



CEO Clubs Network®

CEO Clubs Network

No.1 Business Network

AUGUST 2026 | ISSUE 76

AMERICA 250 *Independence* & LEGACY AWARDS

*Honoring 40 Distinguished
Business Leaders,
Entrepreneurs &
Government Officials*

*Celebrating Leadership,
Achievement &
the American Legacy*

WASHINGTON, D.C.
USA



*Shaping a Stronger,
More Prosperous Tomorrow*

CEO Clubs Network

Connecting Minds,
Creating Opportunities

Our Services

- Community Building
- Event Marketing
- Communication
- Trade & Investment Promotion
- Burj CEO Awards
- FDI & Market Entry
- Global/China Outsourcing

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CEO Clubs Network®

CEO Clubs Network is an award-winning, globally recognized organization specializing in community building, event marketing, communications, entity formation, trade and investment promotion. Our purpose is to nurture relationships, share knowledge, and create opportunities for C-level executives across the private and government sectors. With a strong presence in USA, UAE, and China, we distinguish ourselves by providing tailored advice, fostering strategic collaborations, and empowering businesses to thrive within an influential global network.

Our regional headquarter, CEO Clubs Network UAE, has been in the industry for more than 20 years. Showcasing a list of high-profile members plus 3,000 affiliations, our organization is grateful for the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Juma bin Maktoum Al Maktoum, a member of Dubai royal family.

We are a proud winner of the Dubai Quality Appreciation Awards Cycle 2017 and 2022 which were presented by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai.

Among our numerous major international awards, we are elated with EXPO 2020 Dubai Recognition by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman & Group CEO of EXPO 2020 Dubai Higher Committee for our invaluable contribution to the success of EXPO 2020 Dubai.

MISSION

CEO Clubs Network creates the most effective business platform for CEOs and Seniors Executives to share experiences, explore opportunities and grow business locally and internationally.



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CONTENTS



CEO CLUBS INSIGHTS



VOICE OF DIPLOMATS



MEMBER ARTICLES
& NEWS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dear Members & Readers,



Celebrating Leadership, Connection and New Opportunities; August was a month of meaningful recognition, inspiring conversations and valuable opportunities for our CEO Clubs community to connect, learn and grow together.

A key highlight of the month was the **America 250 Legacy Awards and Celebrations**, held at the historic **Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.** The gathering brought together distinguished business leaders, entrepreneurs, government officials and changemakers to recognize individuals whose leadership, achievements and contributions continue to create a lasting impact.

The celebration honored 40 accomplished business owners, entrepreneurs and government officials, providing a memorable platform to recognize their journeys and the legacy they are building across industries and communities. Beyond the awards, the occasion offered an opportunity for leaders from diverse backgrounds to come together, exchange perspectives and celebrate the values of leadership, enterprise and service.

Another important highlight was our **CEO Clubs Member Company Visit to Regent Global**. We were delighted to bring our members and guests together for an engaging visit to Regent Global, where participants experienced its innovative learning environment and technology-enabled campus. The visit provided valuable insights into Regent's vision for education, talent development and global opportunities.

Our **12th edition of the Global Synergy Hub** continued this spirit of connection in a virtual format, bringing members from across the global CEO Clubs network together for an engaging online session. The platform enabled members to introduce their businesses, share ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration, partnerships and business development across markets.

We are also pleased to welcome our newest members to the CEO Clubs community:

Mr. Gokul Raaj Mohana Kannan, CEO, Adroitts

Mr. Sadik Sayyed, CEO, Gulf Land Property

Mr. Jesus Praveen, Managing Director, Suits & Advisors (S&A)



We look forward to their active participation and to creating opportunities for them to connect with fellow members, exchange expertise and explore new avenues for growth

As we move into September and the months ahead, our calendar continues to offer exciting opportunities for engagement and collaboration. One of the key upcoming events is the **AIM Congress**, taking place from **7–9 September**, bringing together leaders, investors, entrepreneurs and innovators from around the world.

We will also continue our **Member Company Visits**, giving members the opportunity to showcase their organizations, share their expertise and build stronger connections within the CEO Clubs network. Looking further ahead, our **Lunch Meeting on 6 October** will provide another opportunity for members to meet in an informal setting, exchange experiences and explore potential collaborations.

This edition also brings together a selection of insightful articles and perspectives from leaders and organizations across our community. we feature **Who Will Make the Decisions After Us?** by H.E HEND Obaid Almarri, SG at RDC, Dubai Land Department, Dubai Government; **Coffee Island Strengthens Its Presence in Egypt with Retail Expansion and Local Production**; **A Building Is Not a Picture** by Stirix Group; **Elite College Hacker: A Skills-Based, Ethics-First Approach to Winning in Elite College Admissions**; and more.

As always, our focus remains on creating connections that lead to conversations, conversations that lead to opportunities, and opportunities that lead to lasting partnerships. Thank you to all our members, partners and guests for making August a month of meaningful engagement.



Warm Regards,

Sarah Dong

Editor-in-Chief | CEO Clubs Magazine





The America 250 Washington,

WASHINGTON, D.C. | August 9, 2026: In a celebration of leadership, service and achievement, **the America 250 Legacy Awards & Celebration**, hosted and organized by **CEO Clubs Network**, brought together distinguished business leaders, government officials, diplomats, innovators, entrepreneurs and community leaders at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

CEO Clubs Network brings together government, business, diplomatic and community leaders in Washington, D.C., in celebration of America's 250th anniversary

www.ceoclubsnetwork.org

Held in recognition of America's 250th anniversary, the evening honored 40 distinguished individuals and organizations whose leadership, innovation, service and contributions have created meaningful impact across business, government, education, health-care, philanthropy and communities.

More than an awards ceremony, the evening celebrated a powerful idea: **legacy is not only what we inherit—it is what we create for those who come after us.**



Legacy Awards D.C - USA

America 250 Legacy Awards Honor 40 Leaders Shaping a Legacy of Leadership, Service and Impact

In his welcome address, Dr. Tariq Ahmed Nizami, Founder and CEO of CEO Clubs Network, reflected on the significance of this historic American milestone and the responsibility of today's leaders to help shape the future.

“America’s 250th anniversary is not only a celebration of the past; it is also a celebration of the people creating the legacy of tomorrow.

Through the America 250 Legacy Awards, we recognize leaders whose service, innovation, vision and achievements reflect the enduring spirit of America.”

The awards recognized individuals from diverse backgrounds and sectors, united by a common commitment to leadership, achievement and positive impact.



Where Recognition Creates Connection—and Connection Creates Opportunity

Beyond honoring achievement, the evening created a dynamic platform for leaders to connect across industries, cultures and communities, exchange perspectives and discover opportunities for future collaboration.

Sarah Dong, Managing Partner of CEO Clubs Network, highlighted the importance of transforming recognition into lasting relationships.

“The true impact of an evening like this goes beyond recognition. When accomplished leaders come together, meaningful conversations begin, trust is built and new possibilities emerge. Recognition celebrates what people have achieved; connection creates opportunities for what we can achieve together.”

The gathering reflected the broader mission of CEO Clubs Network: bringing influential leaders together, building trusted relationships

WATCH NOW



The America 250 Legacy Awards recognized a distinguished group of honorees, **including Hon. Ghazala F. Hashmi, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia; Hon. Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, D.C.; Hon. Zohran Mamdani, Mayor of New York City; Henry C. Eickelberg, Treasurer of Loudoun County, Virginia; alongside distinguished leaders, public officials, entrepreneurs, innovators, and community changemakers from across the United States.**

Together, the honorees represented the diversity of leadership and contribution that the America 250 Legacy Awards were created to celebrate—from public service and entrepreneurship to education, healthcare, innovation, philanthropy and community impact. As America marks 250 years, the celebration served not only as a reflection on the achievements of the past, but also as a reminder that the next chapter of legacy is being written today.



The America 250 Legacy Awards Washington, D.C - USA











CEO Clubs Network®

The America 250 Legacy Awards

9 AUGUST 2026 ★ WASHINGTON, D.C., USA



Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi
Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia



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250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi
Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi is a distinguished public servant and leader dedicated to community service, inclusive leadership, and strengthening opportunities for Virginians. As Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, she brings extensive experience in public service, education, and civic engagement.

Her leadership reflects a commitment to progress, opportunity, and community empowerment, inspiring greater civic participation and building stronger, more inclusive communities across the Commonwealth.



CEO Clubs Network®

The America 250 Legacy Awards

9 AUGUST 2026 ★ WASHINGTON, D.C., USA

AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY



Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of Washington D.C.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of Washington D.C.

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

The Honorable Muriel Bowser is a distinguished public servant and leader who has dedicated her career to strengthening the nation's capital and improving the quality of life for its residents. As Mayor of Washington, D.C., she has focused on economic development, public safety, education, infrastructure, and creating new opportunities for communities across the District.

Her leadership reflects a commitment to progress, innovation, community development, and public service, making her a prominent figure in the continued growth and advancement of Washington, D.C.



CEO Clubs Network®

The America 250 Legacy Awards

9 AUGUST 2026 ★ WASHINGTON, D.C., USA



Honorable Zohran Mamdani
New York City Mayor



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Honorable Zohran Mamdani
Mayor of New York City

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

The Honorable Zohran Mamdani is a public servant and community-focused leader dedicated to advancing economic opportunity, affordability, and inclusive civic leadership in New York City. As Mayor of New York City, he brings a strong focus on addressing the needs of working families and building a more accessible and equitable city.

His leadership reflects a commitment to community empowerment, opportunity, and public service, with a vision for creating meaningful and lasting impact for New Yorkers.



CEO Clubs Network®

The America 250 Legacy Awards

9 AUGUST 2026 ★ WASHINGTON, D.C., USA



Dr. William Wraith III

Chairman

Lyten



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. William Wraith III

Chairman

Lyten

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. William Wraith III is a distinguished business leader and Chairman of Lyten, recognized for his leadership, strategic vision, and commitment to innovation. Through his executive experience, he continues to contribute to advancing transformative technologies and building sustainable opportunities for the future.

His leadership reflects a strong commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and long-term impact, making him a respected figure in the business and technology community.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

LTG (Ret.) Joseph Anderson

President & CEO

**Rafael Systems Global Sustainment
(RSGS), LLC**

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Joe Anderson is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General and a senior defense and national security executive with 38 years of military service, including command at the Corps level and multiple deployments. He is President of J Anderson Consulting Group and serves on the boards and advisory councils of leading defense, technology, and veteran-focused organizations. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, he holds advanced degrees from Central Michigan University and the U.S. Naval War College. He currently serves as President of the National Defense Industrial Association's DC Chapter and continues to support veterans and the defense community through numerous leadership and nonprofit roles.



Dr. Sajid Tarar

CEO
Centre for Social Change

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. Sajid Tarar, CEO of the Centre for Social Change, as a distinguished recipient of the America 250 Legacy Award, honoring his commitment to leadership, social impact, and positive change.

Through his leadership and dedication to advancing social change, Dr. Tarar continues to inspire communities and champion initiatives that promote empowerment, opportunity, collaboration, and meaningful progress. His work reflects the enduring values of service, leadership, compassion, and community impact celebrated by the America 250 Legacy Awards.



Henry C. Eickelberg

Treasurer
Loudoun County-Virginia

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Mr. Henry C. Eickelberg, Treasurer of Loudoun County, Virginia, as a distinguished recipient of the America 250 Legacy Award, honoring a remarkable career spanning more than four decades of public finance, fiduciary governance, investment oversight, and financial stewardship. His recognition was celebrated at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Eickelberg has served at the highest levels of government, industry, academia, and the nonprofit sector, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to fiscal responsibility, sound financial management, and the prudent stewardship of public and private assets.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Ariel Casillas
Founder & Medical Director
Bling Aesthetics

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. Bling is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, DNP, and PhD-prepared healthcare leader known for innovation, compassion, and excellence in aesthetic medicine. As Founder and Medical Director of Bling Aesthetics and Casillas Medical and Wellness, he combines evidence-based care with artistic precision to transform lives.

A dedicated philanthropist, Dr. Bling provides free medical and aesthetic services to underserved communities, including veterans and LGBTQ+ individuals. As an entrepreneur, educator, fashion designer, and community advocate, his commitment to patient-centered care, innovation, and service has made him a respected leader locally and nationally and a deserving recipient of this distinguished award.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

—◆—

The America 250
Legacy Award

—◆—

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Jasdip Singh
Chairman
Sikhs of America

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. Jasdip Singh is a respected community leader and Chairman of Sikhs of America Inc., dedicated to advancing awareness of Sikh heritage, history, values, and contributions to American society.

Under his leadership, Sikhs of America strengthens community connections, celebrates Sikh identity and service, and promotes the timeless principles of peace, equality, unity, and brotherhood.

His commitment to building bridges across communities continues to inspire greater understanding, respect, and harmony throughout America.



Anthony Berryhill, FRSA

Founder & CEO
Elite College Hacker

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Anthony Berryhill is Founder and CEO of Elite College Hacker, an advisory practice spanning education strategy, corporate learning and development, and elite talent development.

He holds three UK Royal Fellowships — FRSA, FRGS, and FRAS — alongside PMP and Six Sigma Black Belt certifications. His client outcomes include workforce transformations at global financial institutions managing trillions in assets, a 95% placement rate into top universities, and three national debate champions. His work has earned recognition across four continents!



Anwar Qasmi

President
AMPAK

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Anwar Qasmi, President of AMPAK, is a distinguished leader recognized with the America 250 Legacy Award for his commitment to leadership, community engagement, and building meaningful partnerships. His achievement was celebrated at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Through his leadership, Mr. Qasmi continues to strengthen connections among communities, organizations, and leaders, fostering collaboration, opportunity, and mutual understanding. His dedication to service and unity makes him a valued contributor to a stronger and more connected society.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

—◆—

The America 250
Legacy Award

—◆—

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Aisha Khan
CEO
Aisha Khan Group of Companies

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. Aisha Khan, CEO of the Aisha Khan Group of Companies, is a distinguished recipient of the America 250 Legacy Award, recognized for her exceptional achievements in entrepreneurship, leadership, and business excellence.

Through her vision and leadership, Dr. Khan continues to build successful ventures, create opportunities, and inspire others to pursue excellence with purpose and determination.

Her journey reflects the values of innovation, perseverance, leadership, and positive impact celebrated by the America 250 Legacy Awards.



