



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All

**ANNUAL** 20  
**REPORT** 21



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ANNUAL **20**  
REPORT **21**

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we enter 2022, we look back at 2021 as a year during which the COVID-19 pandemic impacted not only all the countries of the Gulf region, but in fact all the countries on the planet and most aspects of our daily lives. Notwithstanding the pandemic, the work of the Gulf Research Center continued uninterrupted and in earnest. We were able to put in place protocols and systems that allowed GRC to function smoothly and efficiently in accomplishing its goals for 2021.

*“We hope that the research output of GRC continues to reach all relevant stakeholders as we move into 2022 and our third decade.”*

A significant expansion of staff took place at GRC during 2021 and this allowed us to focus on a wide range of projects, including:

- The Tafahum Project, the first phase of which was completed and the second phase (Tafahum wa Tabadul) initiated, with the goal of working towards a collective process for regional security in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula;
- A research support project with the Saudi Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs and Housing;
- A data collection, assessment, and analysis project relating to labour migration for the International Labour Organization;
- A research project for the UNDP in Saudi Arabia focusing on the reform agenda of Saudi Arabia and the transformations taking place in its approach to regional and global issues; and
- A range of other research projects focusing on a variety of issues related to Saudi Arabia, including philanthropy, university MoUs, and sector studies.

A new GRC research program was established to focus on the very important topic of environmental security and sustainability, with the goal of better understanding the role of the Gulf region in globally important environmental issues.

A full spectrum of GRC events was organized in 2021, including the annual Gulf Research Meeting, which took place virtually through an online environment developed especially for this meeting to support eleven simultaneous research workshops. GRC also helped organize the Riyadh International Book Fair in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture.

Cooperation with other research centers and universities continued, both in the Gulf region and globally, and was enhanced through the signing of a number of new memoranda of understanding.

This report will provide you with information about the broad range of activities carried out by GRC in 2021. These activities would not have been possible without the sincere efforts of GRC staff members across the globe. These efforts are much appreciated, as they constitute the solid foundation of the GRC mission – Knowledge for All.

# 01

## GRC OFFICES

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## **ABOUT GRC**

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) was founded in July 2000 by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, a Saudi businessman. Dr. Sager's vision was to fill an important void and to conduct scholarly, high-quality research on all aspects of the wider strategic Gulf region including the GCC countries as well as Iran, Iraq, and Yemen. GRC operates on an independent, non-profit basis.

The Gulf Research Center has been consistently ranked among the top think tanks in the Middle East and worldwide within the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go-To Think Tank Index Report, especially in the areas of foreign policy research and public engagement. The GRC believes that everyone has the right to access knowledge, so it has made all its research available to the public through publications, workshops, seminars, and conferences. As a non-profit organization, GRC injects all income back into new programs and activities.

## **ABOUT THE GULF RESEARCH CENTER FOUNDATION (GRCF)**

The Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRC Foundation or GRCF) was established in 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland. It is by definition a non-profit institution and an umbrella organization under which research, training, and educational programs about the Gulf region are developed and implemented. The GRC Foundation conducts research on Gulf issues, promotes academic excellence both in and about the Gulf region, and ensures objective and comprehensive analysis and information about this vital part of the world. This is accomplished through numerous projects that GRCF carries out, often in partnership with other research organizations. The location of the GRCF in Geneva, a place where exchanges of ideas on issues of global governance and security take place regularly, has been beneficial for its work. Cooperation with renowned research institutions, universities, and other organizations is an essential part of the Foundation's work. In 2011, the Foundation was awarded special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The GRCF is also accredited to the governing council of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). In 2012, the GRCF, together with the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, established the Gulf Labour Markets and Migration (GLMM) Programme, promoting better understanding and policies in these key domains for the Gulf and the countries of origin of the migrants. The Foundation qualifies to receive funding from and participate in programs supported by international organizations, the European Union, the United States, and various independent international foundations. Under the laws of Switzerland and the Canton of Geneva, donors based in Switzerland are eligible to receive tax benefits for supporting the work of the GRC Foundation.

## **ABOUT GRC CAMBRIDGE (GRCC)**

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC) was established in August 2009 through a cooperative effort between the Gulf Research Center Foundation in Geneva and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. The primary goal of the GRCC is to advance

education and research on political, economic, social, environmental, security, and energy issues relating to the Gulf region. One of the key aspects of the work of the GRCC is organizing the annual Gulf Research Meeting at the University of Cambridge. The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge is a non-profit, registered charity organization under the Charity Commission for England and Wales and can therefore receive tax-deductible donations.

### **ABOUT GRC SUPPORT OFFICE: KNOWLEDGE COOPERATION (K-CORP)**

The GRC's support office is based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Knowledge Corporation is a solution provider that specializes in the fields of event management, knowledge and consultancy, ICT, publishing, media production, and training.





**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All

## GRC in 21 Years



**53** Research Programs  
**30** Research Projects



**500+** Conferences, Forums,  
Workshops and Lectures



**37,000+** Event Participants



**180+** Visiting Scholars  
and Interns



**240** Staff (Cumulative) from  
**23** Countries



**320+** Publications



**100,000+** Pages Translated



**1200+** External Research  
Contributors



**12** Accreditations and  
Recognitions



**115+** Cooperation and  
Partnership Agreements



**18** Training and Executive  
Learning Programs with  
**1200+** Participants



**6** Scholarships  
Granted

[www.grc.net](http://www.grc.net)

# 02

## PROJECTS 2021

As a non-profit organization, the GRC engages in externally-funded research projects with a focus on the Gulf region. Such project work also allows for collaboration with other institutions and therefore creates a broader base for scholarship and research activities.

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## TAFAHUM PROJECT

The region of West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP) as a geostrategic space has gained prominence on the international security agenda. For this reason, various external actors have and continue to play an important role in regional affairs. Yet, the interplay between domestic, Middle Eastern regional, and external forces and policies has led to a complex process of trying to protect and maintain the region's precarious stability. The resulting uncertainty regarding the actors' strategic ambitions is aggravated by the absence of a functioning framework in which security issues in their wider sense and meaning can be addressed.

While in the past numerous political and academic proposals for organizing cooperation and security affairs at the regional level have been put forward, a balance-of-power approach remains predominant when it comes to security-related affairs in WAAP. Moreover, neither have these initiatives or ideas brought about a more stable order nor has regional multilateralism ever been seriously attempted. A military paradigm based on mutual antagonisms remains prevalent. Therefore, the core objective of the Tafahum project, which was initiated in 2018 by the Gulf Research Center Foundation and the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO),

is to explore how this perennial cycle of insecurity can be broken and how a medium-term evolutionary process can be put together that overcomes the existing lack of trust and the current political and ideological conflicts defining the region. Tafahum is fully supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.



To prepare the ground for a new concept of regional security, the Tafahum project is outlining a series of cooperative measures that could be envisaged as a part of a wider structured regional security approach. Issue-oriented cooperation between regional actors on

several subjects promoted through the support of external actors is one approach being focused on. The objective of the project is therefore to set up the conditions and mechanisms under which a process towards a regional security arrangement becomes feasible. To this end, the project pursues an activity schedule that includes a research component, a series of conferences and workshops,

regular interactive policy-level exchanges, and policy papers that will ultimately amount to the 'Tafahum 2021' roadmap – a 20-30 page policy report outlining the path towards a regional security arrangement. The roadmap will be published in the first half of 2022.

On December 1, 2021, GRCF and CARPO initiated the next phase of the Tafahum project now called TAFAHUM wa TABADUL, following the signing of a new agreement with the German Federal Foreign Office. The objective of the second stage is translate the shared understanding created during the initial phase into concrete exchange and cooperation mechanisms.

**Various events were held in 2021 as part of the Tafahum project, including the following:**

**Working Group 4: “Media Narratives and Discursive Integration in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula”**

30-31 March, 2021

**Working Group 3: “Counter-Terrorism and Security Sector Reform”**

25-26 May, 2021

**Working Group 1+2: “Towards a Green Recovery in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP)”**

8-9 June, 2021

**Working Group 5: “Reconstruction and Reconciliation Efforts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq”**

25-26 August, 2021

**3rd Annual Conference held in Berlin, Germany**

6-7 September, 2021

**Tafahum Workshop: “Building on the Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership”**

18-19 October, 2021

**Tafahum Workshop: “The Afghanistan Crisis’ and its Geopolitical Impacts”**

9-10 November, 2021

**Tafahum wa Tabadul (Project Phase 2) Coordination Team Meeting**

9-10 December, 2021

## GULF LABOUR MARKETS AND MIGRATION PROGRAMME (GLMM)



The Gulf Labour Markets, Migration and Population (GLMM) Programme, established in March 2013, is an international independent, nonpartisan, non-profit programme of the Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF). The GLMM Programme provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of understanding and management of Gulf labour markets and migration, engaging with and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders.

### Key elements of the GLMM's mission include:

- Taking a comprehensive view, including demographic, economic, legal, social, political, and administrative aspects of labour markets, migration and population
- Collecting relevant data and documents, first and foremost those produced in the countries of the GCC and also in the countries of origin
- Conducting sound academic research and contributing to the development of the field of inquiry
- Presenting policy analyses, representing and respecting all viewpoints
- Distributing the results to the widest range of actors in user-friendly formats
- Engaging in dialogues with all stakeholders
- Providing high quality academic and operational training in order to reinforce the capacities for producing migration-related data and analyses in the GCC
- Contributing to the development of a network of researchers in which GCC nationals and nationals from the countries of origin are strongly represented.

Prof. Philippe Fargues and Prof. Nasra Shah (Lahore School of Economics) are the scientific directors of the Programme and Mr. Imco Brouwer (GRC Foundation) acts as its executive director. Prof. Fargues and Prof. Shah each have more than three decades of experience with data and analyses on population, labour, and migration in Europe, North America, Arab countries including the Gulf, and other parts of the world. Dr. Françoise De Bel-Air acts as the main senior researcher of GLMM. Over the past eight years GLMM has become the main independent reference source for data, laws and research on migration to the GCC countries. GLMM has published more data on GCC migration and population than any other organization including: GCC Stat Center; ESCWA; OECD; ILO; IOM/GMDAC; League of Arab States; Worldbank/Knomad.

One of GLMM's key activities is gathering data published by multiple data sources in the Gulf, processing them, creating regional and time series, and (re)publishing the data on its website. More than 400 legal documents and more than 1,200 tables are available on the GLMM website, which is integrated with the GRC website. GLMM also has a large network of data producers and data users in the GCC countries and beyond, including policy makers and researchers

## GLMM Highlights 2021

Early 2021, GLMM negotiated the funding of a new project with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation the (SDC) and the International Labour Organization Regional Office of Arab States (ROAS) entitled: Tool for Evidence-Based Policies on Migration to the GCC (2021-2023). This project assesses the labour migration statistics for 12 countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

The wide focus of the project implies that a detailed picture is made of all statistical sources of each country concerning population and labour markets. In the project, 12 country reports are produced as well as a regional report and materials for outreach. The papers will be published in early 2022.

