



GRC Events & Activities

16th Annual Gulf Research Meeting 2026

Organized by the
Gulf Research Center

July 20-22, 2026
Cambridge, United Kingdom



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

GULF RESEARCH MEETING



The Gulf Research Meeting - July 2026, Cambridge

Participants of the 16th Gulf Research Meeting

The 16th Annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM), organized by the Gulf Research Center (GRC), took place at the University of Cambridge from July 21-23, 2026. Held over two and a half days, the meeting featured 12 thematic workshops and brought together more than 350 participants from a wide range of academic, research, and policy institutions. This year, the GRM received 90 workshop proposals, of which 12 were selected. In total,

over 600 abstracts were submitted, resulting in 240 accepted papers, demonstrating the continued global relevance of Gulf-focused scholarship and dialogue. The GRM Opening Ceremony was held on July 21 and was moderated by GRC Director of Research and Executive Director of the GRC Foundation Brussels Office, **Dr. Christian Koch** and included welcoming remarks by **Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**, Founder and Chairman of the

◆ GRC Events & Activities

- ☒ 16th Annual Gulf Research Meeting 2026
- ☒ Policy Roundtable: In Search of Resilient Regional Security Processes: The Gulf Region in Times of Uncertainty
- ☒ 'Through Syrian Eyes' Program

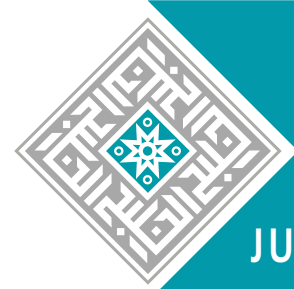
◆ GRC Publications

◆ GRC Programs

- ☒ Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme
- ☒ Environmental Security and Sustainability Program
- ☒ Cultural and Media Program

◆ GRC Participations

◆ GRC in the Media



GRC and **The Right Honourable Chris Smith**, Lord Smith of Finsbury, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. This was followed by a recorded keynote speech from **His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC)



The Right Honourable Chris Smith, Lord Smith of Finsbury, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge



Dr. Christian Koch, GRC Director of Research and Executive Director of the GRC Foundation Brussels Office

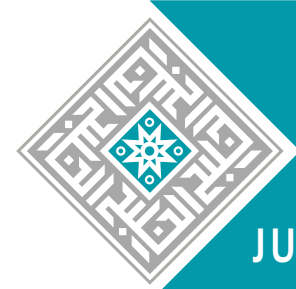
In his address, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud highlighted the GRM's role in advancing dialogue, generating new ideas, and strengthening cooperation between academia and policymakers amid profound regional and global change. He noted that recent crises have demonstrated how quickly regional tensions affect global security, energy markets, and the economy, stressing that lasting peace requires diplomacy, respect for international law, and sustainable political solutions, rather than military force alone.

HH Prince Faisal also called for addressing the root causes of instability by promoting trust, respect for sovereignty, non-interference, and the principles of the UN Charter. In line with Saudi Vision 2030, he reaffirmed that development, innovation, and cooperation offer the most promising path toward a more stable, peaceful, and prosperous regional order. **You can watch the full video of the remarks [here](#).**



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Khalid bin Sultan Al Saud, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Kingdom, delivered a keynote address at the Opening Session, emphasizing that the security of the Middle East is inseparable from global security, economic stability, and international prosperity. HRH highlighted the importance of safeguarding vital maritime corridors, particularly the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, to protect global energy supplies and international trade.

HRH also stressed that lasting regional peace requires addressing the root causes of conflict while advancing dialogue, international law, mutual respect, and strong partnerships as the foundation for a more stable and cooperative regional order. **You can watch the full video of the remarks [here](#).**



HRH Prince Abdullah bin Khalid bin Sultan Al Saud,
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United
Kingdom

Also addressing the Opening Ceremony, **Mrs. Anne-Claire Legendre**, President of the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), highlighted the strategic partnership between France and Saudi Arabia and their joint leadership in advancing a political framework for resolving Israel's war on Palestine.

