



GRC Events & Activities

The Call for Workshop Proposals for the 17th Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) 2027 NOW OPEN



Participants of the 16th Gulf Research Meeting

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) is pleased to announce that the call for workshop proposals is open for its annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) - the Gulf's most prestigious academic conference fostering scholarly exchange on critical developments in the region.

The Gulf Research Meeting 2027 is set to take place from July 20-22, 2027, at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

The Gulf Research Center seeks scholars and specialists to apply to direct a workshop focusing on societies and culture, economies, politics, international relations, defense and security, energy, sustainable development, and environment.

The areas for which we specifically like to receive proposals are listed on the call poster and the directors' guidelines.

However, it is important to stress that the call is open to any topic in the social sciences concerning the Gulf and is not limited to those listed on the poster and the guidelines.

Access the Call for Workshop Proposals [HERE](#).

Submit your Workshop Proposal Application [HERE](#).

The deadline to submit your application is September 28, 2026.

Visit the GRM website [here](#).

For any questions, please email: grm@grc.net

◆ GRC Events & Activities

- ✉ 17th Gulf Research Meeting Call for Workshop Proposals

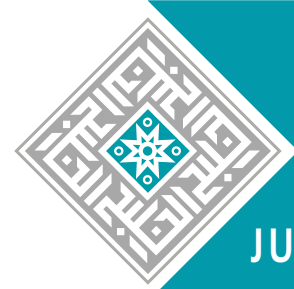
◆ GRC Publications

◆ 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



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) Annual Strategic Survey 2026

How has the 2026 U.S.-Israel-Iran War reshaped Gulf security, energy markets, foreign policy, and the regional order? Our latest Strategic Survey brings together GRC's leading experts to examine the lessons, risks, and

opportunities emerging from one of the most consequential geopolitical crises in recent history.

This report argues that the 2026 conflict exposed structural vulnerabilities that go far beyond military confrontation. The challenge now is building a more resilient Gulf capable of navigating an increasingly fragmented and multipolar world. Security, diplomacy, economics, energy, technology, and maritime affairs can no longer be treated separately, they are now part of one interconnected regional security equation.

Download the full publication: <https://lnkd.in/eZKM-fWK>



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, contributed to Ortadoğu Araştırmaları Merkezi - Center for Middle Eastern Studies publication on the Mecca Joint Defence Pact, arguing that the Mecca Pact strengthens Saudi Arabia's deterrence, defence capabilities, and strategic autonomy by deepening cooperation with Türkiye and Pakistan. Rather than replacing existing U.S. or GCC partnerships, it adds another layer to the Kingdom's increasingly diversified security architecture.

Read the full piece here: <https://t.co/sHBB5WljFK>



"From Conflict to Commerce? Decoding the Middle East's New Geoeconomic Landscape"

The Gulf Research Center (GRC), in collaboration with Agora Strategy, has co-published a new report examining the continuing instability in the Strait of Hormuz and its wider economic and strategic implications.

The report highlights how Gulf states are seeking to turn a significant security shock into an economic transformation agenda. However, the diversification narrative remains ahead of reality, as alternative export routes are still years, not months, away from reaching meaningful capacity.

For Germany and Europe, this presents both an opportunity and a matter of urgency. European partners must engage Gulf states on resilience-focused projects while factoring in a "higher-for-longer" risk premium, rather than treating the current volatility as merely temporary.

Access the full report here: <https://t.co/dJK3M1C1ZW>



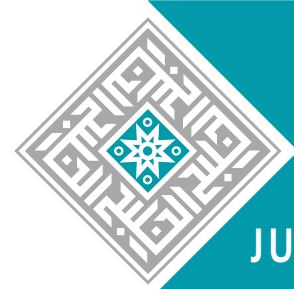
The Gulf Research Center (GRC) is pleased to highlight a new publication stemming from the 15th Gulf Research Meeting (GRM), held at the University of Cambridge from July 22–24, 2025.

The paper, "China's Refrain from Military Alliances: Strategic Logic and Implications for Relations with Gulf Cooperation Council Countries,"

authored by Dr. Ghulam Ali, was published in The China Review. The research was originally presented during the GRM workshop "Great Power Competition in the Asia-Pacific: Challenges for Gulf Economic and Political Interests."