David Garfield
Founder
GairfieldLaw Group

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

David Garfield is the founder of Garfield Law Group PC, a leading immigration law firm with more than 33 years of experience serving individuals, entrepreneurs, professionals, and major corporations. His practice focuses on employment- and family-based immigration, business visas, removal defense, and immigration litigation.

Mr. Garfield has built an outstanding reputation for excellence in complex immigration matters. He and his team have successfully represented billion-dollar corporations, foreign investors, H-1B professionals, researchers, academics, artists, and performers.

Dr. Obai Rahma received the America 250 Legacy Award on behalf of David Garfield, who was unable to attend the ceremony.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

—◆—

The America 250
Legacy Award

—◆—

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Prince Anand
Businessman & Entrepreneur

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Prince Anand is a distinguished businessman and entrepreneur recognized for his vision, leadership, and commitment to excellence. Through his entrepreneurial journey, he continues to create opportunities, inspire innovation, and make a meaningful impact in the business community.

With a forward-thinking approach and a strong dedication to growth, Prince Anand continues to build meaningful ventures and partnerships. His passion for entrepreneurship, integrity, and leadership reflects a commitment to creating lasting value and inspiring the next generation of business leaders.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

—◆—

The America 250
Legacy Award

—◆—

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Phakapan Salao
Founder & CEO
Mongkol Muay Thai Corp

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

A leading provider of authentic Muay Thai fight gear based in San Diego, California. With a passion for preserving Thai heritage and the discipline of Muay Thai, Dr. Salao has built the company into a trusted name serving fighters, gyms, and martial arts communities across the United States.

Under her leadership, Mongkol Muay Thai expanded from combat sports into fashion, becoming the first to showcase authentic Muay Thai gear at New York Fashion Week and Milan Fashion Week in 2023 and 2024. By bringing Muay Thai from the ring to the runway, Dr. Salao created a powerful cultural connection between Thai tradition, fashion, and global audiences.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Surinder Singh Gill
Community Leader

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. Surinder Singh Gill is a distinguished educationist, scholar, author, and globally respected Sikh leader known for his lifelong commitment to education, peacebuilding, and social service. With double Master's degrees, an M.Phil., and a Ph.D., he has dedicated his career to academic excellence and research.

Through his research, international conference participation, mentorship, and community service, Dr. Gill continues to inspire students, educators, and leaders worldwide, leaving a lasting legacy of knowledge, leadership, and positive social impact.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Bruno Mazali Bradino

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. Bruno Mazali is a distinguished community leader, entrepreneur, global advocate, and Ambassador of Peace with more than 20 years of experience in business development and community engagement in the Washington, D.C. region. He is recognized for building impactful partnerships across business, government, nonprofit, and international organizations.

With more than 5,000 hours of community service and two Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards, Dr. Mazali has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to service. Through MazaliNet Global Connections, he continues to promote entrepreneurship, global cooperation, peace, and sustainable economic development while mentoring the next generation of leaders.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Maqsood A. Chaudhry

Owner & CEO
Dental Centre of Tysons Corner

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. Maqsood A. Chaudhry is a highly experienced dental professional with 32 years of excellence in the dental industry. Throughout his distinguished career, he has been committed to providing exceptional dental care with professionalism, precision, and compassion.

His dedication to patient care and long-standing contribution to the dental profession have earned him the trust and respect of the community he serves. With more than three decades of service, Dr. Chaudhry continues to uphold the highest standards of integrity, expertise, and patient-centered care.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

—◆—

The America 250
Legacy Award

—◆—

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Professor Selva Pankaj
Chairman & CEO
Regent Global, USA

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Prof. Selva Pankaj is a distinguished entrepreneur, global education leader, and recipient of the America 250 Legacy Award, recognized for his exceptional contributions to education, entrepreneurship, and business leadership.

Under his leadership, Regent Global has emerged as one of the UK’s fastest-growing education companies, earning international recognition for excellence, innovation, and sustainable impact. As a respected strategic advisor and global thought leader, Prof. Pankaj continues to inspire through purpose-driven leadership and a commitment to transforming education worldwide.

Representing Prof. Selva Pankaj at the ceremony, Mr. Mehedi Alam Director of University, Regent Global, proudly accepted the award on his behalf.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

—◆—

The America 250
Legacy Award

—◆—

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Jaswinder Singh
Entrepreneur in Hospitality

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

We are proud to recognize Jaswinder Singh, a distinguished entrepreneur in the hospitality industry, as a recipient of the America 250 Legacy Award, honoring his dedication to entrepreneurship, business leadership, and excellence in hospitality.

Through his entrepreneurial journey, Mr. Singh has demonstrated a commitment to hospitality, service, and creating meaningful experiences, contributing to the growth and vitality of the industry.

His dedication to business and leadership reflects the enduring values of entrepreneurship, excellence, service, and perseverance celebrated by the America 250 Legacy Awards.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Kenneth L. Peoples
President
Investment Development

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Kenneth L. Peoples is a distinguished business leader and investment professional recognized for his expertise in investment development, strategic growth, and business partnerships.

Through his leadership, he focuses on creating opportunities, fostering meaningful relationships, and driving sustainable economic growth.

With a strong commitment to innovation, collaboration, and excellence, Mr. Peoples continues to make a positive impact in the business and investment community.



Dr. Ashok K. Gupta
Padma Shri
Chairman
Reconstructive Surgery Foundation

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

We are proud to recognize Dr. Ashok K. Gupta, a distinguished leader in reconstructive and plastic surgery, as a recipient of the America 250 Legacy Award, honoring his extraordinary lifetime of medical excellence, humanitarian service, and dedication to underserved communities.

For more than 40 years, Dr. Gupta has devoted himself to transforming lives, performing more than 10,000 free reconstructive plastic surgical procedures for underprivileged children and patients in remote and tribal communities across India. His life's work represents the highest ideals of medical excellence, compassion, service, and humanity — a legacy that continues to give hope and dignity to those most in need.



Khurram Shahzad

President
PAPA

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Khurram Shahzad, President of the Pakistani American Press Association (PAPA), as a distinguished recipient of the America 250 Legacy Award, honoring his contributions to journalism, community leadership, and strengthening connections within the Pakistani American community.

His dedication to journalism, community engagement, and leadership reflects the enduring values of service, communication, integrity, and community impact celebrated by the America 250 Legacy Awards.



Surinder Singh Raheja

Community Leader &
Financial Professional

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Surinder Singh Raheja, a distinguished community leader and financial professional, as a recipient of the America 250 Legacy Award, honoring his commitment to professional excellence, community service, and leadership.

Through his professional career and dedication to the community, Mr. Raheja has demonstrated the importance of integrity, responsibility, service, and meaningful leadership.

His contributions reflect the enduring values celebrated by the America 250 Legacy Awards — recognizing individuals whose work and commitment help strengthen communities and create a lasting legacy.



Gurcharan Singh (Guru)
President & CEO
WAH Global USA
Former World Bank Executive

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Gurcharan Singh (Guru) is a global development and technology leader with over 30 years of international experience in procurement, contract management, and institutional reform across 80+ countries. A former World Bank executive, he has played a key role in advancing procurement frameworks and technology-driven reforms.

As Founder and CEO of WAH Global USA, he leads innovative solutions in AI, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and e-procurement, helping governments and multilateral institutions modernize their digital infrastructure and operations.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Syed Qaiser Anis
Managing Partner
Alliott Management Consulting

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. S. Qaiser Anis is a distinguished management consultant and public accountant with over 40+ years of professional experience across public and private sectors. He began his career with PwC and later spent seven years with KPMG Peat Marwick, working on a wide range of international assignments, including UN and government projects.

He holds a Doctorate in Management Accounting from the USA and is affiliated with several leading professional accounting organizations in the United States, United Kingdom, and UAE. A longstanding member and Board Member of the American Chamber – Abu Dhabi, Dr. Anis has demonstrated a sustained commitment to professional excellence, financial leadership, and business development.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Subeg Singh Multani
Immigration Professional

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Subeg Singh Multani is an experienced immigration professional dedicated to helping individuals and families navigate the complexities of the immigration process.

Through his professional expertise and client-focused approach, he has supported people in pursuing new opportunities and building successful futures.

His commitment to integrity, service, and community support reflects a strong dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those he serves.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

—◆—

The America 250
Legacy Award

—◆—

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

David Webster
CEO
Webster Marketing international

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

David Webster is a business strategist and entrepreneur dedicated to helping organizations achieve sustainable growth through practical strategy, trusted partnerships, digital visibility, and structured execution. As CEO of Webster Marketing International, he leads initiatives designed to connect businesses with the resources, opportunities, and solutions needed to thrive in competitive markets.

With a strong focus on Africa’s diverse and growing commerce landscape, Mr. Webster is committed to building a leading platform for business, digital, and investment solutions that create long-term value. His vision centers on empowering businesses through strategic collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth.



Davinder Singh Gill
Director
Sikhs of USA

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Davinder Singh, has spent more than 18+ years sharing the transformative teachings of Gurbani with audiences around the world. Through his initiative, “Tony’s Thought of the Day,” he presents timeless spiritual wisdom in simple, practical messages that connect with the realities of modern life.

Recognizing the impact of relating a single line of Gurbani to everyday experiences, Davinder developed a unique approach that particularly resonates with younger audiences. With the encouragement and support of mentors, friends, and family, the initiative grew into a social media platform featuring written reflections, videos, and Instagram content.



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

—◆—

The America 250
Legacy Award

—◆—

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Sarah Dong
Herbal Recovery Infusion
Community Wellness with Ancient Wisdom

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Sarah Dong is an entrepreneur and wellness innovator dedicated to advancing health and well-being through natural herbal solutions. She leads a vision focused on supporting the body's natural balance and promoting everyday wellness.

Through her commitment to natural innovation, holistic well-being, and quality of life, Sarah continues to create solutions designed to positively impact individuals and communities. Her work reflects a strong dedication to making wellness more accessible and meaningful in everyday life.



Junaid Bashir (Johnny)
CEO
Pinnacle Business Brokerage, LLC

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Junaid Bashir (Johnny) is a business leader and entrepreneur serving as CEO of Pinnacle Business Brokerage, LLC. Through his work in business brokerage and advisory services, he helps entrepreneurs and business owners navigate opportunities, transactions, and strategic decisions with confidence.

His commitment to professional excellence, trusted relationships, and entrepreneurial success reflects his dedication to helping businesses and their owners achieve sustainable growth and long-term value.



Jathedar Baljit Singh Daduwal

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Jathedar Baljit Singh Daduwal is a respected Sikh religious and community leader known for his dedication to faith, community service, and social awareness. Through his leadership and public engagement, he has worked to promote Sikh values, support community welfare, and encourage unity and service.

His commitment to spiritual leadership, humanitarian service, and community empowerment reflects a lifelong dedication to uplifting others and strengthening the communities he serves.



Harbans Singh Khalsa

Community Leader & Social Worker

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Harbans Singh Khalsa is a dedicated community leader and social worker committed to serving others and creating a positive impact within the community. Through his continued efforts, he has supported initiatives that promote social welfare, community development, and humanitarian service.

His work reflects a strong commitment to compassion, service, and uplifting those in need, demonstrating the values of leadership and social responsibility.



CEO Clubs Network®

The America 250 Legacy Awards

9 AUGUST 2026 ★ WASHINGTON, D.C., USA



Dr. Prof. Theresa Pringle
CEO & Lead Coach
Pringle's Training Services



AMERICA
250th
ANNIVERSARY

The America 250
Legacy Award

Washington DC USA
9 August 2026

Dr. Prof. Theresa Pringle

CEO & Lead Coach
Pringle's Training Services

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Dr. Theresa Pringle Cole is a visionary community leader, advocate, and educator whose personal experience with homelessness and systemic barriers inspired her lifelong commitment to empowering underserved communities and giving a voice to the voiceless.

She founded Pringle's Pit Stop, a nonprofit addressing homelessness, and Pringle's Training Services, providing interactive training, coaching, and real-world solutions centered on her philosophy: "Make It Make Sense — Change the Mindset, Change the Outcome."



CEO Clubs Network®

The America 250 Legacy Awards

9 AUGUST 2026 ★ WASHINGTON, D.C., USA



The Bespoke Luxury Award

Tigre Milano Boutique & Caffè

Founder & Designer

Dr. Tahani Saker



The Bespoke Luxury Award

Tigre Milano Boutique & Caffè

Founder & Designer

Dr. TahaniSaker

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

TIGRE MILANO represents the ultimate in wearable luxury, offering glamorous and exclusive creations produced in very limited quantities. Each piece is designed to embody uniqueness, superior quality, and timeless Italian craftsmanship, with the potential to become a coveted collector's item.

TIGRE MILANO creations are crafted in premier Italian factories by experienced artisans using fine, natural materials. More than a luxury brand, TIGRE MILANO represents an elevated lifestyle defined by elegance, exclusivity, artistry, and sophistication.



CEO Clubs Network

CONNECTING MINDS

— CREATING —
OPPORTUNITIES

Exclusive Global Community for
CEOs, Founders, Business Owners & Decision Makers

PRIVILEGES OF CEO CLUBS MEMBERSHIP

01



Global Networking:

Build meaningful connections with leading CEOs, senior government officials, and distinguished diplomats across the globe.

02



Membership Activities:

20+ annual events- lunches, breakfasts, dinners, Cigar Night, Hi Tea, Burj CEO Awards, Annual Gala, Global Synergy Hub, company visits, and international delegations.

03



Business Growth & Investment:

Referrals, capital, Partnership Matchmaking and investment access—covering VC, PE, and M&A opportunities.

04



Strategic Mentorship:

Learn directly from top business leaders through knowledge exchange and personalized guidance from seasoned industry experts.

05



Marketing & PR:

Introduction privilege and article publication in CEO Clubs Magazine.

06



Partner Events:

Unlimited networking opportunities via partner events.

07



Recognition & Visibility:

Opportunities to be recognized through awards, features, and speaking opportunities that highlight your leadership and achievements on a global stage.

08



High-Profile Meetings:

Participate in distinguished meetings with high-level leaders such as ministers, heads of state, and royal family members.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & PRICING



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



ABOUT CEO CLUBS

CEO Clubs Network is an award-winning, globally recognized organization specializing in community building, event marketing, communications, entity formation, trade and investment promotion. Our purpose is to nurture relationships, share knowledge, and create opportunities for C-level executives across the private and government sectors. With a strong presence in USA, UAE, and China, we distinguish ourselves by providing tailored advice, fostering strategic collaborations, and empowering businesses to thrive within an influential global network.



