



**Gulf Research Centre Cambridge**

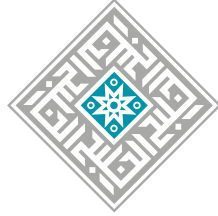
**K n o w l e d g e   f o r   A l l**

# Seminar Report

Gulf Research Meeting, 11-14 July 2012  
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom







**Gulf Research Centre Cambridge**  
Knowledge for All

## **The 2012 Gulf Research Meeting**

University of Cambridge, 11-14 July 2012

With the support of :





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# Welcome



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager

The 2012 Gulf Research Meeting was the largest of the three annual Gulf Research Meetings that have been held so far, underlining the attraction of such an event for the Gulf scholarly community. With the third meeting, the GRM's objective remains to further build and extend the bridge of scholarly and academic excellence, and to promote continued exchange among scholars working on this critical part of the world. With the events that continue to impact the Gulf region as well as the entire Middle East, a proper understanding of the issues continues to be urgent and absolutely necessary.

From the outset, the selection of workshops for the 2012 meeting was difficult, as we had to choose from over 50 excellent proposals, covering a broad spectrum of critical issues currently facing the Gulf region. In the end, we chose 19 workshops, which brought together about 500 participants, including close to 300 paper presenters and well over 100 listening participants. We were also very pleased that the GRM received an increased response from scholars and other interested persons from the Gulf region itself.

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge would like to express its sincere gratitude to all our GRM sponsors. Without their financial commitment and faith in our mission, this meeting would not have been possible. Detailed information about all sponsors can be found in this brochure as well as on the Gulf Research Meeting website. We would also like to once again thank the University of Cambridge and especially the Centre of Islamic Studies for their tremendous cooperation and support.

Allow me to alert you about the 2013 Gulf Research Meeting, which will take place from July 2-5, 2013. We are looking forward to once again seeing as many of our interested colleagues there as possible with another exciting line-up of workshops and lively discussions.

**Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**

Chairman

Gulf Research Center







## About the Gulf Research Meeting

At the Gulf Research Center (GRC), one of the most important goals remains the spread of scholarly research and knowledge relating to the Gulf throughout the international community. In a bid to foster greater understanding of the GCC and the challenges the region faces, and to strengthen the links between scholars from different regions, we decided to create the Gulf Research Meeting (GRM).

Led by the commitment of the GRC's founder and chairman, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, the GRM is unparalleled in both its scope and value as far as scholarly and policy-oriented research about the critical Gulf region is concerned. A flagship event that is hosted annually at the University of Cambridge during the beginning of July, the GRM brings together hundreds of specialists, policy practitioners, and aspiring academics from the Arab region and the rest of the world to discuss and debate the key challenges and changes facing the GCC and enhance their knowledge about this unique part of the world.



GCC Secretary-General H.E. Maj. Gen. Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al-Zayani speaking at the Opening Session of the 2011 Gulf Research Meeting

### Advancing Knowledge

At a time when the Gulf region continues to gain in strategic relevance and importance, it is more urgent than ever to expand knowledge about this critical part of the world and to become more familiar with the issues that are defining its overall development. Of equal importance is the promotion of scholarly and balanced research about the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), its adjacent neighbors that constitute the wider Gulf region (Iran, Iraq and Yemen) and their

## About the Gulf Research Meeting

relations to one another as well as with the wider external environment.

Through parallel workshops dedicated to specific topics in the fields of politics, economics, energy, security and the wider social sciences, the Gulf Research Meeting addresses the existing shortcomings, to provide correct and insightful information about the region and to promote mutual understanding between the Gulf and the rest of the world.



Dr. Abdullah Baabood, Director GRC-Cambridge, greeting H.H. Shaikh Khalid Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan at the 2011 GRM Opening Session

### Producing Output

Committed to a high-level academic standard, the GRM's objectives are also to produce policy input and generate solutions to many of the region's pressing challenges. Each year, workshops are selected on both their ability to contribute to the development of literature on the Gulf and their relevance to issues of present and common concern. In this manner, and through the intensive debates that are part of the individual meetings, concrete ideas and initiatives are created that can then be disseminated to a wider audience through generated publications, whether as short policy briefs, extended essays or more broader edited books. Such discussions also lead to additional collaborative efforts among the participants and their institutions beyond the framework of the GRM.



Prof. Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, giving the Opening Address at the 2012 Gulf Research Meeting

### Creating Networks

Through its workshops and constant interaction among participants, the GRM also promotes widespread research efforts among different institutions from within the Gulf and other parts of the region to heighten awareness of Gulf-specific issues. At the core lies the partnership between the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge and the Centre of Islamic Studies (CIS) at the University of Cambridge. Universally recognized as one of the world's leading educational institutions, the University of Cambridge together with the CIS has provided a

strong commitment to foster cooperation and promote exchanges such as the Gulf Research Meeting. Such collaboration opens the door to promote further work and link into a worldwide network of leading individuals and research initiatives.



HRH Prince Turki Bin Faisal Al-Saud participating in the discussion at the 2011 GRM Opening Session

Beyond the University of Cambridge, the GRM brings together institutions from throughout the world thereby creating additional opportunities for networking and cooperation. Particular importance and emphasis is given to encourage young scholars, in particular from the GCC countries - including those studying abroad - to engage in the debate and take part in research collaboration. In this way, GRM provides a path into the future generation and the role it will play in shaping the region's development.

The Gulf Research Meeting is a ground-breaking and progressive project that the GRC is proud to be at the forefront of.

# The 2012 GRM Program



## Tuesday, July 10, 2012

09:30-19:00                      Arrival of Participants and Registration

## Wednesday, July 11, 2012

09:30-15:30                      Arrival of Participants and Registration

15:30                              Workshop Directors' Briefing

16:30                              Opening remarks:  
Dr. Abdullah Baabood, Director of the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Welcoming remarks:  
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center

16:45                              Keynote address:  
H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council

Vice Chancellor's address:  
Prof. Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge

17:30                              Discussion moderated by:  
Prof. Yasir Suleiman CBE, Founding Director, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge

18:30                              Reception and Group Photograph, King's College

19:30                              Gala Dinner, King's College

## Thursday, July 12, 2012

9:00	Individual Workshop Sessions Commence
13:15-14:30	Lunch, King's College
15:00	Afternoon Workshop Sessions

## Friday, July 13, 2012

9:30	Individual Workshop Sessions Commence
13:15-14:30	Lunch, King's College
15:00	Afternoon Workshop Sessions
19:30	GRM Dinner, King's College

## Saturday, July 14, 2012

9:00-13:00	Individual Workshop Sessions Continue
13:00	Lunch, Crowne Plaza, Cambridge











# Opening Ceremony

## Opening Ceremony

### Welcome Remarks

#### **Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**

Chairman, Gulf Research Center



*Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager*

It is my great pleasure to welcome all workshop directors, participants, special guests and dignitaries to the opening session of the third Gulf Research Meeting being held at the University of Cambridge. This year's meeting has exceeded all of our expectations and we have the largest number of participants so far, close to 500. This is 400% more than we had during our first session in 2010 and it is because of all of you who have responded to our various calls that we have been confirmed in our belief that such an annual meeting is both needed and wanted. I can only express my sincere thank you for all of your effort and support in making the Gulf Research Meeting the success that it has turned out to be.

I am pleased to say that as in the past, international scholars, specialists, policy practitioners and students have gathered in great numbers to advance the field of Gulf studies and to contribute with their work and expertise to the further development of the field. While last year's GRM proved to be a great success and the response we received in the weeks and months that followed was tremendous and very encouraging, we received an even more enthusiastic response to our call for workshops and the subsequent call for papers. In the end, we decided to accept 19 workshops for this year's meeting, covering such diverse topics as "The Impact of the Arab Spring on the GCC countries" "Gulf-Latin America Relations" "Youth Employment Strategies" "Gulf Energy Challenges" "Islamic Finance" and "The Role of Gulf Charities" just to highlight some of the workshops being held. These workshops have also attracted a large number of listening participants in addition to the paper presenters so that we have come close to my stated goal of 500 people gathered here for what will surely be an exciting few days of intense and serious discussion. Even as far as papers are concerned, there are close to 300 papers that have been



received and due to a new publication arrangement that will take effect with this year's meeting we are also committed to seeing those papers get published and distributed worldwide so that we can reach an even larger audience with much of the original work that is being presented here.

In addition to all workshop participants around whom the Gulf Research Meeting is built, let me extend a special thank you to some very special guests who have joined us for this occasion including H.E. Maj. Gen. Dr. Abdul Latef Bin Rashid Al-Zayani, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, H.E. Shaikha Misnad, the President of Qatar University, H.E. Mohammad Abdul Ghaffar, the President of the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies and an Advisor to the King of Bahrain on international diplomatic issues, H.E. Saad Al-Ammar, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the GCC, H.E. Talal Abdul Salam Alansari of the GCC, as well as his Excellencies the GCC Ambassadors who have made the journey up to Cambridge from London. We look forward to the remarks of H.E. Secretary-General Al-Zayani and we highly appreciate all their effort to come to Cambridge and to support the concept of the Gulf Research Meeting. I also welcome all the other dignitaries who have joined us as well as the members of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Council who have also once again come here to Cambridge.

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This meeting and everything that is involved would of course not been possible without the strong support from our sponsors. Thus, a very special thank has to be extended to them: to KAB Holding, who have supported us three years running now; Bank Muscat, now in their second year with us; the Kuwait Fund for the Advancement of Science; Silatech of Qatar; the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development who have again provided generous support for our work here for the second time; Georgetown University in Qatar; Derasat of Bahrain; and Al Diyar.

Finally, an equally important thank you needs to be given to the University of Cambridge for their continued support for both the Gulf Research Meeting and for the GRC office hosted by the Centre of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. We have held discussions during the days here on maintaining our activities of the GRC and looking at how else to effectively use our base and the support from the University to further advance the field of Gulf studies. Prof. Yasir Suleiman, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies and the Director of the Centre of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, continues to be the driving force behind our cooperation and we highly appreciate all of his effort.

Given that it is the mandate of the Gulf Research Meeting to identify issues of importance to the Gulf region and provide a basis for academic and empirical research into those fields, it is great to see that participation in this meeting has once again come in from throughout the world including an increasingly strong contingent from the Gulf Region itself, which is a very welcome development. Thus, what can be said with certainty is that we have fulfilled our promise from last year which was to work hard, build on the success of the first two Gulf Research Meetings and bring an even larger group together for this year's event.

Allow me to end my introductory remarks by also alerting you to the fact that the Call for Proposals for the 2013 Gulf Research Meeting is now out and we look forward to receiving a rich array of proposals. The 2013 meeting will take place from July 2 to 5, 2013. I of course encourage you to pass the call around to interested colleagues and to disseminate it as widely as possible. A flyer is included in the information package that you all have and further information is available on the event website.

Thank you again for all of your support, welcome to Cambridge and please enjoy the coming days to the fullest.

### Remarks by

### **Prof. Sir Leszek Borysiewicz**

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge



*Prof. Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, University of Cambridge*

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, I suppose I could just say it in one word, welcome. In Cambridge, we like to say if something happens twice then actually it becomes a tradition. So the Gulf Research Meeting is in its third year. So on behalf of the University, I actually offer you a warm welcome to Cambridge and to this traditional meeting, a partnership between the University of Cambridge and the Gulf Research Center Cambridge.

In two weeks' time, the United Kingdom will be host to 10,000 athletes from 204 countries for the Olympic Games. Heathrow airport, I am told, is expecting 600,000 international visitors. I am delighted to welcome you here and for the sake of your travel plans, I am glad you got in early. I am delighted to note this is the biggest academic meeting on the Gulf outside the Gulf region. This is testimony to the many lively academic relationships that Cambridge has with Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. To mention only a few, we are proud of our links with Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia, and the Ras Al Khaimah Center for Advanced Materials in the United Arab Emirates.

These bridges for us are two-way and the Gulf has a presence in Cambridge too. Most significantly through the generosity and vision of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said who has endowed the professorship held by Professor Yasir Suleiman and a Professorship of Abrahamic Faiths and Shared Values, and His Royal Highness Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal after whom the Centre of Islamic Studies is named. Your presence here, colleagues, reinforces these ties. I am delighted to welcome the President of Qatar University Dr. Sheikha Al-Misnad and many academic colleagues from



## Opening Ceremony



universities throughout the Gulf. The relationships are important to us, they are institutional but they are actually very personal. After all, the high minded aspiration of vice-chancellors and presidents can have little effect without the enthusiasms and ambition of individual academics, and I am pleased to report that such enthusiasm is here in abundance. It is this enthusiasm that makes our collaborations successful.

The Gulf Research Meeting covers a mighty range of themes from what I can see, from banking through agriculture, health and energy. All these topics are shaped by the particular resources and needs of the Gulf States. But all are vital to the quality of life in every nation and society.

My own academic field is medicine, I am an immunologist, my studies in that field quickly led me to the realisation that many of the challenges facing the world are interconnected. For example, in poor societies, healthcare, food security and education are inseparable - you cannot have anyone of them without the other two. For this reason, universities, because they combine depth of understanding with breadth of discipline and because of our natural tendency to collaborate, are the perfect institutions to contribute to solutions to these multifaceted challenges that the world faces.

At the first Gulf Research Meeting in Cambridge in 2010, my predecessor Dame Alison Richard said that great universities share five simple characteristics, and I would really like to reiterate





them. Firstly, we are supported and sustained by society with a duty in turn to serve society. Secondly, we pursue academic breadth and excellence in all that we do, and excellence and quality remain core drivers to everything. Thirdly, we have a unified mission to teach and do research, not one without the other but both together. Fourth, we have a high level of autonomy, the ability to make independent decisions and to have that academic freedom, so prized by academics around the world, to be able to comment, to be able to investigate, to be able to suggest different opportunities. And the last is possibly the most important - our boundaries have to be porous that there is always an interchange of ideas and a desire to learn from others as well as from ourselves.

Now all of these characteristics are important, but in opening this meeting today, I will draw your attention to just two of these. The first of these is “breadth and excellence.” Cambridge teaches and researches across a full range of academic disciplines which are given life by individual autonomy and a drive from individual academics. The passion of talented researchers is our greatest strength. We are conscious though of the potential weaknesses of a model which is entirely bottom up when it comes to addressing the world’s great challenges. Such challenges need cooperation, they need partnerships and they need to sustain themselves and they need more than one leader, and I think that has been exemplified wonderfully well in the presentation we just heard from the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

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Accordingly, universities too must develop multidisciplinary research themes across the university which put a little structure and deliberation around these activities and which bring the full power of the institution to bear as well at the same time empowering the individual autonomy of individual academics to feel free to express their opinions within these frameworks. And those frameworks have to be porous. Many of the themes that we now embrace within the university you would identify anywhere in the world. Food Security, Energy, Conservation are just examples. They are not all science and technology yet they are equally led by the humanities because actually the need for technological solutions to serve society embraces more than just straight technological disciplines. These are important to the Gulf, and I know they will feature in your program over the next few days and I can only encourage you to question, to debate and to bring out ideas, that we can share around and between ourselves and to make new ideas flourish.

The second example I would like to give to you is “society”. There is a lot of debate going on in media both in Britain, around the world and I am sure in the Gulf what constitutes whether we are notionally public or private. We all receive support, financial and moral, from our societies. It is society who grants us freedoms and the support that we receive bring with them obligations to that society, and we squarely recognise this in Cambridge’s mission statement. Which begins, the mission of the University of Cambridge is to contribute to society. Cambridge prides itself on being a global university and I am afraid that means the onus is on us also to consider when we refer to society we refer to global society and not a parochial society only enshrined in these islands. In our teaching and research then we bring together specialists from inside and outside Cambridge to work on projects that can enhance critical understanding and cooperation between cultures, the importance of which in a world full of instability and conflict is clear and obvious. The Department of Middle Eastern Studies and the Centre for Islamic Studies has made an excellent practise of this sort of interaction. Frankly, a practise of which this meeting is a shining example and so I can only conclude that you are warmly welcome in Cambridge, even though it may not be so warm outside, for what I am sure will be an absolutely stimulating program and all the more reason to stay indoors if the rain is falling outside. I wish you a very successful meeting because the issues you are going to debate will not just be issues for the Gulf, they are issues for Cambridge and bluntly they are issues for the world. Good luck to you all and have a successful meeting.

