THE BRITISH OMANI SOCIETY
الجمعية البريطانية العمانية

New Generation Group
Delegation 2024

Future
Skills

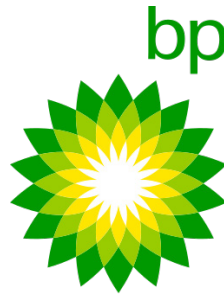" AI's Role in Shaping the Future Workforce and Education. "

Welcome to the 2024 Delegation

The British Omani Society's New Generation Group is thrilled to host this year's delegation on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of education and workforce development. As AI continues to revolutionise every industry, we aim to equip our delegates with valuable insights and world-class expertise to prepare them for the evolving professional landscape.

We welcome our delegates to London, where they'll gain exposure to the UK's pioneering approaches in education technology, workforce training, and industry innovation. Through workshops, discussions, and networking sessions, we are here to explore how these advancements can be applied to Oman's future.

Together, let's shape the future of education and the workforce.

Sponsors & Partners

bp

Platinum Sponsor:

THE BRITISH OMANI SOCIETY
الجمعية البريطانية العمانية

شركة تنمية نفط عُمان
Petroleum Development Oman

الوطنية للتمويل
national finance

Gold Sponsors

البنك الوطني العماني
NBO

Sliver Sponsor

عمانتل
Omantel

Tech Partner

The British Omani Society's New Generation Group extends its deepest gratitude to our valued sponsors and partners. Your support is instrumental in advancing our mission to equip Omani youth with the skills and insights necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing, AI-driven world.

Your generous contributions enable us to provide a platform for innovation, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing between the United Kingdom and Oman.

A special thank you to all sponsors and partners for your commitment to fostering education, workforce development, and digital transformation. Your dedication to this vision enables us to bring together experts, leaders, and emerging talents from both our nations to drive sustainable growth and prepare for future challenges.

Together, we are shaping a brighter future, paving the way for knowledge, innovation, and international cooperation. Thank you for being a vital part of this journey.

Empowering Innovation and Growth Together

Schedule

Location: The British Omani Society, 34 Sackville Street, W1S 3ED

07 November
Sessions Day 1

08:45 - Arrival and reception of delegates

09:00 - **Welcoming Address**
Speaker: Sheikh Ma'an Hamed Al Rawahi, NGG Chairman

09:30 - **Address to Delegates: Oman-UK Relations**
Speaker: Faris Jamal Khodr, Counsellor to Embassy of Sultanate of Oman in the UK

10:00 - **Session 1: Introducing AI and its Applications in Education and Career Development**
Speaker: Prof. Miles Berry, Professor of Computing Education at the University of Roehampton

11:30 – **Session 2: Future Impact of AI on School Level Learning**
Speaker: Chris Tudor, Founder and CEO, MASSOLIT Online Education

13:00 – Lunch Break

14:00 – **Session 3: What Social, Political and Economic Impacts will AI have on the Workforce and How Can They Use AI to Learn and Adapt?**
Speaker: Dr. Edward O'Garro-Priddie, Associate, Faculty.AI

15:30 – **Session 4: Panel Discussion: How AI will be Deployed Across Industry to Support On-The-Job, Lifelong Professional Development?**
Panelists: Tom Horner Innovation Lead at Plexal, Toby Barnard MD Public Sector at QA and Dr. Matthew Forshaw Senior Advisor for Skills to The Alan Turing Institute and Newcastle University

08 November
Sessions Day 2

08:45 - Arrival and reception of delegates

09:00 – **Session 5: Will AI Change the Format, Delivery and Relevance of University Degrees?**
Speakers: Prof. David Webster, Professor of Philosophy & Pedagogy and Director of Education, Quality and Enhancement at the University of Liverpool

10:00 – **Session 6: Webinar – Capturing the Future vs AI Idiots**
Speaker: Danny Bielik, President, Digital Education Council and Advisor in EdTech, Higher Education and Vocational Education

10:30 – **Session 7: BP's Session - Platinum Sponsor**
Speaker: Tamara Khan, Vice President of Planning and Performance Management, bp

11:30 – Coffee Break

12:00 – **Session 8: Smart Cities of the Future and Workforce Development**
Speakers: Tom Horner Innovation Lead, Plexal and Ma'athar Al Nabhani , Architect and Urban Planner, Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning

