



Medal of Knight in the National Order of Merit from French President Emmanuel Macron



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, being awarded by H.E. Ambassador Ludovic Pouille, France's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, received the prestigious Medal of Knight in the National Order of Merit from French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday, May 21, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This recognition symbolizes Dr. Abdulaziz Sager's strong bond and cumulative achievements in enhancing relations between Saudi Arabia and France.

The ceremony was hosted and organized by H.E. Ambassador Ludovic Pouille, France's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the Residence of France in Riyadh. Distinguished guests and EU Ambassadors were among those who attended the ceremony. After being awarded the Medal, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager gave an acceptance speech where he extended his appreciation to President Macron,

the government of France, the French Foreign Ministry, the French embassy in Riyadh, and Ambassador Pouille, as well as outlined the growing relations between Saudi Arabia and France.



Dr. Sager concluded his speech by re-emphasizing that through his organization, the Gulf Research Center, he and his team will continue to work toward strengthening the relations between Saudi Arabia and France in various dimensions, ranging from economics and energy to culture, defense, security, and political coordination. He reiterated his commitment to using all capacities to their fullest to distribute knowledge, raise understanding about both countries and propose strategies for further nourishing and developing the existing ties between the two countries. Dr. Abdulaziz Sager thanked all the guests for attending the ceremony.



◆ GRC Events & Activities

Medal of Knight in the National Order of Merit

GCC Ambassadors Luncheon in Brussels

GRC Webinar: Maintaining

Convergence in EU-GCC Energy Ties

GCC-Central Asia

Ambassador Roundtable Meeting

GCC-Latin America

Ambassador Roundtable Meeting

Upcoming: 14th Gulf Research Meeting 2024

Upcoming: Gulf In-Depth Executive Learning Program

◆ GRC Programs

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

Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

Cultural & Media Program

◆ GRC Publications

◆ GRC Participations

◆ GRC in the Media

GCC Ambassadors Luncheon Meeting

Organized by the Gulf Research Center (GRC)

May 30, 2024

Brussels, Belgium



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Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), and Dr. Christian Koch, Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussel's office and Director of Research at the GRC, organized a luncheon for the GCC ambassadors and representatives of the GCC embassies in Brussels on May 30, 2024. Those in attendance were H.E. Khalid Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Jindan, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; H.E. Khalid Fahad Al-Hajri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar; H.E. Abdulla Faisal Jabur Al-Doseri, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain; H.E. Nawaf N. Alenezi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait; H.E. Haifa Al-Jadea, Ambassador of the Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the European Union; H.E. Mohamed Al-Sahlawi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates; and Mr. Humaid Almansoori, Head of Parliamentary Affairs, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates.

During the luncheon, the participants discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the Gulf and Europe and ways the soon-to-open Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) office in Brussels can provide the space to develop and deepen the relationship between both sides by building networks across all official and unofficial channels, thus broadening relations between the Gulf and Europe. This is important as the Gulf states need a voice in Europe to ensure their interests are heard and understood.

Institutional ties between the two sides are improving but remain underdeveloped. A structured research program will support relations within a proper framework. A Gulf-Europe

program serves to provide policy officials with ideas and initiatives. There is an urgent need to better inform both the public and the governments on both sides about others' respective policies. The main objectives of the GRCF Brussels office will be to establish a wide-ranging strategic dialogue that underpins the ties between Europe and the Gulf and provide a framework for constructive dialogue to enhance institutional capabilities in bilateral relations.

The GRCF Brussels office will focus on issues related to current developments and those that impact the current Gulf-Europe relationship. This includes the following key domains:

- Economics and Energy
- Politics
- Security and Defense
- Education
- Environment and Sustainability
- Culture and Media
- Science and Technology

More information about the official launch of the GRCF's Brussels office will be coming soon.



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) held a webinar entitled 'Maintaining Convergence in EU-GCC Energy Ties' on May 23, 2024. The speakers of the webinar were H.E. Dr. Majid AlMoneef, Chairman of the

Association for Energy Economics, and Prof. Giacomo Luciani, Master in International Energy Transitions at Sciences Po Paris. Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, moderated the session.

Sustainable energy security is a core focal area in the EU's Strategic Partnership document towards the Gulf region put forth in 2022. The EU-GCC policy document emphasizes the importance of partnership for a green transition and sustainable energy security, outlining the need for strategic engagement, speeding up the green transition, and meeting climate-related commitments. The document further provides some policy recommendations including setting up an EU-GCC energy and climate expert group, annual ministerial meetings on energy and climate issues, engagement on sustainable finance, and facilities for expertise on circular economies.

It was noted at the outset of the webinar that the energy scene has changed dramatically since the GCC and the EU first signed their cooperation agreement in 1988. More recently, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has heightened Europe's focus on the Gulf for energy matters, leading to an effort to increase cooperation with the region. While one sees projects being implemented at the bi-lateral level, the follow-through on agreements at the GCC-EU level remains slow, with the Free Trade negotiations being the primary example. In terms of outlook, the suggestion put forward was one of a continued transition on many different levels and one that is likely to be more bumpy and unstable than smooth and steady.