## Opening Address

### **H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al-Zayani**

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council



*H.E. Maj. Gen. Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al-Zayani*

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, once again it gives me great pleasure as the Secretary General of the GCC to be invited back to speak to this distinguished audience. I have been asked to give a general update and then say a few words about the GCC Initiative in Yemen.

It is almost exactly a year since I was last here, and what a twelve months they have been for the World and the Region: the Global Financial Crisis appears to be nowhere near to being solved; oil and gas prices seem to fluctuate in response to almost any factor (helped no doubt by “speculation”) and International Banks swing from one crisis to another. On the Security Front, we appear to be in as difficult a position as when I last spoke here, with Syria, Afghanistan, Iran and maritime piracy all proving to

be as problematic (if not more so) than before, and with those countries effected by the so called “Arab Spring” still having some way to go before true stability prevails.

When I last spoke and gave a brief overview of the GCC, I did so with all the authority of someone who had been in the appointment barely three months. Now, twelve months older and with less hair (!), I am glad to take the opportunity to expand and add nuance to what I said about the GCC. The time has allowed me the opportunity to consider closely and articulate all we do and why we do it.

I will start with our main threats and challenges which I summarise as:

- Regionally, the conditions and negative attitudes in some neighbouring states; the Middle East Peace Process, and importantly, international strategies in our region.

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- Internally, we face sectarian challenges; employment problems (particularly for our youth); potential shortages in food and water and of course we must consider the security of our energy resources, its conservancy and the period after resources run out.
- Like all others we are vulnerable to global environmental conditions; threats from terrorism and international organised crime in particular narcotics, financial and cyber, and of course nuclear and other WMD proliferation.

In facing these challenges, we take an optimistic and positive stance. We see them as opportunities calling for focus and the strengthening of cooperation between member states and between the GCC and other international and regional nations and blocs. Now four points which I believe cannot be reiterated enough:

- Firstly, after over 31 years of existence, our nations are more unified than ever; we are aware of our international responsibilities and speak with the same voice on all important global and regional matters.
- Secondly, our nations, with a proud heritage of being an integral part of the Arab and Islamic world, are situated at the epi-centre of a turbulent region and understand intimately the strengths, weaknesses and challenges posed. As a result we are in a strong position to assist with solutions and are able to provide a unique contribution to building a secure and stable Middle East and Arabian Gulf.
- Thirdly, despite some criticism, human values are at the top of our Agenda. We cherish our citizens who are an essential source of GCC development. More on this later.
- Lastly and relevantly, our leaders have shown the political will to rise above the national level.

Our overall Vision for the GCC is that it should achieve and maintain “Prosperity” in the widest sense of the word: economic wealth for each nation and citizen; opportunities to satisfy personal aspirations; equal opportunities for education, health, employment and social services – all within the boundaries of a safe and secure environment and political stability.

We strive to achieve this Vision through five broad Strategic Goals.

Our first Strategic Goal is to “Secure the GCC against all Threats”, and here we specifically



consider all intentional malicious acts such as external aggression, terrorism and serious organised crime, where incidentally we are considering establishing a “GCCPOL” on the lines of “Europol”.

The principles we follow are that an attack on one is an attack on all and that tension should be resolved through political dialogue, consultation and cooperation between ourselves, allies and interested parties. Above all we reject regional or international domination of the Arabian Gulf, as indeed we reject interference in our internal affairs.

Regional uncertainties and rise in terrorism over the recent past have ensured that for military and counter-terrorist issues we have tightened internal and external cooperation. We have not held back from giving advice and at times have acted as a useful intermediary for discussions between parties. Nor have we held back in our attempts to promote dialogue and counter international tensions. For example Saudi Arabia’s initiative to fund the “Centre for Inter-Religious and Intercultural Dialogue” in Vienna, where it is hoped to motivate discussion between the world’s leading religions.

We fully appreciate that our security is best guaranteed through international links and agreements and hope that an occasion will not arise when we have to act without the support of our allies. However, we also understand that we must be able to stand on our own, either because our allies and our own national interests may not be fully compatible, or, because there



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may be an emergency situation in which allied assistance may not be immediately available. As a result priority is being given to strengthening and enhancing our “Joint” capabilities such as the Peninsular Shield Force; establishing a Regional Maritime Coordination Centre; considering a joint response to CBRN threats and working towards a Regional Integrated Air and Missile Defence System. This Joint approach is not only practical in pooling ideas and as a force-multiplier, but is also a strong signal of GCC solidarity and determination.

Finally on this Goal, one should always remember that the actions and statements in the Region by our allies will almost certainly impact on us. Close liaison over future plans and actions are essential.

Our next Strategic Goal is to “Sustain and Increase Economic Growth”. Fortunately we have (through joint efforts), demonstrated economic resilience in weathering the global financial crisis and continue to maintain healthy growth. For this to be maintained and to preserve our wealth for future generations, we are very conscious that we must safeguard, but place less emphasis on our abundant, but finite, natural resources and concentrate on diversification. We see ourselves moving from being “resource fed” to “knowledge led” economies.

Towards this end, we have promoted an ethos of economic innovation; encouraged internal investment; provided for easier cross flow of labour and closer customs union. To give some examples, since the GCC Customs Union was launched in 2003, trade between GCC members has increased by nearly 200%, or more than 20% a year from \$30 billion in 2002 to over \$90 billion in 2011. Similarly, with the GCC Common Market launch in 2008, GCC investors have equal access to markets across the GCC and have the right to engage in any internal economic activity. As a result, intra-GCC investments have jumped by nearly 50% and movements of GCC nationals between member states has also increased significantly, whether for work, education or leisure.

In addition to steps towards tighter market and fiscal union, we are integrating even further through such schemes as a trans-GCC railway system and interlinked power grids. One can say that we are moving towards achieving “GCC economic citizenship”, with a shift from national to GCC thinking. We are advancing with caution, learning from the experience of others; happily and





unashamedly imitating success, but being wary of those areas which have proved problematic. As I said to European Members of Parliament, on a recent visit to Brussels – “we have much to learn, particularly from you with your experiences – both positive and negative”!!

Our third Strategic Goal, to “Encourage and Maintain a High Level of Human Development”, reflects the fact that we consider the Human Being to be our single most valuable asset. It impacts directly on every other Goal in a Social, Political, Economic and Security sense and covers all aspects of improving standards of living, eradicating unemployment, enhancing chances for youth, providing the best education, healthcare, housing, community services and so on. Each of our nations aspires to see development processes and political systems which serve, elevate and fulfil the aspirations and needs of their people. Quite simply, in addition to having surpassed International Millennium Development Goals, we also want every citizen from all levels of society to feel that he or she has been provided with unsurpassed advantages and benefits.

Under our Common Market rules we have expanded social and welfare development across borders, so that GCC citizens now have the right to equal treatment in all member states whether education, medical care or accessing social services.

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We recognise there must be less dependence on international specialist manpower and like many nations have a youthful population whose employment and education (particularly in technology and modern science) are at the top of our priorities. For them we encourage innovation and physical fitness and also seek international and particularly regional participation in our Centres of Learning, with all the benefits of mutual understanding that will flow.

It is the human factor, linked to government processes, which often cause the most misunderstanding and questions to be raised. All I can say is that “Good Governance” is the number one priority of each of our nations, where each in their own way have democratic processes which allow the voices of citizens to be heard. The “winds of change” are blowing, and together governments and citizens are progressing towards a more harmonious and mutually beneficial society – to move too slowly will be harmful, but to move too quickly could be fatal. We seek, and indeed embrace evolution – but not revolution.

Strategic Goal Four is to “Improve Public Safety by developing Strategies for Risk Awareness, Risk Management and Crisis Management”. It is the foundation for providing the GCC with a degree of “Resilience” against all risks, including those posed by the environment. We are establishing a GCC Emergency Risk Management Centre which will be the focal point for coordinating all aspects of Risk Management: from the compilation of a GCC-wide Risk Register to common training and procedures. The Centre will also coordinate an enhanced programme for the provision of GCC disaster emergency aid and assistance (including specialist manpower and equipment) to wherever it is required worldwide.

It is intended that this Goal will be the focal point for changing the philosophy of national governments, institutions and citizens by making them more risk averse. We will also be establishing a GCC Radiation Monitoring Centre as a response to nuclear proliferation in the Region. Both this and the Emergency Management Centre are examples of close GCC integration on matters of mutual concern. Our vision is to draw up a GCC Regional Resilience Strategy in both theory and practice, which hopefully will become an example for Regions elsewhere.

Our last Strategic Goal is to “Strengthen the International Status of the GCC” and is at the heart of our regional and international dialogue and cooperation. It is through this Goal that we



hope to communicate the readiness of the GCC to contribute to the solution of global issues. Many of you will be aware of some of the recent work we have carried out; notably development assistance programmes and donations for humanitarian and development aid throughout Africa and Asia, as well as relief and reconstruction aid to various countries following natural disasters. This is all in addition to bilateral arrangements between GCC nations and others worldwide.

We are also taking a more proactive role in assisting our international partners with political challenges; high profile examples of which are Libya, Egypt and our work with the Arab League towards a solution in Syria. We naturally share the grave international concerns surrounding Iran and continue to do everything we can to cooperate with the international community to attempt to ease these tensions.

This leads nicely to the detail of GCC involvement in Yemen where I will begin by saying a few words on our organisation. This will let you have an idea of our decision making process.

Our organisation is simple and I believe is free of much of the bureaucratic influences of other

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Blocs. At the top sits the “Supreme Council” consisting of Heads of State. This presides over the “Ministerial Council” composed of national Ministers of Foreign Affairs which in turn has various Ministerial Committees covering all aspects of economic, social and political affairs reporting to it. In addition and reflecting the importance of Security matters, a “Joint Defence Council” and a “Ministers of Interior Council” also report directly to the Supreme Council. Finally there is my own organisation (the “General Secretariat”) which supports the system, and 13 Gulf Social Organisations encompassing such aspects as Health, Labour and Social Affairs and Education amongst others. I will say more about these later.

To return to Yemen, it is important to realise that as her only direct neighbours, the GCC and Yemen have strong historic, cultural and geographic ties. Since the foundation of the GCC we have been closely involved economically, socially and financially with the hope that with our support and assistance, Yemen could rise to the level of our own development.

Sadly, and for reasons we all know, this was not to be and by late 2010 Yemen was on the verge of collapse with all out civil war a breath away. Something needed to be done, and urgently, so in early 2011 the GCC Supreme Council directed that communication be opened between the GCC and the Government and Opposition in Yemen. Five meetings took place in April 2011 between the GCC Ministerial Council and the Yemeni Ruling Party and Opposition groupings. The result was consensus on five principles which would need to be reflected in any successful outcome.

1. A solution should guarantee unity, security and the independence of Yemen.
2. It should be responsive to the aspirations of citizens for change and reform.
3. Transfer of authority should be peaceful, smooth and as a result of national consensus.
4. All parties must be committed to eradicating political and security tension.
5. All parties must pledge to guarantee no vengeance, pursuit or prosecution.

Following this consensus, intensive, and I have to say often difficult, negotiations commenced under myself and lasted until the signing of the “Gulf Initiative” on 23 November 2011. To my mind the Agreement represents a successful model of mediation leading to a peaceful transfer of

power. It is therefore worth considering the factors involved which I have grouped under three broad headings:

### Firstly, factors related to the GCC:

- Our Heads of State were not remote. They played a prominent and influential, but “behind the scenes” role, by personally intervening to push forward stalled negotiations.
- GCC were the ideal negotiators because of the ties. Trust was there.
- At an early stage we identified the most important opposition parties with whom to negotiate and they were treated as representing the various opposition factions.
- The GCC, from the top down, displayed unflinching determination (and patience) to ensure the five Principles remained largely intact. They constituted clear and specific goals.
- I was able at all times to discuss matters directly with representatives of the Ministerial Council and at times directly with national leaders.

### Secondly, factors related to the situation in Yemen:

- A sense of hopelessness and fear of Civil War generated a shared desire by Ruling Party and Opposition for a peaceful solution.
- Yemen’s opposition is organised and well-rooted which assisted in identifying negotiators.
- The relevant Yemeni parties participated from the beginning and continuity prevailed. Flexibility was displayed but the “Principles” stood intact
- Yemenis have a reputation for pragmatism which manifested itself during negotiations and led logically to the solution of “Peace over Chaos”.

### Thirdly, factors related to international support:

- The negotiation process had the full support of the regional and international community. In particular ambassadors from UNSC permanent members and the EU in Sana’a were invaluable and participated in Sana’a meetings.



## Opening Ceremony



- In turn there was continual dialogue with senior politicians and officials, especially the US and EU. Their stance and support helped to unify international support.
- International Organisations (UN and Arab League) were also most supportive from the start. The signing of UNSC Resolution 2014 in October 2011 was a turning point by signalling international support. It added impetus .
- Last, but not least, the appointment of Mr Jamal Bin Omar as the UN Special Envoy to Yemen was an important step and an inspired choice. His expertise, wisdom and communication skills were a major factor.

Having been intimately involved with this conflict mediation process from start to finish, I would like to pass on three main lessons for the future:

- Firstly, there is no such thing as a successful outcome without the full and unequivocal agreement of all parties involved. Inevitably with high stakes and vested interests on the line, none of the negotiating parties will wish to stray too much from their own position. Thus there will be “black” and “white” and it is the mediator’s task to find a shade of “grey” that is acceptable to all. This is not easy – but is absolutely essential.



- Secondly and linked to the above, all parties must be prepared to stay the course to seek an agreed outcome. This will involve determination, persistency and energy from the mediator as well as the drive to maintain the momentum of negotiation – there should be no re-visiting of initial stances. In our case I was able to remind those around the table time and again of the five Principles which had been agreed by all parties. These in effect became our Goals, which once agreed made it difficult for parties to stray from.
- Thirdly, and absolutely key to any mediation process is the question of Trust, without which the whole process is undermined. This is manifested at various levels:
  1. Trust in the process.
  2. Trust between opposing negotiators – the difficulties of which cannot be overestimated.
  3. Trust between negotiators and the mediator.
  4. Trust between all at the table and their own principals – they must speak with authority.
  5. Lastly, but most importantly trust in the outcome and that all parties will abide by the Agreement.

From lessons, to a thought, which I believe might be worthy of research. There is no doubt in my mind that Yemen is an excellent example of how regional friends can assist each other. I wonder why it does not happen more often? We often see a conflict either within a nation, or between nations escalate immediately to UN, EU, NATO, Arab League or some other major bloc for resolution. I know there will be factors such as trust and vested interests which sometimes inhibit local or regional mediation – but quite often there appears to be reluctance by neighbours to be involved for no good reason. Are we doing enough to resolve or prevent conflict at a local level? My thoughts are based on instinct, but I do believe that a study (and there may already have been some of which I am not aware) by researching historical and other relevant data, might unearth facts and lead to conclusions on whether this is a route that could be pursued in a methodical fashion, and what advantages are to be gained. Could, for instance, mechanisms be emplaced to facilitate such assistance? Just a thought!

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have spoken enough. As we look to the future of Yemen, I can only say that while the mediation phase was not easy, the implementation phase, as we all know, faces

## Opening Ceremony



many challenges. There is still a huge amount to be done to undo past influences and allow the present regime the freedom they require to function fully. Although the baton has largely been passed from the GCC to the UN, we still give our full support to, and remain intimately involved socially and economically with our close neighbour and friend. As an example, Yemen is a member of all thirteen of our Gulf Social Organisations which I mentioned earlier and we will soon have a full time GCC ambassador based there.

