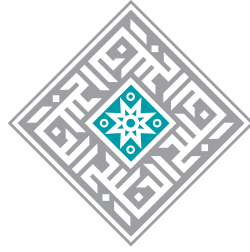


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مركز الخليج للأبحاث
Gulf Research Center

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Table of Contents





CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In this 2020 issue of the GRC Annual Report, we are also celebrating the 20th anniversary since the establishment of the Gulf Research Center as a non-profit think tank. This journey has involved numerous multifaceted accomplishments and contributions that have added rich value to the Gulf, including the six-member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council in addition to their neighbors Iraq, Iran and Yemen. My decision to establish the GRC at the onset of the third millennium stemmed from my own desire and motivation to foster academic research on the region, which was very much lacking at that time. I had a vision to create a center that would produce analyses and anticipate future issues of importance to the region, utilizing all tools available. Similar to developed countries worldwide, the Gulf countries should also place a high value on research-based facts and disseminate this relevant knowledge, which affects our present and future. This principle of

“knowledge for all” was the driving force behind my dream, and it was to become the GRC mission upon its foundation. This one phrase perfectly encapsulates GRC’s vision, mission and activities both inside and outside the Gulf region. Despite the different obstacles throughout this twenty year journey, if I could travel back in time I would not hesitate to take the same steps I have taken along the way, as I now look back with pride on all of GRC’s accomplishments.

“*My decision to establish the GRC at the onset of the third millennium stemmed from my own desire and motivation to foster academic research on the region.*”

Due to its commitment to making its research available to the public, GRC has prioritized the utilization of the most up-to-date internet and technological platforms to disseminate its various publications and hold virtual meetings and events. Currently, GRC holds and organizes seminars and workshops with multiple international parties via advanced real time communication

systems to stay updated on developments in the Gulf and the rest of the world, especially in light of the current COVID-19 outbreak, which has both characterized and shaped not only GRC's 2020 activities and research, but has also equally impacted think tanks around the world. Nevertheless, due to COVID-19, the need for research centers and think tanks such as GRC has become more important than ever, in order to face all aspects of this pandemic based on solid scientific research, for example by studying consequences and identifying the most effective countermeasures. At the GRC, we responded to this need for additional analyses on the impact of the pandemic by carrying

“Due to COVID-19, the need for research centers and think tanks such as GRC has become more important than ever.”

out various virtual roundtables, which brought together regional and international experts who weighed in on the ways that the pandemic will impact the Gulf economies and societies. In this context of our vision of academic research and research centers, we at the GRC will continue to strive to achieve our mission at home and abroad. We will also continue to seek ways of expanding our Arab and international partnerships, allowing us to cooperate with similar centers in the execution of our activities. Each year, GRC defines its annual plan, and aims to achieve it efficiently in order to reach its interim and long-term goals. At the level of the Gulf, and more broadly the Arab World, we hope that governments will pay closer attention to think tanks and academic research centers, whether governmental or independent. Increased support should be given to independent centers by nominating them to conduct necessary research-based studies. Given the fact that these centers are closely associated with and relevant to their respective societies, they can effectively contribute to providing solutions to societal issues and forecast risks and challenges objectively. We also hope that governments will increase academic research allocations; information is the future, and economic growth as well as sustainable development in all areas depend on research and fact-based studies. In conclusion, we hope that the research output of GRC continues to reach all relevant stakeholders, and as we move into 2021 and our third decade, we will continue carrying out our mission of “Knowledge for All.”

“We hope that the research output of GRC continues to reach all relevant stakeholders, and as we move into 2021 and our third decade.”

ABOUT GRC

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 is 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.

Its belief is that everyone has the right to access knowledge, so it has made all its research available to the general public through publications, workshops, seminars, and conferences. As a non-profit organization, GRC injects all income back into new programs and activities.

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 a number of institutions worldwide aim to support each other in the areas of research, policy facilitation and implementation of long-term conditions for peace, security and sustainable development. In partnering 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. The following is a list of institutions that the GRC either has a formal cooperation agreement with or entered into a working relationship in mutually agreed areas:



National Council on U.S.-
Arab Relations



Carnegie Middle East
Center



Diplomatic Institute of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs..



Faculty of Economics and
Administration-King...



The Center for Pakistan &
Gulf Studies (CPGS)



Mapungubwe Institute for
Strategic Reflection...



JIME IEE Japan



Osaka School of
International Public Polic...



Africa Institute of South Africa



The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International...



Emirates Environmental Group (EEG)



Università Ca'Foscari Venezia



Hochschule Darmstadt University of Applied...



Center of European Policy Studies



The University of Oslo



Istituto per le Relazioni tra l'Italia e i paesi dell'Africa...



International Union for Conservation of Nature



Arabia CSR Network



Sojitz Research Institute



RTI International



Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and...



The St. Gallen Foundation for International Studies



Institute for Environmental Studies and Applied...



The Institute for Security Studies



Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft



National Centre for Contemporary Islamic...



Tamkeen



Council of Saudi Chambers

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A BETTER GULF



The Gulf Research Center is a member of AWARENET, the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network, which is an independent, impartial regional network of training and research institutes, NGOs, government institutions and experts in the field of water, engaged in the development and delivery of capacity development programs and resource material on Integrated Water Resources Management policies and practices for the Arab region. AWARENET is associated with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

The Gulf Research Center also cooperates and collaborates with The League of Arab States (Egypt) - International Cooperation, Environment, Housing, Water and Sustainable Development Department.



The Gulf Research Center Foundation has been granted special consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. The status allows GRCF to attend all UN conferences ; request the Secretary-General to place items of special interest in the provisional agenda of the council; designate representatives to the UN Headquarters in NY and the UN offices in Geneva and Vienna; and submit written statements and oral presentations to the work of the council.

Based on the recommendation of the Division of Environmental Policy Development and Law, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi has accredited GRC to the Governing Council of UNEP, thereby granting it the status of an international non-governmental organization. This recognition allows the GRC to designate its representatives to sit as observers at meetings pertaining to environmental issues hosted by the UNEP Governing Council and its subsidiary organs. GRC is a member of the Science and Technology Major Group of UNEP and serves as the elected Global Focal Point of this Major Group with the assignment of helping to coordinate its actions.

GRC is a member of the Science and Technology Major Group of UNEP and serves as the elected Global Focal Point of this Major Group with the assignment of helping to coordinate its actions. Left – GRC participation in the second meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR 2) in preparation for the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 2) - UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya, February 2016.