The webinar discussions highlighted the need for cooperation between the EU and the GCC in many different areas including sustainable energy security and the potential of hydrogen and carbon capture and sequestration (CCUS)

technologies. Both speakers emphasized the importance of realistic and flexible approaches to climate commitments and the necessity for technical dialogue and integrated value chain projects to foster EU-GCC collaboration. Regarding technical cooperation on the hydrogen economy, the webinar highlighted how technical cooperation on desalination, infrastructure for hydrogen, and shipping and handling standards are areas for potential EU-GCC collaboration. Regarding the Gulf region, the GCC is investing in renewables for green hydrogen production and has the potential for blue hydrogen production with CCUS technology. Opportunities within the mineral sector, especially in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were also mentioned given the EU's concern over critical raw materials. In addition, Europe's reevaluation of CCUS and nuclear energy as potential components of reducing emissions have recently opened up areas for renewed cooperation.

The webinar also examined divergences in energy strategies. While Europe and the Gulf region have clearly stated commitments to net zero and emission reduction targets, they disagree on the exact path for best achieving these goals. For example, the GCC has advocated for Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) as an alternative metric for measuring emissions. The GCC's approach to nuclear energy also differs from Europe's, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE considering atomic power generation while some European countries have moved into the phasing out of nuclear energy. More importantly, there are deep concerns inside the GCC regarding the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and its impact on GCC industries with the GCC seeing the CBAM as discriminatory and potentially inviting trade wars. The CBAM is therefore seen as the primary policy that must be re-evaluated by the EU.

The session put forward several suggestions for policy consideration:

First, a call for Europe to remain a partner of choice for the GCC by re-evaluating policies like CBAM and engaging in cooperative discussions on critical issues.

Second, more investment in mining and a cooperative approach to developing necessary resources are needed.

Third, it is essential to set realistic targets for net zero emissions and be flexible in revising them. What is important in the end is to look at outcomes and deal with the realities rather than quickly imposing solutions.

GCC-Central Asia Ambassador Roundtable Meeting

May 8, 2024

Gulf Research Center Office, Riyadh



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The Gulf Research Center's (GRC) GCC-Central Asia Research Program organized a GCC-Central Asia roundtable meeting in its office in Riyadh on May 8, 2024, in which it gathered ambassadors of the Central Asia region, including H.E. Ambassador Akram Karimi Muhammadar, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan; H.E. Ambassador Ulukbek Maripov, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan; H.E. Ambassador Madiyar Menilbekov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan; H.E. Ambassador Shahin Abdullayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Mr. Bakhrom Sharipov, Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Experts from the West Asia department at the Foreign Ministry and the Saudi business community also participated in the meeting. Prof. Dr. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor of the GRC, and Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, moderated the meeting.

The roundtable meeting fostered a platform for robust dialogue and collaboration. Key outcomes included identifying concrete points of cooperation, notably the organization of forums, webinars, and joint studies between think tanks in the two regions to explore ways to enhance relations in all fields. The meeting focused on the current relations and developments in cooperation between the GCC countries and Central Asia in coordination with the first GCC-Central Asia Summit held in Saudi Arabia in August 2023. The meeting preceded the first GCC-CI5 Investment Forum, which was held

in Riyadh on May 29, 2024, and aimed to explore economic and investment opportunities across various sectors such as renewable energy, petrochemicals, agriculture, food security, industry, healthcare, tourism, logistics services, infrastructure, technology, and digitalization.



Participants in the meeting stressed that the investment forum will bring about a quantum leap in relations between the GCC and Central Asia, representing two regional blocs whose presence is growing in the international arena. The participants noted the growing development in all aspects of cooperation between the GCC and Central Asian countries. They confirmed the existence of opportunities to enhance relations from the level of collaboration to the level of a strategic partnership, which is also affirmed by the 2023-2027 Joint Action Plan for Strategic Dialogue and Cooperation that was adopted after the GCC-Central Asia Strategic

GCC-Central Asia Ambassador Roundtable Meeting

May 8, 2024

Gulf Research Center Office, Riyadh



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Dialogue meeting held on September 7, 2022, in Riyadh at the foreign ministerial level. This entails strengthening partnerships in new horizons, including political and security dialogue, economic and investment cooperation, enhancing communication between people, and sharing best practices and knowledge across all domains, including media, sports, tourism, youth affairs, culture, education, and tourism.

Economic and trade relations have been at the forefront of GCC-CIS ties. The participants emphasized the priority of cooperation in the economic fields, including energy, logistics services, food security, and investment, and the need to deepen people-to-people relations to increase mutual understanding. The participants affirmed that both regions want to enhance trade exchanges and investment flows. From the Central Asian side, the ambassadors stressed that their governments prioritize economic cooperation through energy, especially renewable energy, in their expanding bilateral ties with the GCC countries, who have expressed a particular interest in investing in the Central Asian region's energy sector.

On the geostrategic level, the participants also mentioned the ways in which the Central Asian countries have been affected by the developments in Afghanistan and the Ukraine crisis.

