buildersTribe

MEDIA & PR EVENT RECAP

Tribe TechFest 2026: Connecting the GCC and Africa's Boldest Builders to Ideas, Expertise and Opportunity

400+ attendees | 12 startups approved for 15mins Consultation | 12 consultants assigned | 4.9/5 attendee rating | 100k + impressions across socials

Date: Saturday, 31 October 2026
Venue: Nestwork Grand Hamad, Level 2, Alfardan Centre, Doha, Qatar
Time: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Theme: Where the GCC and Africa's Boldest Builders Come to Connect, Play, and Grow

More Than an Event. A Meeting Point for People Building What Comes Next.

On 31 October 2026, Builders Tribe brought together more than 400 founders, entrepreneurs, investors, technology professionals, students, consultants and ecosystem stakeholders at Nestwork Grand Hamad in Doha for Tribe TechFest 2026.

Built around the theme *Where the GCC and Africa's Boldest Builders Come to Connect, Play, and Grow*, the event created a space for people across the startup ecosystem to exchange ideas, learn from experienced operators, build relationships and explore opportunities for collaboration.

But the ambition behind TechFest went beyond putting people in the same room.

Builders Tribe designed the experience to address a practical challenge facing many founders: access. Access to people with relevant industry experience, decision-makers within established organizations, technical expertise, potential partners, and networks that can help a business move forward.

Through expert consultations, panel conversations, interactive experiences and structured networking, TechFest connected emerging businesses with the people and perspectives that can help them progress.

One of the clearest examples was the TechFest Consultation Hub, which gave selected startups a more structured route to expert support and strategic introductions. For some founders, this meant getting closer to industry stakeholders they had been trying to reach for months.

That is the kind of value Builders Tribe wants its community experiences to create: connections that continue to matter after the event ends.

Tribe TechFest 2026: The Numbers

Impact indicator	Result
Physical attendees	400+
Startups approved for consultation support	12
Startup Applications for 15mins Consultation	80+
Consultants assigned	12
Attendee feedback rating	4.9/5
Social media impressions for Techfest-related content	150k +

The Audience: A Diverse Mix of Builders and Ecosystem Stakeholders

TechFest brought together people at different stages of their professional and entrepreneurial journeys.

The audience included startup founders and co-founders, CEOs, C-level executives, managers, team leads, startup employees, students, technology professionals, investors, consultants and other business professionals.

The international participation reflected the connections between the GCC, Africa and wider global startup communities. Attendees represented countries across Africa, the Middle East,

South Asia, Europe and North America, with particularly strong representation from Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Sudan, Qatar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Egypt and other countries.

This diversity matters. Startups do not grow in isolation. They need customers, talent, capital, industry relationships, technical support and access to markets. Bringing people with different experiences and networks together creates more opportunities for those relationships to develop.

Role / level
Founder / Co-Founder / CEO: 177 (37.6%)
Manager / Team Lead: 85 (18.0%)
Student: 74 (15.7%)
Teammate: 61 (13.0%)
Others: 55 (11.7%)
C-level Executive: 15 (3.2%)
VP / Director: 4 (0.8%)

Startup stage
Others: 198 (42.0%)
Pre-seed: 111 (23.6%)
Pre-MVP: 48 (10.2%)
Seed: 41 (8.7%)
Series A: 12 (2.5%)

TechFest 15mins Consultation (Tech Wasta): Turning Introductions into Opportunities

Giving founders access to the right people

A standout feature of Tribe TechFest 2026 was the TechFest 15mins Consultation, developed to connect selected startups with relevant experts and industry stakeholders.

The process began before the event. Startups submitted their profiles and outlined the areas where they needed support. The team reviewed the applications, approved selected businesses, assigned consultants, and prepared discovery notes to make the conversations more focused.

The programme recorded:

- **80 startup applications**
- **12 startups approved**

- **12 consultants assigned**

The Hub brought together experts with experience across venture capital, aviation, education, technology, energy, business strategy, operations, entrepreneurship, leadership and organisational development.

From a 15-minute conversation to a meaningful introduction

The purpose of the consultations was not simply to give founders another opportunity to hear general business advice. The sessions were designed to help founders discuss specific business interests, gain relevant perspectives and, where there was a clear fit, connect with people and organisations that could help move those interests forward.

For some startups, the most important outcome was access to stakeholders within relevant organisations in Qatar and multiple startups left the conversation with access to stakeholders across Kahaamaa, Qatar Energy, Qatar Foundation, regional restaurant chains amongst others.

Founders exploring pilot opportunities in sectors such as energy and healthcare, for example, had the opportunity to engage with people closer to the institutions and industry environments they were trying to reach.

Some of these founders had been attempting to establish those connections for months. Having a direct conversation and a clearer route to the relevant stakeholders was therefore particularly valuable.