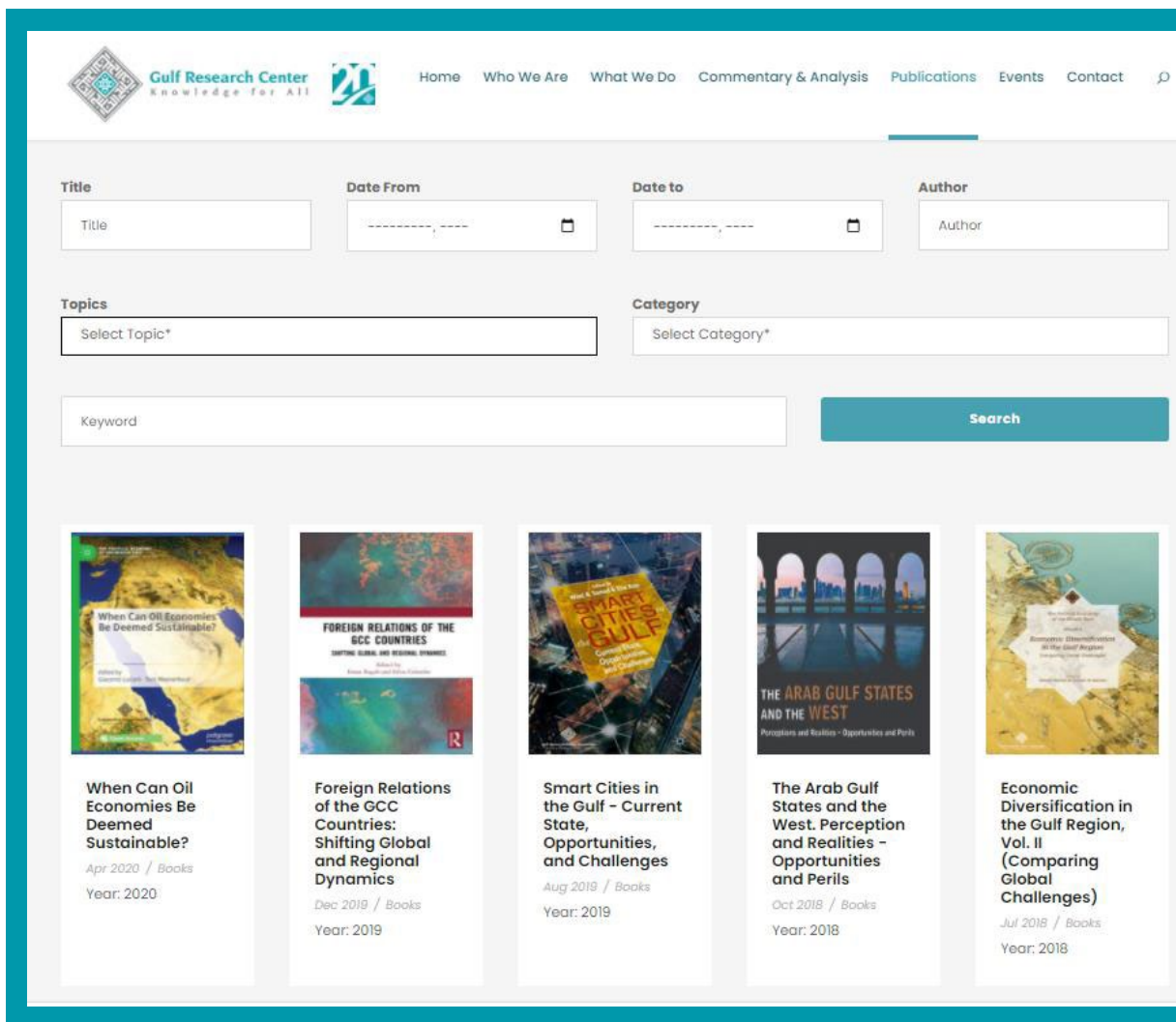


The World Bank Group's Global Environment Facility (GEF) Program is one of the institution's largest and longest standing trust-funded programs. The GEF helps developing countries fund projects and programs that protect the global environment. Since it helped to establish GEF in 1991, the World Bank has integrated global environmental benefits across its programs through more than 790 investment projects and programs in 120 countries spanning every region of the world. GRC gained GEF accreditation in September 2006.

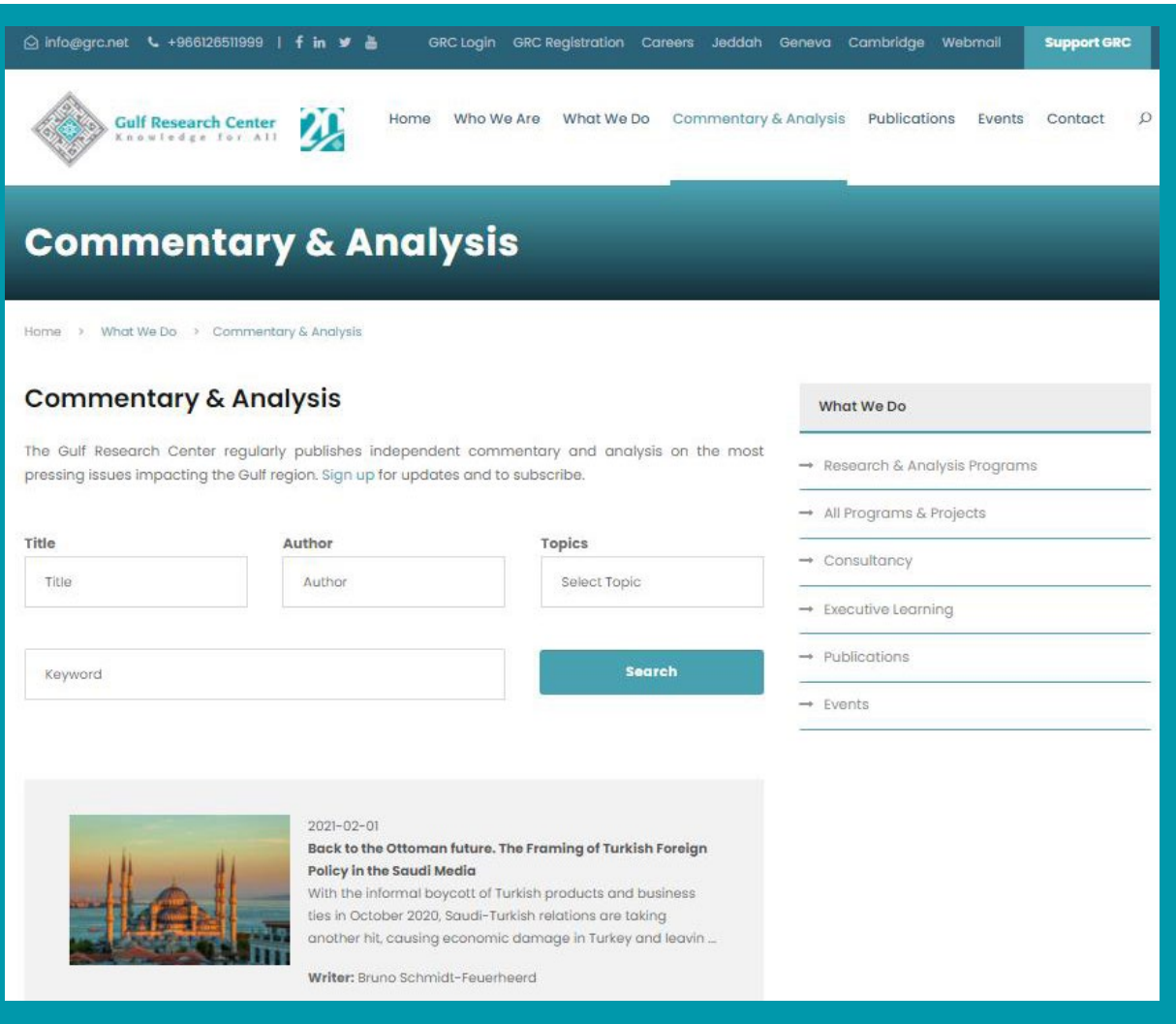
LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITES FOR THE GULF RESEARCH CENTER, GULF RESEARCH MEETING AND ARAA MAGAZINE

In 2020, the Gulf Research Center was happy to launch its new and improved website, in addition to new websites for its monthly Araa Magazine and annual Gulf Research Meeting.

Notably, the new website has a searchable database of all GRC publications, and those that have a digital version can be downloaded directly.



We have also launched a new Commentary & Analysis section on the GRC website, which provides a variety of perspectives on current issues impacting the Gulf region.

