

QATAR-UK ALUMNI NETWORK BOARD MEMBERS BIOS



Front, from left:

Dr. Noora Fetais

Sheikha Alanoud bint Hamad Al-Thani

H.E Ambassador Ajay Sharma (*Seated, center*)

British Council – Country Director, Sam Ayton
(*Seated, Center*)

Stuart Leeming

Back, from left:

British Council Manager – IES, Rawan Khir

Dr. Khalid Mohamed Al-Horr

Jennifer Stables

Toff Wahab

Dr. Waseem Kotoub

Mohammed Shehada

Khalifa Alyafei

Rupin Kumar

DR. NOORA FETAIS

Dr. Noora Fetais is the Director of KINDI Center for Computing Research at Qatar University (QU). She is also an assistant professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Qatar University. Her expertise is in Visualization for Cybersecurity. Dr. Fetais holds a PhD from the University of Sussex (UK). She is a member of the first batch of Qatar Leadership Center (Current and Future Leaders Program 2011-2013), and is currently holding various professional positions including; Vice Chair of IEEE-Qatar Section, Qatar Ambassador of Women in Data Science (WiDS) at Stanford University, among others. Dr. Fetais was the first Women to chair the Faculty Senate of Qatar University and a member of the Board of Advisors for Qatar Academy is part of the Qatar Foundation (QF) for Education, Science and Community Development.

Dr. Noora Fetais has participated as a distinguished speaker and presenter in a number of regional and international conferences and has published a number of research papers, also has led many research teams funded in the field of her specialization. She was awarded the British scholarship (Chevening) and she is a member of different international professional associations such as ACM, IEEE, ASEE, and others. Dr. Noora also participated in organizing and chairing a number of sessions and panels at different conferences and workshops at the state level and participated in judging awards to some of these conferences and competitions at different levels.

At the national level, Dr. Fetais is invited as a speaker at the Qatar Fourth Information Security Conference for Financial Sector 2017 and at the regional level; she has been invited by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) as a distinguished speaker at the Conference on Women Leaders in Science, Technology and Engineering. Moreover, at the international level, Dr. Fetais been invited to attend and present at the Science Collaboration Symposium on Cyber Security that held at the University of Manchester.

SHEIKHA ALANOUD BINT HAMAD AL-THANI

Sheikha Alanoud bint Hamad Al-Thani was appointed Managing Director of Business Development at the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) Authority in September 2017. Previously, she held the roles of Associate Director of Economic Affairs for the MENA region and Vice President of Strategic Alliances.

Prior to joining the QFC, Alanoud served as the Qatar Country Director for Silatech, a Qatar-based social initiative that connects young people to employment opportunities across the Arab region. She has also held other positions working with various UN agencies and international organisations specialising in issues covering economic development, focusing on education, private sector development, and youth employment. She has authored numerous reports on the subject matters.

Alanoud has been a board member of a number of organizations, including Vice Chair for the Bedaya Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Guidance, Tomouh, How Women Work, i2Co School of Transformative Leadership, and Future Foreign Policy in the UK. She is currently a Global Ambassador for Qatar for Women Entrepreneurship Day, a founding member of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Community and a member of their Advisory Council on Collaborations.

She is a proud recipient of Honours and Awards including Young Arab Achiever in 2011, and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani Education Excellence Awards in 2008 and 2012.

Alanoud earned a BSc (Joint Honours) in Economics with Government from the London School of Economics and Political Science and an MSc in Economics for Development from the University of Oxford. She holds an Executive Education from the Qatar Leadership Centre Rising Leaders' Programme and a Fellow of the Bucerius School on Global Governance. She is fluent in English, Arabic and French.

STUART LEEMING

Mr. Stuart Leeming BSc (hons) PGCE CSci CChem FRSC FRGS is the Executive Director for Qatar Foundation Schools.

Stuart has led two academy trusts in the UK as CEO as well as holding senior leadership positions in the UK private schools sector. He is a member of the Advisory Council of New Schools Network in England.