13:30 – Lunch Break

14:30 – **Session 9: Lessons Learnt from Advising the Government and Industry**
Speaker: Melanie Garson, Tony Blair Institute

15:30 – Afternoon Tea

16:00 – **NGG Remarks: Lessons Learnt**

18:00 – Closing Reception

09 November
Cultural Day

10:30 – 15:00 Morning Coffee at Hyde Park, Visit to Frameless Art Exhibition, Farewell Lunch

Sessions' Summaries

Session 1: Introducing AI and its Applications in Education and Career Development

Speaker: Prof. Miles Berry

Overview:

- Introduction to AI in British education: AI's impact on learning, teaching, and assessment.
- Case studies of AI in schools and its integration into policies.
- Future directions for AI in education and career development.

Session 2: Future Impact of AI on School Level Learning

Speaker: Chris Tudor

Overview:

- AI in the UK and international education systems.
- Key applications and potential drawbacks.
- The future landscape of AI in school education.

Session 3: Social, Political, and Economic Impacts of AI on the Workforce

Speaker: Dr. Edward O'Garro-Priddie

Overview:

- Social impacts and workforce changes due to AI.
- Government policies and AI in public services.
- Adapting to a data-driven world through AI-driven strategies.

Session 4: Panel Discussion – How AI Will Be Deployed Across Industry to Support On-The-Job, Lifelong Professional Development

Panelists: Tom Horner, Toby Barnard, Dr. Matthew Forshaw,

Overview:

- Exploration of the UK's national data and AI skills landscape.
- Advances in professional development through AI-focused certification and accreditation.
- Industry and academia roles in delivering the skills required for future workforce challenges.

Session 5: Will AI Change the Format, Delivery, and Relevance of University Degrees?

Speaker: Prof. David Webster.

Overview:

- Generative AI's influence on traditional teaching methods and learning experiences.
- Evolving role of AI in redefining higher education and degree relevance.
- Insights into philosophy and knowledge frameworks in AI-driven academic environments.

Sessions' Summaries

Session 6: Webinar – Capturing the Future vs AI Idiots

Speaker: Danny Bielik.

Overview:

- Current AI usage trends in higher education and workforce implications.
- Governance approaches in universities to prepare for AI's role in education.
- Identification of skill gaps and the need for educational reform for an AI-ready future.

Session 7: bp's Session - Platinum Sponsor

Speaker: Tamara Khan.

Overview:

- Explore how AI is transforming education and workforce development globally, focusing on Oman.
- Emphasise the need for upskilling educators with foundational AI knowledge and training workshops.
- Outline essential skills students must cultivate for an AI-driven classroom, including flexibility and problem-solving.
- Examine how AI enhances learning through intelligent tutoring systems and learning analytics.
- Identify in-demand skills and discuss AI's role in providing pathways for bp professionals to thrive in a rapidly evolving workforce.

Session 8: Smart Cities of the Future and Workforce Development

Speakers: Tom Horner and Ma'athar Al Nabhani

Overview:

- UK-Oman Government Collaboration: Overview of the partnership aimed at enhancing skills and policies for a secure digital economy in Oman.
- Overview of the concept of smart cities and their significance for the future.
- Predictions for the evolution of smart cities and their workforce needs.
- Showcase the smart initiatives of Sultan Haitham City smart city project.

Session 9: Lessons Learnt from Advising Government and Industry

Speaker: Dr. Melanie Garson,

Overview:

- Challenges and strategies for government regulatory journeys in tech.
- Importance of compute infrastructure for bridging the digital divide.
- Global regulatory frameworks for inclusive and secure AI implementation.

Speakers and Panellists

Prof. Miles Berry
Professor of Computing Education, University of Roehampton

Miles Berry is a Professor of Computing Education at the University of Roehampton. With 18 years of experience in various educational roles, from secondary schools, including ICT coordinator and head teacher, he has contributed to key technology initiatives, including England's national curriculum computing programs. As a member of the University's AI working group, he has provided testimony to the House of Lords AI select committee and served as an expert advisor for the AI4K12 project. Additionally, he chairs the academic board of the National Centre for Computing Education and the BCS England computing curriculum committee, focusing on enhancing computing education and academic integrity policies.

