

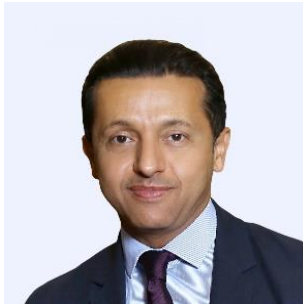
Building a viable Middle East venture capital industry

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. EST

Online event via Zoom

Speaker Bios



Mr. Amjad Ahmad

Director and Resident Senior Fellow, empowerME, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Atlantic Council

Mr. Amjad Ahmad is director and resident senior fellow of empowerME at the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. He focuses on shaping innovative investments to empower entrepreneurs, women, and youth in the Middle East. He develops strategies and policies to drive sustainable prosperity through the creation of dynamic entrepreneurial economies, the economic participation of women, and educational transformation. Amjad is also managing partner of the venture capital firm Precinct Partners and serves on the boards of Eyewa, Tapal Tea, RSA Global, Mumzworld, Mr. Usta and The Luxury Closet. Based in the United Arab Emirates for fifteen years prior to moving to Washington, DC, Amjad has collaborated with business leaders and entrepreneurs to build leading companies in the Middle East. Through his work as a venture capital and growth investor, Amjad established two investment firms in the region that provided over \$1 billion in funding to over fifty companies in sectors ranging from technology and education to healthcare and finance. During the past five years, Amjad has focused his investments on entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology. Amjad holds a master's degree in international affairs with a concentration in international finance and economics from Columbia University and is a graduate of the general management program at Harvard Business School.



Mr. Ahmad AlNaimi

Partner, Saudi Technology Ventures (STV)

Ahmad is a Partner at STV, a venture capital firm based out of Riyadh with \$500 million under management. He is responsible for end-to-end investment cycle including sourcing of opportunities and board memberships. Prior to STV, Ahmad was part of an early stage company based in Seattle that develops infrastructure software for machine learning. Prior to that, Ahmad led the business incubation function of Aramco Entrepreneurship Center.

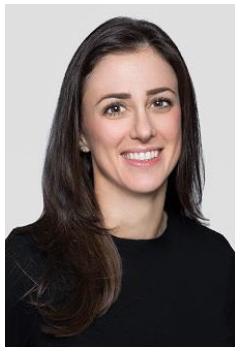


Mr. Ahmed El Alfi

Chairman and Co-Founder, Sawari Ventures

Mr. Ahmed El Alfi is the chairman and co-founder of Sawari Ventures, a leading venture capital firm based in Cairo, co-founder of Flat6Labs, an early stage fund in MENA, and chairman of The Greek Campus, a startup innovation hub. Named as one of the most creative people in the world by Fast Company, Alfi has been an investor for the past 25 years and has extensive experience in funding and supporting the growth of early stage companies. Having grown up

in California, he relocated to Egypt in 2006 as the CEO of EFG-Hermes Private Equity. Prior to that he co-founded Hybrid Capital Partners, a private investment partnership. Alfi is passionate about building a venture capital industry with an ethos that centers around enabling young people to realize their innovative ideas, solve societal challenges using technology, and change perceptions about the opportunities the startup ecosystem in the MENA region presents. As part of that mission, Sawari Ventures' core purpose is to invest in and help transform the region's economies through the growth of sustainable, high impact companies. In 2011, Sawari created and funded Flat6Labs, its own startup accelerator. Flat6Labs has since grown to become the region's premier startup accelerator with operations in five countries. Alfi is also personally invested in a number of startups that are driving the digitization of North Africa, including Nafham, an Arabic online video educational platform covering the Egyptian, Saudi, and Syrian public school curriculums, which he founded in 2012. Nafham has given over 100 million free lessons to 5 million students.



Ms. Noor Sweid

General Partner, Global Ventures

Noor Sweid is the founder of Global Ventures, a UAE-based, growth-stage venture capital firm. Noor was the Chief Investment Officer at The Dubai Future Foundation and Managing Partner at Leap Ventures, a growth-stage venture capital firm based out of Dubai and Beirut. Prior to that, Noor joined her family business, Depa (NASDAQ: DEPA.DU), where she enabled the scaling of the business tenfold, executed four cross border acquisitions and led the region's first IPO on the LSE and the NASDAQ Dubai achieving \$1 billion+ valuation. Noor also founded ZenYoga, the first yoga studio in MENA, which grew to become the region's largest wellness chain before successfully exiting to a private equity firm. Noor started her

career as a biotech strategy consultant at Accenture in the United States. Noor is an active board member, including Chairwoman of the Middle East Venture Capital Association, Director for MIT Sloan, and was a Founding Board member of Endeavor UAE. Noor was recognized in the World's Top 50 Women in Tech by Forbes, Arabian Business 100 Most Powerful Arab Women list, and has received the Arab Woman Award for Finance. Noor holds bachelors' degrees in Finance and Economics from Boston College as well as an MBA from MIT Sloan.

Moderator Bio



Mr. Christopher Schroeder

Venture Investor

Christopher M. Schroeder is an American entrepreneur, advisor and venture investor. Schroeder is the co-founder and general partner of Next Billion Ventures which invests in and advises growth stage tech companies in rising markets including South East Asia, the Middle East/Africa and Latin America. He also is an advisor to the leading new early stage Silicon Valley venture capital firm, Village Global, on their international portfolio. Previously, he was the CEO of washingtonpost.newsweek interactive and co-founder of the Sequoia backed HealthCentral.com. He is also a limited partner in and advisor to leading Silicon Valley venture capital funds and on the investment and advisory committees of two top funds in the Middle East, Saudi Telecom Ventures and Wamda Capital. He is author of the recent best seller, and first book on startups in the Arab World, *Startup Rising: The Entrepreneurial Revolution Remaking the Middle East*. He co-led the Economic Recovery and Revitalization working group of the Atlantic Council's Middle East Strategy Task Force, co-chaired by Madeleine Albright and Steve Hadley. Schroeder serves on the board of the German Marshall Fund and the American Council on Germany. He is also an advisor to Endeavor Global, the Global Entrepreneurship Network, 1776 venture capital fund and until last year the board of directors of the American University of Beirut. He served on the staff of Secretary of States James A. Baker, III, and with then Under Secretary Robert B. Zoellick. He graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Business School.