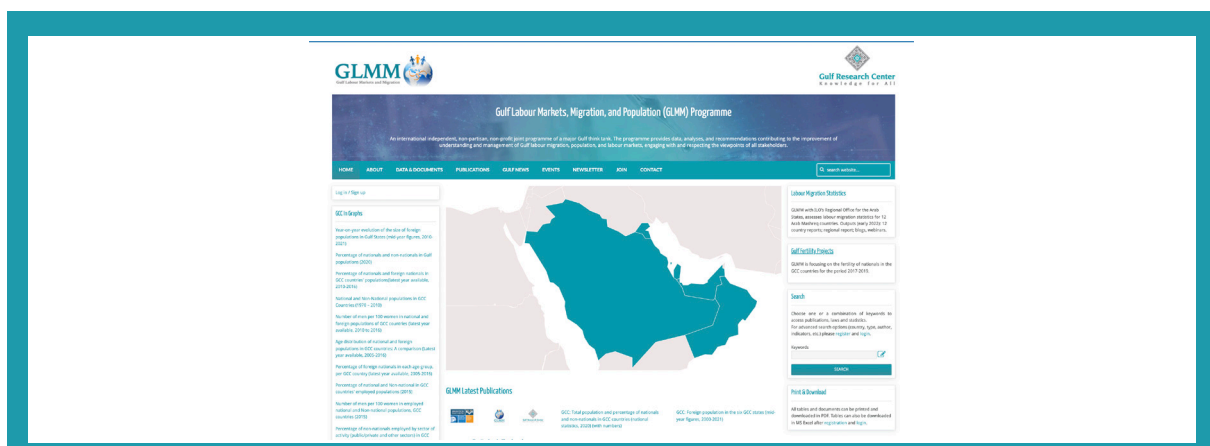
Outreach activities (including blogs and webinars) are scheduled for the period February - May 2022. The GLMM programme also organized a workshop in the framework of the 11th Gulf Research Meeting 23-24 July 2021 on the topic of: [“The COVID-19 Health and Socio-economic Crises: Consequences on Population and Migration in the Gulf”](#).

## GLMM's Website

The website of GLMM contains 1,431 items - tables, documents, and publications. In November 2021, the website was moved from its previous domain to the GRC domain: <https://www.gulfmigration.grc.net>.

While the outline and contents of the website conserved their traditional outlook, the underlying software was fully updated.

The more than 1,000 tables on GLMM's website contain statistics on population, migration and labour markets produced by more than 20 different government agencies of the GCC countries collected over the last decade - <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/>. These include data no longer retrievable on the websites where they were originally published. Thus, the GLMM is a unique and indispensable data source for policy makers, researchers and media personnel concerned with the GCC countries.



## RESEARCH ON SAUDI ARABIA'S REGIONAL AND GLOBAL (RE) POSITIONING: Current Status and New Trends



As part of a contract with the United Nations Office in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Research Center is conducting an assessment of the kingdom's positioning in the region and globally, considering the key trends and ongoing shift in the country's relationships with major players at both levels. The research insight provided seeks to help the UN system better understand the current changes in Saudi Arabia's approach to regional issues.

As part of the project, a series of ten research papers on Saudi Arabia's diplomatic (re)positioning is being produced. Each paper is thematically focused and includes sections on the contextual analysis, the state of current affairs, and the key trends within the specific topics to be covered. The papers will also emphasize the potential challenges and opportunities for the UN system.

The research papers cover the following topics:

- The Saudi presence and involvement in international organizations, including the UN
- The Saudi-Iranian relationships and their regional implications
- The Saudi-Turkish relationships in a changing regional context
- KSA and the Palestinian issue
- KSA and the Yemen crisis
- The Saudi relationships with Egypt and the GCC
- KSA and the Horn of Africa
- The Saudi-US relationships under the Biden administration
- Saudi Arabia and the Indian sub-continent
- KSA and the other global powers (China, Russia)



## Cooperation with the Judge Business School - Center for Strategic Philanthropy at the University of Cambridge



The Gulf Research Center cooperated with the Centre for Strategic Philanthropy at the Judge Business School of the University of Cambridge, and Alnahdi Family Organization (NFO) to produce a report on Saudi philanthropy in terms of the core sectoral focus. The work assesses how existing giving is aligned with Vision 2030 and identifies key market gaps where NFO could potentially allocate its philanthropic investment, particularly in the health/education nexus. The report is based on primary and secondary data sources, including research on the sector and field research in the form of interviews with sector practitioners. This report constitutes the initial resource that allows for the identification of the most suitable NFO intervention by ensuring that it is aligned with national development, not duplicating existing programs and where possible, collaborating with like-minded multi-sector actors.

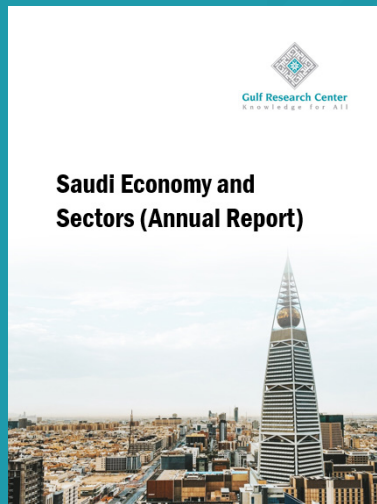
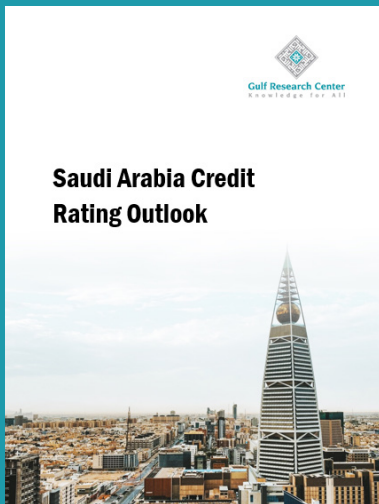
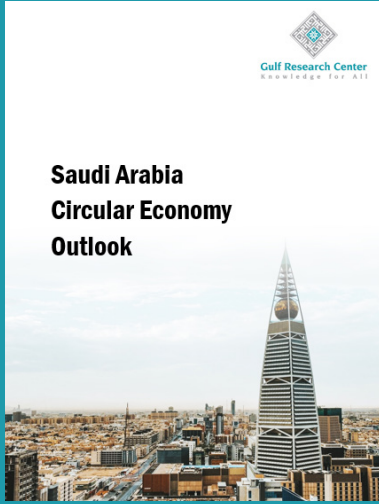
### SAUDI UNIVERSITIES MoU RESEARCH PROJECT

The goal of the Saudi University MoU Project was to provide a comprehensive vision of partnerships linking Saudi universities with local as well as foreign institutions and to present an overview of the various types of agreements that are used to formalize such partnerships. The project involved surveying public and private universities in Saudi Arabia as well as conducting global interviews to understand the dynamics of partnership agreements in Saudi Arabia and globally.

Specifically, the project addressed the following issues: investigating the various types of university partnership agreements, as well as their benefits and drawbacks; presenting a template for each type of partnership agreement; enhancing the implementation process of partnership agreements by specifying and illustrating a step-by-step process for the development of such agreements, including both pre-signing (approval) and post-signing (follow-up) phases; identifying KPIs to measure the effectiveness of partnership agreements; presenting future perspectives and plans for establishing partnership agreements in the future, and addressing associated challenges.

### SAUDI ECONOMIC SECTOR STUDY REPORTS

This economic sector study aims to produce a series of reports on the different economic sectors of the kingdom for The Communication and Financial Knowledge Center. The goal of the reports was to deepen the financial and economic knowledge through four sector reports focusing on the circular economy, the future sectors and their impact in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia's credit rating outlook, and an annual report on the Saudi economy and sectors. As part of their collaboration, the GRC and the Communication and Financial Knowledge Center aim to develop knowledge exchanges to better implement Vision 2030, especially in the financial and economic sectors. This will be achieved through educational awareness and exchanges between both centers to provide research initiatives in the service of the local community and the Saudi economic sector.



## MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL, RURAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (MoMRA) RESEARCH SERVICE PROJECT 2020 – 2021

The Gulf Research Center supported the work of the Saudi Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs and Housing (MoMRA) through a research services project. This project took place from November 2020 to October 2021 and involved the supply of market research services to MoMRA. A broad range of topics related to Saudi Arabia was addressed by this project, including:

- Detailed analysis of various sectors (maintenance and operations; communication and information technology; construction; engineering).
- Analysis of a variety of technologies, including city cleaning and construction.
- Analysis and indexing of various areas of focus and services, including: urban transformation, corporate social responsibility, real estate development, freelance work licensing, applications for contractors, city services, home services, and UN-Habitat services to support sustainable urbanization.
- Analysis and modelling of long-term leasing and the transformation of contracting.
- Analysis of possible future development paths and outlooks for various industries, including: tourism; banking and finance; entertainment; healthcare; renewable energy; and logistics;
- Analysis of the development of potential future sectors and a circular economy.

This project also involved the development of a website and a mobile application to support the work of MoMRA. A total of 47 research, analysis, and development activities were carried out as part of this project.



# 03

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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## ARAA MAGAZINE

'Araa,' is an Arabic word meaning opinions or perspectives, and Araa Magazine, *مجلة آراء حول الخليج*, (translating as Perspectives from around the Gulf), is a monthly periodical that focuses on the affairs of the Gulf region, providing in-depth analysis in Arabic on current affairs in Gulf security, politics, economics, environment, energy, and social issues, in addition to the challenges that the region is facing in these areas. Araa was the first Gulf periodical specializing in Gulf affairs bringing together a network of more than 600 contributing writers including scholars, academics, and other specialists working in the Gulf region. It stands as a concrete reference for those in academia and higher education working at various universities across the region. Araa Magazine is an independent platform that provides a space for differing opinions within a framework of social and moral responsibility. In 2021, Araa published 340 articles written by 400 authors that focused on 50 different regional studies and topics. <https://www.araa.sa>



**The following are the twelve issues of Araa Magazine that were published in 2021:**



Issue 157 (January 2021): A Year's Dedication Complete, and the New Year's Commitment



Issue 158 (February 2021): Gulf Development Visions 2030: Opportunities and Challenges



Issue 159 (March 2021): Features of Biden's Policy Orientation Towards the Middle East and the Gulf Region



Issue 160 (April 2021): The Iranian Nuclear Program: Challenges and Fate



Issue 161 (May 2021): Yemen after 6 Years of Houthi Intransigence: Challenges and Opportunities



Issue 162 (June 2021): The Continent of Africa: A Foresight Vision for Crises and Solutions



Issue 163 (July 2021): 40 Years since the Establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council: Achievements and Ambitions



Issue 164 (August 2021): 30 Years since the Liberation of Kuwait: Consequences and Lessons Learned



Issue 165 (September 2021): The Future of Gulf-China Relations in a Changing World



Issue 166 (October 2021): The Taliban's Return to Rule in Afghanistan: Internal Repercussions and Regional Effects



Issue 167 (November 2021): AUKUS Agreement and its Impact on Global Alliances and the Gulf Region



Issue 168 (December 2021): Culture in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries... A March of Creativity and Giving

## GULF RESEARCH MEETING

The annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) identifies subjects of importance to the Gulf region, stimulates research in these subject areas, and provides a forum for broad dissemination of the research results. All of this is intended to help generate solutions to many of the challenges facing the Gulf region. The Gulf Research Meeting provides an academic environment to foster Gulf studies and promote scholarly exchanges among scholars focusing on the Gulf region. A particular focus is given to bringing young scholars into the debate and allowing them to take part in research collaboration.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 11th Annual Gulf Research Meeting 2021 was held virtually for the first time from 23-24 July 2021. In this context, the GRM had to redirect its energies to focus on the various ways that COVID-19 has impacted in-person activities. The GRM team designed and built its virtual system to host 158 total participants in an online environment in 11 different online workshops with 116 papers presented and directed by 30 workshop directors. The Opening Ceremony of the GRM 2021 included keynote speeches from H.E. Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, Secretary-General of Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, H.E. Dr Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Secretary-General of the Muslim World League, Professor Brendan Simms, Director of the Centre for Geopolitics, Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge, and Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations (NCUSAR).

### GRM 2021 Workshops:

- The Gulf, Russia, and the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
- The COVID-19 Health and Socio-economic Crises: Consequences on Population and Migration in the Gulf
- Saudi Youth 'Policy Relevance': Dilemmas, Challenges, Opportunities
- Nationalisation of GCC Labor Markets: The Changing Role of Higher Education in the Era of the 4th Industrial Revolution
- Maritime Security and the Gulf States: Changing Strategies, New Political Rationales
- Europe and the Multipolarization of the Gulf
- Foreign Aid and the Gulf States
- Energy Transition and Climate Change, Challenges and Opportunities for the Gulf Region
- Art, Museums and Cultural Initiatives in the Arabian Gulf: An Examination of Future Directions in a Shifting Political World
- Psychosocial Impacts and Social Policy Responses to the COVID 19 Pandemic in the Gulf Region
- The United States and the Gulf: Hard Power, Soft Power, Shifting Power, New Power?