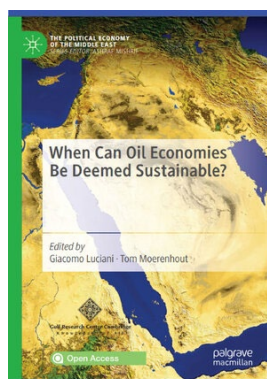


We encourage our GRC network to visit the new website, and fill out the registration form, which will ensure that we have your current contact details so that we can inform you of any Gulf Research Center and Gulf Research Meeting updates. After you fill out the form, you will receive a username and password that will also allow you to access many publications on the website.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

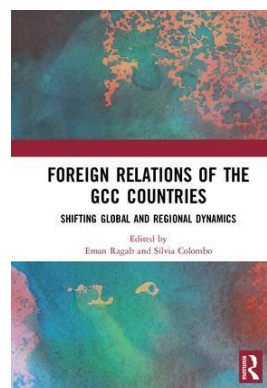
The Gulf Research Center produces a wide variety of publications through its research programs and projects. GRC's publications can be accessed on its website via this link.

The following list highlights the GRC's most recent book publications:



When Can Oil Economies Be Deemed Sustainable? (2021)

Authors: Giacomo Luciani and Tom Moerenhout



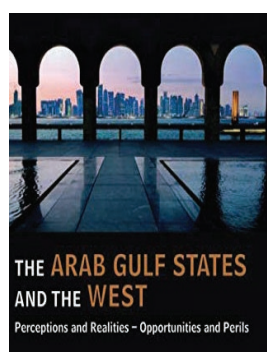
Foreign Relations of the GCC Countries: Shifting Global and Regional Dynamics (2019)

Editors: Eman Ragab, Silvia Colombo



Smart Cities in the Gulf - Current State, Opportunities, and Challenges (2019)

Editors: Wael A. Samad and Elie Azar



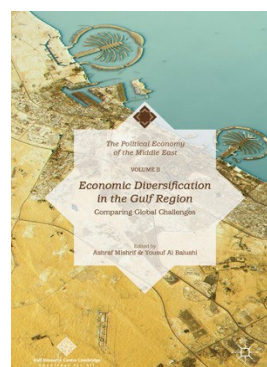
The Arab Gulf States and the West. Perception and Realities - Opportunities and Perils (2019)

Editors: Dania Koleilat Khatib and Marwa Maziad



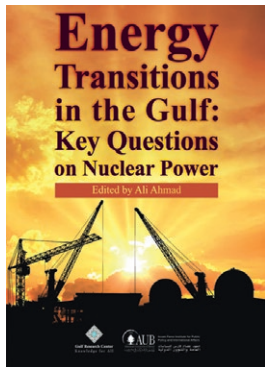
Economic Diversification in the Gulf Region, Vol. I (The Private Sector as an Engine of Growth) (2018)

Editors: Ashraf Mishrif and Yousuf Al Balushi



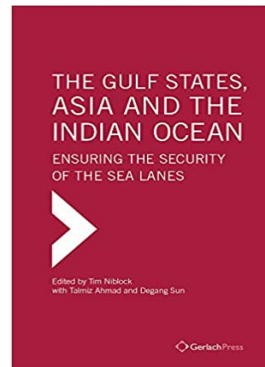
Economic Diversification in the Gulf Region, Vol. II (Comparing Global Challenges) (2018)

Editors: Ashraf Mishrif and Yousuf Al Balushi



Energy Transitions in the Gulf: Key Questions on Nuclear Power (2018)

Editor: Ali Ahmad



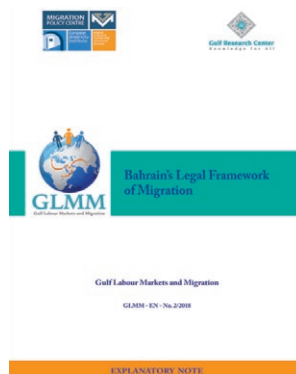
The Gulf States, Asia and the Indian Ocean: Ensuring the Security of the Sea Lanes (2018)

Editors: Tim Niblock with Talmiz Ahmad and Degang Sun



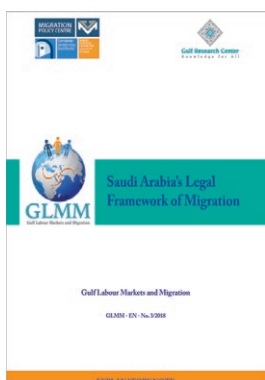
Migration to the Gulf: Policies in Sending and Receiving Countries (2018)

Edited by: Philippe Fargues and Nasra M. Shah



Bahrain's Legal Framework of Migration (2018)

Author: Maysa Zahra



Saudi Arabia's Legal Framework of Migration (2018)

Author: Maysa Zahra



ARAA MAGAZINE

'Araa,' is an Arabic word meaning opinions or perspectives, and Araa Magazine, **مجلة آراء حول** (translating to 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 on 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. <https://www.araa.sa>

	<p>Issue 145 (January 2020): An Innovative Vision for a New Year and Coming Decade in the Gulf Region</p>		<p>Issue 146 (February 2020): The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Participants or Bystanders?</p>		<p>Issue 147 (March 2020): Media in the Arab World, Between Confronting Foreign Agendas and Deepening Crises in the Region</p>
	<p>Issue 148 (April 2020): 75 Years of Saudi-US Relations: An Overview</p>		<p>Issue 149 (May 2020): The Impact of COVID-19, Climate Change and Environmental Pollution on the Gulf Region</p>		<p>Issue 150 (June 2020): The Future of the Gulf Countries in the Aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic</p>
	<p>Issue 151 (July 2020): The Gulf Research Center: 20 Years Since Its Establishment, and the Journey Continues</p>		<p>Issue 152 (August 2020): The Interference in Arab Regional Affairs by Neighboring Countries</p>		<p>Issue 153 (September 2020): US-China Relations and their Impact on the Arab World</p>
	<p>Issue 154 (October 2020): The Conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean and Libya: Implications, Risks and Foreign Influence</p>		<p>Issue 155 (November 2020): The G20 Summit: Seizing Opportunities, Realizing Achievements and Overcoming Challenges</p>		<p>Issue 156 (December 2020): Saudi Arabia and the World: An Ongoing Journey of Generosity Since Its Establishment</p>

HIGHLIGHTED GRC 2020 EVENTS

Commemoration of 75 years of relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States (March 2)

The Gulf Research Center, in cooperation with King Abdulaziz University and the United States Consulate in Jeddah, organized a seminar on Saudi-US relations on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the meeting that brought together His Majesty King Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud and US President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 14, 1945. Speakers at the event included US Consul General in Jeddah, Mr. Ryan M. Gliha, the Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, and the Executive Director of the Public Policy Program at the Faculty of Economics and Administration at King Abdulaziz University. The event also marked the announcement of a new academic chair at King Abdulaziz University dedicated to Saudi-US relations.



Interactive webinar discussions on COVID-19's impact on the Gulf (April 21-23)

The Gulf Research Center, in its mission to produce high quality research and analysis on the Gulf region, held three closed webinar discussions in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, held under the Chatham House Rule. The first event focused specifically on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the energy industry in the Gulf, in addition to ways that it will continue to affect the Gulf energy industry in the aftermath of the crisis. The second webinar looked at the Gulf economy post COVID-19 and the third discussion was centered on Gulf security post COVID-19.

Digital Roundtable Discussion: “Should GCC national oil companies target net zero emissions by 2050?” (September 28)



This GRC digital roundtable discussion addressed the question “Should GCC national oil companies target net zero emissions by 2050?” Oil industry leaders Shell and BP have both officially announced their targets to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, including for their “Scope 3 emissions,” i.e. those emissions caused by the use of their products. Should GCC national oil companies follow in their footsteps? While other European companies are moving in that direction, US-based ones are not. A diverse panel of experts gave their perspectives on this question, and at the end of the session a virtual vote was held to measure the views of the audience. The event was held under the Chatham House Rule and moderated by Prof. Giacomo Luciani.

