



## Hisham Farouk

CEO

✉ hisham.farouk@ae.gt.com

☎ +971- 50 656 5120

🌐 [Connect on LinkedIn](#)

### Grant Thornton

Hisham is the CEO of Grant Thornton UAE who has successfully led the firm's offices in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah for over 9 years. With a focus on innovation as well as with exemplary leadership, he has played a key role in transforming the firm into one of the fastest growing companies in the UAE.

Hisham has completed a 2-term period as the Member of the Board of Governors in Grant Thornton International, and served on its enterprise risk, technology and Innovation advisory committee.

### Client Focus

Across the region, Hisham is well-known for leading high-profile advisory engagements for some of the largest international conglomerates and local groups, mainly across the financial, hospitality, real estate, construction, aviation, FMCG, SMEs, and family business sectors. He is recognised as one of the top 3 leaders in the accounting profession within the MENA region, making him a key member across Grant Thornton's presence in the Middle east.

### Expert Witness

Hisham has supported many organisations in dispute resolution. He has acted as an expert witness on a number of sizable arbitration cases and across various industries - in particular hospitality, real estate, construction, aviation and FMCG.

### Keynote Speaker

Hisham values education, and as a keynote speaker, has delivered a number of presentations globally to institutes such as **London Business School, Imperial College, Pepperdine University, and UCLA**. Additionally, he trains and educates senior executives in some of the largest organisations worldwide.



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.

### Board Membership

Hisham sits on a number of boards that support innovation, entrepreneurship, and female empowerment.

#### • TechStars

An organisation that provides funding and direction to support and grow start-up firms and talent.

Hisham has a keen interest in technology and innovation, and actively supports the SME, start-up and entrepreneurial community of the region. Hisham coaches young leaders of tomorrow through his role as a mentor as well as his involvement in **TechStars**. His lectures on tech and education makes him a key player in shaping the future talent of the Middle East.

#### • Endeavor

Endeavor leads the high-impact entrepreneurship movement around the world.

As part of his continuous support to the entrepreneurial community and to help support the economic growth of the region, Hisham also sits on the board of **Endeavor UAE**.

#### • Reach

A non-profit organisation that aims to support and develop the skills of female professionals.

Hisham believes in and is an advocate of the importance of gender diversity as well as developing and empowering female leaders, particularly in the Middle East. For this purpose, he sits on various boards of entities sharing the same vision, such as **Reach**, and the advisory board of the GCC chapter of the **30% Club**.

#### • 30% Club

A campaign group of Chairs and CEOs taking action to increase gender diversity on boards and senior management teams.

### Education

- Harvard Business School Alumni
- University of **Oxford**: Said Business School Leadership Programme
- Executive Education: **INSEAD**
- Certified Non-executive Director: **Financial Times Programme**
- MBA in Finance: The American Intercontinental University in London
- The American University of Cairo

### Certificates

- Registered Auditor, UAE Ministry of Economy
- Registered with the Ministry of Justice
- Licensed Insolvency Practitioner with the DIFC

### Memberships

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

### Recent Appearances

- **TiE Dubai:** [Future Series Webcast – What is the Future of work?](#)
- **Gulf Business:** [Hisham Farouk speaks on Grant Thornton UAE's response to the pandemic](#)
- **Al Bayan:** [For the SMEs outside of the banks' radar](#)
- **EntrepreneurME:** [How startups and SMEs can navigate the COVID-19 crisis](#)
- **Tharawat Business Forum:** [Four Strategies to Mitigate the Disruption of COVID-19](#)
- **Legal Circle Webinar:** [Hisham Farouk on operational, debt restructuring & strategy considerations for your business](#)
- **Gulf News:** [COVID-19: Job cuts will add to UAE companies' costs](#)
- **Khaleej Times:** [Dubai bank relief to avert defaults](#)