



Gulf Research Center  
Knowledge for All



# Programme

## The Future of Labour and Migration in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf

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1 - 2 December 2024

Gulf Research Center – Office FN11A, North Tower, King Faisal Foundation - Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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### Sunday, 1 December 2024 - Day 1: *Vision 2030 and the Socio-Economic Reform Process: The Future of Labor and Migration in Saudi Arabia*

09:00 – 09:30

**Arrivals and Welcoming Coffee**

09:30 – 09:45

**Welcoming Remarks**

**Dr Christian Koch**

Director of Research, Gulf Research Center (GRC)

**Philipp Dienstbier**

Director of Regional Programme Gulf States, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

09:45 – 10:00

**Introductions by the attendees**

10:00 – 10:10

**Project Introduction**

**Dr Françoise De Bel-Air**

Senior Fellow, Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population Programme (GLMM), GRC

10:10 – 11:40

**First Session: Presentations and Discussions**

Moderator: **Imco Brouwer**

Managing Director, GLMM, GRC

*Presentation 1: Future Skills Needed and Profiles of Workers: Ways to Maximize Productivity of Labour*

**Dr Mehmet Ali Soytaş**

Senior Advisor, National Labour Organization, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



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*Presentation 2: High-Skilled Employment and Vision 2030- Education and Training for Saudi Youth Alignment with Saudi Labour Market Demands*

**Dr Monerah Abdullah Almahmoud**

Director of Behavioral Science Department, Human Resources Development Fund, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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*Presentation 3: Adapting to Change: Demographics and Technology in the Saudi Labour Market*

**Dr Sylvain Côté**

International Expert, Canada

11:40 – 11:55

**Coffee break**

11:55 – 12:55

**Second Session: Presentations and Discussions**

Moderator: **Dr Jean-christophe Dumont**

Head of the International Migration Division in the Direction for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

*Presentation 4: The Global Competition for Talent: How Does Saudi Arabia Compare with Gulf and Global Peers?*

**Justin Alexander**

Economist, Khalij Economics

*Presentation 5: International Science Faculty in Saudi Arabia: Research Experiences and Challenges*

**Dr Anju Mary Paul**

Professor of Social Research and Public Policy, New York University, Abu Dhabi

**Dr Bedoor AlShebli**

Assistant Professor of Computational Social Science, New York University, Abu Dhabi

12:55 – 13:55

**Third Session: Presentation and Discussions**

Moderator: **Dr Christian Koch**

Director of Research, GRC

*Presentation 6: Trends and Dynamics of Highly Skilled Migration in Saudi Arabia: A Report*



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## Dr Yusra AlShanqityi

Assistant Professor, College of Law, Prince Sultan University,  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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*Presentation 7: From Laissez Faire to A Centralized State Approach? A Critical Policy Analysis of the UAE's Attraction and Retention Approach Towards High-Skilled Migration in the Post-COVID-19 Era*

## Froilan Malit

Visiting Fellow, Department of Political Science, American  
University Dubai

13:55 – 14:05 **Closing Remarks**

14:05 **Lunch**

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## Monday, 2 December 2024 – Day 2: *Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: How Do GCC Countries Fare in the Global Competition for Talent?*

09:00 – 09:30 **Arrivals and Welcoming Coffee**

09:30 – 09:45 **Welcoming Remarks and Recap of First Day**

09:45 – 09:55 **Project Introduction**

## Dr Françoise De Bel-Air

Senior Fellow, GLMM, GRC

09:55 – 10:55 **First Session: Presentations and Discussions**

## Moderator: Dr Kristian Alexander

Senior Fellow and Lead Researcher, Rabdan Security & Defense  
Institute), Abu Dhabi



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*Presentation 1: Qatar's Policy Landscape and its Impact on Highly Skilled Migration*

**Misba Bhatti**

Research Analyst, Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS), Georgetown University in Qatar

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**Ameena Almeer**

Research Associate, CIRS, Georgetown University in Qatar

*Presentation 2: Changing Contexts, Perceptions and Policies towards Migrating to Saudi Arabia: A View from South Asia Countries of Origin*

**Dr Bilesha Weeraratne**

Research Fellow and Head of Migration and Urbanisation Policy Research, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

10:55 – 11:55

## **Second Session: Presentations and Discussions**

Moderator: **Dr Françoise De Bel-Air**

Senior Fellow, GLMM, GRC

*Presentation 3: Trends, Dynamics and Policies regarding Highly Skilled Migration from Tunisia to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE*

**Dr Ali Belhaj**

Migration Governance Expert, Tunisia

*Presentation 4: Trends, Dynamics and Policies regarding Highly Skilled Migration from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE*

**Dr Dina Abdelfattah**

Assistant Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, School of Business, American University in Cairo

11:55 – 12:10

## **Coffee break**

12:10 – 13:40

## **Third Session: Presentations and Discussions**

Moderator: **Philipp Dienstbier**

Director of Regional Programme Gulf States, KAS

*Presentation 5: Trends, Patterns, and Policies regarding Highly Skilled Migrant Workers from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE*

**Memoona Qazi**

Research Associate, Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Lahore School of Economics



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*Presentation 6: India as A Prime Country of Origin for Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf: Perspectives of A Paradigm Shift in Indian Immigration of Talent to UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar*

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**Dr Binod Khadria**

Former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT)

*Presentation 7: Assets on the Move: Highly Skilled Migration from the Philippines to the Gulf*

**Dr Jorge Tingo**

Professor, Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman

**Dr Geoffrey Ducanes**

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Ateneo de Manila University

13:40 – 13:50

**Closing Remarks**

13:50

**Lunch**

**Gulf Research Center (GRC)**

<https://www.grc.net>

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

<https://gulfmigration.grc.net>

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**Regional Programme Gulf States (RPG)**

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