## Gulf Research Meeting 2021 Virtual System

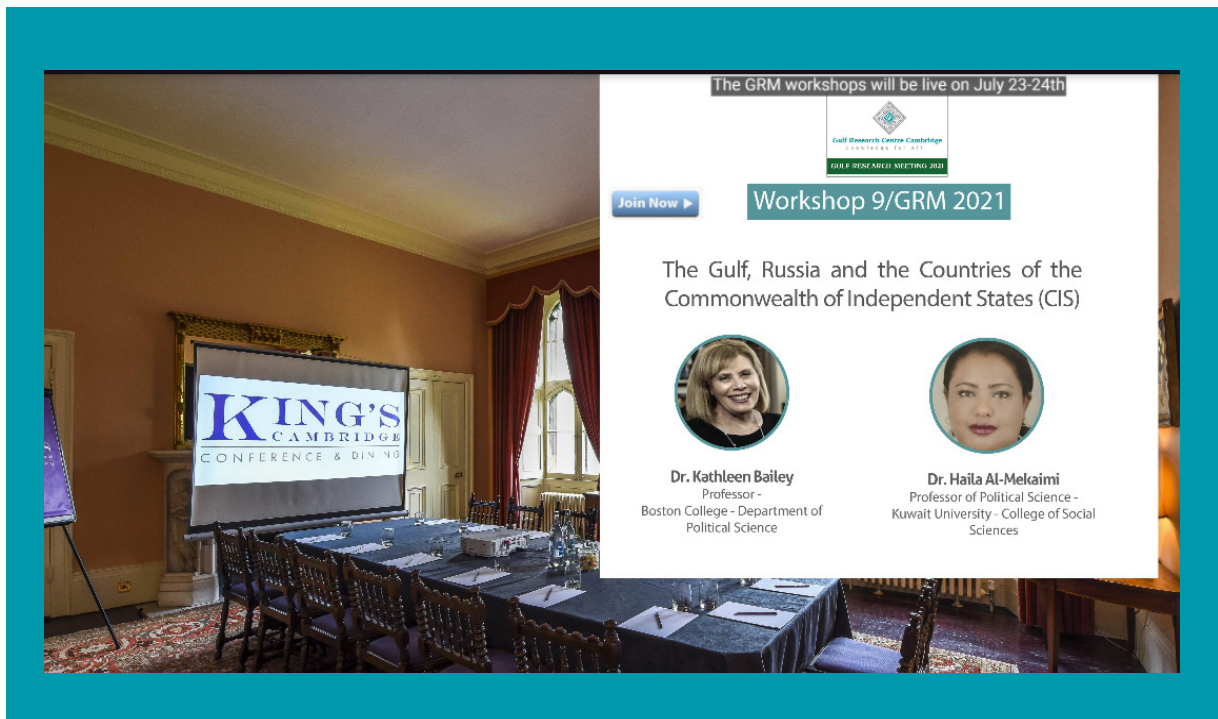
Figure 1: The GRM Opening Ceremony Keynote Speakers



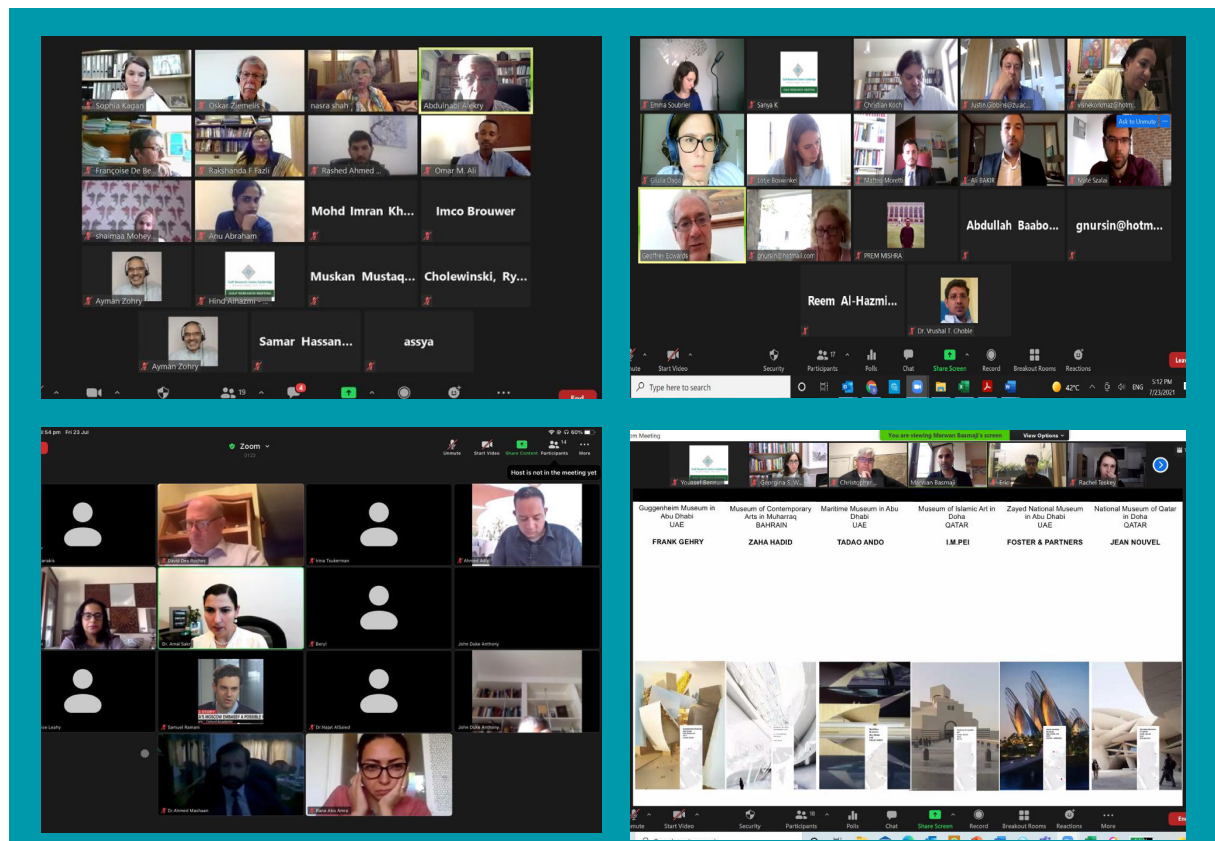
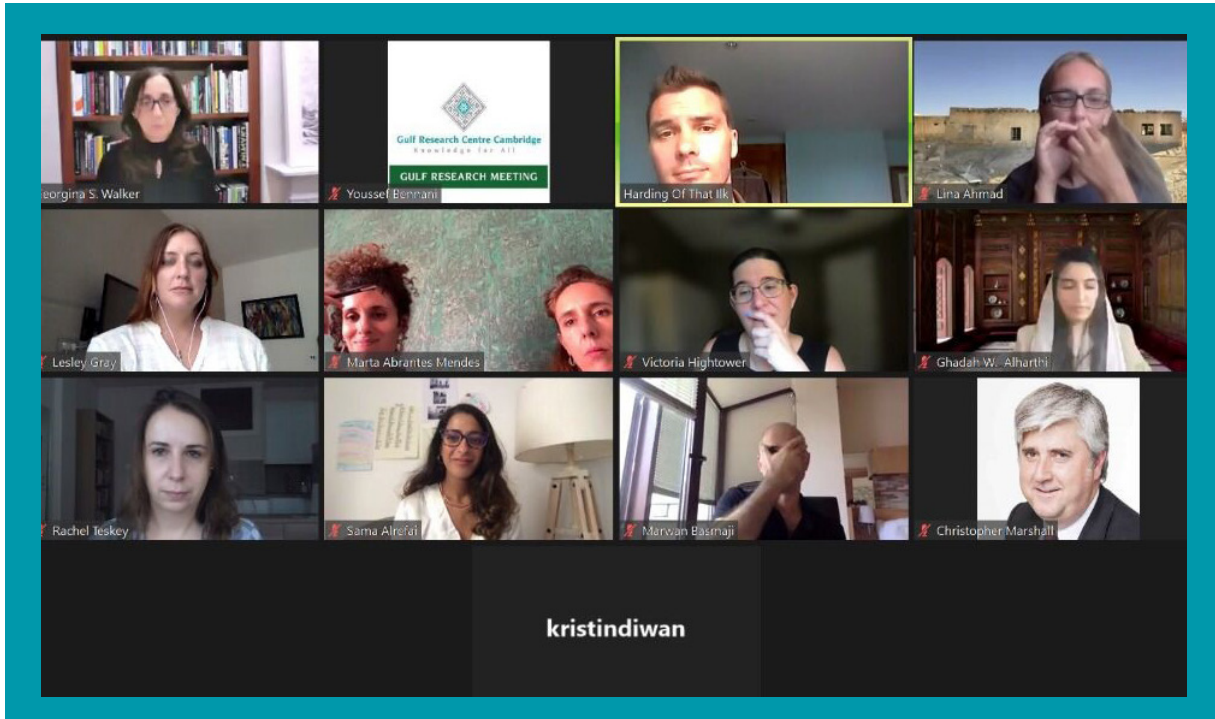
**Figure 2:** The GRM team developed the main landing page of the virtual reception of the GRM 2021 workshops



**Figure 3:** GRM participants were able to select their workshops and enter their virtual workshop room where the workshops took place on both days



**Figure 4:** Screenshots of various GRM 2021 online workshop discussions





Gulf Research Centre Cambridge  
Knowledge for All

# 11 Years of the Gulf Research Meeting



11

Years



1930

Hours



34

Institutions



3358

Participants



127

Workshops



52

Books  
Published

[www.gulfresearchmeeting.net](http://www.gulfresearchmeeting.net)

## RIYADH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR (RIBF)

Events are an essential part of the Gulf Research Center's activity because they facilitate cooperation and link the GRC to a global network of knowledgeable people. The Riyadh International Book Fair 21' (RIBF21') is one of GRC's significant involvements in 2021. The RIBF is a platform for companies, institutions, and individuals working and interested in the literature, publishing, and translation sectors. The book fair is considered the largest in the region, in terms of the number of guests, sales, volume, diversity of its cultural programs, and participation of the most prominent Arab and international publishing houses.

This year's edition featured Iraq as the guest of honor, as well as several Iraqi intellectuals and artists. The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and was attended by Iraq's Minister of Culture, Hassan Nadhem, and Egypt's Minister of Culture, Ines Abdel-Dayem. Saudi Culture Minister Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan launched the Riyadh International Book Fair by welcoming writers, publishers, cultural figures, and leaders from all around the world.

“*I congratulate you for having delivered an excellent conference” - Lucio Frigo, the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of MATERIA*

”

Throughout the 10-day event, the RIBF21' offered a range of fascinating discussions, workshops, lectures, as well as reading stations situated throughout the fair and meetups with authors. Writers, publishers, cultural figures, and politicians from all over the world attended the 10-day festival, which featured a great range of book booths on humanities, economics, science, children's literature, and other topics.

The Gulf Research Center had an important role in organizing two of the key programs of the RIBF21'. One of these programs was the Cultural Program that followed three main tracks: (1) “Book Talks”, (2) “Cultural Encounters” (3) “Honorary Awards Ceremony”. The book talks introduced eight Arab and international authors to talk about their works and reflect on their experiences. Authors included Prince Turki Al Faisal Al-Saud, Saudi author Abdullah Al Juma, Kuwaiti novelist Mishaal Hamad, Jordanian novelist Ayman Al Atoum, American author Jordan Belfort, Kuwaiti novelist Saud Al Senousi, British chef and author Marco Pierre White, and Chris Gardner, American author of the famous book “The Pursuit of Happiness”. The cultural encounters featured more than 100 guests from all over the world introducing and discussing various cultural and literary seminars, as well as poetry featuring a selection of Nabati and El Fasih poets. The program took place on the main stage of the Riyadh International Book Fair.

