

Gulf Research Center Newsletter

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Knowledge for All

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Workshop pushes for Gulf as a weapons of mass destruction free zone



Abdulaziz Sager, Alyson Bailes and Mustafa Alani

A two-day workshop on the Gulf Research Center’s initiative to promote the creation of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Gulf (GWMDFFZ) was jointly held by the GRC and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in the Swedish capital on May 30-31.

The meeting concluded with positive support for the project from all the Gulf governmental delegates in attendance, including Iraq and Iran, as well as key international bodies and organizations. Seen as an innovative and completely novel idea aimed towards stabilizing the current security crisis in the Gulf, the GWMDFFZ project was hailed as a positive step in the right direction.

The workshop forms part of an initiative launched by the GRC in December 2004

to promote the creation of a Gulf WMDFFZ – an idea which is rapidly gaining regional support. The first workshop, a closed door meeting held in Dubai in December, laid this new idea on the table for discussion amongst regional delegates, international WMD experts as well as representatives from several international bodies and organizations.

The recently concluded workshop, co-hosted by SIPRI as part of the European Unions’ efforts to support cooperation with its neighbors in tackling WMD challenges, both at the state and non-state level, developed this idea further and provoked serious policy questions on the future of Gulf security.

It was attended by high level and official representation from the majority



of the Gulf States as well as NATO, the EU and the IAEA. The meeting outlined the importance of a sub-regional approach to the current security problems in the Middle East. The future role of Iraq as a key component of Gulf security and Iraq's experience with having a WMD program was outlined by the National Security Advisor of Iraq, Dr. Mowffaq Al-Rubaie.

The case for a GWMDfZ as a vital security component of any future Middle East security architecture was discussed seriously and for the first time. The positions of regional governments, the US, the EU and NATO to this proposal were outlined and discussed with affirmations that the

GWMDfZ project had the support of the international community.

Moving from the political to the technical, the second part of the meeting was devoted to the equally important current developments within international efforts to prevent non-state access to WMD, as well as the measures being pursued by bodies such as the IAEA toward nuclear security.

The meeting concluded with an announcement by the GRC of their intention to hold a regional meeting of key government delegates to push the process forward to an official regional level.



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‘GCC should peg single currency to gold’



Dr. Ferdinand Lips

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) should not peg its future single currency to a free-floating currency like the dollar or euro, but should consider gold as an option, according to renowned gold and currency expert Dr. Ferdinand Lips.

Speaking at a lecture entitled “Oil for gold or oil for paper? Financial stability, gold and the ongoing rise in commodity prices,” organized by the Gulf Research Center (GRC) on May 23, Lips charted the history of gold as a commodity through the two World Wars till 2005, where it stands at about \$420 an ounce. “While gold has seen its ups and downs, it is a safe and tangible investment option since the value of an ounce of gold is far greater than currencies that are being devalued by the day,” he said.

“Being in the midst of a global currency devaluation scenario, it is worth noting that while oil is the king of commodities, gold is the king of money,” Lips explained, adding that oil is under-priced and that oil producers are not getting real value by pegging it to the dollar.

The lecture, attended by prominent members of the banking and finance industry, including, Emirates Bank Chairman Ahmed Al-Tayer, delved into how currencies, investments and every crucial economic factor in the GCC countries are dependent on the US dollar, which shows increasing signs of



Dr. Ebtisam Al-Kitbi, Dr. Abdul Razak Al-Fares and Ahmed Al-Tayer

structural weakness. The Gulf countries, Lips advised, could escape potential financial disaster by looking at certain other investment alternatives.

Author of “Gold wars: The battle against sound money as seen from a Swiss perspective,” Lips said it is time that the GCC banks set aside a certain percentage of their reserves in gold. He suggested that the GCC banks learn from the European Central Bank’s mandatory 15 percent gold reserves rule. Currently, the UAE and Qatar have sold all their reserves, while Kuwait has lent gold and Saudi Arabia has low reserves of some 200 tons. He also recommended setting up a monetary institute to create greater awareness of money and emphasize the crucial need

to return to “solid money”.

“Gold is the insurance policy. When the rest of the world will go down on the paper money system, invest at least one percent in gold as insurance,” stressed Lips, adding that today’s depreciation limits the purchasing power of paper currencies, whereas gold is a highly liquid asset. “Returning to gold as a standard will also put a limit to what governments can do,” he said.

