

# EMIRATI TALENT

10<sup>TH</sup> EDITION | JULY 2025

By the end of the second quarter of 2025  
ETCC achieved pioneering accomplishments



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# EDITORIAL

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE REMAINS THE WORTHIEST INVESTMENT

Foreword by His Excellency  
Ghannam Al Mazrouei,  
Secretary-General of ETCC



The Nafis program continues to evolve at an accelerated pace, driven by extraordinary efforts to enhance the competitiveness of Emirati talent. The achievements of this second quarter of 2025 reaffirm that prioritizing human capital is the cornerstone of sustainable progress.

Among this quarter's milestones was the second cohort of the Nafis Leadership Journey to Singapore—an immersive educational and leadership experience designed to explore global best practices in entrepreneurship and innovative leadership. Additionally, the Council and the Nafis program actively contributed to key national initiatives, most notably the Make it in the Emirates Forum.

To advance our mission of fostering employment and skills development, the Council participated in specialized career fairs such as Tomouh Al-Dhafrah

Career Fair and Ethraa Career Fair in Al Ain and Dubai. These platforms provided thousands of citizens with tailored opportunities for professional growth across diverse sectors. Equally vital has been our engagement with youth through initiatives like the Nafis Youth Council and targeted training workshops, empowering the next generation to thrive in a dynamic job market.

In closing, I am proud to highlight tangible outcomes that reflect our collective resolve: over 150,000 citizens now contribute to the private sector, 117,000 individuals have benefited from financial support programs, and 129,000 citizens have secured sustainable employment since Nafis' inception.

These figures are not mere statistics—they embody the trust placed in us by our visionary leadership and our steadfast commitment to building a competitive, knowledge-driven economy led by Emirati talent.



## The "NAFIS Leaders" Journey to Singapore: An Inspiring Leadership Experience



As part of the NAFIS Leaders program, participants from the second cohort embarked on a distinguished educational trip to the Republic of Singapore renowned for its entrepreneurial leadership from 13 to 18 April 2025. The visit formed a key component of the program's training plan, aimed at closely acquainting participants with global best practices in management and leadership. The trip featured panel discussions and interactive workshops delivered by leading academics and international experts,

enriching participants' knowledge and fostering the exchange of practical experiences. Participants affirmed the significant impact of this journey on their leadership and strategic thinking capabilities, crediting hands-on training and exposure to global experiences for broadening their perspectives. This initiative stands as a comprehensive model for experiential learning and international engagement, reflecting the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council's commitment to advancing national leadership capacity.





## ◆ ETCC NEWS

# Preparing Youth for the Future Job Market as Part of the ETCC's Participation in the National Service Career Fair

The Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council participated in the National Service Career Fair on 13 May 2025 through a youth circle titled "Skills of Today... Jobs of Tomorrow." During the session, His Excellency Ghanem Butti Al Mazrouei, Secretary General of the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council, spoke about the importance of developing and equipping national talent to meet the demands of the future job market. His

Excellency stressed the importance of enhancing youth readiness amid rapid transformations towards an economy driven by innovation, technology, and artificial intelligence.



## Negotiation Skills for Future Leaders in the NAFIS Leadership Program

Participants in the NAFIS Leadership Program took part in a specialised training workshop titled “Negotiation and Influence Skills”, designed to enhance their capabilities in strategic communication and positive influence within the workplace. The workshop equipped them with advanced tools for building effective negotiation strategies, understanding professional dynamics, and achieving tangible outcomes that strengthen their ability to lead teams and make informed decisions in fast-paced, evolving work environments. This initiative reflects NAFIS’s ongoing commitment to preparing a new generation of Emirati leaders empowered with modern leadership and impactful communication skills.





## Secretary-General Confirms Nafis' Continued Empowerment of Emirati Talent in the Industrial and Advanced Technology Sectors



His Excellency Ghanem Al Mazrouei, Secretary-General of the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council (ETCC), participated in a panel discussion at "Make it in the UAE" Forum held on May 20, 2025. During the session, he discussed the strategic vision for localization and its alignment with the "Year of Community," as well as its impact on the industrial sector. His Excellency highlighted the role of the Nafis Program in increasing the number of Emiratis working in the private sector to over 137,000, supporting around

3,000 students in medical specialties, and providing approximately 50,000 career counseling sessions, all of which contribute to empowering national talent. The forum also saw the honoring of pioneers in the National In-Country Value Program, both individuals and organizations. Nafis was recognized as one of the strategic partners in the National In-Country Value Program, with His Excellency Ghanem Al Mazrouei and several officials present at the ceremony.