The conversations opened possibilities for:

- Introductions to relevant industry and institutional stakeholders.
- Exploration of potential pilot opportunities.
- Access to prospective partners and subject-matter experts.
- Follow-up meetings and continued business discussions.
- More direct routes to exploring specific market and industry opportunities.

Importantly, the value of these introductions is not measured only by what happened during the event. Several conversations have afterwards through follow-up engagements and many meetings are scheduled

For Builders Tribe, this is a more meaningful measure of founder support: helping entrepreneurs get closer to the people, organisations and opportunities relevant to their next stage of growth. The focus is on helping engineer the outcomes deliberately and actively.

Over the next few weeks, we will follow up the conversations and record the results and outcomes of these meetings and conversations on the startups overall growth.

The experts behind the Consultation Hub

The programme brought together professionals with experience across different parts of the business-building journey, including:

- **Khalid Al-Mohannadi:** spent 25 years as an Instrumentation and Control Engineer at QatarEnergy, now founder of Ojeedoo, leading creative tech, regional capacity building, and innovative organizational consulting.
- **Haitham Al-Haidari:** GM of New Ventures at Snoonu and Founder and CEO of Bidaia.dev, Former CEO of Qatar Living, with experience in venture development and technology.
- **Youssef El-Moukhtar:** Venture capitalist at Golden Gate Ventures, supporting high-growth technology startups and early-stage investments.
- **Tasiyiwa Katie Mapondera:** is an entrepreneurship specialist at the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) and Co-Director of the Founder Institute Qatar.
- **Amber Acosta:** Program Lead for EdTech Testbeds at WISE, working on the validation and scaling of education technologies.
- **Haider Khan:** Accelerator Program Lead at Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), supporting early-stage technology ventures.
- **Dr. Hanan El Basha:** Strategic Advisor and founder of The Business Doctor, specialising in organisational diagnostics and business growth.
- **Clémence Bareth:** Fractional COO and founder of CB Consulting LLC, supporting founder-led businesses with operations and execution.
- **Sanchi Aggarwal:** Business Manager at ActionCOACH GCC, supporting business growth and team performance.
- **Marcel Dridge:** Angel Investor, Startup ecosystem advisor and executive board advisor, focused on ecosystem development and governance.
- **Wael Khoury:** Transformation leader and human capital advisor with more than 20 years of experience in leadership, organisational design and change management.
- **Adrian Pinto:** is the Chief Strategy & Investment Officer at Sawa Venture Partners in Doha and an angel investor,
- **Zahir Ali:** is a corporate growth expert, startup advisor, and the Founder and Managing Director of HUB17 Startup Studio, which helps Pre-Seed and Series A ventures scale and secure capital across GCC markets.
- **Eenga Kahumba:** Senior Delivery Lead at Qatar Airways, with experience in digital transformation and complex project delivery.

Together, their experience provided founders with access to perspectives spanning strategy, technology, fundraising, operations, leadership and market development.

The Conversations: Practical Perspectives on Building in the Age of AI

TechFest's programme brought together founders, operators, investors and specialists to discuss the changing realities of building and growing businesses.

Rather than focusing only on trends, the sessions explored the decisions, capabilities and strategies that founders need to remain competitive.

Panel 1: Average Is Not Good Enough: Staying Ahead in the Age of AI

The conversation examined what it takes for founders and organisations to remain relevant as artificial intelligence reshapes the way businesses operate.

The discussion brought together perspectives from venture capital, entrepreneurship, academic research and AI-enabled business operations.

Featured speakers:

- **Mohammed El-Malik:** Principal at Human Capital, with experience across early- and late-stage technology ventures and regional venture development.
- **Dr. Seungah Sarah Lee:** Assistant Professor at HEC Paris, specialising in entrepreneurship, innovation and organisational change.
- **Sam Fouladgar:** Founder and CEO of EvoHumanX, building human and AI training and development solutions. His experience includes deploying AI agents across business operations and training more than 20,000 people across the GCC.

Host: Nada Ibrahim, an ecosystem development and engagement professional at QIC Group with more than 16 years of experience across engineering, community development, media, programme management and innovation.

The conversation challenged participants to think beyond simply adopting AI tools. It explored the importance of adaptability, execution, innovation and building the capabilities required to create meaningful advantages in a rapidly changing environment.

Panel 2: Building an AI-Native Company

As AI moves from experimentation into everyday business operations, the discussion explored what it means to build a company with AI embedded into its processes, products and operating model.

