GULF RESEARCH CENTER
NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

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GRC Events & Activities

Saudi-Chinese Relations in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape: Regional Developments and Evolving Security Frameworks

Webinar

Organized by:

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS)

October 14, 2026





Participants

- **Moderator: Dr. Christian Koch**, Director of Research at the GRC and Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Office in Brussels

Speakers

- **Dr. Abdulaziz Sager,** Founder and Chairman, Gulf Research Center (GRC)
- **Dr. Jin Liangxiang**, Director, Center for Middle East Studies, Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS)
- **Dr. Mohammed Alsudairi,** Lecturer, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Australian National University & Non-Resident Senior Researcher, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies

- **Dr. Qin Tian,** Deputy Director, Institute for Middle East Studies, China Institute for Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)

Key Takeaways

- Saudi-China economic strength is accompanied by a gap between Gulf security expectations and Chinese strategic priorities.
- Stronger Gulf coordination and collective capabilities remain necessary alongside diversified international partnerships.
- Maritime stability offers a concrete area for cooperation because disruption carries costs for both the region and its trading partners.
- Technology, energy transition, and industrial competition are making the relationship more complex and require closer policy attention.
- The proposed trilateral dialogue offers the clearest opportunity for follow-up, provided it is guided by a focused agenda, sustained engagement, and substantive objectives.

General Summary

The webinar examined the development of Saudi-Chinese relations amid regional conflict, maritime disruption, and changing international and economic conditions. The partnership has expanded beyond energy and consumer trade to encompass investment, infrastructure, technology, and diplomatic cooperation. However, the discussion highlighted a widening gap between Gulf expectations of China's contribution to regional security and Beijing's cautious approach to crises.

A central question was whether substantial economic interdependence can translate into more effective political and security cooperation. Calls for China to use its relationship with Iran to help restrain aggression and address threats from armed non-state actors were balanced by assessments of the limits of Beijing's willingness to commit political capital. The discussion suggested that China's commercial exposure to the Gulf does not automatically produce security commitments comparable to those expected by regional partners.

Regional developments were discussed in terms of growing fragmentation, hostility, and pressures on sovereignty and territorial integrity. The weakening momentum of Saudi-Iranian reconciliation and renewed threats involving Yemen were identified as challenges to the broader diplomatic environment. Maritime insecurity was treated as an international concern because of the reach of its effects on global energy supplies, shipping, and trade.

The discussion also examined how technological rivalry, China's energy transition, and industrial competition are reshaping the partnership. These changes create opportunities for cooperation, but also require Gulf states to reassess established assumptions about economic complementarity. Greater Gulf coordination and stronger collective security capabilities emerged as important priorities alongside continued engagement with external partners.

Main Discussion Themes

China's evolving role in Gulf security

The discussion considered whether China could move beyond diplomatic statements toward practical contributions to regional stability. Priorities raised included using its influence with Iran, addressing support for armed non-state actors, and helping protect maritime routes. At the same time, China's approach was described as cautious and dependent on the prospects of successful engagement. Gulf security competes with other priorities, including China's immediate neighborhood and its wider relationship with the United States. Different assessments remained over how much more Beijing could realistically do.

Saudi-Iranian reconciliation and regional dialogue

The 2023 rapprochement remained an important reference point, although its momentum was seen as

weakened by subsequent conflict. Reconciliation between neighbors was presented as necessary for a durable regional order, while the discussion also emphasized that dialogue must address non-interference, decision-making, and implementation. Existing exchanges demonstrate that communication channels are already in place. The key challenge is to translate these contacts into meaningful changes in behavior and practical cooperation.

Maritime security and energy resilience

The Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb were identified as shared international interests requiring wider participation in safeguarding navigation. The discussion linked maritime disruption to the resilience of energy and commercial ties. It also examined China's domestic response to external shocks through electrification, strategic reserves, and import diversification. Such measures were seen as potentially moderating energy-market pressure, while leaving immediate regional security threats unresolved.