Chris Tudor
Founder and CEO, MASSOLIT Online Education

Chris Tudor is the Founder and CEO of MASSOLIT Online Education, founded in 2011. MASSOLIT collaborates with university academics to create engaging video resources for secondary schools in the UK and overseas. It is currently used by more than 1,000 schools worldwide. This year, MASSOLIT proudly launched its first set of GenAI teaching and learning tools. Before founding MASSOLIT, Chris honed his expertise as a strategy consultant at OC&C Strategy Consultants, specialising in the education sector. His clients included a non-profit educational foundation, a major global publisher, and the UK Department for Education (DfE). In addition to his consultancy work, Chris is a published author, further demonstrating his commitment to education and innovation.

Dr. Edward O'Garro-Priddie
Associate, Faculty AI

Dr. Edward O'Garro-Priddie is an Associate at Faculty.ai, specialising in AI development and deployment for government and public sector clients. He leads interdisciplinary teams to deliver cutting-edge solutions for numerous public and private sector clients including the Department for Education, Ministry of Justice, Rail Standards and Safety Board and Clarivate. His expertise encompasses the integration of Generative AI in education and safety-critical sectors, the creation of AI-powered dashboards, and the development of strategic operating models. Edward holds a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Sussex and has a strong foundation in data science and AI strategy.

Tom Horner
Innovation Lead, Plexal

Tom Horner is an Innovation Lead at Plexal, a UK technology and innovation consultancy focused on addressing governmental and societal challenges through collaboration with startups and industry. He works on projects dealing with the application of emerging technology to societal challenges. Currently, Tom leads a UK-Oman government collaboration aimed at identifying best practices and approaches for building skills and policies that support the growth of a secure digital economy in Oman. The programme aims to benefit not only the cyber security workforce in the Sultanate but also strategic projects such as its open banking movement and the flagship Sultan Haitham City smart city.

Speakers and Panellists

Toby Barnard
Managing Director, QA

Toby Barnard is a leader in digital transformation and IT strategy, currently serving as Managing Director at QA Ltd., where he drives innovation for government, defence, and financial sectors. With a background as a Royal Navy Commando, he gained expertise in training management and defence technology, leading impactful projects. At IBM, he developed talent strategies integrating AI and data analytics, while at EY, he expanded the Digital HR practice for government and defence clients. Toby's early career was as a commissioned Officer and Royal Navy Commando, where he developed deep expertise in training management and defence technology. He led high-impact projects spanning surface and sub-surface capabilities, synthetic training, and operational technology deployment. Toby holds a BEng in Aerospace Engineering and a Master's in Training Management, along with Chartered MCIPD status. He is a recognised thought leader, contributing to publications and speaking at industry conferences.

Dr. Matthew Forshaw
Senior Advisor for Skills, at The Alan Turing Institute and Reader in Data Science at the University of Newcastle

Dr. Matthew Forshaw is Senior Advisor for Skills at The Alan Turing Institute and a Reader in Data Science at Newcastle University. He collaborates with the UK Government on the National Data Strategy's skills pillar and is a member of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's College of Experts. He leads the development of the AI Skills for Business competency framework with Innovate UK BridgeAI. His work with the Alliance of Data Science Professionals is shaping public policy and setting ethical standards for data science accreditation. Dr. Forshaw is passionate about democratising access to data and AI skills training for all.

Maathar Al Nabbhani
Architect and Urban Planner, Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning

Maathar Al Nabhani is an Architect and Urban Planner at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (SHPMO). She graduated from the German University of Technology in Oman, where her passion for architecture and urban planning truly began. This journey sparked her fascination with the built environment and its impact on daily life. Three years ago, Maathar joined the Ministry, becoming part of the team that initiated the development of Sultan Haitham City from the very beginning. She had the remarkable opportunity to present the overall framework of this project to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarqi, marking a pivotal moment in her professional journey. Maathar is passionate about creating spaces that enhance the quality of life for those who inhabit them. Her goal is to design buildings, public squares, neighborhoods, and entire cities that are not only functional but also inspiring, fostering comfort and joy for all who use them.