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@CEOClsNetwork



REGENT GLOBAL WELCOMES CEO CLUBS NETWORK LEADERS TO DUBAI FOR FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND TALENT EXCHANGE

DUBAI, UAE | August 12, 2026 : Regent Global welcomed members of CEO Clubs Network and senior business leaders to its Dubai campus for an exclusive Member. Company Visit, gaining first-hand insight into how education, technology and industry are converging to prepare the next generation of global talent.

The visit highlighted the growing connection between education and industry as organisations respond to AI-driven transformation, changing workforce needs and an increasingly global economy.

This executive visit brought together more than 30 business and education leaders to explore innovation and new opportunities for global collaboration.

The members explored Regent Global's learning environment and campus facilities while gaining insights into its educational philosophy, international pathways, technology-enabled learning and industry-focused programmes.

Where Education Meets Industry

Dr. Selva Pankaj, Group Chairman & Joint CEO of Regent Global, highlighted the institution's philosophy that "the end result of education is character," emphasising the importance of developing not only professional capability but also the qualities required to lead and contribute effectively to a changing world.

Mr. Mehedi Alam, Director of University at Regent Global, shared Regent Global's perspective on building stronger connections between education and the needs of tomorrow's economy.

"The future of education is not only about what students learn, but how effectively we prepare them to navigate a changing world. As technology reshapes the workplace, institutions need to understand the skills businesses require, while businesses have an important role to play in shaping how talent is developed. Conversations like this help create stronger connections between learning and real-world opportunity." said Alam.

The visit also brought CEOs, entrepreneurs and business leaders together to exchange perspectives, identify areas of shared interest and explore potential partnerships.



Ms. Anne David, Chief Growth Officer of Regent Global, also joined the discussions remotely, sharing her insights on the future of education, talent development, and innovation. The conversations further explored opportunities for collaboration between educational institutions and the global business community.

Sarah Dong, Managing Partner of CEO Clubs

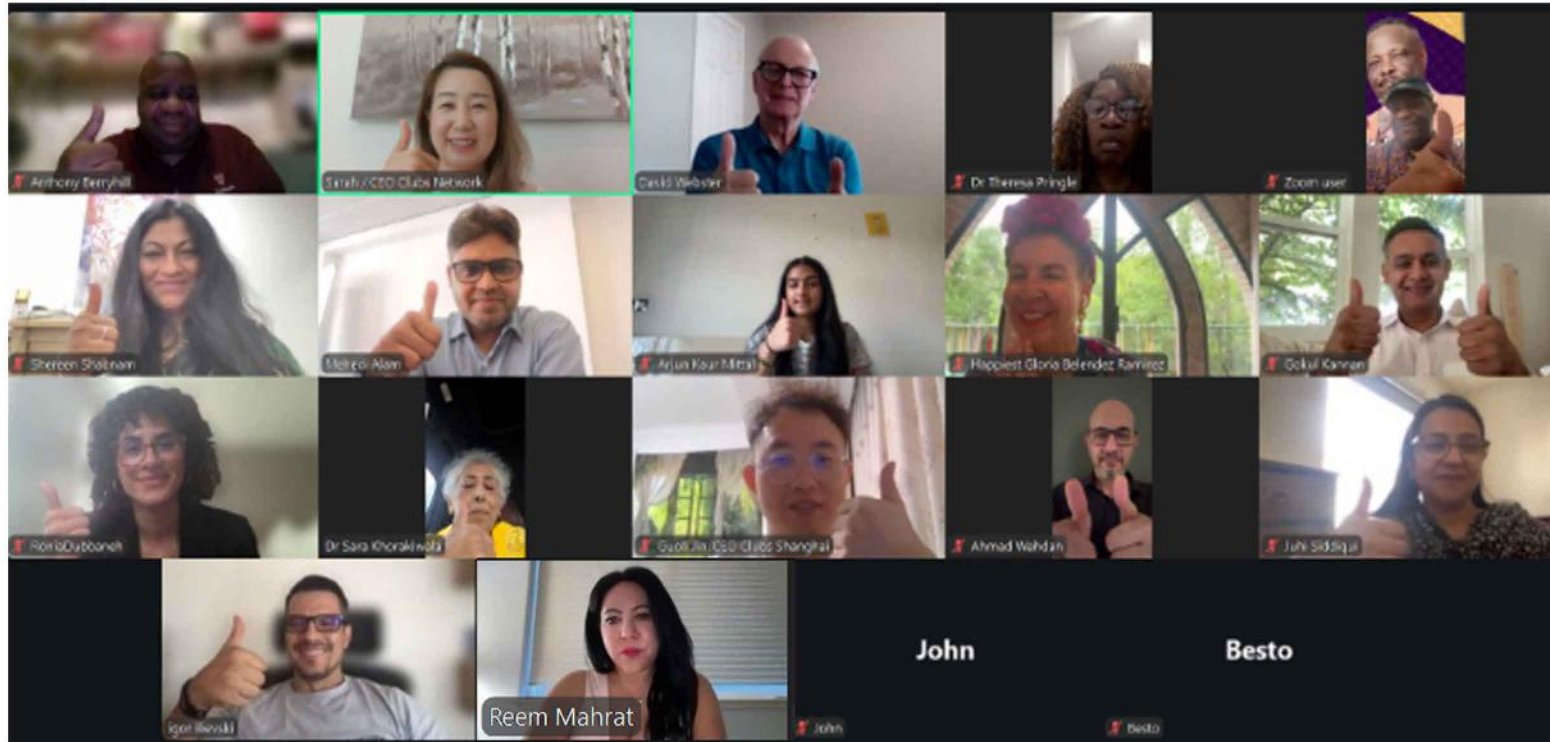
Network, emphasized the value of giving members direct access to the organizations shaping different industries.

"One of the greatest benefits of working with Regent Global is being continually inspired by their values, trust, strong sense of community, and commitment to creating meaningful impact. They are truly building for the future. We deeply appreciate Regent Global for opening its doors to our community. Experiences like this spark meaningful conversations and the right conversations can lead to lasting partnerships and new opportunities."

The visit forms part of CEO Clubs Network's ongoing Member Company Visit initiative, which gives members direct access to organisations across different sectors and creates opportunities for business development and strategic collaboration.







GLOBAL SYNERGY HUB

CONNECTING INNOVATION, EDUCATION, WELL-BEING, AND GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY

The latest Global Synergy Hub gathering brought together an inspiring group of entrepreneurs, professionals, educators, healthcare leaders, and global change-makers for an engaging session centered on connection, collaboration, and shared opportunity.

The meeting featured four keynote speakers, **Reem Maharaj, Anthony Berryhill, Gloria, and Ronia Dubbaneh**—who represented diverse fields including biotechnology, education, wellness, and immigration. Their presentations highlighted the breadth of expertise within the Global Synergy Hub community and the possibilities that emerge when people from different industries and countries connect.

Reem Maharaj: Transforming Health Through Accessible Biomarker Testing

The first featured presentation came from Reem Maharaj, who introduced **EaseBio**, an innovative biotechnology company focused on making advanced health testing more accessible from home.

EaseBio offers at-home, clinical-grade biomarker testing combined with AI-powered interpretation, allowing individuals to receive meaningful health insights quickly and conveniently. Reem highlighted the company's women's health testing panel and its broader vision of analyzing more than 1,000 biomarkers, including hormones, micronutrients, and indicators relevant to disease detection.

Reem's presentation reinforced an important theme of the meeting: the future of healthcare is increasingly moving toward personalized, preventive, and accessible solutions.

Anthony Berryhill: Rethinking the College Admissions Journey

Anthony Berryhill, founder of Elite College Hacker, followed with a presentation focused on education and college admissions..

Anthony explained how his organization helps students understand and navigate what he described as the "hidden curriculum" of the college admissions process. His approach is particularly focused on helping students from underserved backgrounds gain access to the knowledge, skills, and opportunities that can significantly influence their academic futures.

His methodology combines intensive research training, academic coaching, and mindset development. Rather than simply helping students complete applications, Elite College Hacker aims to equip young people with the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in competitive academic environments.

Anthony also addressed the rapidly changing college admissions landscape, including the growing influence of artificial intelligence and evolving approaches to evaluating applicants.

Gloria: The Power of Synergy, Connection, and Happiness

The meeting then shifted toward wellness, personal transformation, and the meaning of true human connection with a presentation from Gloria, the Happiness Ambassador.

Gloria shared the philosophy behind Villas-Xichú, a retreat center in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, which was created around the principles of curiosity, collaboration, creativity, and joy.

One of the central ideas she shared was the simple invitation to ask, "Tell me more." Rather than making assumptions, this approach encourages people to remain curious about one another and creates space for deeper conversations and meaningful relationships.

Gloria described synergy as the experience of bringing different people, perspectives, and energies together to create something greater than what any individual could create alone.

Her reflections also explored the relationship between body, mind, and soul, as well as practices such as meditation and breathing that can help people reconnect with themselves and their sense of purpose.

The presentation resonated strongly with members of the group and opened the door to future conversations and potential gatherings at Villas-Xichú

Ronia Dubbaneh: Understanding the EB-1A Pathway to the United States

The fourth featured speaker, Ronia Dubbaneh, provided an informative overview of the U.S. EB-1A Extraordinary Ability visa, offering valuable insight for entrepreneurs, professionals, researchers, and other individuals with significant achievements in their fields.

Ronia explained that the EB-1A category is designed for individuals who can demonstrate extraordinary ability and allows qualifying applicants to self-petition, without requiring traditional employer sponsorship.

Unlike investment-based immigration routes such as the EB-5, the EB-1A does not require a qualifying financial investment.

Instead, applicants must demonstrate that they meet the required evidentiary standards based on their achievements, recognition, and professional record.

Her presentation generated interest among members who saw potential relevance for themselves, colleagues, and international business networks.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of obtaining professional legal guidance when evaluating immigration options and preparing an application.

A Community Built Around Collaboration

Beyond the keynote presentations, the meeting featured introductions from a diverse group of CEO Club members.

Participants represented industries including technology, artificial intelligence, healthcare, education, marketing, public relations, floral design, medical concierge services, e-commerce, and international business development.

Members also discussed opportunities for collaboration, including international education programs, technology solutions, healthcare initiatives, and business services.

The CEO Club's China-based outsourcing and sourcing capabilities were also highlighted, with an emphasis on helping members overcome common challenges such as supplier communication, language barriers, product sourcing, and quality control.

At its core, the meeting demonstrated the value of a community where health, education, entrepreneurship, immigration, technology, and personal well-being can intersect.

The common thread throughout the session was simple: meaningful opportunities often begin with meaningful connections.

ARISE UAE is the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, is a Network of Private Sector Entities

led by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



www.ariseuae.org





THE US FREEDOM GRAND PRIX IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

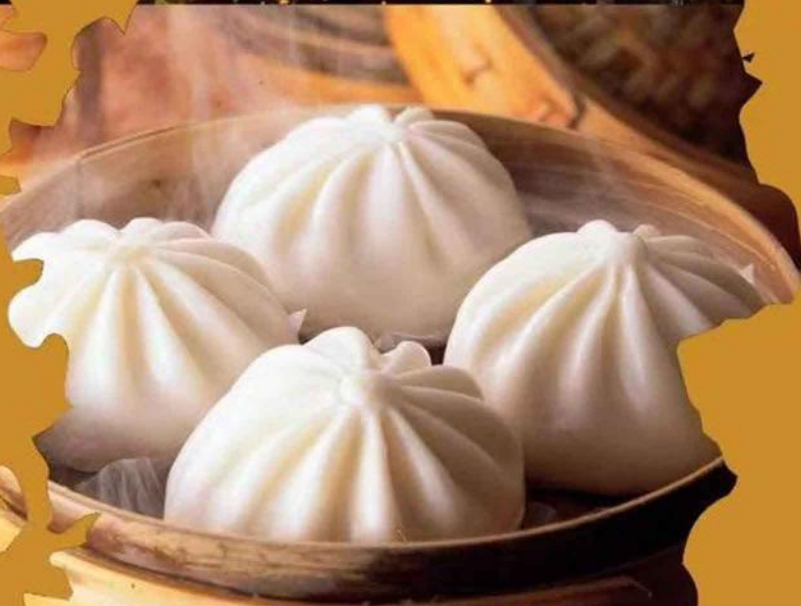
The US Freedom Grand Prix in Washington, D.C. represents more than the excitement of world-class motorsport; it is a celebration of American freedom, innovation, ambition, and global leadership. Dr. Tariq, CEO & Founder, and M. Sarah Dong, Managing Partner, attended this prestigious event. Set against the historic backdrop of the nation's capital, the Grand Prix has the potential to bring together diverse audiences while highlighting America's enduring spirit of progress.

As the United States celebrates 250 years of independence, an event of this scale can also position Washington, D.C. on the global stage as a destination for major international sporting and cultural events..





24th | 華盛頓
中國文化節
Washington
Chinese Culture
Festival



The 24th Annual
Washington Chinese Culture Festival

Penn Ave Between 3rd & 4th St. NW
Washington, DC

Saturday, 08/29/2026
10:00AM - 6:00PM



THE 24TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON CHINESE CULTURE FESTIVAL

The 24th Annual Washington Chinese Culture Festival took place on Saturday, August 29, 2026, completely transforming Pennsylvania Avenue near the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.. Organized by the Greater Washington Chinese American Community (GWCAC) under the central theme "Experience China," the high-profile, immersive street festival attracted lively crowds to celebrate traditional Chinese heritage and modern cultural creativity.

Key Highlights of the Festival

Elite Stage Programming: The main culture show featured continuous, high-energy performances including traditional Chinese dances, regional folk songs, jaw-dropping acrobatics, martial arts (Wushu and Tai Chi), Peking Opera, and iconic lion and dragon dances.

Audience Co-Creation Zone: A secondary stage allowed the public to step off the sidelines to participate directly in community line dances and friendly ping pong competitions.

Interactive Cultural Exhibitions: Visitors engaged face-to-face with traditional arts, including hands-on Chinese calligraphy workshops, colorful ethnic costume showcases, and interactive cultural quizzes.