Born in Salford, Stuart graduated from UMIST in Manchester and taught in Salford and Manchester before being appointed to the senior leadership team at the Manchester Grammar School, one of the UK's top performing private schools

A chemist by training, Stuart has taught chemistry (A-Level and IB) and physics, and has developed integrated science curricula (STEM). He has led the development of novel curricula too; a bespoke curriculum for a newly established, alternative model Junior School and the adaptation of the IPC (International Primary Curriculum) to the English National Curriculum. He has a particular interest in Special Education Needs & Disabilities and specific learning differences, and student care and welfare.

Stuart is highly experienced in school start-ups, having established the Manchester Grammar School Junior School and New Islington Free School in Manchester, as well as leading projects in Korea, Kuwait, and London. He has extensive experience of school governance in the private and maintained sectors and has both established, restructured and served on boards.

DR. KHALID MOHAMMED AL-HORR

Dr. Khalid holds a PhD in Management and Human Resource Management and a Master degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Leeds, UK and has obtained BSc in Administrative Sciences and Economics from the University of Qatar.

Currently he is the Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Finance & Business Academy (QFBA) and has served as the Director of Higher Education Institute at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Dr. Khalid has been encouraging private investors to establish higher education institutions in the State of Qatar, such as AFG College (affiliated with Aberdeen University), and University Foundation College. He proposed and drafted new laws and Emiri decrees, such as the reorganization of Community College of Qatar, Scholarships Law, Qualifications and Accreditation body, and Degree Equivalency. He also drove the transformation of the scholarship management service at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education from a paper-based service into a fully electronic one.

Known for his academic prowess, Dr. Khalid was a part of boards and steering committees of various academic entities. He was a Member of the Supreme Board, Police College; Chair of Consulting Committee, Academic Bridge Program, Qatar Foundation; and Member of Joint Oversight Board, Calgary University-Qatar, to name a few.

JENNIFER STABLES

Jennifer is a Chartered member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, a registered Engineer with MMUP Qatar, and a Project Management Institute Project Management Professional with PRINCE 2 Project Management certification. She graduated with a Masters degree in Civil and Structural Engineering from the University of Cambridge in 2007, and has worked in Doha, Qatar since June 2013.

A keen advocate for the development of the construction profession, Jennifer has a strong involvement with the Institution of Civil Engineers. She is the Chair of the ICE Regional Committee and Country Representative for Qatar, was a Delegated Engineer supporting those seeking charter-ship, sat on the Global Council for a three year term and chaired the London Young Members Committee. She is also a member of Engineers Without Borders UK having been a reviewer for the Engineering for People Design Challenge 2017 and spent three months in Bangladesh in 2012 acting as a project manager for a rural NGO. Jennifer now acts as a Patron for the TeamBuild cross construction industry competition for young people previously having acted as an organizer and Trustee www.teambuilduk.com.

With a background in Building Structures, Jennifer is experienced with complex analytical modeling in parametric software and has worked as part of design teams using 3D BIM with a basis in Revit. Jennifer has in depth experience in design work and management and delivery of projects, with a keen interest in safety, risk management, sustainability and finance and business operations.

Jennifer was recognized as one of the top 50 women engineers under 35 by WES and the Telegraph newspaper in 2017. She is a SuperUser for the AECOM Ecosystem Project Management tool (ePM) and an accredited and experienced AECOM Project Manager.

TOFF WAHAB

Toff Wahab (Mohammed Toafiq): 1st Secretary (Head of Political Section) – British Embassy in Doha

Toff was born and grew up in Blackburn (Lancashire) in 1975. Before joining the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1997, he had been working for Blackburn Borough Council, HM Customs & Excise and Halifax Bank.

In October 2017, he joined the British Embassy in Doha as the 1st Secretary – Head of Political Section. Prior to that, he was the British Deputy High Commissioner to Cameroon from 2015-2017 (based in Yaoundé) with responsibilities covering Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. Toff is a career diplomat whose time has been spent dealing with the full range of UK Government objectives.