Lips forecasted a huge market opening up for gold in Asia, with China and India leading the demand. However, analyzing the international gold scenario, he said that there is a huge deficit between the average annual global production of 2,500 tons against a demand of 4,000 tons.



Experts urge integrated e-learning model

A two-day forum on e-learning in social sciences and humanities ended on April 15 with a call to evolve an effective mechanism to blend the modern information technology (IT) and communication components with the traditional educational system to ensure maximum impact.

Organized by the GRC, the workshop was the second edition of the Social Sciences and Humanities Forum designed to serve as a platform for discussion and exchange of views among Gulf and international scholars.

Opening the proceedings, GRC Chairman Abdulaziz Sager said the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States have made progress in the field of education, but have a long way to go. “We have nothing better than education to offer our youth to ensure that they have a remarkable and prosperous future,” he added.

In his remarks, Director-General of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States Dr. Saeed Al-Mullais said: “The need of the hour is not making e-learning an end in itself, but using IT tools as a means to achieve the end of disseminating knowledge more effectively.”

In keeping with GRC chairman’s emphasis on not discussing just “content” in e-learning, the workshop also focused on other factors such as “technology, laboratories, training, assessment, connectivity and quality assurance” at the student, teacher and study material levels.

The forum stressed that since nearly 70 percent of the regional population is made up of youth and the task of providing them with education would be the next big challenge, e-learning should be pursued as one of the solutions, especially since it was more cost effective than traditional education in private colleges.

Different Web-related components in the international higher education institutions—including curricula, teaching methods and electronic libraries – and

information is available, the more difficult it becomes to get relevant material. More advanced searching methodologies and new semantic searching methods are necessary to help students to dialog with the search engines,” they said.

Another key challenge that was identified was the copyright issue. “Since knowledge resources must be collected for e-learning systems within a limited amount of time, clearing copyright issues for all the material is a

significant burden and sometimes impossible,” the experts said. A “workable intellectual rights solution for the use of copyright materials in e-learning systems is necessary not only in the Gulf region but worldwide. Ultimately such a workable solution may require new intellectual rights legislation in many countries,” they added.

The workshop also emphasized

the need to establish a new e-learning association to mobilize efforts and resources in the field and act as a forum where experiences can be shared and new initiatives discussed. “Such an association could bring together different specialized individuals and organizations involved in or concerned with e-education, distance learning and open education from across the Gulf region and help to understand and focus the many diverse activities that are currently going on, as well as help define a coordinated vision for the future,” they said.



ways of adopting them in the context of the GCC States were discussed.

The participants said that the success of e-learning in the region rested not only on combining classroom and cyber tutoring in higher education institutions, but introducing IT and communication-based teaching in schools as well.

While acknowledging that one of the advantages of e-learning is the ability to make available to students vast amounts of knowledge in digital form, the scholars identified “efficient information searching” as one of their key challenges. “Often, the more

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Souad Sherif and Elke Mittendorf

Economists stress on free trade

A forum on ‘Globalization and new growth strategies for business’ in Dubai on April 13 urged the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to actively promote free trade, create the right environment for foreign investment and diversify the non-oil economy.

Organized by the Swiss-based International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Gulf Research Center and Dubai International Financial Centre, the business forum was attended by international academics and about 200 captains of industries from the GCC countries.

Talking about “Asia’s soaring giants: The role and impact of business”, IMD Professor of International Political Economy Jean-Pierre Lehmann said “culture cannot be used as an excuse not to promote economic growth.” He added that trade among East Asian countries – with different cultures, religions and languages – made up 56 percent of their total trade in 2002, while the Middle East – with the same culture – recorded a mere eight percent intra-trade.

“The region must focus on economic freedom, open up economies, encourage dynamism and create avenues to absorb the increasing number of educated youth,” Lehmann said.

Senior Economist at the National Commercial Bank in Saudi Arabia Dr. Nahed Taher explained the impact of globalization in the GCC economies and stressed the importance of creating equal



Nahed Taher and Jean-Pierre Lehmann

opportunities for women in the society. “Excessive reliance on luxury products and not having too many working women has resulted in just about 20 percent savings in the region, as opposed to 40 percent in China and Malaysia,” she said, adding that the ratio of working people to dependants was as high as 1:6 in the region, compared to the world average of 1:2.

In suggesting solutions to the economic ills in the region, Dr Taher stressed the need to look beyond oil revenues, pointed out the importance of building knowledge economies, urged

big family businesses to go public, and advised banks to encourage industrial and commercial loans, instead of supporting just construction and trade sectors.

