen Kokab Shah is an AI and Analytics Solutions Architect at Ericsson with 15 years delivering transformative AI solutions across MMEA. A futurist and digital transformation consultant, she champions women in tech as a Global Ambassador, mentor, and speaker, while driving strategic leadership, customer experience, and social entrepreneurship.



TECH COUNCIL
Women in Technology Council

ZARTAJ AHMED

CEO & Co Founder, Pi Space Science Education Centre (PSSEC)
zartaj@pssecm2m.com, [Linkedin](#)

Zartaj Ahmed is CEO and Co-Founder of Pi Space Science Education Centre, a leading STEAM, Robotics, and AI consultant, and Pakistan's first WRO International Judge. A U.S. State Department Award recipient, she advances education innovation, empowers youth, and builds institutional capacity through transformative STEM programs and edtech initiatives.



TECH COUNCIL
Women in Technology Council

RABIA SALEEM

Chief Technology Officer, Habib Education Trust
rabiasaleemrao@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Rabia Saleem is CTO at Habib Education Trust, a PMP-certified Portfolio Manager, and President of PMI Karachi Chapter. With 17+ years of experience, she drives digital transformation and inclusive leadership. A global speaker and Women in Tech advocate, she empowers entrepreneurs through strategy, stakeholder engagement, and scalable innovation initiatives.



TECH COUNCIL
Women in Technology Council

AMMARA MASOOD

Global Industry GM, Banking and Financial Services, Systems
ammara@ndctech.net, ammaramasood@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ms. Ammara Masood, Global Industry GM for Banking at Systems Limited, is a seasoned tech leader with 28+ years across IT strategy, digital transformation, and governance. Former CEO of NdcTech, she has driven innovation across global markets and serves on key policy boards shaping Pakistan's financial and technology ecosystems.



TECH COUNCIL
Women in Technology Council

DR. IFFAT ZAFAR AGA

Founder, Sehat Kahani
iffatzaga@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Iffat Zafar Aga, Co-Founder and COO of Sehat Kahani, is a global award-winning telemedicine innovator. A Commonwealth Scholar and healthcare strategist, she drives access through tech-enabled care, public-private partnerships, and impact investing. She actively mentors startups and advocates for digital health at leading global forums and platforms.

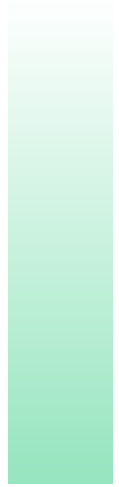
E-COMMERCE AND RETAILTECH COUNCIL



The E-Commerce and RetailTech Council was formed to tap into the rapidly evolving digital commerce ecosystem in Pakistan. This council includes experts from online marketplaces, retail logistics, customer experience and digital payments. It mentors startups on growth hacking, user acquisition, product-market fit and omni-channel retail strategies. Through industry linkages with retailers, logistics firms and marketing agencies, startups can pilot solutions, understand consumer behavior at scale and build sustainable, tech-enabled commerce models in both urban and underserved areas.



TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council



NADIA PATEL GANGJEE CHAIRPERSON

Founder, femprow
nadia@femprow.com, [Linkedin](#)

Nadia Patel Gangjee is the founder of Femprow and Sheops, championing women's economic empowerment in Pakistan. A certified mentor and Meta trainer, she's empowered 5,000+ women and built communities of 150,000+. Her award-winning work with UN Women, Meta, and others spans digital inclusion, MSME development, and global advocacy for women entrepreneurs.





TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council

MOHAMMED ATIF SAMI

Founder & CEO, Unity Retail
atif@unityretail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Mohammed Atif Sami is the Founder and CEO of Unity Retail, a leading platform transforming e-commerce and logistics in Pakistan. He brings deep expertise in fundraising, business planning, and software development. His strengths span team building, self-organization, and designing scalable solutions that drive growth and operational excellence.



TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council



AMNEH SHAIKH-FAROOQUI

CEO/CSO/Chair and Curator, Polly and Other Stories/The Blue Co/WOW Festival Pakistan
amneh@theblueco.com, [Linkedin](#)

Amneh Shaikh-Farooqui is a visionary leader with two decades advancing gender equality, inclusive entrepreneurship, and cultural storytelling in Pakistan.

As CEO and curator of pioneering platforms, she champions pro-poor value chains, climate resilience, and tech for good, empowering marginalized communities through creative economies and authentic, diverse leadership.





TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council

KASSIM ABBAS SHROFF

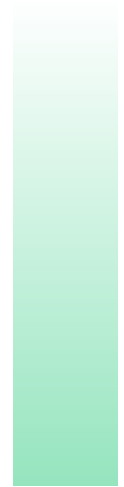
CEO, Krave Mart

kassim.shroff@kravemart.com, [Linkedin](#)

Kassim Abbas Shroff is a two-time founder with a successful exit and over 15 years of eCommerce leadership across Canada and Pakistan and is now leading Krave Mart. His expertise spans fundraising, product innovation, marketing strategy, and team culture. He has held senior roles driving growth in product, logistics, warehousing, and customer experience.



TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council



SUKAINA ABBAS

CEO, Enchanté
order@enchanteglobal.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sukaina Abbas is CEO of Enchanté, a GIA-certified gemologist and educator committed to democratizing gemological education in Pakistan. With expertise in brand building and sustainable fashion, she champions women-led enterprises and the “Made in Pakistan” movement, mentoring creative entrepreneurs and elevating local craftsmanship on global platforms.





TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council

HAMZA ABDUL RAUF

CEO, Telemart

hamzaraufessa@telemart.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Hamza Abdul Rauf is CEO of Telemart and a trailblazing entrepreneur transforming Pakistan's \$15 billion consumer electronics market. Creator of Telemart's Phygital Retail Franchise Model, he has scaled to 37 stores nationwide. An award-winning leader, he mentors startups and advances e-commerce, branding, and omnichannel retail innovation.



TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council



ASIF JAFRI

Founder, Kistpay (Private) Limited
asif@eocean.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

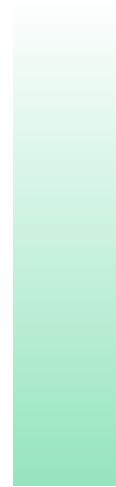
Asif Jafri is the Founder & CEO of Kistpay, a fintech innovator creating impact-driven financial solutions.