Prof. David Webster
Professor of Philosophy & Pedagogy, University of Liverpool

David Webster is a British philosopher and educator, currently serving as Director of Education, Quality, and Enhancement at the University of Liverpool. He has previously held academic roles at SOAS, University of London, and the University of Gloucestershire. Webster specialises in pedagogy, with a recent focus on the role of Generative Artificial Intelligence in education, making him a sought-after speaker. An expert in Buddhist philosophy, particularly early Buddhist texts, his academic work also explores the nature of belief, and it's formation, providing valuable insights that inform innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

Danny Bielik
President, Digital Education Council

Danny Bielik is the President of the Digital Education Council and is passionate about access to high-quality education and the positive impact that technology can have to achieve this. His work currently involves assisting universities and governments to understand Governance approaches to AI in higher education. Danny has over 25 years of experience in leadership positions in higher education and TVET organisations. He has extensive experience in strategy development, governance and partnerships in higher education having run three tertiary organisations, as a director at peak bodies and serving as Ministerial Adviser in Education to the NSW Government in Australia. Danny advocates for higher education institutions to embrace datafication to foster stronger, value-driven relationships with industry.

Dr. Melanie Garson
Cyber Policy and Tech Geopolitics Lead, Tony Blair Institute

Dr Melanie Garson is the Cyber Policy and Tech Geopolitics Lead at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. Her work focuses on cyber resilience policy, the geopolitics of the internet, space, AI, and computing, the rise of tech companies as geopolitical actors, data governance and the intersection of disruptive tech, foreign policy, defence and diplomacy. She is also an Associate Professor in International Conflict Resolution & International Security in the Department of Political Science at University College London. She teaches her flagship course "From Cyberwarfare to Robots" examining the impact of new and emerging technologies on the future of defence and security. She also teaches courses on international negotiation and tech diplomacy. Melanie is an accredited mediator and prior to joining UCL worked as a solicitor in the International Disputes department of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, covering Public International Law, International Arbitration, and International Corporate Investigations, as well as teaching mediation and negotiation techniques. Melanie presents regularly at international conferences globally on the implications of cyber, AI and emerging technologies on geopolitics and foreign policy, as well as provides commentary in podcasts, webinars and at major media outlets including Bloomberg, BBC, Sky, CNBC, CNN, Fox News, France 24, and DeutscheWelle.

Tamara Khan
Vice President Planning and Performance Management, bp

Tamara Khan is an experienced Finance leader with over 25 years in the energy industry, primarily with bp. She has built expertise across a range of financial functions, including commercial operations and planning and performance management. In her current role as Vice President of Planning & Performance Management (PPM), based in SJS London, Tamara leads a team of Planning and Performance Management professionals in the UK and US, responsible for the financial consolidation of bp's Oil, Gas and Customer & Products business groups. She focuses on simplifying processes and improving effectiveness, helping bp navigate a challenging and competitive environment. Before joining the central PPM team, Tamara was part of bp's MENA leadership team as Vice President Finance Oman, UAE, Iraq and Kuwait, where she contributed to advancing the Integrated Energy Hub agenda. Her career began in bp's finance team based in Trinidad, supporting the company's gas growth business which led to an assignment in the North Sea operations as a Business Manager for Operated by Others and Operated assets. Alongside her professional work, Tamara has been an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, serving as the Middle East Champion for DEI. She also led as President of the Affiliates group for the charity Women in Action for the Needy and Destitute in Trinidad and Tobago.

Delegates

HH Sayyid Taimur Al Said
Second Secretary Diplomat, Embassy of Sultanate of Oman in the UK, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Taimur Al Said works as a Second Secretary and a diplomat at the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in London, a role he has held since August 2024. At just 26 years old, he brings a strong academic foundation with both a BA and an MA in International Relations from the University of Westminster in London. Taimur's work is currently centered on strengthening and fostering bilateral relations between Oman and the United Kingdom, focusing on enhancing cooperation across various sectors. His commitment to advancing diplomatic ties reflects a deep understanding of the complexities of international relations, as well as a passion for promoting Oman's interests on a global stage. Through his work, Taimur aims to further bridge the historic and strategic partnership between the two nations.

Sayyid Al-Uzd Al Busaidi
Specialist in Studies and Research , Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth

Al-Uzd is a dedicated professional specialising in studies and research within the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, Oman. With an Bachelor's of Engineering in Process Operations Technology, he has developed a robust understanding of technical and operational aspects critical to his roles. Over the years, he has contributed to Oman's growth through positions in investment promotion, SME development, and partnerships & collaborations, including roles in the Youth Center and Ithraa. Known for his teamwork, adaptability, and commitment to progress, Al-Uzd is passionate about leveraging his skills to support Oman's cultural and economic development initiatives.

