

# FUTURE FUNDS

BUILD. GROW. ESTABLISH IN THE MIDDLE EAST

28TH JANUARY, 2026

THE  
ABU DHABI  
EDITION

# A CURATED EXPERIENCE FOR LEADERS

FutureFunds offers a unique blend of content and networking, moving beyond impersonal, large-scale events. You will connect with an exclusive audience of peers, including Partners, CEOs, CIOs, COO's, General Managers, Fund Heads,

Heads of IR and key decision makers, in an environment built for candid, peer-to-peer discussion. With curated roundtables, focused masterclasses, and targeted networking, this is your opportunity to gain the strategic foresight and build the relationships needed to succeed in the Middle East.

## MASTER CAPITAL RAISING AND INVESTOR RELATIONS

Build a formidable presence in the Middle East by moving beyond a generic approach to fundraising and mastering the art of on-the-ground engagement. You will gain actionable strategies for building a robust, institutional-grade foundation to earn allocator trust and secure long-term capital, including tailoring your fund positioning for diverse allocators in the region, and tap into technology and infrastructure to advance your capital raising capabilities.

## ACHIEVE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

Solve the "build vs. buy" dilemma for fund technology and operations by mastering the frameworks for scalable growth and institutional-grade compliance. FutureFunds delves into what it takes to cost-effectively optimise operations, from automating manual processes and smart software selections to building a resilient foundation that meets the highest standards.

## EMBRACE INNOVATIVE FUND STRUCTURING

Gain a strategic playbook for meeting modern investor demands by exploring innovative local frameworks and fund structures that are more flexible than traditional models. This segment will provide insights on how to cater to the growing demand for transparency and co-investment models, and how to structure funds to capture new opportunities in real asset tokenisation and the rapidly expanding market for Shari'a-compliant products.

## TAP INTO EMERGING INVESTMENT TRENDS

Position your fund for success by gaining exclusive insights on the emerging investment trends and risks that are shaping the market, identify and manage risks in sensitive sectors impacted by geopolitics and tech nationalism, and navigate the evolving exit landscape. Discover the latest opportunities in the major growth areas such as private credit, real estate, Shari'a investments and GCC tech, to maximise returns for your investors.

## ATTRACT, RETAIN AND DEVELOP WORLD CLASS TALENT

Unlock the full potential of your team by mastering strategies for attracting, developing, and retaining world-class talent in the GCC's competitive financial hub. Discover a practical guide to mastering the regulatory landscape and establishing robust governance frameworks that are scalable, efficient, and essential for building institutional trust and attracting capital in a maturing market.

# FUTURE FUNDS

## OUR SPEAKERS, YOUR VISIONARIES:



**DR. AHMED MANSOUR**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
**Private Department of H.E. Sheikh  
Mohammed Bin Khalid Al  
Nahyan**



**YAZAN ABDEEN**  
Chief Executive Officer, Asset  
Management,  
**Al Ramz PJSC**



**JASPREET RANDHAWA**  
MD and Head of Investments,  
**Burkhan World Investments**



**OMAR AL YAWER**  
Partner,  
**Ruya Partners**



**RAJESH RANJAN**  
Head of Investment,  
**Ali & Sons Holding**



**OMAR FAROOQI**  
Managing Director, Corporate  
Finance Advisory Division,  
**Sidra Capital**



**HAZEM ABU KHALAF**  
Managing Director, Private Equity  
& Growth Investments,  
**Gulf Capital**



**HABEEL KANTH**  
Director,  
**Tikehau Capital**



**NATHAN KWON**  
Partner,  
**Shorooq**



**MATTHEW MCLOUGHLIN**  
Strategic CEO, COO & COO,  
Strategic Growth Advisor,  
**Prospera Fund Partners**



**HASHEM SHEHABI**  
Head of Investments,  
**Halkin Investments Middle East**



**SARA AL-ATEEQI**  
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**Al Mal Investment Company  
& Founder, The Wealth Edit**