With 12+ years at firms like American Express, Unilever, and Telenor, he's led ventures in enterprise mobility, co-founded successful startups, and developed award-winning products showcased at Mobile World Congress.





TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council



IFTIKHAR ARIF

CIO / GM IT & Ecommerce , Muller and Phipps Pakistan
Iftikhar.arif@mulphico.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Iftikhar Arif is Group CIO at M&P Group, leading IT and eCommerce for M&P's diverse businesses. A multi-award-winning tech leader, he's recognized for pioneering Pakistan's largest private cloud and digital platforms like DawaApptak. His expertise includes ERP, BPR, digital strategy, and transforming IT into a revenue engine.





TECH COUNCIL
E-Commerce and RetailTech
Council

IMRAN KHAN

Founder, RaptrGames

imran.khan.vault@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Imran Khan, CEO of Raptr Games, is a tech pioneer with 17 years of experience. He launched Pakistan's first enterprise cloud, RapidCompute, and now leads the country's first esports platform and gamer-focused fintech app. He specializes in operations, lean methodology, B2B sales, and building high-performing tech teams.

ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY COUNCIL



The Academia and Industry Council exists to bridge the long-standing gap between academic institutions and the startup ecosystem. By bringing together faculty members, researchers and industry professionals, the council supports curriculum co-design, collaborative R&D and commercialization of university-driven innovation. It mentors startups on applying evidence-based research to real-world challenges, accessing lab infrastructure and building talent pipelines from universities. These linkages improve the quality of innovation, unlock access to new technologies and create future-ready human capital.



DR. SUNDUS ALI CHAIRPERSON

Manager BIC (ORIC) and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Telecommunications Engineering ,
NEDUET

mbic@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Sundus Ali is Assistant Professor and Manager Business Incubation at NEDUET, with 17 years of expertise in wireless communications and IoT. She has managed over PKR 63 million in research grants, published extensively, and drives innovation, commercialization, and mentorship within Pakistan's evolving technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

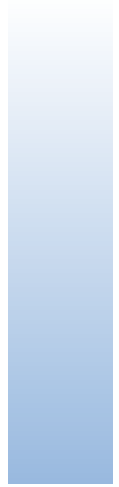
DR. SAMRA JAVED

Director QEC , Al Ghazali University
samra.javed@agu.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Samra Javed, Pakistan's first PhD in Experiential Learning, is Director QEC at Al Ghazali University. A seasoned trainer in communication skills and grant writing, she has elevated institutional quality standards and actively contributes to educational and social initiatives, strengthening academic excellence and community engagement across Pakistan.



TECH COUNCIL
Academia and Industry Council



DR. JAWWAD AHMED SHAMSI

CDean (Computing), FAST-National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences
fjawwad.shamsi@nu.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Jawwad Ahmed Shamsi is Dean (Computing) at FAST-NUCES and a pioneering technologist driving innovation in AI, cloud computing, and big data.

Leading the Systems Research Lab, he bridges academia and industry through funded research, entrepreneurial ventures, and skill development, advancing Pakistan's technology landscape and high-performance computing solutions.





TECH COUNCIL
Academia and Industry Council

SALMAN HAROON

CEO, Arafat Printing Press Pvt Ltd / Trace Pakistan
salmanharoon@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Salman Haroon is CEO of Arafat Printing Press and Trace Pakistan, with over 30 years of experience across agriculture, IT, training, and printing. A trusted consultant to SMEDA, GIZ, EU, and SBP, he excels in business diagnostics, improvement planning, and coaching entrepreneurs to achieve sustainable growth.



TECH COUNCIL
Academia and Industry Council

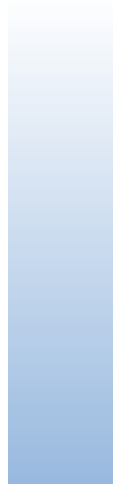
DR.MEHREEN KAUSAR AZAM

Assistant Professor, Business Consultant, PNEC-NUST, Pakistan Navy Engineering College, National University of Science & Technology
mehreen@Pnec.nust.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Mehreen Kausar Azam is Assistant Professor and business consultant at PNEC-NUST, specializing in supply chain management. She bridges academia and industry through impactful research, data analysis, and mentoring postgraduate students. Her work drives applied innovation, life cycle costing, and real-world solutions for complex business challenges.



TECH COUNCIL
Academia and Industry Council



PROF. DR. SYED AMIR IQBAL

Dean, Faculty of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, NED University of Engineering and Technology

deancpe@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Prof. Dr. Syed Amir Iqbal, Dean at NED University, brings 25+ years of academic and industrial leadership in advanced manufacturing. An HEC Best Teacher Award recipient, he specializes in high-speed machining, process optimization, and Industry 4.0—guiding innovation through research, curriculum design, prototyping, and engineering excellence across academia and industry.





TECH COUNCIL
Academia and Industry Council

IQBALUDDIN KHAN

Asstt. Prof. Dept. of IT, Hamdard University, Hamdard University
iqbaluddin.khan@hamdard.edu, [Linkedin](#)

Iqbaluddin Khan, Assistant Professor at Hamdard University, brings 17 years of institutional experience and expertise in Cloud Computing, IoT, and Industry 4.0. With 18 publications, 30+ supervised projects, and certifications from CertiProf, IBM, and CHFI, he supports startups in building secure, scalable systems and driving innovation in academia and tech.



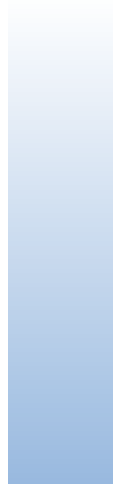
DR. NOMAN MAHMOOD

Deputy Director QEC and Assistant Professor BMS, Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MiTE),
noman.mahmood@mite.edu.pk, nomanxmahmood@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Noman Mahmood, Assistant Professor and Deputy Director QEC at MiTE, holds a PhD in Business Management (Marketing) and brings rich experience in academia, program development, and institutional performance. He specializes in intrapreneurship, academic compliance, strategic planning, and supervising UK-accredited business programs, bridging education with practical business insight.