Shuaib Al Rawahi
Project Technical Coordinator, Sultan Haitham City PMO, Ministry of Housing & Urban Planning

Shuaib Al Rawahi previously worked in the Royal Estates and recently moved to the Sultan Haitham City PMO. He is the Project Technical Coordinator for the Sultan Haitham City Project, with a background in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cardiff University and a Master's degree in Project Management, Finance, and Risk from City University of London. In his current role, he excels in project supervision, stakeholder coordination, and technical reporting related to Oman's first Futuristic Smart City. Beyond his professional life, Shuaib is an active sports enthusiast, enjoying CrossFit and skiing, and has a passion for poetry and exploring different cultures through travel. He is known for his commitment to continuous learning and growth, exemplified by his leadership role as the Team Lead of the British-Omani Society New Generation Group.

Abdul Karim Al Hinai
Head of the Publishing and Periodic Reports Department, Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation

Abdul Karim Al Hinai began his professional career as a graphic designer at the Research Council in 2013. He became responsible for all promotional interfaces and visual identity of the Research Council. He contributed to creating many visual identities for prestigious institutions such as the Innovation park muscat and the Makers Oman. In 2019, he worked as an acting Promotion and Brand Identity director for the Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation. He has a broad interest in marketing and communications .

Delegates

Samah Al Rawahi
Young Professional - Press and Information, World Trade Organisation

Samah Al Rawahi is a communications strategist and digital media specialist with a strong focus on global affairs and youth empowerment. She currently works at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva as a Young Professional in the Information and External Relations Division, part of the Press and Information Team, having been selected for the prestigious 2024 WTO Young Professionals Programme. Previously, Samah was the External Communications and Brand Lead for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), the country's national oil and gas company. She is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, a One Young World Ambassador, and a New Generation Group member of the British-Omani Society. Samah holds a bachelor's degree in Media and Communications from Purdue University and a master's degree in Digital Social Media from the University of Southern California.

Sara Al Raisi
Social Investment Advisor, Shell Development Oman

Sara joined Oman Shell in 2016, with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Since then, she has had the opportunity to work in various roles within the company. Her last role was Executive Secretary to the SVP & Country Chairman. Since January 2024, Sara has been working as a Social Investment Advisor in the corporate relations department. In her current role, Sara manages social investment projects focused on delivering impactful and beneficial programs aligned with the country's National Vision 2040 and business objectives. In her free time, Sara enjoys watching documentaries, learning about other cultures through travel, and participating in outdoor activities such as hiking, caving, camping, horse riding, and swimming. She also loves spending time with her family.

Raghda Al Hinai
Assistant Manager - Sales & Marketing, LA VIE (Ominvest Group)

Raghda is a dedicated marketer and advertiser with a burning passion for creating impactful brand experiences. Armed with a degree in Marketing Communications and Advertising from Kingston University London, Raghda brings six years of experience to the table, having worked across diverse sectors including Event Management, Leadership, Investment, Golf, Tourism, F&B and Real Estate. Raghda currently oversees the Sales & Marketing for LA VIE, within the Ominvest group.

Yahya Al Salmi
Marketing, Sales & Business Development , ASYAD Shipping

Yahya Al Salmi is a dynamic professional known for his impact in marketing, sales, and business development within the logistics and supply chain sectors. Currently, at ASYAD Shipping, he strategically aligns marketing initiatives with corporate objectives, enhancing brand presence and operational synergy. His experience encompasses key roles, including Head of Sales & Business Development at TruKKer and senior positions in renowned companies like ASYAD Group and Kuehne + Nagel, where he excelled in contract negotiations, stakeholder management, and logistics coordination. Yahya's adaptability and strategic planning skills have driven his success in high-stakes environments, from coordinating military logistics to pioneering cold chain solutions. A Takatuf Scholar and CILT-certified professional, he is dedicated to advancing Oman's logistics landscape through innovation and skillful leadership.

Ahmed Al Kindi
WRFM Excellence Team Lead and Asset Management Process Lead, PDO

Ahmed Al Kindi is currently the well, reservoir, and facility excellence team leader at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). He holds a Master degree in physics from the University of Cambridge (UK), and executive MBA from WU (Austria). Ahmed has more than 12 years of professional experience in the energy sector with wide exposure to strategic business planning, energy transition, and corporate digital transformation. Recently, he has been active in PDO's digital transformation journey.