**ASHISH MARWAH**  
Chief Investment Officer,  
**Neovision Wealth Management**



**AHMED ALSALEH**  
COO and Business Development,  
**FIG Investments**



**MICHAEL FOURNIE**  
Head of Investor Relations,  
**Arzan Investment Management**



**SANDEEP JADWANI**  
Head of Investment Advisory,  
**H Capital**



**ANGELA HOMSI**  
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Angaza Capital



**ALINA TRUHINA**  
Founding Partner, Managing  
Partner, SEA / Middle East,  
**Utopia Capital Management**



**ADRIAN BEATTIE**  
Principal Consultant,  
**Belclare Advisory Services**



**EDWIN LAWRENCE**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
**Nettlestone Capital Advisors**



**LEWIS KILROE**  
Co-Founder, Managing Director,  
**East Emblem**



**NIKOLAS MICHELON**  
Managing Partner,  
**Alagan Partners**



**STEVE KHAYAT**  
Founder, Managing Director and  
CEO  
**Phoenix Venture Partners**



**FAISAL HASAN**  
Chief Investment Officer, Head of  
Asset Management,  
**Al Mal Capital**



**SUSANNAH DE JAGER**  
Founder, Advisor and Podcast  
Host, **Oxford+**, and Independent  
Advisor, **De Wesley Limited**

**ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS TBC - IN PRODUCTION**

08.30	WELCOME COFFEE & REGISTRATION
09.15	<b>WELCOME ADDRESS</b> <b>Charting Alpha: The GCC Economic Blueprint from 2026 Onward and Mapping Future Capital Flows</b>
09.35	<b>FUTUREFUNDS HEADLINER - THE FOUNDERS JOURNEY</b> <b>The GCC Growth Blueprint: A Fund Manager's Success Story on Building a Formidable Presence in the Region</b>  A top tier CEO and fund manager will share their personal journey of building a successful, institutional-grade fund with a strong presence in the GCC, offering a step-by-step guide on how to navigate the region's unique challenges, from sourcing initial capital to building a high-performing team and a brand that allocators can't ignore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can you <b>build a compelling investment thesis</b> by going beyond market hype and demystifying common stereotypes about the region?</li><li>• <b>The Operational Backbone:</b> What are the key steps in establishing a robust operational backbone, from provider selection to governance frameworks, that meet institutional principles and make your fund "fit to raise money in the GCC"?</li><li>• <b>Navigating Investor Nuances and the Secret to Winning Capital:</b> A deep dive into the strategy for dealing with different types of investors—from sovereigns and government entities to family offices—and earning their trust.</li><li>• <b>The Legacy:</b> What has been their fund's role in the maturation of the GCC's financial ecosystem and its vision for the region's future as a global financial hub.</li></ul>
09.55	<b>ALLOCATOR PERSPECTIVES</b> <b>Beyond the Pitch: What Leading Allocators Look for in Next-Gen Fund Managers</b> <b>(Session Host) Edwin Lawrence</b> , Chief Executive Officer, <b>Nettlestone Capital Advisors</b> <b>Dr. Ahmed Mansour</b> , Chief Executive Officer, <b>Private Department of H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalid Al Nahyan</b> <b>Jaspreet Randhawa</b> , MD and Head of Investments, <b>Burkhan World Investments</b> <b>Rajesh Ranjan</b> , Head of Investment, <b>Ali &amp; Sons Holding</b> <b>Hashem Shehabi</b> , Head of Investments, <b>Halkin Investments Middle East</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Performance:</b> What are the key criteria that inform an institutional investor's decision alongside a historical track record? How important are factors like transparency in reporting, genuine alignment of interest, and a clear understanding of a fund's operational capacity?</li><li>• <b>A Partner, not a pitch:</b> What does it take for a fund manager to move from being a transactional service provider to a trusted long-term partner?</li><li>• <b>Local Knowledge, Global Standards:</b> How can fund managers demonstrate a genuine understanding of the unique opportunities and risks in the GCC?</li><li>• <b>Operational Maturity:</b> As allocators become more sophisticated, how closely do they scrutinise a fund's operational backbone?</li></ul>
10:15	<b>ALL STAR PANEL</b> <b>Pillars of Institutional Alpha: Mastering Growth, Scalability, and Tapping into the Opportunity Set in the GCC's New Investment Order</b> <b>(Session Host) Susannah de Jager</b> , Founder, Advisor and Podcast Host, <b>Oxford+</b> , and Independent Advisor, <b>De Wesley Limited</b> <b>Matthew McLoughlin</b> , Strategic CEO, COO & COO, Strategic Growth Advisor, <b>Prospera Fund Partners</b> <b>Yazan Abdeen</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Asset Management, <b>Al Ramz PJSC</b> <b>Omar Al Yawer</b> , Partner, <b>Ruya Partners</b> <b>Omar Farooqi</b> , Managing Director, Corporate Finance Advisory Division, <b>Sidra Capital</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Establish the institutional imperative:</b> Defining the operational maturity and governance frameworks that are now mandatory for attracting sophisticated, long-term institutional capital in a maturing GCC market.</li><li>• <b>Building the operational structure for scale:</b> Critical frameworks and foundations to establish an institutional-grade operational infrastructure for allocator trust and scale.</li><li>• <b>Future-proofing your structure:</b> How are modern fund designing flexible, innovative fund vehicles that pre-emptively meet evolving LP demands for transparency and co-investment, allowing access to new capital pools.</li><li>• <b>Navigate the new investment order:</b> How are leaders positioning their funds to maximise returns and navigate geopolitical headwinds while leveraging the GCC's unique position as a secure global solution for international technology and capital.</li></ul>