Earlier, emphasizing the role of globalization in altering the ground rules of business, IMD Corporate Development Director Dr. Hischam El-Agamy said in his opening remarks that while developing countries are being challenged by their clients to produce top quality services at low cost, the developed countries too are being forced to take drastic cost-saving measures by adopting innovative techniques.”



Hischam El-Agamy



Omar Bin Sulaiman



John Walsh

Support for Iran nuke program ideological: Dlamini-Zuma



South Africa denied it had any form of nuclear cooperation with Iran, but said it reserves the right to access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes on ideological grounds and supports all countries wishing to have access to such technology without violating the non-proliferation treaty (NPT), including Iran.

Addressing a press conference at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) in Dubai on May 11, South African Foreign Minister Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said: “NPT stands on three legs – non-proliferation, disarmament and access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The West wants to pretend that there is only one leg – non-proliferation – and ignores the other two, which is unacceptable.”

Dr. Dlamini-Zuma emphasized that South Africa is urging Iran to clear the air about the present ambiguity, but would support Iran’s right to nuclear technology as long as it does not violate the principles of NPT.

The minister’s visit to the UAE is part of a week-long tour of the Gulf region, during which she will also visit Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Yemen. Apart from strengthening bilateral political, economic and cultural relations with the region, where more than 32,000 South Africans live, the minister’s interaction is focusing on issues pertaining to multilateralism, poverty eradication, peace and stability, as well as the rule of law.

Commenting on the issue of supporting independence for the Western Sahara after traditionally backing the Polisario Front, overriding Morocco’s objections, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma said South Africa – because of its history of freedom struggle – supports all self-determination movements, including the Palestinian struggle against Israel.

“We delayed the decision to back the Western Sahara movement for 10 years following requests from Saudi Arabia, the United Nations and Morocco, but after realizing that there was no Moroccan move towards a referendum, we formalized our support

in 2004,” the minister said, adding that “if the people of Western Sahara are given a chance to decide and they favor to be part of Morocco, we will support it too.”

Similarly, “we will not abandon the Palestinians till they achieve freedom. We support their right to self-determination, the roadmap and the two-state solution. We have been and will continue to hold talks with Palestinian and Israeli groups to resolve the crisis and convince them of the benefits of peace,” she said.

On its role in Iraq, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma said South Africa was against the war and was hence not involved in the reconstruction process at the official level. “But private individuals and companies are involved in Iraq through Western institutions, especially as part of the private security apparatus,” she added.

South Africa’s interaction with Iraq has changed after the elections, the minister pointed out. “We have now agreed to have an ambassador in South Africa, will resume normal relations and even consider how to get involved in the reconstruction process.”

On issues concerning better ties between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Africa, the minister urged the region to realize that the “forgotten continent” will be quite awake during the next decade. “We look forward to support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (Nepad) by way of investments in the field of energy, information technology and transportation infrastructure,” she said.

Earlier, the minister was briefed about the political, economic, social and security developments in the region by experts at the GRC. The center, “which is pursuing a dedicated research program on GCC-South Africa Relations, intends to facilitate better cooperation between the two sides. Further, given South Africa’s fundamentals and capabilities, it could also play an important role in boosting the GCC’s relations with the Sub-Saharan African countries,” GRC Chairman Abdulaziz Sager said.

** For full interview, visit www.gulfinthemedia.com*

Saudi Arabia, Iran and the search for security

Throughout their contemporary history, Saudi-Iranian relations have ranged between cooperation and tension. Decision-makers in both countries now clearly realize that their ties have generally been more of an echo of external changes than an expression of national interests. When the US policy was based on the twin pillar of Riyadh and Tehran maintaining regional security, the ties between the two countries were characterized by an unprecedented level of cooperation and coordination. But after the Islamic revolution and the consequent animosity between Iran and the United States, Tehran's efforts were less dedicated to confronting the "Great Satan" than confronting its regional neighbors in general, and the littoral states of the Arabian Gulf in particular. Accordingly, Tehran declared its intention to "export the Islamic revolution" which consequently led to destabilizing the region through unjustified interference in the affairs of some regional countries. These crises were manifested most in the violent confrontations between Iranians and Saudi security forces during Haj pilgrimages.