In light of current geopolitical and geoeconomic issues, Central Asian countries are attempting to establish more avenues of collaboration. Against this backdrop, the issue of security, including cybersecurity, was mentioned as an essential point of cooperation, given that most Central Asian countries are landlocked, bordering areas of Russia and Iran. A particular challenge that was mentioned in the meeting which both regions are facing, is the fact that the current global geopolitical contestations have strengthened terror organizations and triggered the emergence of affiliates in Eurasia and the Middle East. The determination to support regional and international efforts to combat terrorism and extremism and their funding sources is, therefore, one of the high priorities for both regions. It is also mentioned in the joint statement from the summit meeting.

Overall, the roundtable meeting paved the way for strengthened partnerships through networking opportunities, facilitating mutual understanding. Through the GRC's GCC-Central Asia research program, we aim to provide a platform for discussion and collaboration to reflect the steady growth in the relationship between GCC and C5+, particularly during the last few years, and to benefit from the tremendous potential that these two regions have.



GCC-Latin America Ambassador Roundtable Meeting

May 5, 2024

Gulf Research Center Office, Riyadh



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The Gulf Research Center (GRC) organized a roundtable discussion titled 'Developing GCC-Latin America Relations' on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting, moderated by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, convened esteemed Iberoamerican ambassadors residing in Riyadh, along with experts and academics from the GCC.

Participants who attended the meeting included:

- H.E. Mr. Aníbal Gómez Toledo, Ambassador of Mexico to Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Dr. Nelson Yemil Chabén, Ambassador of Uruguay to Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Mr. Carlos Rodolfo Zapata, Ambassador of Peru to Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Mr. Validimir Andres Gonzalez Quesada, Ambassador of Cuba to Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Mr. Ricardo Ernesto Cucalon Levy, Ambassador of El Salvador to Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Abderrahman Agadou, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Mr. David Velasquez Caraballo, Ambassador of Venezuela to Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Mr. Sergio Taam, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Brazil
- H.E. Ms. Ivanna Silva, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Argentina
- H.E. Mr. Manuel Hernandez, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Spain

Experts and Academics also attended the meeting, including:

- Dr. Mansour Almarzoqi, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Strategic Studies at the Prince Saud al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies
- Mr. Abdulaziz Alageel, Co-Founder of Edhafat and Former Secretary General of Gulf Organizations of Industrial Consulting (GOIC)
- Prof. Dr. Saleh Al Khathaln, Senior Advisor (GRC)
- Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research (GRC)
- Dr. Mohammed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environment Program (GRC)
- Dr. Rafael de Santiago, Senior Researcher (GRC)

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, delivered the opening address, underscoring the significance of the Latin American region, its demographic weight, with 8% of the global population, and the substantial growth in trade between the GCC and Latin America, which surged from \$20 billion in 2020 to nearly \$32 billion by 2022. Dr. Sager also touched upon pivotal issues such as the Gaza crisis and diplomatic relations with Iran.

Following Dr. Sager's opening remarks, the discussion began with an emphasis on the evolving synergy between two regions frequently in the international spotlight, drawing parallels with the Palestine situation. The historical collaboration dating back to the 1950s was underscored, presenting compelling statistics: the GCC's combined GDP totaling \$2.2 trillion compared to Latin America's \$5.5 trillion, despite the GCC comprising only six nations. At the

GCC-Latin America Ambassador Roundtable Meeting

May 5, 2024

Gulf Research Center Office, Riyadh



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same time, Latin America consists of over 30 countries. The significance of addressing the Gaza and Palestine issue was highlighted by the per capita GDP disparity and the vast potential for trade cooperation, echoing the sentiment, "If there is no prosperity, there is no peace," drawing from Latin America's historical experiences. The imperative of fostering peace and prosperity was emphasized, drawing upon shared experiences and aspirations, particularly in light of the Gulf's proactive stance in defusing conflict escalation.



The Senior Advisor at the GRC highlighted two key points during the discussion. First, Saudi Arabia's proactive diplomatic engagement regarding the Gaza conflict emphasizes the Kingdom's longstanding commitment dating back 75 years. Saudi Arabia's enduring responsibility towards Arab issues was noted, namely the recent impetus provided by the success of Vision 2030. Driven by the understanding that stability is foundational for prosperity and peace, Saudi Arabia actively engages in regional and international efforts to resolve the conflict.

Second, Saudi Arabia's involvement in the Collective South initiative, which aims to amplify the voice of Southern nations in shaping the global agenda, was outlined. Efforts to promote cooperative relations over competition within the Collective South framework were also highlighted. Additionally, Saudi Arabia's advocacy for middle-power diplomacy, including engagement with countries in Latin America, to foster a more multipolar international system was brought into the discussion.

Dr. Koch, Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center introduced two main objectives that have guided much of its work since its inception. Firstly, to provide a regional perspective from the region. There is a great deal of discussion on the Middle East and, in particular the Gulf, at

the think tank level, but most of this discourse takes place around the globe, with little input from the region itself. The Center's aim is to foster understanding by presenting a regional perspective. Secondly, they strive to fill gaps in research. With respect to the GCC-Latin America Research Program, the intention is to fill such gaps, as it is one of many areas that could be studied more thoroughly. It was also mentioned that establishing better relations with younger scholars from Latin America and linking them with the Saudi research staff of the GRC should be encouraged.

The discussion went on to address the big challenge that is bringing together the two regions. That is, dealing with perception vs reality between both regions was acknowledged as important as the two sides of the world have different perceptions. The reason is that connectivity presents a significant challenge but does not take away from the vast opportunities and resources available to share in every field, particularly in trade and investment.

