



# Hisham Farouk

## CEO

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Hisham has been leading Grant Thornton offices in the UAE for over a decade. Through his dynamic leadership along with a strong focus on innovation, he has been instrumental in transforming the company as the 5th largest professional services firm in the UAE.

Under his management, GT UAE has witnessed 7x growth over the last decade as the company expanded its offering and diversified its clientele.

Hisham has also completed a two-term period as the Member of the Board of Governors in Grant Thornton International, served on its Enterprise Risk and Technology & Innovation Advisory Committee.

### Client Focus

Considered as one of the **Top 3 leaders** in accounting profession within MENA, Hisham has been a key member across Grant Thornton's presence in the region. Hisham is well-known for successfully leading high-profile advisory engagements for some of the largest international conglomerates and local groups.

### Family-Office Specialist

Hisham is one of the sought-after **advisors** for family business offices in the region. He has advised numerous **regional conglomerates** on their succession planning, governance and growth & expansion strategy (including IPO / public listing), for a transformational journey ahead. His work with family-owned business groups has been a critical contribution towards UAE's economic transformation.

The Middle East is an exciting and relevant market right now. The UAE has created an ambitious and energetic generation of young innovators who will help shape the future.

### Expert Witness

Hisham has supported many organizations in **dispute resolution**. He has acted as an expert witness for a number of sizable arbitration cases and across various industries.

### Regulatory Knowledge

Having worked with UAE government entities and regulatory authorities over the last decades, Hisham is known for his expert knowledge and has advised many firms and financial institutions around **regulatory and compliance matters** in the region.

### Sector Expertise

- Financial Services
- Hospitality
- Real-estate & Construction
- Aviation
- Technology
- Education
- FMCG
- SMEs and Family Offices

### Strategic Advisor and Mentor

Being an **Advisory Board Member and Mentor** at some of the path breaking firms, Hisham has played a key role in shaping future talent in the region and actively supports **innovation and entrepreneurship**.

He is also an advocate of gender diversity as well as development & **empowerment of female leaders**, and has served as Board member at entities such as REACH and 30% Club, sharing same vision.

### Education

- Harvard Business School Alumni
- Leadership Program, University of Oxford
- Executive Leadership Program, INSEAD
- MBA in Finance, The American University in London
- Bachelors in Sociology, The American University of Cairo

### Licenses

- Registered Auditor, UAE Ministry of Economy
- Registered with the Ministry of Justice
- Licensed Insolvency Practitioner with the DIFC
- Certified Non-Executive Director, Financial Times

### Memberships

- Member of the Corporate Finance Faculty, ICAEW
- Member of Young Presidents Organization (YPO), Dubai Downtown Chapter
- Board Member of Harvard Business School (HBS) Club of the GCC
- Advisory Board Member of Kitopi, Lamsa, RSA Logistics, Fintech Galaxy, Geniu7 and Three Wheels United
- Advisory Board Member of 30% Club, GCC chapter
- Board Member of REACH
- Mentor at Endeavor and TechStars

### Thought Leader

Recognized for his vast knowledge, international experience and his value for education, Hisham has evolved as one of the renowned thought leaders in the region.

- He has been an **active speaker** as well as **published articles** on critical topics such as ESG, Digitization and COVID-19 amongst others, across various media platforms.
- Part of **panel of judges** for various business events, including the recent Middle East International Business Awards.
- As a **keynote speaker**, he has delivered numerous presentations at global institutes such as London Business School, Imperial College, Pepperdine University, and UCLA.
- He has **trained and coached** senior executives in some of the world's leading organizations.