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GULF RESEARCH CENTER

Newsletter

August 2023

GCC-ASEAN Roundtable Meeting

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

August 16, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) hosted the 'GCC-ASEAN' roundtable meeting in the GRC's office in Riyadh on August 16, 2023 for the GRC's GCC-ASEAN Research Program. The meeting was attended by the Ambassadors of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Republic of Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, and Cambodia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary General, Political Affairs and Negotiations, Gulf Cooperation Council, and H.E. the Advisor at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Agency for International Multilateral Affairs, Dr. Abdullah Al Tayer.

The roundtable meeting focused on the current relations and development in cooperation between the GCC and ASEAN countries in coordination with the upcoming GCC-ASEAN Summit in Riyadh at the end of October. The meeting precedes the first ASEAN-GCC summit, which will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on October 20, 2023, and aims to exchange views on common issues, explore opportunities for cooperation, and consider appropriate mechanisms for developing relations. Participants in the seminar stressed that the upcoming summit will bring about a quantum leap in relations between the GCC and ASEAN, which represent two regional blocs whose presence is growing in the international arena. The participants noted the growing development in the levels of cooperation between the GCC and the ASEAN countries in

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August 2023

GCC-ASEAN Roundtable Meeting

all aspects, and confirmed the existence of opportunities to upgrade relations from the level of cooperation to the level of strategic partnership.

Despite the growing trade exchange and investments between the countries of the two groups, the current state of relations is not commensurate with the capabilities they possess, confirming the need for platforms for exchange and the establishment of a forum for economic cooperation to explore investment opportunities and address challenges. Participants emphasized the priority of cooperation in economic fields, including energy, trade, investment, food security, tourism, environment and education, as well as the need to deepen people-to-people relations with the aim of increasing mutual understanding, as the two regions are linked by ancient historical ties. The participants affirmed that the GCC and

ASEAN countries are respected in the international arena, and that there exist opportunities for further coordination between them to push for strengthening respect for international law, preserving the independence of international institutions and protecting them from the effects of strategic competition. Additional emphasis was placed on the need to institutionalize relations through drafting a legal framework that guarantees the sustainability of relations and raising them to the desired levels, in addition to the possibility of them entering into a free trade agreement.

Lastly, a number of ambassadors praised the recent developments in labor systems and labor protection mechanisms in the GCC states, which represent one of the most important areas of relations between the two sides. They expressed optimism in regards to the further development of these mechanisms.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, received a gift from H.E. Ambassador Mr. Dang Xuan Dung, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Global Leadership Program 2023



The Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) are delighted to launch **the Global Leadership Program**, which will take place in Geneva, Switzerland.

A primary focus of the GRCF is to conduct a variety of high-level executive learning and leadership programs that contain practical policy value.

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) is an international foundation supported by the Swiss government. The GCSP's mission is to advance peace, security, and international cooperation by providing the knowledge, skills, and network for effective and inclusive decision-making.

This Global Leadership Program features three one-week modules that address the core political, security, and economic challenges in the international system today. The modules are convened at regularly spaced out intervals throughout the year.

Intensive 3-module leadership course dates:

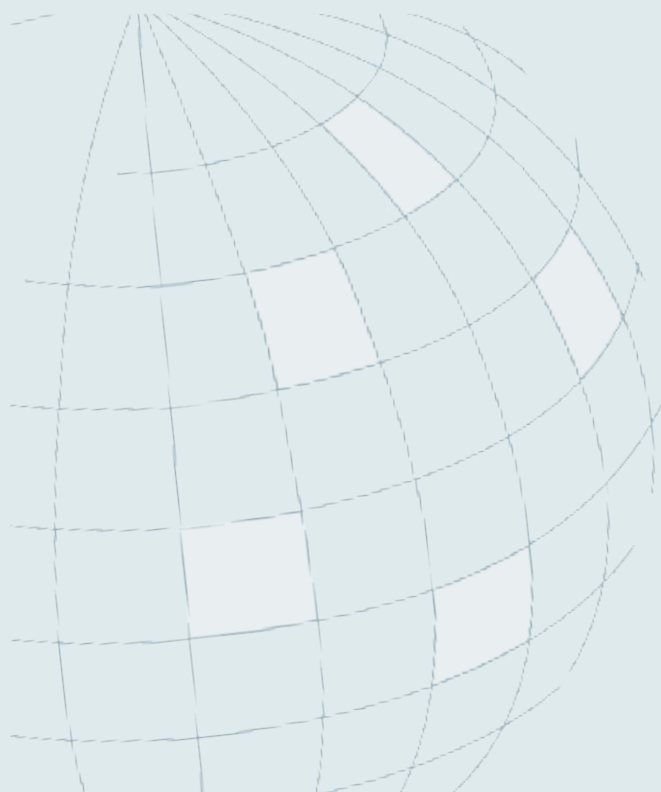
Global Politics Module: 11-15 September 2023

Global Security Module: 13 – 17 November 2023

Global Economics Module: 4 – 8 March 2024

The program offers participants the opportunity to:

- Improve knowledge about global developments in politics, security, and economics, as well as their impact on the state and society.
- Analyze current, past and anticipated changes occurring in the fields of global politics, security, and economics.
- Build critical thinking within a unique learning environment, by joining experienced practitioners and scholars from diverse fields in an interactive atmosphere of exchange and debate.
- Broaden professional networks across cultures and professional domains, through interaction with peers and experts within the program environment.



