

MEED List: Middle East Young Business Leaders

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Six people making a name for themselves in Middle East business: Omar bin Sulaiman, Assem Kabesh, Abdulmalik Ahmad al-Jaber, Najla al-Awadhi, Rami Makhzoumi and Mustafa Abdel-Wadood.

Omar bin Sulaiman

Position: Governor, Dubai International Financial Centre

Biography: Omar bin Sulaiman is governor of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and vice-chairman of the Central Bank of the UAE. Prior to being appointed in June 2006, upon the creation of the post, Bin Sulaiman was director general of the DIFC Authority from September 2004, and led the development and launch of the Dubai International Financial Exchange. Before joining the DIFC, Sulaiman was chief executive officer (CEO) of the Dubai Internet City (DIC) free zone. Bin Sulaiman was appointed chairman of the board of directors of Young Arab Leaders, the pan-Arab organisation that supports regional business leaders, in October 2007. He holds a doctorate in leadership, an MBA in finance, an MSc in education and a Bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. He founded Dubai's Institute for Corporate Governance (Hawkamah) in 2006.

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Assem Kabesh

Position: CEO, Young Arab Leaders

Biography: Assem Kabesh was appointed CEO of the Young Arab Leaders (YAL) community in April 2008, briefed to lead the organisation into a new phase of development. Prior to taking up the role, Kabesh was managing director for business development at the DIFC Authority and a member of the board at the DIFC, appointed in April 2006. Before joining the DIFC, he was director of sales at DIC, where he played a key role in developing, implementing and reviewing the sales strategy for the technology free zone. Prior to joining the DIC, Kabesh worked at Mashreqbank as assistant vice-president for retail banking. He began his career with American Express of Egypt. Kabesh was educated in Egypt, the US and the UK. He holds an MBA from Bradford University in the UK and a Bachelor's degree in business administration from the American University of Cairo.

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Abdulmalik Ahmad al-Jaber

Position: Vice-chairman and CEO, the Paltel Group

Biography: Abdulmalik Ahmad al-Jaber was appointed CEO of Palestine Telecommunication Company (Paltel) in 1999. He currently chairs several companies in the West Bank and Gaza, including the local board of Cairo Amman Bank. In addition, Al-Jaber is a board director at companies including the Palestinian Tourism Investment Company and the Palestinian Industrial Investment Company. Following the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994, Al-Jaber occupied several key senior positions including deputy minister of the Energy Authority, until joining the private sector in 1999. Al-Jaber is a graduate of Jordan's University of Science & Technology, McGill University in Canada, the Kellogg School of Business Administration in the US and Tel Aviv University. He holds a PhD and MSc in engineering.

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Najla al-Awadhi

Position: Member of the UAE Federal National Council

Biography: Najla al-Awadhi is a member of the Federal National Council (FNC), the 40-member UAE parliament. Al-Awadhi is one of the first women in the history of the UAE to become a member of the FNC, and at 33 years old, she is also its youngest parliamentarian. She began her two-year term in February 2007 and serves on the council's education, youth, media and culture committee, as well as the FNC steering committee. She previously served on the foreign affairs, planning, petroleum, mineral wealth, agriculture and fishery committees. Al-Awadhi is deputy CEO of Dubai Media Incorporated (DMI), a media group that operates four free-to-air satellite channels owned by the government of Dubai. She is also general manager of English language channel Dubai One. Al-Awadhi graduated from New Hampshire University in the US with a degree in history.

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Rami Makhzoumi

Position: President & CEO, Future Pipe Industries

Biography: Rami Makhzoumi was appointed president and CEO of Abu Dhabi-based Future Pipe Industries in October 2003, having been chief operating officer since 2001. Prior to this, he was group vice-president and head of business development for two years. Since his appointment as CEO, Makhzoumi has tripled the group's sales. Makhzoumi received his BSc in business studies from the University of Buckingham in the UK in 1998, and in 2003 he completed the young professional programme executive diploma from the London Business School. He is currently a lifetime member of the Institute of Directors in the UK, a member of the International Desalination Association, and of the Council on Foreign Relations, a US non-partisan foreign policy membership organisation. Makhzoumi also sits as vice-president of the Makhzoumi Foundation, a philanthropic organisation based in Lebanon.

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Mustafa Abdel-Wadood

Position: Managing director, Abraaj Capital

Biography: Prior to joining Abraaj in June 2006, Mustafa Abdel-Wadood was the Dubai-based CEO for Egyptian investment bank EFG-Hermes. Prior to joining EFG-Hermes in 2004, Wadood was co-founder and managing director of Sigma Capital, where he held overall responsibility for investment banking activities. Wadood spent eight years at the Orascom Group, where his most recent position was director of development. At Orascom, he was responsible for corporate investments and acquisitions in several fields including technology, telecommunications, industry, leisure and media. Wadood currently sits on the board of directors of Egyptian Fertilizers Company, Jordan National Bank, Air Arabia, BMA Capital, and Jordan Aircraft Maintenance Company. Wadood, 38 years old, holds a Bachelor's degree in business administration from the American University in Cairo and an MBA from Georgetown University in the US.

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