Culinary Experiences: The avenue was lined with diverse food and drink stalls spotlighting regional Chinese culinary traditions





HEND OBAID ALMARRI SG AT RDC, DUBAI LAND DEPARTMENT, DUBAI GOVERNMENT

Why developing the next generation of leaders is becoming part of the growth equation in the UAE

Growth is usually measured in numbers. Revenue, new markets, larger teams, new projects, and stronger results all tell us something about the progress of a business. But after years of building and growing businesses, I have come to believe there is another measure that deserves just as much attention: whether the people inside the organization are growing with it.

A company can expand faster than its leadership capacity. When that happens, more decisions continue to depend on the same small group of senior people. What once made the business efficient can eventually slow it down.

Therefore, developing the next generation of leaders is not separate from business growth. It is part of it.

WHO WILL MAKE THE DECISIONS AFTER US?

This is especially relevant in the UAE. We work in an environment where change is fast, and ambition is high. New sectors are developing, technology is changing the way companies operate, and young people are entering the workplace with skills and perspectives that were not available to previous generations. The UAE's National Youth Agenda 2031 reflects this direction. It places young Emiratis as active contributors to economic growth and calls for their involvement in institutional decision-making and strategic priorities.

For business leaders, this creates both an opportunity and a responsibility. The question is not simply whether we employ talented young people. It is whether we are preparing them to make decisions that matter.

There is an important difference between giving someone work and giving someone responsibility. A task can be completed by following instructions. Responsibility requires making choices. It means understanding the objective, weighing different options, planning and being accountable for the result. That is where leadership starts to develop.

Experience has taught me that this is also one of the harder parts of leading a growing business. When you have dealt with similar situations many times, you can often see a problem before a younger colleague sees it. Giving the answer may be quicker. Taking over may feel safer. And sometimes it is necessary.

But if this becomes the normal way of working, we solve the immediate problem without building the person's ability to solve the next one.

The better approach is not to remove experienced leaders from the process. It is to use experience differently. Ask the question before giving the answer. Allow someone to explain how they see the problem. Challenge the reasoning where needed. Then, when the risk is reasonable, give them ownership of the decision.

This is not about handing major responsibilities to people before they are ready. Trust should grow with ability, and accountability should grow with trust. People need room to make decisions, but they also need to understand the consequences of those decisions. Some will get things wrong. What matters is whether they can examine what happened, learn from it and make a stronger decision next time.

The same principle applies to mentorship. Mentorship is valuable, but advice alone cannot create a leader. At some point, the person receiving the advice needs the opportunity to act on it. Otherwise, we may produce well-trained professionals who still look upward whenever an important decision has to be made.

The UAE has already made investment in young people part of its wider vision for the future. Its youth strategy connects education and future skills with entrepreneurship, economic participation, and practical

experience. For the private sector, the opportunity is to carry that thinking into the everyday life of our companies.

This also requires an exchange between generations, rather than a choice between them. Experienced leaders bring knowledge built through years of decisions, including decisions that did not work. Younger professionals bring different skills, questions, and ways of seeing change. A strong organization finds a way to use both.

In real estate, we are used to thinking beyond the immediate moment. What we plan and build today must continue to serve its purpose years from now. I believe businesses need the same approach to leadership.

We should not wait until a senior person leaves to ask who is ready to take greater responsibility.

Perhaps one of the most useful questions a CEO can ask is not, “How much can this business grow?” but, “Can it continue to grow without every important decision coming back to me?”

For me, that is one of the clearest signs of mature leadership. Building a successful company matters. Building people who can take it further matters just as much.





CEO Clubs Network®

Connecting Minds, Creating Opportunities



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IGOR ILIEVSKI

IGOR ILIEVSKI ON BUILDING TRUST INTO E-COMMERCE WITH AI

Artificial intelligence is reshaping eCommerce faster than many retailers can adapt.

For online brands, the opportunity is clear. AI can answer questions, automate support, recommend products, analyze customer behavior and reduce operational pressure. At the same time, many tools entering the market still treat online shopping as a technical process rather than a human one.

After more than two decades building and operating eCommerce businesses, Igor Ilievski believes the next challenge is not simply how online stores use AI, but whether AI can restore something digital commerce has slowly lost: the confidence created by a good salesperson.

Ilievski is the founder behind Amenexia, an AI salesperson for eCommerce stores. The distinction, he argues, matters.

Amenexia is not designed as a traditional chatbot that only answers questions. It is built to act like a trained sales associate inside an online store, helping shoppers understand products, compare options, overcome hesitation and complete purchases with greater confidence.

For Ilievski, the real product is not artificial intelligence. It is shopper confidence.

E-Commerce Has Lost the Salesperson

Modern eCommerce has become highly efficient at attracting traffic.

Brands invest heavily in search, social media, email marketing, paid ads, influencers, retargeting and content. They can bring thousands of shoppers into a store every day. The problem begins once the shopper lands on the website.

A customer may like the product and the price, but still have a question about size, compatibility, materials, delivery, returns or whether the item is right for their specific need. In a physical store, a trained salesperson would notice that hesitation and step in.

Online, the customer reads the product page, checks the reviews, maybe opens a support ticket, and then leaves. Not always because the product was wrong, but because the buyer did not receive enough reassurance at the moment of doubt.

Igor believes this is one of the most underestimated conversion problems in eCommerce.

Many online stores do not only need more traffic. They need a way to help ready-to-buy shoppers feel safe enough to buy. That is the commercial problem Amenexia is designed to solve.



The centuries-old selling Craft of “İlişki”

The inspiration behind Amenexia did not come only from 20+ years of work in ecommerce and analyzing years of data on how customers interact with online stores. It came from some of the most skilled salespeople in the world working inside Istanbul’s Grand bazaar

Anyone who has walked through those streets understands the experience. A visitor may enter saying they are “just looking,” yet leave smiling, carrying bags of stuff they had not planned to buy.

For Igor Ilievski, this is not simply charm or persuasion. It is a craft.

The best Grand bazaar sellers know how to read people. They understand when a customer wants attention and when they need space. They sense whether someone is serious, curious, uncertain or simply enjoying the experience. They know when to explain, when to ask, when to bargain and when to let silence do part of the work.

Igor became interested in the deeper tradition behind that style of selling.

In Turkish, “ilişki” means relationship, connection or bond. For Igor Ilievski, it became the word that best captured the commercial principle he saw in the Grand Bazar: trust first, transaction second. That idea became more than inspiration. It became research.

Ilievski and the Amenex team spent time in Turkish bazaar streets observing negotiations, bargaining patterns and seller-buyer conversations.

They studied how sellers opened a relationship with a stranger, how they created comfort, how they recognized hesitation and how they moved from conversation to transaction without making the buyer feel pressured.

The team also visited universities in Istanbul and spoke with professors to better understand the cultural background of the tradition.

One of the challenges, Ilievski found, was that “ilişki” was not documented like a modern sales methodologies. It was not written as a manual or taught through formal business training.

Like many old traditions, it lived through practice, stories and repetition. It passed from one generation to another through family businesses, market culture and daily trade.

Igor traced its roots to older Anatolian traditions of hospitality, where helping a stranger was part of social and moral life.

Over time, through the Grand Bazaar, the Ottoman commercial world and the trade routes that connected Asia Minor with other regions, that relationship-first approach became part of the way selling was practiced and understood..

Igor Ilievski led the process of turning this fieldwork into organized material: interviews, transcripts, recordings and observed selling patterns from Grand bazaar sellers, cultural conversations and academic input.

The goal was to take a selling craft that had mostly been transferred by word of mouth and organize it into a proprietary machine learnign dataset that could train Amenexia’s machine learning model into unique and proprietary technology that combines tradition and modern world.

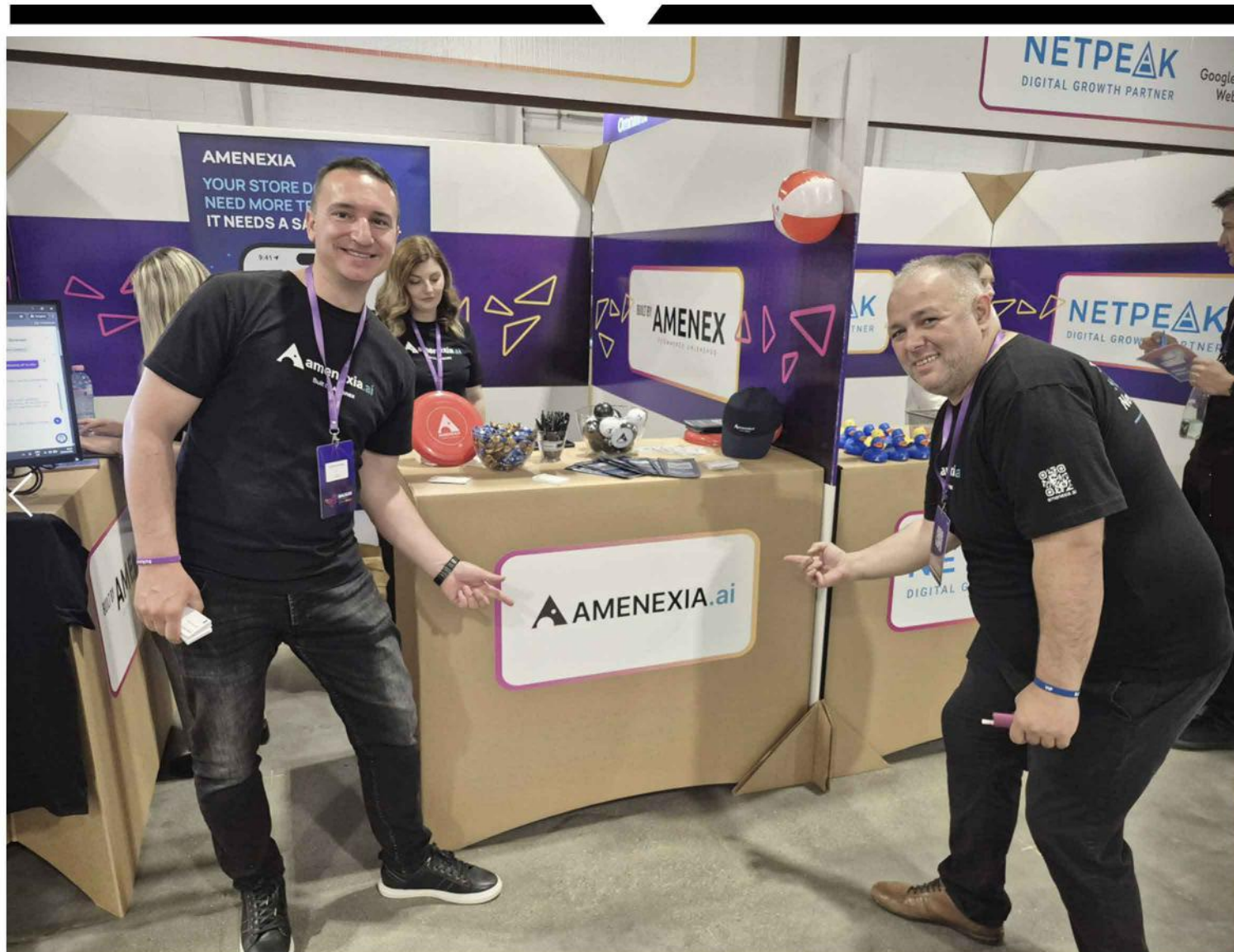
The challenge was to build a bridge between those two worlds.

For Ilievski, that bridge is where Amenexia becomes different from a chatbot. It is not only trained on product information. It is built around a selling tradition that understands why people hesitate before buying and what kind of reassurance helps them move forward.

Built by E-Commerce Operators

Amenexia was developed from Ilievski’s long experience inside real eCommerce operations.

Amenex team has spent years working across web development, digital marketing, product data, marketplaces, integrations, customer support and online store management. That background shaped the way Amenexia was built.



The product is not designed around abstract AI use cases. It is designed around the daily problems online stores face: product questions, comparison requests, cart hesitation, order lookups, shipping concerns, loyalty benefits, support handoffs and purchase guidance.

This operator-led view is central to Amenexia's positioning.

It is not meant to replace the human side of commerce. It is meant to make that human side available at scale, especially for stores that cannot place a trained salesperson in front of every shopper, every hour of the day.

For many eCommerce brands, that is the missing layer between traffic and revenue.

Making Online Shopping Human Again

Ilievski believes the strongest technology in commerce will not be the technology that makes shopping feel colder.

It will be the technology that makes digital shopping feel more personal, more useful and more trustworthy.



That is the long-term vision behind Amenexia: to bring the warmth of a skilled salesperson, the memory of a local shopkeeper and the relationship-first tradition of “ilişk”i into the online store.

As AI becomes more common in eCommerce, the winners may not be the brands that use the most tools or collect the most data. They may be the brands that use technology to make customers feel understood at the moment it matters most.

For Ilievski, that is the old truth hidden inside the newest technology.

Commerce has always depended on trust.

Amenexia is built on the belief that even in a digital store, trust should still come first.



ALEX ATHANASSOULAS
PRESIDENT AND CEO, STIRIXIS GROUP

A BUILDING IS NOT A PICTURE

A developer puts the renders on the table. The room leans in. For forty minutes everyone talks about the facade, the atrium, the finishes, the double height entrance and where the light falls in March. Then I ask one key question, and the room goes quiet.

“What is this building supposed to achieve, and how will you know whether it worked”?

Most owners have an answer to the first half. Very few have an answer to the second.

Part of the trouble sits in the word itself. When people say “the building” in a first meeting, they almost always mean how it will look. But the building is the use. It is who comes through the door and why, what the space makes possible, what it costs to run, and what it returns over ten years. How sustainable it really is in many ways... Appearance is only one layer of that. It is also, unfortunately on most projects still, the layer decided before anything else.

When the picture arrives before the purpose, everything after that is a sequence of expensive guesses dressed up as decisions. The cost is real, and it arrives late. A project with no stated outcome cannot “refuse” anything, because there is nothing to refuse against. So it accepts. The striking staircase. The double height lobby. The finish that wins the presentation and triples the maintenance bill.

STIRIXIS GROUP ›
True Prosperity.

Every yes is defensible on its own. But together they quietly rebuild the strategy around an image. And the system fails in its desired output.

Nothing looks wrong at the opening. The bill arrives in year two or three. Higher costs. Wrong budgets. Slower lease-up. Higher churn.

A needed refit nobody budgeted for. A premium the market politely declines to pay. By then nobody traces it back to the meeting where it started.

The owners who avoid this are the ones who insist on a different order. Outcome first. Use and strategy second. Appearance last. This does not reduce the importance of design. On the contrary. It elevates it to a key element of success.

