AL SHARQ FORUM
Diversity. Integrity. Prosperity
What is Al Sharq Forum?

Al Sharq Forum is an independent, international non-profit organization that aims to consolidate the values of pluralism and justice, while developing long-term strategies and programs that contribute to the political development, economic prosperity, and social cohesion of the people of the Al Sharq region and the world.

Message from the President

“The Al Sharq region has long been a mosaic of cultures, religions, and ethnicities. This diversity will continue to be the most important pillar for building a stable and prosperous future for the region and the world. Since 2012, Al Sharq Forum has been carrying this spirit and taking it to its furthest ends. With its three pillars, the Forum is establishing a solid infrastructure for hope and stability.”

Wadah Khanfar
AL SHARQ FORUM CORE BELIEFS

**Pluralism Is A Social Necessity Achieved By Securing Human Rights**
We believe that diversity is universal, and that the signs of the psychological well-being of a society lie in its tolerance, vitality, and interaction. We thus call for dialogue to deal with contrasting ideas, perceptions, and visions.

**Our decisions are based on our collective consciousness**
We believe in the right of nations and peoples to self-determination in accordance with their collective conscience and civilizational precepts.

**Our Values Are Prevalently Universal And Humane**
We believe that the values underpinning our consciousness should be of a universal message, seeking goodness, justice, and ethics, and belong to them everywhere.

**Towards An Inclusive Public Discourse**
We believe that public affairs should be addressed through a process of negotiation among the constituents of each community.

**Grasping Lessons From Our Past While Consciously Living Our Present**
We are keen to carefully and deeply study the historical experiences of our nations and the world, and believe that our study of history should not make us dwell in the past, nor try to restore its models, structures, and experiences.

**The Future Is Auspicious**
We believe that our countries are facing a historical transitional phase, and that we are called upon to build the features of the future with a new spirit.

**Knowledge Has Intended Goals And Purposes**
We believe that sciences and knowledge are the pillars upon which the human future will be built. We are thus firm believers in prioritizing scientific research and methodological, epistemological thinking, and in linking them to sublime ethical objectives.

**An Equitable, Virtuous Moral Economy**
We believe that any economic system that is detached from moral values is a project of enslavement and hegemony, and therefore will not achieve security nor prosperity for the world.
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A think tank that looks to undertake impartial, rigorous research to promote the ideals of democratic participation, an informed citizenry, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and social justice.

Research

Through its research programs, conferences, and publications, and in line with the objectives of the Forum, Al Sharq Strategic Research outlines three central areas of focus: democratization and good governance, regional and international order, and transformation of ideologies and identities.
Research

Programs
Thematic research tracks in MENA politics with various task forces. There are two currently running tracks: the MENA Security Program and the Political Islam Program.

Publications
Analyses, research, and opinion pieces written by prominent experts in Middle Eastern studies and geopolitics.

Blog
Short opinion or analytical pieces addressing a specific question or facet of an ongoing political debate.

Events
The events serve as dynamic platforms bringing together researchers, academics, experts, and activists to foster informed dialogue and knowledge-sharing, and to promote a culture of reasoned public discourse.
The COVID-19 Pandemic and its Possible Repercussions on MENA Regional Politics
In an attempt to understand the possible repercussions of the pandemic on regional politics in the Al Sharq region, this dossier is prepared with insights from distinguished experts, each focusing on a different angle of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Wadah Khanfar, Mohammad Affan, Omer Aslan, Sinan Hatahet, Tamer Badawi and Rawan Hamoud

TurkStream: Geopolitical impact and future prospects
This report examines TurkStream’s political and economic impact on Turkey and its neighbors in Southeast Europe.
Dimitar Bechev

Biden Administration’s Policies Towards the Middle East: A Paradigm Shift?
In this dossier, Al Sharq Strategic Research's distinguished experts address this hypothesis by examining how U.S. relations could be different toward key regional actors, such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Israel, and to what extent the new administration’s policies might differ in specific cases, such as the conflict in Syria or the issue of democracy promotion in the Middle East.
Hassan Ahmadian, Sinan Hatahet, Mohammad Affan, Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı, Fatih Işık, Amjad Ahmed Jebreel