Omar Al Kharusi
Network and Security Manager, National Finance

Omar Al Kharusi has nine years of experience as an IT network and security engineer, and has built a strong foundation in optimising and securing IT infrastructures. Currently, he leads the network and security team, focusing on managing and protecting all IT devices. Recently, he spearheaded a complete overhaul of the company's IT infrastructure, boosting performance, reliability, and security. Omar is passionate about finding innovative solutions and fostering teamwork, all while staying vigilant against cyber threats. Outside of work, he enjoys exploring the outdoors through camping and traveling, which inspires him to embrace new challenges and experiences.

Ma'athir Al Saidi
Assistant Specialist, Business Solutions , Omantel

Ma'athir Al Saidi is an Assistant Specialist working as an Automation Developer in the Business Solutions Department at Omantel. She focuses on enhancing business processes using tools like Power Platform and RPA (Robotic Process Automation) to improve efficiency within the organisation. She began her career in process automation, where she gained experience in creating solutions that save time and reduce manual work. Ma'athir leads projects that streamline workflows and make them more efficient. Recently, she has been exploring the integration of Artificial Intelligence with RPA to automate complex tasks and enhance data analysis. Additionally, she develops Power BI dashboards to support decision-making across various projects. She is committed to continuous learning to stay updated on the latest trends in AI and automation.

Taha Al Saadi
Lecturer, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Sultan Qaboos University

Taha is an Assistant Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. His expertise spans control systems, instrumentation, and automation, with a strong focus on connecting academic research with industrial applications. His research interests include modelling and control in additive manufacturing and the use of AI in industry and healthcare. As the co-founder of 'Tathcar Alsaba' Printing Press, he also has entrepreneurial experience. He is passionate about driving innovation and equipping students with the skills to address real-world challenges by integrating advanced technology into education and industry.

Delegates

Laila Al Harthi
CEO and Co-Founder, Dawam Platform

Laila Al Harthi is the visionary CEO and Co-founder of Dawam, an AI-powered HR tech platform transforming the Omani and GCC workforce. A seasoned technology leader with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Laila brings extensive experience in project management and digital transformation. Her expertise spans diverse sectors, with a proven track record of successful project delivery and team building. Dawam, under her leadership, leverages AI to automate HR processes, provide data-driven insights, and connect Omani talent with opportunities. Recognised for her innovation, Laila is a prominent figure in Oman's tech scene, committed to empowering the nation's workforce and driving economic growth.

Talal Al Yafai
Assistant Specialist, Integration, Omantel

Talal Al Yafai is an Assistant Specialist working as a Software Developer in the Integration Department at Omantel. His responsibilities include developing and managing APIs and integrating systems. He began his career in cybersecurity, where he gained valuable experience in penetration testing and system security. Later, he transitioned to front-end development, creating interactive and user-friendly applications using various programming languages. Talal is actively involved in API management projects, ensuring seamless system integration and communication. Recently, he has ventured into Generative AI, Data Science, and Machine Learning, working on hands-on projects that solve real-world problems and expand his expertise. He is committed to continuous learning through online courses and certifications to stay ahead of industry trends.

Junayna Al Sheibani
Data Governance Analyst & Product Owner, The Guardian

Junayna Al Sheibani, is a seasoned tech professional with over six years of experience. Junayna earned her degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of Kent. She currently works in Business Data Analysis at the Guardian, and she previously excelled as a Revenue Analyst. She is a passionate public speaker who has delivered talks in the UK and Oman and captivated audiences on the transformative capabilities of AI. As an advocate for using AI to advance workforce development, she sits on the advisory board of the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development, where she advises on leveraging technology to empower women's education.

Adam Omar
Senior Product Manager, UK Government Digital Services

Adam Omar is a Senior Product Manager with over six years of experience delivering AI and data-driven products, particularly within the public sector. An economic graduate, from SOAS, University of London, he leads innovation at the UK Government's Digital Services, developing high-impact projects for Gov.UK which serves 11 million weekly visitors. Omar is also a participant in the British Omani Society's Arabic Language Scheme (2022). A co-founder of SIT, a social enterprise using tech for social change in East Africa & MENA diaspora. Adam has organised AI-focused events with partners like Microsoft & Google and is passionate about AI's role in transforming education and workforce development.