During the Iraq-Iran War, Tehran spared no effort to condemn the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States and defame Saudi Arabia in particular, until Tehran and Riyadh severed ties in 1988, a move which intensified suspicion and mistrust between them.

These relations have been gradually restored, not because the two countries realized they have mutual interests, but due to a new external change in the form of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, which mandated cooperation.

In spite of the positive developments in their relations during and after the occupation of Kuwait, shades of mistrust and skepticism remain. The positive signals sent to each other have not helped much because good intentions alone are not enough to establish international relations on sound and strong foundations. Even the "security agreement" signed in 2001, which was a step in the right direction for mutual cooperation, has failed to pave the way for credible and trustworthy relations. As a result, many thorny issues remain unresolved. There is no doubt that there are some complicated issues rooted in sectarian and ideological differences, as well as divergent oil and security policies that require immediate attention. The disputes get complex with each country adopting a divergent view regarding some of the regional crises, and ending with the serious and justified concerns about Iran's determination to develop its traditional and non-traditional defense programs.

These thorny issues are not beyond resolution. Both parties need to realize that the disputes will not disappear just by ignoring them, and that there is a strong desire to search for tangible solutions through candid negotiations, thereby fostering mutual interests.

With this in mind, it must be pointed out that some aspects of the Iranian politics in the region are not conducive to defusing tension. In fact, they give rise to doubts and concerns among the Gulf countries, reigniting memories of Iran's negative impressions toward the region. The foremost among these is Tehran's determination to develop its conventional and non-conventional defense programs, which the GCC States cannot view merely as a US-EU-Iran dispute because those directly threatened by such weapons are not the Americans or the Europeans, but the GCC countries. Due to this direct threat, the GCC States find themselves obliged to depend more on foreign forces to guarantee their national security. Thus, Iran's policies intensify foreign military presence in the region and force the regional states into an arms race that would adversely affect regional stability, deepen mistrust and obstruct national development plans.

Iran's attempt to exploit the current instability in Iraq to consolidate and assert its political leverage at the expense of the other parties sends wrong signals. It is not just a direct intervention in the affairs of an Arab country whose political stability and security are directly linked to the Gulf environment as whole, but it is seen as an attempt to destabilize the regional balance of power and sends clear signals that Tehran's foreign policy is still motivated by narrow interests.

On the other hand, it is vital for the GCC States to understand and take into account Iran's security concerns, especially after it found itself under serious foreign political pressure and besieged from all directions by the US presence in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Turkey and Iraq. There is no doubt that it is not in the interest of the GCC States to allow continued animosity between Tehran and Washington because it adversely impacts GCC-Iran relations. More than ever, the GCC is today required to make Tehran feel that it is an indispensable part of

any Gulf security arrangement.

As the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, Dr. Hassan Rouhani, tours some of the GCC countries including Saudi Arabia, it is illogical for the visit to be motivated – as some Iranian political analysts suggested – by Iran's objective to rally regional support for Iran's nuclear policy. This is unacceptable because the visit will once again seem influenced by an external development.

Amid dramatic changes that put the region in the eye of the storm, it is imperative that our leaders build bridges of confidence among them. Gulf people, Arabs and Persians, are in the same boat, and they cannot afford to do anything but make the Gulf waters a sea of cooperation and peace.

** The author is Chairman, Gulf Research Center, Dubai*



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Making Headlines...