What Comes After the Pandemic?: Predicting the World to Come
This paper examines the known and what remains unknown regarding the pandemic’s trends, and further explores the linkages between the pandemic and the world, its countries and their populations.
Basheer Nafi
Peace-Making in the Middle East: “Normalization” with...without Palestine?
This paper argues that these glaring omissions, solely beneficial to Israel, have inherent negative implications on peace-making. Thus, the “Trump Deal” signifies a manifestation of a visibly uneven foreign policy in the Arab-Israeli conflict.
Larbi Sadiki

The transformation of India’s Middle East relations under the Bhartiya Janta Party’s Rule
This paper attempts to introduce the ideological and intellectual bases of India’s two main political parties, the current ruling Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and its predecessor the Indian National Congress (INC).
Omair Anas

Democracy and the Great Pestilence
Amidst the pain and panic, people naturally want to make sense of things, so what can we say about the causes, effects, and historical significance of this Great Pestilence?
John Keane

The Assassination of Qasem Soleimani and its Implications for Regional Politics
This dossier is prepared in order to better understand the implications of Qasem Soleimani’s assassination for regional politics. In the dossier, five distinguished experts from different nationalities offer their insights on the current situation, each focusing on a different angle of the perplexing killing.
Sinan Hatahet, Kamaran M. Palani, Tamer Badawi, Hassan Ahmadian, Hakkı Uygur
To address the issues and challenges facing the Al Sharq region, Al Sharq Strategic Research has launched **two programs, namely the MENA Security Program and the Al Sharq Program on Political Islam**. By bringing together experts, academics, policymakers, and researchers from various fields, Al Sharq Strategic Research aims to increase the level of understanding and quality of policy-making concerning the Al Sharq region.

**MENA SECURITY PROGRAM**
- New Security Arrangements for the MENA Region Task Force
- Shared Insecurity in the Era of Multipolarity Task Force

**AL SHARQ PROGRAM ON POLITICAL ISLAM**
- Transformation of Political Islam in a Changing Regional Order Task Force
- Political Islam in the Second Wave of the Arab Uprisings Task Force
MENA Security Program
State failures, violent extremism, the emergence of militia groups as regional forces, chemical warfare, and the arms race call for the development of new security arrangements for the Al Sharq region. This dire need has led Al Sharq Strategic Research to launch its MENA Security program to address the security problems of the region from a regional perspective and offer recommendations for security alternatives.

Shared Insecurity in the Era of Multipolarity Task Force
This taskforce is initiated as an attempt to examine the shifting dynamics in the new battle lines, the impact of multipolarity, and the transforming relations between the regional and international powers in the MENA region.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

The Turkish Navy in Context: Military Modernization and Geopolitical Transformation
This brief focuses on the main pillars and trajectory of the Turkish Navy's transformation, through a strategic lens.

Can Kasapoğlu

Eastern Mediterranean: Conflict or Compromise?
This expert brief argues that Turkey and Greece, need to get together, restart high-level joint meetings to strengthen confidence-building measures in order to make the energy resources a positive game-changer.

Mitat Çelikpala

What New Political Pact is there for Lebanon?
While talks about a Third Republic in Lebanon continue, this brief outlines different ideas circulating in the Lebanese public sphere with regard to the need for the various political pacts.

Rawan Hamoud
New Security Arrangements for the MENA Region Task Force
This task force aimed to take stock of the architecture of the regional security in the MENA region with a view to propose tangible recommendations for future steps.