Delegates

Ammar Al Taie
PhD Student, Multimodal Interaction Group, School of Computer Science, Glasgow University

Ammar Al Taie is a PhD student at the University of Glasgow. His area of research is Autonomous Vehicle-Cyclist interaction. This often involves utilising unconventional technologies, such as new displays on the car's exterior. He is a "hands-on" researcher and most of his work is conducted in real-world settings using new technologies such as eye-tracking. In his free time, he enjoys running, cycling, reading graphic novels and playing Mario kart!

Joseph Hearn
LLM in Legal Practice, Stephenson Harwood

Joseph Hearn is studying an LLM in Legal Practice sponsored by Stephenson Harwood, an international law firm with who he has secured a future training contract. Joseph holds a history degree from Cambridge and an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from SOAS. He is also a recent participant in the BOS's Arabic Scheme in Oman and studied Arabic in Amman and Cairo. Joseph holds a long-standing interest in AI regulation, having co-founded Cambridge Tech and Society, a student-run organisation focused on technology policy, and volunteered with European Digital Rights. His experience includes interning on Track-II diplomatic efforts with a former legal adviser to Palestinian peace delegations, serving as a Balfour Project Peace Advocacy Fellow, and working with Human Rights at Sea.

Safa Irfan
Product Manager, ProjectSet

Safa Irfan is a seasoned product manager with a strong background in AI-driven solutions. At ProjectSet, she leads the development of a platform that enhances students' soft skills and bridging gaps in opportunities. Previously, as the founder of Fincta, she developed a cloud vision AI solution for start-ups and SMEs, securing funding and driving product success. Safa is passionate about using AI to transform education and unlock opportunities for learners.

Tom Kenny
Project Designer, Grenergy Renovables UK

Tom Kenny grew up in West Kirby, Northwest England, and attended Calday Grange Grammar School. During his gap year, he spent four months at the Sultan's School in Oman and five months in the French Alps. Inspired by renewable energy, Tom studied Chemical and Energy Engineering at the University of Leeds, graduating with a First Class BEng. He began his career as a technical advisor for a German heat pump manufacturer in Northwest England before moving to London in late 2022 as a project engineer for Innova Renewables. Currently, he is a project designer for Grenergy Renovables UK, where he develops grid-connected solar PV and battery energy storage projects.

Delegates

Dinan Alasad
AI and Data Science Consultant, Faculty AI

Dinan Alasad is an econometrician, writer and consultant with a background in research and global development. She obtained her BSc in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics from Royal Holloway. She later served as a research assistant to Dr. Thomas Stubbs who researched IMF Technical Assistance between Cambridge University and Royal Holloway. She supported and led the full-cycle delivery of AI and Data Science projects in both the private and public sectors at Faculty AI for the past two years. Prior to joining Faculty AI, she worked at the Overseas Development Institute, supporting the monitoring and evaluation of the World Bank's Sudan Family Support Program. As a writer, Dinan has been published in Logic Magazine (housed in Columbia University), GQ Middle East, Briarpatch and various other publications. She writes from the intersection of technology and global development with a particular focus on Sudan, where she was born and raised.

Lucy Armstrong
Full-Stack Developer, Code First Girls

Lucy Armstrong is a recent Durham University graduate with a First Class Honours in Arabic and French. Interested in Oman and the wider region, she participated in the society's Arabic Language Scheme in Manah during her time at university. Her experiences interning at an educational institute in Amman, Jordan, sparked an interest in the possible use of new technologies in educational settings. She is now launching her career in Full-Stack Development with Code First Girls, a social enterprise that empowers women through in tech through education.

Deena Shahrabani
Senior Product Manager, Trainline

Deena Shahrabani has 7+ years of experience across product, strategy and leadership roles in both Oman and the UK. She started her career at Phaze Ventures in Oman leading the first energy focused accelerator then moved to the UK to work for Amazon and helped launch the Alexa voice assistant product in Arabic. She's currently working for Trainline which is the leading rail travel app in Europe.

Deema Al Masoudi
Consultant, Bain

Deema Al Masoudi is currently studying for her MBA at London Business School. She's also worked for Bain as a Consultant based in the Dubai office. She has worked on a number of strategic projects across the Middle East.

Thank you

#NGG24Ai

London, UK | 7 - 9 Nov 24 | #NGG24Ai