The GRC also organized the content for the two-day hybrid Professional Publishing Conference. The B2B panel discussions featured forty-eight speakers, eight of which participated virtually. Featured speakers included Dr. Alhanoof Al-Debasi, the Executive Director of Copyright at Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property; Mr. Bill Kennedy, the Director of Avicenna Partnership; Dr. Bianca Matzek, the Head of Editorial Europe and Publishing Director Europe at Peter Lang Group; Brendan J Sherar, the Founder of Biblio; and Hebah Fisher, the Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Kerning Cultures Network.

The Professional Publishing Conference consisted of two keynote speeches: (1) “Global Publishing:

“*Success was for sure due to your attention for details” - Mohammed Babelli, the Founder and General Manager of Desert Publisher*

”

The Way Forward” by Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi who is President of the International Publishers Association (IPA) and Chief Executive Officer and founder of Kalimat Publishing Group and (2) “\$5.77B Manga Industry: Coming to the Arab World” by Dr. Essam Bukhary who is the Chief Executive Officer of Manga Productions.

“*You all did a fabulous job to make the Bookfair a success and we very much enjoyed being involved” - Charlotte Ellis, the Head of Strategic Marketing at National Geographic Learning*

”

**Additionally, a total of twelve panel discussions took place:**

- Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property
- Publishing Value Chain for Start-Ups: From Publisher to Libraries to the Readers
- The Transformation Towards Digital Books
- Publishing Meets Film: Film and the Various Possibilities in the Expression, Framing and Adaptation of Published Content
- Children’s Books: Creative Storytelling and Illustration
- Digital Distribution in a Technical Age and Print on Demand
- Is the Publishing Industry Ready for Artificial Intelligence?

- The Role of the Literary Agent in Translation, Copyright Protection, and Fields within Book Translation
- The Future of Publishing
- The Relationship Between Books and Podcasts
- Documenting the Change
- Meeting KSA Publishers

**Pictures of the various B2B hybrid panel sessions at the Riyadh International Book Fair**



## JOINT COOPERATION WITH ADASTRA



On June 3, 2021, the GRC and ADASTRA cooperated in a webinar, followed by a joint paper to addressing “Ukraine-Saudi Arabia Relations: Challenges and Prospects for Cooperation.” The webinar invited H. E. Vakhryshch Vadym, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with regional experts from both think tanks to discuss the status of the relations and possible future areas of growth and improved ties. Issues addressed included the idea of building bridges of multilateralism and forming alliances and partnerships between the regions; building a comprehensive and stable partnership; establishing better understanding about both regions and the conflicts surrounding the regions; and how previous cooperation in agriculture, energy, and religious tourism between both countries can be enhanced.

The webinar was followed by a joint paper focusing on approaches to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. The paper further explored possible areas of cooperation in economics, agriculture, aircraft and space developments, energy, tourism, culture, and education, as well as in political and military fields.

## JOINT COOPERATION WITH GEOCASE



On March 11, 2021, the GRC cooperated in a joint webinar with Geocase titled “Georgia and Saudi Arabia: Realities and Opportunities” during which the two organizations also signed an MoU agreement. The webinar featured keynote speeches from both H.E. Abdullah bin Hajjaj Al-Mutairi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Georgia, and H.E. Vakhtang Jaoshvili, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Saudi Arabia. The following discussion was moderated by Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase, and speakers included Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, Dr. John Sfakianakis, GRC Program Director of Economic Research and Chief Economist, and Emil Avdaliani, Non-resident Fellow from Geocase.

The webinar was followed by a joint paper entitled “Georgia-Saudi Arabia Relations: Challenges and Untapped Potential” focusing on areas of cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Georgia. The paper examined primarily economic issues including tourism, deepening business and commercial relations, as well as progress in the field of military cooperation. The paper also addresses the connections between the Gulf region and the Caucasus region in formulating policies to deal with intra- and interregional affairs, not only for the counties of both regions but also for external actors that are interested and engaged in the two regions. Given that both countries are keen to expand their footprints in the direction of South and East Asia, the paper

argues for a closer and more proactive partnership that would strengthen cooperation between the international community and the governments of Saudi Arabia and Georgia.

**Figure 5:** Screenshot of the GRC-GEOCASE webinar



## GRC ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH PROGRAM WEBINAR

### From Glasgow COP 26 to Abu Dhabi COP 28

The focus of the webinar was on the main outcome of the Climate talks in Glasgow in November 2021 and its implications for the next two COP Meetings which will be held in the MENA region - COP 27 in Egypt and COP 28 in the United Arab Emirates. The discussion also included the issue of energy transition given that this is a key topic for the GCC region.

The event was moderated by Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Manager at the Gulf Research Center.

As the first speaker, **Dr. Mari Loumi**, Research Fellow at the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) in Riyadh, argued that COP 26 was crucial for the Paris Agreement's credibility and as such several important steps were taken. This included the progress of transparency rules, on article 6 in terms of double counting and adaptation finance, as well as an agreement on a common timeframe for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). For 'developing country issues', positive steps can be cited in terms of a global goal work programme on adaptation, on financial issues such as the US \$100 billion goals 'tracker' and climate finance definition, and the establishment of a dialogue mechanism for loss and damage issues. As she mentioned, the COP 26 outcome also included many 'firsts' for example in terms of references to coal, fossil fuel subsidies, just transition, carbon budgets, and methane.

On the Road to COP 27, countries will have to work on better adaptation communications, put forward low GHG development strategies as well as provide NDC updates to strengthen the 2030 targets. For the region, Dr. Loumi mentioned that it would be important to work on turning regional priorities into ambition-raising platforms especially in Adaptation, Natural endowments (clear emission roadmaps with milestones), and Science (here, a cooperation platform for regional climate scientists and researchers).

**Ms. Ruba Aljour** from the Royal Scientific Society in Jordan highlighted that COP26 introduced a broad, political "cover decision" – the "Glasgow Climate Pact" – calling for renewed efforts to raise ambition on cutting emissions, climate finance, adaptation, and the loss and damage already being caused by warming. The pact "requests" countries to raise their ambition again next year and creates a "Glasgow Dialogue" on funding for loss and damage, as well as pledging to double adaptation finance. It was also the first-ever COP decision to explicitly target action against fossil fuels, calling for a "phasedown of unabated coal" and "phase-out" of "inefficient" fossil-fuel subsidies.

Additional positive takeaways included that countries, companies, and investors announced plans to accelerate the shift away from coal power and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, to drastically cut methane emissions, to halt and reverse forest loss, and to align private investments to net-zero. Also, COP 26 provided the platform for the US and China to finally agree to work

together on limiting a rise in global temperature to 1.5°C, which could herald a crucial era of climate cooperation.

With Egypt hosting COP27 in November 2022, the perspective will shift to the Global South's leadership role and look more deeply into adaptation gaps. Here, she mentioned that this would be important to push the adaptation agenda forward by looking at nature-based solutions.

For the UAE and COP, the UAE and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) already announced the launch of the Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform, a new global climate finance facility to accelerate the transition to renewable energy in developing countries, on the sidelines of COP26, in Glasgow, United Kingdom. The UAE further committed \$400 million in funding provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) toward the platform's goal of securing a minimum of \$1 billion in total funding. The US and the UAE also announced the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) with more than \$4 billion of increased investment sourced from 33 countries for climate-smart agriculture solutions.

**Mr. Ahmed Samir Elbermbali** of the Clean Energy Business Council provided a presentation of the Clean Energy Market in MENA in terms of Finance, Mobility, Hydrogen, and Energy Efficiency, highlighting that only 7% of power in the region today comes from renewable energy.

He mentioned that the main barriers to scaling up finance included:

- The high cost of capital due to perceived or actual risks of investing in developing countries
- Difficulty in transferring technologies and solutions to fragile contexts
- Political economy of transitioning from an extractive industry to renewables
- Difficulties connecting renewable energy solutions to existing grids
- Low awareness among investors about suitable renewable energy solutions
- Lack of access to finance for SMEs that offer tailored renewable energy solutions
- Lack of industrial or commercial storage to meet consumption patterns
- Access to primary resources from outside the region – reliance on international trade

To improve the clean energy market in the region, Mr. Elbermbali suggested the elimination of subsidies of fossil fuels, better and more widespread use of clean energy & clean technology, the introduction of E-transport systems, the adoption of a Zero Net Emissions Policy, and unified regional standards to remove barriers to trade and investment. Other adoption innovations could include improved energy storage, the implementation of Blockchain (for power/grid chain), and the use of artificial intelligence to increase efficiency.

**Dr. Cinzia Bianco** highlighted the visible changes occurring at the GCC level including net-zero trends and green initiatives but tied those developments to external perspectives such as cooperation with the European Union. She mentioned that the EU's focus on climate protection and energy transition and the 'EU Green Deal' provide a good foundation for expanding collaboration with the GCC states. One area of potential better ties is the issue of decarbonization in sectors such

as transport for instance. The GCC states need to be aware that in the lead-up to COP 28, several European countries will push for a significant shift away from fossil fuel to push for climate goals. This, however, also allows for opportunities such as Germany cooperating with Saudi Arabia and the UAE on hydrogen power, as well as a joint investment to export green hydrogen to Europe in the future.

In the discussion that followed, numerous issues were raised including the role of youth and civil society engagement and cooperation. In addition, participants highlighted areas in which there existed great potential for further advances in terms of clean energies and clean industries. So far, the youth segment is not part of the wider fabric when it comes to societal engagement although the number of good initiatives for greater involvement has increased. The last two years alone have seen youth moving into positions in various government entities including in leadership positions. It was equally important to encourage greater integration by the private sector and by climate entrepreneurs.

The bottom line was that countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE needed to be on board given their role as large oil producers. With the GCC being an important link to the Mediterranean region, the GCC can trigger a lot of development and cooperation.

## From Glasgow COP 26 to Abu Dhabi COP 28

Roundtable Webinar

**Moderator**



**Mohamed Abdelraouf**  
Program Manager  
Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program  
Gulf Research Center (GRC)  
KSA

**Speakers**



**Ruba Ajjour**  
Manager of Climate Change Studies  
Royal Scientific Society (RSS)  
JORDAN



**Ahmed S. Elbermbali**  
Managing Director  
Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC)  
UAE



**Cinzia Bianco**  
Visiting Fellow  
European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)  
GERMANY



**Mari Luomi**  
Research Fellow  
King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)  
KSA

**December 15th**  
16:00 – 17:15 KSA



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All



Mari Luomi, Research Fellow II  
Climate and Environment, KAPSARC

### COP 26 and next steps for the region





## GRC - RECONNAISSANCE CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND STUDIES JOINT ARTICLE



The GRC cooperated with the Reconnaissance Center for Research and Studies on a joint online article discussing the relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

الرئيسية اخبار الكويت أدب وثقافة عربية وعالمية اقتصاد وأعمال رياضة المجتمع فنون منوعات حول العالم كتاب وآراء تقارير خاصة الأخيرة Alanbaa English

9 - تعطل عمليات التنمية وتراجع اقتصادات المنطقة.

والآن بعد 30 عاما من تحرير الكويت، وبعد أن عادت الكويت كما كانت مزدهرة ومستقلة.. تنامت ما حدث واقتربت كثيرا من العراق وساهمت في تبني إعادة إعمارها وتعمل جاهدة على ترسيخ سياسة حسن الجوار، كما تعمل المملكة العربية السعودية أيضا على تحسين العلاقات مع العراق بكل الطرق والوسائل بجهود مشتركة مخصصة بين القيادتين في الرياض وبغداد، ويساعد على تحقيق ذلك وجود قيادة عراقية حاليا تعمل على تعافي العراق واستعادة قوته وازدهار اقتصاده وبناء علاقات طبيعية مع دول الجوار الخليجي والعربي.