That needed reversal is the entire discipline, and it belongs to the owner. Nobody else in the process has the authority to enforce it.

Reverse the order and three things follow. You gain the right to say no, because a stated outcome gives you something to measure a beautiful idea against. You can judge the new asset against everything you already hold, rather than admiring it in isolation, which is the most expensive way to look at anything. And you brief for ten years instead of for opening night, so the building is asked to flex, upgrade and re-let long after the assumptions that produced it have expired.

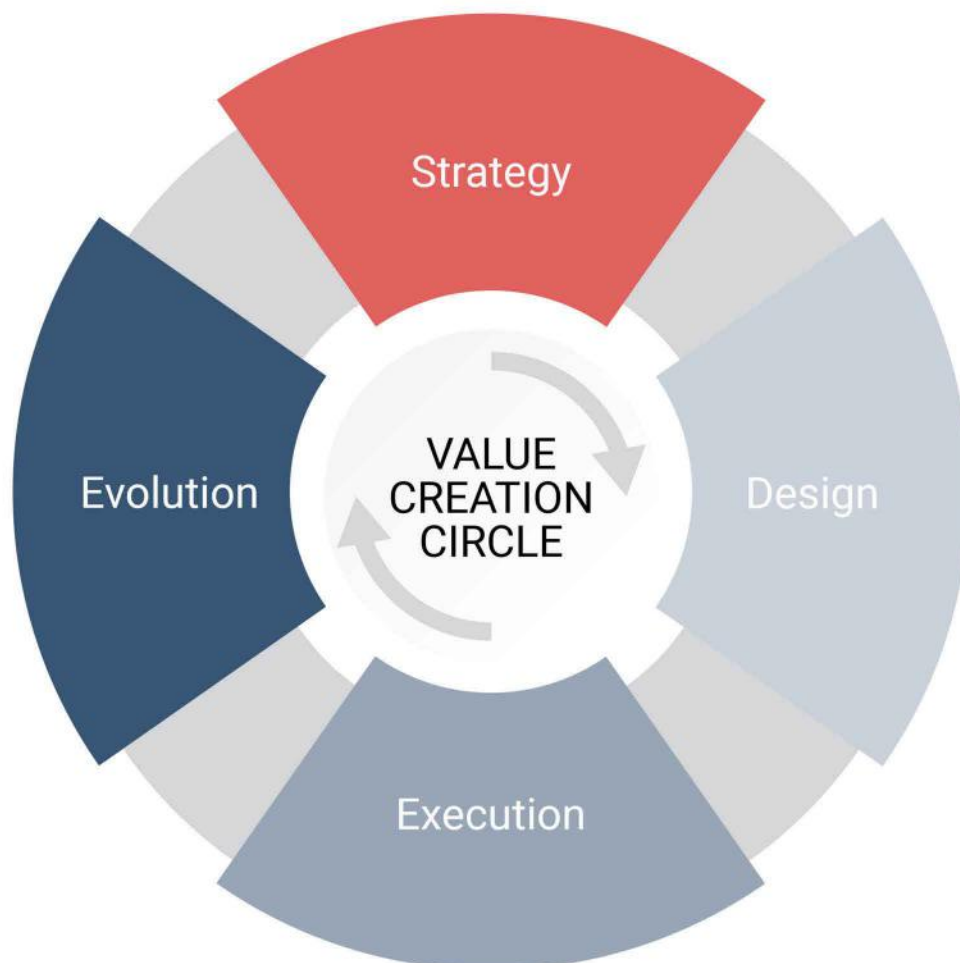
This is where we start at STIRIXIS Group, not with an image. We begin with what the asset has to deliver, by when, and how you will know. Strategy first. Design as the instrument that serves it.

The same team stays accountable from that first question through to the first operating year, so the strategy never gets handed across a gap and lost in it.

Today, more than ever, anyone can commission an impressive picture. Deciding what the building is for is the part only you can do. The renders will still be unrolled across the table. But they should just be the last thing on it.

Email: advance@stirixis.com

Visit: www.stirixisgroup.com



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AIM Congress 2026 is the world's leading investment platform dedicated to advancing global investment, economic diversification, and sustainable development. Taking place from **7-9 September 2026 at DWTC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**, the congress brings together global leaders, policymakers, investors, multinational corporations, entrepreneurs, and financial institutions from across the world.

Organized as a high-level international investment forum, AIM Congress 2026 serves as a catalyst for foreign direct investment (FDI), cross-border partnerships, and emerging market growth.

The event focuses on key sectors including **finance, trade, infrastructure, technology, energy, manufacturing, startups, and capital markets**, while addressing **global economic trends, investment opportunities, and policy frameworks shaping the future of the global economy**.

Through strategic conferences, investment roundtables, country pavilions, networking sessions, and B2B meetings, AIM Congress 2026 enables meaningful dialogue between the public and private sectors. It provides a powerful platform to showcase investment-ready projects, explore market expansion opportunities, and foster international collaboration.

With participation from governments, chambers of commerce, investment promotion agencies, banks, and institutional investors, AIM Congress 2026 in Dubai reinforces its role as a premier destination for global investment, innovation, and economic resilience.

Visit: <https://www.aimcongress.com/>



ANTHONY BERRYHILL
FOUNDER & CEO
ELITE COLLEGE HACKER

ELITE COLLEGE HACKER:

A SKILLS-BASED, ETHICS-FIRST APPROACH TO WINNING IN ELITE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND THE GLOBAL CORPORATE TALENT WAR

K-12 and early-career education systems across the world are failing. High School students are frustrated, anxious, and feel lied to about college admissions. Major corporations complain that T10 university graduates lack basic workplace competencies—email composition, top-down communication, office etiquette. Students from these same universities find that perfect GPAs and internship lists don't translate to job offers. UC professors report that incoming students lack foundational math and writing skills.

While theories about this crisis abound, few identify the root cause: the hidden curriculum—a set of essential but unspoken norms and expectations that determine whether a student is recognized and rewarded.

The Problem

Over 25 years, Elite College Hacker has worked with top students across China, the United States, and Europe. Three patterns emerge:

- Students from marginalized backgrounds suffer most from system opacity
- Students with "ideal profiles" (perfect GPAs, extensive activities, leadership roles) achieve worse outcomes than a decade ago.

Schools that had 25%+ acceptance rates are now under 10% (Northeastern, USC, Emory, NYU, to name a few)

- International students face even lower acceptance rates

The insight: Across race, class, geography, and academic performance: students, parents, and high schools remain confused why college admissions results feel unpredictable.

Why and How Admissions Changed

From the 1980s to 2000s, college admissions results were predictable. Parents constantly tell us: "When I applied, a 3.5 GPA, leadership, and student body president was enough. I wouldn't get into my alma mater today."

They're right. Top U.S. universities shifted from metrics-driven to holistic admissions. Three reasons explain this:

First: Standard admissions metrics are poisoned by identity-based bias. SAT scores correlate with race, class, and gender.

Grades reward students with favorable teachers and punish mathematical irrelevance. The Varsity Blues scandal proved how affluent parents defraud "objective" systems.

Second: Colleges recognized business needs require diversity. Colleges adopted increasingly flexible frameworks—from racial preference to point systems to today's holistic admission, where a 2.8 GPA student can get into Harvard if the committee believes they add value.

Third: Colleges have adopted business hiring frameworks. They now assess talent beyond rank-ordering metrics. Elite College Hacker has observed this consistently over two decades. For 10 years, we recognized that T10 schools ask behavioral questions similar to MBA programs at Stanford and Harvard. Yet our top students were never taught the STAR method in high school. As a team, we leverage our collective centuries of business and nonprofit leadership experience to fill in such gaps.

Our Methodology and Strategy

If we reverse-engineer (“hack”) the curricula, behavior, cultural norms, and business elements of Ivy League+ environments, we will develop the strongest, most competitive applicants. This approach directly contradicts the public discourse from former admissions officers, elite high schools, and multi-million-dollar brands.

Top-tier academic work doesn't lend itself to simplistic education models:

- Students who maximize metrics at the expense of intellectual curiosity risk being labeled "checklist students" who fill the Ivy League reject list
- “Perfect” scores, activity lists, and honors can sometimes significantly hurt a student, depending on context and background
- Stanford and MIT tell students to be authentic—yet the industry sells "passion projects" and "research programs" for tens of thousands of dollars per student annually, with no ties to relevant academic literature

Elite colleges say clearly: "We want the best overall class, not the best students." Admissions committees function as academic talent acquisition teams—they travel cross-country, assess character traits (resilience, cognitive speed, cheerfulness in adversity), and think about departmental trends and research alignment.

Our Track Record and Key Insights

Anthony Berryhill founded Elite College Hacker after his own journey from the Lower 9th Ward to teaching Negotiation at Harvard. Born in a community where high school graduation was rare, he reverse-engineered the admissions process through debate, attending Isidore Newman School, Stanford undergrad, and consulting work from Yale's Teaching Center, Graduate Career Services, Medical School, and Dental School.



 **16th** **WORLD LEADERS SUMMIT** 
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IN EDUCATION & SOCIAL MOBILITY
USA

10TH APRIL 2026 AT VENUE
University of Oxford
(Keble College, O'Reilly Theatre) UK

Oxford UK

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Over 25 years, Anthony identified these critical patterns:

- Influence and persuasion skills determine final marks; the difference between A- and B+ often reflects growth, not objective ability
- Debate skills—understanding and arguing viewpoints you disagree with—build the intellectual muscles necessary for undergraduate and graduate seminars
- Honesty and authenticity matter; most competitive applicants play small, writing clichéd essays that suggest resistance to sharing their intellectual voice
- Top-down comprehensive plans are misaligned to how top-students execute the admissions process and sabotage results. We adopt an Agile project management approach that minimizes waste while keeping coach and student results-focused. Accordingly, we turn away parents who demand top-down micromanagement or extensive up-front “Waterfall” project plans
- Maximalist “do everything possible” approaches sabotage student well-being. We require clients to forward plan with wellness in mind, including removing excessive activities and AP courses
- Students must own the process, not their parents. We don't permit parent involvement in essay writing; we require student privacy for psychological safety, including dismissal as a client if boundaries are violated

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- We don't allow cheating of any kind, including through AI. We have rejected many offers of large sums to ghost write essays or engage in unethical practices. We force students to do manual reading, writing, and analysis without AI. Students who misuse AI are required to rewrite from scratch. Why? Because we believe that to survive Ivy+ schooling post acceptance, students must be able to do the work themselves

Results (per documented outcomes)

- 94% lifetime client success rate (acceptance to one of a student's top 10 priorities, standard baseline range is T30-T50, regardless of personal background/profile)
- 93.3% success across 15 comprehensive students last year
- 2026 across 15 comprehensive students (undergrad/-professional), \$1.6MM total merit aid
- 100% lifetime college persistence rate
- Includes low-GPA students (<3.5), gender minorities, students with disabilities, and low-SES backgrounds
- No self-selection based on profile; we've proven outcomes over 25 years. We self-select on character traits, ethical compass, alignment on work style (Agile, not comprehensive plans in advance), and coachability (from student and parent).

Recent examples:

- A Texas State undergraduate in Electrical Engineering won full-fellowship offers from USC and Columbia, plus an NSF Fellowship

- A South Indian student (non-perfect GPA/scores) gained admission to all 8 UC schools, Stanford, and four Ivies—currently a Princeton freshman

All succeed by elevating academic skills and content knowledge, not through pay-for-play programs or “passion projects.”

Our New Partnership with CEO Clubs Network

Elite College Hacker is proud to align with CEO Clubs Network, which also values difference as strength and treats human connection as the engine of social impact and economic success.

We offer five opportunities to CEO Clubs members:

1. The Hacker Tutorial — Oxford-style intensive prep for grades 9-11 and graduated seniors. Advanced reading, analysis, discussion, seminar-style learning. USD 6,000/student/term.

2. Free 1:1 Consultations for all CEO Clubs Members (subject to availability) 30-minute private consultation covering college strategy, academic positioning, education planning, and workforce development.

3. Education Consulting Suite (B2C, direct to high school, Higher Ed Clients)— Comprehensive coaching across K-12, undergraduate admissions, graduate school (MBA/PhD/Masters/JD), and guidance for nontraditional students.



4. Workforce Development Consulting —

Onboarding, early career development, and organizational training informed by expertise from PIMCO VP Executive Officer role, GLG L&D work, and VBI Managing Director experience.

5. Board Placements & Advisory Roles — Strategic board and advisory positions backed by a bench of championship debaters, Distinguished Toastmasters, and disruptive education leaders from top tech and finance corporations.

Conclusion

The global education system has failed to teach students and families the hidden curriculum—the actual skills and competencies expected in elite universities and corporations. Elite College Hacker teaches clients to “fish” on their own. With the support of CEO Clubs, we aim to become the global benchmark for weaponizing education as a tool against barriers to social mobility.



COFFEE ISLAND STRENGTHENS ITS PRESENCE IN EGYPT WITH RETAIL EXPANSION AND LOCAL PRODUCTION

The Greek coffee brand is set to operate more than 10 coffee stores in Egypt by the end of 2026, while investing in local roasting, processing and packaging capabilities.

Coffee Island continues to strengthen its presence in Egypt, with the country emerging as a key pillar of the brand's international expansion strategy.

Combining an ambitious retail development plan with significant investment in local production, the company is building a long-term presence in one of the region's most dynamic markets.

By the end of 2026, Coffee Island is expected to operate more than 10 coffee stores across Egypt, with locations carefully selected across prominent commercial, residential and tourist destinations.

The brand's Egyptian network includes a unique experience coffee store overlooking the Pyramids of Giza, launched in 2024 and designed to blend the Coffee Island experience with the historic character of one of the world's most iconic landmarks.

The network also extends to Mall of Egypt, Plaza Espana Mall, Zamalek, Heliopolis and the North Coast, bringing the brand closer to both local communities and international visitors.

A key milestone in the company's expansion was the opening of its fifth Egyptian coffee store and flagship store in Korba, Cairo, on October 1, 2025, coinciding with World Coffee Day.