Technology and industrial competition

US-China rivalry was discussed as both an opportunity and a constraint for Gulf technological development. Alternative partnerships can increase bargaining power, while cooperation in sensitive domains can complicate relations with Washington. Chinese manufacturing overcapacity was also identified as a potential source of tension with Gulf industrialization ambitions, including in petrochemicals, aluminium, and electric vehicles. These issues were linked to the difficulties surrounding GCC-China free-trade negotiations.

The changing energy partnership

China's expansion of renewable energy and electrification may change the long-term basis of energy demand, while Chinese equipment remains important to Gulf energy-transition projects. The discussion highlighted the need to develop cooperation around new industrial and technological links alongside established hydrocarbon trade.

Gulf coordination and regional security arrangements

Greater coordination among Gulf states was presented as a means of strengthening collective influence and communicating shared concerns to Beijing. The discussion also considered the Makkah Agreement involving Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and Pakistan, particularly its relevance to regional threat assessment and the Houthi challenge. It remains too early to infer an indirect Chinese security role through Pakistan. The discussion considered how regional defense cooperation and Saudi-Iranian reconciliation could contribute to stability, while leaving open questions about the agreement's effectiveness.



'The Green Transition in the Kingdom' Book Launch

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

October 8, 2026





The Gulf Research Center (GRC) hosted a workshop at its Riyadh office to discuss the draft of an upcoming book titled "The Green Transition in the Kingdom."

The workshop brought together a distinguished group of experts, specialists, and academics, alongside representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, the National Center for Vegetation Cover Development and Combating Desertification, and the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information. Participants examined key themes addressed in the book, which highlight the Kingdom's pioneering role in the green transition and environmental sustainability. Discussions focused on the importance of advancing the legislative and institutional framework, enhancing environmental data to support decision-making, and addressing critical areas such as the energy transition, the circular carbon economy, the protection of natural resources and biodiversity, and the development of wind energy. The role of innovative financing mechanisms and artificial intelligence in fostering sustainability and resource protection was also explored.

This workshop reflects the Gulf Research Center's commitment to leveraging national and academic expertise to enrich its publications with specialized insights. By addressing issues related to the green transition and sustainability in the Kingdom, the initiative underscores the Kingdom's leading position – locally, regionally, and globally – in environmental protection, the conservation of natural resources, and the energy transition.

GRC Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding Signed between the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and Yemen and Gulf Studies Center (YGCS)
October 1, 2026

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Yemen and Gulf Studies Center to strengthen research collaboration and institutional cooperation between the two centers.

The partnership aims to promote knowledge exchange on issues of mutual interest, with a particular focus on developments in Yemen and the Gulf region. It provides a framework for developing joint research and knowledge projects, facilitating dialogue among researchers and experts, and exploring opportunities for collaborative publications and events.

Through this cooperation, both centers seek to deepen understanding of regional challenges and contribute to informed policy discussions.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed between the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
October 7, 2026



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on October 7, 2026, at the GRC office in Riyadh. The MoU was signed by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the GRC, and Mr. Omar Odeh, Head of the ICRC Regional Delegation for the GCC.

The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of expertise between the two institutions in support of shared objectives. During the meeting, the two sides discussed humanitarian developments in the region and the role of research and dialogue in supporting humanitarian action.

"Through Syrian Eyes" Film Program

Damascus, Syria

October 8, 2026



The Gulf Research Center (GRC), in collaboration with the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding, has released a new episode of the program *Through Syrian Eyes*, entitled "From Paperwork to Automation: How is the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment Building a New Local Administration in Syria?"

The episode explores efforts to restructure the Ministry, develop municipalities, strengthen decentralization, digitize services, address property-related issues, and support investment. It asks what has been achieved on the ground, and what lies ahead in the next phase.

These questions and more are discussed with **His Excellency Engineer Mohammad Anjrani, Minister of Local Administration and Environment.**

The episode is presented by Abdullah Al-Ghadawi, Director of the Taqaddum Center.

Watch the full episode here.