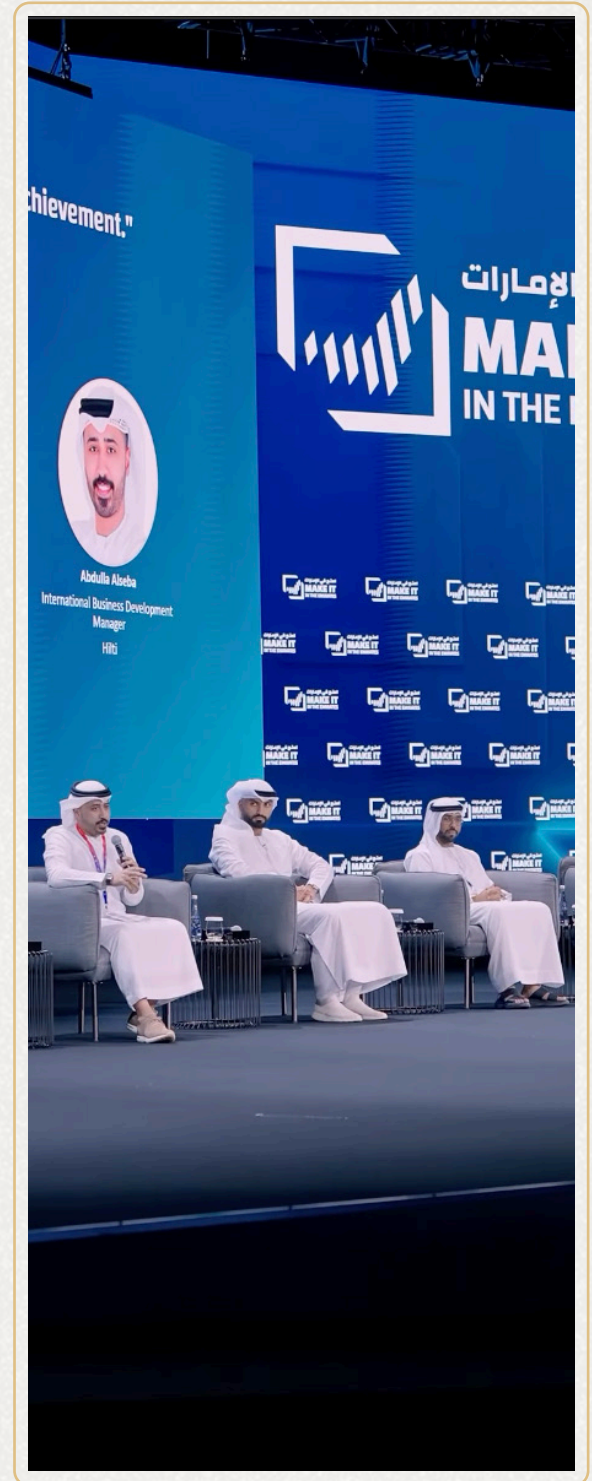
## > SPOTLIGHT

# Prominent Participation of the Nafis Youth Council at "Make it in the UAE" Forum

The Nafis Youth Council participated in an interactive panel discussion titled "For Ambitious Youth: The Private Sector, Your Gateway to Achievement," as part of the "Make it in the UAE" Forum and the "industrialist" Exhibition. This was in line with the Council's efforts to empower youth and introduce them to career development opportunities in the private sector, particularly in the industrial field.

The session focused on the crucial role of youth in supporting the national economy by engaging in strategic sectors. It shared success stories and real-life professional experiences of Emirati youth who have proven their excellence and ability to innovate, having a positive impact on the workplace environment.

The session also featured rich discussions on empowerment mechanisms, enhancing youth readiness for the labor market, and the importance of private sector partnerships in providing a supportive and motivating environment for Emirati talent. This participation reflects the Nafis Youth Council's commitment to supporting the aspirations of Emirati youth and enhancing their role in sustainable development, by highlighting real success stories and creating a platform that connects them with decision-makers and experts.







## Industrialist Exhibition and Promising Opportunities for National Talent

The organization of the "Industrialist Career Exhibition" as part of the "Make it in the UAE" event was carried out through a strategic partnership between the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council, the Nafis Program, and ADNOC. This collaboration aimed to support Emiratisation efforts and empower Emirati talent in the industrial sector.

Over 100 companies participated in the exhibition, offering more than 1,200 job opportunities in various fields such as advanced technology, renewable energy, and smart manufacturing. The event saw a remarkable turnout from job seekers, and virtual interviews were conducted using artificial intelligence technology, adding an innovative, interactive dimension to the recruitment experience.