TECH COUNCIL
Academia and Industry Council




BRIG. (R.) PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD ABBAS

Dean IOBM / Adjunct Professor NUST, Institute of Business Management
dr.abbas@iobm.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Brig. (R) Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean at IoBM and Adjunct Professor at NUST, is a strategic academic leader with 28 years of experience. An HEC-approved PhD supervisor with 68+ international publications, he specializes in software engineering, ERP, and quality assurance—mentoring innovation through research, curriculum design, and stakeholder collaboration.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT ORGANISATION (ESO) AND INCUBATOR COUNCIL



This council brings together ecosystem builders including incubators, accelerators, development partners and policy enablers, to create a more connected, efficient and inclusive entrepreneurship support system. The ESO and Incubator Council helps streamline resources, reduce duplication of effort and enhance knowledge-sharing among ecosystem support organizations. Mentorship from this council focuses on startup readiness, curriculum innovation, policy integration and impact measurement. By fostering ecosystem synergy, the council strengthens national entrepreneurship infrastructure and drives long-term startup sustainability.



TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council



ENGR. SYED RIZWAN ALI CHAIRPERSON

Assistant Professor / Head of the Business Incubation Center, Bahria University Karachi
rizwanali.bukc@bahria.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Engr. Syed Rizwan Ali is Assistant Professor and Head of the Business Incubation Center at Bahria University Karachi, with 18 years empowering startups through over PKR 65 million in secured funding. An IVLP Fellow and SME consultant, he has delivered 300+ trainings on innovation, entrepreneurship, and business model development.





TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council

ROZINA IMTIAZ

Director CEID, DHA Suffa University
rozina.imtiaz@dsu.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Rozina Imtiaz is Director of CEID at DHA Suffa University, with over a decade driving entrepreneurship development and academic excellence. She has led incubators, national innovation programs, and student startups, while mentoring and training founders. Her expertise spans business planning, fundraising, marketing strategy, and women's empowerment in Pakistan's startup ecosystem.



TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council

UMAIR AHMED KHAN

Head IU CORE, Iqra University
umair.ahmed@iqra.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Umair Ahmed Khan leads IU CORE at Iqra University, driving entrepreneurship and incubation programs.

With extensive experience across PITB, ICCBS, and Jinnah University, he has shaped Pakistan's startup ecosystem through strategic business development, investment readiness, and marketing initiatives. He also mentors emerging entrepreneurs and innovation-driven teams nationwide.



TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council

DR. FARAH ESSA ZAIDI

Founder/ Director, Dr. Farah Essa Academy/ Essa Lab
founder@drfarahessaacademy.com, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Farah Essa Zaidi, Global 200 Women Power Leader 2025, is a visionary healthcare entrepreneur advancing inclusive healthcare and women-led entrepreneurship. As CEO of Dr. Farah Essa Academy and Director of Essa Lab, she drives social reform, mentors startups, and champions transformative public health and policy advocacy across Pakistan.



TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council

RAZA ABBAS

Head of Incubation, Head-UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network-Pakistan Chapter , IoBM, UNESCO
raza.abbas@iobm.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Raza Abbas leads incubation at IoBM and heads UNESCO's Entrepreneurship Education Network in Pakistan. Representing Pakistan globally since 2017, he has inspired countless youth in career development. Featured in The World Book of Hope, he excels in startup support, global networking, and entrepreneurial ecosystem building across continents.



TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council

DR. LALARUKH EJAZ

Director, The Centre for Entrepreneurial Development, IBA Karachi
lejaz@iba.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz is Director of IBA Karachi's Centre for Entrepreneurial Development and a leading advocate for inclusive innovation. With a PhD from the University of Southampton and Babson College certification, she advances research, women's entrepreneurship, and sustainable enterprise while serving on prominent corporate boards across Pakistan's business landscape.



TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council



PROF. DR. GULFAM KHAN KHALID

Fouder Ceo, Skillsrator
gulfambaghoor@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Prof. Dr. Gulfam Khan Khalid, CEO of Skillsrator, is a leading expert in entrepreneurship, sustainability, and digital literacy. With 20+ years of impact across education, research, and development, he has trained 7,000+ professionals, pioneered Pakistan's first CSR Index, and advised global institutions on policy, innovation, and ecosystem development.





TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council

TAQI HAIDER

Manager Investments, Accelerate Prosperity - An AKDN Initiative
taqi.hyder@akdn.org, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Taqi Haider, Manager Investments at Accelerate Prosperity, manages a \$3M+ portfolio of 100+ startups. With 8+ years in banking and venture support, he specializes in investment strategy, financial modeling, and investor readiness—guiding founders through fundraising, business planning, and sustainable growth with a strong ACCA and finance background.



TECH COUNCIL
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and Incubator
Council

MURTAZA JANGDA

Financial Controller, IGI Holding
murtaza.feroz@live.com, [Linkedin](#)

Murtaza Jangda, Financial Controller at IGI Holding, is a Chartered Accountant with 14+ years across PwC, EY, Siemens, and Emaar. He specializes in financial strategy, ERP implementation, and investment readiness. Passionate about youth empowerment, he leads the WMO Youth Summit and advises NGOs on community-driven entrepreneurship and social impact.

ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & GOVERNANCE (ESG) COUNCIL



The ESG Council at NIC Karachi convenes leaders who are passionate about building responsible and impact-driven businesses. As the global shift towards sustainability, ethical governance and inclusive innovation accelerates, this council provides mentorship and advisory to help startups embed ESG principles into their core operations. From climate-conscious solutions to inclusive workplaces, council members guide startups in aligning with global standards, accessing green finance and developing socially impactful ventures. The council's goal is to catalyze startups that don't just succeed economically but create lasting societal value.



TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council

MEMOSH KHAWAJA CHAIRPERSON

Managing Director, ILMNET
memoshkhawaja@ilm-net.com, [Linkedin](#)

Memosh Khawaja, Managing Director at ILMNET, is an accomplished leader and former CEO of PICG, Henkel, and Haleeb across Europe, the Middle East, and Pakistan. An IFC-certified ESG trainer and MIT Sloan Climate Ambassador, he drives strategic transformation and sustainability in consumer goods and corporate governance.



TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council



SHEIKH HAMMAD AMJAD

Deputy Country Head, Nippon Express
sheikh.hammad@nipponexpress.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sheikh Hammad Amjad is Deputy Country Head at Nippon Express, an accomplished entrepreneur, and a sought-after business coach. With deep expertise in business development, strategy, and mentorship, he empowers organizations to achieve sustainable growth while championing best practices in environmental stewardship, governance, and corporate training across industries.





TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council

MUHAMMAD AZAM AMIN

Senior Manager, Feroze1888 Mills Limited
azam.amin@feroze1888.com, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Azam Amin is Senior Manager at Feroze1888 Mills, an industrial engineer with 15 years driving operational excellence and ESG leadership. He led a Lean transformation saving \$1.5M, pioneered zero-waste initiatives, and secured SBTi-approved emissions targets, advancing sustainable practices and analytics in Pakistan's textile sector.



TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council



ZAREEN ZAHID QURESHI

COO, Charity Right Pakistan
zareenqureshiz@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Zareen Zahid Qureshi, COO of Charity Right Pakistan, is a seasoned development leader with two decades in ESG, education, and women's empowerment. She has led major public-private partnerships, humanitarian relief, and global donor engagement, shaping impactful programs for poverty alleviation, youth empowerment, and inclusive community-led development across Pakistan.





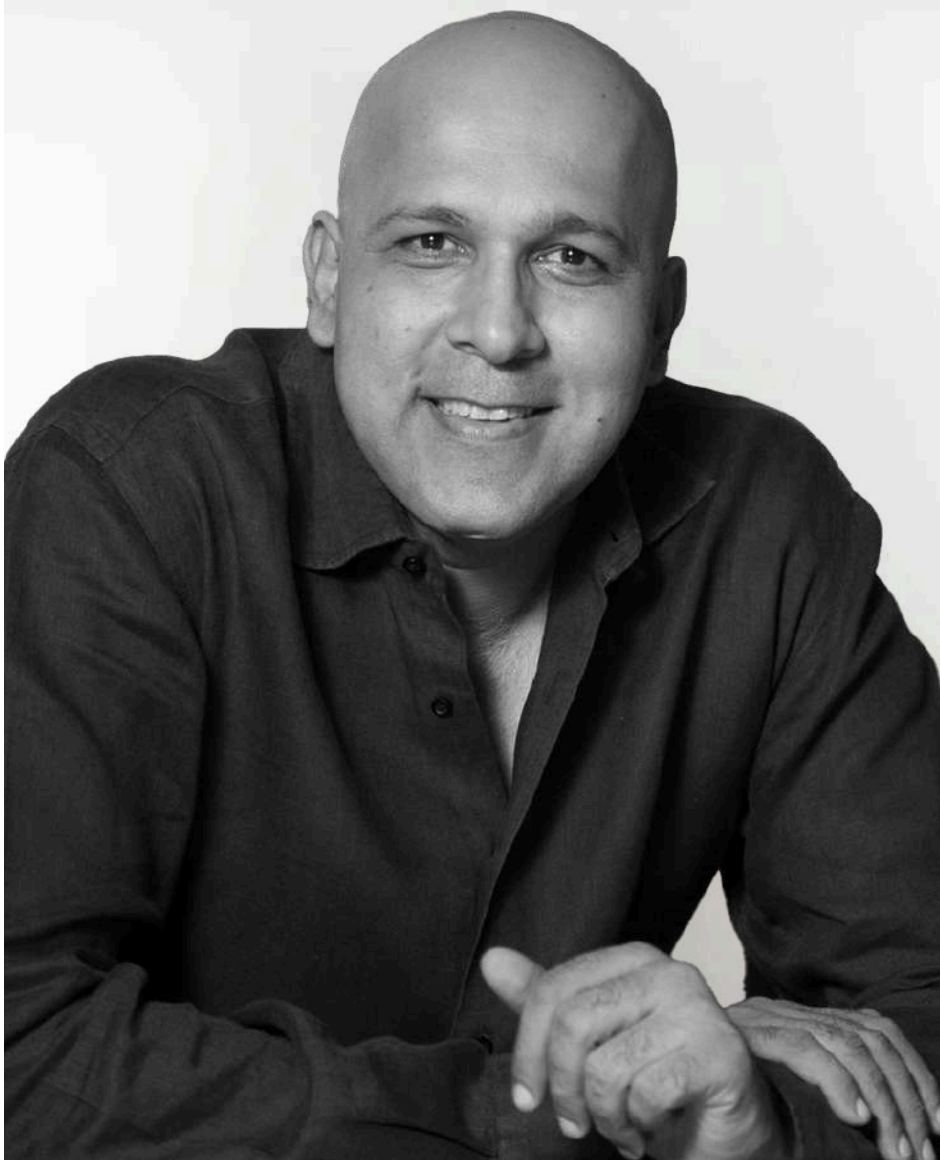
TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council

ZEHRA ANEEK

Director, Sustainability Consulting , EY
zehra.aneek1@pk.ey.com, [Linkedin](#)

Zehra Aneek, Director of Sustainability and Climate Change at EY MENA, is a transformational leader with 24 years across ESG, cleantech, and inclusion.

Formerly at K-Electric and Chevron, she pioneers women-led climate initiatives, mentors globally, and serves on advisory boards shaping sustainable energy, urban resilience, and social impact.



TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council

IMRAN AZHAR

Founder and CEO, AzCorp Entertainment Private Limited
imran.azhar@azcorpentertainment.com, [Linkedin](#)

Imran Azhar is a purpose-driven media entrepreneur and founder of AzCorp Entertainment. With 20+ years across broadcast, animation, and policy engagement, he creates impact-driven storytelling that champions tolerance, gender equity, and youth empowerment—advising global agencies and producing award-winning content that bridges culture, education, and social change.



TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council



SHAISTA AYESHA

CEO, Seed Ventures

shaista@seedventures.org, [Linkedin](#)

Shaista Ayesha is CEO of SEED Ventures and a Strategic Narrative Architect, driving systemic change through entrepreneurship, circular economy, and sustainable enterprise development. A UN Women WEPs Award recipient, she empowers MSMEs—especially women-led ones—through ecosystem design, policy integration, market linkage, and inclusive business acceleration across Pakistan's corporate and development sectors.





TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council

TEHMINA MAKNOJIA

Co-founder/ Director, Parindey
tehminamaknojia24@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Tehmina Maknojia is a fine artist, educator, and social entrepreneur who uses art to build peaceful, resilient communities. A graduate of Indus Valley, she designs interactive workshops and art-integration programs for youth and educators, and co-leads Parindey, a creative platform promoting alternative education and emotional well-being through artistic expression.



TECH COUNCIL
Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council

FAHAD SIKANDER

Founder, koyal.pk
ch.fahad@mobitisinginc.com, [Linkedin](#)

Fahad Sikander is a pioneering entrepreneur in Pakistan's digital media and supply chain space. Founder of MobiTising and ventures like Koyal and Greene, he champions innovation-driven business solutions. As a changemaker and Rotary Pakistan member, he actively supports impactful ideas that transform society and redefine how industries operate.

CORPORATE INNOVATION COUNCIL



The Corporate Innovation Council at NIC Karachi is designed to align startup innovation with the needs and ambitions of large-scale enterprises. As businesses in Pakistan seek agile solutions for digital transformation, this council facilitates dialogue and collaboration between corporates and entrepreneurs. By opening doors for co-creation, product validation and pilot programs, the council helps startups scale with real-world applications while enabling corporations to future-proof their business models through disruptive partnerships. Mentors from this council offer insights on procurement processes, B2B sales cycles and strategic alignment creating a win-win ecosystem.



TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council



AHMED AYUB CHAIRPERSON

Founder, Conrad Labs

ahmed.ayub@conradlabs.com, Ahmed.ayub@experia.ai, [Linkedin](#)

Ahmed Ayub is a specialist in employee engagement and people management, with a strong foundation in software engineering. Having led global teams of 200–300 as a project manager and head of operations, he focuses on millennial motivation, empathy-driven leadership, and building HR policies that foster high-impact, engaged workplaces.





TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council



AAQIB SAYED

Director Growth & Partnerships, Digital Ocean
asayed@digitalocean.com, [Linkedin](#)

Aaqib Sayed is Director of Growth and Partnerships at Digital Ocean and a two-time founder with deep expertise in data-driven marketing and brand growth. He has led high-impact teams across tech, FMCG, and SaaS, and actively mentors entrepreneurs while shaping Pakistan's marketing ecosystem through thought leadership and collaboration.





TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council



FATIMA ARSHAD

Sustainability Lead PTAB, Unilever Pakistan
fatima.arshad@unilever.com, [Linkedin](#)

Fatima Arshad leads Sustainability and Business Communications at Unilever Pakistan, with a decade shaping strategies that drive growth and social impact.

A champion of equity and inclusion, she crafts ESG narratives that inspire action while advancing sustainable business models and purpose-led transformation across Pakistan's corporate landscape.





TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council

M. JAWWAD PARACHA

Inventor & Global Program Manager, IBM
jawwad14@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Jawwad Paracha is a Global Program Manager at IBM with 15 years leading \$1B+ technology programs across 179 countries. An accomplished inventor with patents in AI, IoT, blockchain, and service management, he specializes in end-to-end program delivery, transforming business strategy into impactful, scalable solutions worldwide.



TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council



SHAH ABDULLAH RAZA

Founder, F&H Tech Solutions

Abdullah@fnhtechsolutions.com, [Linkedin](#)

Shah Abdullah Raza, Founder of F&H Tech Solutions, is a digital transformation expert with 21 years across Pakistan, the Middle East, and multinationals. Former CIO at National Foods, he specializes in SAP, corporate innovation, and scaling strategies, guiding startups and enterprises to drive growth, e-commerce, and investor readiness.





TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council



NIDA TANZEEL

SP Manager, Shell Tameer
n.tanzeel@wafi-energy.com, [Linkedin](#)

Nida Tanzeel brings extensive experience in the energy and oil & gas sectors, with both local and international exposure across operations, commercial strategy, project management, and supply chain. A Certified Lean Practitioner and Continuous Improvement Coach, she specializes in optimizing processes across order-to-cash cycles, lubricants, and retail operations.





TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council



ABDULLAH BIN ZIA

Head of Digital Innovation, IBL
abdullah.zia@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Abdullah Bin Zia is an innovation ecosystem builder dedicated to enabling entrepreneurship, policy reform, and inclusive economic growth. With cross-sector experience in government, development, and private sectors, he designs transformative programs and national frameworks that empower youth, startups, and institutions through strategic collaborations, systems thinking, and research-driven innovation.





TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council



FAHAD AHMED

Strategy & Program Management Consultant, Gulf Network Solutions
Fahadahmeds@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Fahad Ahmed is a Strategy and Program Management Consultant at Gulf Network Solutions with 20+ years of experience driving digital transformation across industries. An expert in agile delivery, change management, and strategy execution, he helps organizations navigate complexity, build high-performing teams, and achieve sustainable growth through innovation and operational excellence.





TECH COUNCIL
Corporate Innovation Council



DR. DANISH UR REHMAN KHAN

Technical Advisor to Vice Chancellor, NED University of Engineering and Technology
danish.khan@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Danish ur Rehman Khan is an experienced administrative professional with a background in education management. He holds a Master's in Engineering from NED University, specializing in Computer Networks and Performance Evaluation. His skills span account management, financial analysis, firewalls, and GSM technologies, reflecting a strong blend of administrative and technical expertise.



CYBER-SECURITY & INFORMATION SECURITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL



The Cyber-security Council was established in response to the increasing digitalization of Pakistan's economy and the corresponding need for secure, resilient tech infrastructure. This council brings together cyber-security experts, ethical hackers, data privacy advocates and compliance specialists to mentor startups on secure development practices, risk management and data governance. The council also helps position cyber-security startups to solve enterprise-level problems, enabling access to industries where digital trust is paramount. These industry linkages not only protect businesses but unlock global markets for cyber-resilient products.



