



**Qatar Investment
& Innovation Conference**
مؤتمر قطر للاستثمار والابتكار
Driving GCC Entrepreneurial Growth

**NOV, 03
2025**
Barahat
Msheireb



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The Qatar Investment and Innovation Conference, organized by The Business Year and Msheireb Properties, will bring together key stakeholders to discuss the growing start-up ecosystem across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

As GCC countries continue their transition away from oil dependency, they are positioning themselves as global hubs for innovation, investment, and entrepreneurship. This conference will focus on fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors to create an environment that supports start-up growth and drives sustainable business development.

New to this year's edition is the AI for Good Innovation Challenge, a dynamic segment hosted in collaboration with the AI for Good initiative and its Doha chapter. This competition provides a global platform for emerging AI solutions aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Event goals

- Foster collaboration between the public and private sectors to support entrepreneurship across the GCC.
- Explore how government policies can be improved to better encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Highlight the advantages of each GCC country in developing a strong regional start-up ecosystem.
- Compare the GCC start-up environment with other established markets like the US and Europe.
- Provide a global platform for GCC-based startups through the AI for Good Innovation Challenge.



Agenda Summary:

2:00 PM – Pre-Event Insight Session "The Architecture of AI: Energy, Capex, and Capability" at HEC Paris, Doha

4:30 PM – Registration & Speed Networking at Barahat Msheireb, Doha

5:30 PM – Welcome & Opening Remarks

5:40 PM – Keynote Address

5:50 PM – AI for Good Qatar Challenge Introduction

5:55 PM – AI for Good Qatar Challenge – Round 1 Startup Pitches

6:15 PM – Panel 1 Introduction Speech

6:22 PM – Prayer Time

6:25 PM – Panel 1: Fostering Entrepreneurship & Driving Economic Growth in the GCC

7:05 PM – AI for Good Qatar Challenge – Round 2 Startup Pitches

7:20 PM – Panel 2 Introduction Speech

7:25 PM – Panel 2: Financing the Future – GCC Investment Strategies & Policy Insights

8:10 PM – AI for Good Challenge Winner Announcement

8:15 PM – Closing Remarks & Networking Reception



Pre-event Session:

Pre-event Insight Session led by HEC Paris, Doha

The Architecture of AI: Energy, Capex, and Capability

AI is no longer a tool; it is an industry. Join Dr. Pablo Martin de Holan, Dean of HEC Paris, Doha, for a strategic look at the forces driving AI and the opportunities and risks it presents for founders, investors, enterprises, and economies.

HEC Paris, Doha Alumni Participants:

- › **Dr. Fadi Nasser** — Chief Commercial Officer (CCO), MEEZA
- › **Nouf Almarri** — Chief Information Officer (CIO), Civil Services and Government Development Bureau | Digital Transformation Leader | Founder of the term MeaningTech™
- › **Sarah Al-Mawlawi** — Director Corporate Information Security, Ooredoo Qatar
- › **Aysha Al Mudahka** — Senior Director of RDI Programs, Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council (QRDI)



1:30 PM	Registration and Networking Refreshments
2:00 PM	Welcome Remarks – Dr. Pablo de Holan, Dean of HEC Paris, Doha
2:03 PM	Connecting Perspectives – Ioana Krempanzky Popa, Chief Commercial Officer & Regional Director Middle East at Business Year
2:06 PM	Community Insights – Dr. Hafiz Ali Abdulla, Senior Director Corporate Communication at Msheireb Properties
2:09 PM	Introduction to “The Architecture of AI: Energy, Capex, and Capability” – Dr. Pablo Martin de Holan, Dean of HEC Paris, Doha
2:30 PM	Panel Discussion
3:30 PM	Q&A and Wrap Up
3:40 PM	Short Overview of HEC Paris, Doha Programs
4:00 PM	End of the event, networking Refreshments



Agenda Details | Main Stage:

4:30 PM – Registration & Speed Networking at Barahat Msheireb, Doha

Guest arrival | Light refreshments | DARE Demo Day Speed Networking

5:30 PM – Welcome & Opening Remarks

- › **Ali Al Kuwari**, CEO, Msheireb Properties
- › **Ioana Popa**, Chief Commercial Officer, The Business Year

5:40 PM – Keynote Address

- › **Faraj Abdulla**, Director of Digital Economy within the Digital Affairs Department at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
- › **Nejoud Al-Jehani**, Executive Director of Strategy and Programs, QRDI Council

5:50 PM – AI for Good Qatar Challenge Introduction

One of the standout features of this year's conference is the AI for Good Innovation Challenge—the first-ever Qatar edition of the high-impact startup competition. Organized in collaboration with ITU's AI for Good initiative and its local Doha chapter, Young AI Leaders Community by AI for Good. This dynamic segment will showcase ten pre-qualified startups pitching live on the main stage, each delivering a concise 3-minute presentation to a panel of expert judges. The winning startup will attend the AI for Good Global Summit 2025 in Geneva, and fast-track access to select accelerator programs both locally and internationally. By embedding this challenge into the conference, we reinforce Qatar's positioning as a regional hub for responsible AI innovation.

JUDGES: Tarik Sultan (Builders VC), Bilel Al Souaied (AI for Good Doha Chapter), Andrea Azzolari (Plug and Play), Omair Sultan AlNaimi (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Qatar), Faysal Shair (Dar Ventures), Faris Al-Obaid (Tamara) and Majed Lababidi (Alchemist Doha)

5:55 PM – AI for Good Qatar Challenge – Round 1 Startup Pitches



Agenda Details | Main Stage:

6:15 PM - Panel 1 Introduction Speech

Faysal Shair, Partner/Director of Digital Solutions at Dar

6:22 PM - Prayer Time

6:25 PM - Panel 1: Fostering Entrepreneurship & Driving Economic Growth in the GCC

This panel will examine the vital role entrepreneurship plays in driving economic growth within the GCC. As the region works to diversify its economy, creating a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem is essential. Discussions will focus on how governments and the private sector can work together to nurture and support start-ups. Topics will include the importance of education, mentorship programs, and government incentives to help develop local talent, as well as the potential of cross-border collaboration to open up regional and global market access. Panelists will explore the challenges and opportunities entrepreneurs face in the GCC and the policies and support systems that can enable them to scale successfully.

Moderator: *Vanessa Rameix, Regional Director, The Business Year*

Panelists:

- › *H.E. Hussain Al Mahmoudi, CEO, SRTIP - UAE*
- › *Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida, CEO, QFC - QATAR*
- › *Rama Chakaki, President, QSTP - QATAR*
- › *Fahad AlSharekh, CEO, Techinvest*

7:05 PM - AI for Good Qatar Challenge - Round 2 Startup Pitches



Agenda Details | Main Stage:

7:20 PM – Panel 2 Introduction Speech

Omar Sultan, Managing Partner at Sultan Ventures & CEO of Acasia

7:25 PM – Panel 2: Financing the Future – GCC Investment Strategies & Policy Insights

This panel will focus on the investment landscape in the GCC and the strategies that are shaping the future of the region. The discussion will explore how venture capital, private equity, and government-backed funding are evolving to support the next generation of entrepreneurs. Key questions will include: What are the most promising sectors for investment? and; How are policymakers ensuring the GCC remains an attractive investment destination? The panel will also discuss the role of public-private partnerships, investment incentives, and regulatory reforms in facilitating the flow of capital to high-growth startups. The goal is to provide actionable insights for investors interested in tapping into the expanding GCC startup ecosystem.

Moderator: *Sophia Swire, Founder, GEDI – UK*

Panelists:

- › *Mohammed Alzubi, Founder & Managing Partner, Nama Ventures – KSA*
- › *Abdulrahman AlJiffry, Partner, 500 Global – KSA*
- › *Steve Khayat, CEO, Phoenix Venture Partners*
- › *Dr. Mohammed Al-Housani, Director of Research and Advocacy, QRDI Council*

8:15 PM – Closing Remarks & Networking Reception