In Yemen we have at least crossed the first hurdle. It is vital now for the unified international community to continue to support her fully, persistently and into the long term. By doing this, hopefully the process which we in the GCC began, will end in eventual and complete success.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope now you have a better understanding of the GCC, its priorities and the part we played in Yemen – a role which of course was completely consistent with our overall Goals of Security, Economic Enhancement, Human Development, Crisis Management and International Engagement.

I would be delighted to answer any queries and expand on any matters during the discussions that follow.

Thank you.

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## List of Workshops/ Directors

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### Workshop 1

#### **The Arab Spring: Impacts and Consequences on the GCC**

*Dr. May Seikaly*, Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

*Dr. Khawla M. Mattar*, Director, UN Information Center, Cairo, Egypt

### Workshop 2

#### **Asia and the Gulf: Comparative Analysis of the Roles of Asian Countries**

*Prof. Tim Niblock*, University of Exeter

*Dr. Monica Malik*, EFG Hermes, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### Workshop 3

#### **Gulf Charities in the ‘Age of Terror’ and the ‘Arab Awakening’**

*Robert Lacey*, Author of ‘Inside the Kingdom’, London, UK

*Jonathan Benthall*, Honorary Research Fellow, London, UK

### Workshop 4

#### **Socio-Economic Impacts of GCC Migration**

*Prof. Philippe Fargues*, European University Institute, Florence, Italy

*Prof. Nasra Shah*, Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University

### Workshop 5

#### **A Growing Gulf: Public and Private Sector Initiatives and the Realities of Youth Employment Outcomes**

*Dr. Tarik Yousef*, CEO, Silatech, Qatar

*Dr. Nader Kabbani*, Director of Research, Silatech, Qatar

### Workshop 6

#### **International Tourism Development in the GCC Countries: Opportunities and Challenges**

*Dr. Ala Al Harmaneh*, Institute of Geography, University of Mainz, Germany

*Dr. Marcus Stephenson*, Associate Professor of Tourism Management, Middlesex University, Dubai

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## List of Workshops/ Directors

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### Workshop 7

#### **The Impact of Globalization on Women in the GCC**

*Dr. May Dabbagh*, Dubai School of Government, Dubai, UAE

*Dr. Dalia Abdelhady*, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Middle East Studies, Lund University, Sweden

### Workshop 8

#### **An Assessment of Opportunities and Possibilities: The Gulf and Latin America**

*Dr. Alejandra Galindo*, University of Monterrey, Mexico

### Workshop 9

#### **Visual Culture in the GCC**

*Dr. Nadia Mounajjed*, College of Art and Design, Sharjah

*Sharmeen Syed*, Art Foundation, Sharjah

### Workshop 10

#### **The Impact of Large-Scale Datasets on Evidence-Based Educational Policymaking and Reform in the Gulf States**

*Dr. Naif Alromi*, Ministry of Education, Saudi Arabia

*Dr. Alexander Wiseman*, Lehigh University, USA

*Dr. Saleh A. Alshumrani*, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

### Workshop 11

#### **Environmental Cost and Changing Face of Agriculture in the Gulf States**

*Dr. Shabbir A. Shahid*, Centre for Biosaline Agriculture, Dubai, UAE

*Dr. Mushtaque Ahmed*, Center for Environmental Studies and Research, Oman

### Workshop 12

#### **Gulf Energy Challenges**

*Dr. Naji Abi Aad*, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Qatar Petroleum

*Dr. Mostefa Ouki*, Vice President, Nexant Limited, UK

### Workshop 13

#### **Housing Markets and Policy Design in the Gulf Region**

*Gus Freeman*, Ernst & Young, UAE

*Prof. Peter Williams*, Housing and Planning Research, UK

*David Smith*, Chief Operating Officer, Affordable Housing Institute Boston, MA, United States

#### Workshop 14

##### **Structure, Conduct and Performance: The Case of GCC Banks**

*Dr. Lamia Obay*, Abu Dhabi University

*Dr. Anis Samet*, American University of Sharjah

#### Workshop 15

##### **State-Society Relations in the Arab Gulf Region**

*Dr. Mazhar Al Zo'by*, Qatar University

*Dr. Birol Baskan*, Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, Qatar

#### Workshop 16

##### **The Political Economy of Clean Energy Solutions in the GCC**

*Dr. Rabia Ferrouki*, Senior Program Officer, IRENA, UAE

*Prof. Giacomo Luciani*, Senior Consultant, GRCE, Switzerland

*Dr. Manfred Hafner*, FEEM, Italy

#### Workshop 17

##### **Healthcare Policies in the GCC: Challenges and Future Directions**

*Dr. Ahmed Alawi*, Gulf Investment and Marketing Group, UK

*Dr. Mohammed Alkhazim*, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia

#### Workshop 18

##### **Islamic Finance in the GCC**

*Dr. Mehmet Asutay*, Durham University, UK

*Dr. Abdullah Turkistani*, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia

#### Workshop 19

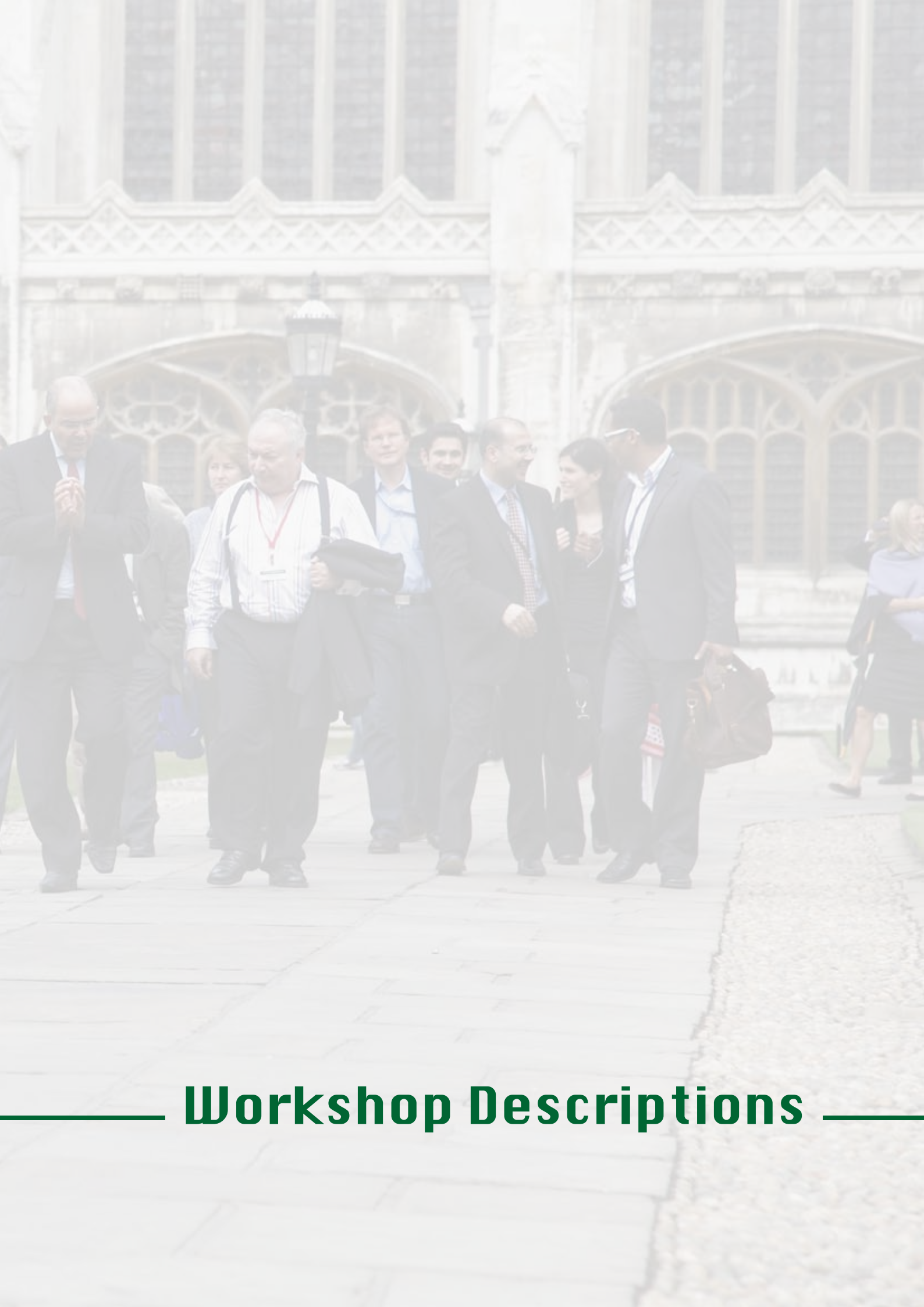
##### **The Gulf-India Strategic Partnership in a Pan-Asian Cooperative Paradigm**

*Prof. Abu Backer Bagader*, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia

*Amb. Ranjit Gupta*, (Fmr. Member) National Security Advisory Board, India







# Workshop Descriptions

## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop I:

### **The Arab Spring: Impacts and Consequences on the GCC**



***Dr. May Seikaly***

Wayne State University,  
USA



***Dr. Khawla Mattar***

UN Information  
Center, Cairo

The workshop managed to gather a large number of scholars, educators, political activists, and researchers mostly interested or specialized in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a whole or in one of its member states.

The 16 papers presented on the issue of the Arab Spring and its impact on the GCC prompted a very energetic debate and discussion among the participants. There were some 30-40 listening participants. The first day of the workshop concentrated in its first session on the “Impact of the Arab Spring and Reactions in the Gulf” and in the second session on issues of “Sovereignty, Citizenship and Identity in the Gulf States.” Both sessions focused on the initial reactions of the Gulf States and people to the uprisings in the different Arab countries. While the three opening papers were mainly dedicated to the impact of the Arab Spring, the presentations that followed on the first day attempted to untangle the issues related to democratic transformation which are linked to the demands made during the many uprisings in the Arab countries. These demands have been expressed in similar forms in a few Gulf States either through demonstrations and sit-ins, such as the case of Bahrain and then Oman, or through demands and discussions utilizing the space and freedom available through the virtual world. In their papers, the participants attempted to explain the complexities of the Gulf States and societies, in addition to the relation between state and citizenship vis-a-vis the state and what many papers called “Raya” (meaning not having full citizenship rights as defined internationally or even by the constitutions of these states – noting, of course, that both Saudi Arabia and Oman have no constitutions).

The second day of the workshop focused totally on specific case studies of Gulf States and the reaction of their governments/ rulers to the Arab uprisings. The focus was mostly on Bahrain and Oman due to the fact that they were the only two countries that had people in the streets,





raising slogans that were similar to those raised by the Tunisians, Egyptians, Libyans, and Yemenis. Saudi Arabia, due to its geographic location and intervention in Bahrain and Yemen, was also part of the stimulating discussion and debate that engaged all the participants in the workshop. Forms of democratization and people's participation were brought to the table as tools used by a few states to respond to the demands of their people or to avoid the spread of the Arab Spring to this region.

The workshop managed to bring into the discussion the reaction of Gulf women – mainly Saudi women – to the Arab Spring. How these women were affected by young women in other Arab cities using social media to call on the people to go to the streets and start the uprising was one of the issues discussed. The paper on this topic described how women in Saudi Arabia became active when they found a new space that was not available before, namely the social media. The coverage and participation through the social media was examined by the participants through a number of papers that focused on the use of the social media by the opposition in Bahrain as a tool to send messages, gather people, and encourage them to express their views. On the other hand, the discussion also considered how counter-revolutionaries have used the social media as a tool to create skepticism towards messages and reports posted on YouTube and Facebook or information spread through Twitter. Traditional media, mainly regional satellite television channels and their coverage of the Arab uprisings, was the subject of the last paper focused on the two main satellite TV stations, namely Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya, and how they have managed to manipulate the news towards their own political agendas. Issues of ownership control, concentration of the media in the hands of a few Gulf royals or those close to their circles, the role of advertisers,

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## Workshop Descriptions

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the newsroom culture and the journalists themselves were analyzed as the paper attempted to explain the nature of the coverage or lack of coverage by these two Gulf media outlets.

In conclusion, the discussion during the three days attempted to respond to the major question raised at the opening of the workshop which is: “Is the Gulf immune from such uprisings?” The directors tried to bring the many nuanced and highly polemical debates on the Arab Spring into the frame of rational and academic discussions. While we concede that this workshop could not and did not tackle all aspects of the topic, it has opened up an opportunity for continuation of research while the process of change is ongoing and events are unfolding.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Dr. May Seikaly**

Dr. May Seikaly is Associate Professor in Near Eastern Studies at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. She received her Ph.D. from Oxford University and her M.A. from UCLA. Dr. Seikaly has taught history at Bahrain University and at UCLA prior to her current position. She is the author of *Haifa: Transformation of an Arab Society 1918-1939* (I.B. Tauris, UK 1995/2000) translated into Arabic as *Haifa al-Arabiyya 1918-1939* (Beirut 1997). In addition to articles on Palestinian issues, Dr. Seikaly has published on women’s political roles, particularly in the Arab Gulf. She has served on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, the Wayne State University Press Committee, the editorial committee of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, the Albert Hourani Award Committee, and on the Task force for the Arab American Museum in Detroit. For several years, Dr. Seikaly has been involved in the collection and archiving of Arab memory through the use of oral documentation. Her current research is a study of women as agents of change in the Arabian Gulf using oral history as the tool of her research.

#### **Dr. Khawla Mattar**

Dr. Khawla Mattar is the Director of the United Nations Information Center in Cairo since February 2010. She received her Ph.D. and her M.A. in Sociology of the Media from the University of Durham (UK). Dr. Mattar started her career as a reporter, editor and photo editor with different media outlets. Though much of her media experience has been in the Arabian Gulf, she has worked for regional and international media organizations such as the Associated Press and the BBC Television. She moved to the International Labor Organization in 1996 where she took





the post of Regional Information Officer. Since then she has managed to promote issues related to basic rights at work focusing on migrant workers, women empowerment and involvement in the labor market, combating child labor, promoting human rights at work. In 2005-2006, she took a sabbatical and, together with a number of prominent journalists, established *Al Waqt*, a daily newspaper in Bahrain; she was appointed editor-in-chief of the paper, the first woman to hold that position in the country. That same year she managed to cover the Israeli war on Lebanon and later published the book *Beirut under Siege: The Israeli War on Lebanon in 2006* (Riad Al Rias Publishing, Beirut 2006). She has contributed a chapter to the edited volume *Triumph of the Image: The Gulf War* (1993). Dr. Mattar has published papers on the image of women in the media and on migrant workers in the Gulf States. She has been one of the very few women of her time to cover conflicts and wars such as the Iraq-Iran War, the civil war in Lebanon, civil war in South Yemen (in 1996 before the unification of the country), and the Bosnian war.

## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop I Papers

#### *Session 1: Impact of the Arab Spring and Reactions in the Gulf*

“Social Engineering vs. Democratic Reform: The Search for Appropriate Platform to the Upcoming Earthquake in the GCC”

Metodi Hadji-Janev, Saints Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia

“The Arab Spring: A View for the Arab Gulf States”

Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, Retired Professor of Political Science, United Arab Emirates

“Potential of Power Sharing in View of Arab Spring”

Abdulnabi Alekry, National Center for Studies, Manama, Bahrain

#### *Session 2: Sovereignty, Citizenship and Identity*

“Notions of Sovereignty in the Arab World: an Examination of State and Citizenship in the Aftermath of the Arab Spring”

Yacoob Abba Omar, Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa

“Democratic Challenge in the Gulf: Between Aspirations and Desperation”

May Seikaly, Wayne State University, Michigan, United States

“Concentric Identities in Kuwait and Bahrain and its Effect on the Arab Spring”

Reem Abou-Samra, Wayne State University, Michigan, United States

#### *Session 3: The Arab Spring: Implications on the Gulf*

“‘The Gulf Spring’: The Uprising in Bahrain and Sectarianism in the Gulf”

Toby Matthiesen, Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

“Crackdown, Protect or Stabilize? Saudi Arabia’s Reaction(s) to the Arab Spring in Neighbouring Bahrain and Yemen”

Eman Mohammed Alhussein, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom

“The Late Unpleasantness: Oman after the Arab Spring”

Jennifer S. Hunt, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

“Political Reform in Kuwait: Demands and Limits of Response”

Ashraf Mohammed Kishk, Diplomatic Center for Strategic Studies, Cairo, Egypt

*Session 4: Means and Methods of Reform*

“Comparing Elections in the GCC after ‘Arab Spring’ “

Luciano Zaccara, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain / University of Exeter, United Kingdom

“Quasi-institutionalized Party System during the Process of Democratization: The Case of Kuwait”

Hirotake Ishiguro, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan

*Session 5: Gulf Women and the Arab Spring*

“Saudi Women and the Arab Spring”

Soraya Altorki, American University in Cairo, Egypt

*Session 6: Media Coverage and Participation*

“Bahrain’s Revolution in the Cyberspace: Virtual Dimension of a Perceptible Movement”

Basma El-Bathy, Wayne State University, Michigan, United States

“On-air Online and On the Street: Understanding Bahrain’s 2011 Counter-revolution”

Hasan Alhassan, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom

“The Arab Spring and Gulf Satellite Television: Reporting, Reflecting or Dominating”

Khawla Mattar, United Nations Information Centre, Cairo, Egypt

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### Workshop 2:

### **Asia and the Gulf: Comparative Analysis of the Roles of Asian Countries**



***Prof. Tim Niblock***

University of Exeter



***Dr. Monica Malik***

EFG-Hermes, Dubai

The workshop marked a substantial and important new development in the analysis of the Gulf States' foreign relations. While there is an expanding literature on relations between individual Gulf States and individual Asian states (much of it focusing in particular on the relationship between China and Saudi Arabia), no attempt has been made previously to convene specialists covering each of the major Asian countries and all of the Gulf States. The workshop was, therefore, the first event bringing together a full range of expertise where all aspects of the Gulf-Asia relationship could be examined in full by researchers specialized in all relevant parts of the relationship.

The perspectives and analyses from the Asian countries' side consisted of papers from the following countries: China (5 papers), Japan (4), India (2), Korea (2), Malaysia (1), Singapore (1), Indonesia (1), Pakistan (1), Azerbaijan (1), Russia (1), and Turkey (1). There were two papers covering perspectives from the Gulf States, with a focus on Iran and Saudi Arabia and an overarching paper presenting comparative material (and trade tables) on the economic relations between each Asian country and each Gulf country. In addition to the paper presenters, there were some 12 listening participants with substantial knowledge and experience of the issues discussed, and they played a full part in the exchange of views and the development of ideas.

While the eight Gulf States were seen as interacting with Asia, it was also recognized that they constitute part of Asia themselves. Some of the analysis, therefore, brought out the extent to which the Gulf forms part of the overall phenomenon of "rising Asia." The rapid economic growth of the Gulf States and their increasing weight in the global economy is part of the wider rebalancing of global economic power. Bringing Russia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan into this changing economic framework was seen as valuable, as comparison could be made with the South Asian, South-East Asian, and East Asian dimensions of change.



While all of the relationships of Asian states with the Gulf States have been framed around mutual economic benefit, attention was also given to other aspects which have impinged on relations including: cultural and historical contacts, soft power, population movement and integration, and defense-related cooperation. While in the past areas of interaction of these kinds have often been seen as ones where the Western powers have a predominant role, the Asian presence is now of increasing importance.

One of the most significant achievements of the workshop was the creation of an international network of leading researchers in this field. There was a determination to keep this network in being and to develop it further. The publication which will arise from the workshop is expected to be of substantial interest internationally and to add to the global interest in Gulf-Asia relationships. It is to be hoped that it will also be a broader engagement of Gulf researchers in conducting research on Asian countries, hopefully on the basis of a development of the new language skills which such research will require.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Prof. Tim Niblock**

Prof. Tim Niblock is Emeritus Professor of Middle Eastern Politics at the University of Exeter, and Chair of the Management Board of the University's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies. He also serves as Vice-President of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies, and Vice-



## Workshop Descriptions



President of the European Association for Middle Eastern Studies. He began his academic career at the University of Khartoum in Sudan (1969-77), where he served as Associate Professor on secondment from the University of Reading. He has since worked at the Universities of Exeter and Durham. Between 1978 and 1993, he was at Exeter, establishing the Middle East Politics Programme there. In 1993, he was appointed Director of the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at Durham. In 1999, he returned to the University of Exeter and served as Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies there from 1999 to 2005. He has written widely on the politics, political economy and international relations of the Arab world. Among his books are: *The Political Economy of Saudi Arabia* (2007), *Saudi Arabia: Power, Legitimacy and Survival* (2006), *'Pariah States' and Sanctions in the Middle East: Iraq, Libya and Sudan* (2001), *Muslim Communities in the New Europe* (edited, with Gerd Nonneman and Bogdan Szajkowski, 1997), *Economic and Political Liberalisation in the Middle East* (edited, with Emma Murphy, 1993), *Class and Power in Sudan* (1987), *Iraq: the Contemporary State* (edited, 1982), *State, Society and Economy in Saudi Arabia* (edited, 1981), and *Social and Economic Development in the Arab Gulf* (edited, 1980).

### ***Dr. Monica Malik***

Dr. Monica Malik has over 15 years of experience as an economist specializing in the MENA region. Monica is the Chief Economist and heads the Economics team of EFGHermes. Prior to



joining EFG-Hermes in 2007, she was the Senior Economist for the MENA region in Standard Chartered (Dubai) and at Dun & Bradstreet (London). Monica has presented at a number of high profile conferences and policy round table discussions. In her current work, she deals extensively with investment links between the Gulf countries and the major economies of Asia. Monica holds a Ph.D. in Economic Development in the Middle East from the University of Durham, focusing on private sector development in Saudi Arabia. She is based in Dubai.

### Workshop 2 Papers

#### “Gulf-Asia Economic Relations: Pan-Gulf and Pan-Asian Perspectives”

Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom

#### “Asian Hydrocarbon Companies and their Involvement in the Gulf”

Gareth Stansfield, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom

#### “The Growing Roles of Asian Pacific Powers in the Gulf: A Saudi Perspective”

Naser al-Tamimi, Cleveland, United Kingdom

#### “Iran Pushes Ties with Asia: a Strategic Move or a Matter of Survival?”

Sara Bazoobandi, Singapore National University, Singapore

## Workshop Descriptions

“Turkey and the Gulf: An Evolving Economic and Political Partnership”

Ozlem Tur, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

“Situating Gulf in India’s Engagement with Emerging Asia”

Girijesh Pant, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

“India and the Emerging Gulf: Between ‘Strategic Balancing’ and ‘Soft Power’ Options”

Kottapurath Mohammed Seethi, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India

“Rising India in the Gulf and Competition from Asian Powers”

Prasanta Pradhan, Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi, India

“Small is Beautiful: South Korean-Gulf Relations as an Example of Strategic Engagement by Players in Different Arenas”

Joachim Kolb, DAAD Information Center Gulf Region, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

“Beyond Food for Fuel: The Little Red Dot in GCC-ASEAN Relations”

Sofiah Jamil, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

“Three Decades of GCC-Indonesian Trade and Investment Relation: Predicaments and the Lost Opportunities”

Ichsan Intan, University of Petroleum 45, Jogji, Indonesia

“Leveraging Arab Gulf Market: What Determines Malaysia’s Interest in the GCC Economy?”

Mohamed Abu-Hussin, University Technology Malaysia, Johor, Malaysia

“Seeking for Diversity: Japan-Saudi Shifting Relationship”

Namie Tsujigami, University of Kochi, Kochi, Japan

“China and Iran: Special and Important Economic Partners”

Minxing Huang, Northwest University, Shaanxi, China

“China and the Gulf: a Retrospective Survey”

Bingbing Wu, Peking University, Beijing, China

“The Economic Relations between China and GCC in post Financial Crisis Era”

Chen Mo, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China

“Aligning Asian Muslims, Targeting Arab Trade: China’s Ningxia as the Islamic Hub for China-Arab Connections”

Wai-Yip Ho, Hong Kong Institute of Education, New Territories, Hong Kong

“Russia and the Countries of the Persian Gulf: The Main Principles of the Political and Economic Dialogue”

Nikolay Kozhanov, Institute of the Middle East, Moscow, Russia

“The GCC and Iran in the Azeri Foreign Policy Agenda”

Paulo Botta, Center for Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies, Córdoba, Argentina

“Pakistan and Gulf Region – Historical Perspective and Future Trends”

Sehar Kamran

Pakistan International School, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

“Japan’s Engagement in the Gulf”

Yukiko Miyagi, University of Durham, Durham, United Kingdom

“Japan and the Gulf: Trade, Investment and Corporate Activity”

Yoshio Minagi, Bahrain Representative Office Mizuho Corporate Bank, Manama, Bahrain

“Japan-Gulf Relations: Challenges and Opportunities”

Nilly el-Amir, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop 3:

#### **Gulf Charities in the Age of Terror and the Arab Awakening**



**Robert Lacey**

Author of 'Inside the Kingdom', London, UK



**Jonathan Benthall**

Honorary Research Fellow, London, UK

The workshop on Gulf charities attracted participants from 12 countries who presented 16 papers on charities in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States, with special emphasis on the challenges generated since September 11, 2001 by the so-called global 'War on Terror.'

Motivated by the core Islamic tradition of 'zakat' or almsgiving, the charities of the Gulf States – dating back in their modern form to the oil boom of the 1970s and the rise of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in general – have largely operated in a context of social paternalism and religious conservatism, pursuing an independent path from the Western-dominated international aid system. Their programs have seldom been recorded in the analysis of international aid flows, and they have taken little direct part in the intense debates raging in the West about the roles of NGOs and the efficacy of relief and development.

Since 2001, however, these charities have been confronted by serious challenges, putting them under pressure to prove they have no connection with money laundering and terrorist finance. Following local governmental restrictions, largely the result of pressure from the US government, many of the major GCC charities have been obliged to downsize and shift their focus – and, in one case, to close down completely.

Western governments have assumed that a religious divide separates GCC-based, especially Saudi, charities, from the principles and practices of Western humanitarianism. The co-directors' working proposition was that this viewpoint is culturally discriminatory, assuming the superiority of secular values. One purpose of the workshop therefore was to help formulate an intellectual toolkit which could accept the role of religion in Gulf life, while encouraging a gradual 'de-politicization' of the GCC-based charity sector in harmony with international standards of transparency, policy, and conduct.





After a historical paper on Hadhramaut (today's Yemen) in the early twentieth century, papers were presented on charities based in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Iran, and Jordan, as well as on the varied influences of GCC-based charities in Africa, South Asia, and former Yugoslavia. One paper covered the context of governmental aid from the petroleum-producing states, and two dealt with recent initiatives to consolidate international standards of accountability and monitoring in the region. Among the overarching themes addressed were the contrast between GCC-based charities and the Islamic NGOs that have grown in Europe over the same period; and the often contentious relationship, in many countries that are recipients of aid from the GCC, between the local Islamic voluntary sector and political opposition movements.

It is the intention that the papers, after revision, will be published as the first book on Gulf charities, drawing attention to the turbulent political and legal context but also to their unlocked potential.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Robert Lacey**

Robert Lacey is the author of *The Kingdom* (1982) and *Inside the Kingdom* (2011) and has contributed papers to previous Gulf Research Center meetings in Cambridge on Saudi attitudes towards suicide bombing (2010) and Saudi soft power in the context of the 'Arab Spring' (2011). His paper for the 2012 workshop on Islamic Charities in the Gulf will examine the adaptation

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of Saudi charities to the ‘Global War on Terror’ since the early 1990s and the way ahead for these organizations, and for government and semi-official giving, since the 2004 ban on private charitable initiatives abroad.

### **Jonathan Benthall**

Jonathan Benthall has published widely on Islamic charities and has served since 2005 as an advisor to the Islamic Charities Project (formerly the ‘Montreux Initiative’) sponsored by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and administered by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, taking part in recent field research on zakat practices in the Palestinian Territories. He was Director of the Royal Anthropological Institute for 26 years and Founder Editor of the successful international journal *Anthropology Today*. He is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Anthropology Department, University College London. He will contribute an overview of the Islamic Charities Project, with emphasis on issues of accountability, governance and regulation in the post 9/11 context.

### **Workshop 3 Papers**

#### **“Gulf-based NGOs after 9/11 and the ‘War on Terror’: Navigating between Aid Cultures”**

Marie Juul Petersen, Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark (represented by Jonathan Benthall and Benoit Challand)



**“The OPEC Fund for International Development: Just another Arab Donor?”**

Annika Kropf, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

**“The Islamic Charities Project (formerly Montreux Initiative)”**

Jonathan Benthall, University College London, London, United Kingdom

**“Charities in the Arabian Peninsula since the late 19th Century: The al-Kaf of Hadramaut in Comparative Perspective”**

Christian Lekou, European University of Lefke, Lefke, Cyprus

**“A Good Day to Bury a Bad Charity? The Rise and Fall of the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation”**

Yusra Bokhari, Phoenix, United States; Nasim Chowdhury, Mecca, Saudi Arabia and Robert Lacey, London, United Kingdom

**“The Impact of US Laws, Regulations and Policies on Gulf Charities”**

Wendell Belew, Friends of Charities Association, Washington, D.C., United States

**“Saudi Arabia as a Global Humanitarian Donor: The Crippled Giant”**

Khalid al-Yahya, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, United States / Dubai School of Government, United Arab Emirates

## Workshop Descriptions

“Actors of the Institutionalized Philanthropic Field in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: the Benevolent Woman and the Youth Activist”

Nora Derbal, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Berlin, Germany

“Islamic Charities on a Fault Line: The Jordanian Case”

Benoit Challand, The New School for Social Research, New York, United States

“The Qatar Authority for Charitable Activities: From Commencement to Dissolving, 2005-09”

Abdulfatah Mohamed, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom

“Giving to Give and Giving to Receive: The Construction of Charity in Dubai”

Aaron Parkhurst, University College London, London, United Kingdom

“Sunni and Shiite Charities as Agents of Ethical Capitalism in Bahrain”

Rajeswary Ampalavanar Brown, Royal Holloway College, London, United Kingdom and Justin Pierce

“Motivations and Experiences of Bathing Volunteers in a Charity Care Centre in Iran”

Sachiko Hosoya, Toho University, Toho, Japan

“Gulf Charities in Africa: Opportunities and Constraints in the Era of Global Restructuring”

Mayke Kaag, African Studies Centre, Leiden, Netherlands

“Implications of Gulf Charities in the Educational System in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan”

Rushda Siddiqui, India

“Arab Fighters and Aid Workers in the Bosnian War: Labor Mobility and Value”

Darryl Li, Harvard University, Massachusetts, United States

## Workshop 4: Socio-Economic Impacts of GCC Migration



**Prof. Philippe  
Fargues**

European University  
Institute, Florence,  
Italy



**Prof. Nasra M.  
Shah**

Faculty of Medicine,  
Kuwait University

While we know that Gulf migration has wide-ranging socioeconomic impacts on the sending and receiving countries, systematic and objective research based on empirical data is scarce in the region. The goals of this workshop were therefore to bring together those scholars assessing the above impacts at the individual, community or societal level in either sending countries or the GCC countries. Some of the themes on which papers were invited included the impacts of GCC migration on spouses and children left behind, changes in gender roles, gender relations, remittance behaviors, living arrangements, psychological and physical health of migrant workers, and care of children and elderly in the GCC countries.

The workshop received about 30 proposals from which 14 were selected. A total of 13 papers were received and uploaded on the GRM website. In addition, a paper was presented by Nasra Shah, and a special presentation to introduce participants to an existing online database on migration (CARIM database on international migration) was made by Philippe Fargues. Together with regular participants, the workshop benefitted from the presence of three listening participants and several persons who attended specific presentations. Four participants who had submitted papers were unable to attend the workshop due to health problems or unforeseen emergencies. Participants included economists, demographers, sociologists, anthropologists, and political scientists resulting in a highly interdisciplinary debate and discussion. The papers covered a wide array of topics ranging from broad theoretical overviews to specific case studies. Almost all the six Gulf countries and some sending countries were covered; almost half the papers focused on the UAE and none on Oman.

