MAMDOUH ALENEZI, Ph.D.

AI Strategy, Governance & Institutional Transformation Executive

National AI & Data Capability | Technology Governance | Digital Transformation | Public-Sector Leadership

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Executive who builds the institutions, governance and talent that turn AI and digital strategy into results, and has those results assessed against external standards. Nearly 12 years of senior leadership across Saudi Arabia's national AI authority, a national technology company of 12,000 employees and a university of 7,000 students. As General Manager of SDAIA Academy, raised the national count of trained data and AI specialists from about 11,000 to 18,000 in eight months and integrated a national institute into the Academy. At Tahakom, supervised the CEO-approved enterprise AI strategy and AI governance policy and led the technology sector to CMMI Level 3. Earlier, three-time Dean and Chief Information & Technology Officer at Prince Sultan University. Full Professor of Software Engineering and chair of a regional AI capacity-building team under the Arab Ministerial Council for Communications and Information.

AREAS OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

AI Strategy & Governance: Enterprise AI strategy, use-case portfolio governance, AI governance policy, responsible AI adoption, executive AI literacy.

Transformation & Technology Governance: Digital transformation, enterprise architecture (TOGAF, NORA), GRC, PMO, CMMI, ISO 9001 and ISO 27001, technology asset and procurement control.

Institutional Leadership: Institution building, organizational integration, operating-model design, strategic planning, KPI and scorecard systems, change management (Prosci), accreditation.

National Capability & Partnerships: National AI and data workforce development, professional certification, strategic partnerships with global technology firms and universities, regional cooperation.

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

Saudi Data & Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

General Manager, SDAIA Academy 03/2026 – Present

The Kingdom's national data and AI capability-development arm. Reports to the CEO of the Capacity Building Sector. 70 staff across five operating units; SAR 13M annual budget; 26 strategic partners.

- **National capability at scale:** Raised cumulative data and AI specialists trained from about 11,000 to 18,000 in eight months, reaching 90% of the national 2030 target of 20,000. The Academy's first 11,000 had taken five years.
- **Delivery model:** Launched a four-month training cycle that drew about 16,000 applicants and developed 6,000+ data and AI professionals at 92% learner satisfaction.
- **Institutional integration:** Led the integration of the Information Technology Institute (August 2026), bringing 68+ programs, 6,000+ enrolled trainees and about 50 staff into one operating model and growing the Academy from about 20 to 70 staff.
- **Performance governance:** Redesigned measurement around outcomes: 12 core KPIs and an eight-measure executive scorecard tracking skills, employment and professional impact, backed by a nine-month graduate-outcome verification policy with 210+ outcomes verified.
- **Executive influence:** Presented four strategic assessments to the SDAIA President, on certification partnerships, sector organization design and a national data capability framework; all four were approved.
- **Partnerships and leadership capability:** Govern a portfolio of 26 partners including NVIDIA, Microsoft, IBM, Google Cloud, Stanford, Oxford and 15 Saudi universities, and added three strategic partnerships. Designed an AI executive program and delivered it to senior leaders across four ministries.

Tahakom

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Director, AI Academy & Acting Director, Technology Governance 08/2024 – 03/2026

National smart-mobility and public-safety technology company of about 12,000 employees. Reported to the VP, AI & Advanced Technologies, a sector of about 800. 60 staff; control of technology procurement, GRC, processes and KPIs for a SAR 600M technology asset portfolio, including GPU infrastructure.

- **Enterprise AI strategy:** Supervised the consulting engagement that delivered the company's AI strategy, an 80-use-case portfolio and AI governance policy. The CEO approved the strategy and three use cases entered implementation.
- **Process maturity:** Initiated and led the CMMI program to Development Maturity Level 3 (February 2026) for the AI and Advanced Technologies sector, overhauling policies, processes and the software delivery lifecycle.

- **Enterprise architecture:** Directed the program that raised enterprise-architecture maturity from Level 2 to Level 4, assessed before and after by an external consultancy against TOGAF and the National Overall Reference Architecture (NORA).
- **Governance and control:** Authored and institutionalized an enterprise PMO playbook; led audits and remediation across three audit cycles, one internal and two external; deployed a cross-business-unit process for approving and launching new business opportunities.
- **Operational efficiency:** Automated model training and inference workflows on the GPU estate, cutting request processing from two days to four hours, and cut ServiceNow development requests from two weeks to eight days.
- **AI workforce:** Trained and certified 500+ employees in AI, more than 60% of the sector, through programs delivered with KAUST and Google.

Prince Sultan University — Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Private university of about 7,000 students. Progressive and partly concurrent executive appointments, 2015 to 2024.

Founding Dean, College of Space & Aviation Sciences — 04/2024 – 08/2024

- Founded the college in cooperation with the Saudi Space Agency, defining its vision, governance structure and founding portfolio of four bachelor's and three master's programs. The college has since opened. Moderated the university's panel with the NASA Administrator and Saudi astronauts.

Dean, Quality Assurance & Development — 09/2020 – 08/2024

- Secured first-time ABET accreditation for three computing programs and first-time HCÉRES accreditation for the Colleges of Law and Humanities; renewed AACSB and NCAAA institutional accreditation (2024). All 17 undergraduate programs held international or national accreditation.
- Led the university to ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 certification and chaired its fourth strategic plan (2024–2030, five strategic themes).

Dean, Educational Services — 09/2018 – 08/2020

- Restructured the Preparatory Year Program into an independent department and reduced first-year attrition from 42% to 36% through an analytics-led study and targeted interventions; led the academic policies for the move to online teaching during COVID-19.

Chief Information & Technology Officer — 01/2015 – 08/2019

- Authored and executed a three-year digital transformation strategy with a team of 35. Delivered a SAR 4M institution-wide ERP for 500 users in four months, re-engineering HR, finance, accounting and procurement, and automated 40 web services.

Chair, Department of Computer Science — 09/2015 – 08/2016

- Redesigned the curriculum to IEEE, ACM and ABET standards.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- **Chair, Capacity Building & Partnerships Team**, Arab Standing Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, under the Arab Ministerial Council for Communications and Information (2026 – Present). Leads a 2026–2029 workplan of five regional initiatives.
- **Panellist, Main Plenary**, 4th UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of AI, Riyadh (September 2026): "Building Institutional Capacity for AI in Public Administrations."
- **Chair, Computing Programs**, Jahziah, the national graduate-readiness program of the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (2022 – 2024).

EDUCATION AND EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

Ph.D., Software Engineering, North Dakota State University, USA	2014
M.S., Software Engineering, DePaul University, USA	2011
B.S., Computer Science, Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia	2010
Prosci Certified Change Practitioner, Prosci	2025
Strategy Specialization, Harvard Business School Online	2024

ACADEMIC STANDING AND LANGUAGES

Full Professor of Software Engineering, Prince Sultan University (2022). 146 peer-reviewed publications, 8,500+ citations, h-index 38 (Google Scholar, November 2026). Arabic (native); English (full professional proficiency).