

JUDGES



ELIE AKHRASS

Elie joined the UK Lebanon Tech Hub in 2015 after 8 years of supporting and funding innovative startups with Kafalat s.a.l. His role as director helped in kick starting several programmes and activities such as the Accelerator Programme and the International Research Center. Elie focuses now on leading the business development efforts of the UK Lebanon Tech Hub in Lebanon and the region.



GEORGES W. AOUAD

*Director
Head of Consumer Banking Division*

Dynamic and self-triggered banking executive with more than 30 years of solid experience in business development, retail banking, operations and marketing, Mr. Georges Aouad joined Bank of Beirut in 1998 and righteously established the Business Development Department in 2003 before being appointed Director of Consumer Banking Division in 2005. Prior to joining Bank of Beirut, he worked with BLOM Bank and *Banque du Crédit Populaire* where he was part of the team who have put in place the "Manuel de Procédure". In addition to his notable banking experience, Mr. Aouad has also been a Professor of "Financial Mathematics" and "Économie & Organisation des Entreprises" at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik where he is currently an MBA lecturer in Retail Banking. Mr. Aouad holds a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Business and Economics.



DR. BIJAN AZAD

Director, Darwazah Center for Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship, AUB

Bijan Azad, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the Olayan School of Business (OSB), American University of Beirut and Director of Samih Darwazah Center for Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship. In 2015, he designed AUB's Scale-Up Readiness Program that focuses on scale-up challenges of \$1-\$5 million revenue companies.

In 1988, Bijan co-founded the map technology startup in Cambridge, Massachusetts, GIS/Trans (acquired by Etak Navigator in 1992, then by Keyhole, and by Google Maps) and in 2001 he co-founded the map technology startup ILIS bv (acquired by ARCADIS bv 2003), in Arnhem, Netherlands.

Bijan earned his Ph.D. and Master's degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



JAD EL BOUSTANI

Prior to joining MEVP in July 2012, Jad worked as Project Manager at Truffle Capital as part of the Venture Capital Tech Team in Paris during which he assisted in fundraising efforts and in the expansion of a build-up of startups specializing in mobile services. Prior to that, Jad worked as a financial analyst in the M&A department of Bank Lazard Brothers with a focus in EMEA Telecom and Technology.

In 2010, he served as an auditor in the Finance Division of General Electric Healthcare. Jad's experience in Lebanon includes working as an analyst and developer at NavLink and as an IT developer at Societe Generale. Jad holds a degree in Telecom and Computer Engineering from the Lebanese University, and an MBA (with an emphasis on finance and private equity) from the *Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales*, ESSEC (France).



MARK DAHER

Mark Daher is the Managing Director at Daher Capital and focuses on investments in companies in financial services and technology, consumer, SaaS and big data. Over the past few years, Daher Capital has seen tremendous success in its technology investments, having helped many companies in the US to very successful IPOs on both the Nasdaq and the NYSE, as well as companies that were acquired by the likes of Disney, Apple, the London Stock Exchange and Google. Mark rang the opening bell of Nasdaq in 2014. He has been Director of Bonds.com Group, Inc. since October 11, 2012 and serves as the Managing Director of Daher Foods.



NADIM Z. KHATER

Nadim Z. Khater is the Chief Commercial Officer at touch, the leading Lebanese wireless operator and part of Zain group. Nadim has developed solid business acumen in both the technical and commercial dimensions of the telecommunication industry having served as HR Director, IT Director and finally CCO. Before joining Zain Group in 2004, Nadim worked as a consultant at Accenture delivering projects for telecommunication companies in the Middle East region. Nadim's passion lies in marketing and building value propositions that make companies relevant and profitable. He values simplicity, transparency, and results. Nadim holds a Master's degree in Engineering Management from Virginia Tech, USA, and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the American University of Beirut. Nadim is a member of the board of a local mobile payment startup (PinPay) and a member in the investment committee of a local VC fund (IMPACT).



CORINE KIAME

Corine has been the Investment Manager at Insure and Match Capital Holding SAL (IM Capital) since April 2015. She supervises the matching & insurance capital process and manages the work of the analytical team.

Prior to joining IM Capital, and for more than 9 years, Corine was a Director at SHUAA Capital psc Dubai, UAE. In 2006 and 2007, she worked as an assistant fund manager on several regional funds representing USD 1 Billion in assets under management, covering fifteen Arab markets. Corine holds a Masters in Finance from Paris IX Dauphine in Paris, an Executive Education Certification from Harvard Business School with emphasis on Private Equity and Venture Capital, and is currently a member of the Grant Evaluation Committee of the iSME Program, a Kafalat-World Bank program, and a member of the Lebanese League for Women in Business.

SPEAKERS



MICHEL DAHER

Michel Daher is the founder and chairman of Daher Capital. He also founded Master Chips and Poppins, under the Daher Foods umbrella, two of the largest FMCG companies in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the very first hedge fund in Lebanon. Michel Daher is the only other Lebanese person to ring the New York Stock Exchange opening bell after Central Bank Governor Riyad Salameh. He rang it twice in three years. Daher also serves as a board member of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists (ALI) and is on the Executive Committee of Higher Council for Greek Catholics in Lebanon.



GEORGES KHABBAZ

Georges Khabbaz is a well-known Lebanese television, theater and cinema actor, as well as a writer, director, producer and music composer. Georges has participated as the main actor in more than 25 television shows out of which he was the script writer and director of three sitcoms which were ranked as the most viewed. For the last 11 years, he has produced, directed and starred in 13 plays, each attended by an audience of more than 100,000. He was the main actor in *Under the Bombs* and *Silina* and he was the writer and lead actor of the Lebanese movie *Ghadi*, released in 2013, and the writer and supervisor of the Lebanese movie *Waynon* released in 2014.

TESTIMONIAL



GHASSAN ABI FADEL

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Ghassan co-founded Moodfit, the first online interior design platform in the MENA, in 2015 where he is currently handling the operations and customer relations. He worked as Operations Director at Air Liquide in Lebanon for more than 7 years managing a team of more than 60 employees and subcontractors. Ghassan also has 5 years of management experience at his family's architecture bureau. He has a Masters of Mechanical Engineering from the Lebanese University and a MBA from the American University of Beirut.