



## Nawzad Othman

Nawzad Othman is the founder of The Othman Group, an international consulting firm, and has more than 30 years' experience as a CEO, community leader and successful entrepreneur. Nawzad was born in Erbil, Iraq, emigrated to the United States in 1957, and has been a United States citizen for more than 50 years.

Nawzad created The Othman Group in 2012 to assist clients in the Pacific Northwest and the Middle East with business strategies, investment opportunities and sustainable practices. The firm's associates work from offices in Portland, Oregon, Erbil, Iraq, and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Nawzad was also the co-founder of Otak, Inc., one of Oregon's largest and most respected architecture and engineering firms, and served as CEO of the company for 30 years until his retirement this year. Under Nawzad's leadership, the firm developed a reputation for excellence in smart growth planning, sustainable design and development, and innovative transportation solutions. Otak was sold in 2011 to HanmiGlobal, a leading international project management/construction management firm headquartered in South Korea.

Nawzad has held numerous leadership positions in professional, non-profit and educational organizations. His record of business and community leadership has earned recognition in the Oregonian, Oregon Business Magazine and Vancouver Columbian newspapers, as well as the Portland Tribune and the Daily Journal of Commerce. He has written articles for Urban Land, the magazine of ULI, and other publications and continues to be a sought-after speaker on world affairs, urban development, and sustainability.

### THE OTHMAN GROUP

Founded by Nawzad Othman in 2012, The Othman Group assists companies and non-profits with strategic positioning, business development and investment opportunities. The firm advises clients in the Pacific Northwest and the Middle East from offices in Portland, Oregon, Erbil, Iraq and Abu Dhabi, UAE. Nawzad has built a reputation for understanding the cultural, economic and political influences that shape these markets. He also has long experience in public/private partnerships, education and philanthropy.

Calling on more than 30 years' experience helping clients design, build and invest in sustainable projects, The Othman Group guides businesses, investors and coalitions as they seek new opportunities to grow and thrive. With its extensive network of global relationships, the firm connects clients to the investment capital and other resources they need to achieve their goals.

The Othman Group is well positioned to help companies enter new markets or expand their presence in the United States and the Middle East. Nawzad and his associates have significant expertise in a variety of fields including energy, water, real estate, agriculture, technology, infrastructure and others. The firm also advises businesses on potential acquisition of, and investments in, operating companies and other opportunities, including real estate.

### CO-FOUNDER AND CEO – OTAK, INC. AND OTAK INTERNATIONAL

In 1981, Nawzad co-founded Otak, Inc. ([www.otak.inc](http://www.otak.inc)) and built the company into one of Oregon's largest architecture, engineering, design and planning firms, with over 300 employees in Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, and Abu Dhabi, UAE. Under Nawzad's leadership, Otak developed a reputation as one of the finest multi-disciplinary firms in the region, with special expertise in urban design, smart growth and sustainability. With a focus on creativity, collaboration and quality, the firm attracted a diverse clientele encompassing public and private entities of all types and sizes.

Nawzad's success resulted from his ability to recruit diverse talent and cultivate a workplace based on mutual respect, recognition and innovation. The firm became an established leader in many disciplines and helped its clients reshape, revitalize and strengthen their communities.

In late 2005, Nawzad initiated a bold business development strategy in the United Arab Emirates, one of the fastest growing economies in the world. In less than three years, Otak International's Abu Dhabi office had expanded from two to 120 professionals and had been selected to design, oversee, and plan developments valued at more than \$3 billion. Nawzad's relationships with UAE business leaders helped Otak become one of the few U.S. firms to secure such a wide range of architecture, design, engineering and urban-planning projects in the region.

### COLUMBIA PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

Nawzad is the owner of Columbia Pacific Development, which provides development management services to clients in Oregon and Washington. Columbia Pacific served



as the project and investment manager for Vancouvercenter, the largest urban development in the history of downtown Vancouver, Washington. ([www.vancouvercenter.com](http://www.vancouvercenter.com))

### **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK**

In addition to his well-established business and community relationships in the Pacific Northwest and the United Arab Emirates, Nawzad maintains deep contacts in Kurdistan in Northern Iraq, where he owns agricultural land, and in Iraq as a whole. In Iraq, his family members have been local and national leaders and continue to make significant contributions to the country's progress.

Nawzad's family played a prominent role in the history of Erbil and Kurdistan. This is recorded in numerous history books and in the records of British and American governments of the last century. His father Ahmed Uthman was the first governor of Erbil after independence and his portrait continues to hang today in the " Saray " of the present governor. His father was also the first Kurd to become a senator in Baghdad in 1929.

Nawzad's oldest brother, who passed away in 1978, was a representative of General Mustafa Barzani abroad and also his advisor. Today, many members and relatives in Nawzad's family occupy prominent positions in government or business. Until recently, two of his cousins served as ministers in the Kurdistan Regional Government. One is a member of the Central Committee of the ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party and was official representative of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Turkey for three years. One of his nephews was minister of justice in the KRG and is now serving as legal advisor to President Masoud Barzani. Nawzad's cousin was speaker of Kurdish Parliament for four years. Nawzad's older brother, Mahmoud Uthman, represents KRG in the federal financial and economic committees in Baghdad and is also a member of the board of directors of Mansour Bank, which is majority owned by Qatar National Bank.

### **NAWZAD OTHMAN—BIOGRAPHY**

#### **EDUCATION**

Master of Urban and Regional Studies, *Mankato State University*  
Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, *South Dakota State University*

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS / LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

Consulting Engineers Council of Oregon  
Board of Trustees, *The World Affairs Council of Oregon*  
Past Board of Directors, *Northwest Business Committee for the Arts*  
Past Board of Directors, *Portland Opera*  
Advisory Board, *College of Urban Public Affairs, Portland State University*  
Full Member, *Urban Land Institute*  
Past Board of Directors, *City of Lake Oswego Chamber of Commerce*  
Board of Advisors, *Portland State University School of Government and Urban Affairs*  
Fundraising Committee, Dean Toulan Endowment Fund, *Portland State University*  
Board of Directors, *Architecture Foundation of Oregon*  
Past Board of Directors, *Dougy Center for Children*  
Past Committee Member, Hatfield School of Government Advisory Committee, *Portland State University*  
Search Committee, Dean of Urban and Public Affairs, *Portland State University*  
Past Board of Directors, *Tualatin Valley Economic Development Commission*

#### **PHILANTHROPY**

Chinese Garden Trust, *City of Portland*  
*Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts and the Lake Oswego Foundation of the Arts*  
*World Affairs Council*  
*Dougy Center for Children*  
*Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)*  
*Oregon Ballet Theatre*  
*The Portland Opera*  
*Women's Transportation Seminar*  
*Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts*

#### **WORK HISTORY**

Otak, Inc., *May 1981 to May 2012*  
Marx and Chase, Vice President, *1979 to 1981*  
City of Lake Oswego, Director of Public Works and Planning, *1977 to 1979*  
City of Mankato, Minnesota, City Engineer, *1969 to 1977*  
HNTB, Highway, Bridge and Airport Design Engineer, *1966 to 1969*  
South Dakota Dept. of Highways and Transportation, Res. Engr., *1964-1966*