أفاق وتطلعات سمو الامير محمد بن سلمان في العلاقات الكويتية - السعودية

أوضح د.عبدالعزیز بن صقر أن العلاقة بين المملكة العربية السعودية والكويت متميزة جدا ولها خصوصيتها التاريخية والاستراتيجية لما يربطهما من وشائج وعلاقات، وتستمد أهدافها المستقبلية من رؤية القيادة في البلدين بتوجيهات من خادم الحرمين الشريفين الملك سلمان بن عبدالعزيز وأخيه صاحب السمو الأمير الشيخ نواف الأحمد، ويمتابة وتطلعات من صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير محمد بن سلمان ولي العهد نائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء ووزير الدفاع بالتعاون المباشر مع ولي عهد دولة الكويت سمو الشيخ مشعل الاحمد الجابر الصباح انطلاقا من رؤية سموه الثاقبة لأهمية التكامل الخليجي في جميع النواحي، ولحرص سموه الشديد على أمن منطقة الخليج وتحقيق التوازن الاستراتيجي في المنطقة ورؤية سموه الاقتصادية المتقدمة جدا والتي تجسدت في رؤية 2030 في المملكة بأبعادها وامتدادها لدول مجلس التعاون الخليجي بصفة عامة، ولقد أكدت الأحداث والخطوات المهمة لتنقية الأجواء الخليجية وإقامة المشروعات الاستراتيجية المشتركة مع سلطنة عمان ومع الكويت ومع بقية دول مجلس التعاون، سلامة توجهات

مركز ريكونسنس للبحوث والدراسات

مركز الخليج للأبحاث  
المرفقة للمجموع

# 04

## Building Partnerships for a Better Gulf - New GRC Memoranda of Understanding

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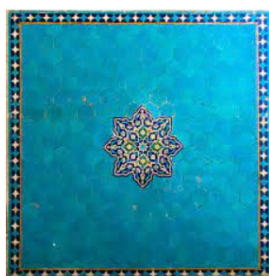
## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A BETTER GULF

Collaboration with think tanks and research organizations is a vital part of the Gulf Research Center's mandate. The cooperation agreements that the center has signed with several institutions worldwide aim to support the areas of research, policy facilitation, and implementation of long-term conditions for peace, security, and sustainable development. In partnering with institutions of interest, we hope to work in pursuit of creating greater national, regional, and international awareness on issues pertaining to security and stability in the Gulf region and beyond.

Over the course of 2021, the Gulf Research Center finalized 6 new Memoranda of Understanding with research organizations in India, Europe and the United States. The agreements outlined cooperation in terms of conducting original research on issues pertaining to peace, security and stability, trade, energy, and resources as well as language and culture in the Gulf region and beyond:

### STIMSON

Together with the Henry L. Stimson Center (Washington D.C., USA), the GRC is looking to collaborate on three thematic issues: developments in Sub-Saharan Africa; Afghanistan and its neighbors; and a transatlantic agenda for the Middle East. Concept papers are being developed for each issue followed by joint funding applications to interested organizations.



The GRC signed a MoU with the Institute of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (IMEIS; University of Durham, UK) in November 2021. In addition to the development of PhD-level and Early Career Researcher training opportunities, GRC and IMEIS will co-host an annual workshop of issues relevant to the Gulf region and its respective communities. The aim is to jointly develop a "knowledge hub" to extend the network of expertise surrounding the GRC and IMEIS.



Expanding on the successful cooperation in the Tafahum project, GRC and the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO; Bonn, Germany) signed a MoU to cover their joint work on the Tafahum wa Tabadul project (see Projects section) as well as collaboration on joint project with the EU in Brussels and additional projects funded by European governments.



Broadening the geographical scope of GRC's cooperation, another MoU was signed with the Elcano Royal Institute in Madrid, Spain. The objective here is to work together on projects relating to security and stability in the Gulf region as well as the Mediterranean European neighborhood.



Complementing GRC's expertise and partnerships concerning issues of peace, security, and stability with original research on the environment and climate, resources, and sustainability, an MoU was signed with The Energy and Resource Institute in New Delhi, India (TERI).



UNIVERSITÄT  
LEIPZIG

Finally, the GRC signed a MoU with the Oriental Institute at Leipzig University, Germany in pursuit of creating greater national, regional, and international awareness on issues pertaining to society and politics as well as language and culture in the Gulf region and the wider Arab and Islamic world.

## The GRC also signed the following agreements in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:



Memorandum of Understanding with the Muslim World League on [March 14, 2021](#)



Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Planning Institute on [May 31, 2021](#)



Memorandum of Understanding with the Communication and Financial Knowledge Center (CFKC) on [June 2, 2021](#)





Memorandum of Understanding with Saudi Telecom Company (STC) on June 7, 2021



Signed contract with King Saud University represented by the Dean of the King Abdullah Institute for Research and Consulting Studies on June 24, 2021



Signed contract with King Abdulaziz University represented by the Dean of the Institute of Research and Consultations on August 1, 2021

# 05

## GRC EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS (TIMELINE OF EVENTS)

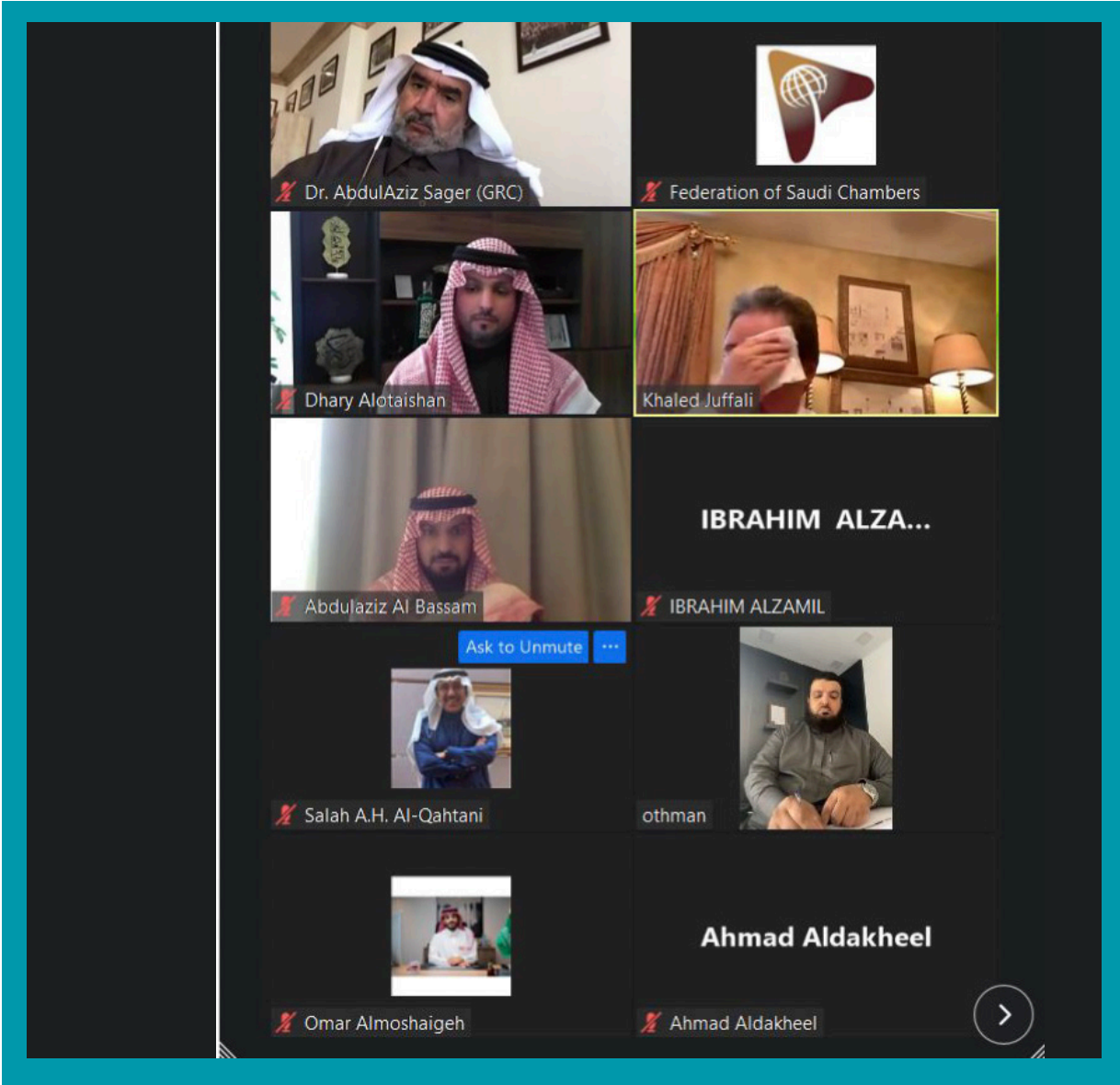
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## GRC EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS (TIMELINE OF EVENTS)

Throughout 2021, the GRC participated in numerous external events, both online and in person, on issues pertaining to the developments in the Gulf region and its wider neighborhood. GRC places particular emphasis on such participation as it allows for a regional perspective to be included in the overall debate. The following is an overview of the key events that the GRC participated in.

**December 30** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the Executive Committee Members meeting of the Saudi Germany Business Council

**December 16** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the Council of Councils (CoC) fourth virtual conference organized by The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)



**December 5 - 7** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the 2021 GLOBAL THINK TANK SUMMIT “Global Trends and Transitions in Think Tanks, Politics and Policy Advice in the Age of Policy Dilemmas and Disruptions” held in Manama, Bahrain



**December 1** – Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the panel for “Freedom of expression and the rule of law in the Middle East” at the Reuters Next Virtual Global Conference.”

**November 29 – December 2** - Dr. Vera Lalchevska participated in the Building Bridges Week, which took place in Geneva. Building Bridges is an open and collaborative effort launched in 2019 by Swiss public authorities, the finance community, the United Nations, and other international partners to accelerate the transition to a global economic model aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

**November 24** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the meeting of the Group of Strategic Vision (GSV) “Russia - Islamic World” under the theme “Dialogue and Prospects for Cooperation.”

**November 22 - 23** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated virtually in the special ten-year anniversary edition of the Berlin Foreign Policy Forum 2021

**November 19 – 21** – Dr. Abdulaiz Sager and Dr. Christian Koch were delegates at the Manama Dialogue Conference organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) held in Manama, Bahrain



**November 17** – Dr. Christian Koch was a speaker, Roundtable Discussion on “Regional Security in the Gulf” **organised by** the Finnish Institute of International Affairs **and** held at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, New York

**November 15 and 16** – Dr. Christian Koch was a speaker at the Second International Expert Meeting on the Gulf Area Security Concept, Moscow, hosted by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

**November 11 - 13** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated virtually in the 4th edition of the Paris Peace Forum

**November 11** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the panel on “Saudi-Iran relations: Are they approaching?” held within the framework of the JIME-IEEJ International Symposium 2021

**November 9 and 10** – Dr. Christian Koch attended the Tafahum Afghanistan Workshop

**November 1 - 5** - Dr. Oskar Ziemelis, Dr. Vera Lalchevska, Ms. Layla Ali and Ms. Kinda Bakr participated in Geneva Peace Week, which offers an opportunity to connect and expand the space for building peace and resolving conflict through dialog and negotiation. Geneva Peace Week is a flagship initiative of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), and the Platform’s five partners – the Graduate Institute’s Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP); the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF); the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); Interpeace; and the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO). Geneva Peace Week is also supported by the government of Switzerland.