The workshop began with a presentation by Nasra Shah outlining the socio-demographic transitions occurring among nationals of the GCC countries and their implications. She reported



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that fertility of nationals has declined to less than four births per woman in all GCC countries while infant mortality has declined to less than 10 per 1,000 live births in most countries. Despite these declines, the growth rates among GCC nationals are high and will pose serious challenges for the growing national labor force. At the same time, the reliance on foreign nationals is still on the rise.

A paper by Valentine Moghadam and Massoud Karshenas presented a broad overview of the social policies regarding labor force recruitment and management in the Gulf. While taking stock of the existing policies and the lack of GCC country ratification of migration initiatives by United Nations bodies, the authors examined the possibility of introducing policies that can be democratic, inclusive, and developmental. A general theoretical paper, using the example of the UAE, by Victor Huang attempted to develop a theoretical framework for analyzing the role of social network diversity in the development of trust among people of different cultures to enable effective knowledge sharing and collaboration. A paper by Ibrahim Awad (not presented) outlined the role of the Kafala system for GCC labor markets and proposed some alternatives.

Six papers focused on specific migrant groups, migrant workers, and other aspects of migration in the UAE. Amin Moghadam and Maryam Khazaeli described the experience and lived realities of the Iranian Achami migrants in Dubai. They illustrated how this subgroup has created a new social and spatial dynamic whereby they are connected in Iran and Dubai and have benefitted





from a “dual belonging” status. Musa Shallal described the situation and living arrangements of Sudanese immigrant families in the UAE, some of whom moved to the country 40 years ago. He described the situation of some families faced with difficulties resulting from family separation since the husband had to leave the wife and children in Sudan. Another paper on the UAE, by Sanuja Ali, provided a general discussion of several different aspects of foreigners’ lives in Dubai, which she describes as a city of “guests”, with a layering of national groups. A paper by Josiah Rector (not presented) described Dubai as a global city which, he argues, is similar to the labor market dynamics that occur in other global cities of the world. A paper by Abideen Adewale discussed the relatively new phenomenon of foreign students in the UAE who could possibly be trained and then retained there to contribute to the labor force to make up for the shortage of indigenous workers. Finally, a paper by Daniel Falk (not presented) discussed the role of Arabic language in the landscape of Abu Dhabi. It focused on how perceived identity threat, caused by mass immigration, informed language policy in the UAE.

Three papers focused on Indian migration to the Gulf. Using an unconventional methodology, Ganesh Seshan compared the reports of Indian workers in Qatar and their wives back in India about the husband’s earnings in Qatar. He found that wives underreported their husband’s earnings, which was associated with the amount of remittances sent to India. In a paper focusing on Syrian Christians from Kerala living in Kuwait, Ginu Zacharia examined the transnational religious dynamics to learn whether religion plays a role in reorienting a migrant’s life in the host

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country and in creating a sense of belonging. In a paper on impacts of migration from North Indian villages to the Gulf, Anisur Rahman provided some observations on such impacts.

Finally, a paper (not presented) on the social networks of Sudanese and Egyptian migrants in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, analyzed the structure and functions of these networks, the challenges and opportunities before them, and their future vision about social and economic remittances.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### ***Prof. Philippe Fargues***

Prof. Philippe Fargues is a sociologist and demographer. He is currently Migration Programme Director at the European University Institute, the founding Director of the Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) and co-Director of the Florence School on Euro-Mediterranean Migration and Development. He has been founding Director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies Program at the American University in Cairo, a senior researcher and head of the unit at the French National Institute for Demographic Studies in Paris, a visiting professor at Harvard, and the Director of the Centre for Economic Legal and Social Studies (CEDEJ) in Cairo. His research interests include migration and refugee movements, population and politics in Muslim countries, family building, demographic methodologies and their application to developing countries. He has numerous publications and has lectured in various universities in



Europe, Africa and the Middle East. His most recent publications include Mediterranean Migration Report 2008/2009; Work, Refuge, Transit: An Emerging Pattern of Irregular Immigration South and East of the Mediterranean (International Migration Review, 2009, 43/3); Emerging Demographic Patterns across the Mediterranean and their Implications for Migration through 2030 (Migration Policy Institute, 2009); The Demographic Benefit of International Migration: Hypothesis and Application to Middle Eastern and North African Contexts (International Migration, Economic Development and Policy, The World Bank and Palgrave Macmillan, 2007); and his books include: Generations Arabs, Christians and Jews Under Islam, The Economy of the Middle East in a Prospect of Peace, The Atlas of the Arab World - Geopolitics and Society.

### **Prof. Nasra Shah**

Prof. Nasra Shah, a Demographer/Sociologist, received her doctoral degree in Population Dynamics from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA. Before joining the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University in 1988, she worked in Hawaii, USA and Pakistan. Her research has focused on labor migration from Asia to the Gulf, the role of social factors in infant and child mortality; predictors of fertility and contraceptive use; women's role and status; utilization of health services; and the importance of social networks in psychosocial health of older persons. Her many publications include books on Pakistani Women, Asian Labour Migration, Basic Needs, Women and Development, and Population of Kuwait: Structure and Dynamics.

## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop 4 Papers

#### “Social Policy and Labor in GCC”

Valentine M. Moghadam, Northeastern University, Massachusetts, United States

#### “Migration and Language Policy - the Role of Arabic in the Linguistic Landscape of Abu Dhabi”

Daniel Falk, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

#### “Blurring the Boundaries of Belief: The Transnational Religious Dynamics of the Syrian Christians of Kerala in Kuwait”

Ginu Zacharia Oommen, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

#### “Iranian Migration in Dubai: the Case of Achami Migrants”

Amin Moghadam, Lyon II University, Lyon, France

#### “Dubai, City of Guests”

Sanuja Karayil Mohammad Ali, University of California, Berkeley, United States

#### “Labor in a Global City South Asian Guest Workers in Dubai, 1960-2011”

Josiah Rector, Wayne State University, Michigan, United States

#### “The Kafala System, its Consequences for GCC Labor Markets and Proposed Alternatives”

Ibrahim Awad, American University in Cairo, Egypt

#### “Social Network among Migrants in Saudia Arabia: Opportunities and Implications”

Amira Yousif Babiker Badri, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

#### “What do Migrants and Their Spouses Back Home Talk About? An Empirical Study of Migrants in Qatar from Southern India”

Ganesh Seshan, Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Doha, Qatar

#### “Trust and Knowledge Transfer in a Multicultural Environment - The Role of Social Network Diversity”

Victor Huang, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



**“Livelihood Strategies and Return Migration Intention among Foreign Students in the GCC: an Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis”**

Adewale Abideen Adeyemi, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**“Impact of Indian Gulf Migration on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Muslims in India: A Study of Migrating Villages in North India “**

Anisur Rahman, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

**“The Sudanese Immigrant Families Structure and Living Arrangements in the UAE”**

Musa Shallal, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates



## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop 5:

#### **A Growing Gulf: Public and Private Sector Initiatives and the Realities of Youth Employment Outcomes**



**Dr. Tarik Yousef**  
CEO, Silatech, Qatar



**Dr. Nader Kabbani**  
Director of Research,  
Silatech, Qatar

Unemployment rates among young Gulf nationals exceed 35 percent – a situation that has persisted for decades and is the result of a combination of historical trends, disincentives, and institutional constraints that have affected the economic opportunity structure facing youth as well as their own attitudes and behavior. The aim of the workshop was to delve into the realities of the youth employment situation in the Gulf and take stock of what has been done and learnt. The workshop was organized by Tarik Yousef and Nader Kabbani of Silatech, a social initiative dedicated to creating jobs and economic opportunities for Arab youth.

The workshop was divided into four parts. The first part presented an overview of the youth situation in the Gulf. Sean Foley explored the historical and political context of the recent emergence of women and the declining position of men. He found that this phenomenon was partly due to women reclaiming the more active social positions held by their grandmothers and great grandmothers. It also reflected the disadvantaged position of young men, in which they are expected to serve as the breadwinners of their families and start working at a young age while their sisters are encouraged to continue their studies as long as possible. Zafiris Tzannatos reviewed key economic and labor market characteristics and trends in the GCC, identifying three distinguishing features: the relative absence of fiscal constraints and discipline; migration policies that result in private sector wages being largely set in the country of origin of migrants; and a systematic underperformance of nationals in schools. Under these conditions, ongoing efforts in the areas of skills development and other active labor market policies and programs are likely to have only a marginal effect on addressing the employment problems among young nationals in the GCC.



The second part of the workshop presented country case studies on youth education and employment. Maimoona Al Rawahi presented a paper outlining the employability challenges facing trainees of government vocational training centers in Oman, including the lack of skills, difficult work conditions, lack of job security, poor social standing, absence of job development or career advancement, and the lack of acceptance of vocational certificates. Ingo Forstenlechner reported the findings of a survey exploring career attitudes of students in the UAE. He found that expectations towards state employment have strong implications for the willingness to work in the private sector. Also, the idea of having to compete against unregulated global migrants has strong effects on self-perceived employability, which can be increased through career exploration and self-efficacy. Mary Ann Tetreault outlined structural impediments to employment in Kuwait.

These included the configuration of domestic education; the integrity of workplaces; pressures from powerful political constituencies; and outcomes of rentier politics. Neva Alexander and Hala Guta evaluated the effect of gender on perceived leadership skills among Saudi college students. They found that female college students perceived themselves to be adept at working in groups, understanding themselves, and communicating with others when compared with males. However, they did not perceive themselves to be better than males at decision making or overall leadership. The third part of the workshop discussed Gulf State policies aimed at increasing the share of native workers in the private sector. Cassia Marchon studied the use of employment quotas for native workers in Emiratization policies and found that, while an increase in the employment quota for native workers increases the share of native workers, it also reduces the industry's

## Workshop Descriptions

production and employment of labor. Edward Sayre examined the labor market conditions in Qatar from 1995 to 2000 and the impact of labor market and Qatarization policies on youth economic and social development. He found that it may not be possible for the state to meet its Qatarization goals without full re-imagining of the labor market institutions of the country.

The final part of the workshop focused on the political economy of Bahrain. Mohammed Al Hajeri presented a descriptive analysis of the youth employment situation, focusing on demographic trends, employment outcomes, and policy responses. Laurence Louër discussed the political dimension of the labor market reform in Bahrain, finding that labor market reforms fostered the formation of political forces. Finally, using household survey data from early 2009, Justin Gengler, found that Shii citizens are systematically less likely to be employed in Bahrain's public sector and also tended to occupy lower-ranking professional positions and are excluded from positions with national security implications. He concluded that patterns of government-sector employment in Bahrain tell a fundamentally different story from the one articulated by rentier theorists: public sector employment is not used to secure political allegiance; rather it is political allegiance that secures public sector employment.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Dr. Tarik M. Yousef**

Dr. Tarik M. Yousef is the CEO of Silatech, a not-for-profit organization that aims to empower young people in the Arab world by connecting them to opportunities for employment, enterprise, and civil engagement. Prior to joining Silatech, he was the founding Dean of the Dubai School of Government. He joined the School from Georgetown University, where he held the positions of Associate Professor of Economics in the School of Foreign Service, and Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah Professor of Arab Studies at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. An expert on the economies of the Arab world, he received his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University with specialization in development economics and economic history. His current research interests include the study of youth inclusion, the political economy of policy reform, and development policies in oil-exporting countries. Dr. Yousef's policy experience includes working at the International Monetary Fund, the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank, and the Millennium Project at the United Nations. At present, he is a Senior Fellow at the Brookings



Institution. He has contributed numerous articles and chapters, and co-edited several volumes including *Generation in Waiting: The Unfulfilled Promise of Young People in the Middle East*; (Brookings, 2009).

### **Dr. Nader Kabbani**

Dr. Nader Kabbani is Director of Research and Policy at Silatech, a not-for-profit organization that aims to empower young people in the Arab world by connecting them to opportunities for employment, enterprise, and civil engagement. Prior to joining Silatech, Kabbani was the founding Director of the Syrian Development Research Centre at the Syria Trust for Development, a non-profit NGO based in Damascus. He has also served as a faculty member with the Department Economics at the American University of Beirut and as an Economist with the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kabbani obtained a B.A. in Economics from Claremont McKenna College in 1992. He was selected as a California State Senate Fellow and worked with the State Senate Office of Research between 1992 and 1994. Kabbani went on to complete a Ph.D. in Economics at the Johns Hopkins University in 2001. Kabbani currently serves a Non-Resident Scholar with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut and is an elected member of the Board of the NGO Platform in Syria. Kabbani has published articles in numerous journals, including *Teachers College Record* and *Journal of Human Resources* and has contributed articles to a number of edited volumes..

## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop 5 Papers

“We Don’t Know Where the Boys Have Gone To - Social Change in the Gulf in the Twenty-First Century”

Sean Foley, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee, United States

“Youth Employment in the GCC States: Is it the Youth (and Schools), Employment (and Migrants) or the Gulf (and Oil)?”

Zafiriz Tzannatos, International Labour Organization Regional Office for Arab States, Beirut, Lebanon

“Challenges Facing Trainees and Graduates in terms of Employability: the Case of Government Vocational Training Centers in the Sultanate of Oman”

Maimoona Abdullah Al Rawahi, University of Salford, Greater Manchester, United Kingdom

“Shifting Career Paradigms in Emerging Economies: Career Exploration and Employability of Young citizens in the Private and Public Sectors”

Ingo Forstenlechner, Federal Demographic Council, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates / United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

“Room in the Middle? Employment Prospects for Gulf Youth”

Mary Ann Tetreault, Trinity University, Texas, United States

“Gender Differences of Perceived Leadership Skills among Saudi College Students”

Hala Asmina Guta, Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University, Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia

“Re-Thinking Emiratization in the UAE”

Cassia Marchon, American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

“Qatarization Policies and Qatari Youth: Social and Economic Impacts”

Edward A. Sayre, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi, United States

“Youth Unemployment in the Kingdom of Bahrain”

Mohammed Abdulla Juma Al Hajeri, Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies, Manama, Bahrain

“The Political Dimension of the Labor Market Reform in Bahrain”

Laurence Louer, Sciences Po, Paris, France

“The (Sectarian) Politics of Public-Sector Employment in Bahrain”

Justin Gengler, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar / University of Michigan, Michigan, United States



## Workshop 6:

### **International Tourism Development in the GCC Countries: Opportunities and Challenges**



***Dr. Ala Al  
Harmaneh***

Institute of Geography,  
University of Mainz,  
Germany



***Dr. Marcus Stephenson***

Associate Professor of  
Tourism Management,  
Middlesex University,  
Dubai

The workshop concerning the challenges and opportunities associated with international tourism development within the GCC region had specific presentation themes, which were varied as well as complementary, such as: the political economy of tourism in the region; destination management organizations in the GCC; trans-national ground mobility infrastructure for GCC countries; challenges and opportunities facing Kuwait (Failaka Island case study); shopping tourism and heritage (Jeddah case study); tourism developments, opportunities and threats for destinations with high-profile intentions (Qatar case study); sport and tourism planning (Dubai case study), events and festivals in building destination awareness (Abu Dhabi case study); and sustainable strategies for tourism development (Oman case study).

The workshop narrative was based on the supposition that the international tourism sector in the GCC region is generally embedded in a common strategy of economic diversification and re-development. Also, although international tourism in the region creates opportunities for economic diversification, infrastructure development, and nation building, it also presents a range of social, cultural, environmental and structural challenges. Consequently, the workshop dealt with various theoretical approaches and a range of tourism development concepts and strategies.

The initial objective of the workshop was to establish a forum to discuss and critically synthesize the academic study of tourism within this region, where critical reflection at this level and scale has not been significantly developed. This is still a relatively uncharted field of enquiry and there are a range of challenges and opportunities for the region that warrant vibrant discussion and critical assessment.