October 20, 2026



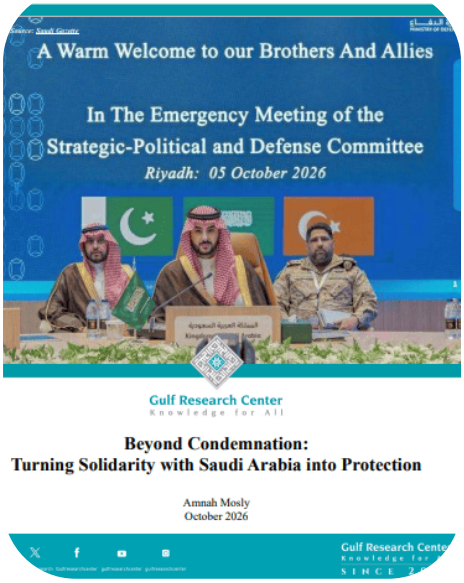
The Gulf Research Center (GRC), in collaboration with the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding, has released a new episode of the program *Through Syrian Eyes*, entitled "The Energy Crisis: How Is It Affecting Syrians?"

The episode explores how the energy crisis affects Syrians' daily lives, the government's options for addressing rising fuel costs and challenges related to #production and imports, and the potential role of the energy sector in supporting economic recovery and attracting investment.

Joining the discussion are Dr. Omar Edlbi, researcher and political activist, and Dr. Fayez Harsh, an expert in energy affairs. The episode is presented by Abdullah Al-Ghadawi, Director of the Taqaddum Center.

Watch the full episode here.

Commentary & Analyses



Beyond Condemnation: Turning Solidarity with Saudi Arabia into Protection

Amnah Mosly

October 2026



The Gulf States and Multilateral Diplomacy in a Shifting Global Order

Nico Bach

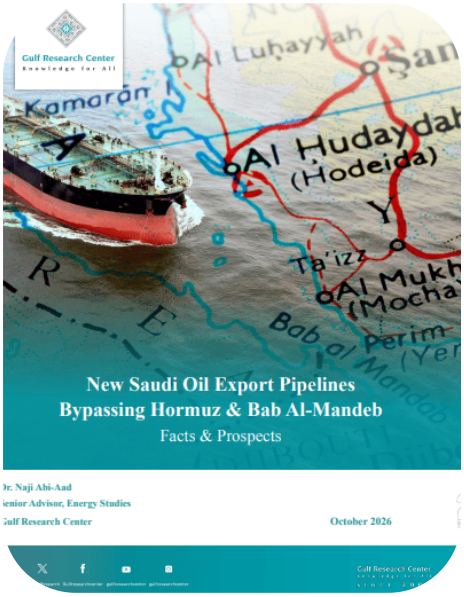
October 2026



Africa's Critical Minerals in the US-China Competition

Michael William Wilson

October 2026



New Saudi Oil Export Pipelines Bypassing Hormuz & Bab Al-Mandeb: Facts & Prospects

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad

October 2026



Saudi Foreign Policy Moving Forward: Security, Sovereignty, and a Path to De-escalation

Layla Ali

October 2026

Selected Arabic Articles



The New Israeli Axis: Establishing Presence, Operations, and Potential Counter-Alignments

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi

October 2026



Key Factors Influencing Energy and Petroleum Products Consumption in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad

October 2026



The Houthis: The Threat We Don't See

Prof. Saleh Mohammed Al-Khathlan

October 2026



Decoding the Houthis' Lethal AI-Powered Capabilities: Does the Houthi group already possess AI-enabled combat capabilities, or is it moving toward acquiring them?

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi

October 2026



Protecting Civilian Objects Amid Houthi Attacks: The Principle of Distinction, the Criminalization of Attacks on Civilian Infrastructure, and the Responsibility of Supporting States

Gulf Research Center

October 2026



Amid Ongoing Crises: Can EU–Gulf Defense Cooperation Strengthen Regional Convergence?