**October 27** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in a webinar entitled “India-GCC: Prospects for Post-Pandemic Trade Cooperation and Economic Recovery” at the Arabian Sea Dialogues hosted by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and the Arab Planning Institute

**October 16 - 18** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the 5th anniversary of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) under the theme of “Invest in Humanity”

**October 13** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the virtual private roundtable on “De-escalation in the Middle East: A pause or the new trend?” hosted by The Royal Institute of International Affairs - Chatham House

**October 13** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the private round table discussion: “Beyond Yemen’s Borders” co-organized by the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Yemen (OSEGY), the Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies and King’s College London, Department of Geography and Institute for Middle Eastern Studies

**October 12** - Dr. John Sfakianakis participated in the Chatham House Discussion on the Future of the Middle East

**October 6** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in “The Maritime & Energy Security in the Gulf” seminar co-organized by The NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative Regional Centre in Kuwait and the NATO HUB for the South



**October 1 - 6** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the Riyadh International Book Fair in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**September 30** – Dr. Christian Koch was a speaker at the roundtable with the Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on “Europe’s Role in Gulf Security”

**September 24 - October 6** – Dr. Christian Koch went on a regional trip to Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Key meetings included:

- Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs, H.E. Khalifa Al-Harthy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman
- Minister of Tourism and Heritage, H.E. Salim Al-Mahruqi, Sultanate of Oman
- H.E. Abdulrahman Al-Khulaifi, Ambassador Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar
- GCC Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs, H.E. Abdulaziz Aluwaisheq, GCC Secretariat, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**September 21** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the virtual FIJ Institute Series event “Health is Wealth”

**September 21** - Dr. John Sfakianakis attended the Chatham House conference on “Energy Market and Oil”

**September 8 - 12** – Dr. Christian Koch was a speaker in a conference organized by the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation on “Europe and the Gulf States: Developing a Common European Political, Economic and Security Vision towards the Gulf States” held in Cadenabbia, Italy

**September 5 - 7** – Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Dr. Christian Koch, Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf attended the Third Annual Tafahum Conference in Berlin, Germany. Dr. Sager was a keynote speaker in the first session of the event.

**September 3 - 5** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in a panel entitled “Middle East: Dum Spiro, Spero (Cicero): While I Breathe, I Hope” held as part of the the 14th Lennart Meri Conference (LMC) in Tallinn, Estonia.



**August 25 - 26** – Dr. Christian Koch attended the Tafahum Working Group 5 meeting, Bonn, Germany

**August 25** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the Bahraini newspaper Al-Bilad forum on the security system of the Gulf and Arab countries



**August 25** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the Executive Committee Members meeting of the Saudi Germany Business Council.

**August 8** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the second edition of Diraya's program focusing on developing national capabilities in regional/international events organized by the SALAM Project for Cultural Communication



**July 28** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the NATO Defense College Foundation Conference entitled: "Black Sea and Balkan Perspectives, A strategic region" organized in cooperation with the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, the NATO Public Diplomacy Division and the NATO Defense College

**July 23 - 24** - As part of the 11th Gulf Research Meeting, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager provided a keynote speech at the opening ceremony while Dr. Christian Koch served as Director for the workshop "Europe and the Multipolarization in the Gulf" and Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf as Director for the workshop "Energy Transition and Climate Change, Challenges and Opportunities for the Gulf Region"

**July 22** - Dr. Christian Koch had a discussion with Manal Al-Radwan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, held in Brussels, Belgium

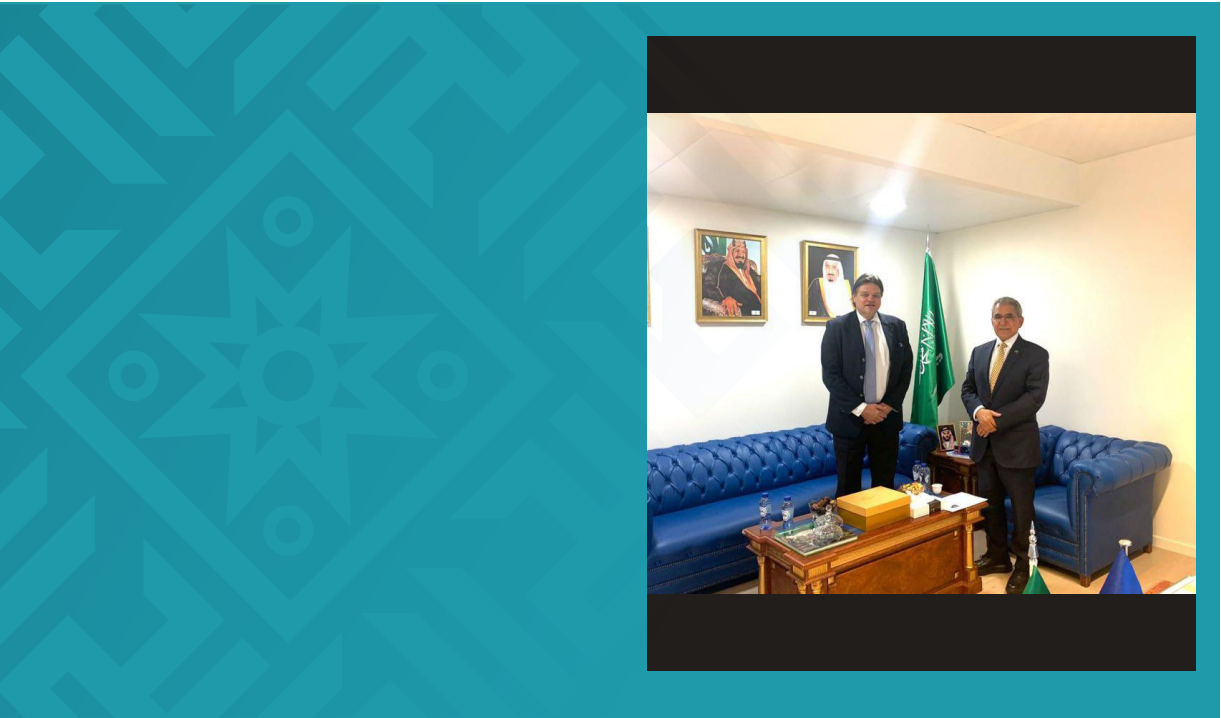
**July 13 and 14** - Dr. Christian Koch spoke at the Conference of the Stimson Center, Brussels and the Center for Applied Policy Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO) on "Iraq and its Neighbors: Enhancing Dialogue and Regional Integration in West Asia", held in Brussels, Belgium

**July 13 - 14** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the session entitled “Views from Iraq’s neighbours on relations with Iraq and regional affairs” held in the concluding conference of the “Iraq and its Neighbors - Enhancing Dialogue and Regional Integration in West Asia” project organized by the Stimson Center’s Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Program (formerly East West Institute) and the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO)



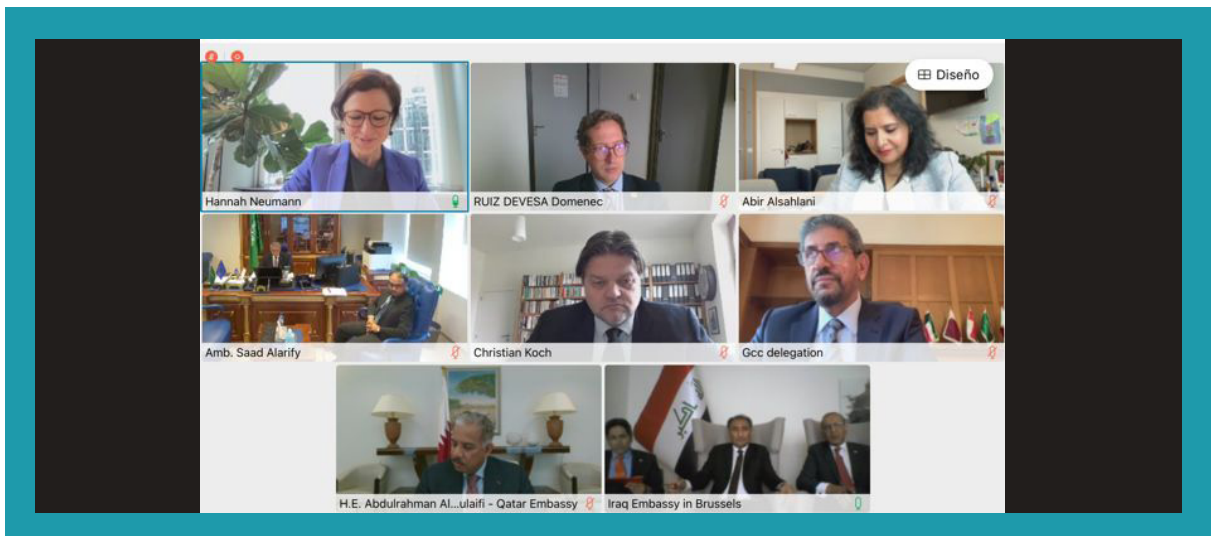
**July 12** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the panel discussion “Saudi-Egyptian relations in light of the current changes and challenges on the regional and international arenas” organized by the Center for Strategic Studies, Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies

**July 12** - Dr. Christian Koch met with Ambassador Saad Mohammed Alarify, Head of the Saudi Mission to the European Union to discuss exchanges focused on the current state of the EU-Saudi relations and means to strengthen cooperation

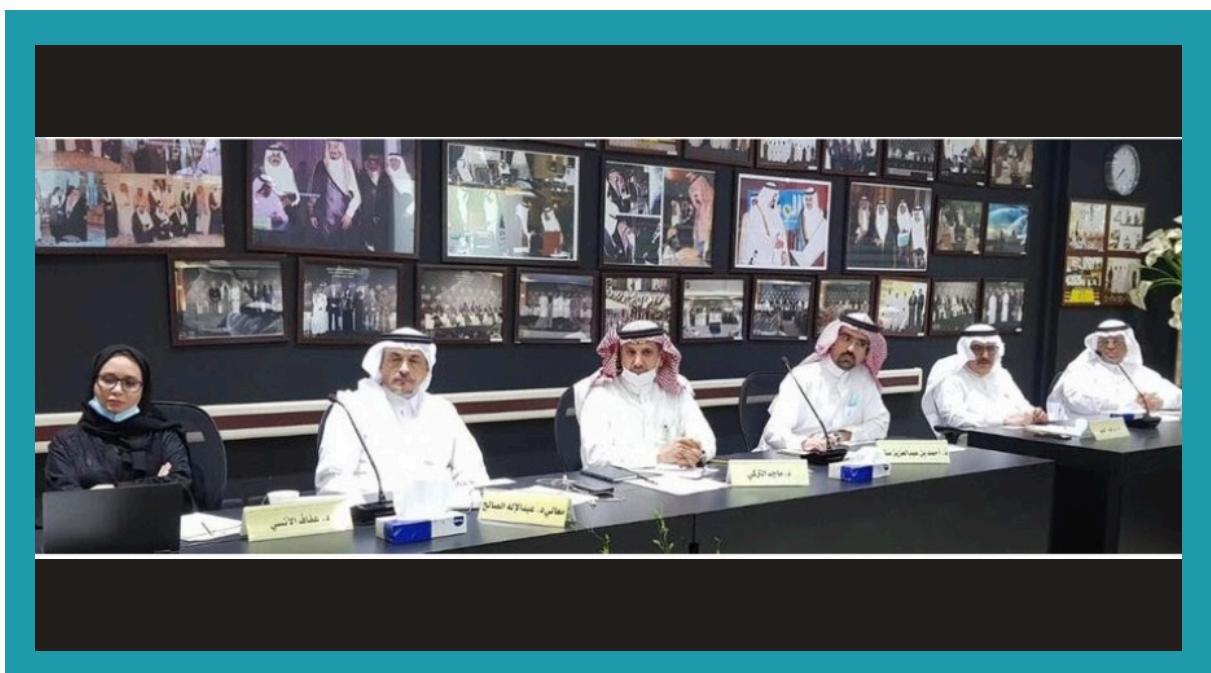


**July 7** - Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf participated and represented the GRC in the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network conference on “Climate Action and Energy Transition in the EU and GCC: Adaptation and Mitigation Solutions”