She reflected on the French-Saudi initiative that culminated in the New York Declaration, emphasizing that it was the result of sustained diplomacy, close bilateral coordination, and broad international engagement through the United Nations. She underscored the initiative's objective of revitalizing the two-state solution, advancing international recognition of the State of Palestine, and establishing a credible political pathway toward a just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian question. **You can watch the full video of the remarks [here](#).**



Mrs. Anne-Claire Legendre, President of the Institut du
Monde Arabe (IMA)

As part of the Opening Ceremony, a high-level panel discussion took place on "Regional Security from Gulf Perspectives and the Future of the Regional Order," bringing together senior policymakers and leading experts from across the GCC to examine the region's rapidly evolving strategic landscape and its implications for the future of regional cooperation. Against the backdrop of shifting geopolitical dynamics, intensifying great power competition, emerging security threats, and ongoing efforts toward regional de-escalation, the discussion provided a timely platform to exchange Gulf perspectives on the opportunities and challenges shaping the next phase of the regional order.

The panel featured:

- H.E. Dr. Majed Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and President of the Center for International Policy Research (CIPR), State of Qatar
- H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al-Dhaheri, Deputy Director-General of the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) and Advisor at the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates
- Dr. Yousuf Al-Balushi, Chairman of the Muscat Policy Council (MPC), Sultanate of Oman
- H.E. Abdulla Alahmed, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), Kingdom of Bahrain
- Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The discussion explored the evolving regional security environment, the impact of changing geopolitical realities, and the growing need for a more resilient, cooperative, and inclusive regional security architecture capable of addressing both traditional and emerging challenges. Panelists examined the changing nature of Gulf security in an increasingly multipolar international system, highlighting the importance of balancing strategic partnerships while strengthening regional cooperation and preserving regional stability. They also reflected on the lessons learned from recent crises



and underscored the value of sustained dialogue, confidence-building measures, and pragmatic diplomacy in preventing escalation and fostering trust among regional actors.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of regional ownership in shaping the Gulf's future security architecture. Panelists emphasized that durable peace and stability will require greater collaboration among regional states, complemented by constructive engagement with international partners based on mutual respect and shared interests. The

discussion also highlighted the interconnected nature of economic resilience, maritime security, energy security, technological innovation, and sustainable development as essential pillars of long-term regional stability. Overall, the session reinforced the importance of inclusive dialogue, forward-looking policy approaches, and strengthened regional and international partnerships in advancing a more stable, prosperous, and secure Gulf region. **You can watch the full panel session [here](#).**



GRM 2026 Opening Ceremony Panelist Speakers



GRM 2026 Opening Ceremony Photo Gallery



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, welcoming His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Khalid bin Sultan Al Saud, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Kingdom at the GRM Opening Ceremony at the West Road Concert Hall





H.E. Dr. Majed Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and President of the Center for International Policy Research (CIPR), State of Qatar

H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al-Dhaheri, Deputy Director-General of the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) and Advisor at the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates





Dr. Yousuf Al- Balushi, Chairman of the Muscat Policy Council (MPC), Sultanate of Oman



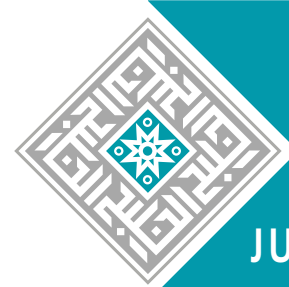
H.E. Abdulla Alahmed, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), Kingdom of Bahrain



Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Participants at Kings College Lawn at the University of Cambridge



Participants at Kings College Lawn at the University of Cambridge

Over the following two days, the Gulf Research Meeting conducted the following 12 parallel workshops:



The Gulf Research Meeting - July 2026, Cambridge

Participants at the GRM Opening Ceremony 2026



GRM 2026 Workshops



Workshop 1: The Economic Architecture and Diplomacy of Climate Change in the Gulf: Financing the Transition



Workshop 2: Digital Media, Strategic Communication, and Soft Power in the Gulf: Public Diplomacy in a Transforming Region



