



Ministry of
IT & Telecom



GUIDING INNOVATION TOGETHER

Advisory Council 2026
Technology Councils 2026





PREFACE

Strong innovation ecosystems are built through collaboration, expertise, and a shared commitment to creating meaningful impact. At NIC Karachi, we believe that entrepreneurial success is strengthened by access to experienced leaders who bring strategic insight, industry knowledge, and diverse perspectives to the innovation journey.

The NIC Karachi Councils embody this vision by bringing together accomplished professionals from industry, academia, government, investment, and the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Their collective expertise plays a vital role in strengthening our programs, fostering industry-academia collaboration, and enabling startups to navigate challenges, seize emerging opportunities, and scale sustainable ventures. Through mentorship, strategic guidance, and sector-specific insights, these councils contribute to building an ecosystem where innovation can thrive.

This booklet recognizes the distinguished individuals who have chosen to contribute their time, knowledge, and leadership to NIC Karachi's mission. Their continued engagement reflects a shared belief in the transformative potential of entrepreneurship and innovation as catalysts for economic progress and national development.

As you explore these pages, you will discover a community of leaders united by a common purpose to empower founders, strengthen Pakistan's innovation landscape, and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs. Their contributions exemplify the value of collaboration and reaffirm that lasting progress is achieved when expertise, vision, and partnership come together.



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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 **444** startups, generating over **1 million +** jobs, helping startups raise more than **PKR 13 billion +** in investment and generating **PKR 12 billion +** in revenue (as of 2026).

Since 2024, NIC Karachi has entered a new chapter: it is now jointly managed by **LMKT, Lucky Landmark** (part of YB Group), and **Orbit Ventures**, 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 Credits. 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 Ventures, 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:

PayFast, Blinq, Ticket Wala, Highfy, TrashIt, EncorePay, Bioniks, Disrupt Labs, SOCByte, Fortanixor and Tenacious Ten 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

The strength of any innovation ecosystem lies in the quality of its partnerships. At NIC Karachi, our councils serve as a bridge between entrepreneurs and accomplished leaders who bring deep industry expertise, strategic perspectives, and a commitment to fostering innovation.

The guidance and engagement of our council members enrich every stage of the entrepreneurial journey. Their insights help startups validate ideas, navigate evolving markets, build meaningful collaborations, and prepare for sustainable growth. Equally important, these councils strengthen the connection between industry, academia, government, and the broader innovation ecosystem, creating greater opportunities for founders to succeed.

I extend my sincere appreciation to every council member for their invaluable contribution and continued support of NIC Karachi's mission. This booklet is a tribute to their leadership, generosity, and shared vision of empowering entrepreneurs while advancing a vibrant, resilient, and globally competitive startup ecosystem for Pakistan.

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.



MAHA QASIM CHAIRPERSON

Founder & CEO, Zero-point Partners
maha.qasim@zero-point.co, [Linkedin](#)

Maha Qasim is an environment and sustainability professional with over 15 years of experience in corporate sustainability, climate strategy, ESG performance and disclosure, environmental and social impact assessment, energy market analytics, and international development. She is committed to advancing the transition towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy through sustainability and climate finance solutions. She leads a team at Zero-point Partners, delivering sustainability and climate finance advisory services to public and private sector clients in Pakistan and internationally.

Her expertise includes ESG integration, climate risk analysis, and sustainable investment advisory. She serves on the board of the Global Youth Leadership Council and on the Leadership Council of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Pakistan, contributing to youth engagement and sustainable development initiatives.



KHUSHNOOD AFTAB

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

Khushnood Aftab is Chairman of Viper Group and a technology industry leader with nearly three decades of experience advancing Pakistan's IT sector at both local and global levels. He serves as Convener of the FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Information Technology, reflecting his commitment to innovation, economic development, and technology policy advancement in Pakistan. Since founding Viper Technology in 1995, he has led its evolution from a startup into a diversified technology enterprise spanning software development, business process outsourcing, digital marketing, consultancy, cloud migration, and technology education through Viper Academy.

Under his leadership, the company became a long-standing local original equipment manufacturer and key technology provider in Pakistan. His focus includes promoting "Made in Pakistan" initiatives, strengthening global competitiveness, fostering technology partnerships, supporting investment-friendly policies, and driving sustainable growth within Pakistan's digital and industrial technology ecosystem.



SHABISTA BAKHTIAR

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

Shabista Bakhtiar is a professional with expertise in early childhood education, digital marketing, brand strategy, and entrepreneurship. She began her career in early childhood education, spending twelve years developing foundational learning methodologies before transitioning into branding, communications, and business leadership. She is the Co-Founder of Torq Labs, a creative studio specializing in design, animation, and post-production, and the Founder of Learning Lab, an initiative focused on personal development, inclusive education, and teacher development.

A Certified NLP Master Coach, she currently serves as President of the Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry Korangi.



SAQUIB FAYYAZ MAGOON

Senior Vice President, FPCCI
saquib.fayyaz@fpcci.org.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Saquib Fayyaz Magoon is a sales and business development professional with extensive leadership experience in Pakistan's corporate and trade sectors. He has served as Sales Director at Polar Bear since 2005, where he has contributed to commercial strategy, stakeholder engagement, and business growth. His expertise spans sales leadership, trade facilitation, and industry representation, with a focus on strengthening Pakistan's commercial ecosystem. He currently serves as Chairman of the Indentor Association of Pakistan and has previously held the position of Vice President at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

Through these roles, he has contributed to industry advocacy, policy dialogue, and collaboration between the private sector and key stakeholders.



VLADIMIRA BRIESTENSKA

Founder, Neem

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

Vladimira Briestenska is a global entrepreneur, investor, and advocate focused on building purpose-driven businesses that deliver social impact and challenge conventional systems. She is committed to advancing financial inclusion, reducing inequality, and strengthening mental health and resilience within entrepreneurial ecosystems. She is a Co-Founder of Neem in Pakistan, advancing financial wellness for underserved communities, particularly women and underrepresented groups across emerging markets. Beyond fintech, she co-founded The Future Farm, a global initiative dedicated to healthier entrepreneurship and emotional resilience, and co-hosts the NAKED podcast, where conversations center on the mental well-being of entrepreneurs.

She serves on advisory boards of multiple impact-driven organizations and contributes to ecosystem development, leadership coaching, and policy discussions across regions.



ZIA U ARFEEN

Senior Vice President, KCCI
svp@kcci.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Zia u Arfeen is a manufacturing and merchandising industry professional with over three decades of experience in textile production and promotional product development. He specializes in the production of high-quality apparel and corporate merchandise, including baseball caps, T-shirts, uniforms, workwear, and a broad range of textile-based products. His expertise includes bulk workwear manufacturing, textile production, garment development, and B2B promotional merchandising. He has established long-term partnerships with corporate clients and contributed to several high-profile product launches, with a focus on quality assurance, timely execution, and scalable production capacity. His work emphasizes customized branding solutions, operational reliability, and adherence to international quality standards.



MUHAMMAD MUNAF MAJEED

Technical Director, Server4Sale
munaf@s4scorp.com, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Munaf Majeed is an IT and cybersecurity professional with extensive experience in enterprise technology, infrastructure security, and systems consulting since 1998. He specializes in diagnosing complex IT issues, identifying root causes, and designing practical, implementable solutions across enterprise environments. His expertise includes cybersecurity consulting, vendor performance optimization, hosting and data center outsourcing, infrastructure hardening for internet banking systems, and enterprise security architecture. He has delivered cybersecurity lectures and advisory services for financial institutions and technology organizations. He is the founder of BlockDos.net, providing anti-DDoS solutions, and has experience in managed hosting, web and email security, and streaming infrastructure.

His earlier technical background spans web development and systems including Novell, Citrix, and Windows NT environments.



PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD TUFAIL

Vice Chancellor, NEDUET
vc@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail is the Vice-Chancellor of NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi. He is a distinguished scholar in industrial and manufacturing engineering and has previously served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Engineering at NED University before assuming his current leadership role. He holds a Ph.D. and has an active research portfolio in manufacturing engineering, materials science, and industrial systems. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and a recipient of the Pakistan Engineering Council Engineers' Excellence Award. Throughout his academic and administrative career, he has contributed extensively to education in engineering, institutional development, and academic leadership.

He has mentored thousands of engineers and played a key role in strengthening higher education standards in Pakistan.



TAHIR JAVED

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

Tahir Javed is an industrial operations and management professional with over 30 years of experience in the fertilizer and petrochemical sectors. He has held senior leadership roles across multiple strategic and operational domains, including Human Resources, Electrical and Instrumentation (E&I), Planning, Materials and Warehouse Management, and Procurement functions. His expertise includes the implementation of advanced materials management and maintenance management systems, with a strong focus on improving operational efficiency and optimizing supply chain processes in large-scale industrial environments.

He specializes in cross-functional coordination, process improvement, and system-driven decision-making within complex and regulated industries. He has consistently contributed to enhancing operational reliability, performance management, and long-term organizational development.

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.



KHURSHEED KOTWAL

CHAIRPERSON

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

Khursheed Kotwal is a distinguished governance and finance professional with extensive leadership experience in accounting, assurance, financial management, and institutional development. She currently serves as Chairperson of the Digital Accounting and Assurance Board at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), where she is also a Council Member and former Vice President.

Her leadership spans several prominent institutions, including the Pakistan Institute of Public Finance Accountants (PIPFA), Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN), and Aasman International Limited. With expertise in institutional governance, financial oversight, digital transformation, and strategic leadership, she has made significant contributions to strengthening professional and regulatory frameworks.



SHAFaq FAUZIL AZIM

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

Shafaq Fauzil Azim is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG), where she leads initiatives to advance governance standards, institutional capacity, and stakeholder collaboration. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and has previously served on its Auditing Standards and Ethics Committee. She also serves as an Independent Director on the board of a not-for-profit organization. With over 25 years of experience, she specializes in corporate governance, audit, quality assurance, and risk management.

She is an IFC-trained faculty member for governance and ESG-related programs, including director training, sustainability workshops, and corporate secretarial development initiatives. She has contributed to publications on corporate governance, shareholder rights, ESG awareness, and board oversight in Pakistan.



AZKA REHMAN

Change Management Manager (PSW)
azka.rehman@psw.gov.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Azka Rehman is a strategic change and communications leader with over a decade of experience in stakeholder alignment, institutional transformation, and reputation-led initiatives across government and corporate sectors. She has led multi-stakeholder programs spanning media, financial services, banking, B2B engagement, and national transformation initiatives. Her work focuses on aligning organizations with stakeholders through structured engagement, strategic positioning, and effective communication to ensure measurable adoption and long-term impact.

She currently leads the change management function at Pakistan Single Window, a government-led digital transformation initiative focused on digitizing cross-border trade. She oversees stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and adoption strategies across government entities, industry bodies, SMEs, and private-sector partners, ensuring coordinated implementation within a complex ecosystem.



DR. OWAIS H. SHAIKH

Founder, Hassan Shaikh & Co
owais@hassanshaikh.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Owais H. Shaikh is a legal and policy professional with 18 years of well-rounded academic and practical experience in intellectual property law, policy, and business at national and international levels. He specializes in intellectual property strategy, commercialization, management, and the intersection of IP with innovation and competition frameworks. His expertise includes international intellectual property law, IP policy development, and regulatory approaches related to competition and innovation, with a focus on unfair competition, deceptive marketing practices, trademarks, and brand protection. He has contributed to strengthening understanding and application of IP systems through legal, policy, and strategic perspectives. His work integrates academic insight with practical application to support organizations in enhancing innovation management and intellectual property governance.



AYAZ AHMED UQAILI

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

Ayaz Ahmed Uqaili works at the intersection of governance, technology, and public service delivery, focusing on building sustainable, citizen-centric digital systems and strengthening institutional digital capabilities. He has over 25 years of experience across the public and private sectors, including roles at EOBI, the Government of Sindh, Telenor Bank (easypaisa), and House Building Finance Company. He specializes in supporting government digital transformation, ensuring effective and trusted service delivery in the digital era. He currently serves as Member IT Industry Development at the Science & IT Department, Government of Sindh, contributing to digital economy initiatives, fintech development, startup ecosystem growth, and digital governance. He has led major transformation programs including ERP systems, online contribution platforms, and core banking implementations.



DR. NOSHEEN RAZA

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

Dr. Nosheen Raza is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Karachi with experience in research, education, and social development initiatives. She is a Curriculum Fellowship Awardee of the International Centre on Nonviolent Conflict, Washington, and has worked as a consultant with the United Nations Population Fund on projects related to population and development in Pakistan. Her academic and professional interests include demography, education, human rights, and social change. She has contributed to research and community development initiatives with organizations including SPARC, Youth Advocacy Network, DevCon, Initiator Human Development Foundation, and Youth Together for Human Rights Education.

She focuses on advancing academic research, youth engagement, and evidence-based policy development.



DR. FAKHARA RIZWAN

Chief Strategic Initiatives & Corporate Affairs Officer, Mobilink Bank
fakhara.rizwan@mobilinkbank.com, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Fakhara Rizwan currently works as Chief Strategic Initiatives & Corporate Affairs Officer at Mobilink Bank. She is a seasoned governance and legal professional with expertise in corporate governance, ESG, regulatory compliance, corporate affairs, and strategic leadership. She also serves as Non-Executive Director at Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG), contributing to the development and promotion of governance practices in Pakistan.

Previously, she served as Company Secretary and Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer at Pakistan Stock Exchange, where she led key governance and regulatory initiatives. Dr. Rizwan holds a Master's degree in Business Law and a Ph.D. in Corporate Laws from International Islamic University Malaysia. She is also a Certified Corporate Governance Professional, Accredited Financial Crime Investigation Specialist, Lawyer, Accredited International Mediator, and Accredited ESG and DEI Professional.



ALI FARID KHWAJA

Commissioner, SECP
ali.farid@secp.gov.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Ali Farid Khwaja is a Commissioner at the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan with extensive leadership experience across financial markets, fintech, investments, and global capital markets. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of a metals and mining company listed on the London Stock Exchange and is the founder of Pakistan's largest retail stock trading platform, KASB KTrade. His professional experience includes senior roles such as Partner at Autonomous Research and Group Chief Financial Officer at SafeCharge. He also serves on advisory boards including Prism AG, Aspen Digital, and Naga, and has consulted for organizations such as the Asian Development Bank, Adam Smith International, Stacks Foundation, and Bank Alfalah. He was ranked among Europe's top technology analysts by Reuters Thomson Extel.



PROF. DR. NOMAN AHMED

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

Professor Dr. Noman Ahmed is a distinguished academic, urban planner, and development expert, serving as Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Management Sciences at NED University of Engineering & Technology. His expertise spans urban planning, infrastructure development, public policy, and sustainable city management. He has advised international development agencies, government institutions, and NGOs in Pakistan and abroad, and is the author of widely recognized publications. His contributions have been recognized with the Higher Education Commission Best Teacher Award, the Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan Memorial Award, the Best Writer Award on Environment and Development, and the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (2021).

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.



SHAH ABDULLAH RAZA CHAIRPERSON

Group Chief Information Officer, Alkaram Textile Mills
abdullah.raza@alkaram.com, [Linkedin](#)

Shah Abdullah Raza is a technology leader with over two decades of experience driving digital transformation. As the Group Chief Information Officer at Alkaram Textile Mills, he leads digital initiatives focused on innovation, efficiency, and business growth. He has played key roles in large-scale transformations at global and national organizations including Shell, L'Oréal Pakistan, Toyota (Indus Motor Company), Shan Foods, Ismail Industries, and National Foods Limited, delivering complex technology programs and SAP implementations.

An entrepreneur and innovator, Shah is the Founder of F&H Tech Solutions and BazarBee, building scalable technology solutions from the ground up.



AAQIB SAYED

Director Growth & Partnerships, Digital Ocean
aaqib.sayed@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Aaqib Sayed is a marketing and growth leader with experience across advertising, publishing, FMCG, technology, and SaaS. He is a Chartered Marketer from the Chartered Institute of Marketing and a Certified Professional Marketer from the Asia Marketing Federation.

Currently, he serves as Director of Growth and Partnerships at DigitalOcean, leading growth for the Cloudways platform through user acquisition, strategic partnerships, affiliate networks, events, and ROI optimization. Aaqib has held leadership roles at Dawn Media Group, TPL Corp, IBL Group, OLX, and JWT, working with renowned brands including Nokia, Unilever, Shell, and Kraft Foods. He has also co-founded ventures including Worksquad and Aerofitness.

An advocate for leadership and entrepreneurship, Aaqib contributes to community building through mentorship initiatives. He holds an MBA in Marketing and has completed Disruptive Strategy coursework from Harvard Business School Online.



FATIMA ARSHAD

Global Corporate Affairs Manager, Unilever Pakistan
fatima.arshad@unilever.com, [Linkedin](#)

Fatima Arshad is a communications and sustainability professional with nearly a decade of experience at Unilever, driving initiatives that connect business goals with social impact. She currently serves as Global Corporate Affairs Manager, having previously led Sustainability and Corporate Communications for Unilever Pakistan.

Her work spans corporate communications, sustainability strategy, brand messaging, and integrated campaigns across multiple platforms. She has led the implementation of Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan initiatives in Pakistan and served as Sustainability Lead for the PTAB cluster, covering Pakistan, Turkey, Arabia, and Bangladesh.

Previously, Fatima worked at Philips Pakistan, managing integrated communications, leadership messaging, media strategy, crisis management, and sustainability initiatives. She began her career with Maersk Line and IBL Group. An MBA graduate in Marketing and Communications from the Institute of Business Management, Fatima is passionate about using communication as a force for positive change.



ASAD ULLAH CHAUDHRY

Founder & CEO, AUC

asad@auctechnologies.com [Linkedin](#)

Asad Ullah Chaudhry is a technology and business leader with expertise spanning program management, entrepreneurship, and strategic growth. He currently serves as CEO of ASHREITech and Founder of AUC Technologies, focusing on building scalable ventures and developing AI-enabled project management talent.

His career includes leadership roles such as Chief Program Manager at Inbox Business Technologies, PMO Head at Fidelity Information Services, and consultant for PMO development across organizations including Fauji Fertilizer Company and Jaffer Group. He has led complex technology programs, ERP implementations, and professional training initiatives.

Asad holds an M.Sc. in Major Programme Management from Oxford's Saïd Business School, along with certifications from Stanford University and PMI Leadership Institute. A Computer Science graduate from Sir Syed University, he remains actively involved in professional communities, advancing project management practices locally and globally.



