

Inclusive finance in the MENA: How Fintech opens doors for the masses

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

9:00 am ET/3:00 PM CET/4:00 pm EET/
6:00 pm UAE

Virtual event

Speakers

Hassan Fayed

Founder & CEO, Aydi

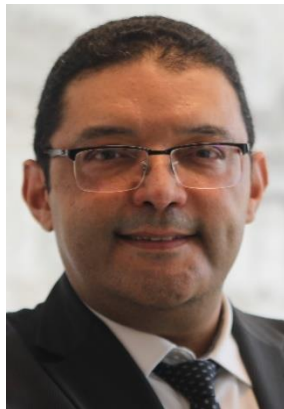


Hassan Fayed is the Founder & CEO at Aydi, a Cairo-based startup that is on a mission to empower over 2 billion seasonal blue-collar workers globally by providing them access to year-round work opportunities, health and social benefits, upskilling, and improved career prospects. Hassan is also a Board Member at Tradeling, the UAE's largest B2B e-commerce marketplace, and Scality, one of Dubai's leading startup incubators. Prior to that, he served as the Head of Innovation at the Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority, one of the largest Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the MENA region. He participated in the development and launch of Dubai CommerCity, the MENA region's first

dedicated SEZ for e-commerce companies. Hassan holds a BSc in Economics from King's College London.

Mondher Khanfir

Founder, Wiki Startup



Mondher Khanfir is a seasoned professional with a strong background in business consulting, digital transformation strategy, and investment advisory for both the private and public sectors. His passion for innovation as an enabler of social and economic development has driven him to policy advocacy, mainly in Africa and the Middle East region where he is regularly appointed as an expert by different international institutions, namely the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the European Bank for

Reconstruction and Development. Mondher assists governments in developing innovation in ecosystems and manages infrastructure projects in order to better integrate international value chains. He has authored several reports and led many missions to implement research and innovation programs. Mondher has also delivered studies on private sector competitiveness and analysis on capital market development in emerging economies.



Milind Singh
Co-Founder, Xare

Milind Singh is an entrepreneur working on fundamentally disrupting the financial services sector by allowing anyone, anywhere to be a bank and in doing so build a billion banks. Milind started his entrepreneurial journey with rise, a migrant financial services platform to help migrants across the GCC build a better financial future. In his work with migrants, he realized that migrant families cannot get access to financial services. This led to the creation of Xare, a revolutionary platform that enables individuals to create and distribute financial products, effectively bringing the power of financial product creation into the hands of the masses. Since its launch in January 2021, Xare has had more than

2 million cards valued over \$350 million issued on their platform across 173 countries. This makes Xare one of the largest & most global card issuing platforms, growing exponentially. Prior to embarking on his entrepreneurial adventures, Milind spent a decade at Booz Company advising some of the largest digital companies globally on their products, strategies & investments. Prior to Booz, he worked at Openwave, the company that invented the mobile internet. Milind holds an MBA from Oxford and a BTech from University of Bombay.

Moderator



Aisha Gani
Fintech Reporter, Bloomberg News

Aisha Gani is a multimedia reporter based in London via Doha, Washington D.C., and NYC. Her currently serves as Bloomberg News' Fintech Reporter. She has reported on breaking news, features, and scoops across Europe, the US, Asia, and the Middle East for AJ+, BuzzFeed News, The Guardian, The BBC, The Financial Times, The Independent, and The New Statesman. Aisha has a wealth of experience producing short documentaries on underreported stories from the field. She is committed to impactful and original reporting, from tech and online disinformation campaigns to elections and human rights. Aisha holds a B.A. in History from King's College London and a Master's in Political

Journalism from City, University of London.

Opening Remarks



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

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 the private sector 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 Homzmart, Tapal Tea, RSA Global, Mr. Usta, and The Luxury Closet. He was recently appointed to the board of Amideast, a leading US nonprofit organization engaged in international education, training, and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as building cross-cultural understanding between the United States and the region. 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.