

DR SHIRAZ KABANI

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PROFILE

Entrepreneurially-minded senior executive with 25+ years of leadership experience in the USA and UK, mostly in the higher-education sector. Proficient strategic planner and goal-oriented leader of multi-cultural teams, specialising in operational aspects of complex not-for-profit organisations. Confident bilingual public speaker with proven abilities as a public intellectual. Successful development specialist with international fundraising and donor relations experience. Experienced leader of charities and not-for-profit organisations. Scholar in the field of organisational leadership and ethics, with academic background in management and engineering.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

THE INSTITUTE OF ISMAILI STUDIES

Various Senior Management Roles

September 1999 – Present

A London-based research and higher education institution that promotes scholarship and learning of Muslim cultures and societies and a better understanding of their relationship with other societies and faiths. The Institute employs more than 120 staff and has a budget exceeding UK£14M.

Head of Community Relations (2013-Present) – Six direct reports | 15 staff | £1.1m annual budget

This department implements a number of certificate and diploma-level human resource development (HRD) and executive education programmes in the fields of Muslim cultures and civilisations, ethics, teacher education, and leadership for diverse constituencies across five continents.

Key Achievements

- ◆ Conceptualised and delivered international HRD programmes enhancing partner institutions' competencies
- ◆ Designed and delivered executive education workshops in 20 countries enhancing leadership competencies
- ◆ Established an alumni relations programme engaging 98% of alumni to support their career development
- ◆ Grew department from 5 to 15 staff to expand scope of initiatives and enhanced access by 100%+

Head of Communications & Development (2000-2016) – Two direct reports | 6 staff | £280k annual budget

This department is responsible for fund-raising, donor relations and communications with internal and external constituency segments, including via the official website.

Key Achievements

- ◆ Designed and led a global resource mobilisation campaign yielding contributions of US\$75M
- ◆ Managed database of 20k+ donors and delivered a creative donor recognition strategy to garner support
- ◆ Conceptualised and led the development of the Institute's website, now visited by 30k+ unique visitors
- ◆ Developed a long-term financial strategy which supported fund-raising campaigns and financial planning

Head of Operations & Finance (2005-2011), ***Board Secretary*** (2000-2011), ***Executive Officer*** (1999-2000)

Key Achievements

- ◆ Brought coherence to the Institute's initiatives through development of a 15-year Strategic Plan
- ◆ Negotiated lease, managed £2.5m refurbishment of facilities and relocation of the Institute
- ◆ Outsourced major printing contract to an Indian firm, saving £250k per annum
- ◆ Negotiated publishing contract with a leading UK university press, yielding net surplus on publications

ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS (EDMS) INC.

Managing Director

September 1998 – September 1999

EDMS is a US consulting firm providing technical services in the field of output and document management to numerous Fortune 500 companies. In 1999, it had annual revenues of US\$1M+ and employed 10 consultants.

Key Achievements

- ◆ Transformed a one-man consultancy firm into a business with proper infrastructure to attract business
- ◆ Contributed to enhancing company revenues by more than 200% within one year

I.T.R. EDUCATION BOARD FOR THE USA

Executive Officer

July 1987 – September 1998

A not-for-profit educational organisation that caters to the religious formation needs of a community through 60 education centers. In 1998, it employed 12 staff and had an annual operational budget of US\$2M+.

Key Achievements

- ◆ Established all systems, processes and infrastructure to professionalise services of the board
- ◆ Led the development of a long-term strategic plan to bring coherence and financial efficiency

VOLUNTARY WORK AND AFFILIATIONS

- ◆ Vice President, His Highness the Aga Khan Ismaili Council for the United Kingdom (2009-2015)
- ◆ Chairman of the Board of Trustees, CFR(UK), registered charity (2009-2015)
- ◆ Member, International Leadership Association (2016-present)
- ◆ Member, Society for Business Ethics (2016-present)
- ◆ Member, International Society for Third Sector Research (2016-present)
- ◆ Governor (Vice Chair), Local Advisory Board, Park Hill Junior School (2018-present)

OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- ◆ Extensive international public speaking and presentation experience on a wide range of themes
- ◆ Professional knowledge of Microsoft Office® and numerous communications and data management packages
- ◆ Work-based international travel to over 40 countries across five continents

LANGUAGES

English, Urdu, Gujarati, Persian (intermediate), French (beginners)

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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|---|----------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Doctor of Management in Organisational Leadership (GPA: 3.96) | Nov 2017 | University of Phoenix, USA |
| ◆ Master of Business Administration (GPA: 3.42) | May 1997 | University of Houston, USA |
| ◆ B.Sc., Electrical Engineering (GPA: 3.29) | May 1987 | University of Houston, USA |

PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Book: *Ismaili Festivals and Stories of Celebration*. London: The Institute of Ismaili Studies, 2021.
- ◆ Book Chapter: “The Ismailis: History, Doctrines and Ritual Practices”. In Oliver Leaman (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Islamic Ritual and Practice*. Abingdon: Routledge (Forthcoming 2021).
- ◆ Book Chapter: “Shoaib Sultan Khan: Leading to Ignite the Spirit of Enterprise”. In Brooks, M., & Ezzani, M. (eds.), *Great Muslim Leaders: Lessons for Education*. Information Age Publishing. (Forthcoming 2022).

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

- ◆ Titles of Honour from His Highness the Aga Khan for services to the community (1994, 2009)
- ◆ Fellow, Royal Society of Arts (2013-present)

PERSONAL

Nationality: United Kingdom and United States of America

Health: Good

Interests: Community service and modern literature

REFERENCES

Available upon request