



20 attendees. "The workshops were very informative and we would like to attend more in future" said Badia Al Turdi, Ground Operations Fly Nass Airlines

I. An Introductory Workshop on Qualitative Data Analysis Using NVivo Dr. Amira Khattak,, PhD International Business, Certified Trainer for NVivo by QSR International Australia, College of Business Administration, PSU

II. SPSS Exploratory Workshop for Quantitative Research and Techniques. Saima Rashid, IBM Certified Specialist, SPSS, Deanship of Education Services & Director Center of Statistics, PSU

III. Applied Machine Learning in Python: Introductory Session. Dr. Souad Larabi, Assitant Professor Computer Science, PSU

Athoug AlSoughayer, Faculty PSU, Front End Developer | UI/UX Designer | Game Designer, Researcher New York University Game Innovation

"WiDS Riyadh at Prince Sultan University is bringing the latest data science research and applications to the Kingdom, inspiring students, faculty, and industry participants," said Dr. Mohammed Al Kanhal Dean College of Computer and Information Sciences.

Students taking predictive analytics course at the department of Information Systems participated in the WiDS Datathon challenge under the supervision of Ms. Hind Al Askar and were rewarded during the conference. It is important to note that all colleges at PSU actively participated thus strengthening the strategic goal of promoting interdisciplinary research at the university.

Dr. Iman Al Moumani, Associate Director of Research and Initiatives Center during her closing speech thanked Stanford and PSU management for their extensive support in organizing PSUWiDS and highlighted the role of Industrial and community partners such as SAP, IBM and Saudi Aramco in making the forum a success.

## Fatima Khan

Organizing Chair, WiDS RIYADH Prince Sultan University



## **WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE FORUM**

## AT PRINCE SULTAN UNIVERSITY IN COLLABORATION WITH STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Prince Sultan University represented by the College of Computer and Information Systems (CCIS), organized the Women's Data Science Forum (WiDS) in collaboration with Stanford University on 5th March 2018. Speakers in forum include local and International Data Scientists from Research Institutions, Government, Academia, NGOs and Industry as well as international speakers from IBM, MIT and SAP. By organizing this forum, Price Sultan University becomes the first university ambassador for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"We're thrilled to be working with Prince Sultan University to bring the Women in Data Science conference to the Arab Middle East", said Judy Logan, Co-Director of the Global Women in Data Science Conference at Stanford University.



WiDSRIYADH@PSU is a global event that is the first of its kind in Saudi universities. The forum aims to increase the representation of women and encourage their professional participation in the data science field. The forum presented the latest researches and practices in data science in Arab Middle Eastern countries, and promoted exchange of ideas while encouraging collaboration between several disciplines related to this field. In addition, it aims to link regional researchers and practitioners to international leading networks in data science. This event demonstrates the university's direction to enhance academic research, which contributes to the national development in accordance with the kingdom's vision 2030.

Vice Rector of Women's Campus in PSU Dr. Rimah bint Saleh Al-Yahya stated in her opening speech that "PSU is proud to be one of the pioneers in promoting the use of advanced technologies. She added that the goal of the university is to provide successful education through integrating modern technologies and human ethics to develop the process of scientific research, discovery, productivity, and leadership for a meaningful and profound social life."

**Dr. Tanzila Saba,WiDS Ambassador Riyadh Prince Sultan University and Leader of Machine Learning Research Group** presented an enlightening talk On Data Science and Machine Learning and highlighted the crucial role of data in machine learning she encouraged the participants to re-imagine the world through machine learning and Artificial intelligence by providing excellent real life examples.

"When our Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced the launch of NEOM at Future Investment Initiative conference at SAGIA, he said "NEOM will focus on Bio-Tech" and that is what my talk would be about at WiDS PSU" said Dr. Hala M. Alshamlan, Assistant Professor IT Department, King Saud University, Research Fellow Kamm Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

The forum included a live feed of the conference of Women in Data Science (WiDS) that was held at the American University of Beirut. It also included several sessions and workshops on the future of data science in education, humanizing analytics, privacy and security issues, data science and bioinformatics, big data architecture and other topics on data science and its role in the lives of contemporary women. The sessions and workshops were conducted by a number

of university leaders and faculty members as well as guests speakers from other universities and industrial sectors such as Aramco, IBM, SAP and others.

Asma Al-Otaibi, Senior IT System Analyst at Saudi Aramco provided useful insights On Big Data Architecture and Aramco's model leveraging SAP platform. Audience interacted very actively with the speaker to know more about Aramco's IT strategy and plans.

Mashael Muhanna, Information Integration Governance Technical Specialist at IBM during her talk Transforming Data into Tangible Business Value stressed on the importance of Data Governance and said "Data Science requires Data Governance"

**Dr. Emna Chikhaoui, Vice Dean College of Law Prince Sultan University** delivered a vibrant speech on Privacy and Security Issues in the Use of Clouds in e-Health in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which received interesting questions from the audience.

Dr. Orchida Fayez, Director of UL Courses, Dr. Hala Ismail, Acting Chair Applied Linguistics Department, Prince Sultan University during their talk on Big Data Analysis in the Teaching, Learning and Research of Humanities: Qualitative Frontiers coined the term "Digital Humanities" and stressed the importance data scientist working alongside with humanities.

**"Very beneficial sessions for data researchers"** said Munirah Badriyah, attendee from King Saud University

Panel discussion on Future of Data Science in Education was moderated by Ms. Suhad Aiadi and the panelist Dr. Tasneem Ali, Faculty of General Science Department (Statistics), Dr. Rafida Obaid, Faculty of General Science Department (Statistics), Dr. Elham Dannoun , Faculty of General Science Department (Physics), Ms. Saima Rashid, Faculty of General Science Department (Mathematics/ Statistics), Director Center of Statistics and Dr. Najia Saqib, Faculty of College of Business Administration(Finance Department) provided amazing insights about the topic.

"Data Science is at the summit of Education today" said Dr. Rafida during the discussion.

Workshops offered during WiDSPSU are listed below and each session was attended by approximately