## Workshop Descriptions



The academic papers and the presentations were of a very high standard. Moreover, the discussions following each presentation were extremely interactive and constructive, dealing with issues in a very productive way – with academic purpose and initiative.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Dr. Ala Al-Hamarneh**

Dr. Ala Al-Hamarneh holds a Ph.D. in economic and social geography from Kiev State University. Since 1997, he is affiliated with the Johannes Gutenberg-Mainz University in Germany as a senior researcher at the Center for Research on the Arab World (CERAW) and as an assistant professor for human geography at the Institute of Geography. Issues of international tourism, migration, urban studies and higher education are the focus of his research, publications, consulting and teaching. Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Qatar and UAE as well as Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and Ukraine represent the geographic areas of his research. As an expert in Islamic Tourism, globalization of higher education, and international migration, he has been engaged in consulting activities in various research centers and projects (SSRC, Oxford and Sunderland Universities) and in global NGOs and forums (OSF, US-Islamic World Forum 2011, Global Islamic Tourism Forum). His last co-edited volume *Islam and Muslims in Germany* won the “Outstanding Academic Title Award” by Choice Magazine, 2008.



**Dr. Marcus L. Stephenson**

Dr. Marcus L. Stephenson read for his doctorate in the field of ‘social tourism’ at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has published extensively in areas relating to tourism, race, ethnicity and culture. Dr. Stephenson studied the sociological dimensions of tourism since 1980s, and has conducted a range of ethnographic methodologies in the United Kingdom, Caribbean, East Africa, and the Middle East. He is chair of research for Middlesex University Dubai (UAE) and heads the tourism management degree programs. His current research interests concern citizenship issues in tourism, tourism development in the United Arab Emirates, Islamic hospitality and tourism, and employment and nationalization strategies in the tourism industries. Dr. Stephenson’s co-authored paper: “Islamic hospitality in the UAE: Indigenization of Products and Human Capital,” which was published in the Journal of Islamic Marketing (2010), was a ‘Highly Commended Award Winner’ at the Emerald Literati Awards for Excellence, 2011.

**Workshop 6 Papers**

**“Theoretical Approaches to the Political Economy of Tourism in the Arab Gulf States”**

Matthew Gray, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

## Workshop Descriptions



### “Tourism Management Organization: A Comparative Analysis of Destination Management Organizations in the GCC”

Amitabh Upadhy, Skyline University College, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

### “A New Trans-National Ground Mobility Infrastructure for GCC Countries as Key Enabler for a Mid-Term Strategy for Tourism”

Arnd Baetzner, University of St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland

### “Tourism Planning with Sport in the GCC Countries: Opportunities and Challenges”

Neil Graney, Northumbria University, Northumbria, United Kingdom

### “Cultural Tourism and Heritage Law”

Phil Cameron, Alexander Anolik Law Corporation, San Francisco, United States

### “Tourism in the UAE, Prospects and Challenges, Dubai as a Model”

Fatima Al Sayegh, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

### “Learning from Dubai: Opportunities of Ecological and Environmental Sustainable Strategies for Tourism Development in Oman”

Daniela Ottman, German University of Technology in Oman, Muscat, Oman

### “Places of People Flows: Learning from Dubai”

Hussam Salama, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar



**“The Role of Events and Festivals in Building Destination Awareness: the Case of Abu Dhabi”**

Jane Ali-Knight, Edinburgh Institute, Napier University, United Kingdom

**“Failaka Island: The Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Tourism in Kuwait”**

Cody Paris, Middlesex University Dubai, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**“‘As Independent as You Are’-Strengths, Opportunities and Threats Regarding Qatar Evolving as a High-profile Tourism Destination”**

Nadine Scharfenort, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Mainz, Germany

**“From Oil to Tourism”**

Heba Aziz, German University of Technology in Oman, Muscat, Oman; Edith Szivas, Jumeirah Group, Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management, United Arab Emirates; and Lubna Mazroei, University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom

**“Shopping, Tourism and Heritage in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: Evidence from Female Domestic Tourists”**

Kevin Hannam, University of Sunderland, Sunderland, United Kingdom and Samirah Al-Saleh, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop 7:

### **Women and Globalization in the GCC: Negotiating States, Agency, and Social Change**



***Dr. May Al-Dabbagh***

Dubai School of  
Government, UAE



***Dr. Dalia Abdelhady***

Senior Research Fellow,  
Center for Middle East  
Studies, Lund University,  
Sweden

This workshop provided a vibrant forum for a research-driven discussion on the relationship between global processes and the position of women in the Gulf region. The overall aim of the workshop was to problematize the “position” of women in the GCC by situating their experience within the framework and rhetoric of globalization in order to arrive at an understanding of the diverse institutional and cultural mechanisms that influence gender dynamics in the region. Specifically, the papers explored the variety of ways in which responses to global economic, political, technological, and migratory flows influence the position of women in the GCC and simultaneously how women themselves utilize the institutions and rhetoric of globalization to improve their own position. Collectively, workshop papers explored the complicated and contradictory interactions between women, states, and societies in the Gulf region which shape (and are shaped by) globalization processes.

The two-day workshop saw the presentation of 15 papers representing a range of disciplines including literature, anthropology, sociology, and business, and covering a wide variety of topics such as social policy, security, business, education, law, family, migration, and sport. Authors themselves were also differentially positioned as some were from or based in the GCC while others were not or had a more general scholarly interest in gender empowerment in the Middle East. The diversity of disciplines/topics/affiliations/locations was a key feature of the workshop which enabled the participants to go beyond parochial discussions about women in the GCC, while at the same time, grounding theoretical discussions about gender dynamics in the lived realities of women’s experiences.

Overall, the papers varied in their methodologies, operationalization of globalization as a construct, and use of gender as a conceptual lens. The first group of papers was presented under



the theme: National narratives/Beyond tradition. Most of these papers viewed globalization as an opportunity for women's empowerment/rights, an extension of modernization/westernization, with the state conceptualized as the primary mechanism by which globalization can further women's empowerment. Papers on the first day also focused on the ways in which traditions and traditional roles are simultaneously challenged, reinforced, and invented in the context of globalization in a variety of different domains. Papers on the second day were grouped under the title: Institutional reform/other women/cultural representations. Most of these papers shifted the analytic lens to include the experiences of women who are marginalized in official narratives about women's rights in the GCC, such as domestic workers and women with disability. These papers also highlighted the ways in which the transnational flow of ideas about gender equality affects both women and states in the changing landscape for women's rights in the GCC. Because each author also functioned as a discussant for other papers, the diversity of perspectives was collectively harnessed during the discussion as an opportunity for voice, representation, critique, and development of scholarly work.

Concluding the workshop, the participants agreed that the publication of such a diverse group of papers would fill an important gap in our knowledge of women's issues in the GCC.

## Workshop Descriptions



### Workshop Director Profiles

#### ***Dr. May Al-Dabbagh***

Dr. May Al-Dabbagh is the Founder and Director of the Gender and Public Policy Program at the Dubai School of Government where she has taught and published on a variety of topics including cross-cultural and social/organizational psychology; theory and method in assessing the relationship between the self and context; cultural and gender differences in leadership, decision-making, and job-related outcomes. Al-Dabbagh is also a research associate with the Harvard Kennedy School's Women and Public Policy Program and is currently heading a multiyear research project on "Intersections between culture and gender in negotiation" which focuses on gender and globalization in negotiation in the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) countries. Al-Dabbagh is a member of the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology, the International Association for Conflict Management, the Middle East Studies Association of North America, and the Academy of Management. She is a board member of the Banawi Industrial Group in Saudi Arabia and has been selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2011. She has publications in Arabic and English and her work has been featured in over 40 local, regional, and international media outlets. In 2006, Al-Dabbagh earned a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Oxford. She earned her B.A. degree in psychology from Harvard University, where she graduated in 1999 with high honors.



### **Dr. Dalia Abdelhady**

Dr. Dalia Abdelhady is a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Middle East Studies at Lund University in Sweden where she is also the Academic Coordinator for the Women for Sustainable Growth Initiative hosted in collaboration with Yale University in the US and Zayed University in the UAE. The general theme in Dr. Abdelhady's work deals with the ways globalization shapes the lives of individuals in various ways. One line of research looks at immigration as an important aspect of globalization. Looking at Arab immigrants and their children in Europe and North America, she investigates the complex ways immigrants integrate to their new societies, maintain ties to their homelands and construct global solidarities and cosmopolitan identities. Most recently, her book *The Lebanese Diaspora: The Arab Immigrant Experience in Montreal, New York and Paris* was published by NYU Press. A second line of research investigates the impact of globalization on gender dynamics in the Arab World with particular emphasis on the Gulf region. Studying women's public roles, Dr. Abdelhady highlights the interplay of Islam, local traditions and global cultural ideals in shaping women's experiences in the region. Pursuing this line of research, Dr. Abdelhady is the guest editor for a special issue of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* on Women and Social Change in the GCC, forthcoming in spring 2013.

## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop 7 Papers

*Day 1: National Narratives and Beyond Tradition*

“The Impact of Globalization on GCC Women: Genres and Themes in Twenty-first Century Saudi Women’s Fiction”

Basma Al-Mutlaq, Independent Scholar, Saudi Arabia

“Women Empowerment in Bahrain: The Interplay between Government Policy and Globalization”

Marwa Al Obaidli, Bahrain Center for Strategic, International, and Energy Studies, Manama, Bahrain

“Empowerment of Women in Oman”

Fawzia Al Farsi, The Council of State (Majlis al-Dawla), Muscat, Oman

“Globalization: Women in GCC between Modernity and Inherited Traditions”

Salma Alderazi, The Bahrain Economic Development Board (Public Sector Reform Projects Department), Manama, Bahrain

“Gender and Globalization: Cultural Exchange Programs in the UAE”

Jillian Schedneck, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia

“Women and Higher Education in the Era of Globalization: A Case from Sultanate of Oman”

Gokuladas Vallikattu Kakoothparambil, Salalah College of Technology, Salalah, Oman

“Women in Business Leadership in the United Arab Emirates: Females Shaping their Environment”

Linzi Kemp, American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

“The Impact of Globalization on Women in the GCC: The Role of Educational Networks”

Nada Al-Mutawa, Kuwait University, Kuwait City, Kuwait



*Day 2: Institutional Reform, “Other” Women and Cultural Representations*

**“Family Law and Female Citizenship in Kuwait and Qatar: A Comparative Perspective in Light of Globalization in MENA”**

Rania Maktabi, Østfold University College, Halden, Norway

**“Globalization and the Employment of Women with Disabilities in the UAE”**

Naderah Alborn, British University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**“Genie out of the Bottle: Enfranchisement of Gulf Citizenry in the Age of Globalization”**

Leila DeVriese, Hamline University, Minnesota, United States

**“Women and Community: Dilemmas of Expatriate Women in Qatar”**

Shefali Jha, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

**“Globalization and the Deployment of GCC Countries’ Policewomen”**

Staci Strobl, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, United States

**“Globalization and Women’s Participation in Sport: The Case of Qatar”**

Susan Dun, Northwestern University in Qatar, Doha, Qatar

**“The Long Black Dress: Abaya, Fashion and the Female Body in the New GCC**

Mariam Rahmani, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

**“The Bonds of Women and Globalization”**

Rima Sabban, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop 8:

#### **An Assessment of Opportunities and Possibilities: The Gulf and Latin America**



***Dr. Alejandra Galindo  
Marines***

University of Monterrey,  
Mexico

The workshop aimed to assess the relationship between Latin America and Gulf countries, especially after the marked increase in trade and diplomatic exchanges between the two regions in the last few years. The questions proposed for the workshop were orientated mainly to explore the significance of this new pattern of relations.

Erick Viramontes's paper on the role of Latin America in the foreign policies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states tried to understand why these states are interested in Latin America. His conclusions showed that the rise in diplomatic exchanges and trade from the GCC countries to Latin America in the last 10 years is a product of their interest in increasing foreign assets and participating in issues of global governance.

Iranian foreign policy towards Latin America was analyzed by Robert Mason. He assessed the nature of the links forged by Iran with countries such as Venezuela, Cuba, Ecuador, and Bolivia, as a counter measure against US hegemony. He considered that regime changes on both sides could affect this type of link, as well as result in a more cooperative US policy towards Latin American countries.

Angel Blanco provided insight into the foreign policy of Venezuela, showing the continuities and shifts in the country's relationship with the Gulf countries. The main difference between these actors is Venezuela's approach of "soft-balancing" towards the United States. He contended that in order to have stability at OPEC, Venezuela should take advantage of Arab and South American countries' summits to work out areas of cooperation with GCC countries.



The influence of the United States in the formulation and implementation of Mexican foreign policy was evaluated by Alejandra Galindo. Through an analysis of the different phases of Mexican foreign policy, and particularly the last two presidential terms, she contended that the tacit agreement between Mexico and the United States, wherein they agree to disagree on important issues for both governments, still permeates the approach of Mexico towards the Gulf region.

The papers by Alessandra Gonzalez and Loubna Dardane were discussed by some participants in the workshop, though the authors could not attend the gathering. In the case of Gonzalez's paper, she looked for the ways in which women, according to their cultural and social context, accede to leadership positions in business and politics. She proposed a study to analyze the alternative negotiation strategies for the empowerment of women in both regions. In terms of history and experience on building up the state in an era of populist governments with strong ideological elements, the paper by Dardane compared the experiences of South Yemen and Bolivian governments – marked by pan-Arab and socialist leaning in the first case and in the second by a socialist program based on a strong nationalism – and the role of foreign intervention to halt those processes.

The differences between Chile and Brazil's rapprochement towards the GCC were the focus of Elodie Brun's paper. A focal point of the relations between the countries has been their stance

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on the Arab-Israeli conflict, bringing them closer to the GCC countries. Elodie argued that from Brazil's perspective, this rapprochement should be linked to its global aspirations as well as the influence of strong Arab communities that exist in both Brazil and Chile.

In the case of Chile, the paper delivered by Cecilia Baeza showed the importance of the Palestinian community in strengthening links with the Gulf countries. Cecilia identified three possible areas of expanding cooperation. These include Chile's attractiveness as a hub of commerce and finance and as a country where GCC countries could invest in agriculture. Besides, the GCC could be an alternative source of gas and oil imports for Chile.

Nachum Shiloh's paper addressed the issue of food security of the Gulf countries and the present and future role of Latin America in this area. Nachum assessed the viability of lands and agricultural products that are found in Latin American countries as well as the strategies of investment sought by the GCC countries.

The workshop discussions were vibrant and stimulating, since all the participants were driven by the desire to strengthen and expand this area of research. The workshop concluded with a proposal for further meetings on the topic of Gulf-Latin America relations.



### Workshop Director Profiles

#### ***Dr. Alejandra Galindo Marines***

Dr. Alejandra Galindo Marines specializes in Middle East politics with a focus on the Gulf area. She is currently Professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the Universidad de Monterrey, México. Her areas of research interest include citizenship and gender, as well as international relations of the Arab Gulf. She has conducted field research on Saudi Arabia and Yemen on the topic of gender, in addition to studying the relationships of some Latin American countries, including Mexico towards the Middle East and particularly the Gulf region. Among her recent publications are: “La Diplomacia del petróleo: las relaciones China - Arabia Saudita” (Estudios de Asia y África XLV, 1) and “Mexico’s Elusive Foreign Policy towards the Middle East: Between Indifference and Engagement”(Contemporary Arab Affairs 4, 3).