Workshop 3: GCC-Sub-Saharan Africa Economic Relations: Energy, Mining, Infrastructure, and Food Security



Workshop 4: Overlapping Ambitions: State-Led Economic Diversification and Mounting Intra-GCC Competition



Workshop 5: Rational Agency and Uncertain Futures: AI's Role in the Gulf Region



Workshop 6: Gulf-South Asia Relations in an Era of Deepening Interdependence





Workshop 7: Emerging Technologies and Defense Industrialization in the GCC: Navigating the Localization-Outsourcing Dilemma in the AI Era



Workshop 10: Mobilizing Diasporas and Gulf Private Investors for the Reconstruction of Syria and Lebanon



Workshop 8: The GCC-EU Economic Bilateral Partnership: Strategic Opportunities and Economic Diplomacy



Workshop 11: The GCC and Infrastructure Connectivity in the Changing Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Landscape

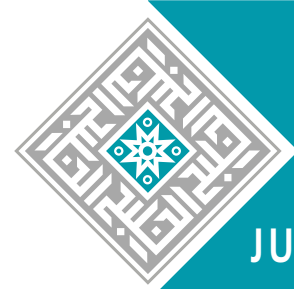


Workshop 9: Gulf Gas Strategies



Workshop 12: Humanitarian Diplomacy and Mediation in the Gulf: Pathways to Regional Stability





Policy Roundtable:

In Search of Resilient Regional Security Processes: The Gulf Region in Times of Uncertainty

Organized by the

Gulf Research Center

July 21, 2026



Participants of the Policy Roundtable on the sidelines of the 16th Gulf Research Meeting in Cambridge

On the sidelines of the 16th Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) in Cambridge, the Gulf Research Center organized a high-level, closed-door policy roundtable titled “In Search of Resilient Regional Security Processes: The Gulf Region in Times of Uncertainty.” The roundtable brought together senior policymakers, government officials, directors of leading think tanks, and regional and international experts to examine the rapidly evolving security landscape in the Gulf and the wider Middle East. Discussions focused on the implications of shifting geopolitical dynamics, intensifying strategic competition, ongoing regional conflicts, and the need to strengthen resilience through greater dialogue, confidence-building measures, and practical avenues for regional cooperation.

Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), who emphasized that the Gulf is at a pivotal moment as it navigates an increasingly complex regional and international environment. He underscored the urgent need for inclusive dialogue, strengthened regional cooperation, and innovative approaches to addressing shared security challenges. Stressing that sustainable security cannot be achieved through military means alone, Dr. Sager highlighted the importance of diplomacy, multilateral engagement, and institution-building in developing a more resilient and cooperative regional security architecture. He also reaffirmed the GRC’s commitment to providing a trusted platform for constructive dialogue between policymakers, practitioners, and experts, helping to bridge perspectives and generate practical policy recommendations for a more stable and secure regional order.



Panel I: Evolving Threat Landscape and Regional Security Dynamics

The first panel brought together H.E. Luigi Di Maio, EU Special Representative for the Gulf at the European External Action Service (EEAS); Mrs. Anne-Claire Legendre, President of the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA); and H.E. Dr. Majid Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, and President of the Center for International Policy Research (CIPR). Drawing on European and Gulf perspectives, the discussion explored the evolving strategic landscape, the implications of recent geopolitical developments, and the prospects for strengthening regional and international cooperation in support of long-term stability.

Panelists underscored that the Gulf is entering a new strategic phase in which regional conflicts, great power competition, economic security, and technological transformation are increasingly interconnected. They highlighted that developments in the Gulf have far-reaching implications for international security, global energy markets, and the resilience of critical maritime trade routes, reinforcing the region's growing strategic significance. The discussion emphasized that sustainable security can no longer rely solely on deterrence or crisis response, but must instead be built upon a broader regional framework that combines diplomacy, confidence-building measures, freedom of navigation, economic resilience, and inclusive political dialogue. Speakers also stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships between Gulf states, Europe, and other international stakeholders to address shared challenges and support a more stable, cooperative, and resilient regional order.