- Political rights for Gulf women: What are the obstacles?*
Arab News, Sadi Arabia, 28 June, 2005
- A case for sailing together*
Khaleej Times, UAE, 25 June
- Gulf women must overcome selection-election gap*
The Peninsula, Qatar, 23 June
- In the Gulf, women are not women's best friends*
The Daily Star, Lebanon, 20 June
- Saudi Arabia, Iran and the search for security*
The Peninsula, 18 June
- Gulf women must overcome selection-election gap*
Khaleej Times, 17 June
- New Iran president faces tough challenges*
Gulf News, 17 June
- Wary Arabs seek policy clues from Iran election*
Reuters, UK, 16 June
- Saudi Arabia, Iran and the search for regional security*
Arab News, 13 June
- For Saudi Arabia and Iran, searching for security is a priority*
The Daily Star, 13 June
- Gulf delegates back WMD-free zone*
Khaleej Times, 11 June
- GRC workshop held in Stockholm*
The Gulf Today, UAE, 10 June
- Yellow metal is a 'good option'*
Gulf News, UAE, 30 May
- GCC should consider pegging single currency to gold, says expert*
The Gulf Today, 29 May
- GCC urged to peg its currency to gold*
Arab News, 29 May
- GCC should consider pegging single currency to gold, says expert*
AME Info, UAE, 28 May
- GRC, AUS formalize cooperation agreement*
The Gulf Today, 26 May
- GRC, AUS formalize cooperation agreement*
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- GRC, AUS formalize cooperation agreement*
Emirates News Agency, 26 May
- GRC to organize executive learning program in Brussels*
The Gulf Today, 25 May
- GRC to organize executive learning program in Brussels*
AME Info, 25 May
- South Africa denies nuclear cooperation with Iran, urges GCC support for NEPAD*
The Daily Star, 24 May
- Iraq's religious factions make calls for restraint*
The Christian Science Monitor, USA, 23 May
- GRC hosts lecture by Dr. Ferdinand Lips*
AME Info, 23 May
- Guantanamo comes to define US to Muslims*
Bahrain Tribune, 22 May
- Gulf think-tank ties up with TERI*
Hindustan Times, India, 18 May
- Dubai-based think-tank ties up with Teri for green solutions*
The Peninsula, 18 May
- GRC ties up with Teri for 'green' solutions*
Khaleej Times, 18 May
- Gulf states, Europe have to do business with each other*
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- Call for two African seats at UN Security Council*
Khaleej Times, 13 May
- South African minister to visit GRC*
AME Info, 11 May
- Kuwait wakes up to the face of militant Islam*
The Jamestown Foundation, USA, 8 May
- Gulf Cooperation Council: High on rhetoric, low on action?*
Khaleej Times, 1 May
- Dubai researcher urges dialogue with Israelis*
The Jerusalem Post, 26 April
- GRC-Cigre alliance in energy research*
The Gulf Today, 26 April
- GRC, Cigre explore cooperation*
AME Info, 25 April
- GCC integration: more rhetorical than real?*
Arab News, 22 April
- GRC workshop urges integrated e-learning model*
AME Info, 17 April
- GRC-IMD forum urges free trade*
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- GRC-IMD forum urges free trade*
AME Info, 14 April
- GRC to host e-learning conference*
The Gulf Today, 13 April
- GRC and ABEGS host forum*
AME Info, 13 April
- GRC, Teri initiate 'Green Gulf' project*
AME Info, 13 April
- GRC, Teri initiate 'Green Gulf' project*
The Gulf Today, 12 April
- GRC, Teri in pact to promote 'Green Gulf'*
The Hindu Business Line, India, 12 April
- GRC awarded distribution rights for Arab Human Development Report 2004*
AME Info, 6 April
- The well-oiled American way of life its crude manifestation*
The Peninsula, 4 April
- The US is straight-jacketed in attacking Iran*
The Daily Star, 1 April
- GRC symposium calls for unity to resolve Iraq crisis*
The Gulf Today, 1 April

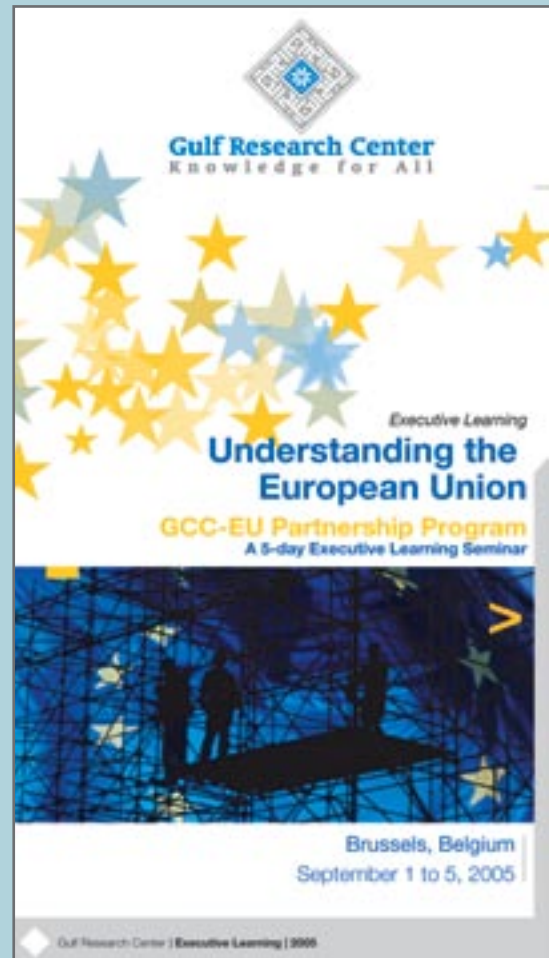
Road ahead...

