

SAFIERR-Tech Conference 2026

Organized under the SAFIERR Platform - Hosted by Latakia University, Syrian Arab Republic

Day 1 - August 24, 2026

Time	Topic	Description	Presenters
12:00 - 13:30	Arrival & Registration	Participant registration and welcome	All Participants
13:30 - 14:15	Opening Ceremony & Guest Speeches Master of Ceremony Mr. Beshar Kanakri	Official opening remarks and keynote addresses	Dr. Nidal Zarifeh - SAFIERR-TECH Chair (5min)
			Dr. Hani Harb - SAFIERR Chair (5min)
			Dr. Iyad Fahsa - President of Latakia Uni. (5min)
			Prof. Dr. Marwan AlHalabi - Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research (5min)
			Mr. Abd AlSalam Haykal - Minister of Communication & Information Technology (5min)
			Eng. Khaled Al Homsy - Director General of Telecomm. & Post Regulatory Authority (5 min)
			Official Guest Speeches (15 min)
14:15 - 15:00	Presentation of key technology initiatives, digital transformation projects and the SAFIERR-TECH competition for technology localisation		Organizing Committee
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee Break & Networking	Refreshments and networking session	—
14:15 - 16:30	Session with Official Guests	Discussions with ministerial representatives and international partners	Prof. Dr. Marwan AlHalabi Mr. Abd AlSalam Haykal Dr. Yarob Badr Dr. Nidal Zarifeh Dr. Hani Harb
16:30 - 17:00	Visit the SAFIERR Tech projects' exhibition and Press Interviews. End of day 1		

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Day 2 – August 25, 2026

Time	Topic	Description	Presenters
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival & Morning Reception	Participant arrival and morning reception	All Participants
9:00 – 11:00	Scientific Research & Technology Localization	Bridging academic expertise, university administration, and science policy-making The Legal Framework for Innovation Governance and Technology Transfer in Syrian Universities The Turkish experience in localizing technology: Strategic pillars and lessons learned for Syria Localising the Future: A postgraduate-to-Industry Pipeline for High-tech Sector Creation	Chair Dr. Bassam Alrifaae Keynote Speakers Dr. Ghaith Warkozek Dr. Samer Hussam Eddin Speakers Dr. Husain Ali Ahmad Abo Alnassr
11:00 – 11:30	Networking Break	Coffee and networking	—
11:30 – 13:30	Digital Competency Development	Beyond Artificial Intelligence: A Human Perspective on Higher Education Enhancing Institutional Digital Maturity through Faculty Digital Competence Development Digital Human Competencies as an Approach to Enhancing Digital Transformation in Syrian Universities: A Field Study at the University of Latakia	Chair Dr. Fadi Alshalabi Keynote Speaker Dr. Jürgen Werner Speakers Dr. Maher Merhej Dr. Nermin Mousa

		Syria Digital Development Upskilling Priorities	Mr. Mohamad Hanifeh
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch Break	Conference lunch	Conference Dining
14:30 - 16:30	Digital Infrastructure	Unveiling Data Centers: A Simplified Overview Enterprise Architecture as the Foundation for Digital Transformation Digital Transformation in Education Starts with Building the Right Infrastructure Open Foundation: Open Source and Open Standards for Digital Infrastructure The Role of Cybersecurity in Protecting Data within Educational Institutions From University Laboratories to National Development Metrology: A Bridge Between Scientific Research, Industry, and Society	Chair Dr. Ali Allousch Keynote Speakers Khaled Al Homsi Yaman Alshurbaji Mustafa Farhat Speakers Dr. Laith Rastanawi Dr. Suha Sankari Saleh Almufti
16:30 - 17:00	General Discussion & Day 2 Conclusion	Open discussion and wrap-up	

Day 3 – August 26, 2026

Time	Topic	Description	Presenters
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival & Morning Reception	Participant arrival	All Participants
9:00 – 11:00	Cybersecurity & Data Governance	Cyber Security in the Age of AI Data Governance Challenges, and Solutions Building Netskope Cyber-Resilience within Education Sector Cybersecurity Risks in Higher Education and Mitigation Pathways Gamified Cybersecurity Education: Using Capture-the-Flag Competitions to Build Practical Skills in Higher Education The Reality of Cybersecurity and Data Governance in Syria	Chair Dr. Mothanna Alkubaily Keynote Speaker Dr. Rand Kouatly Islam Saber Speakers Dr. Moutasem Shafaamry Dr. Mohammad Hamad Dr. Ahmad Kurdi
11:00 – 11:30	Networking Break	Coffee and networking	—

11:30 - 13:30	Connecting Universities to the Digital Economy	Germany: From Education to Industry. Bridging Academic Programs, Professional Practice and Research From Ideas to Industry - Building Innovation That Scales AI-Enhanced Research Camps: A Community-Driven Model Linking Universities to the Digital Economy Academy & Industry: Bridging the gap	Chair Dr. Hicham Aroudaki Keynote Speaker Dr. Mohammad Elhadidi Mr. Omar Murywed Speaker Dr. Alaa Kadi Dr. Mazen Shanawani
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch Break	Conference lunch	Conference Dining Area
14:30 - 16:30	Parallel Workshops 1 & 2	Using AI in Learning: Hands-on Tools and Vibe Coding for Education DoRemoXy: An Open Platform for Hardware Sharing as a Stepping Stone Toward Remote Laboratories	WS1: Dr. Fadi Amroush WS2: Dr. Ghadi Mahmoudi
16:30 - 17:00	General Discussion & Day 3 Conclusion	Open discussion	Session Chairs
17:00 - 19:00	COSY-IFAC workshop	Exclusive invitations for control systems professionals	Chair Dr. Bassam Alrifaae

Day 4 – August 27, 2026

Time	Topic	Description	Presenters
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival & Morning Reception	Participant arrival	All Participants
9:00 – 11:00	Digital & Blended Learning Technologies	Digital and Blended Learning in Syria Towards Future-ready Higher Education Educational Applications of the CPM Lab: A Summary Blended learning in action "Sharing experience and insights using practical examples"	Chair Dr. Marwan Hassani Keynote Speaker Dr. Nawar Al-Awa Speakers Dr. Bassam Alrifae Lionel Shaghli
11:00 – 11:30	Networking Break	Coffee and networking	—
11:30 – 13:30	Artificial Intelligence in Education & Scientific Research	Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education Challenges Associated with the Use of Artificial Intelligence Developing Digital Twins of Students and Teachers Labor Market Requirements in the Age of Artificial Intelligence	Chair Dr. Mariam Saii Keynote Speaker Dr. Ammar Joukhadar Speakers Dr. Noura Hakmi Dr. Mazen Salous Dr. Nidal Zarifeh
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break	Conference lunch	Conference Dining Area

14:30 - 16:30	Workshops 3 & 4	Building Custom AI Assistants for Higher Education: From Concept to Practice Live demonstration on education digital platform	WS3: Esam Alrifaie WS4: Mustafa Farhat
16:30 - 17:30	General Discussion & Strategic Pillars Summaries	Conference outcomes	Organizing Committee
17:30 - 18:00	Competition Awards & Conference Closing Ceremony	Awards and closing	Jury & Executive Board

- **SAFIERR-Tech Competition Exhibition:**

The SAFIERR-Tech Competition Exhibition will run in parallel with the conference activities throughout all conference days, providing participants and visitors with the opportunity to explore the submitted projects and initiatives.

- **Admission Policy:**

Entry to the conference is strictly limited to pre-registered participants who have received a registration confirmation email. Access will only be granted upon verification of confirmed registration



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