Panel II: Towards Resilient and Cooperative Security Architecture

The second panel brought together H.E. Abdulla Alahmed, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat); H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al-Dhaheri, Deputy Director-General of the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy and Advisor at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Comfort Ero, President and CEO of the International Crisis Group (ICG); and Mr. Itonde Kakoma, President of Interpeace. Bringing together Gulf, international, and peacebuilding perspectives, the discussion focused on practical approaches to advancing a more resilient, inclusive, and cooperative regional security architecture capable of responding to an increasingly complex strategic environment.

The panel emphasized the importance of moving beyond theoretical debates on regional security towards practical, sustained cooperation rooted in confidence-building, dialogue, and incremental progress. Participants argued that security should be



viewed as a continuous and adaptive process rather than a fixed institutional end state, requiring long-term political commitment and flexible mechanisms capable of responding to evolving regional dynamics. While acknowledging the enduring challenges posed by strategic mistrust, competing national interests, and ongoing regional conflicts, speakers highlighted the need to strengthen existing frameworks for cooperation rather than create entirely new structures.

The discussion also underscored the growing importance of expanding practical collaboration in areas of shared interest, including maritime security, freedom of navigation, crisis communication, connectivity, economic resilience, and humanitarian coordination. Participants pointed to the value of enhancing existing partnerships, including EU-GCC cooperation, while encouraging greater engagement among regional actors themselves. The session concluded that a durable and resilient Gulf security order will ultimately depend on inclusive regional ownership, sustained diplomacy, pragmatic confidence-building measures, and a gradual, step-by-step approach to fostering trust and institutionalizing cooperation across the region.





“Through Syrian Eyes” Film Program

July 5, 2026

Damascus, Syria



The Gulf Research Center, in collaboration with the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding, has released a new episode of the “Through Syrian Eyes” program, titled: “ Previous and Subsequent Crises of the Syrian Economy and Mechanisms for Overcoming Them.”

The episode discusses the most prominent challenges facing the Syrian economy in the post-Assad regime phase, opportunities for recovery amid limited external funding, ways to stimulate investment, priorities for economic reform, and mechanisms for building a realistic economic model that meets Syria’s needs in the upcoming phase.

The program is presented by Professor Abdullah Al-Ghadawi, Director of the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding.

Episode Guests:

Professor Samir Seifan, Researcher and Economic Expert and Professor Jihad Yazigi, Editor-in-Chief of The Syria Report website

Watch the full episode [here](#).



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) continues to provide in-depth analysis and thought leadership on key regional and global developments. Our latest publications in March cover a wide range of topics, from U.S. foreign policy under Trump's second term to Saudi Arabia's evolving diplomatic role in global affairs. We also explore sustainable development in the Gulf, Russia's repositioning in the Middle East, and Gulf relations with Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Below are some of our most recent works:

Commentary & Analyses



[EU-GCC Water Cooperation](#)

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf
July 2026



[After the Strikes: Rebuilding Gulf-Iran Relations and the Future of Gulf Security](#)

Layla Ali
July 2026



[Canada-Saudi Relations: An Analysis of Prime Minister Carney's July 2026 Visit](#)

Amnah Mosly
July 2026

Selected Arabic Articles



[Small States, Big Agenda: Ireland Takes the EU Helm](#)

Houda Barroug
July 2026



[STEP \(Saudi Arabia-Turkey-Egypt-Pakistan\): A New Framework for Regional Stability in the Middle East](#)

Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan
July 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



How Does Israel View the Saudi-U.S. Nuclear Agreement?