Digital Roundtable Discussion: The Future of the Gulf Economies in the Age of Sparsity (October 28)

The digital roundtable discussion included a diverse panel of experts who gave their perspectives on the subjects of fiscal sustainability and debt, business attractiveness and FDI, and diversification efforts and the role of the state, addressing the following questions: How will the gulf economies manage small budgets that will be defined through a new fiscal contract with business and society? Will a new social contract be devised in light of the new fiscal realities? How will the region manage to attract international investor appetite? Can the local private sectors carry the burdens of investment? What is the role of the State and the private sector in the next decade? Is diversification a possibility in the coming years? The discussion was moderated by Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Research at the Gulf Research Center, and a recording of the webinar can be seen [here](#).



THINK20 (T20) AND DR. ABDULAZIZ SAGER'S ROLE AS TASK FORCE CHAIR

In December, 2019, Saudi Arabia assumed the 2020 G20 presidency, and announced [its 2020 G20 agenda](#). Throughout 2020 and leading up to the G20 Summit in November 2020, various engagement groups representing civil society met in parallel to the G20 process in order to draft policy recommendations to the G20 leaders in advance of the summit. As host country, Saudi civil society organizations were responsible for organizing the engagement group meetings, and the Gulf Research Center played an especially active role in the Think20 (T20) engagement group, which brought together policy-oriented think tanks from around the world in various meetings throughout the year during which research-based policy recommendations were proposed and discussed before they were ultimately drafted and sent to the G20 Secretariat. The two Saudi think tanks that organized and facilitated the 2020 T20 process were the King

Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) and the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS), and the 11 topic-specific task forces within the T20 were chaired by leading Saudi academics and researchers, and brought together over 600 authors and global policy experts, representing 56 countries and 440 institutions.



GRC Chairman Dr. Abdulaziz Sager was selected for the important role of head chair of the T20 task force entitled the “Future of Multilateralism and Global Governance,” which focused on proposing innovative policy solutions to the most pressing challenges faced by international organizations and the future of multilateralism and the regional and global levels. Listed priorities tackled by the task force’s 11 published policy briefs included the future of multilateralism, reforming existing international organizations to take on new global problems, the future of politics/democracy under rising populism and the impact of economic downturns, regional engagement for more effective and efficient global

governance, and innovative and interactive strategies and programs for global governance.

The following list includes the titles of all of the task force's published policy briefs, which can be accessed using the embedded hyperlink:

1. [Coordinating committee for the governance of artificial intelligence](#)
2. [Joining forces: reviving multilateralism through multi-stakeholder cooperation](#)
3. [An inclusive approach for addressing global challenges through coordination](#)
4. [The cyber diplomacy of constructing norms in cyberspace](#)
5. [International political economy & future of multilateralism: a platform for cooperation for g20 sovereign wealth funds](#)
6. [Managing the transition to a multi-stakeholder artificial intelligence governance](#)
7. [A new lifeline for the g20? the role of African and European actors in enhancing its legitimacy and effectiveness](#)
8. [The future of multilateralism: responsible globalization that empowers citizens and leaves no one behind](#)
9. [Reinforcing global climate governance to deliver higher ambition](#)
10. [Reinvigorating multilateral cooperation during the covid-19 crisis: the role of the g20](#)
11. [At the interface of security and development - addressing fragility through good governance of the security sector](#)

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager's role as head chair of the task force required him to lead the many task force meetings that were held throughout the year, during which policy briefs were discussed and ideas debated. Furthermore, he oversaw and participated in the peer review process of his task force's policy briefs, in which he involved GRC researchers as well. His task force's proposals found within these policy briefs, along with those published by the T20's other task forces were

20 YEARS OF THE GULF RESEARCH CENTER



The year 2020 marked the 20th anniversary since the founding of the Gulf Research Center. The idea of establishing an independent Gulf Studies research center within the Gulf region itself was conceived by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager and motivated by his desire to make solid, research-based knowledge about the strategic Gulf region easily available to all. This is the ultimate origin of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and its maxim – “Knowledge for All.”

The initial GRC offices were established in Dubai in June 2000. Expansion took place quickly and not only in Dubai - as GRC offices were also established in Jeddah, Geneva and Cambridge. The Geneva office was established as a Swiss Foundation – the Gulf Research Center Foundation – in order to facilitate outreach and cooperation with Europe and globally. The Cambridge office was established at the University of Cambridge as a UK Charity – the Gulf Research Center Cambridge – in order to facilitate integration with the global academic community, primarily through the Gulf Research Meetings, which GRC Cambridge organizes annually.

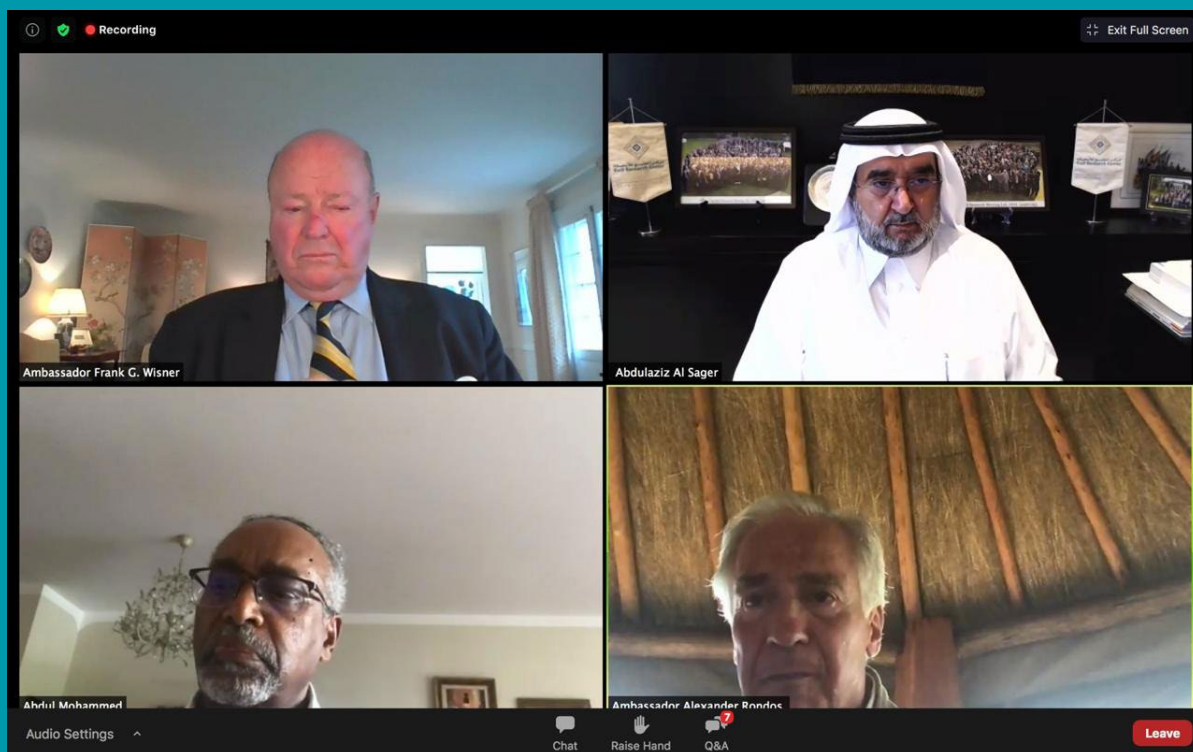
In the past twenty years, the Gulf Research Center has grown from a creative idea to become a globally recognized research center that has contributed much to the understanding of the Gulf region - never losing sight of its ultimate mission of promoting peace, security, prosperity and sustainability not only in the Gulf region itself, but also globally.