**July 1** - Dr. Christian Koch was a speaker at the European Parliament, Delegation for the Relations with the Arabian Peninsula, on the topic of “Iraq-GCC relations: current state of play and future perspectives”



**June 28** - Dr. Ahmed Sager participated in a meeting to discuss the future of think tanks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia organized by the Asbar Center for Research and Studies



**June 24** – Dr. Christian Koch participated in the German-Arab Gulf Dialogue on Security and Cooperation organized by the German-Arab Friendship Association and the German Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS)

**June 15 - 16** – Dr. Christian Koch held a series of meeting with representatives of the German Federal Foreign Ministry and Think Tanks in Berlin, Germany

**June 11** - Dr. John Sfakianakis spoke at an event of the Middle East Institute on “Economic Prospects in the Middle East

**June 7 - 9** – Dr. Christian Koch attended the Tafahum Working Group 1 and 2 meeting, Bonn, Germany

**June 3** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the joint webinar between the Gulf Research Center and ADASTRA entitled “Ukraine-Saudi Arabia Relations: Challenges and Prospects for Cooperation”

**June 1** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the webinar on “Iran – GCC Dynamics and the Regional Security” organized by the Middle East Institute (MEI), National University of Singapore (NUS)

**June 1** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the session on “Geopolitical Setting – Changes with the Biden Administration “ organized by the Bush School of Government & Public Service , Texas A&M University

**May 27** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the joint webinar between Gulf Research Center and EU Institute for Security Studies entitled “EU-Saudi Relations: assessing the political situation in the region”

**May 27** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the public hearing on “Collective Security in the Gulf region” organized by The Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Security and Defence of the European Parliament



**May 25 - 26** – Dr. Christian Koch attended the Tafahum Working Group 3 meeting

**May 24 - 25** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the Tenth Annual Council of Councils (CoC) Conference organized by The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)



**May 22** - Dr. John Sfakianakis participated at the MENAF Cambridge Roundtable

**May 20 - 21** – Dr. Christian Koch participated in the Annual Middle East Directions Conference, European University Institute, “Where Do We Start? Designing Steps Towards a Regional Security System in the Persian Gulf”

**May 20** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a meeting on “Maritime Security in the Red Sea” organized by the German Berghof Foundation

**May 19** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was a speaker in the panel discussion entitled “A New Middle East Security Architecture in the Making” as part of the Middle East Strategy Forum 2021 organized by the Institute for Peace & Diplomacy (IPD) in Canada



**May 4 - 7** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the 2021 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, under the theme ‘Promoting Peace in the Age of Compound Risk’, co-hosted by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

**May 3** - Dr. John Sfakianakis was a speaker at the World Bank Roundtable, The Economies in the Middle East

**May 3** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the workshop discussion entitled “Achieving Stability in Iraq: The Regional Dimension” co-organized by the Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies and the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) of the Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation



**April 29** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in Carnegie Europe’s private roundtable entitled “Assessing Russia’s Presence in the Mediterranean and its Consequences for NATO”

**April 24** - Dr. John Sfakianakis was a speaker at the University of Oxford, Said Business School, Roundtable

**April 22** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager attended the Board of Trustees meeting of The University of Business and Technology (UBT)

**April 18** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the first edition of Diraya's program which focuses on developing national capabilities in regional/international events organized by SALAM Project for Cultural Communication



**April 15** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the Future Investment Initiative Institute's third live virtual event on the topic "The Neo-Renaissance: Mobilizing ESG for a Sustainable Future"

**April 14** – Dr. Christian Koch participated in a seminar organized by the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation with H.E. Mutlaq bin Majid Al Qahtani, Special Representative of the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Combatting Terrorism and Conflict Mediation

**April 7** - Dr. John Sfakianakis, University of Oxford, St. Benet's Hall, Workshop Discussion

**March 30 - 31** – Dr. Christian Koch, Tafahum Working Group 4 meeting

**March 29** – Dr. Christian Koch, Lecturer, Geneva Center for Security Policy on the topic of "Introduction to MENA: Key Trends - Challenges & Opportunities."

**March 25** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Attended the Board of Trustees meeting of The University of Business and Technology (UBT)

**March 24** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Participated in a workshop on Saudi-German strategic relations co-organized by The Saudi Center for International Strategic Partnerships (SCISP) and the Council of Saudi Chambers (CSC)

**March 19** – Dr. Christian Koch, Tafahum Project Briefing with Omid Nouripour, Member of the German Parliament

**March 14** - Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chatham House, Political and Economic Development in the Gulf

**March 11** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Speaker in the webinar entitled “Georgia and Saudi Arabia: Relations and Opportunities” co-organized by Geocase, a Georgia-based think tank, and the Gulf Research Center

**March 10** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Participated in a closed roundtable discussion on Israeli, Emirati and Saudi Arabia’s threat perceptions vis-à-vis Iran organized by the Chatham House Middle East and North Africa Programme

**March 10** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Speaker in the International Symposium on “India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership: Strengthening Historical & Cultural Linkages” organized by The Indian Futures, an independent think tank based in New Delhi

**February 26** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Speaker in the webinar entitled “Escaping a Zero-Sum Struggle Between Iran and Saudi Arabia” organized by The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW)

**February 26** – Dr. Christian Koch, Participant, Seminar of the Arab Gulf Institute in Washington on the topic of “Iran-Saudi Arabia Relations.”

**February 24** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Speaker in the webinar entitled: “Regional challenges and available economic opportunities” organized by The Minaret Business Organization

**February 22** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Participated in a roundtable discussion, “JCPOA Revival? Implications for Nonproliferation and Gulf Security,” organized by James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)

**February 16** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Speaker in the webinar entitled “Investing in research to enable the knowledge Economy” organized by The Communication and Financial Knowledge Center (CFKC), affiliated to Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Finance

**February 11** - Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chatham House, The Future of the Gulf

**February 8** – Dr. Christian Koch, Participant, Webinar on “Iran-GCC Rapprochement in the Biden Era” organized by the Institute for Peace and Diplomacy

**February 3** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Attended a webinar to introduce AATB's Investment Pillar to Financial Institutions and Partners co-organized by The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) in collaboration with IsDB Group Business Forum "THIQAH"

**February 2** - Dr. Christian Koch, Participant, East West Institute/CARPO, on "How to Advance European Union Engagement in Iraq and its Neighborhood."

**January 29** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Speaker in the third session titled "What the Think Tanks Have Provided in 2020 to Combat the Corona pandemic" in a webinar entitled "Why Think Tanks Matter in Times of Crises" organized by the Asbar Center

**January 27 - 28** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Attended the 4th edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) under the theme of "Neo-Renaissance"


**January 25** - Dr. Christian Koch, Speaker, German-Arab Friendship Association on the topic of "The State of the Emirati-German Strategic Partnership: Strengthening Cooperation between Germany and the UAE"

**January 14** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Speaker in the joint webinar organized by Gulf Research Center and EU Institute for Security Studies entitled "EU-Saudi Relations"

**January 13** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Participated in a closed discussion on ECFR Track 1.5 Middle East Security Dialogue organized by European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

**January 12** - Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Participated in the Expert Workshop on "The Peace Process in Yemen: Regional Perspectives on the Future of Yemen" co-organized by the Berghof Foundation and the Dubai Public Policy Research Centre (B'huth)

**January 11** - Dr. Christian Koch, Participant - Network 20/20 Webinar on the issue of "Change on the Horizon: The Impact of New Diplomatic Ties in the Middle East."



# 06

## GRC IN THE MEDIA

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## GRC IN THE MEDIA

GRC staff make regular appearances on major regional and global media outlets, and are often quoted in the press, speaking on the most pressing issues impacting the Gulf region



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on Al Sharq TV in an episode covering the following issues: Forty-first session of the Gulf Cooperation Council: what are the options for the Gulf Cooperation Council to confront the Iranian threat? How will normalization with Israel serve the Arab Gulf region? Are there any changes that can be expected regarding U.S. policy towards the Arab Gulf region?”



Dr. Mustafa Alani, Senior Advisor & Director of the GRC Security and Defense Research Program, participated on Al-Arabiya News Channel to discuss Iran’s piracy practices in the Arabian Gulf for its political purposes



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on Al-Arabiya News Channel to discuss “Iran’s Military Escalation Simultaneous with Change in Washington”



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on Rotana Khaleeja Channel



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated in the Panorama program entitled “Between Vienna and Vienna’ Iran Talks... a Cold Start for a Long Path”



Dr. Mustafa Alani participates on Al-Arabiya to discuss the war between Israel and the Gaza Strip



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated in the ‘Here Al-Riyadh’ News Channel in a program entitled “Tanker War’ bets on adventures?”



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated on the Al-Arabiya News Channel in a program titled “The Incident of the Attack on the Tanker Asphalt Princess on the Gulf of Oman”



Dr. Ahmed Sager, participating in an interview with CNBC Arabiya, discussing the the Riyadh International Book Fair



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated in the 'Here Al-Riyadh' News Channel in a program titled "The Kingdom Dialogue is the Gateway to Peace in Afghanistan"



Dr. Hesham Al-Ghannam, Senior Researcher at the GRC, participated in 'France 24' Channel and discussed the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the concerns of the Afghanistan situation. Dr. Hesham also discussed the Russian-Chinese consultation in Afghanistan and how both countries will deal with the Taliban



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated on the Al-Jazeera News Channel in a program titled 'News Race' focusing on "The Crisis of the Lebanese Minister Qardahi's Statements"



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, took part in a Podcast called 'Funjan', one of he top leading podcasts in the region discussing "Saudi-Iranian Tensions"



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated in the Al-Mawqif program on the Saudi First Channel, discussing the reality and future of Gulf relations, Western-Iranian negotiations and the nuclear file, the situation in both Yemen and Sudan, and the impact of the situation in Ethiopia on Arab security



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated in the 'Ya Hala' program discussing the letter of King Salman Al-Saud for the Saudi Shura Council



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated in the Al Sharq program, and discussed the topics on the Arab relations after the Al-Ula summit, the Gulf-Arab regional relations, Arab-Iranian talks, and the future of Arab-Turkish relations



Dr. Hesham AlGhannam participated in an interview with the Atlantic Council, and discussed the future Arab Gulf security



Dr. Hesham AlGhannam participated in a program on MCD, and discussed Saudi-U.S. relations twenty years after the 9/11 attacks



Dr. Hesham AlGhannam participated in a program on 'AlSharq', and discussed the new signs of relations with Syrians and the Arab countries

# 07

## GRC RECENT PUBLICATIONS

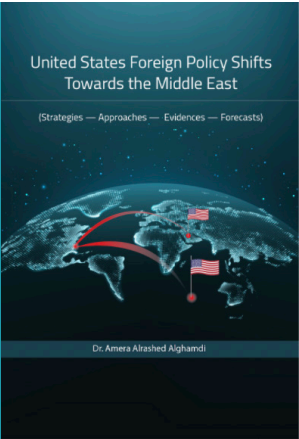
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# GRC RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Gulf Research Center produces a wide variety of publications through its research programs, projects, and the Gulf Research Meetings. GRC's publications can be accessed on its website via [this link](#).