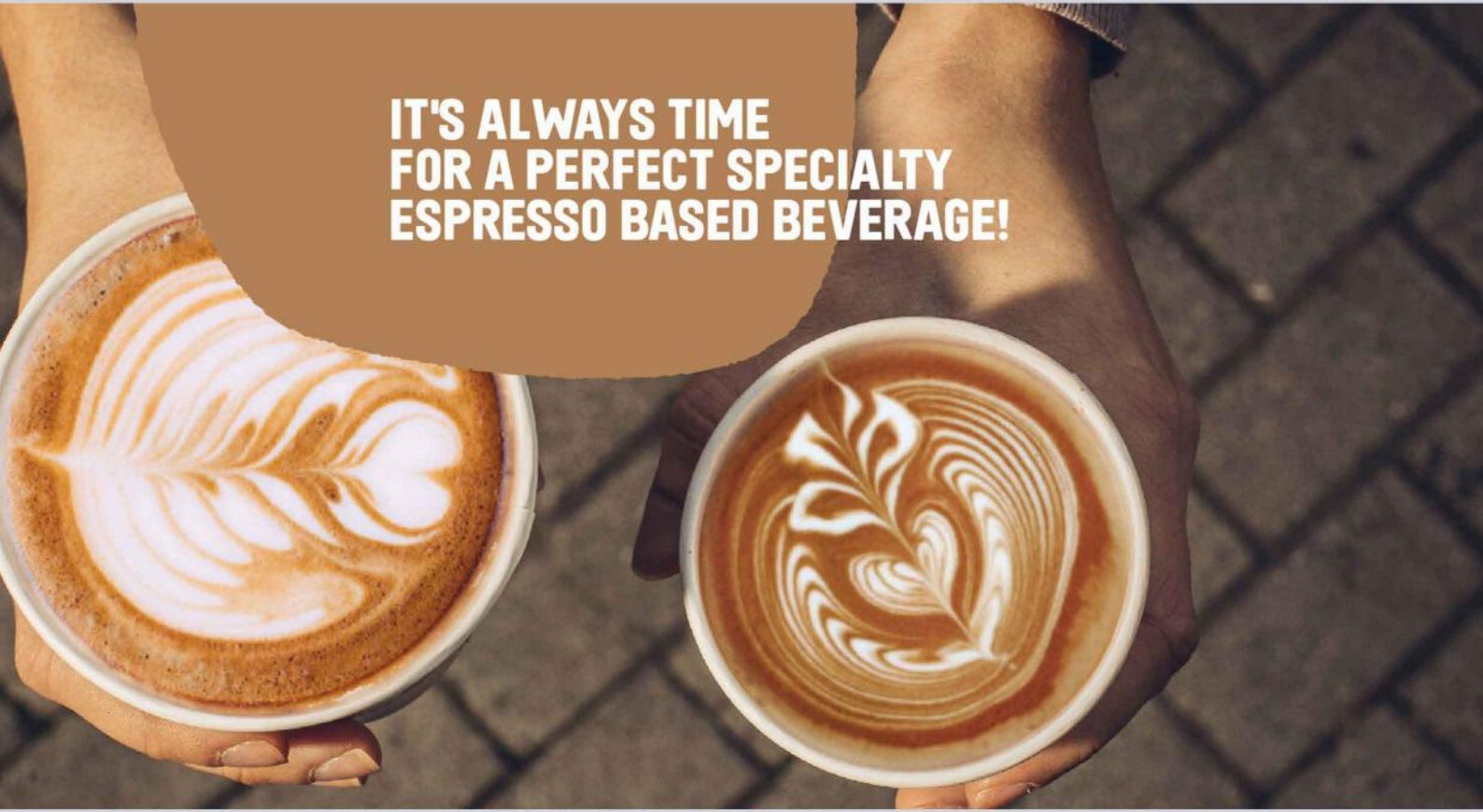
Located in one of the city's most historic districts, the flagship further reinforces Coffee Island's commitment to establishing a strong and recognizable presence in the Egyptian market.

Investing in local coffee production

Beyond retail expansion, one of the most significant milestones in Coffee Island's journey in Egypt has been the establishment of a local coffee roasting, processing and packaging facility, launched in early 2025.

The facility operates as a smaller-scale version of Coffee Island's advanced production hub in Patras, Greece, and incorporates a remote monitoring system that enables the company's specialists in Greece to monitor roasting curves in real time. This allows the same roasting standards and quality specifications to be maintained across markets.

The investment also addresses key operational challenges, including customs clearance delays and increased logistics costs, while enabling Coffee Island to ensure greater freshness for the coffee served across its Egyptian network.



**IT'S ALWAYS TIME
FOR A PERFECT SPECIALTY
ESPRESSO BASED BEVERAGE!**

The project has been supported by an extensive exchange of expertise between Greece and Egypt. Specialized Coffee Island teams traveled to Egypt to train local employees, while Egyptian partners visited the company's headquarters and production facilities in Patras to gain hands-on knowledge and share expertise.

With its growing coffee store network and local production capabilities, Coffee Island is taking a long-term approach to its development in Egypt—combining international coffee expertise with local investment, operational know-how and a commitment to delivering consistent quality closer to its customers.



The expansion further reflects Coffee Island's broader international strategy, as the Greek coffee brand continues to develop its presence across markets while building strong local partnerships and capabilities.

Is Your Business Ready for UAE E-INVOICING?

The UAE is moving towards mandatory E-Invoicing. Get compliant. Stay ahead. Avoid penalties.

WHY IT MATTERS



Mandatory compliance as per FTA regulations



Avoid penalties and business disruptions



Improve efficiency and cash flow visibility



OUR 3-STEP E-INVOICING READINESS APPROACH



01

ASSESS

We assess your current systems, invoice processes and data readiness against FTA requirements.



02

INTEGRATE

We configure and integrate your system with an FTA-approved ASP for seamless e-invoicing.



03

COMPLY

We test, validate, train your team and go live with complete support for ongoing compliance.

WHAT WE OFFER

- ✓ ERP & Accounting System Readiness Assessment
- ✓ UAE E-Invoicing Compliance Review
- ✓ ASP Onboarding & Configuration
- ✓ Sage 50 Accounts UK Integration Solutions.
- ✓ ERP Integration & Data Validation
- ✓ User Training & Go-Live Support
- ✓ Ongoing Compliance & Support

SYSTEMS WE SUPPORT

Sage 50
Accounts UK

Sage 200
Evolution

Sage 300

WHY BUSINESSES TRUST A2R



17+
Years of ERP Expertise



1,000+
Successful Implementations



Trusted by Businesses
Across UAE & India



Solutions That Drive
Efficiency & Growth



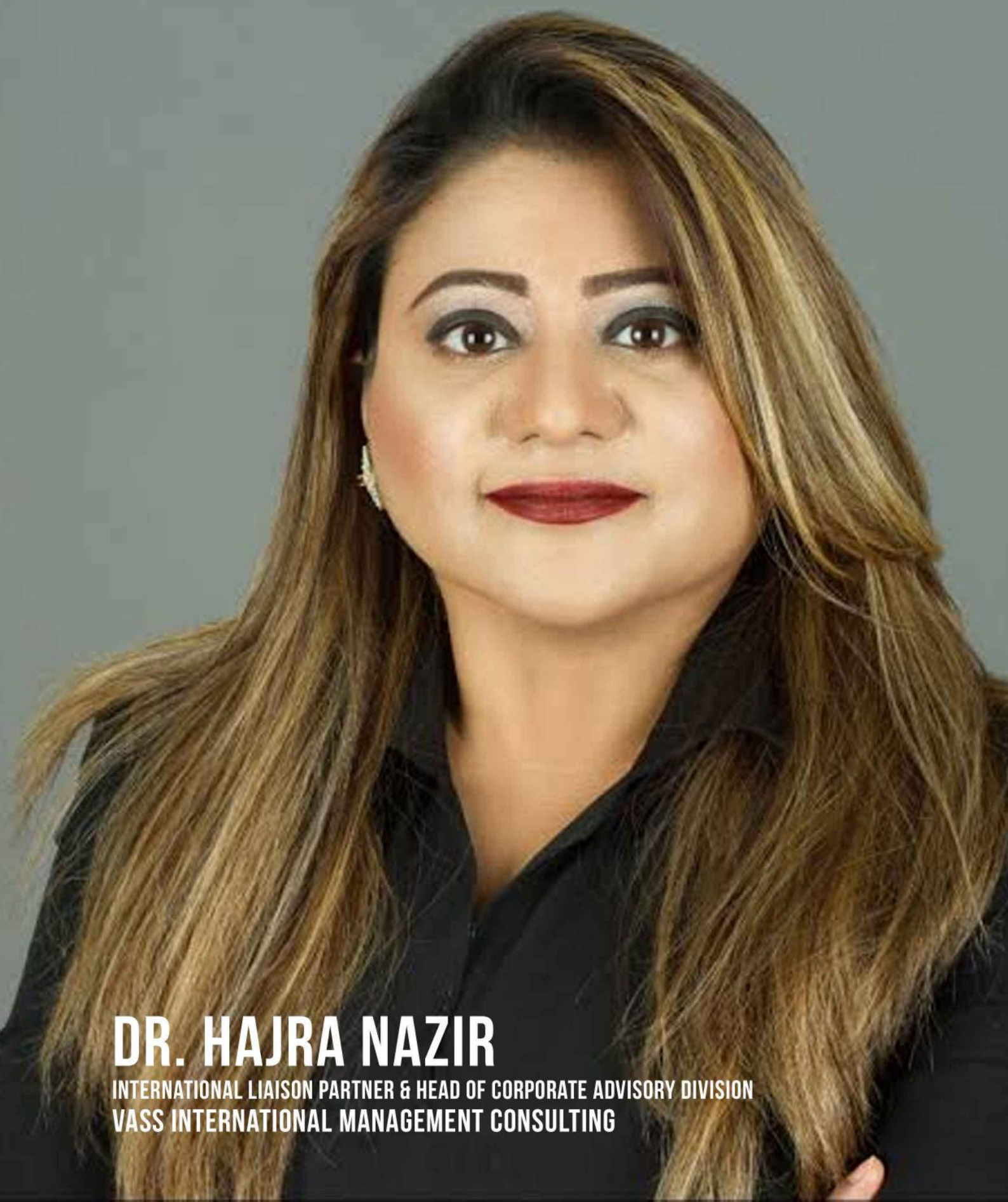
UAE E-INVOICING DEADLINES

- Pilot Phase: 1 July 2026
- Large Taxable Persons (≥ AED 50M): 1 Jan 2027
- Remaining VAT Registered Businesses: 1 July 2027
- Government Entities: 1 Oct 2027



LET'S GET YOU E-INVOICING READY!

Talk to our experts today and take the first step towards compliance.



DR. HAJRA NAZIR

**INTERNATIONAL LIAISON PARTNER & HEAD OF CORPORATE ADVISORY DIVISION
VASS INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTING**

FROM DUBAI TO THE WORLD: HOW DR. HAJRA NAZIR TURNED COMPLIANCE EXPERTISE INTO A GLOBAL ADVISORY FORCE

There is a particular kind of expertise that only accumulates with time, not through credentials alone, but through thousands of decisions made on behalf of clients navigating some of the world's most complex regulatory environments.

Dr. Hajra Nazir has spent nearly two decades building exactly that kind of knowledge, and the businesses she has guided along the way are the clearest evidence of its value. It is her confidence.

Nazir holds a Professional Doctorate in Business Advisory and Compliance, a distinction that places her practice firmly at the intersection of academic rigor and real-world application.

Before launching her current consultancy work, she spent nearly a decade and a half as a Manager at BDO International in the UAE — one of the five largest accounting and professional services firms in the world.

That stretch of institutional experience gave her an unusually deep command of multinational client engagements, shaping her into a recognized voice on compliance, internal controls, and business process optimization across industries and borders.



SBC GLOBAL
VASS INTERNATIONAL

Today, she serves as International Liaison Partner and Head of Consultancy at SBC Global and VASS International. She holds exclusive memberships with Audittrust in Germany and DBi International in the Netherlands.

Her reach extends from Dubai and Sharjah into European and global networks, giving clients access to cross-border advisory support that few practitioners in the region can provide.

Over the course of her career, she has directly assisted more than 5,000 companies in registering and establishing onshore and offshore operations.

The Numbers Behind the Advice

In consultancy, the gap between strategic recommendations and measurable outcomes is often where credibility is won or lost. For Nazir, bridging that gap has been a defining feature of her practice.

In one notable engagement, she developed a corporate strategy that cut lead time by 6 weeks, a structural shift that directly translated into a 5% increase in the client's sales volume within the first year of implementation.

That kind of result — traceable, specific, tied to revenue — is not the norm in a field where broad recommendations often go unmeasured.

Her work spans mergers and acquisitions, business restructuring, new business setup, IT process optimization, profit improvement, and regulatory compliance, each area handled with the consistency she has maintained across nearly two decades of practice.

She works closely with both clients and internal teams to ensure recommendations are implemented and relationships are sustained well beyond any single project.

It is this combination of technical range and documented outcomes that led to Nazir receiving a 2026 Global Recognition Award in the Leadership category.

The award is evaluated using the Rasch model, a methodology that constructs a linear measurement scale across categories, enabling fair and precise comparisons between nominees working in different disciplines.

According to Alex Sterling, a spokesperson for Global Recognition Awards, **“her ability to combine deep technical knowledge with real-world business impact — across thousands of client engagements and multiple international markets — is what sets her apart in business advisory and compliance.”**

A Global Stage

Recognition for Nazir's work has come from several directions in recent years. In 2026, she was named among 25 global leaders at the Burj Global Power 100 Ceremony in Shanghai — an event that highlights business leadership operating at a genuinely international scale.

Her inclusion placed her alongside figures whose influence spans multiple markets and jurisdictions, a fitting reflection of where her own practice now stands.

She also received the International Prime Awards Global 2025 for Global Excellence in Business Advisory and Compliance.

This independently adjudicated honor further validates her standing within a framework independent of any single institutional affiliation.

Together, these recognitions point to a practitioner whose credibility travels — from the UAE to the Netherlands to Shanghai — without losing its grounding in practical, client-focused work.

Reuters

World Business Markets Sustainability Legal Commentary Technology Investigations

Sponsored content by SBC Global VASS International (S). The Reuters staff was not involved in producing this content.

Press Release

Dr. Hajra Nazir Receives 2026 Global Recognition Award for Excellence in Business Advisory and Compliance

International honor recognizes nearly two decades of leadership, cross-border advisory expertise, and measurable impact helping more than 5,000 businesses navigate growth and compliance.