In his previous overseas postings, he has led on crisis management and managed a range of portfolios covering political work, aviation security, counter terrorism, migration, consular and visa management. He has also worked as Private Secretary to the UK Trade & Investment (UKTI – now DIT) Chief Executive where he worked with senior stakeholders to ensure success for UK based businesses in international markets and also with inward investors.

He had been the Chair for the FCO's Minority Ethnic Action Group (1998) and continues to take a leading role in the FCO's Diversity agenda to the present date. He is able to speak many languages which include French, Gujarati, Hindi, Kutchi, Memon and Urdu. He also has basic understanding of Bangla and Yoruba.

DR. WASEEM KOTOUB

Qualified as a medical doctor, obtaining a Master's degree in Health Systems and Hospital Management from Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. At the same time, he has a strong arts background, obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma in music from the Royal Academy of Music in London. A composer and concert pianist performing around the world.

Waseem is the Head of Programmes and Partnerships at the British Council and has a strong track record in delivering large scale health, science, education, arts and creative economy projects in Qatar. He led on the arts strand of Qatar-UK Year of Culture 2013 and directed Qatar British Festival for 5 years running.

Waseem has merged Medicine and Music, using Music Therapy with autistic children as a mean of communicating and developing their skills. He is also a lecturer and trainer at Weill Cornell Medicine Qatar.

MOHAMMED SHEHADA

Mohammed Shehada is a business development professional who has been working in Qatar for 3 years now with Bayt.com - a regional organization registered under Qatar Financial Center (QFC) as an enterprise recruitment consultant helping organizations establish their operations in Qatar from one side, and helping people build the professional life of their choice. The essence of what he does in his professional life is driven by his passion to change people's lives.

Mohammed did his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in Gaza, Palestine in 2012. During his years of study he volunteered with Oxfam GB and EWASH Global, a nonprofit organization advocating Palestinian human rights. After that, he pursued a Post-graduate Diploma in International Cooperation at the University of Pavia in Italy through a student exchange programme funded by the EU & the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mohammed went back to Palestine after that, and started his journey planning his Master's degree education. The course of his life changed when he was privileged to be sponsored by the British Council's HESPAL Programme – a highly competitive scholarship programme that partners with UK universities to prepare the next generation of academics to join Palestinian Universities.

He graduated with a degree in International Management with a minor in Marketing in January 2015 from the University of Exeter Business School, but due to the political situation in Gaza-Palestine in 2014, Mohammed could not return home to assume his position as assistant professor at Al Azhar University of Gaza, instead he moved to Singapore exploring an opportunity with Bosch Headquarters in South East Asia and later moved to Qatar, a place he considers to be his home.

KHALIFA ALYAFEI

Certified Career Counselor with demonstrated history of working in higher education industry. He has a long experience in working with Qatari students in areas of career counseling, student recruitment and coaching.

Recently, Mr. Alyafei got appointed as Director of Academic Affairs and a Lecturer at Qatar Finance and Business Academy and Northumbria University in Qatar where he will be responsible for the development of student's affairs department. Previously, Mr. Alyafei worked as Manager of National Scholarships at Sidra Medicine where he managed the scholarship administration and talent pipeline.

Prior joining Sidra, he was doing his Master degree in Penn State University (USA) in Career Counseling. During his study, he worked as a Career Counselor in Penn State Career Services. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from the University Of Leeds (UK).

RUPIN KUMAR

Rupin is an international Finance and Investment professional with strong experience in range of transaction advisory including structuring of big-ticket deals in oil, gas, power and infrastructure.

He is an Entrepreneur having set up investment banking boutique based out of Gulf, serving global Clients in Africa, US, Europe and Gulf. He has partnered with New York based team to develop Fintech Platform for blockchain applications in Banking. The platform is deployed in Ghana and has been selected for incubation at Qatar Business Incubation Center.

He has worked with institutions such as KPMG, Qatar Petroleum, Spanish Corporate Finance boutique and served as Advisor to State Finance Policy Committee in Qatar advising on state debt exposure. He has worked in London, Gulf, Africa and embraces the richness of cultural diversity.

He received his MBA from London Business School and Bachelor of Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.