The Gulf Research Center's research activities have always been at the core of its mission since its establishment, when at that time, the organization was truly a pioneer in promoting and producing research specifically focused on the Gulf region. Dr. Abdulaziz Sager recognized that the Gulf as a region and the countries within it, i.e. the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council in addition to Iraq, Iran and Yemen, were not only under-researched globally within international think tanks and academic institutions, but that there was a complete lack of a regional voice within that international discourse and within the limited scholarly publications that did include a Gulf element. In establishing the Gulf Research Center, Dr. Sager's vision at the time was to fill this void in available research in both English and Arabic on the Gulf region by launching a variety of research programs dedicated to various topics that impact the Gulf region, and by engaging in regular studies and analyses on these dynamics, always keeping in mind GRC's mission of "knowledge for all," which reflected his vision of having a wide variety of accessible and high-quality research on the Gulf region widely available to the public. Most importantly, the Gulf Research Center has fulfilled its commitment in ensuring that the Gulf region is represented in the international think tank and international research community, not only on issues that specifically affect the Gulf, but also in the global discourse on issues that impact the wider Arab World and the international affairs as a whole. Research dealing with international affairs remains disproportionately funded and carried out by Western think tanks and academic institutions, and therefore the GRC's role in providing a Gulf perspective within global research output is absolutely crucial to ensuring that available research and analysis on international affairs is inclusive, especially on issues that directly affect the Gulf itself.

“In the past twenty years, the Gulf Research Center has grown from a creative idea to become a globally recognized research center that has contributed much to the understanding of the Gulf region.”

In fulfilling its role as a regional voice that carries out research on issues of importance to the Gulf, research and analysis at the Gulf Research Center has also distinguished itself in branching out from the topics that typically dominate Western scholarship on the Gulf region, i.e. the oil market, Gulf relations with the West and especially the United States, and



regional security. Of course, these topics have been well represented within GRC research as they are of importance to the region, yet over the past two decades, the GRC has been at the forefront of innovative research on many other previously ignored topics such as Gulf relations with Latin America, Africa and Asia, in addition to dedicating an entire research program to migration and the labor market in the Gulf. The GRC was also one of the first research centers to study renewable energy and environmental issues in the Gulf, looking at energy issues in a much broader context years before the various GCC countries drafted their vision programs for economic diversification.

“The Gulf Research Center has fulfilled its commitment in ensuring that the Gulf region is represented in the international think tank and international research community, not only on issues that specifically affect the Gulf, but also in the global discourse on issues that impact the wider Arab World and the international affairs as a whole.”

Furthermore, the GRC has carried out research and publications on all aspects of Gulf domestic politics and society, and being a Gulf-based think tank has proven especially

important in its legitimacy in this area of research in particular, which has included topics such as demographic studies, the role of the internet and social media in the Gulf, state-society relations, youth studies, education policy and gender studies. Being based in the region has allowed the GRC to significantly contribute to this area of research, having access to the data that is necessary to carry out these studies.

“GRC’s role in providing a Gulf perspective within global research output is absolutely crucial to ensuring that available research and analysis on international affairs is inclusive, especially on issues that directly affect the Gulf itself.”

Notably, in the last twenty years since its founding, GRC research programs have produced nearly 300 book and journal publications and more than 1000 external research contributions. It would be impossible to discuss GRC’s contributions to research on the Gulf without highlighting the annual Gulf Research Meeting, which GRC established in 2010 and celebrated its 10th annual gathering at the University of Cambridge in 2019. The Gulf Research Meeting remains the largest annual academic conference solely focused on the Gulf region, and is often cited as being the highlight of the year to scholars from around the world whose research focuses on the Gulf. In hosting the Gulf Research Meeting, the GRC has created this important and unique platform to foster global research collaboration among young and emerging scholars and more well-established scholars, both from within and outside the Gulf. This was unprecedented at the time of its establishment, and since then, the conference has successfully held over 120 research workshops, leading to over 1500 peer-reviewed academic papers on the Gulf in some aspect.

Since its establishment, the Gulf Research Center has developed six major research and analysis programs, which touch on all elements impacting policy-making in the Gulf, including themes such as political systems and development, foreign relations of the Gulf, defense and security issues, the economy, as well as environmental issues and the role of energy and its regional and worldwide dimensions. In each of its research programs, it is the objective of the GRC and its extensive community of researchers and contributors to shed light on unexplored issues and relationships that are and will be of increased importance both for the Gulf region and the rest of the world. Each of the research areas is structured to encourage the dissemination of original research and to serve as an information resource base where all materials necessary for a solid understanding of an area of interest come together, involving the research and analysis itself, which often leads to book or article publications, in addition to conferences and workshops and executive learning programs,



which serve to highlight both ongoing research and publications and also are an opportunity to discuss and collaborate on topics that should be explored further in additional research.

“The GRC has been at the forefront of innovative research on many other previously ignored topics such as Gulf relations with Latin America, Africa and Asia, in addition to dedicating an entire research program to migration and the labor market in the Gulf.”

It would be impossible to detail all of the ways that the GRC has significantly contributed to research on the Gulf region. However, it is important to be aware of these achievements and groundbreaking research studies that the GRC has carried out over the last two decades, including research achievements in the early years of the GRC. A major highlight of those early years was the creation of the Gulf Yearbook series, which the GRC published annually from 2003-2009, and which was unprecedented in the way it comprehensively covered all key political, economic, social and strategic challenges that defined developments in the Gulf region in a particular year. Putting together each edition required extensive research into primary sources, and the volumes produced as a result continue to stand as important reference materials on the Gulf for the years that they covered. For example, if one wants to have a better understanding of the political dynamics in the Kuwaiti parliamentary elections of 2008, one can easily refer to the Gulf Yearbook of that year, which reflects the volumes' relevance even today. As of 2020, the Gulf Yearbook, now entitled “Gulf in a Year” and can be found on the GRC website in the form of a digital timeline.

“The GRC was also one of the first research centers to study renewable energy and environmental issues in the Gulf, looking at energy issues in a much broader context years before the various GCC countries drafted their vision programs for economic diversification.”

Furthermore, being a Gulf-based think tank offering a regional perspective, it has always been important for the Gulf Research Center, whenever possible, to provide research and analysis content in Arabic, not only to reflect its regional priorities, but to also give those who come from the region itself access to high-quality research content in their native language

Arabic, which is the official language of all countries in the region. For this reason, Araa Magazine, which publishes monthly research and analysis in Arabic on all issues dealt with by GRC research programs, has been instrumental in ensuring the availability of Arabic content to its wide readership. In addition to carrying out research and analysis in Arabic, through the translation of books and important scholarly publications from English into Arabic, GRC has also enabled its Arabic-speaking audience to access critical research on international affairs from non-GRC institutions.

“*In hosting the Gulf Research Meeting, the GRC has created this important and unique platform to foster global research collaboration among young and emerging scholars and more well-established scholars, both from within and outside the Gulf.*”

As we start off a new decade with a global pandemic that is affecting countries around the world indiscriminately, and which has already had devastating economic consequences including a steep decline in global oil prices, it is clear that targeted research on the Gulf and how the Gulf is impacted by world events will remain relevant in the years to come. The Gulf Research Center remains committed to its original mission of contextualizing these events in terms of their relevance to and impact on the Gulf region, and providing high-quality research and analysis in both English and Arabic through its various research programs and global partnerships, and engaging with a new generation of Gulf scholars from around the world.