To find more information, please visit the program's website: <https://programs.grc.net/>

Register [HERE](#)
Download brochure [HERE](#)

Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme



Activities August 2023

[Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population \(GLMM\) programme](#) is an international independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme promoted and hosted by the GRC.

Access GLMM recent and past publications [here](#).

Publications

- GLMM Factsheet No. 7 - August 2023: “Arab Nationals in Saudi Arabia”, by Françoise De Bel-Air, GLMM Senior Fellow - Access the publication [here](#).

Data

The GLMM gathers, analyses, and republishes weekly national official statistical data concerning population, labour markets, and migration from dozens of websites of the GCC countries. All these data can be viewed, printed, and downloaded in MS Excel. Having done this for more than a decade, GLMM's database contains data that are no longer publicly available online except via the GLMM website: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/>.

Recently, notable data for Kuwait were added to the database:

[Kuwait: Non-Kuwaiti population born in Kuwait by nationality group, sex and age group \(census 2021\)](#)

[Kuwait: Population by nationality group, sex and administrative region of residence \(census 2021\)](#)

[Kuwait: Population by nationality \(Kuwaiti/ non-Kuwaiti\), sex and administrative region of residence \(census 2021\)](#)

[Kuwait: Population by nationality group and sex \(census 2021\)](#)

[Kuwait: Non-Kuwaiti population by place of birth \(in Kuwait/ outside Kuwait\), sex and age group \(census 2021\)](#)

[Kuwait: Population by nationality group \(census 2021\)](#)

For all data on Kuwait in the GLMM Database: Access [Here](#)

All GLMM data is gathered from published official national sources.

For Kuwait mainly: Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) and Public Authority for Civic Information (PACI).

The GLMM produces unique GCC regional tables: [Access them here](#).

GLMM Non-Resident Interns

Mohammed Javaid finished his GLMM Non-Resident Internship after 10 months (October 2022 - July 2023) following the successful completion of his studies at the Geneva Graduate Institute. He started his PhD studies at Emory University in Atlanta in August. Throughout his internship he diligently and continuously updated the GLMM legal database: Access [here](#).

Sharique Umar, PhD student in the Gulf Studies Program & Center at Qatar University, started his GLMM Non-Resident Internship in April 2023 and will contribute short papers to the GLMM database.

Call for additional GLMM Non-Resident Interns: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/GLMM-Non-resident-Internship-Final-F.pdf>.

Further information on GLMM

Contact: info.glmm@grc.net

GRC's Cultural & Media Program

August 24, 2023



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center, and Dr. Zaid Al-Fadil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the GRC, presented a copy of the first preliminary report for the Gulf Cultural Dialogue Lab project, which is a qualitative project in its idea, significance, and context. Dr. Zaid Al-Fadil discussed the first sessions of several cultural titles, including the following: Story and Novel Lab, Arabic Calligraphy Lab, Visual Arts Lab, Publishing and Libraries Lab, Cultural Development Lab, Theater and Performing Arts Lab, Media and Community Issues Lab, and Film Lab.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Awfi attended the meeting from the Ministry of Culture. Several ideas and projects presented to the ministry by the center were discussed, including a program for preparing cultural cadres and a project documenting the history of the emergence and development of the cultural movement in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the 1920s until today at various levels. In addition, the center hopes that the Ministry of Culture will sponsor its first cultural conference, which will be held at the end of this year.

In addition, the Vice President of the Center, Dr. Ahmed Sager, and the Director of the Cultural Program, Dr. Zaid Al-Fadil, met with Eng. Abdullah Al-Rabai, Head of the Human and Environmental Affairs Sector in the Gulf Cooperation Council, where a copy of the first preliminary report of the Gulf Cultural Dialogue Lab project was presented. Also discussed were aspects of future cooperation between the Center and the Cooperation Council.

The center also received several directors of cultural associations that were established recently. Many of them visited the GRC's headquarters in Riyadh, headed by the CEO of the Literature Association, Mr. Abdullah Muftah, and his colleagues from the heads of the Fashion Association, the Film Association, the Visual Arts Association, and the Translation Association. Other managers of various association projects, a part of the center's activity on the cultural level, and some of its international activities were presented. The attendees expressed their approval and desire to cooperate with the center in many upcoming cultural events.

GRC's Cultural & Media Program

Gulf Research Center (GRC) Podcast

Access all the podcasts on the GRC Podcast YouTube channel [here](#).



The GRC Podcast hosted Dr. Lulwa Boudlamah in an interview with Dr. Zaid Al-Fadil, Director of the GRC Cultural Program. Watch the full episode [here](#).

Gulf Dialogue Lab



August 23, 2023

The Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted a symposium on Arabic Calligraphy and the Challenges of the Age. The session was moderated by Dr. Abdullah Fitni.