Chantal Hohe

October 2026

Selected Arabic Articles



Saudi Foreign Policy Moving Forward: Security, Sovereignty, and a Path to De-escalation

Layla Ali

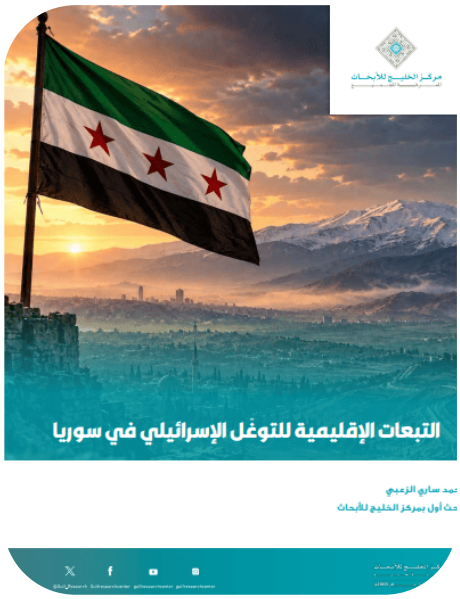
October 2026



New Oil Pipelines in Saudi Arabia Bypass the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb: Facts and Prospects

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad

October 2026

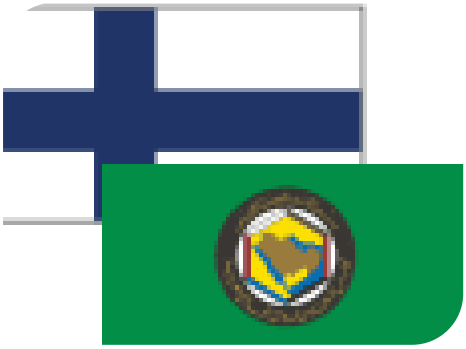


The Regional Implications of the Israeli Incursion into Syria

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi

October 2026

Country Updates & Trade Reports



Finland-GCC Relations

Gulf Research Center

October 2026



Portugal - GCC Relations

Gulf Research Center

October 2026



Hungary - GCC Relations

Gulf Research Center

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Country Updates & Trade Reports



Netherlands - GCC Relations

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October 2026

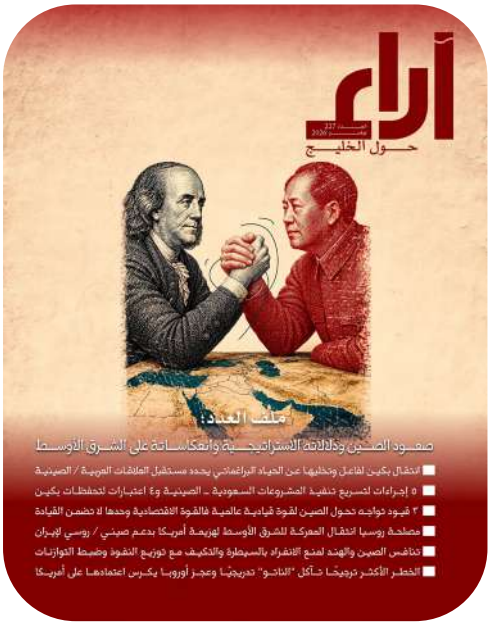


EU - GCC Trade Relations

Gulf Research Center

October 2026

Araa Magazine



October 2026 Issue 227

The Rise of China: Strategic Significance and Implications for the Middle East

Click here to download the PDF

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, and is 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**.

Publications

Just Published on GCC Attracting and Retaining the Highly Skilled

Ayat Nashwan and Sadia Khan: Long-Term Residency Policies and the Retention of Healthcare Professionals. A Case Study on the UAE's Golden Visa Program in the Gulf Context, GLMM Policy Brief No. 42, October 2026.

Michael Ewers: The Gulf Talent Retention Paradox: Drivers, Dynamics, and the Rise of Circularity, GLMM Policy Brief No. 41, October 2026.

Froilan Malit Jr.: A National Security Turn? Stepwise Migration of Skilled Labour and National Security Dilemmas in the Gulf, GLMM Policy Brief No. 40, October 2026.

Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui: Challenges to the GCC's Economic Diversification Agenda: Understanding the Structural Drivers of High-Skilled Emigration from the Gulf, GLMM Policy Brief No. 39, October 2026.

