



THE SECOND 2016

# AMSI VOICES CONFERENCE

*What's next? Seek it, Commit to it, Embrace it...*

Saturday, October 22, 2016  
Al Bustan Rotana - Dubai, UAE



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AMSI Voices



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AMSI voices is an AMSI Alumni initiative



# AMSI™

academia management solutions international



Al Mawakeb Schools  
managed by AMSI

International  
School of  
Arts & Sciences  
an AMSI managed school



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AL KOURA  
an AMSI School

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

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

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

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

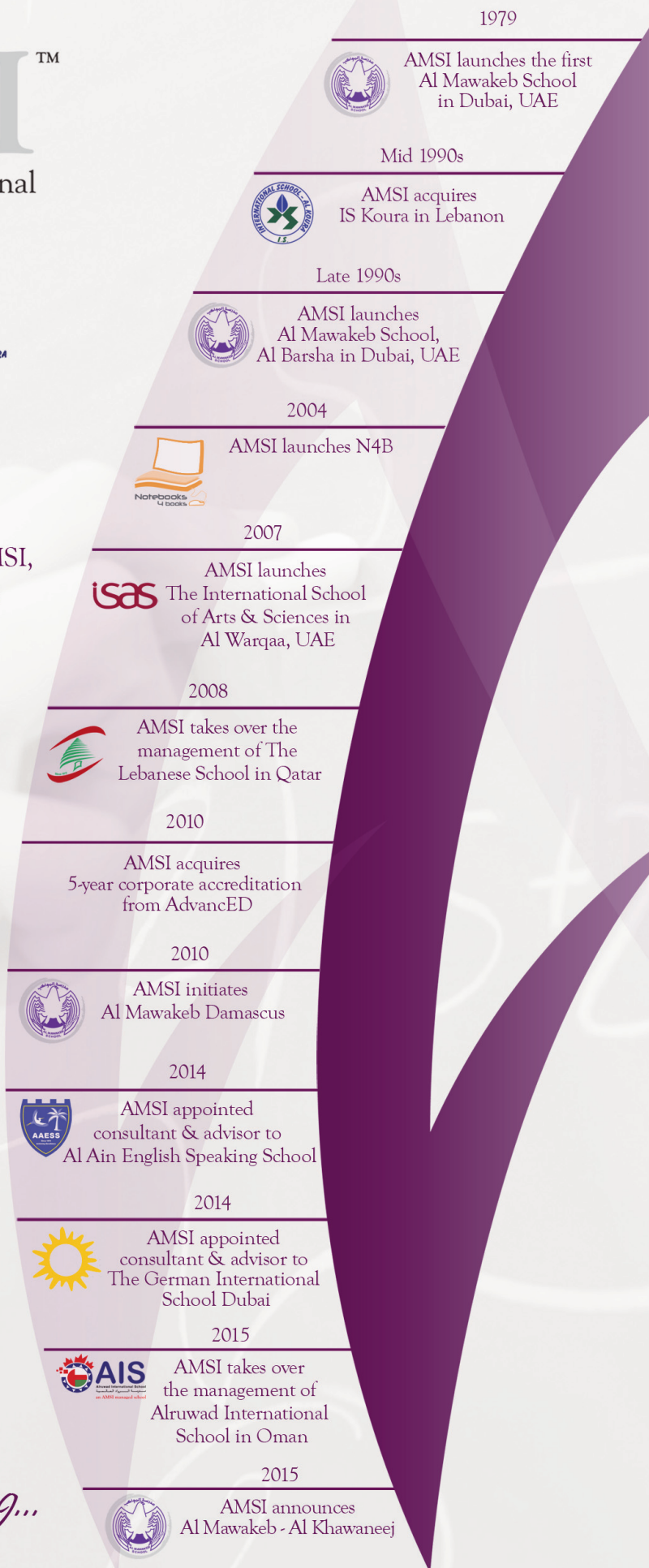
As a management company that combines family values with a professional approach, we developed a sense of the urgency at both the schools level and the investor level.

We became the solution provider we set out to be.



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

*transforming lives since 1979...*





رؤيتنا أن تزدَّ الجميلَ لصرحٍ تهلنا من  
معينه وأن نُشكِلَ لطلبتنا مصدرَ إلهامٍ  
يتركُ أثرًا في حياتهم.

