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GULF RESEARCH CENTER
Newsletter

June 2023

GRC Project

GCC-EU Relations: Toward the Strategic Partnership Webinar Series

Panel Session 11: Humanitarian and Development Cooperation



The eleventh session of the GCC-EU webinar series entitled "Humanitarian and Development Cooperation" was held by the Gulf Research Center (GRC) on June 12, 2023. The event focused on the status of relations and the priorities in the field of humanitarian and development cooperation as they relate to the EU's Joint Communication on a "Strategic Partnership with the Gulf." The speakers of the session were Dr. Aqeel Al Ghamdi, the Assistant Supervisor General for Development and Planning at the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief); Prof. Dr. Michael Koehler, the Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) at the European Commission; Mr. Alessandro Villa, the Deputy Head of Unit of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Middle East Division (INTPA.C.1) at the European Commission; Dr. Yannick du Pont, the CEO of SPARK; and Mr. Amer Bukvić, the Acting Director General of Global Practice & Partnerships (DG-GPP) at the Islamic Development Bank. Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center, moderated the session.

The webinar highlighted that cooperation on humanitarian and development aid is already strong between the EU and the GCC on a bilateral level between European institutions (such as European Commission) and major Gulf donors

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(such as the Islamic Development Bank). With the increasing global humanitarian crisis, however, there is an urgency to push for stronger global partnerships and more strategic cooperation between the GCC and EU.

Panel Session 10: Promoting Transport



The tenth session of the GCC-EU webinar series entitled "Promoting Transport" was held by the Gulf Research Center (GRC) on June 6, 2023. The event focused on the status of relations and the priorities in the field of transport as they relate to the EU's Joint Communication on a "Strategic Partnership with the Gulf." The speakers of the session were Mr. Carlos Bermejo Acosta, Head of the Aviation Agreements Unit of the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) at the European Commission; Mr. Ralf Zinelabedin, Consultant to the Director of Europe & Middle East at DB Engineering & Consulting; and Dr. Dua Rubal, Fellow at King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC). Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center, moderated the session.

The webinar reiterated the importance of the Gulf region to the EU, given its strategic location between Europe, Asia, and Africa. Overall, the speakers recognized the importance of continuing and deepening cooperation in the transport sector, particularly in railway and aviation, through exchanging expertise to further a mutually beneficial dialogue. The speakers discussed key railway and aviation issues, including the EU aviation strategy, critical recent developments of the GCC railway project and EU railway policy, management of shared railway systems, with a focus on the EU framework for interoperability and safety, and technical, institutional, and regulatory requirements in both the aviation and the railway sectors.

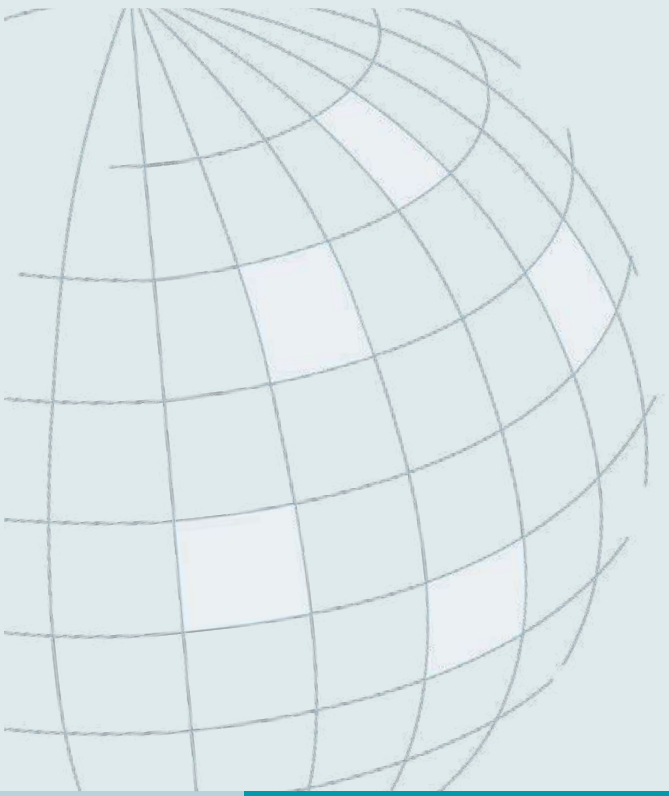
Global Leadership Program

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

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

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

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



Intensive 3-module leadership course dates:

Global Politics Module: 11-15 September 2023

Global Security Module: 13 – 17 November 2023

Global Economics Module: 4 – 8 March 2024

The program offers participants the opportunity to:

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



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

Register HERE
Download brochure HERE

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

Activities June 2023

The Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) programme is an international independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme promoted and hosted by the GRC. You can access the GLMM website here.

Access GLMM recent and past publications here.

Publications

GLMM Factsheet No. 7 - June 2023: "Arab workers in Saudi Arabia," by Françoise De Bel-Air, GLMM Senior Fellow. Access here.