Nasra M. Shah and Areej Jamal: Stepwise and Return Migration Between the Gulf, Europe, and North America – Pilot Survey Report, GLMM Policy Brief No. 38, October 2026.

Françoise De Bel-Air: The Global Competition for Talents. Comparative Overview of Highly Skilled Emigration Trends to Canada, France, Germany, the UK and the US, GLMM Policy Brief No. 37, October 2026.

Recent Publications on Saudi Arabia

Mehmet Ali Soytas, GLMM: Demographics, Skills, and the Role of Expatriate Talent in Saudi Arabia's Labor Market: From Labor Substitution to Strategic Complementarity under Vision 2030, GLMM Policy Brief No. 36, September 2026.

Françoise De Bel-Air: The Premium Residency Program in Saudi Arabia: History, Design, Acquisition Dynamics, and Holder Profile, GLMM Policy Brief No. 35, September 2026.

Click to view the list of all GLMM Policy Briefs and here for the list of all GLMM publications.

Data

For over a decade, GLMM has gathered, analysed, and republished official data related to labour and migration from multiple sources on all 6 GCC states. The database contains approx. 2,000 tables.

All Country Tables

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

GCC Regional Tables

GLMM constructs unique GCC regional tables based exclusively on the official country data.

Click here to view them.

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

Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

7 October 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, co-organized and co-facilitated the virtual monthly telecall of the UNEP Science and Technology Major Group. The call discussed the group's plans and activities on the road to UNEA 8 in 2027, such as organizing a science day during UNEA 8 and forming different working groups, including one on AI and one on SRM.



29 October 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, participated online in the hybrid event "Policy Pathways for Food and Water Security in the MENA Region," presenting a policy paper titled "Transboundary Water Management in the MENA: Politics and Prospects."

Cultural & Media Program

مختبر الحوار الخليجي
Gulf Dialogue Lab

GRC PODCAST
بودكاست مركز الخليج للأبحاث

Gulf Dialogue Lab
Online Seminar on
Education: From the Lecturer and Migration to the Current Reality
Co-Organized by
The Gulf Dialogue Lab at the Gulf Research Center, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
October 20, 2026





The Gulf Dialogue Lab at the Gulf Research Center, in collaboration with the **General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**, held on October 20, 2026, a virtual cultural seminar via the "Zoom" platform, titled " Education: From the Lecturer and Migration to the Current Reality," with the participation of an elite group of academics, experts, and specialists in educational and cultural affairs.

The seminar commenced with an opening address by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, followed by a presentation by Dr. Al-Hussein Al-Ghazawi, Director of the Cultural Department at the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The seminar addressed the trajectory of education in Islamic civilization, beginning with its traditional forms, including scholarly circles, mosque schools, lecturer sessions, and migrations, up to modern educational systems, while reviewing the transformations that the educational sector has undergone from various historical, cultural, pedagogical, and technological perspectives.

Participants in the seminar included **His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Said Ould Bah, Director General of the Office of the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**; **His Excellency Dr. Hossam Zaman, former President of the Education and Training Evaluation Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**; **historian and**

educator, Dr. Saud Al-Khudaydi; and **Dr. Ziad Abdullah, Director of the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research**. The dialogue was moderated by Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center.

The participants discussed the reality of education in Arab and Islamic countries, highlighting the challenges facing their systems, including the quality of educational outputs, teacher qualification, curriculum development, and keeping pace with technological and knowledge transformations, alongside the importance of drawing on historical educational experiences to develop contemporary educational policies and practices.

This seminar is part of the joint cooperation between the Gulf Research Center and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the efforts aimed at enhancing intellectual and cultural dialogue and exchanging experiences and perspectives on issues related to education and its future in Arab and Islamic societies.

Publications

October 6, 2026

An article titled "Netanyahu and the Policy of 'Imposing' Normalization" by Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center, published in Al Majalla. Read the full article here.

October 13, 2026

An article titled "Houthi Attacks and the Israeli Plan" by Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center, published in Al Majalla. Read the full article here.