The discussion led to an understanding that a viable and realistic action plan has to be established to connect the two regions and that a summit between the GCC and Latin America will be an excellent opportunity to identify common interests. The participants highlighted the importance of mutual understanding and visits by high-ranking officials to foster stronger ties between Argentina and Saudi Arabia and diplomatic relations on trade, connectivity, and cultural ties.

The conversation also covered the challenges and potential areas of cooperation, including defense, environment, climate change, and geopolitical technology. The discussion also highlighted the potential for increased collaboration between Saudi Arabia and Mexico, with a proposal made for a joint public policy report.

The meeting concluded by acknowledging the need to strengthen diplomatic ties, deepen cultural understanding, and enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation. This approach aims to address shared challenges and take advantage of mutual opportunities. The final proposal was a new initiative—a GCC-LATAM summit, which could serve as a platform for further dialogue and collaboration, ultimately contributing to strengthening relationships between the regions.

14th Gulf Research Meeting 2024 - Upcoming

9-11 July 2024



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Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

Gulf Research Meeting

Opening Ceremony Announcement

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) is pleased to announce the Opening Ceremony of the Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) 2024, scheduled to take place on July 9, 2024.

Opening Ceremony Details:

Date: July 9, 2024, at 16:00 BST

Location: Cambridge, United Kingdom

The keynote speakers for the GRM 2024 Opening Ceremony are:

- **H.H. Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- **H.E. Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi**, Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
- **H.E. The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC**, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

This will be followed by a panel session. Speakers include:

- **H.E. Mr. Luigi di Maio**, EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the Gulf Region
- **Dr. Manal Radwan**, Senior Advisor to the Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- **H.E. Ambassador Nancy Jamal**, The Chief of Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain



For more details on the Gulf Research Meeting, please visit the website [here](https://www.gulfresearchmeeting.net).

GRM 2024 WORKSHOPS

This year's GRM workshops cover a wide range of topics in the fields of politics, economics, energy, security, and the wider social sciences as they relate to the wider Gulf region (GCC countries in addition to Iraq and Yemen).

Access each workshop and read its full [description here](#).

Gulf In-Depth - Upcoming

Executive Learning Program

6-10 October, 2024



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THE GULF IN-DEPTH
Executive Learning Program
6-10 October, 2024
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

An innovative and in-depth executive learning program focusing on the key strategic aspects of the Arab Gulf region and its linkages to the international community.

- Gain unprecedented knowledge and insight into the workings of the Arab Gulf region from knowledgeable practitioners and insiders.
- Join leaders from government, business, academia, and the independent sector for a week-long session of highly focused presentations, intense debates, and the opportunity to build a lasting network of experts.
- Discover Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to gain insight into the region's rapid economic, social, and cultural progress, and better understand the kingdom's global interactions.

THE GULF IN-DEPTH
Executive Learning Program
6-10 October, 2024
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) is pleased to announce the launch of the 3rd edition of the Gulf In-Depth, a week-long intensive executive learning program focused on the strategic aspects of the Arab Gulf.

What is the 'Gulf In-Depth' Program?

- An innovative and in-depth executive learning program focusing on the key strategic aspects of the Arab Gulf region and its linkages to the international community.
- An opportunity to gain unprecedented knowledge and insight into the workings of the Arab Gulf region from knowledgeable practitioners and insiders.
- A program bringing together leaders from government, business, academia, and the independent sector for a week-long session of highly focused presentations and intense debate.
- An initial building block in the establishment of a life-long network of experts.
- Held in Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the program incorporates an understanding of the region's development, including the rapid economic,

social, and cultural progress experienced throughout the Gulf. This encompasses various aspects such as urbanization, infrastructure growth, economic diversification, technological advancements, and increased global interactions.

Date: The program will run from October 6 to 10, 2024.

Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Gulf In-Depth is designed for diplomats, business leaders, academics, government officials, and media professionals who are interested in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the political, economic, and social dynamics of the Gulf region.

Fee: 3,200 USD/12,000 SAR

To apply for the program, a completed online application form must be submitted to the Gulf Research Center. The deadline for registration is three months before the program date.

To register for the program, click [here](#).

For more information and details, click [here](#).



Projects



On **7 May** at the **GRC Riyadh office**, the GRC's Gulf Labor Market and Migration Program launched the **policy research project "Vision 2030 and the Socio-Economic Reform Process: The Future of Labor and Migration in Saudi Arabia"** with the participation of:

- Mr. Badr Alsharif (economic policy expert) and Dr. Mehmet Soytas (labour economist) who are part of the eight Saudi, Saudi-based, and international experts conducting the research for the project
- Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD)
- National Labor Observatory (NLO)
- Royal Commission for Riyadh City (RCRC)
- King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)
- UN organizations: IOM, UNHRC, UNICEF, UNODC

The Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS), and the International Migration Division in the Direction for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expressed interest in the project but were unable to attend the meeting.

Objectives of the project

Enhance understanding of the Saudi labour market, migration dynamics at all skill levels, and population policies and their impact on Saudi Arabia.

Provide sound background information on the above, and policy advice for Saudi policymakers and economic actors, within the framework of Saudi Vision 2030.