Task Force's Book
This book is the final product of the New Security Arrangements for the MENA Region Task Force. The book has four themes: (1) state and non-state dynamics, (2) regionalism and regional security institutions, (3) regional order within the global context, and (4) energy and security.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Longing for a Stable Government: The Challenges Facing the Incoming Prime Minister in Iraq after the Assassination of Suleimani
There were some hopes of a complete overhaul of the political system following the prime minister’s resignation. But then came the attacks on US bases and the consequent US retaliation, attacks on the US embassy in Green Zone, and the assassination of Suleimani.
Mesut Özcan

The Transformation Struggle of the PYD: Localization Tendency as a Method of Gaining Legitimacy?
This paper argues that in the quest to attain societal and political legitimacy, the PYD/YPG in Syria has taken pragmatic steps towards localizing; but nevertheless, the party’s localization initiative remains inconclusive and currently faces various challenges.
Mehmet Emin Cengiz

The GCC and the Evolving Notion of Gulf Energy Security
This expert brief argues that the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the hydrocarbon producers of the GCC is raising serious questions about the need to change the focus of Gulf energy security from the necessity to protect the interests of Gulf oil consumers, and the need to ensure the interests of oil producers themselves.
Nikolay Kozhanov
Al Sharq Program on Political Islam
The Arab uprisings and their aftermath unleashed deep and ongoing processes of transformation within the political Islam movements (PIMs). In light of this, the Political Islam program is initiated as a renewed effort to understand these movements and develop novel conceptual frameworks suited to the new and shifting terrains.

Political Islam in the Second Wave of the Arab Uprisings Task Force
This taskforce aimed to examine the popular uprisings that intensified during 2019 and spread to four Arab states (Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, and Lebanon) in what came to be known as the second wave of the Arab uprisings, which seems to be deepening the crisis of political Islam movements in the MENA region.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Searching for a Second Chance: The Dilemma of The Islamists In Post-Bashir Sudan
The research’s primary concern is to understand how different Sudanese Islamist Movement factions reacted to the December Revolution.
Mohammad Affan, Rawan Hamoud

Hezbollah and the Lebanese Popular Uprising: Containing Loss
The article discusses that the uprising in Lebanon, along with the accompanying economic and financial crisis, shuffled the cards and increased pressure on Hezbollah and its political alliances.
Mohanad Hage Ali

Islamist Movements and Parties in the Algerian Uprising
This paper focuses on the positions of Islamist political parties participating in the constitutional political process vis-à-vis the Hirak movement.
İsmail Yaylaci, Muhammad Amasha
**Transformation of Political Islam in a Changing Regional Order Task Force**

This task force has examined and analysed the ongoing transformation of PIMs in the wake of the Arab uprisings. Composed of thirteen research fellows and research assistants, it worked from February to December 2018 on seven countries where the Arab uprisings phenomenon took different forms.

**Task Force's Book**

This book examines and analyses the ongoing transformation of Political Islam Movements (PIMs) in seven countries where the Arab uprisings phenomenon took different forms: massive mobilization that induced leadership change (Tunisia and Egypt), limited demonstrations with a reformist agenda (Morocco, Jordan, and Kuwait), and bloody civil war (Syria and Yemen). The idea behind this research design was to understand how PIMs acted and reacted in response to the different challenges and opportunities created by the Arab uprisings in different contexts.

**RELATED PUBLICATIONS**

**Ennahda’s Options in Post- “Sheikhs Agreement” Phase**

This article discusses the impact of Essebsi’s death on Ennahda’s options and strategies in the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections.

*Tarek Chamki*

**Regional Implications of a US Muslim Brotherhood Ban**

In light of the GCC crisis and a new National Security Advisor, the Trump administration may change its approach to the Muslim Brotherhood in order to strengthen its alliances with Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

*Courtney Freer*

**Is there a Morsi Effect? An Overview of Political Islamists’ Electoral Performances Since 2013**

This article argues that there has been no apparent “Morsi effect” which has negatively affected Brotherhood- affiliated parties in post-2013 elections.