DR. DANISH UR REHMAN KHAN

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

Dr. Danish ur Rehman Khan is an academic and administrative professional with a strong association with NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. He currently serves as Technical Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, supporting institutional leadership through his technical expertise and administrative capabilities. With multiple degrees from NED University, including a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer and Information Systems Engineering, and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Networks & Performance Evaluation, Dr. Danish has built a strong foundation in technology and systems.

His expertise spans account management, financial analysis, firewalls, and GSM technologies, reflecting a blend of technical and operational knowledge. Having spent his career at NED, he brings valuable institutional insight and supports strategic decision-making across university operations. Dr. Danish continues to contribute to advancing technology, education, and innovation within Pakistan's engineering landscape.



FAHAD AHMED

COO, OPTeM Consulting
fahadahmeds@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Fahad Ahmed is a highly accomplished project management professional with over 20 years of experience and the rare distinction of holding PMI's PMP, PgMP, and PfMP certifications across project, program, and portfolio management. He has worked across financial services, healthcare, insurance, and technology sectors, specializing in building effective project management systems and organizational capabilities.

He has held leadership positions including Head of IT at Jubilee General Insurance, Head of PMO at Aga Khan University and Avanza Solutions, and Regional Vice President at Faysal Bank.

A former President of PMI Karachi Pakistan Chapter, he continues to support the project management community through consulting, mentorship, and leadership. He holds a BS in Computer Science from Karachi University.



ANITA ASHFAQ LODHI

Chief Transformation and Strategy Officer, Pak Suzuki Motor Co Ltd
anita.ashfaq@paksuzuki.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Anita Lodhi is a Chief Transformation and Strategy Officer with over 15 years of experience at Pak Suzuki Motor Company. Currently serving as Staff General Manager and Head of Plant Purchasing, she leads end-to-end procurement, contract management, and cost optimization for both local and imported parts. Her career reflects steady growth across key leadership roles, including Head of Imports Management, where she managed major supply chain disruptions during and after COVID-19, addressing shipping crises, import restrictions, and demurrage control through strategic logistics solutions.

She has rich experience in ERP and SAP implementations and has played a key role in customs duty structuring and regulatory savings for new models.

She holds an MBA from IBA Karachi and diplomas in Supply Chain and Project Management, consistently translating strategy into operational efficiency and resilient supply chain systems.



NIDA TANZEEL

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

Nida Tanzeel is a purpose-driven professional with over 17 years of experience across Shell Pakistan and Wafi Energy Pakistan Limited. Her career reflects strong versatility, spanning operations, commercial roles, continuous improvement, learning and development, and social performance, all grounded in practical, results-driven execution. She currently leads Social Performance and Social Investments, focusing on community impact and strengthening brand reputation through meaningful engagement. Earlier at Shell, she built a strong commercial foundation across the order-to-cash cycle, lubricants, retail, and supply chain functions, with regional experience in the Middle East and Central Asia. Based in Dubai as a Cluster Business and Insights Analyst, she helped shape a five-year lubricants growth strategy and introduced premium products in the UAE, while also streamlining SAP-based operations in Oman.

A Certified Lean Practitioner and Continuous Improvement Coach, she has led multiple optimization initiatives. She holds a BS in Computer Science from NED University.



MALIHA FAROOQ

GM - Head of Marketing & Communications, Dolmen Group
maliha.farooq@dolmengroup.com, [Linkedin](#)

Maliha Farooq Ismail is a marketing strategist with over 17 years of experience across financial services, retail, and digital ecosystems. Her work is distinguished by a strong focus on neuromarketing and consumer decision science, using behavioral and psychological frameworks to understand brand choice. She is a certified neuromarketer and holds an MSc in Marketing and Strategy from Warwick Business School, along with digital marketing certifications from Cornell University.

Currently, she serves as General Manager - Head of Marketing and Communications at Dolmen Group, where she drives integrated marketing, digital analytics, and brand strategy across major retail and real estate assets. Previously, she led digital marketing at HBL and worked with Reuters across South Asia. She also serves as Secretary General and CMO of the American Business Council of Pakistan, leading marketing and communications for over 70 multinational companies.

An Amazon-published author and Certified Board Director, she is a recognized thought leader in marketing science.

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.



SALMAN HAROON **CHAIRPERSON**

CEO, Arafat Printing Press Pvt Ltd
salman@arafatpress.com, [Linkedin](#)

Salman Haroon is a senior business executive with over 30 years of experience in industrial management, strategic business development, entrepreneurship, and workforce development. He serves as Chief Executive Officer of Arafat Printing Press, Trace Pakistan, Haris International, and Agri Value Farm. A strong advocate of technical and vocational education, he has facilitated more than 500 industry partnerships, trained over 200 instructors and assessors, and supported industry-led training for more than 4,000 graduates. He also serves as Chairman of the FPCCI Standing Committee on Technical and Vocational Education and Training and collaborates with organizations including HEC, SMEDA, NAVTTC, UNIDO, ITC, and EU-funded programs.



DR.MEHREEN KAUSAR AZAM

Assistant Professor, PNEC-NUST
mehreen@pnec.nust.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Mehreen Kausar Azam is an academic and quality assurance professional with expertise in quality management, data analysis, teaching, training, and institutional development. She specializes in strengthening academic and organizational standards through compliance-driven quality assurance and evidence-based decision-making. Her experience includes academic instruction, student mentorship, professional training, and capacity-building initiatives that promote continuous improvement and lifelong learning. Through her work in data analysis and institutional assessment, she supports strategic planning and organizational excellence.



Academia and Industry
Council

IQBALUDDIN KHAN

Incharge BS & AD Programs, DIT Deputy Campus Head, Hamdard University
iqbaluddin.khan@hamdard.edu, [Linkedin](#)

Iqbaluddin Khan is Deputy Campus Head and Assistant Professor at Hamdard University, Karachi, with 18 years of institutional leadership and 11 years of teaching experience. He oversees academic administration, IT infrastructure, admissions, and faculty coordination while leading BS and AD programs. He introduced flagship degree programs in Digital Forensics and Cyber Security, and Cloud Application Development and Operations to align academic offerings with emerging industry needs. His expertise includes cloud computing, software-defined networking, computer networks, Industrial IoT, and Industry 4.0.

He has supervised more than 30 student projects and authored 18 research publications.



DR. SUNDUS ALI

Associate Professor, Dept. of Telecommunications Engineering, NEDUET
mbic@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Sundus Ali is an academic and innovation professional with expertise in project management, business incubation, technology commercialization, curriculum development, academic leadership, and research. She has contributed to entrepreneurship support, industry-academia collaboration, and institutional capacity-building through the design and management of academic programs and innovation initiatives. Her research interests include 5G and beyond communication systems, heterogeneous networks, and ad hoc networks. She also has extensive experience in student engagement and leadership development through academic and co-curricular initiatives.



DR. NOMAN MAHMOOD

Deputy Director QEC and Assistant Professor BMS, MiTE
noman.mahmood@mite.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Noman Mahmood holds a Ph.D. in Business Management and brings extensive national and international experience in academia, research, and academic administration. He currently serves as Chair of the Curriculum Review Committee, Assistant Professor, Deputy Director QEC, and Point of Contact for Pearson BTEC Higher National and University of Hertfordshire programs at MiTE.

Previously, he served as Senior Lecturer and BS Entrepreneurship Program Coordinator at IoBM. His expertise includes strategic planning, curriculum development, quality assurance, academic compliance, faculty management, and transnational education.

He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and teaches management, entrepreneurship, strategy, marketing, and research.



DR. JAWWAD AHMED SHAMSI

Professor & Dean (Computing), FAST NUCES
jawwad.shamsi@nu.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Jawwad Shamsi is an academic and technology leader with over 25 years of experience in research, teaching, and innovation. His expertise includes artificial intelligence, machine learning, distributed systems, cybersecurity, computer networks, cloud computing, high-performance computing, big data analytics, and software-defined networking. Throughout his career, he has focused on applying advanced technologies to solve real-world challenges while promoting research excellence and innovation.

His work combines academic leadership with practical technology development to create scalable solutions for industry and society.



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

Dean CCSIS, IoBM
dr.abbas@iobm.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Brigadier (R.) Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abbas is an academic leader and strategic professional with 28 years of experience in higher education, research, and institutional leadership. His expertise includes software engineering, academic program development, curriculum design, instructional planning, and research supervision. An HEC-approved Ph.D. supervisor, he has authored more than 68 international research publications, with research interests in ERP systems, software engineering, data mining, and quality assurance. He has successfully led academic and institutional projects from planning to implementation while maintaining strong stakeholder engagement.



SAAD BAIG

Adjunct Faculty, Habib University
saad.baig@sse.habib.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Saad Baig is a deep-tech and innovation professional with over 12 years of experience in research, engineering, entrepreneurship, and business strategy. He specializes in translating technical innovation into scalable commercial solutions and has developed university-wide entrepreneurship programs integrating academic curricula with founder mentorship. His work includes research, development and deployment of UAV and industrial automation systems, improving operational efficiency and supporting technology commercialization. He has also established project offices and industry-academia partnerships that secured external funding and strengthened innovation ecosystems.

He holds a Master's in Electrical Engineering from Santa Clara University and an Executive MBA from IBA Karachi.



DR. RIZWAN AHMED KHAN

Professor Computer Science, IBA
rizwankhan@iba.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Rizwan Ahmed Khan is an academic and researcher with over 20 years of experience in computer vision, artificial intelligence, and responsible AI. He serves as Professor of Computer Science at IBA Karachi and also contributes as an Invited Professor and Researcher at Université Jean Monnet, France, actively engaging with international Master's programs like IMLEX and PSRS. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Vision from Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 and an Erasmus Mundus Master's in Color in Informatics and Media Technology. Previously, he served as Dean of the Faculty of IT at Salim Habib University, where he established the Computer Science Department and led its accreditation.

His research focuses on explainable AI, medical imaging, image enhancement, and immersive environments.

EDTECH COUNCIL



The EdTech Council creates a strategic platform connecting startups with education leaders, technology experts, academic institutions, policymakers, and ecosystem stakeholders. Its purpose is to support innovation in learning by helping startups navigate education trends, digital transformation opportunities, institutional partnerships, and emerging needs within the sector.

By bringing together mentors from academia, learning technology, training organizations, and public-private initiatives, the council enables startups to strengthen their solutions, improve accessibility, and develop scalable education technologies. It facilitates collaboration between innovators and key stakeholders, enhances adoption of digital learning solutions, and supports the growth of Pakistan's education ecosystem. The council also helps startups access industry insights, institutional networks, and opportunities for long-term partnerships that contribute to building an inclusive, technology-enabled future for education.





SYED NASIR R. ZAIDI **CHAIRPERSON**

President, Pakistan Academic Consortium
nasirzaidi.tes@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

An education entrepreneur and ecosystem builder, Syed Nasir Raza Zaidi has held several leadership positions, including Founder and President of the Pakistan Academic Consortium, Vice Chairman of the Consumers Association of Pakistan, and Charter President of the Rotary Club of Karachi Educationists.

He has also served at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) as Chairman of the Standing Committees on Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Professional Development, and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee on Literature & Skills Development. He holds an MBA in Marketing from the Institute of Business Management (IoBM).



ZAREEN QURESHI

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

Zareen Qureshi is a development sector strategist with 20 years of experience in social impact, organizational transformation, and inclusive development. As Chief Operating Officer at Charity Right Pakistan, she leads strategic planning, resource mobilization, and organizational growth. She also advises the Medical Aid Foundation on advocacy, monitoring, and compliance. Her career includes collaborations with WWF Pakistan, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Sindh Education Foundation on sustainability, education, and community development initiatives. As a member of Pakistan's first National Curriculum Committee, she supported the integration of gender, faith, and inclusion into educational content.

Recognized by USAID for interpersonal leadership and selected to represent Pakistan at Cranfield University, UK, she brings expertise in stakeholder engagement, organizational strategy, policy development, and inclusive growth.



MAHEEN ADAMJEE

Founder and CEO, Dot & Line Inc.
maheen.bashir@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Maheen Adamjee is an entrepreneur, education innovator, and CEO and Founder of Dot & Line, an edtech platform transforming access to quality learning through technology. With over a decade of experience in the education sector, she has built a global learning ecosystem connecting hundreds of instructors with students across more than 24 countries. Her work focuses on making education more accessible and inclusive by leveraging digital platforms to overcome traditional learning barriers. A graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Maheen combines academic excellence with entrepreneurial leadership and a strong understanding of communication and storytelling.

An award-winning journalist, she has used her platform to shape conversations around innovation, education, and social progress.



BILAL HAMEED

Founder and CEO, Alt Academy
bilal@altacademy.org, [Linkedin](#)

Bilal Hameed is an education entrepreneur and founder of Alt Academy, an edtech platform focused on transforming learning through technology and accessible, high-quality education. Under his leadership, Alt Academy has expanded its reach to more than 70,000 students across 75+ countries, delivering strong academic outcomes, including globally recognized CAIE A-Level results. His expertise spans edtech innovation, curriculum design, entrepreneurship, and technology-enabled learning models. He has also contributed to the education ecosystem through co-founding Ivy School and Cedar College, developing scalable approaches that combine academic excellence with digital innovation. Driven by a commitment to improving learning experiences, Bilal focuses on building solutions that empower students and expand access to quality education worldwide.



AMBREENA AHMED

Director, Teachers' Resource Centre (TRC)
ambreena.ahmed@trconline.org, [Linkedin](#)

Ambreena Ahmed is Director of the Teachers' Resource Centre (TRC), one of Pakistan's pioneering institutions dedicated to teacher education and professional development for over three decades. She has focused on strengthening educational outcomes by empowering teachers through professional learning and capacity-building initiatives. Under her leadership, TRC has expanded opportunities for educators from public sector and under-resourced schools through scholarship programmes and specialized training. She established a teacher scholarship fund by building partnerships with corporates, philanthropists, and individual donors, enabling teachers to access quality professional development.

Ambreena has also collaborated with national and provincial education stakeholders, including curriculum bodies and government departments, contributing to education policy and reform initiatives. Her expertise spans teacher development, education leadership, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and inclusive education.



ATHAR KHAN

Managing Director, Happy Palace Group of Schools
athar.khan@hpgs.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Athar Khan is Managing Director at The Happy Palace Group of Schools, where he oversees corporate affairs, governance, legal compliance, and organizational operations. He holds an LLB from the University of Manchester, is a Barrister of Lincoln's Inn, London, and earned an LLM from the University of California, Berkeley. With expertise in corporate law, regulatory compliance, and institutional governance, he has played a key role in strengthening governance frameworks and operational effectiveness within the education sector.



HUDA GARIB

CEO & Founder, e-Magine

hudagarib@emagine.com.pk [Linkedin](#)

Huda Garib is the Founder of e-Magine, an education platform established in 2016 to bridge the gap between traditional education and the evolving needs of the future workforce. With academic background in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and Business, she combines behavioural insights with entrepreneurship to design practical, skills-based learning experiences. Her work promotes STEAM education while equipping students and professionals with creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.



DR. SAAD BIN AZIZ

Managing Director, Urdu Academy Sindh
saad_bin_aziz@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Saad Bin Aziz is Managing Director of Urdu Academy Sindh and Executive Director of Teachers Development and Curriculum Designing at MCDC and Schooling System. An education leader and curriculum specialist, he has contributed to textbook development and distribution across government and private schools in Sindh. He holds a B.Sc. in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University and an MBA in Finance from Greenwich University.

Over the past decade, he has trained more than 200,000 teachers in classroom management, child psychology, differentiated learning, ethics in education, and parental engagement. His experience spans curriculum development, teacher training, educational publishing, and large-scale professional development programmes.



OMAIR SAEED

Director, Kifayat Publishers
smomairsaeed@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

S.M. Omaid Saeed is Director Publications at Kifayat Publishers, where he leads the organization's transition from traditional print publishing to a digital-first educational publishing model. With over a decade of experience in educational publishing, research, and policy, he previously served as a Business and Research Analyst at Mazars, contributing to projects for the State Bank of Pakistan, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank. His career also includes roles as an Economic Researcher at the Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) and in corporate risk analysis at HSBC Pakistan.

He holds a BA (Hons) in Industrial Economics from the University of Nottingham and studied Business Administration at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi.

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.



SHAISTA ABDULLAH CHAIRPERSON

Chief Merchants & Schemes Operations, 1Link
shaista.abdullah@1Link.net.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Shaista Abdullah presently works as Chief Merchants & Schemes Operations at 1Link Private Limited where she leads the end-to-end operations of the Merchants & Schemes portfolio, overseeing the performance, delivery, and optimisation of key digital payment solutions.

She is a senior, experienced professional with deep expertise across multidisciplinary domains including digital transformation, business process reengineering, customer value management, omni-channel strategy development and execution. She possesses strong international consulting experience and industry exposure across telecommunications, banking and fintech sectors. She has worked with leading organizations including Deloitte Consulting, Vodacom South Africa (Vodafone Group), Telkom South Africa, PTCL Pakistan and Khushhali Microfinance Bank. She served as Chief Digital Officer at Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited, where she led the Digi-Agri finance transformation program in partnership with IFC, driving financial inclusion and digital enablement.



YASIN KODVAVI

Head of Equity & Director, Optimus Capital
yasinkodvavi@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Yasin Iqbal Kodvavi is Head of Equities with over seven years of experience in Pakistan's equities market. He began his career in multiple roles at Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas, before serving as Director at Iqbal Usman Kodvavi Securities (Private) Limited. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Houston, with majors in Finance and Management Information Systems. He brings expertise in equity markets, investment analysis, capital markets, and financial strategy.



SIBTAIN JIWANI

CEO, Smartchoice.pk
sibtain@smartbenefits.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Sibtain Jiwani is the CEO of Smartchoice.pk, Pakistan's leading digital insurance comparison platform. With over 17 years of experience in fintech and insurtech, he has led digital transformation initiatives focused on expanding financial access and modernizing insurance services. Before founding his ventures, he held leadership roles in business development and sales at a leading digital payments solutions provider, driving market expansion and strategic partnerships. Through SmartBenefits, he is transforming corporate health insurance by streamlining benefits administration and improving employee claims management through digital solutions. His expertise spans fintech, insurtech, digital payments, business strategy, and product innovation.



SHAH AUN HUSSAIN

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

Shah Aun is an early-age entrepreneur, startup founder and social worker with over 9 years of experience in setting up and realigning businesses across diverse sectors. He has held leadership roles including Co-founder at Swich, Business Unit Head at Abhi, Head of Regional Operations at Airlift, Interim Chief Operating Officer at Gerry's International airline division and Gerry's Information Technology, and General Manager and Board Advisor at Gerry's Group. He specializes in business strategy, growth, stakeholder management, team leadership, digital transformation, risk management, and data-driven decision making.