Foster a network of key Saudi experts, academics, and institutions, as well as international experts on the Saudi labour market, migration dynamics, and population policies and their impact.

Create the conditions for continued research on the Saudi labour market, migration dynamics, and population policies and their impact on Saudi Arabia.

Process

A foundational element of the project is the active involvement of experts from Saudi institutions, international organizations, academia, and think tanks who exchange knowledge and views on key issues relating to the future of labor markets and migration within the framework of Saudi Vision 2030 in an informal setting operating under the Chatham House Rules. These experts have been and will continue to be fundamental in identifying the most important topics to be researched, reviewing, and discussing draft papers, participating in public events and webinars, and using the acquired knowledge in the definition and implementation of their policies and further research.

Focus of the project

- Saudi citizens' socio-economic characteristics and their possible future trends
- Future labour needs and migration in and to Saudi Arabia
- Challenges and opportunities created by the reforms
- Transversal issue: Data for evidence-based policy making and enhanced knowledge

Phases of the project

The project is divided into 3 phases of approximately 10-12 months:

1. Focus on highly skilled labour
2. Focus on Saudi citizens
3. Global changes in the Saudi labour market

Activities and output: Statistical data; Laws, bilateral agreements, and policy documents; Research papers; Policy briefs; Factsheets; Workshop; Outreach meeting for selected stakeholders; Outreach webinar for the wider public.



On **8 May** at the **GRC Riyadh offices** GLMM met with a delegation of the General Authority for Statistics (GASat) including Dr. Fatima Bint Ali Alwif and Dr. Meshal Aloudah exploring close cooperation on issues of common interest, including participation in the "Vision 2030 and the Socio-Economic Reform Process: The Future of Labour and Migration in Saudi Arabia" project.

MoU & Joint Project with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)



In May, GLMM agreed on a joint project with the **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)** entitled "Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: How Do GCC Countries Fare in the Global Competition for Talent?"

The project aims to provide an in-depth analysis of highly skilled migration trends and dynamics in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. It examines policies, migration dynamics, and

outcomes related to the attraction, recruitment and retention of highly skilled talent from Arab (Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia) and Asian (India, Pakistan, the Philippines) countries of origin to three GCC states: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Activities and output: Statistical data; Laws, bilateral agreements, and policy documents; Research papers; Policy briefs; Factsheets; Workshop; Outreach meeting for selected stakeholders; Outreach webinar for the wider public.

Upcoming Activities



The [Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population \(GLMM\) Programme](#) / [Gulf Research Center \(GRC\)](#) and the [Center for International and Regional Studies \(CIRS\)](#) / [Georgetown University in Qatar \(GU-Q\)](#) is organizing a **joint webinar** on "Emerging Trends in Sub-Sahara African Migration to the GCC" on **12 June 2024** at **1-2:30pm AST / 12:00-1:30pm CET**.

[Register Here](#)

Speakers: **Mr. Lawrence Egulu** - Commissioner for Employment Services, Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development of the Republic of Uganda; **Mrs. Aida Awel** - Chief Technical Adviser, Labour Migration at International Labour Organisation (ILO), Addis Ababa; **Mr. Paul Odhiambo** - Independent Policy Analyst, Nairobi; **Prof. Lahra Smith** - Associate Professor and Director, African Studies Program, Georgetown University; **Dr. Kristian Alexander** - Senior Fellow at the Rabdan Security & Defense Institute (RSDI), Abu Dhabi; and **Dr. Françoise De Bel-Air** - Senior Fellow, GLMM

Contact: Mr. Imco Brouwer - imco.brouwer@gmail.com / imco.brouwer@grc.net



Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, the Director of the Gulf Research Center's (GRC) Program on Environmental Security and Sustainability, visited the GRC Riyadh office to further strengthen the Center's collaborative efforts in Saudi Arabia. During his visit, Dr. Abdelraouf held a series of strategic meetings with key stakeholders, including representatives from various Saudi ministries and institutions, to discuss and enhance cooperation on environmental security and sustainability initiatives.

The primary focus of these meetings was to align the objectives of the GRC's environmental program with the national priorities of Saudi Arabia, particularly in the context of Vision 2030. Dr. Abdelraouf engaged in detailed discussions with officials from the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture, and the discussions centered on identifying critical areas for collaboration, sharing best practices, and exploring innovative solutions to address environmental challenges in the Kingdom.

Dr. Abdelraouf emphasized the importance of a holistic and integrated approach to environmental security, highlighting how sustainable practices can contribute to economic diversification and long-term ecological balance. The meetings also provided an opportunity to outline joint research projects, capacity-building initiatives, and policy advisory services that the GRC can offer to support Saudi Arabia's environmental goals.

These interactions are aimed at creating a network of local experts and stakeholders who can work together to implement sustainable practices and policies effectively. Dr. Abdelraouf's visit concluded with a commitment from all parties to continue working closely together, leveraging the expertise and resources of the GRC to advance Saudi Arabia's environmental security and sustainability

agenda. This visit marked a significant step in enhancing the partnership between the GRC and Saudi institutions, ensuring a collaborative approach to addressing the region's environmental challenges.