*Nicholas Gjorvd*
Lebanon’s Failed State
Discussing the August 4 explosion in Beirut, the author claims that the incident casts light on Lebanon’s decay. Forty years after the end of the civil war, the country is in a state of total failure.
Mona Alami

GCC and India’s Indo-Pacific Strategy
The new concept of the Indo-Pacific is moving beyond economic, cultural, and historical linkages to include a primary strategic imperative, which shows how India gradually develop its new foreign policy concept into an approach of hard power.
Mohammad Pervez Bilgrami

What Netanyahu’s Meeting With al-Burhan Reveals About Israel’s New Africa Policy?
This blog discusses how this meeting highlights the shifting course of Israel’s Africa policy, and particularly its relations with Sudan.
Fatih Şemsettin Işık

The ‘Drilling War’ in the Eastern Mediterranean from an International Law Perspective
This piece tackles the Cyprus dispute and the solutions proposed by international law.
Deniz Baran
AL SHARQ STRATEGIC RESEARCH IN NUMBERS

- Publications in 3 Languages: 1200
- Website Visits (June 2019 – December 2020): 174,145
- Newsletter: 156
- Social Media (June 2019 – December 2020):
  - Reach: 1.08M
  - Post Engagement: 304K
- Publications download: 82,266
EXPERTS

Mohammad Affan
Ph.D. from the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

Basheer Nafi
Senior Research Fellow at Al Jazeera Centre for Studies

Sinan Hatahet
Co-Founder of Workiom

Yilmaz Ensaroglu
Advisor at the Ministry of Justice/Turkey

Omer Aslan
Professor of International Relations, Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University

David Hearst
Editor in chief of the Middle East Eye

Mehmet Emin Cengiz
MA Degree from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the Middle East, Marmara University

Galip Dalay
Fellow at the Richard von Weizsäcker Robert Bosch Academy

Rawan Hammoud
MA from the Department of Religious studies, New York University

Larbi Sadiki
Professor of Arab Democratization at Qatar University

Osama El-Mourabit
MA from International Relations, University of Humboldt-Berlin

Mesut Özcan
Professor of Political Science at Social Science University of Ankara
Seminar on Political Islam Movements in the Second Wave of Arab Uprisings, October 13, 2020

The panel discussed the outcome of year-long research by the "Political Islam in the Second Wave of the Arab Uprisings" task force that examines the political position and behavior of the Islamist movements during the 2019 protest wave in Algeria, Iraq, Sudan, and Lebanon.

Europe and Its Neighbourhood 2019
December 10, 2019

The 5th annual conference titled, “Europe and its Neighbourhood: Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management in the 21st Century,” focused on how Europe and its leaders can respond to the challenges of conflict management and prevention. At a time of uncertainty for Europe’s political ideals and its vision for a common future, its ability to shape and influence developments in its neighbouring regions is a more open question than at any time in the recent past.
Political Islam Movements in the post-Arab uprisings period, July 4, 2019

Organized in partnership with the Issam Fares Institute at the American University of Beirut, the panel looked at how ‘Political Islam’ movements and parties acted and reacted in response to the different challenges and opportunities created by the Arab uprisings. This included massive mobilization that induced leadership changes (Tunisia and Egypt), limited demonstrations with a reformist agenda (Morocco, Jordan, and Kuwait), and bloody civil war (Syria and Yemen).

Towards New Security Arrangements For The Mena Region, May 6, 2018

Al Sharq Forum, together with the Afro-Middle East Centre (AMEC), hosted the Third Annual Security Conference in Istanbul to discuss “New Security Arrangements for the MENA Region.” The conference followed up the theme of the 2017 edition, “Towards a New Security Architecture in the MENA Region.” In 2017, the conference established the need for new security arrangements in the region, and in 2018 it deliberated on the objectives and details of new security frameworks in the region.
Al Sharq Internship Program is a 6-month paid internship for senior undergraduate students or recent graduates who are interested in studying the MENA region. The scheme consists of two stages. In the first stage, the interns undergo a training program where they attend critical thinking, reading, writing, and presentation skills training workshops. During the second stage of their internship, the interns are expected to draw on their newly acquired skills and produce research papers under the guidance of their assigned mentors. The program has been running since March 2016 and has welcomed more than 20 interns since then.