His work reflects analytical rigor and a strong performance orientation, with a track record of turning around underperforming operations and improving revenue outcomes.



Fintech Council

NAUREEN HYAT

Financial Inclusion Specialist & Fintech Expert
naureen.hyat@tezfinancialservices.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Naureen Hyat is a serial entrepreneur and lending specialist with over 15 years of experience in digital lending, risk management, financial inclusion, and microfinance. She founded Tez Financial Services and CheckIn Solutions. Tez Financial Services became the first fintech in Pakistan to receive a Non-Bank Financial Company license in 2018, serving unbanked and underbanked populations. It was acquired in 2022 by Zood, where she continued in a leadership role overseeing Pakistan operations. She has served on boards and contributed to regulatory policy for financial inclusion.



MUFTI DR. IMRAN ASHRAF USMANI

President & CEO, Greensholding
usmaniandco.com, [Linkedin](#)

Mufti Dr. Muhammad Imran Usmani is a renowned Shariah scholar and Islamic finance expert. He serves as Deputy President of Jamia Darululoom Karachi, Chairman of the Shariah Board at Raqami Islamic Digital Bank, and Vice Chairman of the Shariah Board of Meezan Bank and other Islamic financial institutions. He has over 27 years of experience at Meezan Bank, where he played a pivotal role in shaping Islamic banking practices and products. He holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Finance from Karachi University, along with certifications in innovation, machine learning for marketing, and social media marketing.

His expertise integrates Shariah, law, finance, and Islamic banking within evolving digital financial ecosystems across emerging markets globally.



IMRAN SAEED

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

Imran Saeed is a digital payments and fintech leader with over 20 years of experience across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. His expertise spans sales, marketing, product development, and market expansion across neo-banks, fintechs, conventional banks, telecom operators, payment networks, and central banks. He specializes in digital payments, neo-banking, agency banking, merchant services, digital onboarding, BNPL, e-commerce, and remittances. With a strong foundation in computer science and business administration, he has successfully driven digital financial services through product strategy, business model innovation, and strategic partnerships.

His work focuses on advancing financial inclusion, cross-border collaboration, and ecosystem development across emerging markets.



BASMA HUSSAIN AHMED

Country Head & CEO, Element Payment Solution (EPS)
basma@elementpay.io, [Linkedin](#)

Basma Hussain Ahmed is a strategy and financial services professional with expertise in business development, corporate finance, innovation, and organizational growth. She began her career at KASB Securities Ltd., a full-service securities firm and former local representative of Merrill Lynch in Pakistan, before transitioning to business consulting in 2010. Since then, she has advised small and mid-sized enterprises on strategy, operational systems, organizational development, and sustainable growth. Through The SWOT's Guide, she has contributed to product development and business scaling initiatives focused on capacity building and market impact.

Her work also includes supporting fintech and digital marketplace initiatives, alongside active engagement in sports coaching, community empowerment, and gender-based violence awareness.



Fintech Council

MAHWISH SAAD KHAN

Chief Business Officer, PayFast
Mahwish.saad@gopayfast.com, [Linkedin](#)

Mahwish Saad Khan is a seasoned sales and business development leader with extensive experience across ISP corporate sales, e-commerce, commercial B2B banking, fintech, customer experience, and strategic partnerships. An award-winning emerging female CXO, she is recognized for her leadership, communication, and ability to build and mentor high-performing teams. With deep expertise in B2B sales, customer segmentation, product development, and client relationship management, she has successfully led growth-focused initiatives that deliver measurable business impact. Her experience spans both digital and traditional sales ecosystems, with a strong focus on customer-centric innovation and scalable business performance.

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.



MAHMOOD MIRZA CHAIRPERSON

Founder & Fractional CBO, M-square Consulting
mm@msquare.com, [Linkedin](#)

Mahmood Mirza is a venture development and business operations professional with over 15 years of experience in consumer and enterprise technology. He serves as a venture consultant, advising startups and corporate innovation teams on business strategy, operational excellence, and sustainable growth. He also leads Pakistan operations for High Output Ventures, supporting startup development and cross-border innovation initiatives. His work focuses on strengthening connections between Pakistani technology talent and high-growth regional markets while advancing entrepreneurship and innovation.



ALI ALVI

Director - Private Funds, Alfalah Investments
ali.alvi@alfalahamc.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ali Alvi is an investment and strategy professional with over 22 years of experience in investment management, private funds, risk management, impact investing, and financial research. He leads the Private Funds team at Alfalah Investments, overseeing private equity, venture capital funds, and advisory services. Previously, he served as Chief Strategy Officer at Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan and held senior leadership roles at UBL Fund Managers, including Chief Investment Officer and Head of Strategy and Products. His expertise includes portfolio management, strategic investments, ESG-focused initiatives, and data-driven decision-making.



AHSAN JABBAR

Founder & CEO, A J Ventures
ahsanjabbar@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ahsan Jabbar is a serial entrepreneur and business leader with over two decades of experience in technology, real estate, hospitality, and venture investments. He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of AJ Ventures, an investment firm focused on supporting startups with sustainable business models and long-term growth potential. Earlier in his career, he helped establish the Pakistan operations of Bayt.com and DAMAC Properties. His expertise includes entrepreneurship, strategic investments, business development, and market expansion.



SAIF ALI

Founder, Dastak Ventures
saif@dastakventures.com, [Linkedin](#)

Saif Ali is a startup advisor and ecosystem builder with over 13 years of experience in entrepreneurship, technology, media, and venture development. He is the Founder of Dastak Ventures, advising investors on equity, private credit, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic growth. He played a key role in Pakistan's largest Series A funding round at Dastgyr, developed fintech partnerships enabling large-scale microlending, and supported the launch of regional accelerator programs.

Having delivered more than 200 talks across the MENAP region, he is a recognized advocate for entrepreneurship and innovation.



SAAD HASAN

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

Saad Hasan is Principal and South Asia Lead at Sturgeon Capital, where he leads investments across fintech, logistics, and B2B software in emerging markets. He specializes in investment strategy, embedded finance, SME financing, supply chain innovation, and technology-driven business growth. With extensive regional experience, he works closely with founders to identify scalable opportunities and navigate evolving market and regulatory environments.



MUSTAFA O. PASHA

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

Mustafa O. Pasha is an investment strategist and portfolio manager with over a decade of experience in asset management and investment advisory. He specializes in strategic asset allocation, portfolio construction, and investment strategy, managing diversified portfolios for mutual funds, retirement funds, and high-net-worth individuals. His expertise includes equity, fixed income, and money market investments, supported by macroeconomic analysis and a disciplined, data-driven approach to decision-making.

He also has extensive experience in institutional client engagement and investment advisory.



M. SHOAIB AKHTER

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

Muhammad Shoaib Akhter is a Chartered Accountant with over 18 years of experience in leadership, corporate strategy, and financial management. He has held senior roles at leading local and multinational organizations, including Ernst & Young, PwC, Hino Motors, Inbox Technologies, and Pak-Qatar Takaful Group. He holds an MBA from IBA and is a Certified Director, Certified Fraud Examiner, and ISO Auditor. As Group Chief Strategy Officer at Pak Qatar Group, he leads strategy and performance management, driving organizational transformation through restructuring, process digitization, cultural change, cost optimization, and sustainable growth. His expertise includes corporate strategy, governance, operational excellence, and business transformation.



KASHAF JAMAL

Vice President - Investments & Monitoring, Fatima Gobi Ventures
kashaf@fatimagobi.vc, [LinkedIn](#)

Kashaf Jamal is a venture capital and investment professional with expertise in investment strategy, portfolio management, and startup growth. She serves as Vice President of Investments and Monitoring at Fatima Gobi Ventures and Gobi Partners, and is also a Saison Expert with Saison Capital. Her experience spans fintech, climate technology, and market-driven innovation, with a focus on supporting high-growth startups and strengthening venture ecosystems. Previously, she held roles at Katalyst Labs and K-Electric, gaining experience in innovation, finance, and business development. She holds MS in Finance from Sabancı University Tuzla, İstanbul, Türkiye.



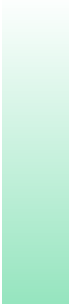
INAM UR REHMAN

Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Irtiqa Consulting
inam@disrupt.com, [Linkedin](#)

Inam ur Rahman is a distinguished business leader with over 30 years of executive and board-level experience across investments, enterprise technology, energy, capital markets, education, textiles, and business consulting. He has led strategic transformation, growth, and portfolio optimization initiatives for leading public and private sector organizations. His extensive work with prominent family-owned business groups has provided deep expertise in corporate governance, succession planning, capital allocation, and strategic leadership.

He has served on the boards of organizations including ENGRO Corporation, HUBCO, Dawood Hercules, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines, INBOX Business Technologies, CYAN Limited, Karachi Education Initiative, and Sind Engro Coal Mining Company. In addition to his corporate leadership, he actively supports leadership development through academia.

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.



SYED WAQAS PERVEZ CHAIRPERSON

Founder, Mestro Projects
waqasf5@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Syed Waqas Pervez is a business analyst with over 14 years of experience in leveraging data-driven insights to optimize marketing, customer engagement, and business strategies within digital and retail environments. He specializes in converting complex data into actionable business outcomes, with strong expertise in analytics, CRM systems including newsletters, SMS and push notifications, Google Ads, Facebook marketing, and BI dashboard development. His experience includes process re-engineering and performance optimization across data-driven organizations.

He has designed and delivered training programs in customer retention, service excellence, customer psychology, strategic leadership, emotional intelligence, soft skills for engineers, and advanced MS Excel. His work focuses on continuous improvement, customer lifecycle optimization, and data-led decision-making to enhance marketing performance, operational efficiency, and customer experience in competitive digital commerce and retail ecosystems.



MUHAMMAD AMMAR HASSAN

Founder, BuyPass
ammar@buypass.ai, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Ammar is a growth marketing and brand strategy professional with over 14 years of experience delivering performance-driven marketing solutions for leading brands across Pakistan. He specializes in data-driven marketing strategy, brand development, customer lifecycle management, and performance optimization across digital and traditional media channels. His expertise spans sales enablement, product development, conversion optimization, and revenue growth strategies supported by analytics and consumer insights.

He has worked across diverse industries, designing and executing campaigns that align marketing initiatives with business objectives and measurable outcomes. His approach combines creativity with analytical problem-solving, enabling strong brand positioning and sustained business impact. He continues to focus on driving scalable growth, improving customer engagement, and enhancing marketing effectiveness within competitive and fast-evolving commercial environments.



IFTIKHAR ARIF

Director Information Technology & ECommerce, Muller & Phipps Pakistan Pvt Limited
Iftikhar.arif@mulphico.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Iftikhar Arif is a global technology leader with over 25 years of experience across FMCG, pharmaceuticals, telecom, manufacturing, distribution, e-commerce, biotech, agri-tech, and supply chain sectors. He specializes in digital transformation and operational excellence, with deep expertise in business process reengineering, enterprise transformation, cloud strategy, ERP modernization, and scalable technology ecosystems. He currently leads technology across M&P Group, including distribution, pharmaceutical manufacturing, logistics, and technology businesses.

His achievements include large-scale SAP RISE implementation, deployment of 50+ systems, development of Pakistan's largest private cloud, and delivery of digital platforms such as patient engagement and e-commerce solutions. He has consistently driven enterprise-wide modernization initiatives, transforming IT functions into value-generating units with measurable business impact across complex retail and supply chain environments across Pakistan.



ASIF JAFRI

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

Asif Jafri is a senior business and technology executive with over 12 years of experience across industries, focused on business process optimization, digital transformation, and enterprise efficiency. He specializes in requirement gathering, process analysis, and reengineering to improve operational performance and revenue outcomes. He has worked with multinational organizations including American Express Bank, Asian Capital Management, Union Bank Limited, Unilever Pakistan, and Telenor Pakistan, contributing to operational and digital initiatives.

His expertise includes business process analysis, stakeholder management, communication, and identifying critical drivers for organizational performance. He has contributed to digital product and platform development, including mobile gaming and verification solutions showcased at international forums. He has co-founded technology ventures focused on enterprise mobility and digital solutions for banking, FMCG, and telecom sectors, contributing to retail and commerce enablement ecosystems.



SUKAINA ABBAS

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

Sukaina Abbas is a gemology professional, entrepreneur, and educator dedicated to advancing Pakistan's jewellery industry through innovation, ethical practices, and skill development. With an academic background in computer science, she transitioned into gems and jewellery, combining technical expertise with a systems-oriented approach to value creation, sustainability, and responsible sourcing. She holds multiple Gemological Institute of America (GIA) certifications, including Accredited Jewelry Professional (AJP), Graduate Diamonds, and Graduate Pearls. As the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Enchanté, she leads a jewellery brand focused on intentional design, responsible manufacturing, and fine craftsmanship.

Through education, mentorship, workshops, and industry engagement, she promotes gemological literacy, particularly among women entrepreneurs and students. Her work supports the growth of an ethical, knowledge-driven, and globally competitive jewellery ecosystem built on integrity, innovation, and excellence.



BUSHRA IZHAR

Founder, Digital Health Mentor
bushra.izharowais2@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Bushra Izhar is an eCommerce and digital transformation leader with over 15 years of international experience across health tech, payments, and online marketplaces. She has led eCommerce scaling initiatives across UAE, UK, Europe, and South Asia, achieving 2–3× revenue growth. She has implemented digital payment solutions and internet banking systems aligned with UK and EU regulatory frameworks. She has led digital health transformation initiatives improving patient access, service efficiency, and data governance. She has trained and mentored over 1,000 professionals in digital marketing, eCommerce, and entrepreneurship.

Her expertise includes eCommerce strategy, omnichannel growth, marketplace scaling, fintech integrations, digital health transformation, leadership, and training. She is focused on building inclusive and scalable digital businesses across global markets with long-term impact.



HAMZA ABDUL RAUF

Co-Founder & CEO, Telemart
hamzaraufessa@telemart.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Hamza Abdul Rauf holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi. He co-founded Telemart at age 20, contributing to its development as an e-commerce retail platform in Pakistan. His work focuses on retail transformation, omni-channel commerce, marketing strategy, and brand partnerships across banks, telcos, and major consumer brands. He has played a key role in strengthening strategic alliances and expanding digital retail operations. He designed a phygital retail franchise program that has expanded to 24 stores across 17 cities in Pakistan.

He has been recognized with industry awards including Young Digital Entrepreneur at Pakistan Digi Awards 2017, CEO of the Year 2018, and inclusion among the 100 Best Performing CEOs of Pakistan 2020. He remains focused on innovation and retail ecosystem development in Pakistan.



WAQAS AHMED DAR

Co-Founder & CCO, Webx Ecommerce
waqas@webx.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Waqas Ahmed Dar is a logistics and e-commerce infrastructure professional with over twenty years of experience in Pakistan's evolving digital commerce ecosystem. He began his career in logistics, gaining early exposure to the transformation of commerce from offline to online operations. He was part of the founding team at TRAX, where he contributed to scaling e-commerce shipments from 150 parcels per day to one of Pakistan's largest logistics networks. His experience reflects a deep understanding of last-mile delivery systems, merchant enablement, and operational scaling in emerging markets.

He later contributed to building Webx, a Pakistan-focused e-commerce platform designed around local currency, payment systems, logistics integration, and merchant support. His work emphasizes developing localized digital commerce infrastructure that supports merchants, brands, and retail ecosystems in scaling efficiently within Pakistan's market context aligned with retail tech evolution.



SAAD AFRIDI

CEO, Scents N Stories
msaadafridi@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Saad Afridi is an entrepreneur, brand strategist, and business leader serving as the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Scents N Stories, Pakistan's largest specialty perfume retail chain. Under his leadership, the company has grown into a nationwide brand with more than 45 retail outlets across 15 cities and a team of over 300 professionals. He is also the Founder of Exitbase and Ethical Will, initiatives focused on entrepreneurship and purpose-driven leadership. An alumnus of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, Saad also serves as a trainer at the IBA Centre for Entrepreneurial Development, where he mentors aspiring entrepreneurs. A sought-after speaker, he regularly shares insights on entrepreneurship, brand building, storytelling, content creation, and values-driven leadership. His expertise spans retail innovation, business growth, strategic branding, leadership development, and building purpose-led organizations.

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.



FIZZAH KHAN CHAIRPERSON

Chief Executive Officer, Creative Brains Production
creativebrains.pk@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Fizzah Khan is a journalist-turned-marketer and founder of Creative Brains Production, a Pakistan-based video production and advertising company with clients spanning Pakistan, US, UK, Canada, and Dubai. With expertise in influencer marketing, public relations, and brand strategy, she helps founders and CEOs accelerate growth through creative, results-driven campaigns. She also founded Empower-Her, a platform dedicated to women's economic empowerment and financial independence.

A Youth Icon Award recipient and gender equality advocate aligned with the SDGs, Fizzah brings cross-cultural communication and entrepreneurial vision to everything she builds.



SARAH MUNIR

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

Sarah Munir is a technology and development professional with expertise in strategic leadership, program management, partnerships, and ecosystem building. Her career reflects a strong commitment to using technology as a catalyst for innovation, inclusion, and sustainable growth, particularly across emerging markets.

She has led complex initiatives involving cross-functional teams, stakeholder collaboration, and capacity-building programs at the intersection of technology, education, and community development. Sarah's ability to transform ideas into actionable strategies has enabled impactful outcomes within the innovation ecosystem.

Recognized for her collaborative leadership style, she actively contributes to creating inclusive spaces that encourage participation from diverse and underrepresented communities in tech. As a Women in Tech leader, Sarah continues to inspire progress by combining operational excellence, strategic vision, and a commitment to empowering the next generation of technology talent.



AMBREEN KOKAB SHAH

AI Transformation Consultant, Ericsson
ambreen.kokab.shah@ericsson.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ambreen Kokab is a seasoned technology and data professional with expertise in analytics, digital transformation, and data-driven decision-making. She has built a career around leveraging data to help organizations optimize performance, uncover customer insights, and develop effective business strategies.

With extensive experience in data analytics and technology, Ambreen has designed systems and frameworks that transform complex data into actionable intelligence. Her expertise spans data management, reporting, analytical tools, and scalable technology solutions aligned with business objectives.

Known for bridging the gap between technical teams and business stakeholders, she effectively translates data insights into strategic action. Her collaborative approach supports cross-functional innovation and informed decision-making. As a Women in Tech professional, Ambreen continues to champion the role of data and analytics in driving digital transformation, innovation, and sustainable business growth across industries.