The GRC, in conjunction with the Center for Applied Policy Research at the University of Munich, Germany, will organize an executive learning program for professionals from the Gulf region entitled “Understanding the European Union” from September 1-5, 2005, in Brussels.

The week-long event is part of the Gulf Cooperation Council-European Union Partnership Program and focuses on the increasingly important strategic relationship between the Arab Gulf region and the European Union. The program will feature in-depth presentations by experts on key aspects of EU development, including for example, EU enlargement, constitutional process, euro and GCC currency union, and the impact of the possible GCC-EU Free Trade Agreement. In addition to the lecture and discussion sessions, the program features field visits and meetings with high-ranking officials at the European Commission and NATO.

The objective of the program is to provide a platform from which the executives could gain insight into the working of the EU and to create a network of people interested in fostering the strategic relationship between the Arab Gulf region and Europe.

For more details, log on www.grc.ae (Events) or contact Dr. Christian Koch, Director of GCC-EU Relations Program, at ckoch@grc.ae



September 26, 2005



Promoting cooperation and fostering relations: NATO-Gulf relations in the framework of the Istanbul Cooperation

Initiative

Venue: Dubai

September 28-29



Current conditions and future prospects of GCC-Iran relations after Iran's presidential elections – in

cooperation with University of Durham

Venue: Dubai

November 16-17



Democracy and reform developments in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries – in cooperation with Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Venue: Dubai

November 23-24

The Role of Centers for Research, Political and Strategic Studies in the Arab World: Challenges and Prospects

Venue: Sharjah, UAE

January 4-5, 2006

Dynamic Alliances: Strengthening ties between GCC and Asia – on the sidelines of the Third GRC Annual Conference

Venue: Dubai

A window of opportunity – Europe, Gulf security and aftermath of Iraq war



This book is a compilation of the papers presented during a two-day workshop organized by the Gulf Research Center and Bertelsmann Foundation of Germany in November 2004, which explored the possibility of a greater engagement by the European Union in future Gulf security arrangements.

Christian Koch and Felix Neugart (Ed)

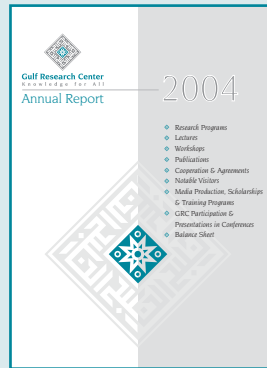
The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict (Issue no. 1 – Arabic – Digital)



This issue of 'Gulf Translations' is a collection of research papers, studies and books linked to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, written by an eminent pool of scholars.

GRC Annual Report 2004 (Digital)

This report lists the activities, achievements and progress of the center during 2004, the second year of full-fledged operation.



International compliance: A strategy for nuclear security (Issue no. 2 – Arabic – Digital)



This issue of 'Gulf Translations' delves into today's conundrum of nuclear proliferation across the world – an issue that has caused a lot of concern among international policy-makers, most prominently the US.

Realignments within the Gulf Cooperation Council



The research paper argues that there are realignments taking place within the GCC that are not related to the signing of the bilateral free trade agreements, which have been touted as a wrench in the GCC integration plans.

Bogdan Szajkowski

Arab Reforms and the challenges for EU Policies (Issue no. 3 – Arabic – Digital)



This issue of 'Gulf Translations' is devoted to a report prepared on the 'Arab reform and challenges of the European policy' conference. The forum encouraged dialogue and offered a unique opportunity for a distinguished pool of Arab and Western experts to exchange views about the current reforms and its future prospects throughout the Arab world.

The GRC publications are available in digital and hard copy versions.

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GRC, AUS formalize cooperation agreement



Chancellor Winfred L. Thompson

The GRC and American University of Sharjah (AUS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on May 24 to cooperate, collaborate and support each other in the areas of research, knowledge dissemination, networking, internships and related events.

After the signing ceremony, GRC Chairman Abdulaziz Sager said: "In line with our 'knowledge for all' mission, the motive of the agreement is to enhance information dissemination about the Gulf region openly and as widely as possible."