July 30, 2026 2:08 AM GMT+4 (Updated July 30, 2026)

Aa



Life & Style

Built Across Borders: How Hajra Nazir Became One of the Most Trusted Names in Business Advisory

Dr. Hajra Nazir Wins 2026 Global Recognition Award for Business Advisory

By IFT Desk

July 14, 2026 22:38 +08



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https://variety.com.au/from-dubai-to-the-world-how-hajra-nazir-turned-compliance-expertise-into-a-global-advisory-force/

VARIETY

From Dubai to the World: How Dr. Hajra Nazir Turned Compliance Expertise Into a Global Advisory Force

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July 14, 2026 22:38 +08

https://fastcompany.com/articles/dr-hajra-nazir-where-strategic-thinking-meets-measurable-impact-or-beyond-advice-dr-hajra-nazirs-approach-to-accountable-strategy/

FAST COMPANY

Dr. Hajra Nazir: Where Strategic Thinking Meets Measurable Impact or Beyond Advice: Dr. Hajra Nazir's Approach to Accountable Strategy

By Angela Diaz

Most consultants tell you what to do. Fewer can show you, in precise numbers, what happens when you actually do it.

Dr. Hajra Nazir has spent nearly two decades being the second kind.

Two Decades in the Making

The path from a Manager at a global accounting firm to leading an internationally connected consultancy is not one that many practitioners navigate successfully. It requires the ability to translate institutional knowledge into independent practice — to carry the credibility of a structured corporate environment into a more fluid, client-direct model without losing either rigor or relationships.

Nazir has done that, and the 5,000-plus companies she has helped establish and register across onshore and offshore structures are a tangible marker of how far that transition has taken her.

Each of those engagements represents a business that needed guidance through complex decisions — on structure, on compliance, on how to enter or expand within a new market — and found it.

In a profession where the distance between advice and accountability can be wide, Dr. Hajra Nazir has spent nearly two decades making that distance as short as possible — and the businesses she has shaped along the way are the lasting record of that commitment.



PROUD MILESTONE FOR INOXIUM TUBI PIPES INDUSTRY LLC

We are proud to announce that Inoxium Tubi Pipes Industry LLC has been recognized by the Umm Al Quwain Chamber of Commerce & Industry as one of the “Top 10 Exporting Factories in Umm Al Quwain” for the first half of 2026.

This recognition is especially meaningful at a time when manufacturers and exporters across the region are navigating exceptional challenges stemming from the ongoing regional conflict and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, which are affecting shipping, logistics, supply chains, and international trade.

Despite these challenges, Inoxium Tubi has continued to manufacture, export, and serve its customers across international markets — proudly carrying the “Made in UAE” name around the world.

We sincerely thank the Umm Al Quwain Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Government of Umm Al Quwain for their continued encouragement and support of the industrial sector.

This achievement belongs equally to our employees, customers, suppliers and business partners, whose commitment and confidence in Inoxium have contributed to our continued growth. For us, this recognition is not only an achievement it is motivation to go further. From Umm Al Quwain to the world.



Our Group of Organizations

Mideast Metals FZCO in Jebel Ali Free Zone: A State of the Art Stainless Steel Service Centre having latest processing machines from USA and Italy.

Mideast Metals Trading LLC, Abu Dhabi: The retail sale arm of Mideast Metals group selling our products domestically.

Inoxium Tubi, Umm Al Quwain: was established in 2022 and is the biggest Stainless Steel Pipes & Tubes producing Mill in the Gulf having production capacity of 36,000 Metric Tons per year of Ornamental and Industrial Tubes and Pipes.



SUJITH MATHEW
PARTNER, ALBM EXCELLO LAW

HOW LEGAL EXPERTISE FURTHER STRENGTHENS THE UAE'S INVESTMENT BOOM

Most conversations I have with CEOs about the UAE center around one aspect: is the positive outlook real or is it just a passing sentiment? The instinct to ask this question is understandable.

And the answer is underpinned by real facts. Foreign direct investment into the UAE reached AED 177.3 billion, a fourth straight year of growth that pushed the country to ninth place globally for inbound capital, ahead of several established economies. This shines the spotlight on the UAE's status as a global hub for capital flows and investments.

While the region witnessed strains, capital continues to move in and that is only because investors understand that beneath the sentiment of flux, there is something fundamentally strong and resilient.

ALBM Excello Law

That is because the UAE is extremely disciplined about assuring investors by explaining its growth trajectory and future ambitions. For instance, We the UAE 2031 commits the country to doubling GDP and lifting foreign trade to over a trillion dollars within the decade.

This kind of long-term target setting is assuring for investors, as it reflects a coordinated national approach covering regulators, free zone authorities and government entities towards one single goal that benefits all stakeholders.

It is also important to realise that the extraordinary accomplishments of the UAE in the past years have been underscored by the transformation that the legal sector has witnessed – and continues to record.

Three changes matter most to anyone structuring a deal. The first concerns the Commercial Companies Law. Federal Decree-Law No. 20 of 2025 introduces greater flexibility and certainty for investors as it brings the corporate framework closer to international best practices.

There are several key areas including the express confirmation of free zone firms as UAE companies, reducing ambiguities in multi-jurisdictional concerns. Further, mainland limited liability companies can now issue multiple classes of shares with differentiated rights - a significant step that allows more flexibility in capital structures that can be used onshore. The amendments also recognize non-profit companies for the first time.

Another important development is the ability of companies to move its registration between a free zone and the mainland without losing its legal identity in the process, which changes how corporate and holding structures can be established and later reorganized as business evolves.

The second one is even more significant. On 1 June this year, the new Civil Transactions Law replaced the 1985 Civil Code, which had served as the foundation of UAE contractual law for four decades. Among other changes, the new law expressly introduces good faith and disclosure obligations at the pre-contractual stage, sets out the rules for determining the governing law where parties have not made an express choice, and allows court broader powers to adjust a contract that has become unworkable.

The overall effect is a more modern and clearly articulated framework, giving businesses greater certainty when negotiating, structuring and enforcing their contracts.

The third is also consequential: the capital markets framework has been substantially modernised, bringing onshore securities regulation closer to the standards institutional investors already assume elsewhere.

With the Central Bank's Financial Institution Resilience Package, backed by the CBUAE's assets of AED 1 trillion supporting the banking sector, the regulatory signal to investors is consistent and rooted in long-term stability.

I highlight all these reforms because new legislation is often viewed by business leaders as another aspect of compliance, something for the legal team to address in the background. In this case, that would miss the bigger opportunity.

The real value of these reforms lies in how they can be used when business decisions are being made. A multiple share class structure, for example, can influence how economic, voting and exit rights are negotiated at the term sheet stage.

Similarly, changes to the contractual framework can affect how parties allocate risk, structure obligations and approach negotiations.

These are strategic considerations, not simply legal ones, and they are most valuable when considered early.



For any CEO considering a UAE entity, a joint venture or a cross-border acquisition, the practical takeaway is simple: involve the right legal and professional advisors while the strategy is still being formed, not after it needs formalising.

The regulatory environment now rewards early legal involvement, while treating law as mere paperwork can lead to unnecessary costs later.

The UAE's economic ambition and its evolving legal architecture are complementary. Taking into consideration only one of the two gives an incomplete picture of the market and of the opportunities it presents to investors.

For CEOs and investors, the message is clear: understanding the UAE's legal landscape is now as important as understanding the commercial.

Sujith Mathew is a Partner at ALBM Excello Law, bringing over 25 years of experience in corporate and commercial law to support clients in achieving their strategic goals.

He specialises in Mergers & Acquisitions, corporate structuring, and contractual negotiations, helping multinational firms and investors navigate complex legal landscapes in the UAE.



SIR STEVEN SAXTON
FOUNDER & CEO
HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS™

IT ALL STARTS WITH CREATIVE IP.

A conversation with Sir Steven Saxton, Founder & CEO of Hollywood Studios™

CEO CLUBS: YOU'VE WORKED ACROSS THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES FOR DECADES. WHAT LED TO HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS?

Sir Steven: I've worked globally across film, television, music, talent management, fashion and models, financing and distribution. Over the years I've built extensive relationships with creators, executives, companies and financiers around the world.

What connects all of these industries is creative intellectual property. Everything starts with an idea or an original work. Yet the infrastructure surrounding that IP remains fragmented.

That became the starting point for Hollywood Studios.

CEO CLUBS: WHY IS PROTECTING CREATIVE IP SO IMPORTANT NOW?

Sir Steven: AI and LLMs are creating extraordinary opportunities, but they're also creating entirely new risks around creative IP.

Creators need to protect their work from being ingested into models without permission, while also being careful about how they use AI themselves. There are real questions around copyright and ownership when AI generates too much of the underlying creative work.

We're building tools designed to address both sides of that equation: protecting creative IP from unauthorized use, while enabling creators to use AI securely and responsibly to gain insights, collaborate and build value around their work.

CEO CLUBS: HOW FAR ALONG IS HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS TODAY?

Sir Steven: As of this interview we have 100,000+ project and people pages across the platform. But the important part isn't simply the number. They're part of a connected, interactive network of people, projects, credits and professional relationships.

As more people, projects and relationships become connected, the platform becomes more useful for discovery, networking and collaboration.

We're beta testing now, getting feedback, refining the platform and preparing for launch.

CEO CLUBS: IS THIS PRIMARILY A FILM AND TELEVISION PLATFORM?

Sir Steven: No. Hollywood is our starting point, but our vision is the entire creative economy.

Film, television, music, publishing, fashion, modeling, photography, design and digital content all revolve around creativity and intellectual property.

Our goal is to connect that ecosystem, protect the IP within it, enable secure collaboration and give creative professionals better tools and intelligence to build value around their work.

FILM



Lone Survivor
Executive Producer: Sir Steven Saxton



The Kids Are All Right
Executive Producer: Sir Steven Saxton

TELEVISION



Dexter
Showtime



Breaking Bad
AMC

“Creative IP is the asset. Protecting it, connecting it and building value around it is the opportunity.”

SIR STEVEN SAXTON
FOUNDER & CEO
HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS™

PROTECT IT. CONNECT IT. BUILD AROUND IT FOR THE AI ERA.

CEO CLUBS: WHERE DO AI AND DATA-DRIVEN INSIGHTS FIT INTO WHAT YOU'RE BUILDING?

Sir Steven: AI should enhance human judgment, not replace it.

We've developed CRG Intel™ — Coverage, Relativity and Greenlight — combining creative analysis with AI-enhanced, data-driven insights designed to help guide creative, financial and market decisions around projects.

The creative remains human. Taste, instinct, experience and relationships still matter enormously. Technology can add better information and another level of intelligence around those decisions.

We also have additional features being built now that we believe can take this intelligence to an entirely new level.

CEO CLUBS: WHAT'S HAPPENING BEHIND THE SCENES AS YOU PREPARE TO LAUNCH?

Sir Steven: We have a very talented core team, along with university interns contributing across different areas and helping us through the beta process.

Right now we're testing, listening and learning. We're getting real feedback from users, refining the experience and continuing to build.

You can have a big vision, but ultimately you have to solve real problems for the people using the platform. That's what the beta process is about.



Mia Wasikowska, **Sir Steven Saxton**, Founder & CEO, and **Katherine Saxton**, Co-Founder & UX Director, Hollywood Studios™.

HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS CAFÉ™

CEO CLUBS: FINALLY, WE HEAR THERE MAY EVEN BE A HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS CAFÉ™ IN THE WORKS?

Sir Steven: Well, that rumor is apparently coming from inside your own organization. Tariq Nazimi, founder of CEO Clubs, is our partner Co-Founder and President of the Hollywood Studios Café™ venture.

We're exploring a very small number of high-end Hollywood Studios Café™ locations, combining creativity, technology and hospitality, with some interesting robotics and high-tech concepts being considered. Dubai, Shenzhen and potentially Hong Kong are among the locations we're exploring. It's still in development, so we'll see where it goes.



Who Framed Roger Rabbit
Film



Good Morning, Vietnam
Film



Entourage
Television



Californication
Television

50
FILMS

\$1.6B+
GLOBAL BOX OFFICE

100+
TELEVISION SHOWS

HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS™

Protecting creative IP. Connecting the creative economy. Secure collaboration, secure AI and AI-enhanced, data-driven intelligence.

[HOLLYWOODSTUDIOS.AI](https://www.hollywoodstudios.ai)



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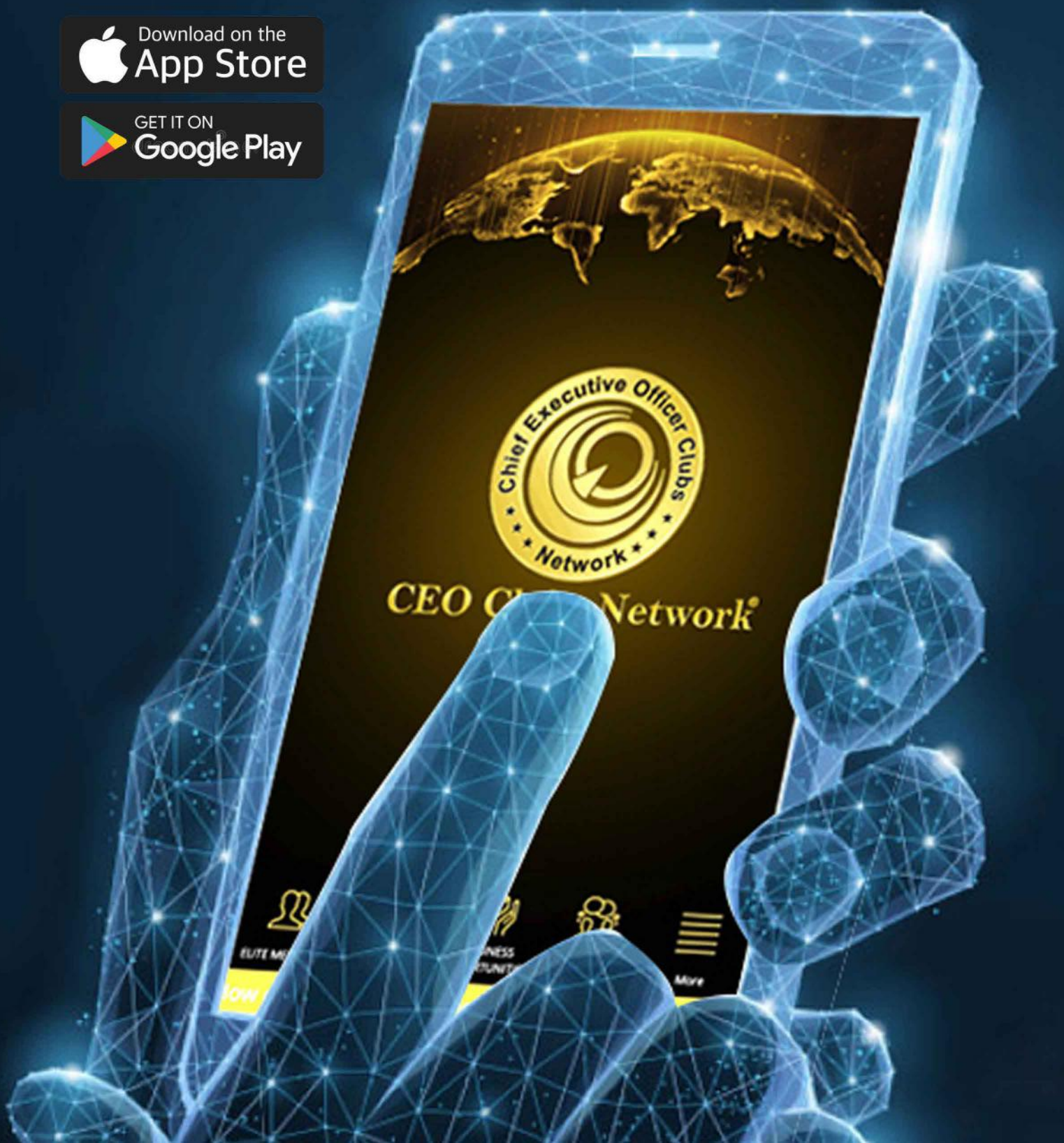
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America 250
Awards