TECH COUNCIL
Cybersecurity & Information
Security Governance Council

JAVED YOUSUF EDHI CHAIRPERSON

Chief Executive Officer, NIFT
j.edhi@nift.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Javed Yousuf Edhi, CEO of NIFT since December 21, 2022, is a fintech visionary with 30+ years across banking and payments. He launched Pakistan's MNET shared ATM switch, led digital transformation at Citibank, MCB, HBL, Silkbank, and Khazana, and shapes national digital finance infrastructure for sustainable growth.



TECH COUNCIL
Cybersecurity & Information
Security Governance Council

SYED FAIQ HASAN

Unit Head IT Security , Bank Alfalah
syedfaiqhasan@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Syed Faiq Hasan is Unit Head of IT Security at Bank Alfalah and a distinguished member of the Cyber Security Council. Recipient of the Pioneer of Leadership Award at ITCN, he specializes in security operations, strategic implementations, and driving robust cybersecurity frameworks across complex financial environments.



TECH COUNCIL
Cybersecurity & Information
Security Governance Council

AZHAR NAWAZ

Chief Digital & Information Officer, Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC)
azhar66@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Azhar Nawaz is the Chief Digital and Information Officer at Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC), leading digital strategy, AI, and innovation. With global experience across aviation, education, and manufacturing, he previously served as Group CIO at Engro. Azhar specializes in large-scale digital transformation and building agile, future-ready enterprises.



TECH COUNCIL
Cybersecurity & Information
Security Governance Council

DR. ASAD ARFEEN

Project Director, NED Science & Technology Park Project
arfeen@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Muhammad Asad Arfeen is Associate Professor and Director IT at NED University, leading the Internet Security Lab at the National Centre for Cyber Security.

With a PhD in Computer Science, he specializes in cybersecurity and digital forensics, and directs NED's Science & Technology Park, driving innovation and strategic public partnerships.



TECH COUNCIL
Cybersecurity & Information
Security Governance Council

SEHRISH MUJTABA

Vice president, Women in Cyber Security Pakistan Affiliate
Sehrishmujtaba@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sehrish Mujtaba is a cybersecurity and data protection specialist with 12+ years of experience across the EMEA and Asia-Pacific regions. An expert in GDPR, SOC, threat intelligence, and incident response, she trains professionals globally, speaks at major cyber events, and leads Women in Cyber Security Pakistan as Vice President.



TECH COUNCIL
Cybersecurity & Information
Security Governance Council

SYED ABDUL QADIR

Executive Director - Technology and Cybersecurity Risk Assurance, PWC
Syed.Abdul.Qadir@pwc.com, [Linkedin](#)

Syed Abdul Qadir, Executive Director at PwC Pakistan (A.F. Ferguson & Co.), is a global award-winning technology leader with 20+ years in digital transformation, cybersecurity, and governance. A keynote speaker at GITEX Global, he holds certifications like PMP and CISA, and specializes in IT due diligence, BCP, and risk management.



TECH COUNCIL
Cybersecurity & Information
Security Governance Council

MAHIR MOHSIN SHEIKH

CEO, Trillium Information Security Systems
mahir@infosecurity.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Mahir Mohsin Sheikh is CEO of Trillium Information Security Systems and founder of Cydea Tech, with 17+ years in cybersecurity. A former ECAC council member, he leads Pakistan's largest cybersecurity firm and drives innovation in threat detection and response, combining technical depth with strategic go-to-market and R&D leadership.



SALAINA HAROON

Country MD - Pakistan, IDG (International Data Group)
salaina.haroon@idgworldwakhana.com, [Linkedin](#)

Salaina Haroon is a veteran in Pakistan's tech media and communication landscape, with nearly three decades of experience. As Managing Director of Rasala Publications Group and SPIN-IDG, she has launched and led pioneering tech media brands, produced content for major TV/radio shows, and consulted startups on go-to-market strategies and storytelling.



TECH COUNCIL
Cybersecurity & Information
Security Governance Council

SUBASH CHANDAR

Vice President & Head IS Audit, Sindh Bank
subash_harvani@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Subash Chandar is a seasoned IT & IS Audit leader with over 17 years of experience across finance and telecom sectors. He specializes in risk-based audit strategy, cybersecurity, and IT governance, driving compliance, efficiency, and operational excellence through strategic oversight and a strong focus on risk mitigation and regulatory adherence.

INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION COUNCIL



The Industrial Automation Council at NIC Karachi serves as a bridge between cutting-edge manufacturing technologies and the startup ecosystem. As Pakistan moves towards Industry 4.0, this council aims to integrate automation, robotics, AI and IoT into traditional and emerging industries. By bringing together experts from engineering, process optimization and smart manufacturing, the council will mentor startups in designing scalable industrial tech solutions, enable pilots with large manufacturers, and help shape the future of industrial innovation in Pakistan. These industry linkages will foster local production capabilities, improve operational efficiency and drive competitiveness at a national level.



KHALID PERVEZ CHAIRPERSON

CEO, KPWS Consulting

khalid@kpa.com.pk; khalidpervez@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Khalid Pervez, CEO of KPWS Consulting, is a seasoned electrical power engineer with 38+ years in consulting and 15 in academia. Currently Vice President of IEEE, he has led nationally significant projects and actively mentors young engineers in career development, soft skills, and emerging opportunities in the engineering sector.



DR. MAJIDA KAZMI

Associate Professor, NED University of Engineering and Technology
majidakazmi@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Majida Kazmi, Associate Professor at NED University, is a leading expert in AI and Embedded Vision. As Co-PI at Neurocomputation Lab and founder of the Asma M. Hashmi STEM Centre, her award-winning work advances innovation, education, and research—earning multiple national honors for engineering excellence and leadership.



TAHIR JAWAID

CEO, The Hunar Foundation
tahir_jawaid@outlook.com, [Linkedin](#)

Tahir Jawaaid is CEO of The Hunar Foundation and adjunct faculty at KSBL. With 35+ years in energy, petrochemicals, and human capital, he previously led HUBCO's operations and corporate services. He specializes in leadership development, supply chain, ERP systems, and organizational transformation across industrial and nonprofit sectors.