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi
July 2026



When Security Is Unbound but the Economy Remains Constrained: Israel's Space and Technology Model

Abdullah Al-Qubsani
July 2026



The Contractual Shield for National Projects: Legal and Logistical Reform Frameworks for Addressing Regional Maritime Disruptions

Dr. Fatimah Ali Fahad Al-Huwail
July 2026



U.S.-Iran Escalation: Between the Edge of Deterrence and the Reshaping of Regional Balances

Dr. Houda Raouf
July 2026



The Closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the Protection of Maritime Security in the GCC States

Retired Brigadier General Turki bin Zaid Alzair
July 2026



Post-Washington: Iraq Between the Opportunity for Rebuilding and the State's Final Test

Dr. Rasha Al Azzawi
July 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



250 Years After Independence: Is the U.S. President Becoming the Greatest Threat to the United States—and the World?

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi
July 2026



The Bab el-Mandeb Strait: Between Power Rivalry and Regional Threats

Dr. Rear Admiral (Retd) Eng. Saleh Sunaydih Alotaibi
July 2026



Strategic Shifts in U.S.–Iran Relations and Divergence with Israel

Dr. Houda Raouf
July 2026



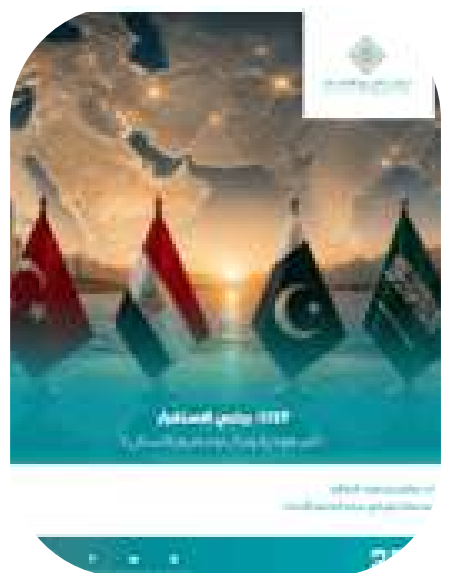
The Future of Food Security in the Arab Gulf States

Eng. Abdulaziz bin Hamad Al-Aqeel
July 2026



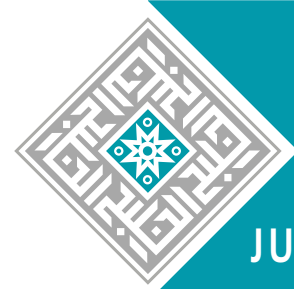
Anti-Corruption Campaign: The Government's Test in Confronting the Political Establishment

Dr. Rasha Al Azzawi
July 2026



STEP: The Stability Quartet (Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, and Pakistan)

Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khathlan
July 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



The SB 64 of UNFCCC: From Political Pledges to Practical Implementation
Dr. Mohammed Abdelraouf
July 2026



The Islamabad MOU and the Challenges Ahead for the Gulf States
Ambassador Joon-Yong Park
July 2026



Norway - GCC Relations
Gulf Research Center
June 2026

Araa Magazine



Issue 223

Iran from Within, 47 Years After the Revolution: Where Is Iran Heading?
July 2026





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



The Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme is an international independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme established in 2010, hosted and supported by the Gulf Research Center. The programme provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of understanding and management of Gulf labour migration, population, and labour markets, engaging with, and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders. Visit the website [here](#).

Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: Project and Publications

For two years, GLMM has been engaged in the project **Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: How Do GCC Countries Fare in the Global Competition for Talent?** For a detailed description of the project, click [here](#).

The second phase of the project focused on **Transnational Migration Patterns of Non-Gulf Highly Skilled Workers from the GCC to Third Countries in the EU and North America, and Back**. The thirteen policy briefs and a bibliography will be published between the end of March and June 2026.

The published papers are available [here](#). Additional papers will be added to the same webpage.

Publications

GLMM publishes occasional policy briefs on key issues for the GCC countries.

Françoise De Bel-Air: [The Premium Residency Program in Saudi Arabia: History, Design, Acquisition Dynamics, and Holder Profile](#), GLMM Policy Brief No. 35

For two years, GLMM has been engaged in the project **Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: How Do GCC Countries Fare in the Global Competition for Talent?** For a detailed description of the project, click [here](#).

The second phase of the project focused on **Transnational Migration Patterns of Non-Gulf Highly Skilled Workers from the GCC to Third Countries in the EU and North America, and Back**. Thirteen policy briefs and a bibliography will be published.