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

- Melike Halide Ekinci
  - Migration Studies
  - MA

- Jaefer Kedir
  - Political Science and International Relations
  - M.A

- Isra Sakipi
  - Political Science and International Relations
  - BA

- Aya Hossam
  - Political Science and International Relations
  - MA

- Merve Keskin
  - International Relations
  - MA

- Mustafa Kaymaz
  - Political Science and International Relations
  - PhD

- Saman Madadi
  - Political Science and International Relations
  - BA

- Öner Yiğit
  - Political Science and International Relations
  - BA
Marc Martorell Junyent
Middle East Politics and Society - MA

Muhammad Amasha
Sociology - MA

Jonathan Fenton-Harvey
History and Middle Eastern Studies - BA

Furkan Alperen
Political Science and International Relations - BA

Tuğba Kalem
Political Science and International Relations - MA

Gökhan AK
Governance and Civil Society Organizations - MA

Layla El Hassan
Political Science and International Relations - BA

Furkan Ömür
Political Science and International Relations - BA

Mehmet Ö zgün Ö zkul
Ataturk Institute Modern Turkish History - MA

Rahaf Al Momani
Ottoman International Studies - MA

Selman Bü yük kara
Political Science and International Relations - MA
We need a comprehensive and interconnected approach that addresses the complexity of the global challenges we face. Al Sharq Youth aims to address these challenges integrated with grass-root priorities through special programs and projects.

Our holistic and systemic approach to change has been rooted in the network's ideals of pluralism and justice, with a deep conviction that the future we aspire to is within our collective reach.

A network of committed and active youth, leading change towards a more inclusive and just world.
Al Sharq Youth Hubs are local networks led by respective catalysts based in various regions across the world. Currently active in thirteen countries, the hubs’ core teams and the catalyst work together on the pressing challenges at a grass-root level.
REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Middle East and Africa (MEA):
- Civic Engagement and Participation
- Social Cohesion and Reconciliation
- Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainability
- Youth Empowerment and Education

Europe:
- Civic Engagement and Participation
- Integration and Inclusive Civic-Identity
- Youth Development and Empowerment
- Geopolitical Relations

South East Asia:
- Civic Engagement and Participation
- Global Citizenry and Awareness
- Community Development
- Youth Empowerment

Al Sharq Youth
HUB ACTIVITIES

Strategic Thinking in International Relations
Istanbul, Turkey, March 01, 2020

Chai Talk: Job Hunting and Business
Nagoya, Japan, August 20, 2020

Amman Hub 2020 Inauguration Event
Amman, Jordan, September 12, 2020

The Role of Resistance Committees in Sustaining Peace and Social Cohesion
Khartoum, Sudan, September 26, 2020

Al Sharq Youth Europe Regional Big Meet Up
London, Bosnia, Paris & Madrid
November 29, 2020

How Do the Emerging Enterprises Contribute to Reviving the Economy & Reducing the Unemployment Rate in Tunisia?
Tunis, Tunisia, November 14, 2020
South Africa Hub Retreat
Capetown, South Africa
March 02, 2019

“Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Development Goals” Lego Serious Play
Istanbul, Turkey, August 10, 2020

The Ambassador Talk
Jakarta, Indonesia, August 31, 2020

“Education for her Initiative Webinar”
Rabat, Morocco, September 06, 2020

Crash Course on Economy
Bosnia, Sarajevo, January 19, 2019

World Against Single Use Plastic
Lahore, Pakistan, October 04, 2020
Regional Events

**Interfaith Youth Dialogue: Connecting for a Better Future**
Cape Town, South Africa

This interactive event aimed to be an engaging platform for discussing critical issues facing the youth and wider community, in order to learn from others’ experiences, and identify potential solutions.

**Sarajevo Talks**
Sarajevo, Bosnia

The Network held a Sarajevo Talks session in partnership with Aljazeera Balkans. The talks brought together Bosnian youth from different backgrounds with distinguished speakers to shed light on the violations against media workers.

