



Ghassan Aouad

Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, Past President ...
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Working with a Visionary Leader

I feel fortunate to be working with a visionary and inspirational leader, Dr. Ali Bin Harmal Aldhaheri, Ph.D., Chairman of the Board of Directors. I express this because I genuinely appreciate the joy of working alongside such an inspiring leader.

It has been over two years since I joined [Abu Dhabi University](#) and I am grateful to work alongside Dr. Ali, who has achieved so much for the university he founded 21 years ago. His efforts have significantly impacted various areas, including international university rankings, professional accreditation, student recruitment, and a substantial increase in research publications and funding. The university is also gaining an international reputation and establishing a strong presence on the global stage.

I am learning a great deal from Dr. Ali's knowledge, experience, fairness, wisdom, vision, leadership, creativity, tolerance, charisma, and, most importantly, his passion for quality.

Dr. Ali holds several significant positions, including Chairman and Founder of Abu Dhabi University, Chairman of [Liwa College](#), Chairman of [NEMA Holding](#), Managing Director of [Bin Harmal Group](#), Chairman of [Liwa Education](#) and [Magna Investment LLC](#), and Chairman of the [Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre \(arbitrateAD\)](#), among many others. He is also the First Vice Chairman of the [Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) Board of Directors.

Dr. Aldhaheri holds an MBA from the [American University](#) in Washington, D.C., USA, and a PhD from [Durham University](#) UK.

At Abu Dhabi University, the separation of governance and management is vital to ensuring the institution's effective operation and accountability. The Board of Directors, led by Dr. Aldhaheri, governs the university by setting strategic directions, policies, and oversight while allowing the management team, comprising academic and administrative leaders, to execute these strategies and manage day-to-day operations. This clear distinction helps maintain the integrity and mission of the university, fostering an environment where academic excellence can thrive.

"Good leaders build products. Great leaders build cultures. Good leaders deliver results. Great leaders develop people. Good leaders have vision. Great leaders have values. Good leaders are role models at work. Great leaders are role models in life." - Adam Grant

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