Two new papers were published recently:

Anushka Bose: [Regulating Passport-Based Wage Differentials in the Gulf: A Driver for Onward Migration](#), GLMM Policy Brief No. 34

Anurag Devkota: [Regulating Stepwise Migration in the Nepal-Gulf-Europe Corridor: Challenges and Recommendations](#), GLMM Policy Brief No. 33

This is the [list of all GLMM Policy Briefs](#) and this is the [list of all GLMM publications](#).

Webinars

GLMM organizes frequent webinars on key issues for the GCC and the countries of origin of migrants in the GCC.

On 8 July 2026 GLMM organized a webinar entitled: **Social Protection for South Asian Migrant Workers in the GCC**. Views from the Countries of Origin.



Speakers

- S. Irudaya Rajan, Chairman, International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), Kerala, India
- Tasneem Siddiqui, Executive Director, Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Former Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Jeevan Baniya, Deputy Director, Social Science Baha (SSB), Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM), Nepal
- Bilesha Weeraratne, Research Fellow and Head of Migration and Urbanization Policy Research Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) of Sri Lanka
- Nasra M. Shah, Professor of Migration and Development at the Lahore School of Economics (LSE), Pakistan and Scientific Director Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) programme
- Luca Pellerano, Senior Technical Advisor on social protection at the International Labour Organization (ILO) and manager of the STREAM programme
- Sarah Estermann, Senior Advisor and Knowledge Manager Migration at Caritas Switzerland

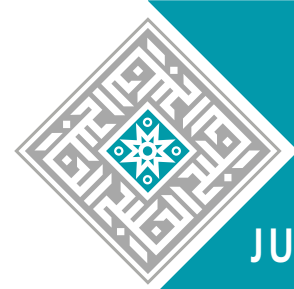
A summary of the webinar will be published here.

Data

For over a decade, GLMM has gathered, analysed, and republished official data related to labour and migration from multiple sources of all six GCC states. The database contains more than 1,100 tables. Every week new data is added to the database

Recently Published Data

- [Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time under article 20 \(domestic labour\), by nationality group and sex of holder \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time under article 19 \(Freelance labour\), by nationality group and sex of holder \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time under article 17 \(Governmental labour\), by nationality group and sex of holder \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time under article 18 \(Non-governmental labour\), by nationality group and sex of holder \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Cancelled residency permits by type/purpose of permit \(2013-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Cancelled residency permits by holders' region of origin \(2013-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time, by nationality group \(2011-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time, by type/purpose of permit \(2011-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 23 residence permits \(studies\) by nationality group and sex \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 24 residence permits \(self-sponsorship\) by nationality group and sex \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 22 residence permits \(family reunion\) by nationality group and sex \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 19 residence permits \(freelance workers\) by nationality group and sex \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 20 residence permits \(domestic sector\) by nationality group \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 20 residence permits \(domestic sector\) by nationality group and sex \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 17 residence permits \(government labour\) by nationality group and sex \(2019-2024\)](#)



GCC Regional Tables

- GLMM constructs unique GCC regional tables based exclusively on the official country data;
- [GCC: Total populations in the six GCC states \(mid-year figures, 2010-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: Total population and percentage of nationals and non-nationals in GCC countries \(national statistics, mid-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: Total population and percentage of nationals and non-nationals in GCC countries, by sex \(national statistics, mid-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: Foreign populations in the six GCC states \(mid-year figures, 2010-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: National populations in the six GCC states \(mid-year figures, 2010-2024\)](#)

For all GCC tables, click [here](#).

• **All Country Tables**

- Bahrain
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- UAE

GLMM organizes academic workshops, generally once a year.

The 11th GLMM workshop is the upcoming “Africa-Gulf Migration, Mobility and Trade: Past and Present, Policy and Prospects,” to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 10-11 September 2026, directed by Prof. Linda Oucho and Dr. Faisal Garba.

A total of 20 young, mid-career, and senior scholars will participate in the workshop.