**Alternative Economy Models: Innovation and Social Impact**
Madrid, Spain

The event hosted a number of distinguished speakers who discussed the role of groundbreaking technologies including the Blockchain, Cryptocurrency, and FinTech in developing alternative economic models with a special focus on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda.

**Common Challenges of the youth in the North African Region**
Tunis - Tunisia

The event brought together members from Tunis, Algeria, Rabat, West Tripoli, and Nouakchott Hubs. It addressed issues including; regional integration, cultural diversity as a unifying factor, and migration.

Rached Ghannouchi: Co-Founder of the Tunisian Ennahdha Party

Wafa Makhlouf: Member of the Tunisian Parliament

Jamila Ksiksi: Member of the African Parliament
Al Sharq Youth has three main programs: Al Sharq Diwan, Al Sharq Fellowship Program, and the Impact Platform. Individually, these integrated programs are designed to realize specific objectives, while collectively providing a holistic experience for the network’s members. As exhibited in the diagram, the complementarity of the programs enables a synergy towards creating an inclusive vision, empowered leadership, and informed action.
Al Sharq Diwan is a space for a deep and systematic dialogue that addresses the ideas and issues that are shaping the world around us. The sessions include talks by notable guest speakers who focus on regional and global affairs, in addition to book reviews and book discussions. The sessions are conducted in English and Arabic.

‘THE DIWAN IN NUMBERS’

1,500 Participations Through Zoom

35 Guest Speakers

242K Views on Social Media

Al Sharq Diwan is available on various podcast platforms:

- Google Podcasts
- Apple Podcasts
- Spotify
- SoundCloud
NOTEWORTHY SESSIONS

The Struggle Over Islam
Wadah Khanfar

In Search of a New Arab Horizon
Moncef Marzouki

The Future of Human Rights & Civil Society
Kenneth Roth

A Panel on the Future of International Cooperation
Robert Malley
Wadah Khanfar
Fabrizio Hochschild

Turkey and the Middle East Challenges
Yasin Aktay

Understanding the World’s System: Thinking Beyond the “Post” Paradigms
Heba Raouf Izzat

The Imperative of the Future: On Palestine
Rashid Khalidi

The Future of Economic Development in the MENA
Tarik Yousef
Al Sharq International Fellowship is a year-long leadership program that brings together passionate and high-potential youth from around the world to become effective change agents committed to informed action.

**Program Components**
- International retreat
- Regional retreat for strategic leadership
- Facilitated mentorship program
- Remote learning engagement
- Capstone project
- Training and internship opportunities
- Program Components

**FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN NUMBERS**

- Fellows: 42
- Speakers/Guests: 35+
- Nationalities: 27
- Events/Sessions: 70+

**FROM OUR FELLOWS**

**Fatin Nadhirah, Malaysia**

To date, my experience with the program has been beyond my expectation. My train of thoughts has been reignited with the dynamism of the content of discussions that we had among our peers and fellows. The content and the activities themselves are well-thought and tackle the core issues that we are facing today. It has been splendid thus far. Challenging, but it’s quite an adrenaline rush that I thoroughly enjoyed.

**Bilal Koulouh, France (Originally Moroccan)**

This program is perfect, it made me ask new and essential questions about myself, as well as the world I am living in. It is so far an opportunity to work and meet brilliant people from different backgrounds.

**Salma Khalaf, Palestine**

The program is a great way to learn about subjects outside your field of study and topics you never thought of (or maybe you did think of but didn’t have the time to dig deep into).
NOTEWORTHY SESSIONS

Introduction to Futures Studies
Linda Hyökki

Our Times, Modernity, and Beyond
Dr. Heba Raouf Izzat

Framework into Understanding History & Future
Wadah Khanfar

Virtual Leadership Retreat
Peter Riddell, Bhavesh Patel, Dr. Tareq Suwaidan, Katharine Roff, Asaad Chaftri

THE ROADMAP

1. Foundational & Core Personal Development
2. Strategic Leadership Skills
3. System Change & Applied Leadership
4. Community Leadership & Social Impact
5. Applied Capstone Projects
An action-oriented social incubation platform aimed at empowering civil-society initiatives. The platform brings together initiatives, activists, volunteers, funders, and mentors to address key civil society challenges at local and regional levels, in order to actualize and amplify their impact.
INITIATIVES WITH FOCUSED INCUBATION

**Obsalytics**
A platform that maps out the network of political and economic relations between non-state actors within Syria.