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

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

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

# AMSI Voices Steering Committee



**Alissar Nasr Soubra**  
AMSI Chief Academic Officer

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School - Class of 1984
- Masters of Education in Administrative Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University
- Has more than 25 years of experience in academic planning, curriculum development, and school operations



**Mariam Al Afridi**  
Director of Government Communications Department of Economic Development  
Government of Dubai

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 1999
- Doctorate of Business Administration from the British University in Dubai
- Sheikha Shamsa Award for Innovative Women in the trade category 2013
- Overall Professional Winner by Emirates Women Award 2010



**Mania Merrikhi**  
Head of Communications at  
Jafza, Jebel Ali Free Zone

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2000
- Doctorate of Business Administration from Atlantic International University
- Has over 15 years of experience in corporate communications



**Hind Abdul Hamied Seddiqi**  
Chief Marketing Officer of Seddiqi Holding

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Barsha - Class of 2001
- Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications from the American University of Sharjah
- Ranked #23 on Forbes Middle East list of Most Influential Arab Women in Family Business



**Mahra Al Khaja**  
Senior Project Leader at EGA / Make-Up Artist

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2005
- Master's degree in General Management from the Canadian University in Dubai
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at American University in Dubai
- Diploma in Fashion/Photographic/Media Makeup Diploma from The London School of Makeup and Beauty
- Played the role of vice chairman of Emirates Aluminium Ladies Club to empower women

# AMSI Voices Steering Committee



**Dino Drimakis**

Founder of EMI

Operations Manager NMK Electronics Group

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2005
- Business Marketing degree from California State University (Northridge)
- Dino has been responsible for implementing new strategies, managing and developing growth opportunities within NMK Electronics Group, a major distributor of AV and communication equipment in the region



**Firas Al Bannani**

Business Development Manager at AMSI

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 1999
- BSc. degree in Management Information Systems from the American University of Sharjah-2003
- Started his career with Hewlett Packard where he worked his way up to become the Marketing and PR Manager for the Middle East
- Business Manager - Al Faisal for Architecture



**Mohammed Al Harmi**

Director of Space Operations Department at Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Barsha - Class of 2000
- M.S. in Aerospace Engineering at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)
- Al Harmi is the leader of the ground segment system engineering for the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) - Hope



**Tarek Berri**

Founder of Tarek Berri Architects

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2002
- Masters in Architecture from Barcelona Institute of Architecture, Barcelona, Spain
- Tarek is an architect, interior designer and experimental furniture designer

# Conference Program

What's next? Seek it, Commit to it, Embrace it...

8:15am - 8:45am	Registration
9:00am - 9:10am	<b>Opening address: Mrs. Alissar Nasr Soubra</b> <i>Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1984</i> <i>AMSI Chief Academic Officer</i>
9:10am - 9:15am	<b>AMSI Voices Curtain Raiser</b>
9:20am - 9:40am	<b>Keynote speaker: Arif Amiri</b> <i>Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1993</i> <i>CEO Dubai International Financial Centre</i>
9:45am - 10:20am	<b>Presentation: Outlook on Dubai in 2020 and 2021</b> <b>Ms. Mania Merrikhi</b> <i>Al Mawakeb School Al Garhoud, Class of 2000</i> <i>Head of Communications at Jafza, Jebel Ali Free Zone</i>
10:20am - 11:50am	<b>Panel 1: Fulfilling Work, Family &amp; Patriotic Duties</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Alissar Nasr Soubra</i> <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Mohammed Al Harmi, Kareem Derbas, Abdallah Al Awar, Dr. Fayez Al Shamsi, Dr. Hassan Galadari, Lt. Col. Marwan Singel, Mohammad Al Khayat</i>
11:50am - 12:05pm	<b>Break</b>
12:05pm - 1:35pm	<b>Panel 2: Our Turning Points... Our Stories</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Dino Drimakis</i> <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Firas Al Bannani, Mohammed Ahli, Dr. Mohammed Naji, Najati Al Hussein, Sevan Michikian, Ahmad Bin Thaneya, Tarek Mohammed</i>
1:35pm - 2:05pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2:05pm - 3:35pm	<b>Panel 3: 21st Century Men... The Way to Get There</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Mohammed Al Harmi</i> <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Dino Drimakis, Omar Sharaf, Joseph Akkawi, Alexander Foroozande, Mishaal Gergawi, Marwan Al Awadhi</i>
3:35pm - 4:00pm	<b>Closing notes</b>