RABIA SALEEM

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

Rabia Rao is a technology and program management professional focused on digital inclusion, skills development, and ecosystem growth. She has designed and implemented initiatives that empower individuals and communities through technology access, structured learning, and future-ready skill development. With experience of managing multi-stakeholder programs, Rabia has contributed to projects bridging the gap between education and employability in the digital economy. She specializes in coordinating partnerships, facilitating training programs, and aligning initiatives with industry requirements and measurable outcomes.

Rabia actively supports diversity and accessibility within the technology landscape. Her collaborative approach enables her to engage with educational institutions, corporate partners, and community organizations to strengthen talent pipelines and foster innovation. Through her work, she continues to contribute towards building an inclusive, skilled, and digitally empowered technology ecosystem.



SADAF SHAIKH

CIO, Shan Foods Private Limited
sadafshaikh@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sadaf Shaikh is a technology executive and product visionary with over 22 years of global experience driving digital transformation across Pakistan's leading enterprises. Currently serving as CIO at Shan Foods, she has held senior technology leadership roles at PepsiCo, JS Bank, TPL Insurance, and IBL Group. Known for her data-first approach, Sadaf specialises in AI-driven product innovation, Salesforce implementation, and scaled agile delivery.

She is a certified SAFe Agilist and recipient of both the Global CIO Award and Global Women Leadership Award, underscoring her standing as a transformative force in enterprise technology.



SIDRA SHAKEEL

Director & Co-Founder, Fortify Technologies Private Limited
sidra@fortify.biz, [Linkedin](#)

Sidra Shakeel is a business strategist and digital transformation leader with over eight years of experience across startups, established institutions, and emerging technology. As co-founder and COO of Fortify, she built a SaaS ERP platform now serving more than 50 enterprises across Pakistan, KSA and UAE, owning everything from product strategy to go-to-market execution.

She earned her MBA from IBA Karachi and has extensive experience in AI governance frameworks, workforce transformation, and PropTech innovation.



NAUMEENA SOHAIL

CEO, The Design Firm

naumeena@thedesignsfirm.com, [Linkedin](#)

Naumeena Suhail is an award-winning entrepreneur, brand consultant, and digital strategy leader with more than 24 years of experience in business communication, brand development, and technology-led growth. As CEO of The Design Firm, she has guided the company into a multidisciplinary agency offering branding, web development, digital marketing, creative communication, and AI-driven solutions for clients in Pakistan and abroad. Her work with leading financial institutions, including local and international banks and other industries manufacturers, retail, health, energy, fintech, automotive ... reflects her strong understanding of regulated industries and market-focused communication.

Presently, she is serving in a leadership and advisory role at FPCCI IT Executive Committee Member. With qualifications in design and science from Pakistan and the United States, Naumeena brings together creative insight, business discipline, and a forward-looking view of digital progress.



NIDA ATHAR

CEO, INNOVentures Global Private Limited
bukhari.nida@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Nida Athar is an innovation and entrepreneurship leader with extensive experience in building and supporting startup, technology, and STEM ecosystems across Pakistan. As CEO of INNOVentures Global and Programme Director of the Women in Tech Accelerator Pakistan, she has worked closely with founders, investors, corporates, and development partners to help women-led and early-stage businesses strengthen, scale, and access growth opportunities. She is also a co-founder of the Pakistan Innovation Foundation and STEMx, where she promotes hands-on science, innovation, and future-ready learning.

Her work focuses on entrepreneurship development, women's economic participation, technology adoption, and innovation-led economic growth across Pakistan.



SHEEMA SIDDIQUI

Investigative Journalist, GeoTv
sheema.siddiqui@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sheema Siddiqui is a senior multimedia journalist with over two decades of experience covering gender-based violence, women's safety, and humanitarian issues across Pakistan. She contributes to Geo TV, BBC-Urdu, Independent Urdu, and Dawn.TV, bringing nuanced storytelling to the country's most pressing social challenges. A recipient of the Agahi Award, she serves on the Censor Board and as a trainer at CEJ-IBA, mentoring emerging journalists in responsible, human-centered reporting.

Sheema is also a 2026 governing body member of the Karachi Union of Journalists and Karachi Press Club, and an active member of the IFJ-WMFP Sindh Chapter.

HEALTHTECH COUNCIL



The HealthTech Council at NIC Karachi brings together healthcare innovators, technology experts, medical professionals, and industry leaders transforming the future of healthcare in Pakistan. With mentorship from healthcare providers, digital health specialists, AI experts, biotech innovators, and technology entrepreneurs, the council supports startups working across digital healthcare solutions, telemedicine, health data platforms, medical devices, AI-driven diagnostics, wellness technologies, and patient-centric innovations. The council empowers startups to strengthen healthcare accessibility, adopt emerging technologies, address critical healthcare challenges, and develop scalable solutions with meaningful impact. By connecting emerging health innovators with the broader healthcare ecosystem, it accelerates medical innovation, fosters collaboration, and enables Pakistan's next generation of HealthTech entrepreneurs to create solutions that improve lives and compete globally.



SAAD WAHAB SIDDIQUI CHAIRPERSON

Founder & CEO, Find My Doctor
saad@findmydoctor.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Saad Wahab Siddiqui is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Find My Doctor, one of Pakistan's leading digital healthcare and telemedicine platforms. Over the past decade, he has expanded the platform nationwide by building a team of more than 190 professionals, securing strategic investment, and establishing partnerships across the healthcare ecosystem to improve access to patient-centric digital health services. He is also the Founder of BUZZ International, a digital strategy and performance marketing agency operating in Pakistan, the UAE, and Canada.

A TEDx speaker, Harvard Guest Speaker, and former Visiting Faculty at Iqra University, he has delivered lectures on digital strategy and entrepreneurship. He holds a degree in Economics from SZABIST and is an AIESEC alumnus, with a strong commitment to digital healthcare innovation, entrepreneurship, and ecosystem development.



WASIF KHAN

CEO, Dvago Pharmacy
wrnr78@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Wasif Khan is the Chief Executive Officer of DVAGO Pharmacy & Wellness Experts, one of Pakistan's leading pharmacy and wellness retail chains. With over 20 years of executive leadership experience, he has held senior roles across the FMCG, retail, pharmaceutical, e-commerce, food and beverage, and packaging industries. Before joining DVAGO, he served as Group Chief Operating Officer at PepsiCo's North Franchise Pakistan and Imarat Group, where he led operations for technology-driven real estate and digital platforms, including Graana.com.

Earlier, he held leadership positions at Unilever, Cadbury, and Reckitt. He holds an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, and is an NLP Certified Coach and Practitioner. Through the PILLAR initiative with Bosch Pharmaceuticals, he actively supports pharmacist leadership development and professional capacity building.



ANAS NIAZ

Co-Founder & CEO, Bioniks
reach@anasniaz.com, [Linkedin](#)

Anas Niaz is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Bioniks, a Karachi-based social enterprise developing affordable, customizable bio-mechatronic prosthetics for individuals with congenital anomalies and physical disabilities. Its flagship innovation, a smart prosthetic arm, enhances mobility and independence for below-elbow amputees. A graduate in Mechatronics Engineering from SZABIST, he has received international recognition, including Forbes 30 Under 30, CIF Doha 2021, and the 100 MB of World Award.

He has also served as an Industry 4.0 Consultant at Karim Containers and advised NUST on 3D printing and advanced manufacturing. His expertise encompasses assistive technologies, medical device innovation, advanced manufacturing, and inclusive engineering, with a focus on improving accessibility through technology.



SHARMEEN KHAN

Co-Founder, BeMe
sharmeen2@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sharmeen Khan is the Co-Founder and Chief Wellness Officer of Be Me.global, a mental health platform dedicated to preventive care through psychology, mindfulness, and theta healing. A Clinical and Counselling Psychologist, she holds MS/M.Phil. degrees from Beaconhouse National University and brings over a decade of experience in clinical practice, training, and mental health advocacy. Her professional journey includes leadership roles at Homeostasis, Taskeen, and the Resettling the Indus initiative, alongside founding and supporting several community well-being organizations.

She actively promotes mental health awareness, preventive care, and systemic reform. Her work integrates evidence-based psychological practice with community engagement to expand access to holistic mental healthcare.



USAMA SHAMSI

CEO, National Institute of Blood Disease & Bone Marrow Transplantation (NIBD)
usamashamsi91@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Usama Shamsi is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute of Blood Disease & Bone Marrow Transplantation (NIBD), one of Pakistan's leading specialized healthcare institutions. Since 2014, he has led strategic initiatives focused on healthcare innovation, technology integration, and patient-centered care. He also serves as Accelerator Chair of the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) Karachi Chapter for FY 2025–26, following his tenure as GSEA Chair.

A graduate in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering from SZABIST, he has championed AI-enabled healthcare solutions and collaborative digital health initiatives, including partnerships with Cnergyico PK Limited. His leadership combines healthcare management, technology adoption, and entrepreneurship to modernize specialized medical services and improve clinical outcomes.



AKBAR ALLANA

Founder/Director, Alsons Technology.
akbar@alsonsgroup.com, [Linkedin](#)

Akbar Allana is the Group Director of Marketing and Quality at Alsons Group of Industries, a diversified manufacturing enterprise with more than 70 years of experience across automotive, aerospace, defense, energy, lighting, and medical devices. He co-founded Alsons Technology, the group's innovation arm focused on embedded systems, IoT applications, and medical technologies. Under his leadership, the company developed Pakistan's first DRAP-approved electro-mechanical ICU ventilator and the internationally deployed AlnoVentura HFNO/CPAP respiratory support system under license from UCL's Institute of Healthcare Engineering.

He is also the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of GrayScale, an award-winning film production company producing socially impactful content. His leadership reflects a strong commitment to healthcare engineering, product innovation, and advanced manufacturing.



RAZA HASNAIN

Managing Director, Rigel Health Pvt Ltd.
rigelhealth.net, [Linkedin](#)

Raza Hasnain is the Managing Director of Rigel Health (Private) Limited and a Senior Partner at Galvico, where he leads leadership development and organizational transformation initiatives. With over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, he has held senior leadership positions at Hoffmann-La Roche, Sanofi-Aventis, B. Braun Medical, and Hilton Pharma. He holds an MBA in Marketing from Greenwich University and INSEAD Certificate in General Management.

A dedicated mentor, he has served as a TCF Rahbar Mentor for more than 13 years and supports professionals through the Ivy Exec mentoring community. His expertise includes pharmaceutical operations, commercial strategy, business transformation, talent development, and executive leadership across Pakistan's healthcare sector.



MUHAMMAD SHAHID SHERAZ

Director Information Technology, Patel Hospital
mshahidsheraz@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Shahid Sheraz is a technology and healthcare transformation leader with over 22 years of experience driving digital innovation, enterprise technology strategy, cybersecurity, and operational excellence across healthcare and enterprise environments. He currently serves as Director Information Technology at Patel Hospital, where he leads initiatives to modernize healthcare delivery through digital transformation, intelligent automation, secure technology platforms, and data-driven decision-making.

Previously, he served as Chief Executive Officer of ZTech Solutions and Group Chief Information Officer at Dr. Ziauddin Group, spearheading large-scale technology transformation programmes that enhanced healthcare operations and patient engagement. Throughout his career, he has aligned technology strategy with organizational objectives to improve efficiency, strengthen governance, and accelerate innovation.



NILOFER SOHAIL

General Manager - Channel Strategy & Growth Segments, EFU Life
nilofersohail@efulife.com, [Linkedin](#)

Nilofer Sohail is a senior financial services executive with 18 years of experience in growth strategy, channel development, governance, and commercial performance. She is currently working as General Manager – Channel Strategy and Growth Segments at EFU Life Assurance Ltd. and is a Board Member of SadaPay and the Microinsurance Network (Luxembourg). She holds the position of Independent Director at the Pakistan Microfinance Network.

She holds an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, an FLMI certification from LOMA, and is a Certified Director. Her expertise spans insurance innovation, strategic planning, financial inclusion, governance, and sustainable business growth, with a strong focus on expanding access to health and financial protection services.

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.



Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

RAZA ABBAS CHAIRPERSON

Head of Incubation, IoBM
raza.abbas@iobm.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Raza Abbas is an entrepreneurship development and capability-building leader with extensive experience in startup incubation, leadership training, and ecosystem development. He serves as Head of the Shahjehan S. Karim Incubation Centre at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) and leads Pakistan's national chapter of the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network. He has designed and delivered training, coaching, and entrepreneurship programmes for organizations including the World Bank, GIZ, JICA, UNFPA, NiBAF, and the National Incubation Center.

Over his career, he has inspired more than 50,000 professionals across six continents through keynote addresses and capacity-building initiatives. An internationally recognized career development practitioner, Raza specializes in entrepreneurship education, founder development, leadership, communication, and workforce capability, fostering innovation and strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems in Pakistan and beyond.



Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

HUSSAIN ALI TALIB

Head of Communications, Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Pakistan, Unilever
Hussain.Talib@unilever.com, [Linkedin](#)

Hussain Ali Talib is a strategic communications and public affairs professional with 24 years of experience in corporate communications, regulatory affairs, advocacy, government relations, and stakeholder engagement. Throughout his career, he has advised organizational leaders on high-impact initiatives, combining strategic insight with effective communication to support informed decision-making. His cross-sector experience has enabled him to build strong institutional networks, lead industry coalitions, and strengthen advocacy through collaborative stakeholder engagement.

A certified executive trainer and accomplished storyteller, he specializes in strategic communications, negotiations, reputation management, relationship building, and resolving complex organizational challenges. Recognized for connecting businesses, institutions, and communities, he brings a collaborative approach to public engagement and institutional partnerships that supports sustainable growth and long-term organizational impact.



Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

DR. M. FARHAN BUKHARI

Director ORIC, Al-Kawthar
director.oric@alkawthar.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Farhan Bukhari is an academic leader, researcher, and entrepreneurship advocate with over two decades of experience across higher education, consultancy, and industry engagement. He holds a Ph.D. in Management Sciences from the University of Karachi and currently serves as Associate Professor and Director of the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) at Al-Kawthar University. He also founded Lumify, an initiative focused on sustainable industry solutions, professional development, and capacity building. His expertise encompasses strategic management, organizational development, entrepreneurship, research commercialization, and institutional transformation.

Throughout his career, he has strengthened research ecosystems, fostered innovation-driven academic environments, and built meaningful collaborations between universities and industry, supporting entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer, and sustainable institutional growth.



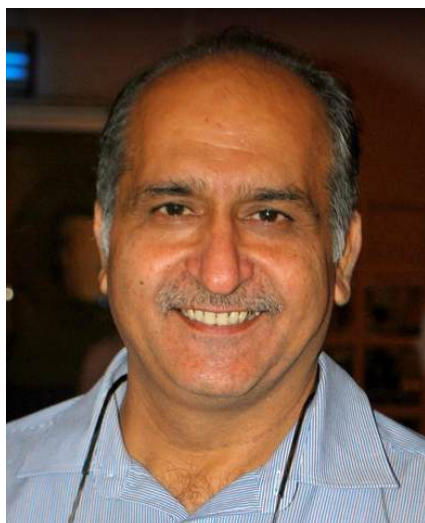
Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

ENGR. SYED RIZWAN ALI

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

Syed Rizwan Ali is an entrepreneurship and innovation professional with over 18 years of experience in business incubation, startup development, sustainability, corporate social responsibility, and higher education. He serves as Manager of the Business Incubation Center and Assistant Professor at Bahria University Karachi Campus, where he supports entrepreneurial ventures, industry collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives.

He has conducted more than 150 workshops, mentoring sessions, and training programs and has served as a judge for over 50 national and international innovation competitions, including the NASA Space Apps Challenge and the Diamond Challenge by the University of Delaware. An IVLP alumnus of the U.S. Department of State, HEC resource person, SME consultant, and published researcher, he is committed to strengthening innovation ecosystems, sustainability, and entrepreneurship across academia and industry.



Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

PARKASH LOHANA

Director ORIC & Director CSPD, Muhammad Ali Jinnah University
Parkash.Lohana@jinnah.edu, [Linkedin](#)

Parkash Lohana is an academic leader and professional development strategist with over 30 years of experience in engineering, computer science education, research, and institutional leadership. He serves as Director of the Center for Skills & Professional Development (CSPD) and Director of the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) at Mohammad Ali Jinnah University (MAJU), where he leads initiatives in industry engagement, workforce development, and innovation.

Earlier, he held senior academic leadership positions at KIET and Usman Institute of Technology and began his professional career as a Senior Engineer at NESPAK. A Fellow of IEEE and an active member of ACM and ISACA Karachi Chapter, he has also contributed to IEEE Region 10, humanitarian technology programs, and international knowledge-sharing initiatives, advancing technology education and industry-academia collaboration.



Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

ROZINA IMTIAZ

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

Rozina Imtiaz is an entrepreneurship development professional and academic leader serving as Director of the Center of Entrepreneurship & Innovation Development at DHA Suffa University, Karachi. She has extensive experience in entrepreneurship education, incubation management, academic coordination, nonprofit initiatives, and student engagement. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Delhi Punjabi Saudagran Foundation and as Incharge and Incubation Head of TEN CoMS at PAF-KIET, where she supported startup development, research activities, industry collaboration, and entrepreneurship programs.

She also managed academic publications, coordinated research initiatives with universities and industry, and organized national-level business events. Holding both an MS and MBA in Marketing from PAF-Karachi Institute of Economics & Technology, she is committed to strengthening entrepreneurial talent through innovation, incubation, and experiential learning.



Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

UMAIR AHMED KHAN

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

Umair Ahmed Khan is an entrepreneurship ecosystem professional with over 10 years of experience in startup incubation, founder mentorship, skills development, and industry engagement. He holds an M.Phil. in Marketing from the University of Karachi and serves as Manager of the Business Incubation Center (IU-CORE) at Iqra University, where he leads incubation programs and supports early-stage ventures through mentorship, strategic guidance, and industry collaboration. He also heads the SkillUp Program, equipping students and young professionals with freelancing and digital skills to compete in the global economy.

His work focuses on connecting entrepreneurs with resources, networks, and investment opportunities while fostering innovation-driven ventures. Through his leadership, he continues to strengthen entrepreneurial capacity and create pathways for sustainable startup growth within Pakistan's evolving innovation ecosystem.



Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

PROF. DR. GULFAM K. K. BAGHOOR

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

Prof. Dr. Gulfam K. K. Baghoor is an entrepreneur, ecosystem builder, master trainer, and workforce transformation leader with extensive experience in higher education, research, consulting, corporate social responsibility, and digital entrepreneurship. Since 2014, he has played a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's entrepreneurship ecosystem through government-led and private incubation initiatives. As Founder and Chairman of Skillsrator, he leads an international incubation network supporting approximately 1,500 startups and entrepreneurs across Pakistan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Middle East.