MAIN STAGE	ROUNDTABLES		
	OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE	ASSET CLASS	CAPITAL RAISING
<p><b>11:30 - 12:00 CAPITAL RAISING</b></p> <p><b>Are You Fit to Raise Capital in the GCC? Debunking the Myths and Showcasing the Reality of Fundraising</b></p> <p><b>(Session Host) Mahmoud Al-Khawaja</b>, Chief Executive Officer, <b>CapIntro Partners</b></p> <p><b>Sandeep Jadwani</b>, Head of Investment Advisory, <b>H Capital</b></p> <p><b>Michael Fournie</b>, Head of Investor Relations, <b>Arzan Investment Management</b></p>	<p><b>ROUNDTABLE 1</b></p> <p><b>Navigating the GCC Regulatory Regimes: A Practical Guide to Licensing, Setup, and Sustainable Growth</b></p> <p><b>Hosted by: Adrian Beattie</b>, Principal Consultant, <b>Belclare Advisory Services</b></p> <p>A strategic overview on establishing a scalable and institutional-grade presence in the GCC. This includes corporate services, comparative advantages and challenges of fund incorporation and licensing across jurisdictions, as well as governance frameworks and the strategic role of the fund board and independent non-executive directors.</p>	<p><b>ROUNDTABLE 2</b></p> <p><b>The Art of the Exit: Strategic Playbook for VC and PE</b></p> <p><b>Hosted by:</b></p> <p>A comprehensive playbook for fund managers on how to navigate the evolving exit landscape in the GCC and beyond, and how to integrate exit considerations from day one to build a formidable presence and maximise returns for their investors</p>	<p><b>ROUNDTABLE 3</b></p> <p><b>Accelerating the 'Yes': Advanced Strategies for Investor Engagement and Closing Deals</b></p> <p><b>Hosted by:</b></p> <p>A deep dive into the micro-level tactical execution and ongoing management of investor relations, focusing on tailoring fund positioning for diverse allocators, mastering communication and relationship management, implementing process optimisation strategies to overcome "allocator lag," and building durable, long-term relationships that extend beyond initial sourcing.</p>
<p><b>12:00 - 12:30 DEAL FLOW AND LIQUIDITY</b></p> <p><b>Accessing Deal Flow and Navigating Liquidity: Sourcing High-Alpha Assets and Navigating Exits in the GCC Order</b></p> <p><b>Alina Truhina</b>, Founding Partner, Managing Partner, SEA / Middle East, <b>Utopia Capital Management</b></p> <p><b>Hazem Abu Khalaf</b>, Managing Director, Private Equity &amp; Growth Investments, <b>Gulf Capital</b></p>	<p><b>ROUNDTABLE 4</b></p> <p><b>The Operational Blueprint: Is Your Operating Model and Data Room Blocking Your Fundraise?</b></p> <p><b>Hosted by: Lewis Kilroe</b>, Co-Founder, Managing Director, <b>East Emblem</b></p> <p>A focused deep dive into designing an institutional-grade foundation that stands up to allocator scrutiny, exploring why operational excellence is a strategic differentiator—not just an administrative exercise—and providing insights on how to build a proportional, scalable infrastructure, effectively leveraging technology for data consolidation, portfolio oversight, and investor reporting to keep pace with the</p>	<p><b>ROUNDTABLE 5</b></p> <p><b>Pricing for Success: Navigating Risk and Returns in the Private Credit Market</b></p> <p><b>Hosted by:</b></p> <p>Delve into the burgeoning private credit market in the GCC, a sector poised to fill a huge funding gap. Cover the significant opportunities, the critical risks of mispricing, and the strategies you must employ to build confidence with Investors</p>	<p><b>ROUNDTABLE 6</b></p> <p><b>Unlocking Middle East Capital: A Strategic Roadmap for Sourcing and Vetting Investors</b></p> <p><b>Hosted by:</b></p> <p>A focus on the macro-level challenges and strategic approach to entering the Middle East market: success hinges on building bespoke capital-raising infrastructure and diversifying networks beyond traditional institutional giants. How can managers effectively qualify regional partners whilst establishing the operational presence needed to secure trust? Furthermore, what practical strategies allow for engagement with the wider ecosystem of family offices and private wealth?</p>



