

## Meeting Minutes

**DATE AND TIME:** April 16, 2016; Noon to 3:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Chevy Chase Library, Maryland

**INVITEES:** General Membership Meeting for “Learn and Network” and Business Meeting

**ATTENDEES:** 33 Members and Guests

Ziad Sabra, President

Mohamad Jamal, Vice President

Nazha Sarkis, Secretary

Emad Yasin, Treasurer

Amal Abou-Sef, Public Relations

Walid Halboni, Chair of Social Committee

Eissa Haj-Hamad, Chair of Membership Committee

Rabih Najib, Chair of IT and Communications

Abed Khaskia, Chair of Education and Scholarship Committee Member

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, members and guests attended this meeting to socialize and network with peers, and listened to two dynamic speakers who shared with us their successful experience in Cloud Computing, and opportunities to doing Business with the State Department.

### **AGENDA**

**Socializing and Networking (Noon to 12:45 pm)**

**Business Meeting (12:45 pm to 1:00 pm)**

**Topic 1:** Cloud Computing (1:00 pm to 1:45 pm)

**Presenter:** Dr. Waleed Youssef is a technology strategist and enterprise architect with over 20 years of experience in the IT industry. He is a business-savvy management professional with extensive experience in architecture, project, and program management. He has performed multiple consultancy roles for major companies in North America and overseas. Waleed got a pioneering career reflecting strong leadership coupled with superior record of delivering large-scale and critical-mission projects on time with highest level of quality for multiple clients in different industries. He is currently working at IBM. Waleed is a PhD graduate from University of Maryland Baltimore County in Computer Science/Wireless Sensor Network. He has a Master degree from Penn State University in Cognitive Computing. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Alexandria University, School of Engineering in Computer Engineering. He is also a Certified Distinguished Architect and Certified Enterprise Architect. He has published multiple journal papers in artificial intelligence and presented at multiple conferences and events.

**Topic 2:** Overseas Buildings Operations of the US Department of State – Available Business Opportunities. (2:00 pm to 2:45 pm)

**Presenter:** Mr. Bassem Houssami is a fifteen-year veteran of the Department of State. During this period he served in different positions domestically and overseas. Presently, he is serving as a Project Manager in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations. Bassem has held several high-profile positions during his career such as the Director of Program and Budget Analysis Section and Funds Manager in Baghdad Central, under the Coalition Provisional Authority in 2004; Chief of the Political and Economic Section of the US Consulate Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 2007; The Public Diplomacy Officer and Coordinator of the Middle East Partnership Initiative in Kuwait in 2009 and 2010; and a Contracting Officer Representative for Operations and Maintenance Support Services in Basrah in 2014. Prior to joining the State Department, Bassem had his own General Contracting firm that focused on Federal, State, and County government contracts, as well as real estate development. Bassem has wide range of experiences in Corporate and Construction Management and Engineering in the US, and Internationally, with experience ranging from Energy sector, refineries and petrochemical plants (Procon International, Des Plain, IL), to the Nation Building of war-torn Lebanon (Oger Liban, Beirut, Lebanon). Bassem has a degree in Physics from University of San Francisco, a degree in Engineering from Arizona State University, and Graduate Degree in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University.