As a first step towards pursuing their common objective, the GRC will provide all AUS students and faculty members with free access to its research website (www.grc.ae) and media website (www.gulfinthedia.com) until April 2006.

According to AUS Chancellor Prof. Winfred Thompson, the MoU "will facilitate information exchange among scholars, researchers, faculty and students by convening joint conferences, seminars, workshops and lectures as well as through the sharing of relevant data and databases."

The two institutions have also agreed to cooperate effectively to enhance on-the-job experience by sponsoring internships for AUS students at GRC in various subject areas relevant to the region and specialized by the center; collaborate in research activities; publish selected joint publications in both electronic and hard copy forms; encourage networking of scholars and regional experts; improve technical capabilities by exchanging relevant information and transferring knowledge, including best practice information; and promoting capacity building through the conduct of joint training programs.

GRC, ORF agree to cooperate on GCC-India research

GRC and New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation (ORF) signed a memorandum of understanding on May 10 to undertake joint studies and research projects pertaining to GCC-India relations, with the areas of cooperation due to be identified with mutual concurrence.

ORF is a non-profit and public policy think-tank visualized and supported by a cross-section of India's leading intellectuals, academics, public figures, social activists, business leaders and institutions of higher learning.

GRC, TERI sign MoU to improve environment

The GRC and New Delhi-based The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) signed a wide-ranging co-operation agreement on April 10 to focus on the natural resources of the region, as well as the state of the environment, both critical to the future of the Gulf and world. Called "Green Gulf" project, the collaboration is an attempt to join hands in solving some of the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, especially those associated with managing the Gulf's resources - including land, air and water - in an efficient manner.

The first phase of the joint research would seek to identify the



Dr. R.K. Pachauri

environmental challenges in the region and suggest a mechanism to limit the damage with the help of TERI's knowledge and expertise. In tune with this approach, the first step will be to conduct a joint study that would promote the concept of a "Green Gulf". The study - which will draw on TERI's 'GREEN India' experience - would focus on the natural resources and state of the environment in the six GCC countries, both critical to the future of the region and the world.



12 June, 2005 – A group of students from the American University in Washington, on a one month visit to the American University of Sharjah, visited

the Gulf Research Center for a briefing on the center's activities and the Gulf region. GRC researchers made presentations on regional security, foreign relations, economic and social issues, including women's rights.

31 May – Dr. John Duke Anthony, President and CEO of the National Council on US-Arab Relations, expressed interest and explored possible areas of cooperation between the two institutions.



24 May – Prof. Steve Ott, Department of Political Science, College of Social and Behavioral Science, The University of Utah, USA.

22 May - A delegation from the Zayed University in Dubai - comprising of Dr. Jane Bristol-Thys, Director, Institute of Applied Social Research, Dr. David McGlennon, Director, Research and Outreach, Prof. Kenneth Wilson of the College of Business Sciences and Dr Naseer Arif - held preliminary discussions with the GRC about possible areas of cooperation and collaboration between



the two institutions, especially in the sphere of information dissemination.

A delegation from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) comprising of Chancellor Winfred

L. Thompson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Robert D. Cook, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Studies and Chairperson of the Department of International Studies Nada Mourtada-Sabbah and Assistant Professor of History and International Studies James Onley finalized the details of a memorandum of understanding between the GRC, AUS and the University of Exeter.



12 May – A 12-member delegation comprising officers from the United States Armed Forces, civilian executives of the American administration and staff affiliated to the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington visited the center as part of their educational field trip to the Gulf region. The delegation, which is affiliated to a post-graduate degree program in international relations, and led by NDU President Michael M. Dunn, was briefed about the latest political and security developments in the region.



May 11 – Muhammad Al-Rasheed, former Saudi education minister who served in office until February 2005, reviewed the progress made by GRC in its role as an education provider. Several proposals on how to improve the education system in the region were discussed.



26 April – Director of the Studies and Research Center for the Arab and Mediterranean World in Geneva, Switzerland, Hansi Abidi held discussions with the GRC staff on exploring ways of possible cooperation. The non-government organization was originally part of Geneva University, but is now an independent and separate entity.



26 April – A group of 30 women students from Zayed University, Dubai, visited the GRC, accompanied by three faculty members - Dr. Kenneth Wilson, Marielle Patronis and Evelyn Seika. The foundation level students were introduced to the center’s research programs, including the women’s issues, GCC economics, GCC-EU relations and Security and Terrorism portals, as well the Gulf in the Media sites. The visit was organized as part of the GRC’s efforts to inculcate the spirit of research and higher education among the youth, as well as educate them about the new techniques that are becoming available in the educational sector in the region, especially via the Web media.