MAIN STAGE

13.45 - 14:05 FUND STRUCTURES

**Beyond the Black Box: Innovative Fund Structures to Meet Evolving Investor Demands**  
**Steve Khayat**, Founder, Managing Director and CEO, **Phoenix Venture Partners**

- How can fund managers **structure deals to offer investors the transparency they desire**, while also maintaining the efficiency and scale of a pooled vehicle?
- How can funds **creatively structure vehicles to engage with new asset classes and sectors** that show strong appetite in the region?
- How can fund managers **effectively collaborate with legal advisors and regulators to ensure your structures are compliant, efficient**, and aligned with a Middle East-focused strategy?
- How can **an open-minded approach to fund structures become a key source of competitive advantage** for fund managers operating in the GCC?

14.05 - 14.25 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

**Digital Transformation Strategies: Mastering Technology for Operational Alpha and Fund Growth**  
**Ahmed AlSaleh**, COO and Business Development, **FIG Investments**

- **The strategic imperative:** How can the effective deployment of technology and AI can outcompete rivals in the age of digital and AI, helping fund managers achieve a sustainable competitive advantage.
- **Automating the operational core:** Where are the opportunities for automating operational data flow, deal-flow, interviews, and other back-office tasks, enabling teams to focus on true value-add areas.
- **AI as a "data analysis tool":** How to support your mandate of delivering superior risk-adjusted returns through a robust data framework.
- **The path forward- AI and the Future Fund:** How is AI being used now to capture investment alpha and build dynamic portfolios?

14.25 - 14:55 TOKENISATION

**From Scepticism to Strategy: Unlocking Access and Alpha through Real Asset Tokenisation**

- **Tokenisation 101:** Dispelling the myths: Clarity on tokenisation and its true purpose; debunking common myths and showcasing how it can provide access to "solid, regulated returns profiles".
- **Navigating the regulatory push-and-pull:** Addressing how the industry can work with regulators to build the necessary "guard rails" to promote the true opportunity arising from tokenisation.
- **The shifting investor landscape:** Modernising traditional structures for the investor generation of today and reviewing current investor sentiment around real-asset tokenisation.
- **The path to token leadership in the GCC:** How local regulatory changes and successful tokenised funds in the region are setting a precedent for future growth.

PRIVATE MASTERCLASSES

Our private masterclasses are exclusive, closed-door sessions offering specialised knowledge and insights that go beyond the scope of a standard panel. Hosted by a leading industry expert, each session is designed for an in-depth discussion and focuses on practical techniques and real-world applications.

MASTERCLASS 1

**The AI-Powered Fund: Driving Alpha, Efficiency, and a Sustainable Competitive Advantage**  
**Hosted by:**

Exploring how you can strategically leverage AI to enhance every facet of your operations, from investment decision-making to risk management and organisational efficiency:

- **Aligning AI and technology with your core investment philosophy** and mandate: Ensuring technology serves your strategic vision, not the other way around.
- **Beyond basic data analysis:** How can AI capture true investment alpha and inform dynamic portfolio construction?
- **Quantifying ROI:** How does the effective deployment of technology and AI generate measurable returns, improve operational efficiency, and strengthen risk management within your fund?
- Navigating the critical balance between AI-driven insights and **where human judgment remains paramount?**

MASTERCLASS 2

**The Competitive Edge of GCC Talent: Attraction, Development, and Retention for High-Performance Teams**  
**Hosted by:**