GLMM Factsheet No. 8 - June 2023: "Innovations from the Saudi census 2022," by Françoise De Bel-Air, GLMM Senior Fellow. Access here.

GLMM Policy Brief No. 2 - June 2023: "Migration and Climate Change: The Case of the GCC Countries," by Georges Naufal, GLMM Non-Resident Fellow. Access here.

Data

GLMM gathers, analyses, and republishes weekly national official statistical data concerning population, labour markets, and migration from dozens of websites of the GCC countries. All these data can be viewed, printed, and downloaded in MS Excel. Having done this for more than a decade, the GLMM's database contains data that are no longer publicly available online except through the GLMM website.

Recently, notable data for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman were added to the database.

Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia: Population by nationality (Saudi/non-Saudi) and administrative region (governorate) of residence (2022)
- Saudi Arabia: Population by nationality (Saudi/non-Saudi) and sex (2010-2022)
- Saudi Arabia: Workers employed in the government sector by country of citizenship and education level (2022)
- Saudi Arabia: Workers employed in the government sector by country of citizenship, sex and education level (2022)

This is the full list of data on Saudi Arabia.

All GLMM data is gathered from published official national sources. For Saudi Arabia mainly: General Authority for Statistics (GAStat); Ministry of Human Resources and Social development (MHRSD); and General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI).

Kuwait

- Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time, by type/ purpose of permit (2011-2022)
- Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time, by nationality group (region) of holders 2011-2022
- Kuwait: Foreign residents who became contraveners to the law on residency, by nationality group (region) 2015-2022
- Kuwait: Cumulated numbers of contravenors to the law on residency, by nationality group (2015-2022)

This is the full list of data on Kuwait.

Oman

- Oman: Employed population by nationality (Omani/ non-Omani), sex and sector of economic activity (private and domestic sectors) (2021)
- Oman: Employed foreign workers by country of citizenship (all sectors, selected nationalities) (2013-2022)
- Oman: Population by nationality (Omani/non-Omani), sex, and age group (2021)
- Oman: Population by nationality (Omani/non-Omani), sex, and age group (2020)

This is the full list of data on Oman.

GCC

- Based on these data, GLMM produces unique GCC regional tables.

Legal

GLMM also gathers, analyses, and republishes weekly national official legal documents concerning population, labour markets, and migration.

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

Webinar
GLMM held its first webinar "GCC Data for Evidence-Based Policymaking" on 14 June 2023



The webinar focused on the question: "to what extent do available data and statistics on labour and labour migration in GCC states allow policymakers, as well as the general public, to monitor and understand the rapid changes affecting GCC states' labour markets since 2010?" The webinar also reviewed recent innovations and improvements in the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistical data on labour, migration, and labour migration in the six GCC states. The webinar furthermore assessed progress made in the use of statistical data for socio-economic and demographic policy making in the region. The webinar finally highlighted challenges met by GCC National Statistical Organisations and other statistics producers in the region and reflected on possible ways to overcome these challenges.

Speakers
Mr. Yusif Al Riyami, Director General for National Statistics, National Centre for Statistics and Information, Muscat

Dr. Ismail Lubbad, Senior Statistician, Statistics Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Beirut

Dr. Nader Kabbani, Senior Fellow and Director of Research, Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Doha

Dr. Georges Naufal, Associate Research Scientist, Public Policy Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Austin, Texas

Workshop
GLMM organize a workshop in the framework of the 13th Gulf Research Meeting (GRM, Cambridge 11-13 July 2023) on "Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies at the 13th Gulf Research Meeting."
In June, a total of 19 papers were submitted, reviewed, and resubmitted. These papers will be presented and discussed in the in-presence workshop.

Limited places are available for non-paper presenters (against a fee) to attend: Register here.

Further information
Contact: info.glmm@grc.net

Gulf Research Center (GRC) Podcast

The GRC hosted three episodes under the Cultural & Media program this month.
Access all the podcasts on the GRC Podcast YouTube channel here.

June 19, 2023



The GRC Podcast hosted Dr. Al-Sadiq Al-Faqih, a former ambassador and former Secretary General of the Arab Thought Forum, and talked about the crisis happening in Sudan. The episode was moderated by Dr. Zaid Al-Fadil, the Director of the Cultural and Media program. Watch the full episode here.

Gulf Dialogue Lab

مختبر الحوار الخليجي
Gulf Dialogue Lab



June 21, 2023
The Gulf Dialogue Lab held a session titled 'New World Systems in Arranging, Marketing and Selling Information.' A number of specialists participated in the webinar which was moderated by Mr. Muhammad Al-Farih.



June 14, 2023
The Gulf Dialogue Lab held another webinar this month titled 'Identity and Media.' This session was moderated by Dr. Ghaida Al-Juwaiser.



June 7, 2023
The Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted another webinar this month called 'The Readability of the Novel in the Arab World.' This session was moderated by Dr. Zainab Al-Khudairi.

