



BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN
AMERICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST
AMERICANMEI.ORG



When community leaders—including some special “founding mothers”—first convened late in 2007, the American Middle East Institute was only an idea. We believed that through business, education, and culture we could build bridges between Pittsburgh and the Middle East. Today, bridges are standing, and our partnership with the inaugural Global Manufacturing & Industrialisation Summit (GMIS) is proof that this worthwhile enterprise is here to stay.

From spearheading delegations to the Middle East to bringing the Middle East to America, AMEI has built enduring friendships and partnerships. GMIS’s selection of Pittsburgh as its permanent host city is a proud achievement for AMEI and our many partners.

During the past fifteen years, the story of AMEI can be told through the celebrated speakers who graced the stage at our annual gatherings. We’ll never forget Thomas Friedman’s stirring opening address, or when Tom Brokaw was marooned in Manhattan by Hurricane Sandy. It was that year we learned how to do virtual events with a lineup of global officials and thought leaders. Our friends from Egypt will always remember their storm traveling adventure that year.

And who could forget the fireside chat between two friends, Governor Dick Thornburgh and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger? It was on that night, Kissinger dismissed a heckler in Carnegie Music Hall with, “Well at least I don’t leave them indifferent!”

From HRH Prince Sultan’s opening of the “Roads of Arabia” exhibit here in Pittsburgh, to our conference under the stunning skyline of Dubai, and a return appearance with the Dubai 2020 World Expo with GMIS, we’ve done our best to convene memorable events for visionary leaders like you.

Let’s keep this going, because the best is yet to come!

Sincerely,



Simin Yazdgerdi Curtis
President, CEO & Founder
Honorary Consul of Oman in Pittsburgh
Member of the Western Pennsylvania
District Export Council



SPECIAL THANKS FROM SIMIN CURTIS

David Briel — PA Deputy Secretary for International Business
Jeff Coleman & Team — Churchill Strategies (with AMEI since the beginning)
Lyn Doverspike — U.S. Commercial Service
Hon. Rich Fitzgerald — Allegheny County Executive
Bill Flanagan — Allegheny Conference on Community Development
Vince Gastgeb — Allegheny County Airport Authority
Giorgiana Guenther (Gigi) — AMEI
Namir Hourani — GMIS Managing Dir. & Team
Jerry Hodge — National Association of Manufacturers (ret.)
Michael Lordi — Elliott Group (ret.) & AMEI Board

Petra Mitchell — Catalyst Connection
Steven Murray — U.S. Commercial Service
Doug Ramsey — HYT Advisors
Brett Rondon — University of Pittsburgh
Mark V. Santo, Esq. — MVS Counsel, LLC
Yiqun Sun — Allegheny County Airport Authority
Cynthia Sweet — University of Pittsburgh
Jack Thompson — West Virginia University
Maria Wagley — formerly with AMEI for 12 years
Sandra DeVincent Wolf — Carnegie Mellon University
Last but not least:
My wonderful husband, Greg Curtis (Founder & Chairman, Greycourt & Co., Inc.) and my large, growing family (7th grandchild is 3 weeks old!)

6:00 PM

WELCOME BY SIMIN CURTIS
President, CEO & Founder, American Middle East Institute

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
OMAR AL SUWAIDI
Undersecretary, Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology
United Arab Emirates

REMARKS BY MIKE LORDI
CEO (Retired), Elliott Group

DINNER SERVED

7:15 PM

ADJOURN TO MAIN STAGE SEATING

INTRODUCTION OF
KEYNOTE SPEAKER BY DIANE HOLDER
President & CEO, UPMC Health Plan

KEYNOTE REMARKS, DR. SANJAY GUPTA
Chief Medical Correspondent, CNN

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH DR. GUPTA
HOSTED BY DR. ROBERT FRIEDLANDER
**Guests are invited to submit questions via question cards to be collected prior to Dr. Gupta’s remarks.*

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY SIMIN CURTIS

Register now for day two of GMIS America
Scan to see tomorrow’s lineup.