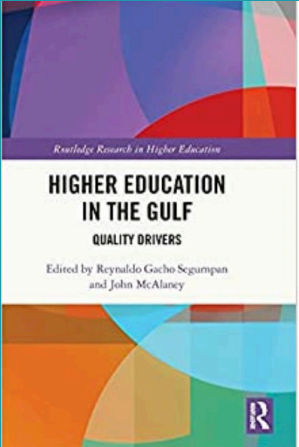
The following list highlights the GRC's most recent book publications:  
**Changes in United States Foreign Policy Shifts Towards the Middle East (Strategies - Approaches - Evidences - Forecasts) (2021)**

Editors: Amara Alrashed Alghamdi



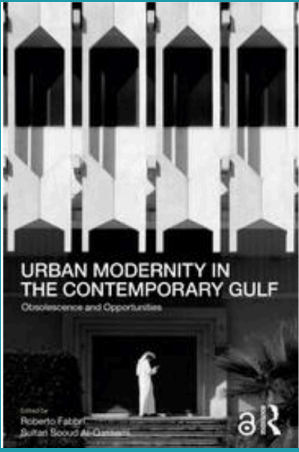
**Higher Education in the Gulf: Quality Drivers (2021)**

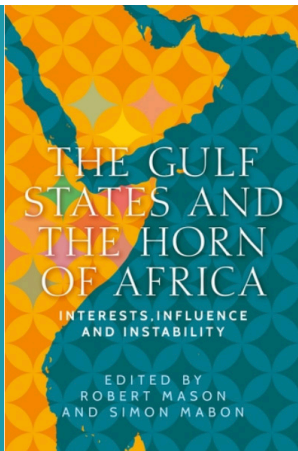
Editors: Reynaldo Gacho Segumpan, John McAlaney



**Urban Modernity in the Contemporary Gulf (2021)**

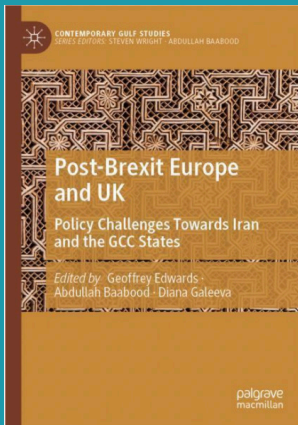
Editors: Roberto Fabbri, Sultan Sooud Al-Qassemi





**The Gulf States and the Horn of Africa: Interests, Influence and Instability (2021)**

Editors: Robert Mason, Simon Mabon



**Post-Brexit Europe and UK: Policy Challenges Towards Iran and the GCC States (2021)**

Editors: Geoffery Edwards, Abdullah Baabood, Diana Galeeva



**Commercial Contracts and Bank Operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2021)**

Editor: H.E. Dr. Mohammed Hassan Al-Jabr



### **Saudi Commercial Law (2021)**

Editor: H.E. Dr. Mohammed Hassan Al-Jabr



### **Disarmament - The American Iranian Film: 2019 - 2020 (2021)**

Editor: Sonia Al Zghoul

## SAUDI ARABIA SIX SECTOR REPORTS

The GRC published six sector study reports on Saudi Arabia's outlook, covering the following sectors: entertainment industry, banking & finance, renewable energy, tourism, healthcare, and logistics in 2021





# 08

## GRC STAFF



**Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**

Chairman and founder of the Gulf Research Center



**Dr. Mustafa Alani**

Senior Advisor & Director - Security and Defense  
Research Program



**Dr. Christian Koch**

Director of Research, Gulf Research Center



**Dr. Ahmed Sager**

Director of Programs



**Dr. John Sfakianakis**

Program Director - Economic Research, Chief  
Economist



### Dr. Oskar Ziemelis

Director of Cooperation and and Director of GRC Foundation, Geneva



### Prof. Giacomo Luciani

Trustee and a Founding Member of the Gulf Research Center Foundation, Geneva



### Eng. Javaid Iqbal

Managing Director, Knowledge Corporation, Dubai



### Prof. Fawziah Abalkhail

Senior Advisor



### Prof. Suzan M. AlQurashi

Senior Advisor



Dr. Ahmed Alkhabti

Senior Advisor



Jamal Hammam

Publishing Manager, Araa Magazine Editor-in-Chief



Dr. Mohammed Raouf

Program Director, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program



Imco Brouwer

Executive Director - Gulf Labor Markets and Migration Program



Samir Kandil

Assistant General Manager



Ahmad Salah Ahmad

Administration Manager



Vasim Ahmed Shaikh

Accounting Manager



Mohammed Gomaa

Financial Manager



Sanya Kapasi

Administration Manager



Dr. Zaid A. Alfadeil

Director of Cultural Program



Dr. Hesham AlGhannam

Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Vera Lalchevska

Senior Researcher



Aileen Byrne

Senior Researcher



Layla Ali

Researcher



Al-Anoud Khalifah

Researcher



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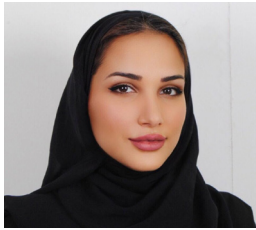
Mohammed Al-Ghamdi

Data Analyst



Fatemah S BaSunbul

Senior Web Developer



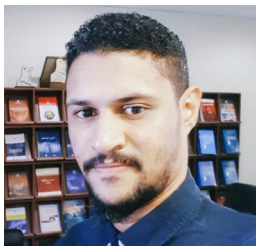
Noura AlHazmi

Business Development Manager, Knowledge Corporation



Suliman Mardini

Araa Magazine



Yasir Ahmed

Araa Magazine



Khedir Saleh

Administration



Reem Al Mansour

Financial data analyst



Husain Al Hatem

Economic Analyst

09

GRC FINANCIALS

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**Gulf Research Center**  
K n o w l e d g e f o r A l l

**The Gulf Research Center Financials  
Dubai – Jeddah – Geneva – Cambridge  
For the Period of 22 Years  
2000 - 2021**

## Financials

The GRC financials have been compiled for the period 2000-2021. The consolidated financial statement is a compilation of financial data from the following GRC entities:

- Gulf Research Center Foundation, Geneva
- Gulf Research Centre Cambridge, UK
- Gulf Research Center, Jeddah
- Gulf Research Center, Dubai (2000-2010)

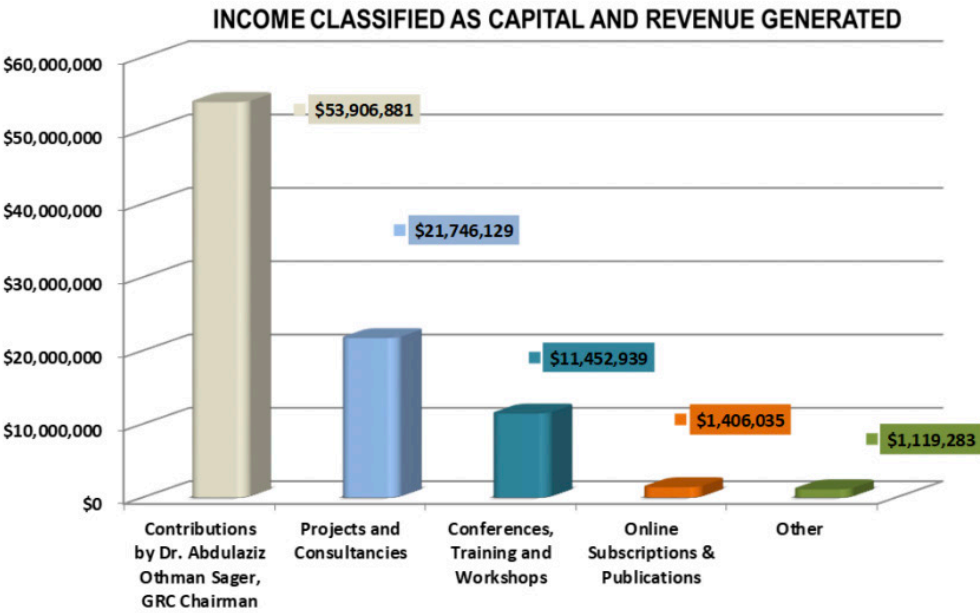
This consolidated statement presents a summarized view of information abstracted from the unaudited annual financials of the individual GRC entities.

The primary source of GRC funding is Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, GRC Founder and Chairman.

# Consolidated GRC Financial Statements -- (Unaudited)

Consolidated Statement of Activities for the Period - 01 July 2000 to 31 Dec 2021

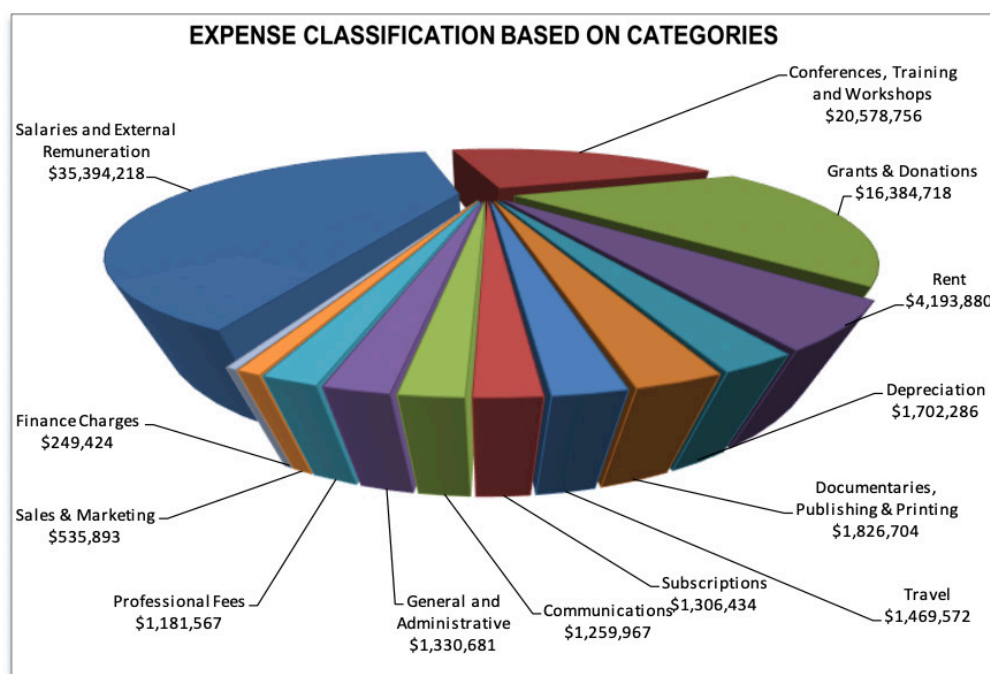
Description	Total
	All amounts in USD
<b>Revenues</b>	
Contributions by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Sager, GRC Chairman	\$53,906,881
Projects and Consultancies	\$21,746,129
Conferences, Training and Workshops	\$11,452,939
Online Subscriptions & Publications	\$1,406,035
Other	\$1,119,283
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$89,631,267</b>



## Consolidated GRC Financial Statements -- (Unaudited)

Consolidated Statement of Activities for the Period - 01 July 2000 to 31 Dec 2021

<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Salaries and External Remuneration	\$35,394,218
Conferences, Training and Workshops	\$20,578,756
Grants & Donations	\$16,384,718
Rent	\$4,193,880
Depreciation	\$1,702,286
Documentaries, Publishing & Printing	\$1,826,704
Travel	\$1,469,572
Subscriptions	\$1,306,434
Communications	\$1,259,967
General and Administrative	\$1,330,681
Professional Fees	\$1,181,567
Sales & Marketing	\$535,893
Finance Charges	\$249,424
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$87,414,101</b>



## Consolidated GRC Financial Statements -- (Unaudited)

Consolidated Statement of Activities for the Period - 01 July 2000 to 31 Dec 2021

Particulars	Total
	All amounts in USD
<b>Assets:</b>	
<b>Long-term assets</b>	
Property and equipment net	\$13,742
<b>Total long-term assets</b>	<b>\$13,742</b>
<b>Current assets</b>	
Trade and other receivables	\$309,444
Prepayments / advances	\$11,220
Cash in hand and at bank	\$1,737,178
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$2,057,842</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$2,071,584</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>	
Trade and other payables	\$24,301
Accrued expenses	\$60,817
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$85,118</b>
<b>Net Equities/Reserves and Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,986,466</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equities</b>	<b>\$2,071,584</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,986,466</b>

NOTE:

This is an unaudited consolidated financial statement for the following GRC entities:

Gulf Research Center Foundation ----- Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Gulf Research Center – Jeddah ----- Gulf Research Center – Dubai

This statement is a compilation of the financial activities of the individual GRC entities.

The primary source of GRC funding is Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, GRC Founder and Chairman



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Knowledge for All



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