# AMSI Voices Speakers & Panelists

## Keynote Speaker



### Arif Amiri

CEO - Dubai International Financial Centre Authority

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1993
- Started his career with an eight year term at HSBC bank Middle East.
- Was Chief Executive Officer of Emaar Retail providing strategic and tactical leadership for the retail and entertainment operations of Emaar across Dubai and other key emerging markets

## Panel 1: Fulfilling Work, Family and Patriotic Duties

### Moderator:



### Alissar Nasr Soubra

Chief Academic Officer - AMSI

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1984
- Masters of Education in Administrative Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University
- Has more than 25 years of experience in academic planning, curriculum development and school operations

### Panelists:



### Mohammed Al Harmi

Director of Space Operations Department at Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Barsha - Class of 2000
- M.S in Aerospace Engineering at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)
- Al Harmi is the leader of the ground segment system engineering for the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) - Hope



### Kareem Derbas

Co-Founder, Partner and CEO of Palma Holding

CEO, Partner and Board member of Palma Investment

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1995
- Harvard Business School; Owner/President Management Program: 2014 - 2016
- Bachelor degree in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut-1999
- Has over a decade of experience in Dubai's real estate market where he has developed the group into a fully integrated real estate company
- At the peak of Dubai's real estate boom, Kareem was managing a property portfolio in excess of AED 10 billion (USD 3 billion)



### Abdallah Al Awar

CEO Dubai Islamic Economy Development Centre

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1997
- BSc degree in Business Administration from the University of Colorado at Boulder, US
- Graduate of the Mohammed Bin Rashid program for Leadership Development
- CEO of Dubai International Financial Centre from 2009-2012
- Served as a member of several committees and boards in Dubai including the Economic Committee of the Executive Council of Dubai, Dubai Free Zone Council, Bourse Dubai and the investment committee of the Emirates NBD Real Estate fund

# AMSI Voices *Speakers & Panelists*



## **Dr. Fayez Al Shamsi**

Assistant Professor and Consultant in Internal and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, UAE University

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2000
- McMaster University; Ontario, Canada: 2009-2015
- UAE University College of Medicine: 2000-2007 MBBS
- Critical Care Medicine: ABIM and RCPSC
- Neurocritical Care Clinical Fellowship
- Internal Medicine: American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)



## **Dr. Hassan Galadari**

Assistant Professor of Dermatology, UAE University

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1995
- Graduate of the Boston University/Tufts University dermatology program
- Completed dermatologic surgery and laser fellowship in the University of California
- Youngest board member ever to be voted of the International League of Dermatological Societies.
- Recipient of the Presidential Citation Award by the American Academy of Dermatology for the promotion of excellence in the field of dermatology.
- Hosted his own TV shows; Youth Clinic on Rotana Khalijiyah and Asak Tayeb on Dubai TV.



## **Lt. Col. Marwan Singel**

Director Dubai Civil Aviation Security Center - General Department of Airports Security

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School - Class of 1998
- Masters of Science Electronics Technology Management from the University of Glamorgan; Cardiff, Wales - UK: 2002
- University Diploma in Aviation Security Management; Edith Cowan University, Australia - 2007



## **Mohammad Al Khayat**

Vice President of Commercial and free Zone Departments - Meydan Group

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Barsha - Class of 2001
- Bachelor of Science in Investment Finance and Risk from Cass Business School, UK
- Executive director at Al Khayat Real Estate and sits on the Dubai Free Zone Council

## Panel 2: Our Turning Points... Our Stories

### Moderator:



## **Dino Drimakis**

Founder of EMI

Operations Manager NMK Electronics Group

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2005
- Business Marketing degree from California State University (Northridge)
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## Panelists:



### **Firas Al Bannani**

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- BSc. degree in Management Information Systems from the American University of Sharjah - 2003
- Started his career with Hewlett Packard where he worked his way up to become the Marketing and PR Manager for the Middle East
- Business Manager - Al Faisal for Architecture



### **Mohammed Ahli**

Commercial Sales Manager - Dubai and Northern Emirates; Etihad Airways

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2004
- BSc. in Communications Technology from the Higher Colleges of Technology 2008 - 2009
- Commercial Sales Manager with Etihad Airways in Paris, Athens, Amsterdam and Milan
- Worked for more than 2 years in the HR Department with HSBC



