



Aramco employees leading projects at the WEF's Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in San Francisco, from left to right, Mansour Ansari, Hakim Habib, and Khaled Salem.

Aramco transformation leaders team up with World Economic Forum on bold initiatives

Three Aramco employees tasked with shaping the future of the enterprise have teamed up with the World Economic Forum to push forward bold initiatives for the business world.

The three Aramco fellows at the WEF's Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution are working on governance issues and use cases for blockchain, artificial intelligence and drone technologies.

Hakim Habib, who has an analytics and information technology background, is part of a team that is assembling stakeholders across the value chain to establish new applications for blockchain and overcome challenges, as part of WEF's Digital Currency Governance Consortium.

He contributed to a WEF publications called Redesigning Trust: Blockchain Deployment Toolkit and Blockchain Is a Team Sport: Models for Consortia Governance.

His work has caught the eye of Saudi Arabia's energy minister, SABIC and others about how blockchain could be applied in the Middle East – with potential uses in business, trading, carbon tracking and offsetting, and renewables.

"I am very passionate about this project and feel it has a lot of potential," Hakim says.

Another Aramcon, Mansour AlAnsari, is on a team that has developed a toolkit for corporate boards to use when exploring the adoption or implementation of artificial intelligence capabilities in their organizations.

The team is now working on a similar toolkit for c-suite executives. It is also conducting another study on how and whether artificial intelligence could be utilized by human resources departments.

"This is a great program. It isn't training. You're expected to work and lead projects," says Mansour, who was the co-lead of Aramco's digital transformation strategy before his fellowship with the WEF and has degrees in computer science, computer engineering and finance.

Khaled Salem, an electrical engineer, was part of the first team at Aramco to use drones in operations – for inspection, aerial mapping, security surveillance and now methane detection.

He leads a drone project at the WEF to develop a framework to enable deployment of drones across various geographies, and another for using heavy lift drones to transport materials to offshore and onshore sites.

He says the WEF is a great place to bring different stakeholders together.

"At every workshop we hold we work to address the concerns of regulators and the needs of users," Khaled says.

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