The paper examines two developments with the potential to reshape the GCC's security architecture: the Gulf states' ongoing defense modernization efforts and their implications for reliance on U.S. security guarantees, and China's longstanding "no military alliances" policy and how it may affect Gulf efforts to diversify external security partnerships.

Read the full article here: [The China Review – Project MUSE](https://t.co/sHBB5WljFK)



Commentary & Analyses



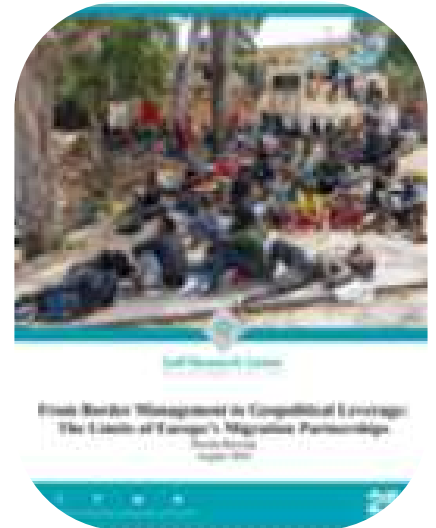
Gulf & North African Oil & Gas: Competition or Complementarity?

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad
August 2026



Three Summits in One: Burden-Sharing, Disruption, and the Gulf Question.

Houda Barroug
August 2026



From Border Management to Geopolitical Leverage: The Limits of Europe's Migration Partnerships

Houda Barroug
August 2026

Commentary & Analyses



Saudi Arabia and China's Evolving Energy Relations in Oil Supply and Clean Energy

Noriko Suzuki and Masahide Takahashi
August 2026



Saudi-French Relations: A Strategic Partnership for Regional Stability and Shared Prosperity

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
August 2026



Relations franco-saoudiennes: Un partenariat stratégique pour la stabilité régionale et une prospérité partagée

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
August 2026



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[ASEAN-GCC Relations: Strategic Convergence Between Southeast Asia and the Gulf Region](#)

Emil Avdaliani
August 2026



[The Gulf's New Normal: Managed Instability and Recurrent War?](#)

Dr. John Sfakianakis
August 2026



[The Gulf States Redefining Middle-Power Influence in a Multipolar Order](#)

Amnah Mosly
August 2026

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[Greening the Desert: Benefits of Saudi Urban Afforestation](#)

Mohamed Abdelraouf
August 2026



[Gulf Africa Trade Relations](#)

Michael William Wilson
August 2026



[Asian Partners and Gulf Security: Diverging Responses to Regional Instability](#)

Layla Ali
August 2026



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[The New Hejaz Railway: Saudi Arabia and the Remaking of Regional Connectivity](#)

Hannan Alghamdi
August 2026

Selected Arabic Articles



[The Multinational Defensive Maritime Alliance in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden: An Assessment](#)

Naval Admiral Staff (Retd) Abdullah
Jaber AlZaidi
August 2026



[Iraq at the Crossroads of Regional Geopolitics: Stability, Fragmentation, or a Regional Bridge?](#)

Dr. Munther Al-Habib
August 2026



[Gulf & North African Oil & Gas: Competition or Complementarity?](#)

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad
August 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



Iranian Foreign Policy Through the Lens of Constructivist Theory
Ahmed bin Nayef Al-Sudairi
August 2026



Water Security: Challenges and Solutions
Eng. Abdulaziz bin Hamad Al-Aqeel
August 2026



Post-Oil Diplomacy: How Economic Diversification Policies Reshape Foreign Policy Priorities
Nouf Al-Mazidi
August 2026

Selected Arabic Articles



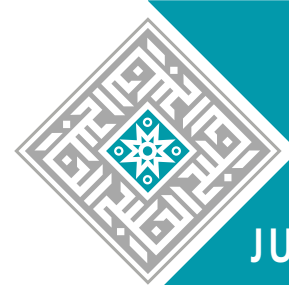
Between the Collapse of Mediation and the Imperative of Deterrence: Redefining the Gulf Role
Abdullah Al Qubossani
August 2026



Water Security: Challenges and Solutions
Eng. Abdulaziz bin Hamad Al-Aqeel
August 2026



Blue Hydrogen in the Gulf Region – A Promising Future and Major Challenges
Dr. Naji Abi-Aad
August 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



Iran Between the Naval Blockade and Trump's Strategy of Choking

Dr. Houda Raouf
August 2026



What Do the Statements by Pezeshkian, Ghalibaf, and Mojtaba Khamenei Reveal About Iran Six Months After the War?