The Gulf Research Center extends a sincere thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success during the past twenty years!

[Click here](#) to read the reflections of current and former GRC staff in light of the 20th anniversary.



HIGHLIGHTED GRC PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS

COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON THINK TANKS AND GRC ACTIVITIES

The coronavirus pandemic presented many challenges to think tanks around the world in that it forced them to readjust their entire annual agenda in a very short amount of time due to external factors preventing them from carrying out their activities normally. This broad challenge of course is an umbrella encompassing more specific challenges, however the main concern for think tanks, including GRC, was the disruption in travel and travel restrictions that impacted previously scheduled events and meetings and the lack of clarity in terms of how long these disruptions would take place, making it difficult to postpone events several months or even an entire year later.

For example, in the case of the Gulf Research Center, our major annual event, the Gulf Research Meeting, taking place every summer in Cambridge, which brings together several hundred academics from all over the world to present their research on topics related to Gulf studies, was impacted by the pandemic in several ways. The first major impact was on the logistics of organizing the event itself. Once it was clear in spring 2020 that travel restrictions would be in place throughout the summer, we had to take the decision to cancel our venue booking, which is done a year in advance of the event. We contemplated postponing the event for several months, however, it was unclear when those travel restrictions would be lifted, especially with the second wave of the virus beginning to hit Europe at the time.

While many think tanks chose to move their events virtual, and we did the same for various other events, it became clear to us that there are certain types of events and conferences which pose particular difficulties in holding them virtually, especially with very little time to accommodate the different format. With the GRM planned to last several full days, a last minute decision to hold the event virtually would have posed difficulties in choosing one time zone that would be convenient for our participants especially far west and far east. Furthermore, travel and movement restrictions in the spring months presented difficulties to our participants who had planned to carry out field research for their research papers to be presented at the conference. These challenges of course are a microcosm of the types of challenges that think tanks have been facing as a whole, however the difficulties of carrying out research combined with the logistical difficulties of holding in person events and meetings are two major ways that think tanks have been specifically impacted. Thankfully however, since cancelling last year's GRM, we have decided to hold GRM 2021 virtually, having had the time to adjust the format of the conference in addition to building an online platform for the virtual event that can accommodate the conference's 11 parallel workshops.

Canceled events can also lead to a loss of funding that think tanks may have anticipated, and considering that most think tanks like GRC are non-profit organizations, they tend to rely on a tight budget. As governments have been forced to reallocate funds to research centers that focus on COVID-19 treatment and vaccine research, some think tanks, especially those that rely on government funding have faced the challenge of seeing their funds reallocated.

“With information constantly changing and evolving, not only on COVID-19 itself but also on how the pandemic has impacted all facets of life and society, including the economy, in order to stay relevant, there has been an urgent demand for think tanks to disseminate fact-based information on these impacts at light speed.”

A final major challenge which many think tanks have also interpreted as an opportunity, is the difficulty in staying relevant throughout the pandemic. With information constantly changing and evolving, not only on COVID-19 itself but also on how the pandemic has impacted all facets of life and society, including the economy, in order to stay relevant, there has been an urgent demand for think tanks to disseminate fact-based information on these impacts at light speed. With all events and knowledge production globally going digital, this has increased competition among think tanks in terms of delivering such information quickly and reliably. However, with the digital world representing a more even playing field due to the fact that hosting an event virtually is much less costly than in person, this has also represented an opportunity for think tanks that wish to make their presence known globally and disseminate their research, but where they may have struggled to attract an audience before the pandemic due to the costly nature of in person events and print publications.

In this context, think tanks, especially those like the Gulf Research Center that deal with political and strategic issues, have been forced to redirect their research energies over the last months to focus on the various ways that COVID-19 has impacted their sector of expertise. For GRC, this has meant holding additional events on how COVID-19 has impacted the Gulf region in particular. Starting in April 2020, we began hosting a series of virtual roundtables, each one of which brought together experts on the region to discuss ways that COVID-19 has affected, for example, the Gulf energy industry, the Gulf economy, and Gulf security. Following those webinars, the GRC also co-organized through its Tafahum project, additional virtual events on COVID-19’s regional impact. Looking at the output of other think tanks as well, it was clear from the beginning of the pandemic that everyone has made an effort to provide critical input on the shifting global dynamics as a result of the pandemic, and so this has definitely been a challenge for think tanks in terms of finding ways to provide added value to the conversations that were already ongoing.

However, those challenges have been outweighed by the ways that the pandemic has also facilitated collaboration and coordination among think tanks. With all events being virtual, researchers at think tanks around the world have been able to participate in a greater number of discussions and collaborate with more think tanks than they would have been able to otherwise. Before the pandemic, participating in a conference required blocking out your entire schedule for that day and sometimes week, in order take into consideration travel time and other factors. Now, think tank researchers are able to schedule several speaking engagements or discussions in the very same day, even at events technically taking place on different continents. This has allowed for a greater and more efficient exchange of knowledge and best practices at a time where such knowledge sharing is highly needed.

At the beginning of the pandemic, think tanks focused more on the challenge of carrying out our work digitally, but now that we have adjusted to this shift in working style, we are starting to notice the advantages that have come out of it, such as those already mentioned. This has forced us to come to terms with increasing digitalization in ways that would normally have taken several years to implement, but in which we only had a short amount of time, thus enhancing our understanding of more modern ways to carry out research and advocacy, no matter what focus or specialization a specific think tank has. This creates room for growth for more established think tanks, and for younger think tanks, it provides them with an opportunity to build their audience at a faster speed.

“*It has become clear since the COVID-19 outbreak, that think tanks play an immensely important role not only in limiting the spread of the pandemic itself, through scientifically fact-based research provided by epidemiologists on containing the virus, but think tanks have also played a significant role in limiting the negative effects of the pandemic on society at large, not only those directly concerned with public health.*”

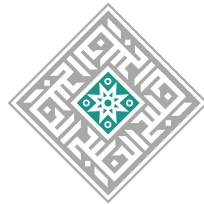
It has become clear since the COVID-19 outbreak, that think tanks play an immensely important role not only in limiting the spread of the pandemic itself, through scientifically fact-based research provided by epidemiologists on containing the virus, but think tanks have also played a

significant role in limiting the negative effects of the pandemic on society at large, not only those directly concerned with public health.

“The pandemic has allowed the work of think tanks to become more pressing and relevant and have a tangible impact on society, and has brought increased value to their work in the eyes of the general public, who have looked towards think tanks and experts for answers since the onset of the pandemic.”

With government lockdowns, closures of businesses and mandated work from home for non-essential workers, the unprecedented economic effects of the pandemic have coincided with the public health impacts, and the role of think tanks in providing forecasts and analyses on mitigating those negative effects have complemented the public health research. Education as a whole has been greatly impacted by the pandemic, both at the elementary level all the way to higher education, and it has been through the important research of government and non-government think tanks along with input from the private sector that countries have been able to transition from in-person to online learning. Policymakers have been able to benefit from think tanks and research centers in making critical decisions regarding pandemic response, which has been needed at the local, national and international levels. Overall, the pandemic has allowed the work of think tanks to become more pressing and relevant and have a tangible impact on society, and has brought increased value to their work in the eyes of the general public, who have looked towards think tanks and experts for answers since the onset of the pandemic.

ABOUT THE GULF RESEARCH CENTER FOUNDATION (GRCF)



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

K n o w l e d g e f o r A l l

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 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.

TAFAHUM PROJECT

The region of West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP) as a geo-strategic 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 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.

To prepare the ground for a new concept of regional security, a series of cooperative measures needs to be envisaged. Issue-oriented cooperation between regional actors on a number of subjects promoted through the support of external actors appears as the most appropriate and tangible approach.