Meetings that took place in GRC Riyadh:

5 May 2024

Dr. Christian Koch, GRC Director of Research, Dr. Nayef Alrasheed, Senior Researcher at the GRC, and Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, GRC Environment and Sustainability Research Program director, met with Dr. Abdallah Al-Radady, Head of the Innovation Department at the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture to discuss possible joint cooperation including webinars, research, and policy papers. They also spoke about the GRC joining the Food and AgriTech Alliance of KSA.

5 May 2024

Dr. Christian Koch, GRC Director of Research, and Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, GRC Environment and Sustainability Research Program director, met at the GRC office in Riyadh with Mr. Quentin Blommaert, Head Hydrogen Diplomacy Office Riyadh, to discuss possible joint cooperation, including webinars, research and policy papers, and possible joint cooperation for the next Climate Talks COP29 in Azerbaijan and the next UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh.

6 May 2024

Dr. Christian Koch, GRC Director of Research, Dr. Nayef Alrasheed, Consultant GRC and Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, GRC Environment and Sustainability Research Program director met with Dr. Mohamad Hejazi, Climate and Sustainability Program Director, Dr. Mari Luomi, Senior Researcher, Climate and Sustainability Program and Mr. Brian Efrid, Strategic Partnerships Director at the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies Research Center (KAPSARC) office in Riyadh. The meeting discussed possible joint cooperation in terms of joint webinars, research papers, and possible joint workshops at the GRM Cambridge meeting in 2025, as well as possible cooperation for the upcoming climate talks COP29 in Azerbaijan.



Webinar: The Role of Major Groups in the Science Policy Panel for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention

May 21, 2024



The Gulf Research Center Foundation, the United Nations Environment Program, Major groups at UNEP, and the Royal Society of Chemicals of the UK co-organized a webinar titled "The Role of Major Groups in the Science Policy Panel for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention" on 21st of May (10-12 am GMT) to discuss possible engagement mechanisms of various major groups in the SPP.

The webinar was part of preparations for the Open-Ended Working Group 3 (OEWG3) on an SPP on chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention, which will be held in Geneva in June 2024. UNEP and the SPP secretariat presented the current draft documents and provisions for Civil Society Participation.



The science major groups presented the group initiative of establishing an SPP Science alliance to follow the work of SPP when created. Different major groups presented their insights about different modalities and avenues for the effective engagement of major groups in the future work of the panel and its various sub-bodies and/or committees.



Gulf Dialogue Lab Activities



The Gulf Cultural Dialogue Lab held an episode of The Story and Novel Lab titled "Awards and the Novel Mutation" in which the topic of credibility of literary awards was discussed. It was noted that clear criteria are the only mechanism to maintain the credibility of literary awards, and a successful and distinguished Arab example of this includes the King Faisal Prize, which served as a gateway for some of its recipients to be nominated for the Nobel Prize and the Sultan bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Award.

Watch the full episode [here](#).

May 19, 2024:



The Quality of Life Lab under the Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted a panel session with Mr. Hisham Ismail, and Dr. Fahad Abdulkarim Turkistani.

May 16, 2024:



The Quality of Life Lab under the Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted a panel session with writer and educational consultant Dr. Basma Al-Sayoufi and Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, Dr. Arwa Arab.

GRC Podcast Activities



May 16, 2024

The GRC podcast aired a new episode that focused on the biography of poet Ambassador Hassan Al-Quraishi, a pioneering Saudi writer who was accompanied by his son Hassan Al-Quraishi. The podcast was hosted by Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the GRC's Culture and Media program. Access the full interview [here](#).



The Gulf Research Center produces various 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](#).

Commentary & Analyses



Beyond the Gloves: Developments in Saudi Arabia's Boxing Sector

Amnah Mosly
May 2024

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Beyond the Gloves: Developments in Saudi Arabia's Boxing Sector

Amnah Mosly

May 2024



Scope and Facets of Japan-Saudi Arabia Relations

Noriko Suzuki
May 2024

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GCC States' Initial Steps to Combat Desertification

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf
May 2024

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GCC States' Initial Steps to Combat Desertification

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May 2024



Reforming the United Nations: A GCC Perspective

Christine Williams
May 2024

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GCC-Latin America Trade and Investment Relations

Hannan Alghamdi
May 2024

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GCC-Latin America Trade and Investment Relations

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Europe's Toughened Stance on Migration

Dr. Christian Koch and Houda Barroug
May 2024

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Europe's Toughened Stance on Migration

Dr. Christian Koch and Houda Barroug

May 2024



Selected Arabic Articles and Research Papers



The Upcoming Saudi-American Defense Agreement - Its Content, Objectives, Conditions, Challenges, and Scenarios
 Yousef Kamil Khattab
 May 2024



Escalation of Global Military Spending: A Numerical Analysis of the Causes and Implications
 Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf
 May 2024



Normalization and the Keys of the White House
 Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khatlan
 May 2024



A Year of Conflict in Sudan. What are the results...and where are things headed? (Analytical reading)
 Yousef Kamil Khattab
 May 2024



American university movements: Rebellion against Zionist Beliefs or Circumstantial Movements?
 Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf
 May 2024