TECH COUNCIL
Industrial Automation Council

MAHEEN SALMAN

Chief Executive Officer, Global Innovatrix Pvt Ltd
maheen@gbmc.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Maheen Salman is CEO of Global Innovatrix and a member of the Industrial Automation Council. With 24 years of cross-sector experience, she drives innovation in sustainability, industrial automation, and digital transformation. She actively fosters academia-industry linkages, ecosystem development, and vocational training through national committees, research labs, and entrepreneurship initiatives.



TECH COUNCIL
Industrial Automation Council

SAADIA MANSOOR KAZMI

Director Engineering, WATSUN Engineering & Solutions
sadia.kazmi@watsun.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Saadia Mansoor Kazmi, Director Engineering at WATSUN Engineering, brings 25+ years of end-to-end expertise in automation solutions, project execution, and quality systems. With a strong track record in sales, customer relationship management, and cross-functional collaboration, she delivers innovative, stakeholder-aligned solutions while actively mentoring teams and driving industry engagement initiatives.



TECH COUNCIL
Industrial Automation Council

YOUSUF MIRZA

CEO, International Industries Limited

yousuf.mirza@iil.com.pk; yousufmirza@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Yousuf Mirza is the CEO of International Industries Limited and a member of the Industrial Automation Council. With extensive leadership experience across South and East Asia, he has successfully led the commercialization of large-scale industrial projects—especially in steel and air separation—managing capital ventures exceeding USD 60 million.



TECH COUNCIL
Industrial Automation Council

MOHAMMAD SALMAN AHMED LONE

Director Business Development, Griffin Engineers
salman.lone@iengr.co.uk, [Linkedin](#)

Mohammad Salman Ahmed Lone is Director of Business Development at Griffin Engineers with 16+ years of global experience across mining, oil & gas, cement, and manufacturing. He excels in strategy, project delivery, and team leadership, with expertise in industrial automation, cybersecurity, plant maintenance, and advanced process and drive train solutions.



TECH COUNCIL
Industrial Automation Council

PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD ASIF

Dean of Faculty Computing and Applied Sciences, Sir Syed University
muasif@ssuet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif is a seasoned academic and researcher with over 22 years of experience in higher education and technology. As Dean at Sir Syed University, he led innovative programs in AI and cloud computing, with key contributions in biomedical engineering, generative AI, DevOps education, and academia–industry collaboration.



HUMAYUN QURESHI

Director, First Paramount of Modaraba
Alivecv@usa.net, [Linkedin](#)

Humayun Qureshi is a veteran IT leader with over 55 years of global experience, including 31 years at IBM.

He drives national-scale R&D and IT projects in IoT, ERP, and e-governance, serves on multiple boards, and actively mentors professionals while advancing smart manufacturing, digital transformation, and academia–industry collaboration.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Investment Advisory Council brings together seasoned investors, VCs, angel networks and financial advisors to help startups navigate the funding landscape. The council supports founders with investment readiness, financial modeling, pitch refinement and strategic fundraising. It also works to bridge information asymmetry by helping investors discover credible, high-potential startups from NIC Karachi's pipeline. By fostering trust and transparency between investors and entrepreneurs, this council enhances access to capital, de-risks early-stage investments and supports scalable business growth.



TECH COUNCIL
Investment Advisory Council

MUHAMMAD HARRIS JAMALI

CHAIRPERSON

Group Head of Strategy and Transformation, easypaisa digital bank
harrisjamali@hmaadvisors.uk, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Harris Jamali is Managing Partner at H.M. Associates and a veteran investment banker with \$150B+ in announced deals across global markets. A C-suite strategist and turnaround expert, he advises on M&A, IPOs, and capital strategy. He's also an active startup mentor and advocate for women's empowerment through the Champions of Change Coalition.



TECH COUNCIL
Investment Advisory Council

KASHAF JAMAL

Vice President - Investments & Monitoring, Fatima Gobi
kashaf.jamal@gmail.com, kashaf@fatimagobi.vc, [Linkedin](#)

Kashaf Jamal is Vice President at Fatima Gobi Ventures and Gobi Partners, with 10+ years of experience in fintech, venture capital, energy, and economic development. A strategic investment leader, she combines analytical rigor with operational insight to fuel innovation and scalable impact across startups and emerging markets.



TECH COUNCIL
Investment Advisory Council

MALIK AHMED JALAL

Founder, Cordoba Ventures

ahmad.jalal@cordobaventures.com, [Linkedin](#)

Malik Ahmed Jalal is Founder of Cordoba Ventures and a member of the Investment Advisory Council. With 20+ years across Asia and Europe, he specializes in private equity, SME growth, and impact investing. A turnaround expert and policy advocate, he drives strategic investment, stakeholder alignment, and sustainable, cross-sector development.



TECH COUNCIL
Investment Advisory Council

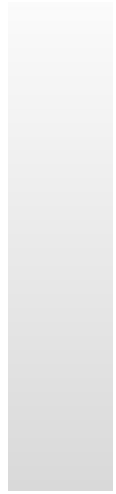
INAM UR REHMAN

Tech & Energy Consultant, [Linkedin](#)

Inam ur Rahman is an independent consultant and member of the Investment Advisory Council. With 25+ years of executive experience, including as CEO of Dawood Hercules, he specializes in strategic transformation, renewable energy, and innovation-driven ventures, guiding investment governance, growth strategy, and public-private collaboration across diverse business landscapes.



TECH COUNCIL
Investment Advisory Council



SAAD HASAN

Principal, Sturgeon Capital
sh@sturgeoncapital.com, [Linkedin](#)

Saad Hasan is Principal at Sturgeon Capital and South Asia lead, managing early-stage investments across fintech, e-commerce, and mobility. With 15+ years of experience in building and exiting software ventures, he specializes in fundraising, go-to-market strategy, growth, and financial management across emerging markets in North America and South Asia.





