



In this edition, we're thrilled to share milestones from Saudi Arabia's journey into the future of technology, including breakthroughs in AIoT, the initiation of the Quantum Economy Network, and insights from our recent webinars on Smart Cities and the Metaverse. Celebrating the completion of the inaugural Seconded Fellowship Program and welcoming new team members, we highlight our collaborative strides towards harnessing the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Join us in exploring these pivotal developments that shape our digital world.

## BRIEFING PAPER

In a landmark development, the Saudi Telecom Company (stc), in collaboration with C4IR KSA, has released a pivotal briefing paper titled "[AIoT: Embedding Intelligence Everywhere](#)." This paper represents a monumental step in understanding and harnessing the power of the Internet of Things (IoT) and its evolution into AIoT, where Artificial Intelligence (AI) merges with IoT. The paper delves into the evolution of IoT, portraying it as the digital heartbeat that merges the physical and digital worlds. It emphasizes the transformative role of IoT across various sectors and how the fusion with AI ushers in the AIoT era. This union of technologies facilitates intelligent data analysis, real-time decision-making, and enhanced operational efficiency.



## FIRST QUANTUM ECONOMY WORKSHOP

The C4IR KSA, in partnership with the World Economic Forum, initiated the Quantum Economy project with a kick-off workshop titled "Quantum Economy Network" on February 6th. It aimed to evaluate Saudi Arabia's readiness and potential to act as a pilot country for the project, focusing on the opportunities and challenges associated with integrating into the quantum economy. MD Dr Basma Al-Buhairan and Advisor Dr Adnan AlSaati highlighted the importance of adopting emerging technologies and fostering cross-sector collaboration to innovate within the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning's lead at the WEF, Arunima Sarkar introduced the Quantum Economy Blueprint, emphasizing its role in helping countries develop their quantum technology sectors. The workshop, through its sessions, delved into the quantum economy's benefits, risks, and governance, setting the stage for KSA's active participation and future collaborations. This initiative marks a significant step towards leveraging quantum technologies in KSA, aiming to boost innovation and development.







## THE COMPLETION OF THE INAUGURAL CYCLE OF THE SECONDED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

On February 11, 2024, the first cycle of graduates of the Seconded Fellowship Program at the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the Kingdom was honoured, seconded by the Centre's partner entities, represented by the Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA), and the Industrial Development Program National Logistics Services (NIDLP).

The Seconded Fellowship Program aims to provide an opportunity for professionals from the Centre's partner entities from the governmental and private sectors, academia and development institutions in the Kingdom to participate in the work of the Centre's projects, initiatives and various activities to develop capabilities and acquire knowledge in the field of policies and technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its applications such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, and others.

## "SMART CITIES, DIGITAL TWINS AND THE METAVERSE – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES" WEBINAR

**Digital Twins evolved from PLM to SCs domain**

- 2002 - Mirrored Spaces Model (Dr. M. Grieves)  
Digital replica of physical systems, part of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM), to improve the understanding, monitoring, and optimization of physical systems through their virtual counterparts.
- 2017 - Smart City DTs  
An urban command and control platform, conceived by the Georgia Institute of Technology
- 2020s - Mainstream Adoption & Technological Convergence  
The proliferation of IoT, AI, and 5G dramatically increases the capabilities and applications of Digital Twins, in optimizing complex systems' performance, proactive management, and innovative design

IoT

C4IR KSA, in collaboration with IoT Squared, proudly presented an exclusive webinar titled "Smart Cities, Digital Twins and the Metaverse – Opportunities and Challenges". The featured speaker for this event was Giuseppe Verardi, Advisor to the Chief Commercial Officer at IoT Squared. The webinar took place on Monday, February 19, at 3 P.M.

The session offered a deep dive into the future of urban living and the digital realm, uncovering the potential of smart cities, exploring the intricacies of digital twins, and navigating the emerging landscape of the metaverse. Participants gained valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges presented by these advanced technologies and how they shape the future of societies and urban environments.

## QUANTUM INNOVATION SUMMIT

In a significant stride towards harnessing the revolutionary potential of quantum technologies, C4IR KSA showcased its pivotal role at the Quantum Innovation Summit 2024, held in Dubai on February 28 and 29. Highlighting its contribution, M.D Dr. Basma AlBuhairan, took an active role as a speaker in one of the panels, underscoring the centre's commitment to advancing the application and governance of emerging technologies. This event, marking its first edition, drew together a global assembly of experts, industry leaders, and innovators, emphasizing the transformative power of quantum technologies across various sectors.



## C4IR KSA DELEGATION VISIT TO INDIA WITH MEWA

The delegation went to India on March 11-12 to explore advancements in Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies within agriculture. In Mumbai, they met with industry giants like UPL SAS, Reliance, and Mahindra Group to discuss digital agriculture and policy frameworks. The visit continued in New Delhi, where discussions with Agri-Tech leaders, government officials, and startups focused on Agri-Tech utilization, Saudi Arabia's experiences, and potential collaborations. This trip underscores the Kingdom's commitment to transforming its agricultural sector through international partnerships and technological innovation.

## RECENTLY JOINED C4IR KSA FAMILY



**Fahad AlHegelan**

Advocacy & Partnership Director



**Abdullah Alshutayr**

Administrative Officer



**Riyadh AlSager**

Relationship Expert