## > SPOTLIGHT



## Empowering Talent Through Local Training in the Age of AI

In collaboration with Huawei Technologies, the NAFIS International Program offered Emirati citizens a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience and advanced skills in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence, big data, and 5G technology. This strategic initiative aims to strengthen the readiness of national talent and equip them to meet the demands of the global digital economy.

## Talent Program: Your Pathway to Financial Professionalism

In collaboration with Abu Dhabi Global Academy, NAFIS launched the Talent program, enabling Emirati citizens to obtain professional certifications that qualify them as accredited financial experts. The program aims to support Emiratisation in the financial sector and enhance the readiness of national talent to lead this vital industry.





## > SPOTLIGHT

### Aisha Al Naqbi,

My name is Aisha Al Naqbi, and I am currently employed as a road engineer at Parsons Corporation, an engineering consultancy firm. I have approximately three years of experience in the private sector.

I chose to pursue a career in this field because it presents both challenges and progressive opportunities for professional growth. From my experience, I have acquired and refined a range of skills, particularly in time management and teamwork. The private sector is widely recognised for its merit-based advancement, where competence and achievement are promptly acknowledged. This has significantly contributed to my career growth and development.

Moreover, working in a diverse and multicultural environment has enhanced my adaptability and deepened my appreciation for various work styles.

Initially, I believed that working in the private sector would be difficult and demanding; however, my experience has proven otherwise. I discovered a dynamic and stimulating environment, rich with opportunities for growth and development. I encourage young professionals to consider careers in the private sector, as it offers valuable opportunities to gain practical experience and develop essential skills that will prepare them for success across a wide range of professional domains.





## > SPOTLIGHT

### Hassan Abdul Raheem Al Mulla

I am Engineer Hassan Abdul Raheem Al Mulla. I serve as a Maintenance Manager in the transportation sector. Through my role at Al-Futtaim Auto & Machinery Company (FAMCO), the exclusive distributor for Volvo in the UAE, I contribute to a project supporting road and transport services in Dubai. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Higher Colleges of Technology and a Master's degree in Project Management from the College of Engineering at Abu Dhabi University. With over five years of experience in the private sector, I started my professional journey as a Technical Support Engineer and was promoted to Maintenance Manager. This career path has demonstrated to me that the private sector is a dynamic environment that values achievement and offers substantial opportunities for rapid advancement. Throughout my career, I have developed strong competencies in team leadership, problem analysis and the implementation of quality systems and continuous improvement initiatives. I have also been involved in several high-profile projects, including the operation of electric buses and also participated in major international events such as COP28, Expo 2020, and the UITP Summit. I have been honoured twice under the UAE High Performance Programme, in 2023 and 2024. Additionally, I have presented the Sinyar Agile Skills Development Programme. We are currently focused on integrating artificial intelligence into our operations. Recently, we participated in AI Week, an initiative aligned with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed to incorporate AI into both public and private sector services. What distinguishes Al-Futtaim is its commitment to Emiratisation. Through initiatives such as training, mentorship, and development programmes like Sinyar, the company actively prepares Emirati nationals for leadership roles across various departments. My message to Emirati youth: The private sector offers a genuine opportunity for growth and success. With dedication and ambition, you can make a meaningful and lasting impact.





## ◆ SPOTLIGHT

### Abdelrahman Khaled Al-Shehhi

My name is Abdelrahman Khaled Al-Shehhi, a powertrain engineer at LODD Autonomous Logistics for more than one year. I hold a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Khalifa University, and I had the honor of representing the United Arab Emirates in the WorldSkills competition in Electrical Installation and Building Technology, where I achieved the first place among the Arab countries and ranked ninth globally. As a powertrain engineer at LODD, my team and I are responsible for designing the key components that power our autonomous hybrid aircraft, such as the battery systems and the engine. This role allows me to work with advanced technology in the field of autonomous aviation, which is a key focus of the UAE vision for the future. Through this experience, I have gained valuable skills in system design, teamwork, and decision-making. The private sector rewards performance over seniority and offers real opportunity for fast career growth, and working in a diverse multicultural environment has also broadened my perspective and improved how I work with others. Before joining, I used to think that the private sector might be unstable, but the truth is it's full of opportunity for learning and development. My advice to Emirati youth, don't hesitate to join the private sector. It's where you can grow, prove yourself, and play an important role in building the future of our country.





## Launch of the Dhafra Ambition Employment Fair: A Strategic Platform to Empower Talent



Under the patronage of the Court of the Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region, the Higher Colleges of Technology, in collaboration with the Mawaheb Center and the NAFIS program, launched the inaugural edition of the Tomouh Al-Dhafrah Career Fair 2025, held from 30 April to 1 May 2025. This fair represents a key milestone in efforts to support sustainable development and enhance the capabilities of Emirati talent in the labour market.