He has also established platforms including Extreme Commerce Incubation Network, Extreme Commerce College, International Center of Excellence, Expidra, and My Global Mobility. His initiatives have empowered more than 300,000 online learners, 70,000 onsite participants, and 20,000 government-funded beneficiaries through digital skills, freelancing, entrepreneurship, and workforce development programs.



Entrepreneurship Support
Organisation (ESO) and
Incubator Council

KAPEEL KUMAR

Regional Head of Digital Underwriting, SLIC | Entrepreneurship Catalyst
kapeel2008@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Kapeel Kumar is a digital transformation leader and entrepreneurship advocate with expertise in insurance technology, corporate innovation, and startup development. He serves as Regional Head of Digital Underwriting at the State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC), where he has led the modernization of underwriting operations through the implementation of the Life Proposal Management System, enabling more efficient, technology-driven processes. Beyond his corporate role, he is Deputy Regional Coordinator for GEN Pakistan and Founder of The Founders Space, supporting early-stage entrepreneurs through mentorship, strategic guidance, and ecosystem engagement.

He also serves as a mentor and judge at leading incubation platforms, including NIC Karachi and IBA CED, while conducting SME financial literacy programs under SMEDA initiatives. His work bridges established institutions and emerging ventures, accelerating innovation, digital adoption, and entrepreneurial growth across Pakistan.

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.



MEMOSH KHAWAJA CHAIRPERSON

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

Memosh is a global business leader, sustainability advisor, investor, and independent board director with extensive leadership experience across the consumer, dairy, and personal care industries in EMEA markets. He has held senior leadership roles at Unilever, Henkel, and Haleeb Foods, leading business transformation, strategic growth, and organizational excellence. As former Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG), he strengthened governance frameworks, executive education, and advisory services in collaboration with organizations including the United Nations and IFC. His expertise includes ESG strategy, climate governance, responsible business practices, and organizational transformation.

Currently serving as an independent board director and startup investor, he supports innovation-driven ventures and sustainable business models. He has completed executive education at MIT Sloan, further strengthening his expertise in ESG, climate leadership, and responsible corporate governance.



NAZISH SHEKHA

Head of Initiative, Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business at PBC
nazish@pbc.org.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Nazish Shekha is a sustainability and ESG professional leading strategic initiatives at the Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business (CERB), Pakistan Business Council. She works closely with the private sector to advance responsible business practices, climate resilience, gender equality, and environmental stewardship. With expertise in international environmental law and ESG reporting frameworks, she specializes in programme development, policy advocacy, sustainability research, and stakeholder capacity building.

She supports organizations in aligning business strategies with global sustainability standards and the Sustainable Development Goals while strengthening transparency and long-term value creation. As an adjunct faculty member, she also contributes to sustainability education, preparing future leaders to address evolving environmental and social challenges through responsible and resilient business practices.



ALIYA IDRIS

Deputy Director, K-Electric
engr.aliya@gmail.com, [LinkedIn](#)

Aliya Idris is a sustainability and strategic leadership professional with over 18 years of experience in ESG, community development, brand management, stakeholder engagement, and organizational transformation. She has led purpose-driven initiatives that align corporate strategy with responsible business practices, creating measurable social and business value. Her experience includes developing strategic partnerships, strengthening corporate reputation, leading high-impact campaigns, and delivering programmes that foster inclusive growth and community engagement.

She collaborates with industry leaders, regulators, academia, and social sector organizations to develop practical solutions for complex environmental and social challenges. Recognized for connecting strategic vision with execution, she helps organizations integrate sustainability into core business operations while strengthening long-term resilience and stakeholder value.



DANESHWAR DINSHAW

Governor on the Board, Hisaar Foundation
daneshd.office@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Daneshwar F. Dinshaw is an Independent Director, Board Advisor, IFC-Certified ESG Trainer, and Faculty Member at the Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG), with over 30 years of leadership experience in logistics, banking, corporate finance, agriculture, climate governance, and sustainability. He has served on the boards of listed, multinational, and industrial organizations, providing strategic guidance on governance, regulatory compliance, ESG, and long-term value creation.

He is also a Governor of Hisaar Foundation and Chair of the Construction Finance Committee at the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute at NED University. His expertise in board governance, sustainability strategy, risk management, and institutional leadership enables organizations to strengthen resilience, improve governance standards, and advance responsible business practices.



HARIS AHMED

Executive Director, ECOVIS Saudi Arabia (ECOVIS AL SABTI)
haris.ahmed@famco.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Haris Ahmed is a management consulting and cybersecurity professional with over 20 years of experience in cybersecurity governance, regulatory compliance, IT audits, quality assurance, project management, and technology advisory. He specializes in assessing critical infrastructure, including industrial control systems and SCADA environments, helping organizations strengthen cybersecurity resilience and risk management. As a senior consulting leader, he oversees complex advisory engagements, delivering practical, business-focused technology solutions.

He is also an entrepreneur, leading PodVare, an innovative workspace solutions company, and Ledgerwise, an outsourced accounting and bookkeeping services firm. Combining technical expertise with business leadership, he enables organizations to navigate evolving digital risks while improving operational resilience and governance.



ZEHRA ANEEK

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

Zehra Aneek is a sustainability and energy transition leader with over 20 years of experience in sustainability, climate change, cleantech, corporate governance, transformational strategy, and communications. She leads the Sustainability and Climate Change practice at EY Pakistan, advising organizations on ESG strategy, responsible growth, and climate resilience. Previously, she held senior sustainability and communications roles at K-Electric, British American Tobacco, KFC Pakistan, and Chevron.

She is actively engaged with international organizations including ISSP, GWNET, and IEMA, while serving as Chairperson of the Energy Circle at LEAN-IN Pakistan and mentoring global climate initiatives. Her leadership supports organizations in integrating sustainability, advancing energy transition, and strengthening long-term business resilience.



DANISH ALI MALIK

Senior Director Finance, Folio3
danishalimalik@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Danish Ali Malik is a finance and business leader with extensive experience in financial management, strategic operations, business transformation, and corporate governance. As Senior Director Finance at Folio3 Software, he oversees financial operations across global group companies, driving performance optimization, financial discipline, and scalable business processes. He also serves as Managing Partner at Accounting Hut, providing strategic finance and advisory services to growing businesses.

A ACCA-qualified professional, he combines technical expertise with strong leadership in turnaround management, operational excellence, and sustainable value creation. His experience enables organizations to strengthen financial resilience, improve governance, and support long-term business growth through disciplined execution and strategic decision-making.



Environment, Sustainability &
Governance (ESG) Council

MUHAMMAD AZAM AMIN

Group Head - Operational Excellence and Lean Transformation, Utopia Industries
azam.amin@feroze1888.com, [Linkedin](#)

Azam Amin is a Business Excellence, Digital Transformation, and Industrial Engineering professional with nearly 15 years of experience in operational excellence, process improvement, sustainability, and organizational transformation. An Accredited Six Sigma Black Belt Trainer and Lean Consultant, he has led large-scale Lean and digital transformation initiatives that have delivered measurable performance improvements and significant cost savings. His expertise includes operational excellence, continuous improvement, process optimization, and capability development.

An Industrial Engineering graduate, he also holds a Certification in Manufacturing Excellence from LUMS and received advanced Lean training at Toyota Industries, Japan. His work enables organizations to improve efficiency, embed a culture of continuous improvement, and achieve sustainable operational performance through data-driven methodologies.



HAMZA HAROON

Regional Director, South Asia Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) & Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20)
hah@cvfv20.org, [LinkedIn](#)

Hamza Ali Haroon is a climate policy and sustainable development leader serving as Country Director for the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and Vulnerable Twenty (V20). With expertise in public policy, finance, and economic development, he works to strengthen climate resilience and international collaboration among climate-vulnerable nations. His experience includes advising on public policy, strategic partnerships, climate adaptation, economic policy, investment analysis, and stakeholder engagement.

He holds a degree in Finance and Economics from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and has completed the Public Leadership Credential at Harvard Kennedy School. Combining financial expertise with policy leadership, he supports climate-responsive decision-making, cross-sector collaboration, and sustainable development initiatives across emerging economies.

ENERTECH & CLIMATE TECH COUNCIL



The EnerTech & ClimateTech Council at NIC Karachi brings together energy innovators, climate technology experts, sustainability leaders, and industry professionals driving the future of clean and resilient solutions in Pakistan. With mentorship from renewable energy specialists, climate scientists, environmental innovators, energy entrepreneurs, and technology experts, the council supports startups working across renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart grids, carbon solutions, climate resilience, sustainable technologies, and green innovation. The council enables startups to develop impactful solutions, adopt emerging technologies, address environmental challenges, and build scalable models for a sustainable future. By connecting emerging innovators with industry leaders, research communities, and the broader climate ecosystem, it accelerates the transition toward clean energy, fosters sustainable development, and empowers Pakistan's next generation of EnerTech and ClimateTech entrepreneurs to create solutions with global impact.



NOOR AFSHAN RIZAVI CHAIRPERSON

Head of Customer Experience & Digital Payments, K-Electric
noor.afshan@ke.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Noor Afshan Razvi is a marketing and communications leader with extensive experience in brand strategy, corporate communications, and stakeholder engagement. She currently serves as Head of Customer Experience and Digital Payments. Previously, she held the positions of Deputy Director Communications and General Manager Corporate Communications at K-Electric, building expertise in corporate reputation and stakeholder management.

Earlier in her career, she worked at Linde Pakistan Limited, strengthening her experience in industrial marketing. She holds an MBA in Marketing with majors in Marketing and Finance from the Institute of Business Administration. Her expertise includes strategic communications, brand development, competitive analysis, forecasting, sales operations, and team leadership.



NAVEEN AHMED

Green Finance Lead, Renewables First
ali.naveen@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Naveen Ahmed is a finance and investment professional specializing in strategy, financial planning, fundraising, and sustainable enterprise development. She advises early-stage businesses on building investment-ready models and serves as a consultant to a UNIDO program supporting clean energy enterprises. With over 12 years of banking experience and seven years in academia, she combines expertise in project evaluation, risk assessment, financing structures, and economic analysis. She also oversees investor outreach and transaction placements within the Pakistan portfolio.

Naveen serves on the boards of Universal Network Systems Ltd., Cordoba Leasing Limited, and MatrixFit (Pvt.) Ltd., contributing to strategic governance and organizational growth. Her work is dedicated to advancing climate finance, clean energy innovation, investment readiness, and sustainable business development in Pakistan.



ANGEL IMDAD

Founder and CEO, Irverde Gogreen
angel.imdad@irverde.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Angel Imdad is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Irverde GoGreen Pvt. Ltd., a climate and sustainability enterprise established in 2019. With over eight years of experience in environmental governance, waste management, and sustainability, she has worked with the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency, the Health Department, waste management organizations, and multinational companies including Mondelez International and Engro. She holds an MS in Energy and Environment and has completed specialized training in climate adaptation, climate finance, sustainability, and social justice through leading international institutions.

An Acumen Fellow, she has received the Prime Minister's Innovation Award, Women in Tech Award, and She Loves Tech recognition. Her work focuses on climate innovation, circular economy solutions, strategic partnerships, and sustainable development across Pakistan. She has contributed to partnerships with organizations including the German Consulate, KMC, SSWMB, and WWF.



AYESHA AMIN

Founder and CEO, Baithak
aishard@alumni.upenn.edu, [Linkedin](#)

Ayesha Amin is a feminist activist, gender expert, and Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Baithak – Challenging Taboos (a women-led grassroots organization advancing gender justice, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and climate justice in Pakistan). Since 2018, she has led initiatives reaching more than 500,000 women and girls through community-based programs focused on empowerment and stigma reduction.

Under her leadership, Baithak has launched the Gender Inclusive Climate Action Toolkit, Masculinity Manifesto, Behenchara Network, and Feminist Wellbeing Institute. She has also led humanitarian initiatives promoting menstrual dignity during climate emergencies and supported AI-enabled family planning solutions. Her work advances gender inclusion, climate resilience, community-led innovation, and policy development.



YASIR HUSAIN

Director, Climate Action Center CAC Karachi
yasir@cackarachi.com, [Linkedin](#)

Yasir Hussain is an environmental advocate and creative professional dedicated to advancing public awareness of environmental sustainability, art, culture, and new media. Through innovative projects, community engagement, cultural initiatives, and educational outreach, he promotes meaningful public participation in addressing social and environmental challenges. His areas of expertise include energy transition, climate humanities, urban climate policy, narrative development, and grassroots participation in policymaking.

He also supports environmental advocacy and pro-community litigation to strengthen environmental justice and civic engagement. His work focuses on fostering inclusive dialogue, climate communication, and community-driven approaches that contribute to sustainable development and informed environmental decision-making.



RIAZ AHMED

Head of Business, SafePay
thisisriazahmed@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Raza Ahmed is the Head of Business at Safepay, where he leads strategic growth for one of Pakistan's leading fintech payment infrastructure companies. With leadership experience across fintech, venture capital, climate technology, and startup ecosystems, he has held key roles at Techapolis, Checkout.com, and Bykea, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Pakistan Fintech Network. As a mentor, coach, and venture capital partner, he has supported more than 60 startups across pre-seed, seed, early, and growth stages, helping founders raise over US\$17 million across the MENAP region.

He holds an MBA in Accounting and Finance from KIET and brings expertise in digital payments, venture building, fundraising, business strategy, and financial innovation. His work promotes entrepreneurship, sustainable technology, and innovation-driven growth across Pakistan's fintech ecosystem.



KHAWAJA TANVEER SALEEM

CIO, United Energy Pakistan

khawajatanveer.saleem@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Khawaja Tanveer Saleem is a leadership development and executive coaching professional with expertise in organizational effectiveness, entrepreneurship, and strategic program management. He specializes in coaching individuals and organizations to strengthen leadership, accountability, governance, and sustainable performance. His approach combines reflective dialogue, structured coaching, and practical guidance to help professionals achieve meaningful personal and organizational growth.

In addition to leadership development, he supports early-stage and high-growth startups through seed acceleration, providing mentorship, strategic direction, education, and access to networks and capital. His work is focused on building resilient organizations, developing entrepreneurial talent, and strengthening Pakistan's innovation and startup ecosystem through leadership excellence and organizational transformation.



SALMAN TARIQ

CEO, Davaam

salman.taariq@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Salman Tariq is an entrepreneur and sustainability advocate dedicated to advancing climate action and environmental innovation in Pakistan. As Co-Founder of Davaam, he leads initiatives that promote renewable energy, circular economy solutions, and sustainable business practices while creating environmental and economic value through ecopreneurship.

He also advises organizations on climate and clean energy projects, helping build institutional capacity and practical sustainability solutions. As a visiting faculty member, he contributes to sustainability education by preparing future professionals to address environmental challenges. His work brings together entrepreneurship, consulting, and academia to foster innovation, collaboration, and long-term environmental resilience.



SHAMSUDDIN KAPADIA

CEO, Cosmos Energies

shams_kapadia@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Shamsuddin Kapadia is an entrepreneur and business leader with over 15 years of experience building and scaling businesses across renewable energy and business process outsourcing. He serves as Chief Executive Officer of Cosmos Energies, a solar EPC company delivering clean energy solutions, and Beta Tech Alpha Marketing, a BPO organization employing more than 150 professionals and serving global clients across fintech, renewable energy, and marketing sectors.

His expertise includes business growth, operational optimization, workforce development, and customer experience. He is committed to developing scalable business models, strengthening organizational capabilities, and expanding clean energy and digital services that contribute to sustainable economic growth.

CYBERSECURITY & INFORMATION SECURITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL



The Cybersecurity 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.



SYED ABDUL QADIR CHAIRPERSON

Executive Director, Technology and Cybersecurity Risk Assurance, PWC
syed.abdul.qadir@pwc.com, [Linkedin](#)

Syed Abdul Qadir is Executive Director at A.F. Ferguson & Co., PwC Pakistan, with over 20 years of experience spanning digital transformation and emerging technologies, cybersecurity strategy and governance, operations, project management, IT due diligence, business continuity planning and disaster recovery across multiple industries. He is a global keynote speaker and trainer and has contributed to industry conferences and workshops across cybersecurity and technology domains, and has been featured in media interviews and publications.

He has represented Pakistan at global technology forums including GITEX Global and holds extensive professional certifications including CISA, PMP, ISO 27001 and ISO 22301 Lead Auditor, MCITP Enterprise, and HP Specialist. He is a member of PMI and ISACA, with expertise in governance, compliance, cybersecurity strategy, and enterprise risk management and digital transformation across complex organizations globally.



KIRAN JAMIL KHAN

CEO, Effulgence Tech

kiran.jamil@effulgence.tech, [Linkedin](#)

Kiran brings over 18 years of professional experience, including more than 12 years in senior management overseeing IT audits and six years in IT operations. She possesses extensive expertise in IT strategy, solution engineering, process automation, enterprise architecture, and data center operations. Throughout her career, she has led complex software, hardware, and business transformation projects across diverse industries, delivering technology-driven solutions that strengthen organizational performance.

Her experience includes establishing and managing IT audit functions, conducting risk-based audits, and providing strategic consultancy to enhance governance, reduce operational risks, and implement effective control frameworks. Kiran has conducted information security risk assessments for more than 20 organizations, developing and executing mitigation strategies that improve resilience and compliance. Recognized for strong leadership, adaptability, and strategic vision, she has built a distinguished career spanning finance, information technology, information security, and auditing globally.



LARAIB AFTAB

Manager Strategy & Partnerships, Arwen Tech Pvt Ltd
laraibaftab@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Laraib Aftab is an AI transformation leader with extensive expertise in driving enterprise adoption of artificial intelligence, automation, and intelligent systems across diverse industries. He combines a strong foundation in enterprise technology with hands-on experience in large language models, AI workflows, and emerging digital solutions. His expertise lies in translating complex business challenges into scalable AI-powered strategies that deliver measurable outcomes and long-term organizational value. He actively contributes to digital transformation initiatives through strategic planning, cross-sector partnerships, and innovation-driven leadership. With a result-oriented approach, Laraib develops intelligent systems that enhance operational efficiency, strengthen decision-making, and improve business performance.

Committed to advancing responsible and impactful AI adoption, he continuously explores emerging technologies and industry trends, enabling organizations to remain competitive, agile, and future-ready in an increasingly dynamic digital landscape worldwide.