The workshop is co-organised with the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC), Kenya; Africa Migration Policy Centre (AMPC)/Friederich Ebert Foundation (FES), Ethiopia; the ILO Fairway project, Kuwait-Kenya, and the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO), Germany.

Workshop description

Past workshops

Publication from recent workshops: Françoise De Bel-Air, Nasra M. Shah (eds): The Future of Migration to GCC Countries Migrants’ Aspirations, Labour Reforms, and Politics Springer – South-South Migration Series.

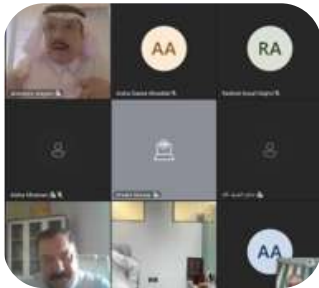
Contact: Mr. Imco Brouwer, GLMM Managing Director: imco.brouwer@grc.net



Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

7 July 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center coordinated and participated in the monthly telecall of members of the Science and Technology Major Group at UNEP. The call focused on preparation for the 13th Annual Subcommittee meeting in September 2026. 4 June 2026



23 July 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center participated as a guest speaker in a webinar organized by Beijing Academy of Social Sciences where he discussed the current conflict in the Gulf region and its impacts on natural resources, particularly energy supply, demand, and prices.

Cultural & Media Program



Publications



July 1, 2026

A cultural paper prepared by Dr. Omar Al-Raddad, Expert in Security and Political Affairs, titled: " Hamas After the Gaza War: Survival and Strategic Repositioning." Read the full paper [here](#). development.



June 9, 2026

A cultural paper prepared by Dr. Omar Al-Raddad, Expert in Security and Political Affairs, titled: " Hamas After the Gaza War: Survival and Strategic Repositioning." Read the full paper [here](#).



July 12, 2026



A report on the panel discussion titled: "Humanities: Strengthening Values and Building Societal Progress," organized by the Gulf Research Center's Dialogue Lab in partnership with the Abdullah bin Idris Cultural Center. Read the full report [here](#).

July 9, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted researcher Wajdi Al-Idrisi in an episode of the program "Tafasil" exploring the migration of Bani Hilal and its role in shaping historical, linguistic, and genealogical ties between the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa. Watch the full episode [here](#).



GRC Podcast Activities

July 6, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Najm Abdulkarim in an episode of the program "Tafasil" exploring major Arab intellectual and cultural transformations, from Taha Hussein and Al-Aqqad to Nizar Qabbani and Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, and their connection to the Gulf's knowledge and development transformations. Watch the full episode [here](#).



July 12, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Saleh Al-Zahrani, Professor of Andalusian Literature at King Saud University and President of the Spanish Club in Riyadh, in an episode of the program "Tafasil" exploring the Arab and Andalusian influence on Spanish language, literature, identity, and culture, as well as cultural relations between the Arab world and Spain. Watch the full episode [here](#).





July 19, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Nadia Saad Al-Din, Professor of Political Science and Managing Editor for Palestinian Affairs at Jordan's Al-Ghad newspaper, in an episode of the program "Tafasil" moderated by Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the GRC's Cultural and Media Program. The episode examined the growing influence of religious and nationalist movements on Israeli politics, settlement policies, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Watch the full episode [here](#).



July 22, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Professor Wang Guangda, Executive Director of the China-Arab Research Center on Reform and Development and Professor at Shanghai International Studies University, in an episode of the program "Araa" titled: "The Future of China-Iran Relations: Alliances and Interests." The episode explored the future of bilateral relations, China's position on regional security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, and the challenges facing the Belt and Road Initiative. Watch the full episode [here](#).



July 21, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Riyad Shreim, a researcher in political sociology, in an episode of the program "Tafasil" titled: "Features of Israel's Electoral Map." The episode discussed Netanyahu's political future, the decline of the left, the rise of the religious right, the role of Arab parties, and the implications of Israel's political transformations for the Palestinian cause and the region. Watch the full episode [here](#).