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### Workshop 8 Papers

“The Role of Latin America in the Foreign Policies of the GCC States”

Erick Viramontes, El Colegio De Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

“Iranian Policy towards Latin America as a Counter-Measure against US Hegemony”

Robert Mason, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom

“Venezuela and its Foreign Policy towards the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC): Historical Development, Challenges and Perspectives”

Angel Blanco, Independent Scholar, Caracas, Venezuela

“So Far So Close to United States and the Gulf: Mexico’s Approach”

Alejandra Galindo, Universidad de Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico

“Working with Patriarchy: Strategies for Women’s Empowerment in Latin America and the Arab Gulf”

Alessandra Gonzalez, Baylor University, Texas, United States

“Perils of Duplicate Expectations. Chile and the Gulf: Identifying Channels of Cooperation”

Cecilia Baeza, Universidade de Brasilia, Darcy Ribeiro, Brazil

“Do Latin American Countries still Dream about Arab Investment”

Elodie Brun, Sciences Po, Paris, France

“Gulf Food Security and its Latin American Horizons”

Nachum Shiloh, Tel Aviv University, Israel

## Workshop 9: Visual Identity in the GCC



**Dr. Nadia  
Mounajjed**  
American University  
of Sharjah, UAE



**Sharmeen Syed**  
Sharjah Art Foundation,  
UAE

Workshop 9 introduced an original and fresh subject to the Gulf Research Meeting – that of visual culture in the GCC. This is a significant subject to address, especially at a time when heightened visualization, representation and aesthetics have become a defining attribute and a central focus to the Gulf creative industries. The intention was to initiate a critical discourse on this infant yet flourishing discipline.

The workshop received more than 30 proposals from which 16 were selected for presentation. Five were unable to attend. A total of 11 papers were submitted and presented. Six listening participants also registered and were present at the workshop.

This two-day workshop brought together artists, academics and young researchers from the United States, Europe and the Gulf region. Participants shared their work and passions on the politics of representation. Papers covered a wide array of topics from visual archives to photography, film and architecture. There was a clear interest in visual rhetoric through the study of art and design in everyday media and highlighting the multifaceted aspects of visual expression in the Gulf.

Work presented ranged from broad theoretical overviews on visual culture to specific case studies focused on the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Oman. The discussions also examined the politics of representation in museum culture and urban aesthetics and their relationship to identity and socio-economic realities. This led to a highly rich and insightful debate.

The workshop started with a presentation by the Sharjah Art Foundation focusing on the visual analysis of six archival artifacts as a way to trace the early beginnings of visual production in

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the UAE. The paper is an outcome of the research project that was held at the Sharjah Art Foundation in 2010 focusing on visual identity in the UAE. This was followed by a presentation by Pamela Erskine-Loftus on Gulf museums as creators of a visual identity and their intricate association with heritage. Bob Dahm led us through a fascinating journey on the flourishing creative developments in newspaper design tradition in the UAE and Oman, while Alia Yunis focused on the study of film and identity in the UAE.

Enrique Martinez and Aurel von Richthofen approached the subject from another perspective by researching visual urban perception, aesthetics, and architectural identity in the UAE and Oman. Buthaina Kazim examined the city of Dubai through its ever-changing visual spectrum and the ongoing continuous project of identity negotiation.

Papers were innovative. Some of them led to animated conversations such as Lucile Dupraz's critical survey on mapping censorship in academic art books in the Islamic context of Saudi Arabia. David Hewitt and Sajid Khan's paper focused on the economy of contemporary art production by exploring the artist's meaning in the context of marketing.

Group discussions touched upon the very nascent state of the discipline in the Gulf due to its limited history of publishing and limited market as well as limitations on resources and



methodology, and the unclear place of the Gulf in a globalized visual economy. Participants exchanged methodologies and practices, shared experiences and discussed the challenges of doing research in this area of cultural studies.

Aware of the isolation that many academics and researchers are facing, we concluded with an open conversation on researching ‘Visual Culture in the Gulf.’ We looked back at successful examples and a framework that can promote a sustainable institutional research set-up focused on visual culture – a framework that may include research councils and institutions, graduate programs, conferences, workshops as well as funding initiatives and grants. We would like to thank the Sharjah Art Foundation and the Gulf Research Center Cambridge for their support for this workshop.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Dr. Nadia Mounajjed**

Dr. Nadia Mounajjed holds a Ph.D. from Sheffield University, and a Master’s in Architectural Design from the University College London. Prior to her academic career, she trained as an architect in Damascus. Since 2004, she has been actively engaged in education and research. Nadia is currently working as an assistant professor of architecture and design at the American University

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of Sharjah. Working in an interdisciplinary capacity, she is currently engaged in research projects on visual culture and design. In 2010, she joined the Sharjah Art Foundation as a research advisor for their project entitled: An Archeology of Visual Identity.

### **Sharmeen Syed**

Sharmeen Syed studied Architecture and Urban Design at the American University of Sharjah and is currently working as architect and researcher at Sharjah Art Foundation. Syed is a researcher on the project An Archaeology of Visual Identity; and is part of the architecture team for Sharjah Art Foundation Art Spaces and Sharjah Biennial among other projects since 2010. She is also engaged in independent research and artistic projects investigating subject matter in the fields of cultural geography and visual culture -- particularly photographic practices, urbanism and architecture. She has worked in the mediums of photography, video, and text.

### **Workshop 9 Papers**

#### **“Contested Images: Photography, Media and the Representation of the UAE in the Formative Years”**

Nadia Mounajjed, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates; Sharmeen Syed and Uns Kattan, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates



“Displaying in/the Peninsula: Museums as Creators of a Visual Identity”

Pamela Erskine-Loftus, Independent Scholar, United States

“Exploring Artist’s Meaning in the Context of Marketing: The Case of Contemporary Art”

Sajid Kahn and David Hewitt, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

“Always Let the Road Decide: Visual Journeys, Hidden Maps and Boundaries along the Highways of Dubai, UAE”

David Kendall, Goldsmiths College, University of London, United Kingdom

“Creating a Film Culture and Identity: UAE Case Study”

Alia Yunis, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

“New Flowering of News Design in the Gulf”

Carl Dahm, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

“Censorship as Cross-cultural Negotiation: Art Books for Academic Use in an Islamic Context”

Lucile Dupraz, Dar Al-Hekma College, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

“Hyper-contextual Megastructures: A Vision into New Architectural Identities for the UAE”

Enrique Martinez, Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island, United States

“The Urban Form as Ornament - Mass-Culture and the Politics of the Continuous Sub-urbanisation in Oman”

Aurel Von Richthofen, German University of Technology in Oman, Muscat, Oman

“Negotiating Dubai’s Cultural Identity: an Excavation of Meaning in the City’s Notorious Projects”

Butheina Kazim, New York University, New York, United States

“Dubai and the Absent Presence of Photography”

Zeinab Saleh, University of Rochester, Rochester, United States

## Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop 10:

### **The Impact of Large-Scale Datasets on Evidence-Based Educational Policymaking and Reform in the Gulf States**



***Dr. Naif Alromi***

Deputy Minister  
Educational  
Development &  
Planning, Ministry of  
Education, Saudi Arabia



***Dr. Alexander  
W. Wiseman***

Lehigh University,  
USA



***Dr. Saleh  
Alshumrani***

King Saud  
University, Saudi  
Arabia

Given the importance of evidence-based educational policymaking and reform in the GCC, and the contribution that large-scale datasets make to evidence-based decisions in the Gulf, this workshop's goal was to definitively describe, synthesize, and forecast how large-scale datasets impact evidence-based policymaking in the Gulf. The workshop provided a forum for scholars and policymakers to identify how large-scale data studies can be used to inform policymaking at all levels of education, and how these data can be used to better understand specific country- and regional-level challenges in the Gulf.

There are many kinds of large-scale datasets that are relevant to evidence-based educational policymaking in the Gulf. For example, Gulf countries participate in several of the internationally-comparative education assessments, including the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study (PIRLS), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Of these large-scale assessments, the TIMSS includes representatives from all of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as well as many from the Arab community worldwide. In fact, in 2011, the number of countries participating in TIMSS grew to 64 countries and 4 benchmarking communities. Of these 68 countries and communities, 15 (or 22 percent) were again Arab and included the six GCC countries.



Papers presented and discussed in this workshop emphasized that quantitative research evidence is often the most legitimized among Gulf States politicians and policymakers because it is perceived to be more accurate and trustworthy. In fact, the phrase “scientific” for international or national educational agencies often means “based in empirical research” — typically quantitative (Center for Education, 2004; Towne & Shavelson, 2001). Useful qualitative data is not often considered “scientific” enough for national or international educational funding in the Gulf or elsewhere (e.g., Ravitch, 2005). The measurability of achievement scores from large-scale datasets, for example, is often perceived by Gulf policymakers to be clearer and more direct than that of learning potential or the transferability of ideas that may be measured with less quantitative instruments or methods. However, workshop participants discussed how these rich data are not used to their full potential by Gulf policymakers because of the predominant focus on student achievement and rankings systems. While student achievement data can offer great insights on educational systems, the unique country-level background data available through large international datasets provide opportunities for scholars and policymakers to develop greater insight into the social and cultural factors that influence education systems in the Gulf and worldwide.

Participants achieved the goals of the workshop in three ways. First, they identified and discussed ways that a testing and assessment infrastructure contributes to improved educational planning, policy, and implementation in the Gulf. Second, they discussed specific ways to build capacity in

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relevant knowledge, skills, attitudes and values about large-scale education data for policymaking in Gulf countries. And, finally, they created a rough template for sustainable testing and assessment models and procedures to propel Gulf national education systems forward and establish the Gulf as an education destination zone both in the region and the world.

The workshop also had two sets of outcomes: short-term and long-term. The short-term outcomes were to build a network of experts and colleagues, create a set of policy recommendations related to large-scale education data and policymaking in the Gulf, and to contribute to a high-quality volume based on the papers presented in the workshop. We have since developed a Facebook page called “Education Reform in the Arabian Gulf,” which can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/GulfEducation>. We also developed a set of policy recommendations for the development and implementation of large-scale education assessments in the Gulf’s national education systems. And, paper authors are contributing their manuscripts to the workshop volume to be published. Long-term outcomes were to develop sustainable collaboration and systematically influence education policy in the Gulf. Sustainable collaboration is to be achieved by collaborating on grants, publications, and reports using large-scale educational data as a foundation, while systematic policy influence involves producing reports, training, and an evidence-base for education assessment and policymaking in the Gulf. These long-term outcomes are steps to follow after the publication of the workshop volume.

## **Workshop Director Profiles**

### ***Dr. Naif H. Alromi***

Dr. Naif H. Alromi is Deputy Minister of Educational Development and Planning in the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Alromi has been a school counselor, assistant head of the Riyadh school district, and a key official in the Ministry of Education for more than 22 years. His accomplishments include leadership of several multi-billion Riyal projects for the Ministry such as the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Public Education Development Project (Tatweer) as well as the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Alromi's research interests include school-to-work transition and the role of vocational education in national development, which has led to publications in many languages, including *The Employability Imperative: Schooling for Work as a National Project* (Nova Publishing, 2005).

### ***Dr. Alexander W. Wiseman***

Dr. Alexander W. Wiseman has more than 17 years of professional experience working with government education departments, university-based teacher education programs, community-based professional development for teachers, and as a classroom teacher in both the US and East Asia. Dr. Wiseman is current Associate Professor of Comparative and International Education in the College of Education at Lehigh University, USA. He conducts educational research using large international datasets on math and science education, information and communication technology (ICT), teacher preparation, professional development and curriculum as well as school principal's instructional leadership activity, and is the author of many research-to-practice articles and books, including *The Impact of International Achievement Studies on National Education Policymaking* (Emerald UK, 2010).

### ***Dr. Saleh A. Alshumrani***

Dr. Saleh A. Alshumrani is Assistant Professor of Measurement, Evaluation and Statistics at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. In addition to his responsibilities at King Saud University, Dr. Alshumrani has 20 years of experience including positions as a secondary science teacher, Director of Teacher Assessment for the King Abdullah Public Education Development Project (Tatweer), Director of Evaluation in the Ministry of Education, and as a consultant for independent research groups as well as for the Excellence Center for Mathematics & Science Education at King Saud University. His publications include several articles on educational testing and assessment, including the TIMSS 2007 Report on the Performance of Students in the Kingdom (2009).



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### Workshop 10 Papers

#### *Sub-Theme 1: Education Quality and Large-Scale Assessment*

**“The Quality of Secondary Education in the Middle East and North Africa: An Empirical Analysis using TIMSS 2007 Data”**

Donia Smaali Bouhlila, Faculté des sciences juridiques, économiques et de gestion de Jendouba, Tunisia

**“From a National to an International Policy Reform Shift: A ‘Positivist’ Critical Discourse Analysis of the Tatweer Educational Policy in Saudi Arabia”**

Tariq Elyas, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

**“School Inspection and International Assessment in Dubai: Evidence-based Approaches for Improving the Quality of Education in Private Schools”**

Rabaa Alsumaiti, Knowledge and Human Development Authority, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**“An Omani National Remedial Program in Response to Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2007 Poor Results: Cognitive Knowledge Development Program for Students in Science Mathematics and Concepts of Environmental Geography: Impact and Challenges”**

Munira Al-Wahaibi, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman and Asila Al-Ma’awali, Ibra College of Technology, Ibra, Oman

*Sub-Theme 2: Using Large-Scale Data to Identify & Understand Educational Equality Issues*

**“The Relationship Between School Resources and Grade 8 Mathematics Achievement: A Comparison of Israeli Hebrew Israeli Arab and Palestinian Authority Schools in TIMSS 2007”**

Yasin Afana, The Data Processing and Research Center (DPC), the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), Hamburg, Germany

**“The Quality of Higher Education in the Arab Region: Which Tools of Assessment to Use”**

Azza Shafei, The American University in Cairo, Egypt

**“Socioeconomic Versus Linguistic Factors Affecting Low Attainment In Reading Literacy In Arabic-Speaking Countries: Lessons That Can Be Learned From Using Data Obtained From Large-Scale Educational Studies”**

Ruth Zuzovsky, Tel Aviv University / Kibbutzim College, Tel Aviv, Israel

**“Secondary Science Teachers’ Gender, Training and Expectations for Student Learning in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)”**

Emily Anderson, Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, United States

**“Higher Education Databases and International Branch Campuses: Lessons and Opportunities in the GCC”**

Sajida Shroff, TECOM Investments, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

*Sub-Theme 3: Bridging Theory-to-Practice for Evidence-based Policymaking*

**“Why the Fireworks?: Theoretical Perspectives on the Explosion in International Assessments and Implications for the Gulf”**

Jennifer DeBoer, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, United States

**“Policymaking Global Data and Achievement Gaps In Education In Gulf Countries: How Much Data For Which Policy?”**

Mariam Orkodashvili, Georgian American University, Tbilisi, Georgia

**“The ‘Singapore of the Middle East’: The Role and Attractiveness of the Singapore Model and TIMSS on Education Policy and Borrowing in the Kingdom of Bahrain”**

Daniel Kirk, Macon State College, Georgia, United States

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### Workshop II:

### Environmental Cost and Changing Face of Agriculture in the Gulf States



**Dr. Shabbir A.  
Shahid**

Centre for Biosaline  
Agriculture, Dubai



**Dr. Mushtaque Ahmed**

Sultan Qaboos University,  
Oman

This workshop focused on agricultural activities in the Gulf States and their impact on the environment and soil and water resources to highlight if such activities are sustainable. The workshop began with Dr. Shabbir A. Shahid's comprehensive presentation that covered food imports, renewable water resources and levels of water stresses, decline in arable land, agriculture contribution to GDP, agriculture production trap, efforts of Gulf States to expand agriculture, trends of ecological footprint and biocapacity, options for food security through improving agricultural production, outsourcing of agriculture to countries with better soil and water resources, and leasing lands and creation of strategic Gulf Food Reserve. It was pointed out that food import by the Gulf States is likely to continue, and hence there was a need to act urgently to improve food security using a multi-pronged approach, including future expansion of agriculture on suitable soils based on national soil maps, better protection and management of limited water resources, more efficient use of water to increase production, exploring alternate water sources for agriculture, and developing new agricultural policies and water management plans.

Mohammed Behnassi, in his paper "Achieving Food Security in a Changing Climate: The Potential of Climate Smart Agriculture," discussed how climate change is likely to impact agriculture, and food production and security, and what actions can be taken to increase agriculture productivity, build resilience to tackle the negative impacts of climate change, and reduce GHG emissions through enhancing climate-smart agriculture – both through policies and practices.

