



Dr. Abdulaziz O. Sager

Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center

Gulf Research Center

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager is the Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), a global think-tank that conducts scholarly research on a range of issues relating to the Gulf region. Established in July 2000, the GRC is based in Jeddah with a well-established worldwide network of partners and offices in both the Gulf region and Europe. Since 2012, the Global Go-To Think Tank Report has consistently ranked the GRC as one of the leading 150 think tanks in the world. The GRC is accredited to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), the World Bank Group's Global Environment Facility (GEF) and a member of the UN Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC).

Honors

KNIGHT OF THE NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT

Awarded the Medal of Knight in the National Order of Merit from French President Emmanuel Macron | May 2024

HONORARY PROFESSORSHIP

Osaka University | 2023

HONORARY PROFESSORSHIP

King Abdulaziz University | March 2020

RAWABI HOLDING AWARD

January | 2018

ARAB MEDIA CREATIVITY AWARD

Arab Thought Foundation | 2018

HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia | May 2011

Mediation and Advisory Experiences

INITIATOR AND PARTICIPANT 2012 – current
Track 2 Dialogues – GCC/Iran, Saudi Arabia/Iran

ADVISORY BOARD 2006 - current
Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

CONSULTATIVE BOARD 2006 - current
Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)

ADVISORY BOARD 2005 - current
Arab Thought Foundation

Mediation and Advisory Experiences ²

CHAIR

2020
T20 Task Force 5: The Future of Multilateralism and Global Governance

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2014 - 2018
King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue

BOARD

2007 - 2012
German Orient Foundation

MEMBER

2003 – 2009
Makkah Province Council

ADVISORY BOARD

2006 - 2008
Faculty of Economics, United Arab Emirates University

ADVISORY BOARD

4th Arab Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

ADVISORY BOARD

Saudi Exhibition & Convention Bureau

STRATEGIC COUNCIL

Global Alliance for ICT and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA-GAID)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Faculty of Economics and Administration, King Abdulaziz University

Mediation and Advisory Experiences ³

ADVISORY BOARD

Saudi Ministry of Higher Education

MEMBER

Turkish-Arab Society for Science, Culture and Arts

HONORARY COUNCIL

Dar Al-Hekma University

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Prince Mugrin University

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

International Crisis Group

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The University of Business and Technology (UBT)

ADVISORY BOARD

Gulf International Forum

Academic Qualifications

PH.D. IN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY | UNITED KINGDOM

2010

Thesis: Gulf Security: Dynamics, Perception and Policies
1968-2003: A Comparative Study of the GCC States.

M.A. IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF KENT | UNITED KINGDOM

2002

External Forces Affecting the Security and Stability of the
Gulf Region.

B.S IN ECONOMICS

KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY | SAUDI ARABIA

1980

Faculty of Economics and Administration.

ADVANCED LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT COURSES

International Institute for Management Development (IMD) |
Switzerland.

Major Conference Participations

COUNCIL OF COUNCILS

LENNART MERI CONFERENCE | Estonia

MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE

WORLD POLICY CONFERENCE

MANAMA DIALOGUE | International Institute for
Strategic Studies (IISS)

KRONBERG CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM | Switzerland

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FORUM | Switzerland

BERLIN FOREIGN POLICY FORUM | Körber-Stiftung

Major Lectures

NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE

Italy

Harvard University Kennedy School

United States

SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY

Oman

BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA

Egypt

PRINCE SAUD AL-FAISAL INSTITUTE FOR
DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

Saudi Arabia

KING ABDULAZIZ CENTER FOR NATIONAL
DIALOGUE

Saudi Arabia

ROYAL SAUDI NAVAL FORCES

Saudi Arabia

THE ARMED FORCES INTELLIGENCE AND
SECURITY AUTHORITY

Saudi Arabia

COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE OF THE ARMED
FORCES

Saudi Arabia

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES OF THE ARMED
FORCES

Saudi Arabia

KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY

Saudi Arabia

THE EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

Germany

Publications and Media Contributions

Editor-in-Chief of Araa Magazine:

A monthly periodical specialized in Gulf affairs and published by the Gulf Research Center since its founding.

Editor-in-Chief of the Gulf Yearbook:

A book series on the most important political, security, economic and social developments in the GCC.

“We Can Escape a Zero-Sum Struggle Between Saudi Arabia and Iran – If We Act Now,”

The Guardian, with Hossein Moussavian, January 31, 2021.

“Gulf De-Escalation: Perspective from Saudi Arabia,”

Report for the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, August 2020.

“It’s Time for Saudi Arabia’s and Iran’s Leaders to Talk,”

New York Times, with Hossein Moussavian, May 14, 2019.

“Is This the Dawn of Real Change in Saudi Arabia,”

Huffington Post, March 4, 2014.

“Challenging Times for Saudi Foreign Policy,”

Arab News, January 23, 2014.

“Reforms the Arab Monarchies Cannot Avoid,”

The Washington Post, April 22, 2011.

“Why for All Its Problems, the EU is Still a Model for the Arab World,”

Europe’s World, no. 14, Spring 2010.

“The Gulf and NATO: Time to Review Relations,”

NATO Review, January 2009.

“Political Reform Measures from a Domestic GCC Perspective,”

in Constitutional Reform and Political Participation in the Gulf, Abdulhadi Khalaf and Giacomo Luciani, eds. (Dubai: Gulf Research Center, 2006).

Energy Shapes New Gulf Security Architecture,

Journal of Middle Eastern Geopolitics (2006).

“Political Opposition in Saudi Arabia,”

in Saudi Arabia in the Balance: Political Economy, Society, Foreign Affairs, Paul Aarts and Gerd Nonneman, eds. (London: Hurst & Company, 2005).

Arab Peace Force

(GRC, January 2005).

Combating Violence & Terrorism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

(Gulf Research Center, May 2004).

GCC Political & Economic Strategy towards

Post-War Iraq

(GRC, April 2004).

Reforms in Saudi Arabia: Challenges and Feasible Solutions

(GRC, September 2003).

The Events of September 11 & Its Economic Impact on the GCC Countries

Book Chapter.

Frequent contributor to major international

media channels: Al-Arabiya Television, France 24,

BBC, CNN, Deutsche Welle, AlHadath, and

Aljazeera.

International Business Experience

President of Sager Group Holding in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is based in Jeddah with branches in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Sager Group is active in the fields of information technology, aviation services and investments.

Memberships

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES (IISS)

United Kingdom

CHATHAM HOUSE (ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

United Kingdom

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCES

United Kingdom

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES (RUSI)

United Kingdom

RAND CORPORATION

United States

MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

United States

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT (IMD)

Switzerland

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY NETWORK

Switzerland