GRC Podcast Activities

October 2, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast featured an episode of "Wamda" on the Saudi International Falcons and Hunting Exhibition 2026 and its role in highlighting falconry heritage. Watch here.



October 7, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Captain Adel Al-Omair in an episode of "Tafasil," discussing safety and emergency management in civil aviation. Watch here.



GRC PARTICIPATIONS

October 5, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mrs. Maria Håkansson, Ambassador of Sweden to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. During the meeting, both sides discussed regional developments and issues of mutual interest.

October 6, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mrs. Kjersti Tromsdal, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. During the meeting, both sides discussed regional developments and issues of mutual interest.

October 8, 2026



A meeting was held at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) office in Riyadh with the National Center for Vegetation Cover Development and Combating Desertification (NCVC), aimed at enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The meeting discussed ways to activate the recently signed memorandum of understanding between the GRC and the NCVC, contributing to the development of cooperation fields, the exchange of expertise, and support for research efforts and related initiatives in vegetation cover development, combating desertification, and environmental sustainability in the Kingdom.

October 12, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with Dr. Nasser bin Ali Al-Mari, Assistant Professor of Political Science at King Saud University, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on the occasion of the release of the Arabic translation of the book *Research in Political Science: An Applied Approach*, prepared by Dr. Nasser Al-Mari and published by the Gulf Research Center, as a contribution to enriching the Arab library and providing important scientific references for researchers, students, and those interested.

October 12, 2026



Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated in a seminar titled "After the War on Iran: The Gulf Cooperation Council at Stake," held as part of the fourth edition of the Future of Media and Communication Forum in Jordan.

GRC PARTICIPATIONS

October 13, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, delivered a lecture titled "Global Transformations and Their Implications for Saudi Arabia's Role and International Presence" as part of the Young Leaders Qualification Program for Global Communication, organized by the Salam Project for Cultural Communication. The lecture took place at the King Abdulaziz Center for Cultural Communication in Riyadh.

October 13, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an online roundtable titled "Seeking Common Security in a Turbulent World," hosted by the China Global Television Network (CGTN). The discussion explored global security challenges and the role of dialogue and cooperation in promoting peace and stability amid geopolitical uncertainty. Watch the full session here.

October 15, 2026



Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Dr. Ahmed Ould Bah, Director General of the Diwan at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). During the meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest, and Dr. Alfadeil introduced the activities of the Cultural Program at the GRC.

October 16, 2026

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation, Brussels met with His Excellency Ambassador Abdulrahman Q.H. Alkhudaidi, Saudi Ambassador to Belgium, who started his post in late August. They discussed the prospect of collaborating on a workshop on Saudi-Belgian relations, amongst other topics.

October 18. 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), welcomed Mr. Faisal Abbas, Editor-in-Chief of Arab News, one of the region's leading newspapers, to the GRC's office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on opportunities to further strengthen collaboration between the GRC and Arab News, particularly in light of ongoing regional escalations and evolving geopolitical developments.

GRC PARTICIPATIONS

October 19, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Michael Kindsgrab, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and H.E. Thomas Friedrich Schneider, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Yemen at the GRC's office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest and the latest regional developments.

October 19, 2026

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Cetner Foundation Office in Brussels, participated in an event as part of the project 'T2Y - Leveraging Track II Peacebuilding in Yemen' led by the Graduate Institute in Switzerland and funded by the EU. The roundtable took place in the offices of DG MENA and provided an opportunity for an exchange between 14 EU officials and 10 Track 2 organizations working in Yemen and the wider region. The exchange focused on the evolving nature of the Yemen conflict and its implications for regional stability and allowed for a stocktake of the EU's role in the conflict amelioration.

October 21, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Dr. Fares Albeel, Head of the Yemeni Future Center for Strategic Studies, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments.

October 23, 2026



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) Foundation office in Brussels, along with Researcher Houda Barroug and Junior Research Assistant Francesca Daniele, met with Commodore Ioannis Stratogiannis, Director of NATO Strategic Direction for the South Hub, and Major Francesco Piscopo, at the GRC's office in Brussels. Together they discussed a NATO-GCC partnership focused on building cooperation on Gulf security, including maritime security, air defense, and critical infrastructure.