July 3, 2026

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels and Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center took part in the 5th Conference on Regional Security and Stability in the Gulf and the MENA Region organized by the European Union External Action Service and held in Bussels. The meeting allowed for an exchange of views on the US-Iran MoU and its implications for the Gulf and the wider MENA region. Participants included policy analysts from think tanks in Europe and the Gulf.

July 6-7, 2026

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels and Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center took part in the meeting on "The Gulf, Europe and the New Geopolitics" organized by the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation and the Geneva Center for Security Policy and held in Berlin, Germany. The meeting was held as a closed-door event and brought together specialists and policy officials to discuss ideas of joint strategic importance for Europe and the GCC states. In addition to contributing to the overall deliberations, Dr. Koch also moderated the session entitled "Dealing with the 'Big Actors.'"

July 17, 2026

Dr. Christian Koch talked with WELT newspaper's Senior Editor Daniel-Dylan Böhmer on the impact of the closing of the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab El-Mandab and the risks that such closures could significantly widen the war and have a more direct impact on Europe. Read the full interview [here](#).



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist & Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with Express24-7 on July 1, offering his insights on the latest economic developments and their wider regional and global implications.

Watch the full interview [here](#)

He also addressed the implications of the conflict for regional security, the Strait of Hormuz, and global energy supplies, stressing that the Washington-Tehran agreement, while an important step, is not sufficient on its own to ensure lasting regional stability.

Read the full article [here](#).



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist & Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with RT on July 2, sharing his insights on the latest economic and regional developments.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



د.عبدالعزیز بن صقر: الخليج ضبط النفس رغم الهجمات.
واتفاق واشنطن وطهران لا يكفي وحده

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke to Al Bilad newspaper on July 2 on the latest regional developments and Gulf efforts to advance peace and stability.

In his article, "Lessons of War and the Tools of Peaceful Coexistence," Dr. Sager discussed the GCC states' efforts, alongside regional partners, to support U.S.-Iran negotiations aimed at ending the conflict and restoring stability in the Middle East.



On July 5, Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Mujmal Al-Qawlon Al Ekhbariya, discussing shifts in the global balance of power, the future of the international order, the role of major powers, and the management of international crises.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



On July 10, 2026, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist & Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with BBC on the latest economic and regional developments.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



On July 18, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist & Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with the BBC World Service, sharing his insights on the latest economic and regional developments.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



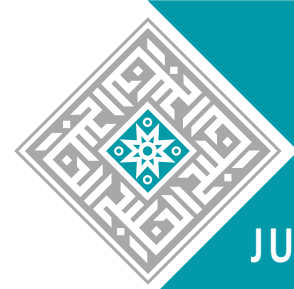
On July 16, Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf, Senior Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with AL24 News (Algeria International) on the renewed exchange of strikes between the United States and Iran, offering his assessment of the latest developments and their regional implications.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



Al Ekhbariya highlighted the 16th Gulf Research Meeting, held from July 21–23, 2026, at the University of Cambridge, bringing together scholars, policymakers, diplomats, and experts to discuss research shaping the Gulf region and its future.

Watch the Coverage [here](#).



On July 29, 2026, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist & Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with BNN Bloomberg, sharing his insights on the latest economic and regional developments.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



**Gulf Research Center
Jeddah
(Main office)**

19 Rayat Alitihad Street
P.O. Box 2134
Jeddah 21451
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966 12 6511999
Fax: +966 12 6531375
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center
Riyadh**

Unit FN11A
King Faisal Foundation
North Tower
King Fahd Branch Rd
Al Olaya Riyadh 12212
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966 112112567
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center
Foundation**

Avenue de France 23
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41227162730
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Centre
Cambridge**

University of Cambridge
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge CB3 9DA
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-1223-760758
Fax: +44-1223-335110



**Gulf Research Center
Foundation Brussels**

4th Floor
Avenue de
Cortenbergh 89
1000 Brussels
Belgium
grcb@grc.net
+32 2 251 41 64



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

© Gulf Research Center 2026

www.grc.net

GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER **JULY 2026**



@gulfresearchcenter



@gulf_research



@gulfresearchcenter