

**Honorary
Doctor**



**H.E. Professor Hassan
B. Diab**

[Professor Diab](#) is a Lebanese academic, professor, engineer, executive, and [politician](#) with [over 33 years in academia including almost 20 years in executive roles](#) leading organizations across government, academic, and non-profit sectors. He served as the 26th President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon and was the first Prime Minister in the history of the MENA region to form a cabinet with 30% female ministers (6 out of 20). He took on a Herculean task by serving as Prime Minister (19 Dec 2019 - 10 Sept 2021) during the worst crises period in Lebanese history and managed to pass many decrees and laws on anti-corruption. His technocrat cabinet, an exception in Lebanese politics and the closest to the specification of a technocrat cabinet in the history of Lebanon, approved for the first time in Lebanese history forensic audit on the central bank as well as the first National Reform Plan to address the economic, financial and social problems resulting from three decades of mismanagement, a plan which was commended by many including the UN, EU, World Bank, and the IMF. He strongly believes effective leadership means having moral authority rather than formal authority and that leadership is about creating leaders, not followers.

On 13 June 2011, he was appointed as Minister of the Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MEHE) in the Lebanese Cabinet to take over the largest ministry in Lebanon. He was a technocrat minister which was an anomaly in Lebanese politics. Professor Diab was the 70th minister during 2011-2014 at a time when Lebanon was celebrating its 70th anniversary (2013) since independence (1943). The only one out of the 70 ministers who assumed this position and was also a professor and Vice President at a top university (American University of Beirut) in the MENA region (according to [QS 2018 results](#)). This allowed him to put partisan politics aside and practice national politics that fulfilled many achievements for the benefit of the education sector in the country. During his term an [unprecedented number of accomplishments were realized](#) including a new Higher Education (HE) law to replace a 40-year-old one. He also passed the Community Service decree for the first time, which required high school students to serve 60 hours of community service, creating hope through promoting the culture of volunteerism. Additionally, after two and a half years of implementing reforms, the [2013 World Economic Forum report](#) (p. 229), gave Lebanon the following ranking in HE (out of 144 countries): (i) Quality of Management Schools ranked 13th, (ii) Quality of Education ranked 10th, and (iii) Quality of Math and Science education ranked 4th which was only preceded by Singapore, Finland, and Belgium.

He is an advocate for educational reform in Lebanon and authored books and papers on the topic. His passion is [empowering youth](#) as mentioned in many of his [keynote speeches](#) as well as in an [interview with Rt. Hon. Keith Vaz](#) on Lyca Radio, London, broadcasted on January 30, 2022 on “Talking Points”. He served as [Vice President](#) (Oct 2006 - Jan 2020) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and as Professor of Computer Engineering (1985-2020) at the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering & Architecture, with 15 years of executive administrative and leadership experience. As [VP, he signed and led around 80 projects in 20 countries per year](#). At 30, he was the youngest to serve as AUB Senator for six years, and one of the youngest in AUB’s around 160-year history to be promoted, at the age of 37, to the rank of full Professor. Professor Diab has over 150 publications in internationally refereed journals & conferences. He is a registered *Chartered Engineer* in the Engineering Council, UK, and a *Fellow* of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), UK. At 35, he was *Fellow* at the Institute of Engineers, Australia with only 6.6% of its members in this grade; and *Fellow* of IET at the age of 42, with only 6.6% of the 150,000 members holding this grade at the time and an average age of 66. His cross-sector experience makes him a valuable advisor to corporations.

Professor Diab was Founding President of Dhofar University (DU) and Founding Dean of the School of Engineering at DU (2004-06), Sultanate of Oman. He was the youngest to become university president in Oman at 44. Moreover, DU was the first private university in Oman to receive institutional accreditation from the Omani Accreditation Council. On 21 September 2022, he received the Lebanese Order of Merit: *Grand Cordon Grade* from the Lebanese President. He accumulated over 30 national/international awards and honors, and was invited for inclusion in over 40 international biographies with over 100 citations including Who’s Who in the World, and Who’s Who in Science & Engineering. He has delivered over 200 keynote speeches and was invited to the “2nd Biennial Festival of Thinkers,” Abu Dhabi, as one of 90 World Thinkers together with 20 NOBEL Prize Laureates in October 2007. He is Founder and President of the [Rifca Taji Foundation](#) Charity NGO which has three pillars: *Women Empowerment*, *Community Service*, and *Education*. He strongly supports women empowerment, diversity, as well as inclusion, and served on many boards including Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, Social Welfare Institutions, Academy for Cultural Diplomacy, and the Southern New Hampshire University’s Global Education Movement (GEM). His career reflects a demonstrated track record in leading large-scale organizations, mitigating risk through effective change management, developing strategic partnerships, managing projects in over 30 countries, and navigating crisis through strong communications. Full CV (155 pages) can be accessed from [here](#).