Dr. Houda Raouf
August 2026

Country Updates and Trade Reports



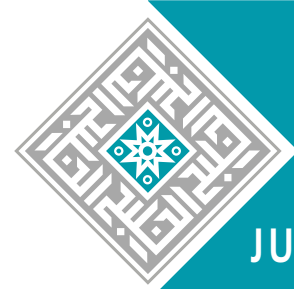
Russia - GCC Relations, 2026



Singapore - GCC Relations



Canada- GCC Relations, July 2026



Country Updates and Trade Reports



Saudi French Trade Relations -
English
Saudi French Trade Relations -
French
Saudi French Trade Relations -
Arabic

Araa Magazine



August 2026 Issue 224

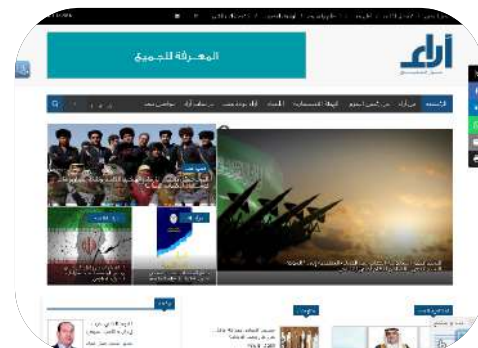
The Structure of the Regional Order in the Middle East After
the Iranian War: Consensus or Confrontation?

To download the PDF version:

[Download the PDF](#)

To browse the issue online:

[Browse the Issue](#)





Environmental Security and Sustainability Program



4 August 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.

27 August 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, participated in the online webinar of the 4th PIP Five Continents Meeting with the theme CRPD at 20: Turning Commitments into Action. Dr. Raouf's presentation was titled "Bridging the Gap Between Climate Change and Disability Rights."



Cultural & Media Program



Publications



August 2, 2026

A cultural paper prepared by Ali Shneinat, titled: "Have AI Ethics Become Mere Theoretical Principles While Profitability and Speed Drive Development and Implementation Decisions?" Read the full paper [here](#).



August 9, 2026

An analytical paper prepared by Abdullah Al-Qabsani, Research Assistant, titled: "Is the Gulf Mediation Model Still Viable Amid New Security Transformations?"

Read the full paper [here](#).



GRC Podcast Activities

August 4, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Rear Admiral (Ret.) Abdullah bin Jaber Al-Zaidi, Senior Advisor for Defense and Security Studies at the GRC, in an episode of the program "Tafasil" exploring the multinational maritime coalition and its implications for navigation security and the future of maritime security in the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab. Watch the full episode [here](#).



August 6, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Rear Admiral (Ret.) Abdullah bin Jaber Al-Zaidi, Senior Advisor for Defense and Security Studies at the GRC, in the third episode of "Tafasil," discussing the concept of maritime security, key threats, the protection of critical infrastructure, and requirements for governance, resilience, and risk management. Watch the full episode [here](#).



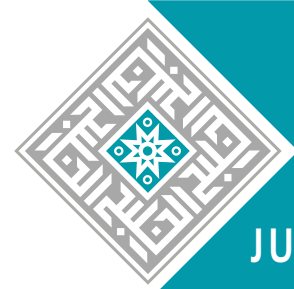
August 5, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Rear Admiral (Ret.) Abdullah bin Jaber Al-Zaidi, Senior Advisor for Defense and Security Studies at the GRC, in the second episode of "Tafasil," exploring the evolution of the international law of the sea, maritime navigation, and the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz and Bab Al-Mandab. Watch the full episode [here](#).