### The fair aims to:

-  **Enhance Engagement:** Provide an interactive platform connecting Emirati students and graduates with government entities and the private sector
  -  **Align Education with Market Needs:** Bridge the gap between academic outputs and market demands through job opportunities and advanced training programme
  -  **Empower Youth:** Create high-quality employment opportunities that foster promising career paths and provide vocational training aligned with modern-day requirements
- The fair marks a pivotal step toward realising the UAE's vision for a sustainable economy driven by empowered youth and direct linkages between education and the labour market.



## Ethraa Career Fair in Al Ain and Dubai: Exceptional Job and Training Opportunities in the Banking Sector

The 7th and 8th editions of the Ethraa Career Fair were held in Al Ain and Dubai respectively in 2025, through a strategic partnership between the Emirates Institute of Finance, the Central Bank of the UAE, the NAFIS program, the Dubai Human Resources Development

Council, Al-Futtaim Group, and several federal and local partners. The initiative supports Emiratisation efforts within the financial and banking sector and enhances the market readiness of Emirati professionals.





## The fair aims to:



**Provide Quality Opportunities:** Offer over 300 job vacancies in the Al Ain edition and hundreds more in the Dubai edition across banking, fintech, insurance, and finance sectors



**Accelerate Employment and Upskilling:** Organise on-the-spot interviews, specialised training workshops, and more than 200 certified international training opportunities



**Strengthen Public-Private Collaboration:** Promote synergy between the public and private sectors to build a sustainable employment ecosystem led by skilled Emiratis  
The Al Ain edition featured participation from over 25 financial and government institutions and attracted around 2,000 visitors.

The Dubai edition brought together more than 60 leading financial institutions. Dedicated career guidance zones and skills development workshops were also held to equip youth for the evolving job market.

The Ethraa Career Fair stands as a practical example of institutional collaboration to support Emiratisation and unlock future career pathways for citizens, reaffirming the UAE's commitment to a sustainable, knowledge-based economy rooted in national talent empowerment.



## > MAIN FILE



**+ 150K**

Emiratis working in the private sector



**+28K**

Facilities in the private and banking sector



**+129K**

Emiratis have joined the private sector since the launch of Nafis in 2021



**+117K**

Beneficiaries from the Nafis salary support scheme

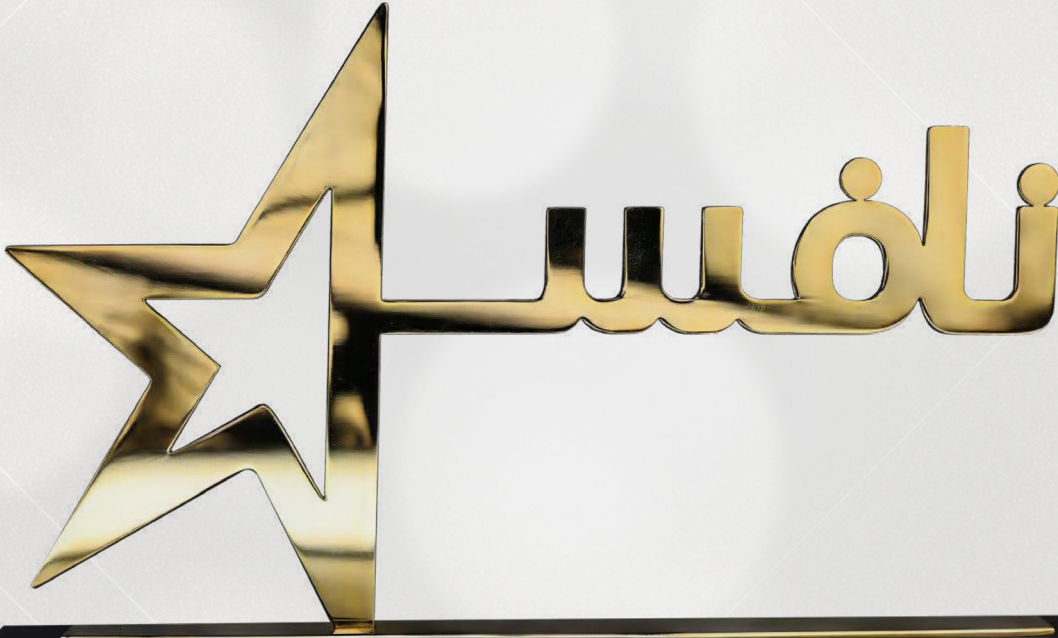




# STAY TUNED

FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT  
OF THE WINNERS OF  
THE NAFIS AWARD

"THIRD EDITION"



جائزة نافيس

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