AZHAR NAWAZ

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

Azhar Nawaz is the Chief Digital and Information Officer (CDIO) at Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC), one of Pakistan's leading industrial organizations. With a career spanning senior leadership roles across national and global institutions, he has led large-scale digital and technology transformation initiatives across aviation, government, education, and manufacturing sectors. His leadership is grounded in a strong understanding of the evolving digital landscape, enabling delivery of practical, business-driven technology solutions that enhance growth, efficiency, and organizational resilience. Previously, he served as Group Chief Information Officer at Engro Corp, where he led digital transformation across energy, agriculture, petrochemicals, and telecommunications portfolios.

His work reflects a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and building agile, future-ready organizations across Pakistan and international markets with measurable strategic impact and execution excellence delivering sustained digital value across enterprise ecosystems globally.



JAVED YOUSUF EDHI

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

Javed Yousuf Edhi is a financial and technology leader with three decades of experience across institutions and regulated payment ecosystems. He serves as Chief Executive Officer of NIFT, Pakistan's clearing and payment infrastructure organization, leading modernization of platforms, strengthening cyber resilience, and reinforcing governance within regulated environments. His focus ensures technology investments deliver measurable business value, digital platforms operate within disciplined control structures, and cyber and operational risks receive board-level oversight. He brings expertise in technology and digital risk governance for financial institutions, SBP-regulated infrastructure oversight, control frameworks, cyber resilience, payments and platform strategy, and regulator engagement. His career reflects evolution from operational execution to strategic governance, supporting leadership in oversight of technology, cybersecurity, and digital transformation.

Committed to responsible innovation, he strengthens institutional resilience in Pakistan's digital ecosystem with sustained strategic impact delivery excellence.



SALAINA HAROON

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

Salaina Haroon is a lifelong learner committed to social good, ideas, and the belief that technology enables equity. She works at the intersection of entrepreneurship and technology, emphasizing openness to knowledge from diverse and unconventional sources. In technology media spanning two decades, she launched Pakistani media brands and produced television shows. She consults startups on go-to-market strategy and communications and has travelled across Pakistan studying technology impact on business and society. She is a writer, playwright, and poet with early exposure to scriptures and strong interest in science, economics, history, geopolitics, and trends.

She founded Pakistan's first 2D animation studio and created the Mir Sultan series comprising 26 episodes. During COVID-19, she established a village girls school and gained firsthand understanding of rural life.



SEHRISH MUJTABA

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

Sehrish Mujtaba is an experienced Cyber Security and Data Protection professional with over 12 years of experience across local and multinational organizations reporting to EMEA and APEC regions. She has expertise in implementing data privacy compliance frameworks, including GDPR and data protection laws across Asia Pacific countries. She has delivered professional trainings as a freelancer in SOC operations, ISMS ISO 27001, cybersecurity frameworks, incident response, cyber threat intelligence, threat hunting, and SIEM solutions including IBM QRadar since 2017.

She is a keynote speaker and has served on FPCCI Cyber Security and Crimes steering committee and is founding Vice President Women in Cyber Security Pakistan globally



SYED FAIQ HASAN

Head Security Operations & Implementations , Bank Alfalah
syedfaiqhasan@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Syed Faiq Hasan is a cybersecurity professional with more than nineteen years of experience across information security, IT security, and infrastructure disciplines. He began his career in IT infrastructure and data center operations and later specialized in information security, risk assessment, audit, and governance. He possesses strong analytical and reporting capabilities to identify, assess, communicate, and manage security and operational risks within large, complex, and mission-critical environments. He provides strategic direction to address security gaps, strengthen organizational controls, and enhance resilience against evolving cyber threats. His expertise spans information governance, security architecture and engineering, risk management, vulnerability management, and incident management.

His work focuses on strengthening organizational resilience, enhancing governance frameworks, and ensuring the robust protection of critical digital assets across global enterprises.



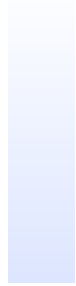
SUBASH CHANDAR

Wing Head Digital Audit, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP)
subash_harvani@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Subash Chandar is a result-driven Head of Digital, IT and IS Audit with over 17 years of progressive experience in financial and telecommunications industries. He specializes in developing and executing risk-based IT audit strategies, managing audit teams, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. He has a proven track record of strengthening IT governance, mitigating cybersecurity risks, and improving audit efficiency through strategic leadership and risk management practices.

His expertise includes: IT/IS audit, risk assessment, annual audit planning, IT and IS governance review, and regulatory compliance evaluations. His capabilities also span IT control frameworks such as COBIT, ITIL and ISO 27001, as well as cybersecurity reviews, reporting, communication and revenue assurance.

INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION COUNCIL



The Industrial Automation Council at NIC Karachi serves as a bridge between cutting-edge manufacturing technologies and the startup ecosystem. 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.



MUHAMMAD GHAYAS AHMEDANI CHAIRPERSON

CEO, Zaaviaa Solutions
info@zaaviaa.com, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Ghayas Ahmedani is an engineering and management professional with extensive experience delivering complex industrial and infrastructure projects. His expertise includes electrical and electronic engineering, engineering management, automated test systems, electronics and instrumentation research and development, project management, quality control, and technical training. He has successfully led multidisciplinary teams in mission-critical engineering projects while maintaining high standards of safety, reliability, and operational excellence.

His experience also includes feasibility studies, maintenance systems, radar technology instruction, and advanced industrial applications. His work is dedicated to strengthening industrial engineering, automation systems, and applied technology capabilities across Pakistan's engineering and technical sectors.



DR. MAJIDA KAZMI

Professor, NED University
majidakazmi@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Majida Kazmi is a Professor at NED University of Engineering and Technology and a researcher specializing in artificial intelligence, embedded computer vision, and hardware acceleration. She serves as Co-Principal Investigator at the Neurocomputation Lab under the National Centre of Artificial Intelligence and heads the Embedded Systems and Computer Vision Lab.

Her expertise includes responsible AI, AI system evaluation, technical AI governance, FPGA technology, digital system design, edge AI, and AI hardware accelerators. She actively leads research and capacity-building initiatives in integrated circuit design, STEM education, and technical training for emerging innovators. Her work is dedicated to advancing AI governance, industrial automation, and hardware-enabled artificial intelligence to strengthen Pakistan's engineering and technology ecosystem.



MAHEEN SALMAN

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

Maheen Salman is a senior business leader with over 24 years of experience in industrial sustainability, environmental services, and digital transformation. She leads Global Innovatrix Pvt. Ltd., focused on carbon trading and sustainability solutions, and Ecowise Solutions Pvt. Ltd., specializing in industrial automation and environmental metrics technologies. Her leadership portfolio includes roles as Senior Vice President of KATI, President of Rotary Club of Karachi Cosmopolitan (2024–2025), Chairperson of KATI's Startups and Incubation Standing Committee, and Convener of FPCCI's Standing Committee on Higher Education, Science & Technology.

She has actively strengthened industry-academia collaboration through FPCCI–UNIDO initiatives, STEVTA, ORIC boards, vocational training, research laboratories, incubation centers, and postgraduate research supervision. Her work promotes industrial sustainability, innovation ecosystems, and workforce development across Pakistan.



PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD ASIF

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

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif is an academic leader and researcher with over 22 years of experience in higher education, biomedical engineering, artificial intelligence, and institutional leadership. He previously served as Dean and Professor at Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology, where he led the introduction of academic programs in artificial intelligence, data science, and cloud computing. His expertise includes biomedical signal processing, machine learning, generative AI, IoT, DevOps, software development, and cloud-based medical instrumentation.

He has secured major research funding, including Erasmus+ and HEC-supported projects, and has published extensively in international journals. Passionate about mentoring students and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, his work advances AI-driven healthcare, engineering innovation, and academia-industry partnerships.



SAADIA MANSOOR KAZMI

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

Saadia Mansoor Kazmi is an industrial automation professional with over 30 years of experience in engineering, project management, quality systems, sales, and business development. She has successfully delivered complex automation projects across sales, proposals, engineering design, and execution, with a strong focus on customer-centric industrial solutions. Her expertise includes industrial automation, stakeholder management, cross-functional collaboration, sales and marketing, and quality management systems.

She has worked closely with commercial, legal, and technical teams to develop innovative solutions aligned with operational and business objectives while coordinating industry events, conferences, and technical seminars. Her work is focused on advancing industrial automation, project execution excellence, and engineering innovation across technology-driven industries.



ZUHAIR AZIZ QIDWAI

Technology Partner, Friesland Campina Malaysia
zqidwai@live.com, [Linkedin](#)

Zuhair Aziz Qidwai is a Digital Product Manager with over 10 years of experience in pharmaceutical and FMCG manufacturing technologies. He specializes in smart manufacturing, digital transformation, and low-code enterprise solutions that enhance operational efficiency and regulatory compliance. His expertise includes electronic batch record systems (eBRS), ERP integration, Microsoft Power Platform, Power BI, Power Apps, manufacturing KPIs, and OEE dashboards. He has successfully led multi-site and multi-country digital transformation projects while managing vendor relationships and cross-functional teams.

His work advances industrial digitalization, data-driven manufacturing, and smart factory solutions that improve productivity and operational performance across Pakistan's manufacturing sector.



SAIM SIDDIQUI

Co-founder and CEO, Procheck
ssiddiqui@procheck.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Saim Siddiqui is an entrepreneur and technology leader, serving as Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ProCheck, a Karachi-based B2B startup established in 2014 to combat product counterfeiting through digital verification solutions. The company develops cloud-based authentication systems that enhance product verification, supply chain transparency, and brand protection.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Toronto and previously worked in research, compliance, policy analysis, and software services with the G8 Research Group, the University of Toronto, and Social Asset Measurements Inc. He was recognized as a Rising Star by Grand Challenges Canada for his contributions to global public health innovation. His work focuses on digital trust, secure trade, and technology-enabled supply chain solutions.



YASMEEN DADABHOY

CEO, Tryo Group of Companies
yasmindb.asif@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Yasmeen Dadabhoy is a business leader with over 16 years of professional experience, including more than eight years as Chief Executive Officer of Troy Group of Companies. She specializes in business development, international sales, process improvement, and organizational growth, driving strategic expansion and operational excellence across diverse markets.

Her leadership extends to the Entrepreneurs' Organization, where she served as President of EO Karachi (2024–2025), supporting entrepreneurial leadership and ecosystem development. She is recognized for building scalable business models, strengthening international partnerships, and creating long-term value through innovation and collaboration. Her work promotes entrepreneurship, business scalability, and sustainable economic growth across Pakistan's private sector.



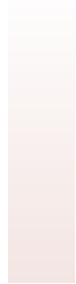
RAFEY SHAHID

VP, Qanare Engineering
rafeey.shahid@gmail.com, [LinkedIn](#)

Rafeey Shahid is an automation and industrial technology professional specializing in PLC programming, HMI design, SCADA systems, and industrial project management. He has delivered end-to-end automation solutions across manufacturing environments, improving operational efficiency, process visibility, and data-driven decision-making. His expertise includes industrial communication systems, enterprise resource planning, statistical process control, AutoCAD Electrical, OPC DA, RFID, Profibus, Profinet, and industrial SCADA platforms. He has led projects involving textile utility monitoring, beverage manufacturing automation, wastewater treatment systems, MES implementation, OEE tracking, and recipe management.

He also has experience with AWS cloud technologies, Kepware, and Seeq Data Analytics. He contributes to smart manufacturing, industrial automation, and digital transformation across Pakistan's engineering and production sectors.

AI & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES COUNCIL



The HealthTech Council at NIC Karachi brings together healthcare innovators, technology experts, medical professionals, and industry leaders transforming the future of healthcare in Pakistan. With mentorship from healthcare providers, digital health specialists, AI experts, biotech innovators, and technology entrepreneurs, the council supports startups working across digital healthcare solutions, telemedicine, health data platforms, medical devices, AI-driven diagnostics, wellness technologies, and patient-centric innovations. The council empowers startups to strengthen healthcare accessibility, adopt emerging technologies, address critical healthcare challenges, and develop scalable solutions with meaningful impact. By connecting emerging health innovators with the broader healthcare ecosystem, it accelerates medical innovation, fosters collaboration, and enables Pakistan's next generation of HealthTech entrepreneurs to create solutions that improve lives and compete globally.



ZAIN MUSTAFA CHAIRPERSON

CEO, Geeks of Kolachi
zainsu@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Zain Mustafa is a technology entrepreneur and product engineering leader serving as Chief Executive Officer of Geeks of Kolachi, a Karachi-based consultancy specializing in web, mobile, and AI-powered digital solutions. Over the past eight years, he has grown the company into a full-service product development firm, transforming more than 800 ideas into scalable digital products used by millions worldwide. He also serves as Chief Executive Officer of Dezin Ninja and previously worked as a Full Stack Engineer at Audi Business Innovation GmbH and Modus Create.

A Computer Science graduate from DHA Suffa University, he specializes in product engineering, full-stack development, generative AI, and large language model integration. His expertise has supported startup growth, fundraising, and the successful delivery of technology products across international markets, strengthening innovation through scalable digital solutions.



NEESHA DARA KHAN

CEO & Co-Founder, Repu Media Intelligence
neesha@repumediainelligence.com, [Linkedin](#)

Neesha Dara Khan is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Repu Media Intelligence, a company pioneering responsible Artificial Intelligence and media intelligence solutions in Pakistan. She is also the Founder of Acumen Media Intelligence and has held leadership positions at Manhattan International, Omnicom Media Group, OMD, and PHD, contributing to the growth of Pakistan's media analytics industry for over a decade. She holds an M.Phil. from the University of Cambridge and an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, combining expertise in responsible AI, media intelligence, and social impact.

Her work leverages data-driven insights to address governance, climate, and societal challenges while promoting the ethical adoption of emerging technologies. She has been recognized with the Certificate of Excellence at the Campaign Asia Women Leading Change Awards for her contributions to the industry.



JAYA RAJWANI

Director of Artificial Intelligence, Traversaal.ai
jaya.rajwani19@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Jaya Rajwani is an artificial intelligence leader specializing in GeoAI, computer vision, natural language processing, and machine learning. As Director of Artificial Intelligence at Traversaal.ai, she leads the development of AI solutions addressing transportation, food security, gender equality, and reproductive health challenges. A Fulbright Scholar, she holds a Master's degree in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Southern California. Previously, she served as Engineering Manager of AI Reliability at Motive and Technology Lead for Data and AI at iENGINEERING, delivering advanced computer vision and generative AI solutions for U.S. transportation agencies.

A winner of the UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA Youth Innovation Challenge, she also supports technology inclusion through Pakistani Women in Computing and global initiatives including DataKind, MIT Solve, and the Commonwealth, advancing responsible AI for sustainable social impact.



MEHDI HUSSAIN

Co-Founder & CTO, GreenSign
mehdi@greensign.io, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Mehdi Hussain is a serial technology entrepreneur with expertise in artificial intelligence, space technology, fintech, cybersecurity, and advanced engineering. He is the Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer of GreenSign, an electronic signature platform that streamlines digital document workflows, and Antology.AI. He also co-founded MAREEKH DYNAMICS, an Australia-based engineering company developing technologies for future human habitation on Mars, and serves as Director of GRT.

A graduate in Computer and Information Systems Engineering from NED University, he built Pakistan's first privately owned fully automated domed space observatory and founded the Karachi Astronomers Society. His entrepreneurial journey includes launching multiple ventures in AI, digital payments, cybersecurity, e-learning, and mobile technologies, reflecting a strong commitment to frontier innovation and technology-driven entrepreneurship across local and global markets.



MESUM RAZA HEMANI

Founder, Karachi.AI
mes.javacca@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Mesum Raza Hemani is an artificial intelligence and data analytics leader specializing in business intelligence, customer analytics, and enterprise AI strategy. He serves as Segment Head and Senior Vice President of Business Intelligence and CRM at NBP Fund Management Limited, where he has led data-driven transformation initiatives across multiple leadership roles. He is also the Founder of Karachi.AI, the city's largest AI community, bringing together more than 4,000 professionals, researchers, students, and industry leaders to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University, a Machine Learning specialization from the University of Washington, and numerous certifications in data science and artificial intelligence. He also serves on advisory boards at NUST PNEC and the Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE), supporting AI adoption and innovation across Pakistan.



MOHSIN KHAN

Founder, Providus
k.mohsinjalil@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Mohsin Khan is the Founder and Partner of Providus, a technology company delivering secure, on-premise Document AI solutions for regulated and data-sensitive organizations across the GCC, United Kingdom, European Union, and the United States. Through products including PROVIDUS AI and Document Intelligence, he enables enterprises to process complex financial, medical, and compliance documents while ensuring sensitive data remains within their own infrastructure.

A graduate of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi and Aix-Marseille Graduate School of Management (IAE), he combines expertise in enterprise technology, artificial intelligence, investment analysis, and equity research. He is also a published researcher in materials science and a certified Salesforce Consulting Partner, with a strong focus on privacy-first AI and secure digital transformation for highly regulated industries.



HADI TABANI

Founder & CEO & Managing Director, Liquid Technologies
hadi@liqteq.com, [Linkedin](#)

Hadi R. Tabani is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Liquid Technologies, a global technology company specializing in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and software development. A graduate of Rice University with degrees in Computer Science and Mathematical Economic Analysis, he has grown the company from a startup into an international organization with teams operating across multiple countries. He also serves as Convener of the Artificial Intelligence Committee at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), promoting AI adoption across key industries.

In addition, he is Chairman of Element Data and a Board Member at Haasil, supporting enterprise data infrastructure and digital procurement solutions. He is committed to advancing enterprise AI, digital transformation, and globally competitive technology businesses.



SALEEM ROPANI

Director, Antology
saleem@greensign.io, [Linkedin](#)

Saleem Ropani is a technology and business leader with over 20 years of experience driving digital transformation across fintech, IT services, e-learning, logistics, governance, risk and compliance, and Insurtech. He currently serves as Director at Antology and GreenSign, leading technology strategy and business growth initiatives. Previously, as Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Foree, he scaled the company into one of Pakistan's leading payment gateway platforms within its first year. He also served as Group Chief Information Officer at TPL Corp, where he led enterprise technology strategy across the group and its subsidiaries.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas, he brings expertise in product strategy, organizational development, technology governance, and enterprise transformation, enabling organizations to build scalable, innovation-driven digital businesses.



NAEEM ILYAS KHANANI

CEO, DigiEstate

naeemkhanani@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Naeem Ilyas Khanani is a governance and technology leader with over 30 years of experience across traditional industries, digital finance, and emerging technologies. He serves as Chief Executive Officer of DigiEstate, Pakistan's first Shariah-compliant real estate fractionalization and tokenization marketplace, and as an Independent Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee at Central Power Generation Company Limited (GENCO-II) and Arif Habib Dolmen REIT Management Limited. He also serves as Program Director at REIT Academy Pakistan.