GRC Cultural and Media Program



June 5, 2023
The Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted a webinar on 'The Future of Arabic Calligraphy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,' in which a number of experts participated in the webinar. This session was moderated by Dr. Abdullah Fitini.



June 4, 2023
The Gulf Dialogue held its first webinar this month titled ' Still and Moving Photography: Arts in the Arab Gulf Countries (History, Theories, Practices, Criticism and Aesthetics).' This session was moderated by Dr. Essam Asiri.

GRC Publications

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

Commentary & Analysis



Gulf Diplomacy is Forging Ahead
Dr. Christian Koch
June 2023



Saudi Arabia's Prince Faisal bin Farhan's Visit to Tehran: What This Means for Regional Diplomacy
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
June 2023



What Does a Third Erdoğan Presidency Herald for the GCC States?
Robert Mason
June 2023



Antony Blinken's Visit and its Significance in Mending Ties with the Region
Amnah Mosly
June 2023



Circular Economy in the GCC: Status, Challenges, and Opportunities
Azhan Hasan
June 2023

Araa Magazine



 # 186 (June 2023):
Current Arab Crises: Dilemma and Solutions

GRC Participations

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

June 26, 2023
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environment and Sustainability Research Program Director spoke in the online session of the SRI congress session Citizen Science and Data for Decision Making.

June 19-20, 2023
Dr. Christian Koch participated in the 5th German-Arab Dialogue on Security and Cooperation held in Berlin, Germany organized by the German-Arab Friendship Group (DAFG), the German Academy for Security Policy (BAKS) and the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation. The conference brought together officials and specialists from the GCC countries and Germany to discuss closer cooperation in the fields of security, political ties, economics and energy.



June 15, 2023
Dr. Christian Koch held a virtual discussion with Dr. Alyare Elmi, Executive Director of the Heritage Institute based in Mogadishu, Somalia. They discussed the work of the GRC on the Horn of Africa and future collaboration.

June 22, 2023
Dr. Christian Koch met with H.E. Haifa Al-Jedea, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the European Union in Brussels. They discussed the current status of Saudi Arabia-EU ties and how the GRC and the embassy can cooperate closer together.

June 18, 2023
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager and Dr. Christian Koch held a meeting with Darko Mocibob, Director of the Middle East Division in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was also attended by Amb. Wolfgang Amadeus Bruelhart, the Special Envoy for the Middle East of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed in more detail the next steps in the Tafahum wa Tabadul project of the GRC and CARPO.

June 18, 2023
The Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), Dr. Ahmed Sager and GRC's Senior Advisor Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan received at the GRC's office in Riyadh, His Excellency Mr. Jaan Reinhold, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia (non-resident). During the meeting, issues of common interest between the two sides were discussed.



GRC Participations

June 13, 2023
Dr. Christian Koch was interviewed for a Geneva Graduate Institute Applied Research Project on the use of mega-events in the Gulf as part of national branding and communications strategies. Specifically, the students were interested in the experience of the FIFA-Qatar 2022 World Cup and Expo 2020 Dubai.

June 8, 2023
Dr. Christian Koch attended the event on "Rethinking EU-MENA Engagement" held at Carnegie Europe in Brussels. The public discussion focused on how the EU can establish sustainable partnerships and build trust with the wider Middle East and how the EU needs to consider regional and local perspectives in its decisionmaking and meet its partners on equal footing.

June 7, 2023
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received at the GRC's office in Riyadh on June 7, 2023, the Italian Special Envoy to Syria, Ambassador Stefano Ravagnan. Both sides discussed the current developments in Syria, after joining the Arab League Summit.



June 4, 2023
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with Ambassador Ludovic Pouille, Ambassador of France to the Kingdom. Both sides discussed the developments on the new regional and international dynamics, and on strengthening the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the European Union.



June 8-13, 2023
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environment and Sustainability Research Program Director participated in SB58 of Climate Change in Bonn.

June 8, 2023
Dr. Christian Koch was interviewed by Philipp Bönner from the Willy Brandt School at the University of Erfurt, Germany, on the foreign policy of Saudi Arabia and Saudi Vision 2030.

June 7, 2023
Dr. Christian Koch held a meeting with officials from the Civil Military Engagement Coordination Section of NATO Strategic Direction South - HUB (the Southern Hub). The Hub, located in Naples, Italy, contributes to NATO's understanding of the South by cooperating with organizations located in Africa and the Middle East and analyzing security efforts and dynamics in the region. The GRC and NATO Strategic Direction South discussed their future engagement and future project work related to the region.

June 6, 2023
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with the Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Dang Xuan Dzung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Yemen. Both sides discussed Saudi-Vietnamese relations and ways to develop them in light of the Kingdom's Vision 2030.



GRC media participation can be accessed at the following link, which leads to the GRC official YouTube channel.

Recent Media Participations



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the Al Arabiya news program titled 'Iranian Newspapers, the era of friendship with Saudi Arabia begins.' The episode focused on the visit of Prince Fasial bin Farhan to Tehran. Watch the full episode here.



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