The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Rear Admiral (Ret.) Abdullah bin Jaber Al-Zaidi, Senior Advisor for Defense and Security Studies at the GRC, in the fourth episode of "Tafasil," discussing naval mines, their types, countermeasures, and their impact on the safety of ships and vital maritime routes. Watch the full episode [here](#).





Programs

August 14, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Prof. Al-Sadiq Al-Faqih, Professor of International Relations and Diplomacy at Sakarya University, in an episode of the program "Ara'a" exploring Sudan's future in the emerging regional order, shifts in the balance of power, and prospects for stability and regional cooperation. Watch the full episode [here](#).



August 19, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) participated as a guest speaker in the Saudi Leadership Society session by the Misk Foundation "Leading with Purpose: Character, Judgement & Leadership in an Uncertain World." Moderated by Dr. Reem Alqahtani, the discussion explored leadership across cultures and institutions, the role of judgement and influence in an uncertain world, and how ideas can be transformed into institutions that create lasting impact.

Participations

August 3, 2026



Dr. AbdulRazzaq Gharraf, Senior Researcher at the Gulf Research Center, met with H.E. Professor Zuhair Bouamama, Algerian Minister of Communication and Information, at the Ministry's headquarters in Algeria. During the meeting, the two sides discussed a range of topics of mutual interest, with particular focus on the Gulf Research Center's academic and research activities and publications.



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with Bloomberg's Abeer Abu Omar on Horizons Middle East and Africa on August 22, 2026.

During the interview, Dr. Sfakianakis discussed Iran's miscalculation of U.S. willingness to sustain a prolonged conflict, the Trump administration's plans to intensify Iran's economic isolation, including pressure on countries continuing to trade with Tehran, and the implications for GCC-Iran relations and the wider region.

Watch the full interview here: [Bloomberg – Horizons Middle East and Africa](#)



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an episode of the Asharq Podcast titled "Saudi Arabia and the Mecca Agreement: A Reading of Saudi Foreign Policy" on August 21, 2026.

During the episode, Dr. Sager discussed the significance of the Mecca Agreement within the broader context of Saudi foreign policy and the Kingdom's approach to evolving regional dynamics.

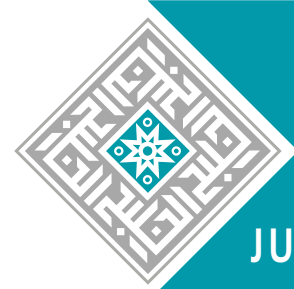
Watch the full episode here: [Asharq Podcast](#)



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), appeared in an episode of On the Road to Politics airing on Yemen Today TV titled "Saudi Arabia's Alliances and the Houthi and Iranian Threats" on August 21, 2026.

During the interview, Dr. Sager discussed Saudi Arabia's regional alliances, the evolving threats posed by the Houthis and Iran, and their implications for the Kingdom and the wider region.

Watch the full interview here: [Yemen Today TV – On the Road to Politics](#)



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), joined Al Arabiya's Fourth Bulletin as part of its special coverage of the visit of Saudi Crown Prince H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman to France on August 24, 2026.

During the segment, Dr. Sager provided his analysis of the visit and its significance for Saudi-French relations and broader regional and international developments.

Watch the full segment here: [Al Arabiya – Fourth Bulletin](#)



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with Monte Carlo Doualiya (MCD) during its news bulletin on August 24, 2026, regarding the visit of Saudi Crown Prince H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman to France.

During the segment, Dr. Sager discussed the significance of the visit and its implications for Saudi-French relations.

Watch the full segment here: [Monte Carlo Doualiya \(MCD\)](#)



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), appeared on Asharq Bloomberg's The Fourth Dimension on August 24, 2026, as part of the channel's coverage of the visit of Saudi Crown Prince H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman to France.

During the program, Dr. Sager discussed the significance of the Crown Prince's visit and its implications for Saudi-French relations.

Watch the full interview here: [Asharq Bloomberg – The Fourth Dimension](#)



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with BBC News on August 31, 2026, offering his insights on the latest economic and regional developments.

Watch the full interview here: [BBC News](#)



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