Featured speakers:

- **Syed Muhammad Masud:** Programs Manager at AstroLabs, working across startup programmes, partnerships and ecosystem development in the GCC.
- **Ahmed Isse:** Founder and CEO of Keydris, co-founder of Dibsy, developing security and governance infrastructure for autonomous AI systems.
- **Hefzi Malhis:** Growth leader and ecosystem builder at The Utopia Studio, focused on strategic partnerships, venture growth and market expansion.
- **Dariya Smailova:** Founder and CEO of MarketersTeam, with 15 years of growth marketing experience, including four years at Google.

The discussion offered different perspectives on AI infrastructure, business operations, growth, market adoption and the opportunities available to companies building for an AI-enabled future.

Going Viral and Building Sustainable Digital Growth: A QnA session

TechFest also brought attention to the realities of digital visibility and sustainable brand growth.

The discussion featured perspectives from:

- **Mariam Ammar:** Co-Founder of Marvéra Consultancy, certified Style Coach™ and founder of Aura by Mariam, working across personal branding, image consulting and style coaching.
- **Sundus Adam:** Digital content creator and brand influencer with experience in lifestyle, fashion, beauty and brand collaborations.
- **Muhammad Nasir:** Manager doha oasis, senior digital marketing specialist, strategist and trainer with more than 18 years of cross-industry experience in brand visibility, lead generation and performance marketing.

The conversation explored the relationship between visibility, brand positioning, content and sustainable digital growth, particularly for businesses and professionals trying to build a stronger presence online.

Together, the sessions gave participants access to a range of perspectives from people working at the intersection of technology, investment, entrepreneurship, marketing and business development.

Between them, they have over 220k followers on instagram and reach millions of people every month with their content.

More Than Panels: Learning Through Participation

TechFest was designed to encourage participants to engage, not simply sit through a programme.

The sessions included interactive Q&A opportunities, allowing attendees to raise questions and connect the discussions to their own business and professional experiences.

Feedback from participants highlighted several useful takeaways, including:

- Networking and access to new professional connections.
- Direct conversations with consultants and experienced operators.
- Practical advice on digital marketing and business growth.
- Discussions around AI and its application in business.
- Guidance on startup structure and business development.
- Exposure to different approaches to entrepreneurship and innovation.

The combination of expert-led conversations and participant engagement helped make the programme a shared learning experience.

Community in Action: Connecting Beyond Business

One of the defining features of Tribe TechFest was the decision to create an environment where people could connect beyond formal business conversations.

The interactive Tech Bingo experience encouraged attendees to meet new people and start conversations outside their existing circles.

Participants also engaged through games and recreational activities, including:

- Table tennis
- Jenga
- Chess and puzzles

- Painting
- Board games
- PS5 gaming
- Virtual reality experiences

These activities created informal opportunities for founders, students, professionals and ecosystem stakeholders to interact.

For the Builders Tribe, community is not only about business introductions. It is also about creating spaces where people feel comfortable meeting, sharing experiences, discovering common interests and building relationships over time.

TechFest brought that philosophy to life.

What Participants Said

The event received an average rating of **4.9 out of 5 from recorded ratings** on the event feedback dashboard.

Participants highlighted the quality of the audience, the networking environment, the speakers, the consultation opportunities and the overall event experience.

> "The organizers were amazing, the turnover was the perfect blend of founders, consultants, investors and entrepreneurs. Everyone was enthusiastic and the agenda was well curated to provide engaging conversations while leaving room for networking and chatting. An event very well done." - **Nada Ibrahim**
>
> "Really well done and loads of really good advice." - **Ozzy Nwandu**
>
> "The event was successful. It was a good networking environment." - **Jalel Charfeddine**
>
> "It was a great event, glad I came! My favorite part was the interactive workshop sessions. No major complaints here, everything from the venue to the Tech consultants, speakers, speaker lineup, to the volunteers, was top-notch. Thanks for putting it together!" - **Chinedu Joseph**

The feedback reflects the value of combining relevant conversations with practical access, meaningful networking and an engaging community experience.

The Brands and Ecosystem Partners Behind TechFest 2026

Tribe TechFest was made possible through the support of organisations that recognise the importance of building stronger connections between businesses, founders and the wider technology ecosystem.

Event Sponsors

- **Rankoussi Group**
- **Snoonu City (Snoonu)**
- **UrbanPoint**
- **Masterminds Creative Studio**
- **ActionCOACH GCC**

Ecosystem and Community Partners

- **Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO Qatar)**
- **Nestwork Qatar**
- **Tribe Techie**
- **Ninth Theory**
- **AI Mavericks**
- **African Alumni Qatar Foundation (AAQF)**
- **Yanmu Qatar**
- **TALA Digital Media**

These partnerships reflect the collaborative approach behind TechFest: bringing together organisations with different capabilities and networks to create a stronger experience for the people building businesses.

Extending the Impact Beyond TechFest

For Builders Tribe, TechFest is one part of a wider commitment to connecting founders with opportunities, expertise and communities across the GCC and Africa.