**Education For Her**
An initiative that aims to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in education.

**Hala and Hadi**
A comedy puppet show for adults, which discusses and simulates the social challenges in the Al Sharq region in creative ways.

**Latina Post**
A platform that helps create connections between the Arab World and Latin America, based on the common causes and challenges, building solidarity and networks between them.

**Jordan Volunteer Days**
An initiative that aims to raise awareness of the importance of volunteering, building a network of volunteers, while highlighting some volunteering role models.

**The Development Researcher**
An initiative that helps individuals understand the complexities of the challenges facing society and qualify to conduct field research, monitor problems, and solve them.

**Youth of Strategic Awareness Foundation**
A Sudanese organization that works on raising awareness among youth about the importance of public policy and train them to become more involved in policy and decision making.

**Almokhyam**
A platform that curates an approach of deep-journalism, focusing primarily on the “Syrian Refugee Camp,” in the metaphoric sense, whether in Europe or the MENA. The “Camp” aims to report human stories about the journey of the Syrian refugees and how the world is being changed by it.
“Al Sharq Youth provides the environment for young leaders to articulate and have a reason discourse. We have to remind them that they are the youth associated with idealism, with principles, with conviction, not necessary support the excess of the present regimes”

ANWAR IBRAHIM
President of the People's Justice Party

“It was wonderful to meet the dynamic and promising young members of Al Sharq Youth during their last annual conference which was well done. They are the young leaders of our society”

KERIM TURE
CEO, Modanisa.com

“Al Sharq Youth has in a very short space of time become a truly global network of youth. The various issues the network embraces in its program of action give hope for the future of the world.”

THEMBISA FAKUDE
Director of External Relations at Al Jazeera Center for Studies

“I highly recommend joining Al Sharq Youth for all young leaders looking for support, ideas and inspiration to continue their work to change the world”

ASTRONAUT ABIGAIL HARRISON
International Space Ambassador

“In just a few years since it was launched, Al Sharq Youth has emerged as one of the most dynamic and inventive platforms in the Middle East, the network is contributing to the making of a better future for the youth and all the peoples of the Mashriq”

DR BASHEER NAFI
Academic, Historian and Researcher

“Al Sharq Youth creates a space that draws on lessons of the past by incorporating our historical struggles, successes and failures, so that future generations are equipped with the tools needed to move forward with new solutions”

MALIA BOUATTIA
Former President of the National Union of Students, UK
AL SHARQ YOUTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
The international conference is the flagship event of Al Sharq Youth where all the initiatives and the projects of the network are showcased.

AL SHARQ YOUTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019
May 1-2, 2019 / Royale Chulan Hotel Kuala Lumpur

Embracing transformation is crucial for progress and innovation. Al Sharq Youth’s Fifth International Conference housed an ideal ecosystem for future critical knowledge, unique models and experiences in distinguishably designed events that maximized networking opportunities, increased visibility of the participants and opened new horizons toward positioning ourselves in the future of the world.

SIGNIFICANT SPEAKERS

- MAHATHIR MOHAMED, Prime Minister of Malaysia
- WADAH KHANFAR, President of Al Sharq Forum
- MARTY NATALEGAWA, Indonesian Diplomat
- RÜMEYS KAÐDAK, Member of Turkish Parliament
- ANWAR IBRAHIM, President of the People’s Justice Party
- NICOLA CERANTOLA, Founder and Director of Ecologing
- ABDUL SAMAD KHAN, Founder & CEO of Youth Impact
- AMY BRANN, Author of Make your Brain Work
- MAJED AL ANSARI, Assistant Professor of Political Sociology at Qatar University
- JOHN KEANE, Professor of Politics at the University of Sydney
- MERVE KAVAKCI, Turkish Republic Ambassador to Kuala Lumpur
- ABDULLA AL NAJJAR, Executive Director of Global Brand & Communication
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- ABDULLA AL NAJJAR, Executive Director of Global Brand & Communication