A graduate of NED University in Electrical Engineering with an MBA from Newport University, he has played a leading role in advancing blockchain adoption through regulatory sandbox initiatives with SECP and PVARA. Under his leadership, DigiEstate received the Pakistan Digital Award 2026 for excellence in blockchain innovation and digital asset development.

SMARTCITIES & CIVICTECH COUNCIL



The SmartCities & CivicTech Council at NIC Karachi brings together urban innovators, technology experts, policymakers, and industry leaders shaping the future of smarter, more connected cities in Pakistan. With mentorship from urban planners, civic technology specialists, sustainability experts, IoT innovators, and digital solution providers, the council supports startups working across smart infrastructure, digital governance, mobility solutions, public services, sustainability, urban analytics, and citizen-centric technologies. The council enables startups to develop scalable solutions that improve city operations, enhance public engagement, optimize resources, and address evolving urban challenges. By connecting emerging innovators with the broader smart city ecosystem, it accelerates digital transformation, fosters sustainable urban development, and empowers Pakistan's next generation of CivicTech entrepreneurs to build intelligent, inclusive, and future-ready cities.



JAMIL UR REHMAN CHAIRPERSON

Senior General Manager (IT) / Group Head (IT), SSGC
jamil94@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Jamil Ur Rehman is serving as Senior General Manager and Group Head of IT at Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC). With over 20 years of experience, he has led enterprise-wide digital transformation initiatives focused on automation, artificial intelligence, cost optimization, and technology-enabled business innovation. He holds a Master's degree in Computer Engineering from Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering from NED University, graduating with a Gold Medal.

He also serves on the Technical Advisory Board of Dawood University of Engineering and Technology and holds multiple certifications in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and IT governance. His expertise continues to shape digital infrastructure, smart utility systems, and technology-driven transformation across Pakistan's public sector.



MUHAMMAD SHAHID

Director, City Institute of Image Management - CIIM, KMC
shahid05@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Shahid is a civic development professional and Founding Member and Director of the City Institute of Image Management (CIIM), established under the City District Government Karachi in 2007. With nearly two decades of experience, he has led initiatives that strengthen institutional capacity, civic engagement, and public sector image management. He holds an MBA and has played a pivotal role in developing CIIM into a leading training platform that delivers more than 135 workshops and seminars annually for government officials, educators, law enforcement personnel, students, and community representatives.

As the first Webmaster of the City District Government Karachi, he also contributed to the city's early digital governance initiatives. His expertise combines institutional development, public communication, leadership training, and civic education to enhance governance and public service delivery.



COL. TAHIR BASHIR MALIK

Project Director, Innovista Indus IT Hub DHA Karachi
tbmalik@ymail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Col. (R) Tahir Bashir Malik is the Project Director of Innovista Indus IT Hub, DHA Karachi, with extensive experience in public sector leadership, strategic planning, project management, procurement, contract management, and organizational development. His professional background combines military leadership with senior executive and security advisory roles, enabling him to successfully deliver complex, innovation-driven initiatives. Educated at Pakistan Military Academy, Riphah International University, LUMS, and Sir Syed College Rawalpindi, he brings expertise in governance, manufacturing excellence, institutional capacity building, and operational management.

His leadership is centered on strategic execution, public-private collaboration, and building high-performing organizations that drive innovation, sustainable development, and long-term institutional impact.



ZOHAIB ZUBY

Principal Architect, Zuby Design Collective
zohaib.zuby@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Zohaib Zubay is an architect, educator, and social innovator, serving as Founder and Principal Architect of Zuby Design Collective and Co-Founder of Be-khudi, a platform dedicated to emotional and spiritual well-being. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture and a Master's degree in Muslim Cultures from Aga Khan University. With more than a decade of academic experience, he has taught at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Durbeen Government Elementary College of Education, and The Learning Tree Pre-School, where he developed Pakistan's first Philosophy for Children curriculum for Grades 5 and 6.

His award-winning architectural practice emphasizes critical regionalism, sustainability, low-cost housing, and community-centered design, earning international recognition for the Wallah's House project from UIA 2030 + UN-Habitat and ADA Awards 2023.



KASHIF HAFEEZ SIDDIQUI

CEO, Pulse Consultants

kashif@pulseconsultant.com, [Linkedin](#)

Kashif Hafeez Siddiqui is the Chief Executive Officer of Pulse Consultant, a market research and consumer insights firm he has led since 2012. With over two decades of experience, he has advised organizations across the FMCG, media, agrochemical, and pharmaceutical sectors through data-driven research and consumer analytics. Earlier in his career, he served as Senior Manager Research at Oasis Insights, Project Manager at Macter International, and Visiting Faculty at Karachi University Business School, where he taught Marketing Research, Business Research Methods, and Consumer Behavior.

He holds an MBA in Marketing from Preston University. A frequent speaker at industry forums, he is recognized for transforming complex market data into actionable business intelligence that supports strategic planning and evidence-based decision-making.



SYED MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH

Deputy Director, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of Sindh
habibullah.syed@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Syed HabibUllah serves as Deputy Director Youth Affairs at the Directorate of Youth Affairs, Government of Sindh, bringing over 12 years of experience in youth development and public sector leadership. Previously, he served as Assistant Director Youth Affairs Sindh and Assistant Program Coordinator, leading seminars, training programs, workshops, competitions, and partnerships with NGOs and development organizations. He holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Karachi and is Patron-in-Chief of ASK Pakistan, a youth development organization.

Through initiatives such as Lead Forward Sindh, he has supported socio-economic empowerment, skills development, and youth engagement by creating structured opportunities that strengthen civic participation, leadership, and sustainable community development across Sindh.



MUHAMMAD GHAZZAL

Chief Operating Officer, Saylani Welfare International Trust
ghazzal_ad@saylaniwelfare.com, [Linkedin](#)

Muhammad Ghazzal is a multidisciplinary leader with expertise in information technology, finance, and organizational management. As Chief Operating Officer of Saylani Welfare International Trust (2016–2024), he led large-scale social impact programs spanning vocational training, technology education, orphan care, social welfare housing, emergency response, and food distribution. He also played a key role in initiatives that trained thousands of young people in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, blockchain, and IoT while supporting clean drinking water projects through RO plant installations.

He holds a degree in Accounting and Finance from Kaplan Business School and previously worked in cash management at Primark, United Kingdom. His leadership reflects a strong commitment to digital inclusion, technology-enabled social development, and building sustainable community infrastructure through innovation and strategic execution.



ASLAM PIRZADA

CEO, Ideal Autonnetics

aslam.pirzada@iautonnetics.com, [Linkedin](#)

Aslam Pirzada is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Ideal Autonnetics, a Karachi-based EdTech and GovTech SaaS company with over 30 years of experience in digital solutions for education and public sector transformation. He leads the development of platforms including IEMS (Integrated Education Management System), Face2Attend, and Billin, driving institutional automation, e-governance, and service digitization. An experienced e-governance consultant, he has delivered multiple public and private sector projects across Pakistan. He holds dual MBA degrees from the University of Karachi and Preston University (USA) and has received the Arabia 500 Entrepreneur Award (2012) and the CXO Entrepreneur Award (2025).

Through collaborations with institutions such as Shaheed Allah Buksh University, Jamshoro, he continues to expand digital governance and technology-enabled education, strengthening civic services and institutional efficiency across Pakistan.



KHAWAJA BILAL MANSOOR SETHI

Director SRK Group of Industries
bilalmansoor51@hotmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Bilal Mansoor Khawaja is a youth leader and civic engagement advocate with a strong track record in advancing youth participation in governance, leadership development, and public policy. He was the first elected President of the Pakistan Youth Parliament (Central Executive Council) for 2015–2016 and the Founding President of the Pakistan Youth Parliament Sindh Cabinet. He has also served as President of the National Youth Alliance, leading initiatives that strengthen civic engagement and collaboration between youth, government, and the private sector. He holds a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts & Professional Studies from York University, Toronto, and a Diploma in Criminology from Simon Fraser University, Canada.

His leadership reflects a commitment to empowering young people, promoting inclusive dialogue, and fostering sustainable social development through youth-driven initiatives and strategic stakeholder engagement.

SEMICONDUCTOR & HARDWARE COUNCIL



The Semiconductor & Hardware Council at NIC Karachi brings together hardware innovators, semiconductor experts, engineers, technology leaders, and industry professionals shaping the future of advanced technology in Pakistan. With mentorship from chip designers, embedded systems specialists, electronics engineers, hardware entrepreneurs, and research experts, the council supports startups working across semiconductor technologies, IoT devices, robotics, embedded systems, electronics manufacturing, automation, and next-generation hardware solutions. The council enables startups to strengthen technical capabilities, adopt emerging technologies, develop innovative products, and build scalable solutions for evolving global markets. By connecting emerging hardware innovators with industry expertise, research networks, and the broader technology ecosystem, it accelerates deep-tech innovation, fosters local manufacturing capabilities, and empowers Pakistan's next generation of semiconductor and hardware entrepreneurs to create impactful solutions for the future.



DR. SAAD AHMED QAZI CHAIRPERSON

Dean, Electrical and Computer Engineering, NED University
deanece@neduet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Dr. Saad Ahmed Qazi is Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at NED University and Lab Principal Investigator at NCL. With over 20 years of experience in research and academic leadership, he specializes in digital signal processing, digital health, energy systems, disaster response, and emerging technologies. He is committed to translating research into scalable solutions with societal and economic impact while fostering innovation, research commercialization, and engineering excellence. Through teaching and mentorship, he has played a significant role in developing future engineers and researchers.

His work advances applied research, deep-tech innovation, and technology commercialization to strengthen Pakistan's engineering and research ecosystem.



SYED HUSSAIN SAJJAD

Chief Operating Officer (COO), TELEC Group
hussain.sajjad@telec.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Syed Hussain Sajjad is a business executive with over 18 years of experience in corporate leadership, operational management, and strategic execution. As Group Chief Operating Officer at TELEC Group, he has led major organizational growth initiatives while overseeing complex strategic and operational projects. His expertise includes business strategy, project execution, stakeholder engagement, governance, and performance optimization, enabling organizations to achieve sustainable growth and operational excellence. With a strong technical foundation and experience leading cross-functional teams, he has successfully aligned business operations with long-term organizational objectives.

His work is focused on strengthening governance, driving organizational transformation, and delivering measurable business outcomes through disciplined leadership and execution.



SAFEER UL HAK

Founder and CEO, Indus Office Automation
safeer@chap.org.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Safeer Ul Hak is an award-winning technology entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience across Pakistan, the United States, the Middle East, and Europe. He has built and led successful businesses in information technology and consumer technology and is associated with Indus Office Automation and CHiPS (Burger Joint).

His professional portfolio includes partnerships and consulting engagements with global brands such as HP, Lenovo, Dell, Acer, HMD, SanDisk, and Western Digital. He has received numerous industry recognitions, including the Brand of the Year Awards (2023–2025), CXO Global Top 100 Entrepreneurs Awards (2025 and 2026), and the Global Image Award Middle East 2025. His work focuses on technology entrepreneurship, strategic partnerships, and digital ecosystem development.



PROF. DR. TARIQ RAHIM SOOMRO

Professor & Rector, Institute of Business Management (IoBM)
rector@iobm.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro is an accomplished academic and researcher with extensive experience in higher education, teaching, research, and academic leadership. Throughout his career, he has led curriculum development, academic planning, student mentoring, research supervision, and institutional administration across universities and technical institutions.

His expertise includes GIS, distributed systems, internet technologies, e-commerce, multimedia, networking, databases, programming, bioinformatics, telemedicine, and web technologies. He has also organized numerous academic conferences, seminars, and research forums that promote knowledge sharing and professional development. His work focuses on advancing interdisciplinary research, curriculum innovation, and institutional excellence across Pakistan's higher education sector.



PROF. DR. RABIA NOOR ENAM

Professor, Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology
rnenam@ssuet.edu.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Prof. Dr. Rabia Noor Enam is Professor of Computer Engineering at Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology and Director of the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization. With over two decades of academic and research experience, she leads initiatives that promote research commercialization, entrepreneurship, and industry-academia collaboration. Her expertise includes wireless sensor networks, Internet of Things, communication protocols, energy-efficient distributed systems, and network optimization.

She has published extensively in international journals and has contributed to national innovation and research policy through advisory roles. Her work is dedicated to strengthening innovation ecosystems, institutional capacity, and technology commercialization across Pakistan's engineering and research landscape.



JAMSHID DASTUR

CEO and Founder, Smartronix Innovations Incorporated
jamshid.dastur@smartronix.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Jamshid Dastur is an electronic and industrial engineer with over 12 years of experience in embedded systems, industrial automation, firmware development, and software engineering. He specializes in designing integrated technology solutions that combine people, processes, and systems to improve operational efficiency and business performance. His expertise includes industrial controls, process automation, product engineering, project management, software and hardware development, and digital transformation. Known for his technical problem-solving skills and collaborative leadership, he has successfully delivered engineering solutions across multicultural environments.

His work supports industrial innovation, embedded systems development, and hardware-software integration, contributing to the advancement of Pakistan's technology and automation sectors.



BEHROZ NOORANI

Founder & CEO, lion Engnr. Works
Nooranibehroz90@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Behroz Noorani leads Align STEM Club Pakistan, where he is dedicated to expanding access to high-quality STEM education and developing future-ready skills. With a background in Mechatronics from SZABIST, he combines engineering expertise with hands-on learning methodologies to promote innovation, critical thinking, and entrepreneurship. His work focuses on curriculum development, teacher training, product demonstrations, mentorship, and leadership development, creating inclusive learning environments that prepare students for emerging technologies and global opportunities.

Through his initiatives, he has strengthened STEM education by advancing curriculum modernization, practical skills development, and innovation-driven learning across Pakistan.



ATIF NAJAM

Chief Information Officer, Ismail Industries Limited
atif.najam@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Atif Najam is a business transformation and digital strategy leader with extensive experience across banking, manufacturing, and diversified corporate sectors. He has successfully led enterprise-wide transformation initiatives that improve operational efficiency, profitability, organizational resilience, and customer experience. His expertise includes corporate strategy, governance, financial oversight, risk management, and performance optimization, enabling organizations to align business objectives with disciplined execution.

He is recognized for translating complex business challenges into practical strategies that deliver measurable results while fostering high-performing teams and a culture of accountability. His work is focused on institutional transformation, governance excellence, sustainable innovation, and long-term organizational growth.



ANAS AHMED

Co-Founder & CEO, Hackerspace Karachi
anasahmed@hackerspacekarachi.com, [Linkedin](#)

Anas Ahmed is a product development and prototyping specialist focused on transforming early-stage ideas into market-ready hardware solutions. Over the past six years, he has developed structured rapid prototyping systems that enable founders and innovators to validate concepts, attract investment, and accelerate commercialization. His expertise includes PCB design, circuit development, industrial design, prototype engineering, and hardware product development. He has successfully supported projects that secured crowdfunding through platforms such as Kickstarter and has contributed to product development for brands including Work Louder, TeaKeyPanel, OSIDIAN, and DENPAFLUX.

His work is dedicated to strengthening hardware innovation, prototyping capabilities, and product commercialization, supporting the growth of Pakistan's emerging semiconductor and advanced manufacturing ecosystem.

AGRITECH & FOODTECH COUNCIL



The Agritech & Foodtech Council serves as a bridge between startups, agriculture experts, food industry leaders, research institutions, and ecosystem stakeholders. Its purpose is to support innovation across agriculture and food systems by helping startups access industry insights, market opportunities, technical expertise, and collaborative networks.

With mentorship from agribusiness professionals, food technologists, sustainability experts, and sector specialists, the council enables startups to build scalable solutions in areas such as precision agriculture, smart farming, food processing, supply chain efficiency, and sustainable production. By strengthening connections between innovators and industry stakeholders, the council accelerates technology adoption, improves productivity, enhances food security, and supports the growth of Pakistan's emerging Agritech and Foodtech ecosystem.



KASSIM MOTIWALA

CHAIRPERSON

CEO, DICOT INTERNATIONAL LLP
kassim.motiwala@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Kassim Motiwala is an agribusiness entrepreneur and agricultural technology innovator with over two decades of experience across multinational corporations, entrepreneurship, and commercial farming. An MBA graduate from IBA Karachi, he previously held leadership positions at Bayer Crop Science and Engro Fertilizers before founding DICOT International and Fortune Farms (Pvt.) Ltd. His innovations include i-PEPPER™, an AI-enabled agricultural robotics platform for precision farming, and Life Saver™, a biological solution addressing soil salinity.

His work bridges agricultural research with commercial adoption, enabling sustainable farming, resource efficiency, and climate resilience. He continues to promote technology-driven solutions that strengthen agricultural productivity and food security.



KARIM TELI

Managing Director, Igloo
karim@igloofun.com, [Linkedin](#)

Karim Teli is an entrepreneur, investor, and creative producer with over 20 years of experience across FMCG, technology, media, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship. He serves as Managing Director of IGLOO Pakistan and has previously led Big Shot Technologies as Chief Executive Officer while founding the World Radio FM Network. Since 2011, he has also served as Director of Orient Textile Mills, contributing to industrial growth and business expansion. Recognized for transforming innovative ideas into successful ventures, he has mentored and invested in numerous startups, helping founders build scalable businesses.

A sought-after speaker, he has presented at TEDx, Boston University, and Shark Tank Pakistan. His work reflects a strong commitment to innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, and sustainable business growth.



MUZAFFAR MANGHI

Co-Founder, Farmdar
manghi@farmdar.co.uk, [Linkedin](#)

Muzaffar Manghi is a marketing, strategy, and business development leader with over 20 years of experience in brand strategy, creative communications, entrepreneurship, and commercial growth. He currently serves as Co-Founder and Global Commercial Lead at Farmdar, supporting the commercialization of technology-driven agricultural solutions. Previously, he founded MCS, a communication strategy consultancy built around a global network of remote talent.

His career also includes senior leadership roles at leading international advertising networks, including Leo Burnett, Publicis, JWT, and Ogilvy, where he developed strategic campaigns for global brands. Combining entrepreneurial vision with commercial expertise, he specializes in market expansion, brand development, and scaling innovative ventures across agriculture and emerging industries.



SALMAN TUFAIL

Executive Board Member, Tufail Group
tufailsalman@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Salman Tufail is a business leader and technology-driven transformation advocate with extensive experience across industrial manufacturing, business diversification, and strategic growth. As part of Tufail Group, he has led digital transformation initiatives, including implementing SAP S/4HANA Enterprise at Tufail Chemical Industries, making it one of Pakistan's first chemical companies to adopt the platform.

