



***Mr. Essam DISI***

**Director**

**Strategy and Policy**

**Mohammed Bin Rashid Est. for SME Development (Dubai SME)**

**United Arab Emirates**

Essam Disi at present is the Director of Strategy and Policy at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Est. for SME Development (Dubai SME), a government agency under the Department of Economic Development (DED) – Government of Dubai - tasked with the development of Entrepreneurship and Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Dubai.

In his present job, his main roles and responsibilities are to formulate long-term plans, strategies and policy support framework for SME development, in addition to executing strategic initiatives to support the SME sector and the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Dubai. Key to this is to advocate for economic and business policy reforms that will enable the development of a pro-enterprise environment in Dubai. This includes undertaking strategic SME research studies & impact analysis of policy changes and leveraging key stakeholders to support and collaborate with the Establishment to deliver SME initiatives.

Since joining the Establishment in October 2008, Essam and his team successfully launched the first-ever SME definition for Dubai, formulated the first Dubai SME five-year development plan, undertook a comprehensive development needs survey of the Dubai SME sector, developed the principal SME statistics, completed micro-economic/SME industry studies; launched the first SME Corporate Governance Code for Dubai-based SMEs, inaugurated the first quarterly SME business confidence index and launched the first-ever Dubai SME100 Ranking. He and his team were also instrumental in developing successful partnerships with strategic international stakeholders such as the World Bank, IFC, WIPO, OECD, INSME, and WEF to advance the Dubai entrepreneurship and SME development agenda.

Prior to his current position, Essam held different positions in government entities; he worked as Strategic Planning & Performance Management Consultant at the UAE Ministry of Finance. Earlier he served as the Quality & Business Excellence Manager at Emirates Management Services Corporation.

Essam is currently a Doctoral Degree candidate at the Australian University of Wollongong, he graduated as Telecommunication Engineer (BSc) in 2003, and received his Masters Degree in Engineering Systems Management from the American University in Sharjah in 2007. He is also a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) by the Institute of Internal Auditors – Florida – USA.