August 15, 2023

The Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted a symposium on media and community issues, which focused on the concept of identity and media and how it is transformed overtime.



August 15, 2023

The Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted a symposium titled: Cultural Elites and Media. The session was moderated by Dr. Ghaida Al-Juwaiser.



August 14, 2023

The Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted a symposium on The Role of Sponsorship in Social and Cultural Transformations.

The Gulf Research Center produces a wide variety of publications through its research programs, projects, and Gulf Research Meetings. The GRC's publications can be accessed on its website via [this link](#), and the commentary and analysis can be found [here](#).

Reports



Investment Opportunities in Oman
Gulf Research Center



Defense in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Opportunities and Challenges Facing the Sector
Gulf Research Center

Commentary & Analysis



Key Issues on the Negotiating Table for COP28 in the UAE Presidency
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Asuka Nagasawa
August 2023



Saudi Arabia's Growing Role in Diplomacy
Amnah Mosly
August 2023



#188 (August 2023): The Soft Powers of the Gulf States: Their Potential - Their Investment - Their Impact

Selected Arabic Articles



The Camp David summit and the escalation of geopolitical rivalry in the Pacific and Indian oceans, "Towards a new era of opposing alliances."
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf



A Tweet that Explores the Future of Saudi-Iranian Relations
Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khatlan



The Conflict in Ukraine Features a Settlement on the Horizon
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf



An Analytical Study of Saudi Arabia's Appointment of its Ambassador to Palestine
Yousef Kamil Khattab



Back to the Political Crisis in Pakistan Caused by the War in Ukraine
Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khatlan



Enhancing US Military Deployment in the Gulf, "Motives, Dimensions, and Expected Scenarios"
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf



The Wave of Military Coups in Africa and its Geopolitical Repercussions on the International Influence Struggle in Africa, "The Coup in Niger is the Latest Chapter:"
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf



The Jeddah Meeting Prepares a Solid Ground for Restoring Peace in Ukraine
Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khatlan

GRC Participations

In August 2023, the GRC participated in numerous international events—both online and in-person—tackling issues pertaining to developments in the Gulf region and its broader neighborhood. The GRC emphasizes participating in such events, as it allows for the inclusion of a regional perspective in the debate. The following is an overview of the critical events in which the GRC participated this month.

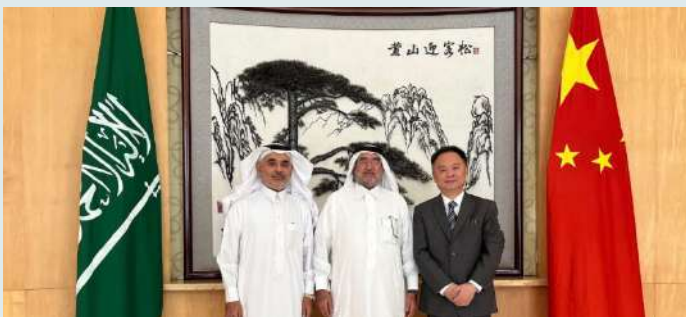
August 23, 2023

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research visited H.E. Ambassador Dr. Khalid Al Jindan, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Kingdom of Belgium. Both sides discussed opportunities for the GRC's research program.



August 17, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, visited BAE Systems SDT headquarters in Riyadh and was received by the CEO Eng. Saleh Al-Ghamdi, and a number of the company's directors, during which he learned about the company's efforts in the areas of technical training and development and discussing joint cooperation opportunities.



August 17, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, received at the GRC's Riyadh office, the commercial attaché of the Republic of Turkey in the Kingdom, Mr. Ramazan Ersoy, as part of the ongoing preparations for the organization of the "Gulf-Turkish Economic Forum," which the center is organizing, to be held from 11-13 November 2023 in Istanbul. More details about the forum can be found [here](#).



August 15, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), and Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor, welcomed and met with H.E. Mr. Jean-Philippe Linteau, Ambassador of Canada to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with his accompanying colleagues, in the GRC's office in Riyadh. Both sides discussed ongoing regional developments.



August 14, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, and Senior Advisor, Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, had a lunch meeting with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Chen Weiqing. During the meeting, both sides discussed ongoing regional developments.



GRC media participation can be accessed at [the following link](#), which leads to the GRC official YouTube channel.

Recent Media Participations



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated on Al-Arabiya News Channel in an episode titled “Washington: We are discussing with the IAEA the acquisition of nuclear capabilities by Riyadh.” Watch the full episode [here](#).



Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor for the GRC, participated in an episode on Al-Arabiya News Channel titled “Meeting of Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian with His Highness, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.” Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated on Al Sharq TV (Bloomberg) in an episode titled “Riyadh and Tehran...Dimensions of the Iranian Foreign Minister’s Visit.” Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf, Senior Researcher at the Gulf Research Center, participated in an episode on Algiers International Channel News 24, and discussed the developments in the Palestinian territories. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf, Senior Research at the Gulf Research Center, participated in an episode on Al Watania TV, and discussed the crisis in Niger.



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