TECH COUNCIL
Investment Advisory Council

MUSTAFA O. PASHA

Executive Director & CIO, Lakson Investments Limited
mustafa.pasha@li.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Mustafa O. Pasha is Executive Director & CIO at Lakson Investments and a member of the Investment Advisory Council. With over a decade in asset management, he specializes in multi-asset allocation, macroeconomic analysis, and portfolio strategy for mutual funds, retirement schemes, and high-net-worth clients across public and private markets



M. SHOAIB AKHTER

Group Chief Strategy Officer, Pak - Qatar Group
Shoaib_akhter343@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

M. Shoaib Akhter is Group Chief Strategy Officer at Pak-Qatar Group and a member of the Investment Advisory Council. A Chartered Accountant with 17+ years of experience across EY, PwC, and Pak-Qatar, he leads corporate strategy, digital transformation, and performance management to drive sustainable growth, efficiency, and regulatory compliance.



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MUHAMMAD BILAL AHMED

Vice President - Investments, Engro Holdings
mbilal.ahmed@dawoodgroup.com, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Bilal Ahmed is Vice President – Investments at Engro Holdings and a member of the Investment Advisory Council. A Cambridge MPhil Economics graduate with CFA and FRM credentials, he specializes in macroeconomic research, portfolio design, and financial risk management, delivering high-return investment strategies across equity, debt, and multi-asset classes.



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TABBASSUM PARDESI

Founder, Uprise
tabassumpardesi73@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Tabassum Pardesi is Founder & CEO of Uprise Group, which includes Uprise Aviation and Uprise Africa. In 2014, she became Pakistan's first woman to establish and own an airline—Skywise Airline (South Africa), a milestone in aviation entrepreneurship. A global aviation and fintech innovator, she led Uprise's bid for PIA's privatization and now drives women-led, transcontinental enterprise ventures.

FINTECH COUNCIL



The Fintech Council at NIC Karachi brings together innovators and experts reshaping Pakistan's financial landscape. With mentorship from regulators, founders, bankers, and compliance professionals, the council supports startups working on digital payments, lending, financial inclusion, insurtech, and regtech. The council plays a critical role in helping startups understand licensing pathways, compliance frameworks (SBP, SECP), and integration with banks and financial institutions. By fostering a dialogue between startups and the broader financial ecosystem, it accelerates responsible fintech innovation aligned with national financial inclusion goals.



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SHAHZAD SHAHID CHAIRPERSON

Group CEO, TPS

shahzad.shahid@tpsonline.com , shahzads@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Shahzad Shahid is Group CEO at TPS and a fintech veteran with 20+ years of global experience in digital banking, payments, and tech-led transformation. He drives innovation across the MEA region, holding key board roles and combining strategic leadership with deep technical and regulatory expertise to scale financial services impact.





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Fintech Council

BASMA HUSSAIN AHMED

Country Head Pakistan, EPS
basma@elementpay.io, [Linkedin](#)

Basma Hussain Ahmed is Country Head at EPS and founder of The SWOT's Guide. With 10+ years in Pakistan's financial sector, she specializes in SME advisory, strategy, and innovation. As co-creator of Swotsup, she champions entrepreneurship, brand scaling, and wellness-driven leadership to foster impactful business growth.



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SAAD NIAZI

Co-Founder & CEO, Keenu
saadkhanniazi@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Saad Niazi is Co-Founder and CEO of Keenu, a pioneer in Pakistan's digital payments landscape. With over a decade of leadership in fintech, banking, and product innovation, he has been central to advancing financial inclusion, scaling Keenu's footprint, and accelerating the country's shift toward a cashless economy.



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SHAH AUN HUSSAIN

Co-founder, Swich
shah.aun@numbers.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Shah Aun Hussain is Co-founder of Swich, a fintech scaling to \$50M in monthly payments within two years. A serial entrepreneur, he launched Loacker in Pakistan at 18 and held executive roles at Gerry's Group, driving airline market entries. He specializes in payments, fintech, GTM strategy, and aviation business.



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IMRAN SAEED

Founder & CEO, Encore Pay
Imran.saeed@encore-pay.com, [Linkedin](#)

Imran Saeed is a fintech entrepreneur and CEO of Encore Pay, a NIC Karachi alumnus. He mentors startups on digital payments, financial modeling, and go-to-market strategy. With expertise in payment integration and fintech architecture, he helps early-stage ventures build scalable, regulation-ready platforms tailored for region evolving financial ecosystem.



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YASIN KODVAVI

Head of Equity & Director, Optimus Capital

yasinkodvavi@gmail.com; yasin@haasiltech.com, [Linkedin](#)

Yasin Kodvavi is Head of Equities at Optimus Capital and co-founder of Haasil. With a career spanning equity research, trade execution, and fintech innovation, he blends deep capital markets expertise with entrepreneurial insight—driving growth, regulatory compliance, and data-led decision-making across public and private investment domains.



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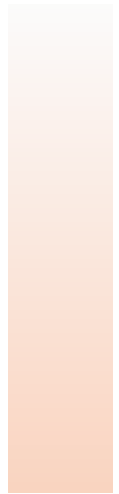
SHAISTA ABDULLAH

Chief Schemes Officer, 1Link
Shaista.abdullah@1Link.net.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Shaista Abdullah is Chief Schemes Officer at 1LINK, with extensive global experience across telecom, banking, and fintech. Formerly at Deloitte, Vodacom, and Khushhali Bank, she excels in digital transformation, customer experience, and omni-channel strategy—driving innovation, loyalty, and inclusive financial solutions in Pakistan’s evolving digital economy.



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SYED ADNAN ALI

CEO and Director, PayFast
adnanali@apps.net.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Syed Adnan Ali is CEO & Director of PayFast, Pakistan's SBP-licensed PSO/PSP, which he founded and scaled from inception. With 20 years of financial leadership, he's known for shaping digital payments, driving regulatory innovation, and mentoring startups to strengthen Pakistan's fintech ecosystem and broader digital economy.





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NAUREEN HYAT

CEO, Zood Pakistan

naureen.hyat@tezfinancialservices.pk, [LinkedIn](#)

Naureen Hyat is a serial entrepreneur and fintech leader, currently serving as CEO of Zood Pakistan. With deep expertise in inclusive lending and social impact, she has pioneered accessible financial solutions for underserved communities, combining microfinance innovation with a mission-driven approach to expand financial inclusion across Pakistan.



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