October 27, 2026



During the activities of the Seventh World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (Dialogue for a Shared Future), Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated as a speaker in a main session titled "Civilizational Diplomacy and Strategic Foresight: Anticipating Tensions and Building Inclusive Pathways to Peace," which was held in the capital of Baku in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Watch the full session here.

October 28, 2026

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated virtually in the joint seminar organized by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Med-Or Italian Foundation, titled "Corridors & Chokepoints: From Hormuz to Bab el-Mandeb: How Maritime Disruption Will Reshape Strategic Infrastructure and Connectivity across the Horn and East Africa." The seminar was held in a hybrid format at the Med-Or Africa Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

October 28, 2026



Naval Admiral Staff (Retd) Abdullah Jaber AlZaidi, Senior Advisor for Defense and Security Studies at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated virtually as a speaker at the 5th International Maritime Symposium (IMS-2026), organized by Bahria University, Islamabad. His remarks examined the erosion of the rules-based international order at sea and the evolving maritime security paradigm, highlighting their implications for the Gulf region and Saudi Arabia. Watch the full session here.

October 28, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated virtually as a speaker in the inaugural session of SETA's "Visions from Regional Capitals" webinar series, titled "A New Security Moment in the Middle East." Dr. Sager discussed the evolving regional security landscape, the Gulf states' perspectives on regional stability, and the importance of strengthening regional cooperation to address emerging security challenges.

October 29, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mr. Sebastian Mitrache, Ambassador of Romania to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. During the meeting, both sides discussed regional developments and issues of mutual interest.

October 4, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated on an interview on Al Hadath Channel, commenting on the announcement by Rashad Al-Alimi, President of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council, of the start of military operations to recover the remaining Yemeni territories. Watch the full interview here.

October 5, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) participated in an interview with Al Arabiya channel commenting on the emergency meeting of the Political and Defense Strategic Committee of the Mecca Defense Pact. Watch the full interview here.

October 8, 2026



Dr. Abdul Razzaq Gherraf, Senior Researcher at the Gulf Research Center, participated in an interview on an international Algerian channel, commenting on the third anniversary of October 7. Watch the full interview here.

October 8, 2026



In an article in the newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, titled 'Sudan...From the Jeddah Declaration to Sustainable Peace,' Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, addressed the path to peace in Sudan and the Saudi role in supporting consensus and ending the conflict. Read the full article here.

October 9, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), appeared on "Full Frame with Fahd Husain" on Pakistan's Express 24-7 channel to discuss "Saudi-Pakistani Defence Cooperation: Dimensions of Partnership and Deterrence Amid Regional Challenges." Watch the full interview here.

October 9, 2026



Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), published an article with Al Jazeera, analyzing the likelihood of the war's renewal and the requirements for GCC countries to prepare for worst-case scenarios, while calling for the launch of a dialogue to build a collective security structure that represents the most appropriate guarantee for limiting costly military confrontations. Read the full article here.

October 11, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview on Al Jazeera news channel as part of its coverage of the latest developments in Yemen and provided an analytical reading of the dimensions of the Houthi escalation and the Saudi and international reactions. Watch the full interview here.

October 11, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview on the "Fourth bulletin" airing on Al Arabiya channel, regarding the Houthi attack on King Khalid Airport in Riyadh looking at "how international condemnations turn into actual cooperation to protect regional security." Watch the full interview here.

October 11, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), examines the need for a coordinated international security response in his latest opinion article for Arab News, titled "Riyadh Airport Attack Requires a Shared Security Response." Read the full article here.

October 12, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), appeared on Al Jazeera's program "Inside Story," to share his insights on recent developments surrounding the ongoing attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Watch the full interview here.

October 13, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an online roundtable titled "Seeking Common Security in a Turbulent World," hosted by the China Global Television Network (CGTN). The discussion explored global security challenges and the role of dialogue and cooperation in promoting peace and stability amid geopolitical uncertainty. Watch the full interview here.