THE CONFERENCE IN NUMBERS

- Speakers: 60+
- Competing Projects: 100
- Participants: 1000
- Nationalities: 35
- Workshops & Masterclasses: 20
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The 2017 conference is the first interactive conference in the Al Sharq region to brings hundreds of worldwide exceptional and outstanding expert youth together to discuss the trending future patterns in politics, business, technology, science and art in a city that bridges East and West. The two-day event was filled with intriguing dialogues and discussions, creative workshops, challenging competitions, networking sessions and diverse artistic performances and exhibitions. The conference aimed to create awareness among the youth regarding the future and find a way to navigate through an ever-changing world.
AL SHARQ YOUTH IN NUMBERS

ACTIVE HUBS: 13
INCUBATED PROJECTS: 25+
COMMUNITY MEMBERS: 7K+
MENTORS: 35+
SIGNIFICANT SPEAKERS: 270+
EVENTS: 356+
VOLUNTEERS: 100+
FELLOWS: 40+
Al Sharq Academia is accredited by the American Accreditation Association (AAA) as a training and education provider under the US standards ASTM E 2659 in the field of Social & Humanitarian Sciences.

An online platform offering an eclectic range of academic courses that aim at disseminating knowledge from the social sciences and humanities, and is targeted at civil and political activists with a view to enhance informed action.

Al Sharq Academia is a member of the British Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges & Universities (ASIC).
AL SHARQ ACADEMIA OFFERS A SET OF ACADEMIC COURSES ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

**Introduction to Social sciences**
- A Short History on Democracy by John Keane
- Introduction to Political Science by Saif AbdelFattah

**Specialized courses on Al Sharq Region**
- Nationalism: Concepts, Definitions, and Typologies by Zeynep Koç
- The Military Establishment and the State in Israel by Johnny Mansour

**Introduction to Sharq Politics**
- Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict by Ilan Pape
- Introduction to Political Life in Iran by Fatima Alsmadi
DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

Andrew Hammond
Late Ottoman and Modern Turkish history

Anoush Ehteshami
International Relations

Emad El-Din Shahin
Political Sciences

Ilan Pappe
History

John Kane
Political Sciences

Heba Raouf Izzat
Political Science and International Relations

Saif Abdelfattah
Political Science

Mutaz Al-Khatib
Methodology and Ethics
SUBSCRIPTION ON THE PLATFORM

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS

Top Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Subscriptions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>11,005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“A wholesome platform. It added so much to my academic knowledge and helped me learn a lot as a professional and as a person.”

SANAE BLALI

“I benefited from Al Sharq Academia by increasing my information on international relations and political science, and the explanation of professors was wonderful and easy to understand”

NEMAT NAWAF RASHO

“Al Sharq Academia is the best Arabic platform that offers very precise and purposeful content for the growing youth who want to learn more about the Middle East and the Arab world. You’ll find high quality content introduced in the simplest ways by experts”

AHMAD ZAKARIA

“This platform opens the doors of knowledge to many people, especially in political and social sciences; it gives them the opportunity to learn from a number of elite professors from the best universities”

FERHAT AMARI

“A valuable, useful, high-quality, and effective platform that offers impressive and essential courses in political and social sciences”

HAFSA BUKHARI

“This Academia is a very promising platform. I personally learned a lot from these courses; the content was very rich and easy to access, and the instructors put so much effort into making the learning process simple and easy for everyone. As someone who had very little knowledge in political and social sciences, I owe a huge part of my understanding to this platform”

MILOUD CHIBANA
• Al Sharq Academia in Numbers

Students: 43,981
Courses in 2 Languages: 37
Countries: 66
Issued Certificates: 2,689
Scholars: 38