



SPOTLIGHT ON:

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MISK SCHOOLS | SAUDI ARABIA

Transforming education in Saudi Arabia under Vision 2030 | www.miskschools.edu.sa

SETTING THE SCENE

At the recent ECIS Leadership Conference 2025, Dr. Steffen Sommer, Director General of Misk Schools and Honorary Vice President of COBIS, shared his vision for transforming education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Speaking about leadership, innovation, and the future of assessment, he highlighted how Misk Schools is actively supporting Vision 2030 by preparing young Saudis for success in a rapidly changing world.

We caught up with him after his presentation to learn more about his journey, his leadership philosophy, and the unique role Misk Schools is playing in shaping the future of education in the Kingdom.

LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE

Dr. Steffen Sommer was appointed to lead Misk Schools in 2022. With over 30 years of leadership experience across Europe and the Middle East—including Doha College, one of the world's leading British international schools—he is a familiar voice in global education.

Dr. Sommer bases his leadership philosophy on the belief that schools are ecosystems: living, changing, and interconnected communities that thrive on adaptability and mutual respect. As he explains, “the people in them are different, which means there is no single formula for success.”

This understanding drives Misk Schools' forward-thinking use of AI technology; by integrating data-driven tools with strong pedagogy, the school creates the conditions for truly personalised learning, enabling every student to flourish within the broader mission of Vision 2030.

At Misk Schools, Dr. Sommer has already promoted a number of Saudi women into senior leadership roles and is driving a community model of staff development. His goal: to grow more Saudi teachers and leaders who can carry the mission forward.

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Nothing is left to chance. Like a Swiss watch, precision matters.

Dr. Steffen Sommer

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مدارس ميسك
Misk Schools



THE MISK SCHOOLS DIFFERENCE

Founded by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Misk Schools is redefining education in the Kingdom.

Often described as “the Eton of Saudi Arabia,” Misk Schools opened its doors in 2016, the same year Vision 2030 was launched. With its bold mission, the school aims to nurture a generation of future-ready Saudi leaders who are globally minded, grounded in character, and equipped to excel on the world stage.

THE MISK FOUNDATION

Misk Schools is part of the Misk Foundation, a philanthropic initiative founded by HRH the Crown Prince. The Foundation empowers young Saudis through talent development, innovation, and global partnerships in business, culture, and technology.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Misk Schools' curriculum is rooted in [High Performance Learning](#) and delivered using a dual-language approach. Subjects such as English, Science and Maths are taught in English, while National Identity Subjects (Arabic, Islamic Studies and Social Studies) are taught in Arabic. This approach builds students' confidence and cognitive ability while ensuring Arabic fluency is preserved.



PARTNERING WITH ECIS

From AI integration to flexible, state-of-the-art learning environments, Misk Schools exemplifies the spirit of Vision 2030, offering an education that is rigorous, values-driven, and globally relevant.

Ready to take the next step in turning your school's vision into action? ECIS can support you with bespoke leadership development and professional learning programmes tailored to your context. Contact helen@ecis.org to find out more.

Dr. Steffen Sommer will be attending a future ECIS Leadership Conference. To book your place at next year's conference in Lisbon, [please visit the registration page here](#).



ASSESSMENT 3.0: REIMAGING SUCCESS

Misk Schools is also leading the way in reimagining assessment. In his presentation to school leaders at the ECIS Leadership Conference, Dr. Sommer introduced his "Assessment 3.0 model": a framework that moves beyond high-stakes exams toward digital portfolios, authentic performance tasks, and competency-based rubrics.

The goal, he explained, is to shift assessment from judging past performance to supporting future growth. This forward-looking approach aligns perfectly with Vision 2030, preparing graduates not only for university, but for leadership, entrepreneurship, and innovation in the Kingdom and beyond. [Read Dr. Sommer's White Paper](#).

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*We must measure what truly matters:
critical thinking, adaptability, creativity,
and collaboration.*

Dr. Steffen Sommer

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