

Waleed AlBanawi has over 25 years experience as Vice Chairman, Director and C-suite Executive of a diversified manufacturing corporation in Saudi and Middle East/North Africa region. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing the operations of the entire group in addition to various senior corporate functions.

He is now an entrepreneur and Venture Capitalist in the online marketplaces, Ed Tech, new media, F&B, healthcare, fintech, and consumer goods sectors.

Waleed also served as Regional Chairman of YPO Middle East/ North Africa. He is a Board member of numerous organizations and non-profits, including Education for Employment Foundation, Ashoka Arab World, Founding Board member, INJAZ Saudi, International Institute for Strategic Studies, member of the advisory council (MENA) for the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. His participation in these organizations influenced him to become a vocal advocate of education development to address the workforce skill set gap in the Arab world. He's a Founding Board member of two leading digital start-ups, Reserveout and Waitrr, and an Entrepreneur-in- Residence at INSEAD Business School.

Waleed is a Graduate of Rice University in Houston, Texas (Managerial Studies & Political Science), and an alumnus of the world's leading Business School INSEAD, (AMP, and IDP) and currently enrolled in a Master's Programme in Leadership and Strategy at IE Business School (Madrid).