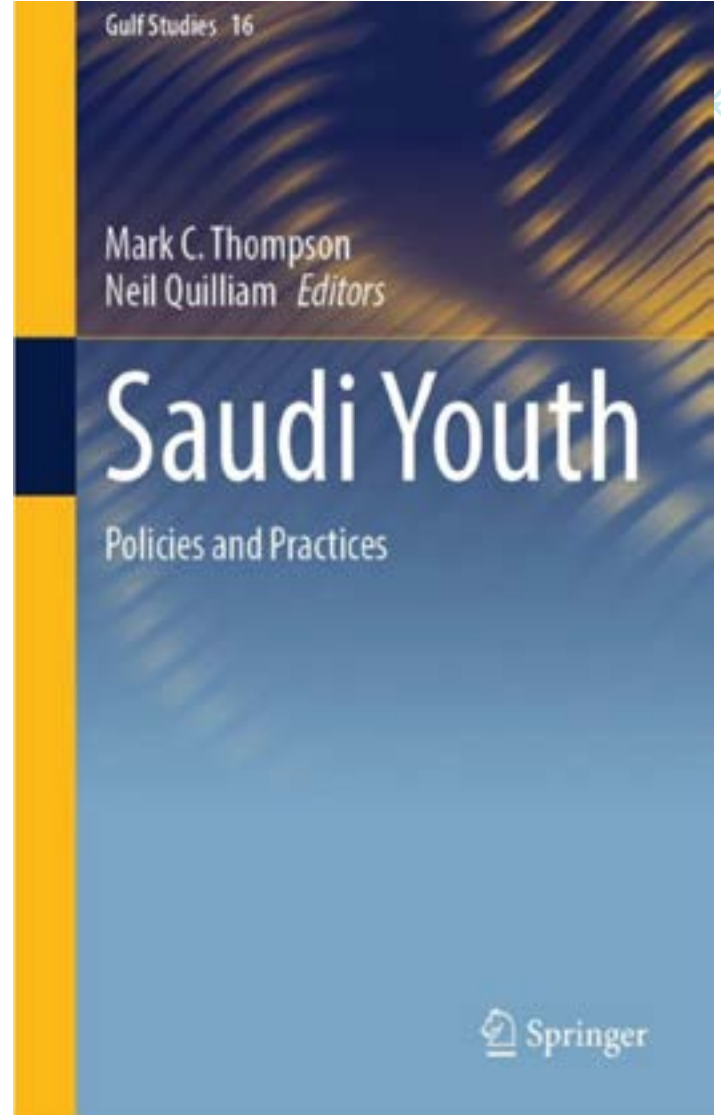
Araa Magazine



#197 (May 2024)

The Third Anniversary of the Russian-Ukrainian War: Chances of Settlement or Escalation

Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) Publications



The Gulf Research Center is proud to announce the publication of another Gulf Research Meeting volume. Editors Mark C. Thompson and Neil Quilliam have put together “Saudi Youth: Policies and Practices,” which delves into the complexities of youth policy in contemporary Saudi Arabia in various dimensions such as sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and sociocultural spheres. The publication is the result of a workshop held during the 2021 Gulf Research Meeting.

View the volume at the following link: Saudi Youth: Policies and Practices | Springer Link: <https://t.co/j8q7y9bd1d>



In May 2024, 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.

May 30, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), and Dr. Christian Koch, Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation's office in Brussels and Director of Research at GRC, visited the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels on May 30, 2024, and met with Florin Nita from the EUSR Gulf office; Birgit Loeser, Head of MENA 1 and responsible for GCC; Beatriz Salvador Garcia, Deputy Head MENA 1; Elisabetta La Gala, Policy Officer and Viktorija Budreckaitė from MENA 4 responsible for bilateral GCC-EU ties. During the meeting, both sides discussed GCC-EU ties and ways to improve relations in light of regional developments.

May 30, 2024



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received at the GRC's office in Riyadh H.E. Mr. Jaan Reinhold, Ambassador of Estonia to Saudi Arabia, on his farewell visit. Many different thoughts and ideas were exchanged on regional and international issues during the visit.

May 28-29, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated at the Schuman Security & Defence Forum organized by the European Union External Action Service 2024 in Brussels from 28-29 May 2024. The Schuman Forum is the EU's flagship high-level political event for discussing shared security, defense, and peace issues with its closest partners. Dr. Sager participated in the Think Tank Side Event, which brought together security and defense policy experts from think tanks and academia from the EU and key partner countries. The event focused on critical issues such as peace, security, and defense, aiming to foster stronger cooperation between the EU, its member states, and partner countries.



May 28, 2024



Layla Ali, Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), attended the second virtual NEXT Masterclass organized by ISPI which was entitled 'Think Tanks and Impact on Policymakers' which was hosted by Dr. Paul Samson, President of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

May 27, 2024



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received at the GRC's office in Riyadh Mr. Michael Müller, Member of the German Parliament (Bundestag) for the Chancellor's Social Democratic Party (SPD), and previous mayor of the City of Berlin. During the visit, many different thoughts and ideas were exchanged on regional and international issues.

May 27, 2024



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), and Professor Dr. Saleh Al-Khathlan, GRC's Senior Advisor, received at the GRC's office in Riyadh a delegation from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Riyadh and Dutch regional diplomats. During the visit, many different thoughts and ideas were exchanged on regional and international issues.

