

Areej Naqshbandi is a distinguished global leader from Saudi Arabia with over two decades of experience in enterprise project management, vision realization, operational excellence and corporate governance across public and private sectors. Ms. Naqshbandi currently serves as Head of Project Management Office at the Public Investment Fund (PIF). In this role, she oversees a centralized function within PIF that manages corporate projects, supports in the establishment of portfolio companies and ensures implementation of best-in-class project governance across the organization.

Ms. Naqshbandi's leadership has been instrumental in driving global enterprise-level PMO transformations in various industries including financial, investment, and retail. Her impact is reflected in the multiple EPMOs she has built and led, as well as in the consistent delivery of large-scale mega projects.

Across her career, she served as a committee member in addition to serving as a board member for FMTech, a PIF portfolio company from 2021 to 2024.

Ms. Naqshbandi has been recognized internationally for her leadership in the field, receiving the "PMO Leader of the Year" award in 2024 from the PMI PMO Global Alliance, having previously won the 2022 Global Excellence Awards. She also received Service Excellence Awards in 2001 and 2016.

Ms. Naqshbandi is a member of PMI Global Executive Council and frequent keynote speaker, having delivered sessions at the Global Project Management Forum, PMI Global Summit and Dubai International Project Management Forum covering strategic topics such as value-driven PMOs and the development of PMO Centers of Excellence with a consistent emphasis on global outreach.

Ms. Naqshbandi holds an Executive MBA from HEC Paris and a Bachelor's degree in Computer and Information Science from King Saud University. Her credentials include certifications such as CIPM, INSEAD's Women's Leadership and Executive Development programs, IMD's High Performance Boards and Six Sigma Black Belt certification.