Move beyond the theoretical and gain actionable strategies for building a truly high-performing fund management team focusing on how to attract world-class professionals, cultivate your growth, and retain them for the long term:

- **What are the most effective strategies** for attracting both international senior experts and promising junior professionals to the GCC financial hub?
- **How can a fund manager build a strong team culture** that empowers individuals and fosters collaboration, trust, and a shared sense of purpose?
- What are the most effective strategies for **identifying and nurturing high-potential talent** to prevent attrition and secure your firm's future leadership?
- What are the best practices for **creating a clear and compelling career path for junior professionals**, ensuring they see a future in the investment space?

MASTERCLASS 3

**The New Brand of Alpha: Effective Marketing for Fund Managers in the Middle East**  
**Hosted by:**

Best practice marketing, communication, and brand; a practical guide on how to build a formidable presence, cultivate a strong reputation, and strategically position your fund to attract the right allocators and secure long-term capital:

- **Building a foundational brand:** What are the critical success factors fund managers need to "raise awareness" and build the right presence, reputation, relationships to foster real partnerships to navigate the market effectively.
- **The art of positioning and differentiating your value:** How can fund managers craft a compelling narrative that resonates with a diverse range of allocators?
- **Strategic outreach and ecosystem integration:** How to broaden access to allocators beyond the traditional "key accounts" and reach a diverse range of allocators and effectively integrate into the local financial community.
- **The digital and content-driven edge:** How can you leverage thought leadership and a proactive content strategy to build a strong GCC brand with high quality content that stands out?

## PANEL

**Unlocking Peak Alpha Generation: Identifying the Long-Term Sectoral Opportunities and Fund Structure Blueprints****(Session Host)** Susannah de Jager, Founder, Advisor and Podcast Host, Oxford+, and Independent Advisor, De Wesley Limited**Ashish Marwah**, Chief Investment Officer, **Neovision Wealth Management****Sara Al-Ateeqi**, CEO, **Al Mal Investment Company** & Founder, **The Wealth Edit****Habeel Kanth**, Director, **Tikehau Capital****Nathan Kwon**, Partner, Head of Credit, **Shorooq**

15.25

Navigate the GCC's evolving investment landscape, focusing on high-demand sectors like green energy, technology, and real estate to generate alpha, as well as key global diversification opportunities and cross-border plays.

- **The GCC's core alpha engine:** Reviewing the "high demand" investment sectors such as infrastructure, green energy, technology, healthcare and real estate.
- **Global diversification and cross-border opportunities:** Reviewing the key opportunities for alpha generation and diversification and the next international "safe havens" for GCC investors beyond the US.
- **The Asia and emerging markets play:** How can fund managers plug the gap for "underweight allocators in the APAC region and where do the most promising opportunities lie?
- **Optimising Fund Structures for the modern allocator:** How are funds meeting modern investor demands and exploring innovative local frameworks to attract sophisticated capital.

## KEYNOTE PANEL

**Geopolitics, Tech Nationalism, and GCC Capital: Positioning Your Fund Strategy for Success in a New World Order****Nicolas Michelin**, Managing Partner, **Alagan Partners****Angela Homsj**, Founding Partner, **Angaza Capital**

15.55

The rising tide of wider geopolitics is having a direct and profound impact on fund managers in the GCC. What was once seen as a transitory issue is now a major topic of discussion for CIOs and risk management executives. This is leading to a new world order where asset classes, geographies, and industry verticals are becoming more difficult to access. Get a "reading grid" for fund managers on how to identify and manage these risks in key sensitive sectors:

- **Is your strategy future-proof?** Exploring how tech nationalism and geopolitics are impacting fund managers' decisions, with real-world examples of firms having to divest from Chinese startups.
- **Navigating local regional nuances:** What are the major differences between the investment landscapes of the UAE and Saudi Arabia that impact capital raising and fund management?
- **The GCC as a global solution:** How is the GCC positioning itself as a solution for international technology and ideas, and how can you leverage the region to access new pools of capital.
- **Mastering the new world order:** Demonstrating a "reading grid" for how to identify and manage risk in sensitive sectors like med-tech, agri-tech, and defence tech amongst others.

16.25

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

16.30 - 18.30

FUTUREFUNDS DRINKS RECEPTION AND NETWORKING