October 13, 2026



Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Jaber Al-Zaydi, Senior Advisor for Defense and Security Studies at the Gulf Research Center, particpated in the Point of Dialogue program via BBC channel to discuss Saudi Arabia's options for stopping the escalating Houthi militia attacks. Watch the full interview here.

October 13, 2026



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the (GRC), spoke with Sky News. Watch the full interview here.

October 13, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated on Al Sharq news channel, as part of the special coverage of the latest developments in Yemen, the dimensions of the Houthi escalation, and the Saudi and international reactions. Watch the full interview here.

October 14, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on the BBC News Arabic channel, as part of the "Worth Noting" podcast in an episode titled: "Saudi Arabia faces Houthis... Where are its allies? Has Saudi Arabia been left alone to confront the Houthis?" Watch the full podcast here.

October 14, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated as part of the 'Here in Riyadh' program on the Al-Ikhbariya channel, in an episode titled: "Riyadh and Baghdad...Security Coordination to Enhance Stability." Watch the full interview here.

October 14, 2026

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation, Brussels, was interviewed by Mohamed Laouta of Al-Eqtisadiah, where he outlined the features of the next phase of the European-Gulf economic partnership and reviewed the volume of trade and investments, as well as the sectors most attractive to projects. **Read the full article here.**

October 15, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program "19:00 GMT" on Al Hadath news channel, titled: 'The Coalition threatens to continue targeting Houthi capabilities.' Watch the full interview here.

October 15, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke to Al Arabiya English on W News, sharing his perspectives on the latest regional developments, the evolving security landscape, and the key challenges facing Saudi Arabia and the wider Gulf region. Watch the full interview here.

October 16, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center participated in an interview in the program "On the Borders" on Al Sharq Television (Bloomberg) in an episode titled: 'Operation Fajr Al Yemen and Options for Coalition Forces and Trump Administration.' Watch the full interview here.

October 16, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program "The World This Evening" on the BBC News Arabic channel, regarding the dimensions of the Houthi escalation and the Saudi and international reactions. Watch the full interview here.

October 16, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program "Al-Akhbar Lilayla" on Al Hadath channel, regarding the best option for dealing with Houthi Militias. Watch the full interview here.

October 18, 2026



Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Abdullah Al-Ziyadi, Senior Advisor for Defense and Security Studies at the Gulf Research Center, participated in the interview on the Al Ikhbariya channel's "Sum and Substance" program, titled: 'Maritime Straits Between International Law and Freedom of Navigation...Who Holds the Decision?' Watch the full interview here.

October 19, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), shared his insights on "Arab Views with Faisal Abbas," discussing Saudi Arabia's options in Yemen, Houthi objectives, the role of the international community, GCC security cooperation, and the prospects of a wider US-Iran conflict. Watch the full interview here.

October 20, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in an interview on the "Fourth Dimension" program on Al Sharq TV (Bloomberg), in an episode titled: "Britain Supports Saudi Arabia with Typhoon Aircraft." Watch the full episode here.

October 22, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on Al Hadath's "Tonight's News" program, in a segment titled: "Tomorrow: A Regional-European Roundtable to Discuss the Region's Tensions and Key Issues." Watch the full interview here.

October 23, 3036



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with Feyza Gümüşlüoğlu on the International Departures program on Fokus+, where he discussed key questions surrounding Saudi Arabia's security and regional developments, including the key challenges facing Saudi Arabia in strengthening its defences against Houthi attacks; Saudi Arabia's strategic and military objectives in Yemen; and how the Makkah Agreement could shape the future of regional security cooperation. Watch the full interview here.

October 24, 2026



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with CNBC. Watch the full interview here.

October 26, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), contributed to an article in "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" titled: 'Outcomes of the Makkah Pact Countries' Visit to Tehran Hinge on Iran's Stance.' Read the full article here.

October 30, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the program "On the Borders" airing on Al Sharq TV (Bloomberg), in an episode titled: "The Escalation in Yemen and Regional Movements Between Deterrence and Containment." Watch the full episode here.



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