August 2026
Washington, D.C., USA



DR. BRUNO MAZALI

WHAT WILL WE LEAVE BEHIND? LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT, AND AMERICA AT 250

On August 9, 2026, the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., became the setting for an evening devoted not simply to achievement, but to the idea of legacy itself. The America 250 Legacy Awards & Celebration, presented by CEO Clubs Network, brought together award recipients, embassy representatives, business leaders, executives, and distinguished guests from around the world at a particularly symbolic moment: the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Awards are traditionally designed to recognize what has already been accomplished. Anniversaries, by contrast, invite us to look backward only long enough to ask what should come next. When the two converge during America's semiquincentennial, the word legacy takes on greater meaning. What makes a life, an institution, or even a nation consequential? Is legacy measured by titles, honors, and recognition or by the doors we open, the relationships we build, and the opportunities we create for people who may never appear beside us in the photographs?

That question felt especially relevant as Dr. Bruno Mazali, French Quarter Magazine's Washington, D.C. Correspondent, was honored with the America 250 Legacy Award. For the FQM family, his recognition was naturally a source of pride.

Yet the more compelling story lies beyond the award itself. Mazali's work, spanning entrepreneurship, humanitarian initiatives, community engagement, and international relationship-building, offers a lens through which to consider a larger question at this defining moment in American history: what kind of leadership deserves to become a legacy?

"I am deeply blessed and honored to receive the America 250 Legacy Award from the CEO Clubs Network," Mazali told me following the recognition. His first instinct was not to speak about himself, but to acknowledge those responsible for the honor. "I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sarah Dong (the wife of the CEO) and the entire CEO Clubs Network team for selecting me for this memorable honor. I am truly grateful for your recognition and support."

That sense of gratitude matters, because awards can easily become exercises in self-congratulation. The more compelling interpretation is to regard recognition as a moment of accountability. If someone is publicly described as a leader, what should leadership actually require of that person afterward? Mazali has spent more than two decades developing relationships across business, government, nonprofit organizations and international communities in the Washington region and beyond.

CEO Clubs Network, in announcing his recognition, described him as a community leader, entrepreneur, global advocate and Ambassador of Peace whose work has focused on entrepreneurship, humanitarian service and community development. Through MazaliNet Global Connections, he has continued to emphasize entrepreneurship, international cooperation, sustainable development, leadership and mentorship. Yet the vocabulary surrounding international leadership can sometimes become deceptively impressive.

We hear constantly about global impact, strategic partnerships, international cooperation, networking and sustainable development. They are useful expressions, but they are also abstractions. The more important journalistic question is much simpler: what changed for another human being because of the work?

Mazali points to the COVID-19 pandemic as one answer. At a moment when businesses were closing and entrepreneurs around the world were confronting extraordinary uncertainty, he helped launch more than 2,000 online businesses, according to the citation accompanying his award.

The statistic is impressive, but its significance lies beyond the number. For a small-business owner suddenly deprived of customers, moving online was not necessarily a fashionable embrace of digital innovation. It could mean preserving an income, supporting employees or keeping alive something a family had spent years building.

Mazali also supported public-health efforts in Montgomery County through mask distribution and COVID-19 testing initiatives. That work appears very different from international business development, but perhaps it illustrates something important about leadership: its value is revealed not only in prestigious rooms, but in moments when a community simply needs people willing to help.

“This award recognizes my efforts and work around the world to create opportunities, promote humanitarian initiatives, strengthen collaboration between nations, and support meaningful partnerships connected with the United Nations and the global community,” Mazali said. The sentence contains a word that appears repeatedly when he describes his work: opportunity.

It is an interesting measure of leadership because opportunity is difficult to display. Buildings can carry names. Awards can sit on shelves. Titles fit neatly beneath photographs. Opportunity is less visible. It may take the form of an introduction between two people, assistance given to an entrepreneur, a partnership created between organizations or a young person encountering someone willing to open a door. Perhaps that is precisely why it matters.

Washington, D.C., is one of the world's great capitals of connection. Within a relatively small geographical area sit the White House and Congress, embassies representing countries from across the globe, international financial institutions, universities, think tanks, nonprofits, corporations, cultural organizations and advocacy groups.



The city possesses an extraordinary density of people with access to influence.

But proximity is not the same thing as collaboration.

Thousands of influential people can occupy the same city without ever meaningfully encountering one another. Diplomats can attend receptions together without creating diplomacy. Executives can exchange business cards without creating commerce. Organizations can speak endlessly about partnership without ever building one.

The difficult work begins after the introduction. That is one reason the philosophy of CEO Clubs Network is relevant to Mazali's recognition. Founded by Dr. Tariq Ahmed Nizami, the organization has developed an international network intended to connect C-level executives and leaders across private and government sectors. With a presence in the United States, the United Arab Emirates and China and relationships extending across more than 50 countries, its stated objectives include building communities, sharing knowledge and facilitating business, trade, investment and collaboration. "The CEO Clubs Network continues to build bridges and connect leaders around the world," Mazali observed.



Building bridges is another expression frequently used in international circles, and one that resonates strongly with the mission of French Quarter Magazine. But bridges are valuable only when people actually cross them.

That distinction is worth making as America celebrates its 250th anniversary. The United States has always existed within an international story. The country's independence itself cannot be separated from foreign alliances, most notably the decisive French alliance during the American Revolution. Successive generations of immigrants, entrepreneurs, scientists, artists, diplomats and thinkers from around the world have contributed to the country that America became.

Two hundred and fifty years later, interdependence has become even more pronounced. Capital, technology, ideas, culture and information move across borders with extraordinary speed.

So do crises. Pandemics do not stop at customs checkpoints. Neither do climate challenges, economic disruptions or humanitarian emergencies.

Leadership in such a world cannot consist simply of accumulating access. Access is not impact.

Knowing influential people is not the same as accomplishing influential things. A photograph with an ambassador does not constitute diplomacy. Attending an international conference does not automatically produce international cooperation.

A large network is not necessarily a meaningful one. The real test is what moves through that network. Knowledge? Investment? Opportunity? Mentorship? Humanitarian assistance? Cultural understanding? Trust? Or simply names?

Mazali's own language suggests that he understands this distinction. "Together, we can create opportunities, build bridges, serve humanity, and make a positive impact around the world," he said after receiving the award. The word together may be the most important one in that sentence. Modern culture often presents leadership as an individual performance. We celebrate founders, presidents, CEOs, innovators and public figures. Their names become shorthand for achievements that were almost always collective. Yet the most consequential challenges facing societies today are too complicated for individual heroism. They require institutions, governments, businesses, communities and people from different cultures to cooperate.

The history commemorated by America's 250th anniversary itself demonstrates this. Nations are not built by one generation, one profession or one kind of person. They are cumulative projects. Each generation inherits institutions and ideas it did not create, alters them and passes something onward. Which returns us to the uncomfortable word at the center of the award: legacy. What is it? Legacy is often confused with reputation. The two are not the same. Reputation is what people say about us. Legacy is what continues because we were here.

The distinction changes the questions we should ask of people who are recognized as leaders. Instead of asking how many important people they know, perhaps we should ask how many people they helped become important in their own right.

Instead of asking how many events they attended, we might ask what emerged from those encounters. Instead of measuring influence by access to powerful rooms, perhaps we should examine whether that access was ever used to open the door for someone else.

For Mazali, mentorship is part of that equation. His work through MazaliNet includes supporting emerging entrepreneurs and future leaders.

That may prove more consequential over time than any individual transaction or ceremony because mentorship contains a multiplier effect. Help one person become capable of helping ten others, and influence begins to travel beyond its original source.

There is also something particularly appropriate about examining these questions from Washington during America's semiquincentennial. The capital is filled with monuments to legacy. Presidents are carved into stone. Wars are remembered in granite. Names cover buildings, museums and institutions. The physical city continually reminds visitors of individuals and events deemed worthy of remembrance.

Yet many of the people who shaped America's history have no monument. They taught children. Built businesses. Raised families. Created inventions. Served communities. Arrived from other countries. Volunteered. Introduced people. Helped neighbors. Offered someone a first opportunity. History tends to remember the visible.

Societies depend equally upon the invisible. Perhaps the most useful way to understand an award for leadership, therefore, is not as the conclusion of a story but as an interruption in it; a moment when the recipient is briefly asked to look backward before returning to the work ahead. Mazali himself seems to view the honor in those terms. “Thank you, CEO Clubs Network, for this extraordinary recognition,” he said. “I am sincerely grateful, humbled, and honored to be part of this remarkable global community.”

For French Quarter Magazine, his recognition carries another dimension. Bruno represents FQM in Washington at a moment when our editorial work increasingly examines the territory where culture, diplomacy, heritage and human relationships intersect. Those subjects may appear distinct, but ultimately they revolve around the same fundamental question: how do people who come from different histories learn to understand one another well enough to create something together?

Cultural diplomacy does not always take place across negotiating tables. Sometimes it begins with a conversation at an exhibition, an embassy reception, a university, a cultural celebration or a dinner where two people discover an unexpected common interest.

Business diplomacy can begin in much the same way. So can humanitarian cooperation.

But we should resist romanticizing connection for its own sake. A bridge that leads nowhere is merely architecture.

The measure of any network, whether diplomatic, cultural, humanitarian or commercial, is ultimately what becomes possible because it exists.





That is why the America 250 moment offers an opportunity not simply to honor leaders but to question leadership itself.

His words after receiving the award were simple: “Together, we can create opportunities, build bridges, serve humanity, and make a positive impact around the world.” Perhaps that is where the real story of this recognition begins. An award records a moment. A photograph preserves it.

A biography eventually lists it among other accomplishments. But none of those things, by themselves, constitute a legacy.

The better question for Bruno, for every leader honored during America's 250th anniversary, and perhaps for all of us is far more demanding: What became possible for someone else because we were here?

If we can answer that question, perhaps we begin to understand what legacy actually means.

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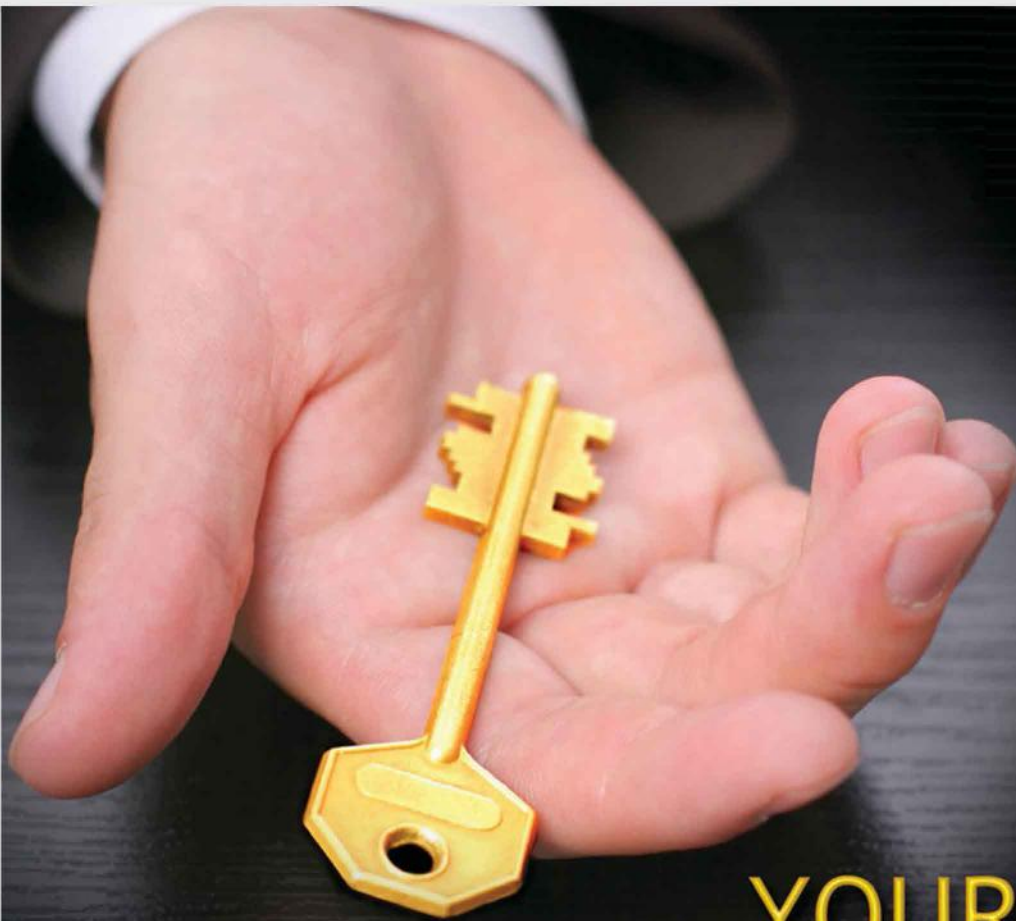
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