### **Dr. Mohammed Naji**

Regional Manager of Liberty Medical Group

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2010
- Became the only dentist at his age in the GCC region to obtain certification in the field of Dental Surgery with a mastership in laser dentistry from Aachen University in Germany and a diploma in Healthcare Management and Leadership from Kings College while developing a dissertation to obtain a master degree in Prosthodontics from Eastman Dental Collage in London



### **Najati Al Hussein**

Founder and CEO - Scratch Advertising and Communication

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2003
- Currently earning his Bachelor's degree in Studio Art from the American University of Dubai - 2018
- One of the few selected to join the Ferrari Racing School in Italy where he won first place in the GT category
- Joined the Sheikh Ahmed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum office for 1 year getting his hands on experience as an Art Director for the horse racing world cup.
- Through his company Scratch, Najati has been providing creative and advertising solutions for local and international clients such as L'Oreal, LinkedIn, Piaget, Dubai Government, JAFZA and Swarovski to mention a few.



### **Sevan Michikian**

Pilot-flydubai

- AMSI Alumnus - ISAS, Class of 2013
- Aviation School 2014 - 2015

# AMSI Voices *Speakers & Panelists*



## Ahmad Bin Thaneya

Currently pursuing a Masters degree in Sustainable Structural Engineering

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Barsha - Class of 2012
- Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, LA (UCLA)
- Worked for a non-profit organization called UCLA UniCamp, the official charity of the students of UCLA
- Head Counselor responsible for developing a 3 month training program for 80 staff members and developed a week of camp for 150 Hispanic youth
- Chaired six separate conferences for the Model United Nations at UCLA and was part of the executive board during his last year.



## Tarek Mohammed

Managing Director at Synergistics

Managing Partner of Alpha & Beta property management

- AMSI Alumnus - ISAS, Class of 2010
- Holds a higher diploma in Mathematics and Physics from King's College London
- Previously the Chief Innovation Officer at Ixtel, one of the UAE's leading ICT service providers supported by both the Khalifa Fund and Dubai SME
- Currently pursuing a Bachelors in Business Finance at the American University of Sharjah

## Panel 3: 21st Century Men... The Way to Get There

### Moderator:



## Mohammed Al Harmi

Director of Space Operations Department at Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Barsha - Class of 2000
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### Panelists:



## Dino Drimakis

Founder of EMI

Operations Manager NMK Electronics Group

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



## Omar Sharaf

Senior engineer at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center.

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Barsha - Class of 2003
- Masters degree in Mineral Economics from the Colorado School of Mines,
- Masters degree in Petroleum Economics and Management from the Institute Francaise du Petrole
- MBA from the Harvard Business School
- Worked as an oil & gas production engineer at Shell both in Egypt and in the U.K's Brent field

# AMSI Voices Speakers & Panelists



## Joseph Akkawi

Co-Founder PAZ Marketing

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Al Garhoud - Class of 2000
- Founder of the Middle East's earliest online music community in 2003, Phride.com
- Technology blogger at Joernals.com
- A regular guest at Al Arabiya and Sky News Arabia TV networks giving technological expert advice on the latest technological trends



## Alexander Foroozande

Europe, Middle East & Africa - Channel Director, Infoblox

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School, Class of 1995
- Bachelor of Information Technology from the American University of Dubai - 2001
- Bachelor of Commerce from Concordia University; Montreal, Canada - 1999
- Started his professional career with Hewlett Packard in 2001 where he worked his way up to become the Partner and Sales Manager for the Gulf and Levant region.
- Held various sales roles at Cisco systems from 2006 - 2012 where he was instrumental in introducing new verticals, recruiting and aligning key partners and successfully led some of the largest and most complex projects in the UAE for the company



## Marwan Al Awadhi, a.k.a. Dj Bliss

Founder of Bliss Inc. Entertainment

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School - Class of 1998
- First Emirati artist to sign with major multi-national music companies including "BMG" and most recently with the world's largest global music company "Universal Music".
- Co-Produced Wyclef Jean's 2013 album "April Showers".
- Recently released his compilation album "Made in Dubai" which skyrocketed to #1 on the UAE iTunes charts



## Mishaal Al Gergawi

Founder of Delma

- AMSI Alumnus - Al Mawakeb School - Class of 1997
- Master of Science from SKEMA
- Started his career as an investment banker at HSBC and Deutsche Bank
- Joined Dubai government to create its contemporary cultural projects strategy



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