A Computer Science graduate from Boston University, he has driven technology adoption, automation, strategic acquisitions, and international expansion across chemicals, agriculture, mining, entertainment, and technology businesses. He also serves as Vice President of Business Development at Immersive Planet SL and has contributed to Pakistan's business community through leadership roles at FPCCI and the Entrepreneurs' Organization.



SA NAULLAH ABDULLAH

Director, Siddiqsons Industries
sanaullah.abd@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sanaullah Abdullah is an entrepreneur and business leader with over 25 years of experience across textiles, retail, and family entertainment in Pakistan and the GCC. As Director and Chief Executive Officer of Siddiqsons Industries, he has led international business development, market expansion, and strategic growth for one of Pakistan's leading textile exporters serving global brands.

He also oversees strategy for Mendeez and AA Joyland, supporting expansion across Pakistan and the Middle East. A strong advocate for entrepreneurship, he serves as Chair of the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) Accelerator, mentoring emerging founders, and is a Founding Member and former President of EO Karachi. He holds an MBA from LUMS and has completed executive education at Harvard Business School and the London School of Economics.



ANUSHA FATIMA

Founder and CEO, TrashIt
anusha@trashit.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Anusha Fatima is Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of TrashIt, a social enterprise advancing circular economy solutions through organic waste management, soil regeneration, and climate resilience. Since establishing the venture in 2017, she has transformed it into a nationally recognized organization promoting regenerative agriculture, environmental education, and sustainable resource management. She leads strategic growth, partnerships, fundraising, and innovation while working with governments, development organizations, corporations, and farming communities to develop scalable waste-to-resource solutions.

A certified Zero Waste practitioner, she has completed international sustainability programmes, including the UNEP/UNESCO/BMUV Circular Solutions course at Technische Universität Dresden. Her achievements have been recognized through the UNDP Gender Climate Award, Charles Wallace Visiting Fellowship, and HBL Visa She's Next for advancing environmental innovation and climate action.



ABDUL WAHEED SHAIKH

Country Manager Pakistan, Givaudan
waheed.shaikh@givaudan.com, [Linkedin](#)

Abdul Waheed Shaikh is Country Manager Pakistan at Givaudan, with over two decades of leadership experience across the food ingredients, specialty chemicals, consumer goods, and industrial solutions sectors. He has held senior leadership positions at Givaudan, Stern-Wywiol Gruppe, DuPont, Pidilite Industries, and 3M, leading business growth, market expansion, strategic partnerships, and commercial operations.

Holding an MBA from SZABIST, he brings expertise in sales and marketing, business strategy, innovation, and organizational leadership. Throughout his career, he has championed sustainable business practices while driving commercial excellence and long-term growth across Pakistan's industrial and manufacturing landscape.



DR. MUHAMMAD KHURRAM

Co-Founder, Crop2x
khurram.ned@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Prof. Dr. Khurram is a Professor at NED University of Engineering & Technology with over 18 years of academic, research, and innovation experience in artificial intelligence, smart cities, IoT, computer vision, and advanced integrated circuit design. He serves as Director of the Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (RCAI), Focal Person for the National Center of Artificial Intelligence at NED, and Head of the Smart City Lab, leading applied research that connects academia with industry.

He is also the Founder of Crop2X (Pvt.) Ltd., an AI-driven agritech startup delivering precision agriculture solutions. Having secured more than PKR 250 million in national and international research funding, he has supervised numerous postgraduate researchers while advancing cutting-edge technologies in AI, IoT, 5G, and embedded systems.



EHTESHAM MAQBOOL ELAHI

Founder and CEO, Ugao Agritech
Ehtesham.maqbool@ugaoagritech.net, [Linkedin](#)

Ehtesham Maqbool Elahi is Managing Director of Macpac Films Ltd., where he leads a workforce of over 400 professionals producing flexible packaging solutions for the food, pharmaceutical, and personal care industries. With more than 17 years of experience, he has built expertise in manufacturing excellence, packaging innovation, operational leadership, and strategic business growth.

His leadership promotes responsible production, circular economy principles, and sustainable materials while addressing challenges related to food security, nutrition, healthcare, and agritech. He also provides strategic leadership at Sustainable Products and Din Textile Mills, supporting industrial transformation through environmentally responsible manufacturing and long-term business sustainability.

SUPPLY CHAIN, LOGISTICS, MOBILITY & TRANSPORT COUNCIL



The Supply Chain, Logistics, Mobility & Transport Council at NIC Karachi brings together industry leaders, innovators, and experts reshaping the future of movement and connectivity in Pakistan. With mentorship from logistics operators, supply chain specialists, transport authorities, mobility founders, and regulatory professionals, the council supports startups working across freight optimization, last-mile delivery, smart mobility, warehousing, fleet management, and transport technology. The council plays a pivotal role in helping startups navigate operational challenges, regulatory requirements, infrastructure integration, and scalability within complex supply chain networks. By fostering collaboration between emerging ventures and the broader logistics and transport ecosystem, it accelerates efficient, tech-enabled, and sustainable solutions that improve trade flow, urban mobility, and national connectivity.



**Supply Chain, Logistics,
Mobility & Transport Council**

ANWAAR NIZAMI

CHAIRPERSON

CEO, TCS Logistics

anwaar.nizami@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Anwaar Nizami is a logistics and supply chain executive with over 23 years of experience in operational transformation, technology adoption, and strategic leadership. As a Chief Executive Officer, he has led organizations in warehousing, multimodal logistics, and end-to-end supply chain optimization, with a strong focus on operational efficiency, scalability, and customer experience.

His expertise includes digital transformation, data-driven decision-making, and building resilient logistics operations through innovation and collaboration.



**Supply Chain, Logistics,
Mobility & Transport Council**

ASIF PERVEZ

CEO, Galaxefi
asif@galaxefi.com, [Linkedin](#)

Asif Pervez is a business transformation and technology leader with over 26 years of international experience driving digital innovation and operational excellence. His expertise includes process optimization, supply chain management, SaaS development, value stream mapping, and cross-functional leadership. Throughout his career, he has led technology-driven initiatives that simplify complex operations, improve efficiency, and support cross-border trade. Passionate about innovation and continuous improvement, he focuses on building scalable digital solutions that create lasting business impact.



**Supply Chain, Logistics,
Mobility & Transport Council**

DANISH ELAHI

CEO, Elahi Group of Companies
danish@egc.com.pk, [Linkedin](#)

Danish Ilahi is a business leader and entrepreneur with extensive experience in logistics, supply chain management, and corporate finance. He has built and managed successful businesses through strategic planning, financial discipline, and operational excellence. His expertise includes business strategy, investment banking, accounting, financial management, and scalable business development. With a strong focus on operational efficiency and sustainable growth, he has led organizations through complex commercial environments while identifying new opportunities for expansion.



**Supply Chain, Logistics,
Mobility & Transport Council**

JAFFAR HUSSAIN

Managing Director DHL Global Forwarding Pakistan, DHL
jaffar.hussain1@dhl.com, [Linkedin](#)

Jaffar Hussain is the Managing Director of DHL Global Forwarding Pakistan with over 25 years of leadership experience in global logistics and freight forwarding. He has successfully led commercial strategy, business development, operational excellence, and organizational transformation, consistently driving sustainable growth and high-performing teams. His expertise includes P&L management, trade lane development, stakeholder engagement, air and ocean freight procurement, and end-to-end supply chain optimization. Recognized for his customer-centric leadership and strategic execution, he has played a key role in strengthening trade connectivity and logistics performance.



Supply Chain, Logistics,
Mobility & Transport Council

RAFIQ MALIK

Founding member and COO, Bykea
rafiq.malik@bykea.com, [Linkedin](#)

Rafiq Malik is a business operations leader specializing in growth strategy, operational excellence, and scaling organizations in high-growth markets. He focuses on supply acquisition, marketplace liquidity, unit economics, and profitability optimization with a strong track record in building scalable and efficient operational systems. He has played a key role in the growth of Bykea, contributing to the development of a high-frequency digital platform built on sustainable demand and operational discipline. Prior to this, he spent eight years in the trucking and logistics industry in Toronto after completing his studies at the University of Western Ontario. In 2012, he returned to Pakistan to lead operations at TNT Express, managing large-scale logistics and supply chain functions before its acquisition by FedEx.



**Supply Chain, Logistics,
Mobility & Transport Council**

SHEIKH HAMMAD AMJAD

Deputy Country Head, Nippon Express, Pakistan
sheikhhammadamjad@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Sheikh Hammad Amjad is a business transformation and entrepreneurship professional with over 17 years of experience across consulting, corporate leadership, education, and startup development. He specializes in market expansion, startup scaling, and ecosystem development. He has collaborated with international organizations including the United Nations, ITC, GIZ, UNDP, British Council, USAID, INSEAD XSEED, Australian Trade, and National Incubation Centers on initiatives spanning sustainability, SME growth, microfinance, refugee support, and career advisory services. As a serial entrepreneur, he has founded 11 startups across fashion, cosmetics, travel, food, retail, textiles, agriculture, event management, education consulting, and sustainable clothing. He is a certified coach, mentor, and mediator and has trained over 1,500 individuals in entrepreneurship and executive education.



AYESHA ASLAM

Founder, Ride, Roll, Lead
aeisha.aslam@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ayesha Aslam is a community advocate, journalist, and social impact leader committed to advancing women's empowerment and inclusive public spaces in Karachi. She is the founder of Ride, Roll, Lead, a platform dedicated to building a community of empowered women cyclists and promoting safe, accessible environments for women in urban spaces. Her work as a freelance journalist focuses on gender equality, social justice, and community development, amplifying underrepresented voices and social narratives. She is passionate about adventure cycling and uses it as a medium to challenge societal barriers and encourages women's participation in public and recreational life. She contributes to broader ecosystem development initiatives by promoting inclusion, advocacy, and social awareness. Her efforts reflect a strong commitment to empowerment, resilience, and collective progress within Karachi's civic and community landscape.



**Supply Chain, Logistics,
Mobility & Transport Council**

AYAZ ADMANI

CEO, seagoldlimited

Ayaz@seagoldlimited.com, [Linkedin](#)

Ayaz Admani is a seasoned logistics, freight forwarding, and sales professional with extensive experience in Pakistan's shipping and logistics industry. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Seagold Pvt. Limited. Under his guidance, Seagold has achieved multiple industry recognitions, including awards from Emirates Sky Cargo, Hapag-Lloyd, and Turkish Airlines for excellence in service and performance. Prior to Seagold, he worked at Maersk Sealine from 1994 to 1999, gaining foundational experience in global shipping operations. His expertise includes logistics management, freight forwarding, commercial strategy, and operational leadership. He contributes to broader ecosystem development initiatives by supporting trade efficiency, supply chain innovation, and cross-border logistics facilitation aligned with Pakistan's evolving commercial and financial infrastructure.

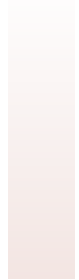


YONUS A. SIDDIQUI

CEO, SyncroLogix Private Limited
yonus.siddiqui@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Yonus Siddiqui is a seasoned business leader with over 35 years of experience in logistics, supply chain management, strategic planning, and business development across multinational and local organizations. His career includes leadership roles in the FMCG, petrochemical, and logistics sectors, with organizations such as Sind Engro Coal Mining Company, Dawood Group, and Lotte Korea. He holds an MBA, M.Sc., and PGD (CS), along with internationally recognized certifications including CSCP, CSCM, and CDDP. His expertise includes supply chain consulting, risk management, market research, cost optimization, and process improvement, with a strong focus on operational excellence and sustainable growth. Having trained more than 500 industry professionals, he is also a frequent guest speaker at leading universities, where he shares insights on innovation, leadership, and supply chain excellence to drive long-term business value.

CREATIVE ECONOMY, GAMING AND ANIMATION COUNCIL



The Creative Economy, Gaming and Animation Council at NIC Karachi brings together creative minds, technology innovators, and industry experts shaping the future of interactive entertainment in Pakistan. With mentorship from game developers, animation studios, creative entrepreneurs, digital artists, and technology professionals, the council supports startups working across game development, 2D & 3D animation, immersive experiences, AR/VR, storytelling, and digital content creation. The council plays a key role in helping startups strengthen creative capabilities, adopt emerging technologies, understand global industry trends, and build scalable entertainment solutions. By connecting emerging talent with the broader gaming and animation ecosystem, it accelerates innovation, nurtures creative industries, and enables Pakistan's next generation of digital creators to compete in global markets.



IMRAN KHAN CHAIRPERSON

CEO & Founder, RaptrGames
imran.khan@raptrgames.com, [Linkedin](#)

Imran Khan is a digital media and technology entrepreneur specializing in gaming, digital products, and platform development. He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of RAPTR Games, where he leads the development and publishing of interactive digital entertainment experiences. He has also served as Chairman of the Board at SadaPay and Editor-in-Chief of IGN Pakistan, contributing to the growth of Pakistan's fintech, gaming, and digital media sectors. In addition, he serves in advisory roles within global technology networks. He holds a Master's degree in Marketing from Greenwich University, along with certifications in strategic management and strategy implementation. His expertise includes digital product strategy, platform scaling, consumer technology, and gaming ecosystems.



FAHAD SIKANDER

Founder & CEO, MobiTising Koyal
ch.fahad@mobitisinginc.com, [Linkedin](#)

Fahad Sikander is an entrepreneur and business leader focused on innovation-driven ventures and digital transformation. He pioneered digital supply chain solutions for Pakistan's contemporary music industry through MobiTising, modernizing content distribution and service delivery. His entrepreneurial portfolio includes Koyal, Greene, Hash Stereo, OyeValet, and MobiSMSnow, reflecting a strong commitment to technology-enabled business innovation and operational excellence. Beyond entrepreneurship, he actively contributes to community development through Rotary Pakistan. His expertise includes venture creation, business development, digital innovation, and technology commercialization.



MOMINA KAZIM

Program Manager, CEGA - Centre of Excellence in Gaming and Animation
mominakazim7@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Momina Kazim is a venture and business strategy professional with experience across the MENAP region in commercial strategy, startup growth, and ecosystem development. At Retailo, she led commercial initiatives and P&L strategy across Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the UAE, contributing to significant profitability improvements. She also worked at Indus Valley Capital, where she evaluated more than 400 startups and built a network of approximately 600 founders, strengthening entrepreneurial collaboration. She currently contributes to Pakistan's gaming and animation sector at CEGA by HUM Network, focusing on ecosystem development, creative technology, and industry partnerships. Her expertise includes venture growth, stakeholder engagement, and scalable business strategy.



HAYA FATIMA IQBAL

Documentary Filmmaker & Co - founder, Documentary Association of Pakistan
hayafiqbal@gmail.com, hayafatimaqbal.org

Haya Fatima Iqbal is an Academy Award and two-time Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, educator, and storyteller. A Global Media Makers Fellow, Acumen Fellow, and Fulbright alumna, she holds a Master's degree in News and Documentary from New York University. She serves as Assistant Professor of Practice at Habib University, teaching journalism, filmmaking, and storytelling, while conducting professional training programs in Pakistan and internationally. As Co-Founder of the Documentary Association of Pakistan, she promotes documentary culture and public engagement with nonfiction storytelling. Her work has made significant contributions to media literacy, creative education, and Pakistan's documentary filmmaking landscape.



IMRAN AZHAR

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

Imran Azhar is an entrepreneur and creative industry leader with over 25 years of international experience, including leadership roles in the hospitality sector across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean region. In 2015, he founded AzCorp Entertainment, Pakistan's leading IP-based comic book company. He has led the creation of acclaimed comic book series including Team Muhafiz, Winds of Baltoro, Mein Hero, and Qahermaan, and co-created Basila & the Street Crew and Sheeba & the Private Detectives. His work focuses on developing original intellectual property rooted in Pakistani culture with global appeal.



HAMZA SHAMSI

CEO & Founder, Viral Vind Technologies Pvt Ltd.
hamzashamsi@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Hamza Shamsi is a technology and gaming industry professional with leadership experience in digital product development, operations, and emerging blockchain ecosystems. He leads Grand Gangsta City, focusing on growth through strategic planning, operational excellence, and organizational development. He has over three years of C-level experience at Katana Inu, where he worked on optimizing operations, improving administrative workflows, and strengthening customer relationship management systems to support scalable growth. His expertise spans gaming ecosystems, blockchain applications, digital product strategy, and operational efficiency.

He is passionate about innovation in interactive entertainment and emerging technologies, with a focus on building immersive digital experiences.



HAMZA HASHMANI

Co-Founder, Esports Academy Pakistan
hhashmani26@gmail.com, [Linkedin](#)

Hamza Hashmani is a technology entrepreneur, software engineer, and internationally recognized esports leader dedicated to advancing Pakistan's digital and creative economy. As Co-Founder of Esports Academy Pakistan, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's competitive gaming ecosystem through innovation, strategic partnerships, and talent development. During his tenure with Garena, he led esports operations across Pakistan, successfully delivering national championships, expanding the competitive gaming landscape, and representing Pakistan on international platforms. With expertise in software engineering, digital product strategy, blockchain technologies, and startup innovation, Hamza is committed to fostering entrepreneurship and positioning Pakistan as a leading force in the global gaming and technology ecosystem.



FAISAL SHAIKH

Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Jack of Digital
faisal@jackofdigital.com, [Linkedin](#)

Faisal Shaikh is a marketing and communications leader with over 16 years of experience in business growth, brand development, and strategic communications. He has advised organizations across FMCG, consumer goods, finance, aviation, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, electronics, tobacco, and beauty sectors, helping businesses strengthen market positioning and transition to digital marketing platforms. His expertise includes strategic planning, market analysis, integrated marketing, revenue growth, and cross-functional leadership. Recognized for driving innovation and business diversification, he develops marketing strategies that deliver sustainable growth and long-term value.



DANIYAL SHAIKH

CEO & Co-Founder, Mindkix Labs
shaikhdanial@yahoo.com, [Linkedin](#)

Daniyal Shaikh is a technology and innovation leader specializing in artificial intelligence, decentralization, and emerging digital ecosystems. He leads InflectivAI, driving the development of decentralized AI solutions and Web3 applications through scalable node network architectures that support commercial and decentralized AI models. Previously, he led initiatives at MindKix Labs in blockchain, metaverse technologies, and NFTs, contributing to immersive digital experiences and next-generation digital assets. His expertise includes AI, blockchain, system architecture, and digital ecosystem design, with a strong focus on responsible technology adoption and scalable innovation.



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