The work continues through founder programmes, learning sessions, international delegations, community gatherings and partnerships.

Web Summit Qatar 2027: Connecting Founders to the Global Technology Ecosystem

30 January – 5 February 2027 | Doha, Qatar

Builders Tribe is organising an official founder delegation to Web Summit Qatar 2027, bringing together founders, entrepreneurs, investors and technology professionals for one of the region's major international technology gatherings.

The delegation is designed to help participants expand their networks, meet potential partners, explore market opportunities and engage with the wider global technology ecosystem.

It also creates an opportunity for organisations and community partners interested in engaging with startups and founders to participate in the ecosystem.

Registration is ongoing, with limited delegation capacity.

Explore the delegation: https://builderstribe.xyz/delegations/web-summit-qatar

The 5,000 Founders Series

The 5,000 Founders Series reflects Builders Tribe's commitment to supporting and connecting entrepreneurs across the GCC and Africa.

Through knowledge-sharing, community engagement, access to resources and opportunities to learn from experienced builders, the initiative aims to strengthen the relationships and support systems available to founders.

Explore the initiative: https://builderstribe.xyz/programs/5000-founders

TechForward Talks: Monthly Founder Learning Sessions

TechForward Talks is Builders Tribe's monthly online conversation series, bringing founders, operators and industry experts together to discuss relevant issues affecting startups and the wider technology ecosystem.

The sessions explore practical topics such as AI adoption, fundraising, product development, customer retention, business growth and emerging technology opportunities.

The objective is to make relevant knowledge and expert experiences accessible to founders, wherever they are building.

Explore upcoming sessions: https://builderstribe.xyz/events

Come and Play Padel: Building Community Beyond Business

Builders Tribe also creates opportunities for community members to connect outside traditional business settings through Come and Play Padel.

The recurring social experience brings founders and professionals together to unwind, meet new people and build relationships through shared activities.

It reflects the belief that strong professional communities are built through both business opportunities and genuine human connections.

Explore community events: https://builderstribe.xyz/events

Internship and Talent Opportunities

Builders Tribe continues to create opportunities for students and emerging professionals to gain practical experience, contribute to ecosystem-building initiatives and develop their skills through community programmes.

Explore internship opportunities: https://builderstribe.xyz/programs/internships

Building on the Work: Builders Tribe Impact 2024–2026

Tribe TechFest 2026 builds on Builders Tribe's ongoing work to support founders, strengthen professional networks and create opportunities across the startup ecosystem.

Since its establishment, Builders Tribe has convened founders, operators, students, investors and ecosystem stakeholders through events, founder support initiatives, learning programmes, partnerships and international delegations.

The organisation's broader impact report documents its work and progress from 2024 to 2026, including community development, events, partnerships and founder-focused initiatives.

Explore the Builders Tribe Impact Report: https://builderstribe.xyz/impact

Partner With Builders Tribe

The success of Tribe TechFest demonstrates what becomes possible when organisations, businesses and communities work together to support the people building new ventures.

Builders Tribe welcomes partnerships with:

- **Corporates and industry leaders** looking to engage with startups, discover emerging solutions and explore pilot or collaboration opportunities.
- **Investors and venture capital firms** seeking meaningful access to founders and emerging businesses.
- **Technology companies** interested in supporting startups through products, infrastructure, expertise and partnerships.
- **Accelerators and incubators** looking to collaborate on founder development and ecosystem programmes.
- **PR and media organisations** interested in amplifying startup stories and technology developments.
- **Brands and service providers** looking to build relationships with an active community of entrepreneurs and professionals.
- **Institutions and ecosystem organisations** interested in strengthening entrepreneurship and innovation across the GCC and Africa.

Through its events, founder programmes, media platform, delegations and community network, Builders Tribe provides opportunities for partners to engage with founders, share expertise, build visibility and contribute to ecosystem growth.

For partnership and sponsorships: https://builderstribe.xyz/collaborate

Website: https://builderstribe.xyz

About Builders Tribe

Builders Tribe is an entrepreneur support organisation connecting founders, entrepreneurs, operators, investors, students and ecosystem stakeholders across the GCC and Africa.

Through founder support initiatives, community events, knowledge-sharing programmes, strategic partnerships and international delegations, Builders Tribe works to improve access to the relationships, expertise and opportunities entrepreneurs need to build and scale.

From bringing founders together at Tribe TechFest to facilitating international ecosystem access through global delegations, Builders Tribe is building a connected community where people can learn, collaborate, create opportunities and grow.

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Builders Tribe: Building the future, together.

Link to event images:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1q0DGrjEJtuFMNP1BHxMByNKDS96-sxhT?usp=sharing