23 April – Professor Rodney Wilson of the Institute for Middle East and Islamic Studies, University of Durham, and an expert on GCC economies as well as Islamic finance discussed future avenues of cooperation and collaboration between the two research institutes. Currently Emilie Rutledge, a PhD research

candidate supervised by Prof. Wilson, is pursuing her fieldwork on the GCC currency union from the GRC.

20 April – A team of over 25 energy experts from the International Council on Large Electric Systems (CIGRE) specializing in technical, economic, environmental, organizational and regulatory aspects visited the Center. A non-profit institution, the Regional Committee for Large Electric Systems (GCC-CIGRE) is an affiliate of CIGRE located in Paris and is mainly devoted to encourage and develop scientific researches and studies in the field of Electricity Systems. The delegation was headed by Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoudi, CIGRE Board member and Chairman of the CIGRE Technical Committee. GRC proposes to work jointly with GCC-CIGRE in the electricity sector and other related areas.



10 April – Prof. Dr. Dieter Lenzen, President of the Free University of Berlin (FUB), and Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Segbers, Professor of Political Science at the FUB, discussed about the status of higher education in the Gulf and the possibilities for German universities in the UAE, as well as setting up a master’s degree program on Global Politics in the country.



2 April – A delegation of Iraq academics, which participated in the Iraq symposium organized by GRC, visited the center and was briefed about its activities. They team was introduced to the various sources of information available and ways of accessing the same.



1 April – Oliver Jueteronke, Research Coordinator of the Program for Strategic and International Security Studies and Achim Wennmann, Project Coordinator in the Program for the Study of International Organizations at the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies discussed institutional relations and considered cooperation possibilities with GRC.

Australian Ambassador to the UAE Noel Campbell and Steve Pinhorn, Senior Middle East and Africa Analyst at the Office of National Assessments of the Australian government discussed regional developments, with specific focus on Iraq.

June 28, 2005 - Marcus Noland, senior fellow at the Washington-based International Institute of Economics, presented his research findings on “The Middle East in the world economy” and elicited comments from GRC researchers and other invited experts. Noland’s project is a joint venture with Howard Pack of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



June 26-28, 2005

Annual conference on 'The Middle East: Changing strategic environment' organized jointly by **RAND's Center for Middle East Public Policy and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy in Switzerland.**

June 19-20

Conference on 'Concept for a system for security and cooperation in the Gulf' organized by **The Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Policy Planning Staff of the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.**

June 16-17

Meeting of experts on 'Political, social and strategic developments in Saudi Arabia' held under the auspices of **Clingendael – The Netherlands Institute of International Relations – at The Hague.**

May 26-29

Workshop entitled 'Evolution of the threat spectrum and the implications for security sector governance in the Euro-Atlantic area' organized by the **Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces in Sofia, Bulgaria.**

May 16-17

Discussions with Indian think tank - **The Energy and Resources Institute - in New Delhi** on ways to cooperate on developmental and environmental issues as part of the 'Green Gulf' project.



Other areas of cooperation include solutions to handle oil spills, greenhouse technologies, IT solutions, green buildings and waste management. The joint program will include training and exchange of researchers, as well as devising an education module for inculcating and creating awareness about the environment issues.

May 16

Briefed officials of the **UAE Foreign Ministry in Abu Dhabi** about the latest developments in the region and gave strategic insights on the same.

May 14

Constituent meeting of the Gulf Press Union and the election to its General Secretariat in Bahrain.

April 2-3

Presented a paper on 'GCC-EU relations' at the **Euro-Gulf Conference in Kuwait.**

Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All



مركز الخليج للأبحاث
المعرفة للجميع

Based in Dubai, UAE, the GRC began its activity in 2000 as a privately-funded, non-partisan think-tank, education provider and consultancy specializing in the Gulf region.

The GRC produces recognized research from a Gulf perspective, redressing the current imbalance in Gulf area studies, where regional opinions and interests are underrepresented.

At the GRC, we believe that the Gulf Cooperation Council has transcended the initial reasons for its establishment, to become a fundamental right of its citizens in the development of the region. The GRC seeks to further this belief by being an institution of distinction and innovative research that advances different aspects of development to ultimately benefit the people of the region.



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