May 26, 2024



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) was delighted to receive at its Riyadh office, H.E. Dr. Javier Cremades, President of the international law firm Cremades & Calvo-Sotelo and President of the World Jurist Association. During the visit, which took place on the occasion of his trip to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, organized by H.E. Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, many different thoughts and ideas were exchanged.

May 25, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker in the first panel of the 15th edition of the Al-Jazeera Forum in Doha, Qatar, on May 25, 2024. The panel's title was: "Al-Aqsa Flood" in the Context of Palestinian National Struggle: Resistance and Political Prospects.



May 24, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and member of the International Crisis Group's (ICG) Board of Trustees, attended a virtual President's Report session hosted by Dr. Comfort Ero, President & CEO of the International Crisis Group, with the ICG's Board of Trustees on the current state of global politics, focusing on the dominant feature of friction among significant powers.

May 21-22, 2024

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, participated in the GCC Strategy Group of the European Council on Foreign Relations held in Brussels. The meeting brought together experts and policy officials from both the GCC and Europe to discuss the shifting dynamics of the Gaza War, the role of the Gulf countries in a multipolar Global order and how Europeans can work with rising Gulf powers.

May 21, 2024



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, participated in a discussion on "The Futures of State Governance from a Global South Perspective" held by the African Futures and Innovation Program. The objective of

the meeting was to explore the current and evolving nature of state governance across different regions including the Middle East with an emphasis on the governance dynamics unique to the Middle East and the Gulf.

May 21, 2024



Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) participated as a speaker in a session entitled Digital Time from a Cultural and Media Perspective within the sessions of the Jordan Forum for Media and Digital Communication under the patronage of H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh. During his speech, Dr. Zaid stressed that the digital age has greatly affected knowledge, as knowledge must be complete, yet the public tends to read the electronic book to get quick information and not to read it completely.

May 21, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received H.E. Mr. Nikoloz Revazishvili, Ambassador of the Republic of Georgia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, accompanied by Rati Kvantaliani, First Secretary at the Embassy of Georgia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and Yemen, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. Both sides discussed regional and international developments of common interests.



May 21, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received H.E. Prof. Dr. Emrullah İşler, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the GRC's office in Riyadh. Both sides discussed the ongoing development in the region and ways to achieve further cooperation.

May 20, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received a delegation from Mitsui & Co. Ltd. Global Strategic Studies Institute (MGSSI) Think Tank from Japan in the GRC's office in Riyadh. Both sides discussed ongoing updates and developments in the region.

May 19, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the high-level meeting co-organized by the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS), Nizami Ganjavi International Center, and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), entitled 'Global Uncertainties - What Lies Ahead in the Middle East,' in Riyadh. Dr. Sager chaired and moderated the session 'The

Middle East in a New Global Geopolitics.' Speakers of the session included:

- H.E. Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the Arab League 2001-2011, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt 1991-2001
- H.E. Miguel Angel Moratinos, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations; Under-Secretary General of the United Nations
- H.E. Dr. Marwan Al-Muasher, Foreign Minister (2002-2004), Deputy Prime Minister (2004-2005) of Jordan
- H.E. Dr. Abdel Aziz Hamad Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary-General for Political and Negotiation Affairs for the Gulf Cooperation Council

May 18, 2024



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at GRC, attended the annual conference of EuroMeSCo held in Brussels on May 16 and 17, 2024. The theme of the conference was "Mediterranean Foresight: Exploring Future Scenarios of Cooperation" with more than 100 researchers and specialists attending the discussions.

May 15, 2024

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, met with Birgit Loeser, Head of MENA.1, Beatriz Salvador Garcia, Deputy Head of Division, and Elizabetta La Gala, Policy Officer at the European External Action Service to discuss recent developments in EU-GCC Relations and the work of the GRC in this regard.



May 8, 2024



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, attended the opening of the first European Chamber of Commerce (ECCSA) in the Gulf in Riyadh which was hosted by H.E. Ambassador Christophe Farnaud, the EU Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Oman.

May 7, 2024



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), attended a workshop organized by the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, The German-Arab Friendship Association (DAFG), and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Riyadh. The workshop focused on Palestine and Ukraine: Perspectives and Potential Cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Europe.

May 6, 2024

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Maria Fantappie, Middle East & Africa Program at Istituto Affari Internazionali, at the GRC office in Riyadh, and discussed regional developments.

May 6, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Serge Stroobants, Director of Europe & MENA at the Institute for Economics and Peace, at the GRC office in Riyadh to discuss areas of cooperation.

May 1, 2024

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), attended the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of El Salvador in Riyadh. During the inauguration, Dr. Abdulaziz met with the Foreign Affairs Minister, H.E. Alexandra Hill, and H.E. Ambassador Ricardo Cucalón. They discussed the Kingdom's cooperation with Latin American countries, a key interest of the GCC-Latin America Research Program at the Gulf Research Center. They also explored potential collaborations between think tanks in El Salvador and the GCC.



GRC media participation can be accessed [here](#), at the GRC official YouTube channel.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on Al Sharq TV on the 'On the Border' program (Bloomberg), in an episode entitled: "Blinken's Tour and the Arab Roadmap," which focused on the talks between the US and the six-party Arab Committee.



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