The objective of the project is 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 a number of policy papers that would amount to the ‘Tafahum 2021’ roadmap – a 20-30 page policy report outlining the path towards a regional security arrangement.

Various events were held in 2020 as part of the Tafahum project, including the following:

Tafahum 2nd Annual Conference: Security Roadmap for West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula

December 15-16

Type: Workshop (Zoom Meeting)

Tafahum Working Group 1: Trade and Energy Cooperation in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula Arabian

October 20-21

Type: Workshop (hybrid)

Tafahum Working Group 2: Environmental Issues and Climate Change in West Asia and the

Arabian Peninsula

September 22-23

Type: Workshop (hybrid)

Tafahum Virtual Roundtable, Trade and Energy in Time of COVID-19

July 8

Type: Workshop (webinar)

Tafahum Virtual Roundtable, Environmental Issues and COVID-19

June 17

Type: Workshop (webinar)

Tafahum Virtual Roundtable, The Covid-19 Pandemic and its Regional Impact & Regional Responses to Future Pandemics

June 10

Type: Workshop (webinar)

Tafahum Virtual Roundtable, The Covid-19 Pandemic and its Regional Impact

May 7

Type: Workshop (webinar)

Tafahum Working Group 5: Second session on Developing a ‘Regional Stability Paradigm’ & Enhancing Post-Conflict Reconciliation

February 5-6

Location: Casa Arabe, Cordoba, Spain

Type: Workshop

GULF LABOR 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 joint programme of the Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) and the European University Institute (EUI, Florence). 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 (EUI) 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. Together they laid the cornerstone for GLMM. 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.

Key GLMM facts include:

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)

GLMM aims to produce knowledge on migration to the Gulf, promote evidence-based

policymaking, and improve the situation of migrant workers

GLMM has a large network of data producers and data users in the GCC countries and beyond, including policy makers and researchers

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 (<https://gulfmigration.org/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/>). More than 400 legal documents and more than 1,200 tables are available on the GLMM website

GLMM's website – <https://www.gulfmigration.org> receives up to 5,000 visits a month

Research on the various aspects of GCC migration and population include:

Skilful Survivals: Irregular Migration in the Gulf - <https://gulfmigration.org/publications/book/>

Migration to the Gulf: Policies in Sending and Receiving Countries - http://gulfmigration.org/publications/book_grm2017/

Living and working conditions of low-income workers in the hospitality and construction sectors in Qatar - http://gulfmigration.org/media/pubs/rp/GLMM_EN_2019_RR01.pdf

Living and working conditions of low-income workers in the hospitality and construction sectors in the UAE - http://gulfmigration.org/media/pubs/rp/GLMM_EN_2019_RR02.pdf

Comparative analysis of the sponsorship system in the Gulf countries - http://gulfmigration.org/media/pubs/exno/GLMM_EN_2019_04.pdf

Wage Protection Systems in the Gulf Countries - https://gulfmigration.org/media/pubs/rp/GLMM_EN_2017_RR01.pdf

Demographic-economic and legal profiles of migration of all six GCC countries - <https://gulfmigration.org/publications/>

Fertility of Nationals in Qatar - Its Levels, Trends and Differentials in the Early 21st Century - <https://gulfmigration.org/media/pubs/briefs/NPRP%20Project%20-%20Philippe%20Fargues%20with%20Noof%20Abdulhadi%20Al-Rakeb%20-%202019-11-26.pdf>

Fertility in Qatar and in Other GCC States: Some Elements of Comparison - <https://gulfmigration.org/media/pubs/rp/NPRP%20Project%20-%20Francoise%20De%20Bel-Air%20-%202019-11-26.pdf>

GLMM has organized the following workshops as part of the Gulf Research Meetings at the University of Cambridge:

2021: “The COVID-19 Health and Socio-economic Crises: Consequences on Population and Migration in the Gulf”

2018: “The Future of Population and Migration in the Gulf” (18 papers)

2017: “Migration Policies in the Gulf: Continuity and Change” (15 papers)

2016: “The Economics of Migration to the Gulf: Perspectives from Countries of Origin and Destination” (15 papers)

2015: “The Role of Legislation, Policies, and Practices in Irregular Migration to the Gulf” (19 papers)

2014: “Determinants of Future Migration in the Gulf” (15 papers)

2012: “Migration in the Gulf” (12 papers)

2011: “Social Impacts of GCC Migration” (9 papers)

2010: “The Impact of Migration on Gulf Development and Stability” (13 papers)

2010: “Population, Labor Markets and National Identity” (12 papers)

GLMM has obtained several grants from Gulf and international organisations for research projects, including:

Developing a Knowledge Base on Migration to the GCC States: Assessing Migrants' Living and Working Conditions in Qatar and the UAE. Funded by the International Migration Initiative (IMI) of the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) (2016-2019)

Fertility of Qatari and Other GCC Nationals in a Context of High Dependency on Foreign Labour: An Innovative Approach for Policy Making on Family Building. A joint project with the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University and Funded by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) - National Priority Research Programme (NPRP) (2016-2020)

Determinants of Fertility of Kuwait Women and Their Impact for Policy Making. Funded by UNDP Kuwait / Kuwaiti Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) and implemented in cooperation with the Women's Research and Studies Programme (WRSC) at Kuwait University (2017-2019)

In early 2021, GLMM was negotiating the funding of a new project with SDC and ILO Regional Office of Arab States (ROAS) entitled: Tool for Evidence-Based Policies on Migration to the GCC (2021-2023)

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, environment, security, and energy issues relating to the Gulf region. 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.

GULF RESEARCH MEETING



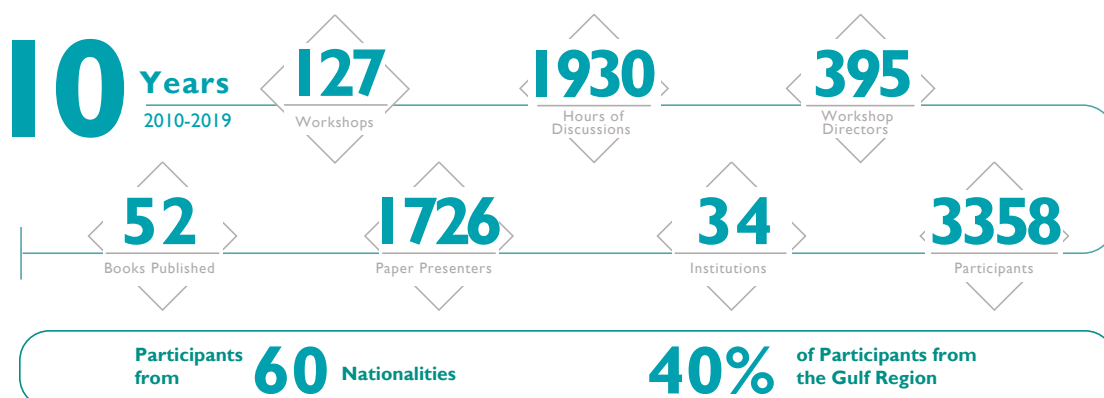
A significant part of the work of the GRCC involves organizing the annual Gulf Research Meeting, through which the GRCC identifies subjects of importance to the Gulf region, stimulates research in these subject areas, and provides a forum for broad dissemination of the research results, with the goal of helping to 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. Young scholars in particular are encouraged to engage in the debate and take part in research collaboration.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Gulf Research Meeting was cancelled, and the 2021 edition will be held virtually. You can find updated information on the conference via its new website: <https://www.gulfresearchmeeting.net/>



The First 10 Years of GRM

The Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) offers a unique environment to explore matters of key importance to the Gulf region and provides a platform for discussion and dissemination of research in a wide variety of Gulf-related fields, including economic and financial issues, international relations, security, environment, energy and renewable energy, as well as education, labour and social issues. Committed to a high-level academic standard, the GRM's objective is to help generate solutions to many of the region's pressing challenges.



