

Call for Papers

AMEPPA 2025 Annual Conference

Governing Through Transformation: Public Policy and Administration at the Crossroads of Tradition and Renewal

 7–8 December 2025

 College of Public Policy, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar

The Association for Middle East Public Policy and Administration (AMEPPA) invites submissions for its 2025 annual conference. As the region navigates fast-paced demographic, economic, digital, and environmental transitions, public policy and administration are being redefined at the intersection of heritage and innovation. The conference aims to critically examine how policy systems across the Middle East are adapting to disruptive forces—ranging from artificial intelligence and digital government to climate resilience and social contract renewal—while remaining rooted in local values and governance traditions.

With sweeping Vision 2030 reforms, the deployment of smart cities, and growing experimentation with policy labs and agile governance, governments in the Middle East are becoming active architects of transformation. AI and digital tools now underpin everything from service delivery and regulatory monitoring to crisis response and citizen participation. At the same time, public administrators must navigate institutional constraints, cultural expectations, and the need to maintain legitimacy and trust.

Special Focus Areas

This year's conference particularly encourages submissions that:

- Explore the role of **AI, digital platforms, and emerging technologies** in reshaping governance and public service delivery in the Middle East
- Analyze public policy innovations that blend **traditional practices with digital experimentation**

- Examine the ethical, institutional, and regulatory challenges of adopting **AI in government decision-making**
 - Highlight culturally informed approaches to public administration reform and legitimacy-building
 - Present **regional case studies** of transformation initiatives, digital governance efforts, and administrative modernization
 - Investigate **cross-regional learning and policy transfer**, especially around digital resilience, data governance, and agile institutions
-

Conference Tracks

Each track welcomes empirical research, conceptual papers, practitioner reflections, and cross-sectoral case studies.

Track 1: Economic Transformation and Diversification Policy

Explores how Middle Eastern governments are steering economic change through strategic planning, innovation policy, and public investment. Topics include Vision 2030 strategies, knowledge economy development, sovereign wealth governance, and industrial diversification.

Track 2: Social Contract Renewal and Digital Citizen Engagement

Focuses on evolving state-society relations, especially in the context of youth demographics, inclusion, and digital transformation. Contributions may address digital platforms for service delivery, AI-driven citizen feedback systems, social equity, and new forms of participation in governance.

Track 3: AI, Data Governance, and Digital Transformation in Public Administration

Dedicated to examining how artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics, and digital tools are being integrated into governance systems. Topics include algorithmic decision-making, smart cities, data protection frameworks, digital ethics, and public sector innovation labs.

Track 4: Regional Cooperation and Cross-Border Policy

Considers the need for policy alignment in areas such as trade, infrastructure, humanitarian coordination, and environmental governance. Contributions may explore how digital tools and regional platforms enable cross-border collaboration and crisis management.

Track 5: Climate Adaptation, Sustainability, and Resilient Governance

Highlights how governments are responding to environmental stress through green policies, renewable energy governance, urban resilience, and food and water security strategies. Papers can also explore the role of AI and sensor technologies in climate monitoring and adaptive planning.

Track 6: Cultural Preservation and Governance Modernization

Explores how public institutions manage the tension between modernization and cultural authenticity. Topics include cultural policy, heritage protection in development contexts, Islamic governance, and the interplay between traditional norms and bureaucratic reform.

Track 7: Institutional Innovation and Administrative Reform

Investigates structural reforms in civil service, decentralization, regulatory agility, and anti-corruption. This track welcomes studies on AI-based performance management, digital workflows in public agencies, and governance experimentation through policy labs and sandboxes.

Track 8: Public Policy and Administration Education for Future Readiness

Focuses on developing regional knowledge systems and competency frameworks. Contributions may include pedagogy for digital-era public service education, executive training for AI governance, and applied research in regional transformation leadership.

Call for Regional Case Studies

AMEPPA invites detailed case studies of governance innovations and digital transformation initiatives from across the Middle East. These may include successful reforms, implementation challenges, or hybrid approaches that blend heritage and technological adaptation.

Submission Guidelines

- **Paper Abstracts:** 300–500 words outlining the research question, methodology, findings, and contribution to conference themes
- **Panel Proposals:** 500–750 words describing the panel theme, constituent paper abstracts, and value added
- **Practitioner Insights:** 200–300 words highlighting practical innovation, implementation barriers, and lessons learned

 *Submission Deadline:* October 6, 2025

 *Notification of Acceptance:* October 20, 2025

 *Final Papers Due:* November 30, 2025

For submissions: ameppa@hbku.edu.qa

Organization Committee

Co-Chairs:

- **Dr. Evren Tok** and **Dr. Esmat Zaidan**, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Executive Members:

- Dr. Mohamed Al Kadry, University of Connecticut
- Dr. Wolfgang Drechsler, TalTech – Tallinn University of Technology
- Dr. Noha El-Mikawy, American University in Cairo
- Dr. Noura Wahby, American University in Cairo
- Dr. Shahjahan Bhuiyan, American University in Cairo
- Dr. Rabia Naguib, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies
- Dr. Lanouar Charfeddine, Qatar University
- Dr. Tania Haddad, American University in Beirut
- Dr. Chris Tabakis, KAPSARC School of Public Policy
- Dr. Khalaf Al Abri, Sultan Qaboos University
- Dr. Logan Cochrane, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

The committee will oversee peer review, ensure regional relevance, and shape a high-quality program reflecting the theme of transformation through policy, technology, and tradition.