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.





نحاور أصحاب الشأن والرأي
لنضعكم في الصورة

الدكتور عبدالعزيز بن صقر

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rotana.net
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جدة



الطريق إلى 2030
 محمد بن سلمان:
 هامش الاختلاف
 قد يزيد أو يقل مع
 الإدارة الأميركية

عاجل < مصدر أميركي لموقع أكسيوس: لا شيء وشيكاً في مفاوضات فيينا والطريق لا يزال طويلاً

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محمد بن سلمان: الولايات المتحدة شريك استراتيجي للسعودية

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GRC EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS (TIMELINE OF EVENTS)

December 17: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at a virtual roundtable discussion: Assessing regional security dynamics across the Middle East, organized by The European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and the German Permanent Representation to the EU.

December 15-16: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center spoke in a closed panel discussion today at Tafahum's 2nd Annual Virtual Conference taking place from organized by the Gulf Research Center and CARPO

December 10: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at RUSI second Iranian Nuclear Pathways colloquium.

December 10: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at a webinar organized by the Berghof Foundation, discussing 'Decentralization vs. Separation: Political Visions for Yemen'.

December 8: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a discussion to exchange views on the foreign policies of US President-elect Joe Biden related to issues of the Gulf region and the Middle East on the sidelines of the Manama Dialogue.

December 7: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke on a panel organized by the Middle East Research Institute, discussing the possible changes in the Trump Administration's policy in the Middle East and security dynamics in the context of Joe Biden's inauguration.

November 25: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke on a panel organized by the Protestant Academy Loccum, discussing 'How is Europe's Gulf Policy Perceived by Saudi Arabia?'

November 24: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke on a panel organized by DERASAT's Third Annual Forum, discussing "How think tanks were impacted by pandemic and how they responded".

November 17: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at a webinar organized by Chatham House, discussing the G20 Presidency: Saudi Arabia's goals, priorities and challenges.

November 16: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the Virtual Global Partnership Summit with a recorded speech in which he addressed the Sino-American relations and their effects on the Gulf region.

November 14: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke on a panel hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates in partnership with the Atlantic Council, at the annual Sir Bani Yas Forum, discussing the topic of 'Iran, Turkey, and the Arab World'.

November 9: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated at the ninth annual Council of Councils (CoC) organized by the Council on Foreign Relations, to discuss major and emerging issues on the global governance agenda. The session focused on great power relations and the future of global and regional orders, the future of climate change beyond the Paris Agreement, and reforming global health governance.

November 2: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at the 2nd panel discussion on ‘Diplomacy and Soft-Power: GCC-Germany cooperation in diplomacy and crisis management’ at the GCC-German Forum on Strategic Dialogue & Regional Security.

October 29: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager delivered an online lecture at the University of Montreal on “Security in the MENA”, moderated by Professor Jamal Abdullah, a lecturer on Middle East Politics.

October 28: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a digital round table discussion of the future of the Gulf economies in the age of sparsity.

October 27: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at the 23rd Arab-German Business Forum with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the guest country, discussing the visions and opportunities in time of crisis with new focus for Arab-German cooperation.

September 28: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a digital round table discussion titled: “Should GCC national oil companies target net zero emissions by 2050?”

September 22: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in a virtual seminar organized by the ASBAR Forum entitled: “The American elections and their repercussions on Saudi Arabia and the Gulf”.

September 21: Dr Abdulaziz Sager participated in a webinar organized by the ASBAR Forum titled: “The American elections and their repercussions on Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.”

September 17: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a closed workshop organized by the Center for Strategic Studies at Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies titled- American-Chinese competition and its implications for the Arab Gulf region

September 10: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at the Arab Gulf State Institute in Washington’s (AGSIW) virtual panel, discussing the potential for Red Sea basin countries to turn developing foreign engagement into opportunities for greater political and economic cooperation.

September 8: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at the Council of Council’s second virtual conference of 2020 discussing seventy-five years of the United Nations and how the COVID-19 pandemic relates to strengthening international cooperation, especially regarding vaccine production and distribution.

July 22: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at the Beirut Institute's Summit e-Policy Circle 12, discussing the Gulf countries post COVID-19 and the effects of the pandemic on political, security and economic dimensions.

June 29: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated as a speaker at a webinar entitled 'Change and Continuity in Middle East Geopolitics' organized by Cambridge Middle East and North Africa Forum.

June 16: Dr Abdulaziz Sager participated in the conference organized by the T20 entitled 'Policy Recommendations for Post COVID-19 World'.

June 16: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a T20 task force meeting, in his role as Lead Co-Chair of T20 Task Force 5 'The Future of Multilateralism and Global Governance'.

June 16: Dr Abdulaziz Sager participated in the conference organized by the T20 entitled 'Policy Recommendations for Post World COVID-19'.

June 10: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in an online workshop entitled 'Political Geography, Nuclear Issues and the Middle East' organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

June 10: Dr Abdulaziz Sager participated in a closed meeting for the Tafahum Second Roundtable entitled "The Covid-19 Pandemic and its Regional Impacts - Regional Responses to Future Pandemics".

May 22: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the symposium organized by the Center of the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), fostering talks on institutional, social and political transformation.

May 22: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the 'Council of Councils' tele-conference, which was organized by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

May 19: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager moderated the panel of the T20 webinar on 'COVID-19 and the Future of Multilateralism'.

May 18: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a session titled "The future of Iraqi-Gulf relations in the new Iraqi government".

May 14: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a session titled "The Gulf after Corona and the security, economic and social challenges for post-Corona from a security perspective, the economic dimension and its implications."

May 13: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in an online seminar organized by the Center for Strategic Studies at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, entitled: “Crisis Management and Management Crisis: Differences of Countries and Gove.

May 12: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a session titled “Preserving peace in light of the outbreak of the emerging Corona virus pandemic”.

April 20: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a webinar titled “Global Order and International Relations after Covid-19”.

April 2: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a closed online seminar organized by the European Council on Foreign Relations which brought together a group of politicians, experts and academics.

April 1: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager delivered an online lecture at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

March 4: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager spoke at the seminar “Challenges of Strategic Studies” organized by the Library of Alexandria’s Center for Strategic Studies and discussed the role of think tanks in supporting Arab decision-making and shaping policies for the region.

March 2: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in a symposium organized at King Abdulaziz University to discuss the 75th anniversary of the historic first meeting between President Franklin Roosevelt and King Abdulaziz ibn Saud.

February 14: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the Munich Security Conference.

January 28: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager participated in the “Renew Europe” conference at the European Parliament in Brussels as a keynote speaker.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager

Chairman

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager is the founder and chairman of the Gulf Research Center



Dr. Mustafa Alani

Senior Advisor & Director - Security and Defense Research Program



Dr. John Sfakianakis

Program Director - Economic Research, Chief Economist



Dr. Ahmed Sager

GRCF Founding Member



Dr. Christian Koch

GRC Foundation, Geneva



Prof. Giacomo Luciani

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Ahmad Salah Ahmad

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Araa Magazine



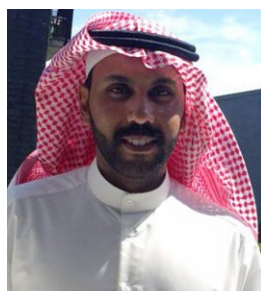
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Director of Cooperation



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Researcher



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