Sanmugam Prathapar's paper "The Potential of Transforming Salalah into Oman's Vegetable's Basket" asked if the Salalah region could be transformed into Oman's vegetable basket, considering factors such as technological advancements and socio-economics, leading to self-sufficiency in its vegetable needs. Salalah has a suitable climate, land and water to grow enough vegetables for Oman.



Asadullah Al Ajmi's paper "Improved Water Use Efficiency: a Key Practice to Sustain Food Production in the GCC Countries" highlighted limited water availability as the major threat to agricultural sustainability in the GCC region. Opportunities exist to improve water use efficiency through strong policies for better utilization and management of water resources backed up by effective legislation and implementation procedure, ultimately allowing the production of more crops with less water.

Huzur Keskin in her presentation on "Research and Development on Agriculture and Food Security in the Gulf Region" reviewed the world and Middle East scenarios on agricultural R&D, position and trends. She started with the Malthusian proposition of population growth surpassing growth of food production, particularly in the developing countries, and improper distribution. The problem of distribution cannot be solved through technology but could be through improvement in social institutions. However, this does not deny the importance of continuing interest and investment in R&D in food production.

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Habeeba Al-Menaie's paper on "Prospects of Agriculture in the State of Kuwait" listed the poor and scarce terrestrial resources, hyper-arid environment, climate change impact, and critical water stress as major constraints to agriculture. The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research has incorporated applied research into integrated farming systems, sustainable crop production, and animal production technologies. Major emphasis is given to the efficient use of available land, water, energy and plants in agriculture, through modern technologies.

Benjamin Shepherd's paper on "Investments in Foreign Agriculture as Gulf States (GS) Food Security Strategy: Towards Better Policy" argues that policy-makers in the Gulf States who are facilitating foreign agricultural investments as part of their food security policy mix need to regulate their investor-enterprises much more closely if they wish to see successful 'food security' outcomes. One important strategy explored is the opportunity to invest in the host countries' farmers instead of in their farmlands. Instead of projects which remove the rural poor's access to the productive capital of the land, investments can be structured to leverage



the capacity of rural farmers to increase their production yields. By providing these farmers with the financial and technical support to achieve greater productivity and by granting them access to the important Gulf markets for their surpluses, there is the possibility to deliver positive food security outcomes. These can be measured both in terms of food availability and reliable sources of staple food supplies and in terms of reducing poverty and hunger in the developing country.

Mushtaque Ahmed's paper with Saif A. Al Khamisi on "Opportunities and Challenges of using Treated Wastewater in Agriculture" presented treated wastewater as an alternate source of water for agriculture, because water is the major challenge in GCC countries. Treated wastewater has proved to be a very promising source of water for irrigating crops; however, there are economic, institutional, social, health, and environmental constraints that hamper its sustainable and safe reuse in agriculture. International guidelines for use and quality standards of wastewater in agriculture exist to mitigate these impacts. Proper governmental policies and regulations must be in place for the use of treated wastewater.

A.A. Javaidi's paper on "Seawater Intrusion and the Impact on Groundwater Resources: Case Studies from the Gulf Region" emphasized the ways to control seawater intrusion and groundwater recharge in the Northern Emirates of the United Arab Emirates, through using treated wastewater (reclaimed water) in dams.

Salma Bani's paper on "Climate Change, Water Scarcity and Food Security Complexes: A Case Study from Bahrain" presented food production as a complex and interrelated system. The complex connection between water, food security, and climate change will create significant negative impact on food production and will remain a crucial policy issue. Water scarcity, scanty rainfall, and high evapotranspiration are the major threats to agriculture in Bahrain. Therefore, Bahrain should reallocate its water resources and improve water use efficiency to increase agricultural production as well as agriculture's share in the country's GDP.

Hemesiri Kotagama's paper on "Impact of Food Prices, Income Distribution on Food Security in Oman" highlighted that the Consumer Price Index for all food in Oman has increased by 201.6 percent between the years 2003 and 2008. The analysis found that the income distribution has significantly improved with the Gini coefficient changing from 46.49 to 36.35 from year 2000 to 2008 in Oman along with average household income moving up from 638 to 913 Omani Rial/

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month/household, during the same period. The analysis indicates that food security in Oman could have drastically improved due to policies that have increased per capita income and improvements in the distribution of income towards equality up to 2008. However, the drastic increase in food prices since 2007 has increased food insecurity.

The workshop's recommendations include: Create a "Gulf Agriculture Network for Knowledge Sharing and Technology Adoption" (GANKSTA); increase investment in research, development and extension in the agriculture sector; adopt climate-smart technologies and practices in agricultural intensification for food security enhancement; increase strategic groundwater reserve through recharge using reclaimed water; invest in the use of reclaimed water in protected agriculture and enhance the social acceptance of this alternative by education and awareness campaigns; educate consumers on the positive impacts of reducing meat-based food products in order to help reduce food imports; mitigate climate change and manage water resources sustainably; adopt options for the Gulf States' food security through the involvement of host countries' smallholder farmers in foreign land deals; orient the Gulf investors either by lobbying or through incentives to lease unutilized land within the framework of foreign land deals. Policy-makers need to be more fully cognizant of, and responsive to, the problems of current land deal strategies and the risks these create, and the difficulties these strategies present in achieving reliable long-term food supplies; policy-makers should research and establish alternative investment structures and mechanisms to achieve long term food security goals – such as reliable sources of staples from the agricultural sectors of less-developed countries; enhance and stimulate quality local food production and its competitiveness by adopting modern technologies such as soilless and hydroponic growing systems in order to maximize the market share for local products.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Dr. Shabbir Shahid**

Dr. Shabbir Shahid is a Senior Scientist at the Dubai-based International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). He earned a Ph.D. degree from the University of Wales, Bangor UK in 1989. He joined ICBA in 2004 and has over 30 years experience (Pakistan, UK, Australia, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates) in agriculture-related RD & E activities. He has been Associate Professor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan; Associate Research Scientist in Kuwait Institute for

Scientific Research, Kuwait; and Manager of Soil Resources Department, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, UAE. He has worked in applied agriculture projects in many countries (e.g., Pakistan, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Niger, Morocco, Jordan, Spain, and Syria). He has been working in the GCC region for the last 15 years and is familiar with agriculture activities and food security issues in the region. He is a prolific author with over 150 publications in peer reviewed refereed journals, proceedings, books and manuals. He is currently life member and Councilor of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation, member advisory board of the World Forum on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (WFCCAFS) and Editor in-Chief of the journal Climate Change Outlook and Adaptation to be published by WFCCAFS in 2012. Dr. Shahid has been a member of several scientific committees, international advisory boards of international conferences, editor of scientific books, and reviewer of scientific journals.

### **Dr. Mushtaque Ahmed**

Dr. Mushtaque Ahmed obtained his Ph.D. from Iowa State University, USA in 1988. He is currently the Director of the Center for Environmental Studies and Research (CESAR) as well as an Associate Professor of the Department of Soils, Water and Agricultural Engineering of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), Oman. He joined SQU in 1996. Prior to that, he worked for various organizations in Australia (Land and Water Conservation Department-NSW; CSIRO-Perth; Department of Water Resources-Griffith, NSW). His current research interests include biosaline agriculture, managed aquifer recharge, climate change and adaptability. He has published scientific papers in peer reviewed refereed journals, book chapters, conference proceedings, and manuals, and has served as editor of various publications. He is well experienced in organizing workshops, conferences and symposiums at national and international levels.

## **Workshop II Papers**

### **“Environmental Cost and Changing Face of Agriculture in the Gulf States”**

Shabbir Shahid, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Mushtaque Ahmed, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

### **“Achieving Food Security in a Changing Climate: The Potential of Climate-Smart Agriculture”**

Mohamed Behnassi, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir, Morocco

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### “The Potential of Transforming Salalah into Oman’s Vegetables Basket”

Sanmugam A. Prathapar, International Water Management Institute, New Dehli, India

### “Improved Water Use Efficiency; A Key Practice to Attain Profitable Food Production and Sustainable Farming Systems in the GCC Countries”

Asadullah Al Ajmi, Arabian Gulf University, Manama, Bahrain

### “Research and Development on Agriculture and Food Security in the Gulf Region”

Huzur Keskin, Finance Consultancy plc, Ankara, Turkey

### “Prospects of Agriculture in the State of Kuwait”

Habibah Saud Al-Menaie, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait City, Kuwait

### “Investments in Foreign Agriculture as a GS Food Security Strategy: Towards Better Policy”

Ben Shepherd, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

### “Opportunities and Challenges of Using Treated Wastewater in Agriculture”

Mushtaque Ahmed, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

### “Seawater Intrusion and the Impact on Groundwater Resources; Case Studies from the Gulf Region”

Akbar Javadi, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom and Mohsen Sherif, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

### “Climate Changes, Water Scarcity and Food Security Complex”

Salma Bani, Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning, Manama, Bahrain

### “Supported Liquid Membrane Technique for the Removal of Toxic Chemical Species from Wastewaters before Using it for Irrigation”

Ashraf Muhammad Waqar, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

### “Impact of Food Prices, Income and Income Distribution on Food Security in Oman”

Hemesiri Kotagama, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

## Workshop 12: Energy Challenges in the Gulf Countries



**Dr. Naji Abi-Aad**  
Senior Advisor, Qatar  
Petroleum



**Dr. Mostefa Ouki**  
Nexant Limited, UK

The workshop provided an independent platform for participants from the Gulf and outside the Gulf region to discuss some of the key challenges the Gulf countries are facing today – and are expected to continue to face – in meeting their medium- to long-term domestic energy needs and the potential impact these will have on this region’s currently predominant role of exporter of energy resources to the rest of the world.

The workshop’s presentations and ensuing discussions covered a number of themes ranging from the challenge of energy policy formation in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to the potential increased use of solar energy in these countries.

The opening presentation focused on the sustainability of the policy of energy price subsidies. Drawing on published data and a YouGov survey, it concluded that the rentier state theory is still holding in the GCC, but that “cracks are showing below the macro level.” A paper on the energy challenge of the post-oil GCC considered alternatives such as renewables and nuclear energy and led to an interesting exchange of views among participants on the issue of resource nationalism and the impact of political stability in the region.

The presentation on the upstream sector policy in the Gulf, which drew on an ongoing doctoral dissertation, looked at this critical segment of the oil and gas industry from the angle of policy decision-making process and presented the results of a preliminary empirical research analysis. The highly topical question of unconventional hydrocarbons was covered by another presentation that highlighted the challenges of developing unconventional hydrocarbon resources, especially shale gas, and the potential impact of unconventional oil and gas developments on the GCC’s position as one of the world’s major energy suppliers.



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The preliminary findings of another ongoing doctoral dissertation on the theme of energy transition in the context of the rentier states of the GCC indicated that while there are a number of structural weaknesses in the GCC countries, there are also a number of possible opportunities for the region's governments to engineer an energy transition within two or three decades, but only if political will is strong enough.

The last two sessions focused on the question of renewable energy development. The first presentation looked at the integration of renewable electricity energy in the Gulf region and one of its concluding points was that in the long term, renewable electricity generation is expected to replace gas-fired electricity generation, a view that was not shared by all participants. The final presentation asked the interesting question "how ready is the society in the GCC countries to transition to renewable energy?" Although an initial survey on the use of solar energy in the residential areas in Saudi Arabia showed the public's interest in building "green homes," there is still a lack of reliable data to answer the question posed.

This first attempt to include a separate workshop on energy issues in the program of the annual Gulf Research Meeting showed that there is indeed great interest and definitely a willingness to present and debate a number of critical issues related to the energy challenges as well as opportunities before the GCC countries.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### ***Dr. Naji Abi-Aad***

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad was appointed Senior Advisor to the CEO of Qatar Petroleum International (QPI) in September 2011, after spending six years as Research Advisor for Qatar Petroleum and its Board of Directors Department, and as Media and Research Strategist in the Office of Qatar's Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy & Industry. Before moving to Qatar, Dr Abi-Aad was between

1999 and 2005 Managing Director of Econergy, a Beirut-based research center which focuses on the analysis of the economic and energy development in the East Mediterranean and the Gulf. Between 1988 and 2003, Dr Abi-Aad held the position of Senior Advisor for the Middle East within the French-based Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME). Dr Abi-Aad studied at the American University of Beirut before being awarded a Ph.D. degree in Energy Economics from Grenoble University in France. During his 30 years of experience, he has undertaken numerous consulting assignments, conference presentations and studies, particularly on oil and gas developments in the Middle East. He has authored over 80 reports and studies on Middle East energy issues, as well as a book on security of petroleum supply from the region (*Instability & Conflict in the Middle East: People, Petroleum & Security Threats*, Macmillan, London, 1997).

### **Dr. Mostefa Ouki**

Dr. Mostefa Ouki, is Vice-President, Energy Resources, Nexant Ltd. and heads the company's Global Gas group. He has 25 years of experience in managing and executing gas and energy-related techno-economic studies and advisory assignments for national and international energy companies, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, and financing institutions in various regions of the world. He has also conducted a number of assignments on the development of oil and gas-related infrastructure projects and has managed and executed master plan studies on upstream and downstream infrastructures in key hydrocarbon-producing countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. Dr. Ouki started his training in the energy sector with Algeria's oil and gas company Sonatrach in Algiers and worked in Washington, D.C. for the World Bank on gas development projects. Prior to the formation of Nexant, he was with the energy technology and consulting division of Bechtel and worked for the UK-based oil and gas engineering company Penspen. Dr Ouki holds a degree in petroleum engineering economics from Algeria's National Hydrocarbons Institute and M.Sc. in Energy Resources, M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. He is a member of the Arab Energy Club; American Economic Association; Association of International Petroleum Negotiators; UK Energy Institute; International Association of Energy Economics; and the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

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## Workshop Descriptions

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### Workshop 12 Papers

“The Arab Spring or Reshaping the Middle East Energy Map”

Maher Chmaytelli, Bloomberg, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

“The Energy Challenge of the Post-Oil GCC”

Nabil Sultan, Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, United Kingdom

“Iran’s Subsidy Removal Program: What Lessons for Energy-Rich Gulf Countries?”

Hakim Darbouche, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, Oxford, United Kingdom

“Upstream Sector Policies in the Gulf: Compare and Contrast”

Bianca Sarbu, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., United States

“Unconventional Control”

Antoine Dagher, Independent Scholar, Lebanon

“A Strategic Foresight Study Using Scenarios for a Transition towards a More Sustainable Energy System of the GCC Countries up to 2050”

Zoheir Hamed, The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, Qatar

“Successful Integration of Renewable Electricity Generation in the Gulf Region”

Christian Panzer, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

“Towards Increased Usage of Solar Energy in the GCC Residential Areas”

Dilek Dustegor and Noor Felemban, Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

## Workshop 13: Housing Markets and Policy Design in the Gulf Region



**Gus Freeman**

Ernst & Young, UAE



**Prof. Peter Williams**

Housing and  
Planning Research,  
UK



**David Smith**

Chief Operating  
Officer, Affordable  
Housing Institute  
Boston, MA, USA

With 10-plus papers, this workshop covered the full range of relevant topics, including both the supply side (how homes are developed and the barriers to production and affordability) and demand side (evolution of financing mechanisms and institutions), with presentations covering global and MENA regional issues as well as specific insights into Bahrain, Dubai, Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia.

The workshop was framed by the co-directors, with David Smith offering a short ‘Overture’ setting the stage: that affordable housing is an essential delivery for the Gulf region to succeed economically over the long term, and yet affordable housing is an extremely difficult public policy intervention, the more so with the Gulf region’s distinctive characteristics, including rapid urbanization dependent on technology, the unusually high percentage of expatriate workers and residents at all income levels, Islamic finance and Islamic land use forms, and multi-tiered residential markets segregated by law, custom, configuration and location.

Co-director Gus Freeman showed how a key to heading off civil unrest in the region is delivery of sufficient affordable housing, correlating the timing of the demographic window, original residual income measurements of affordability, and the incidence of social unrest in “Housing Affordability: a Key to Social Cohesion in the Gulf Region.” At the macro level, David Smith presented “Tools Available to Government,” an analysis of 16 forms of production-related incentives, eight of them cash-based

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and eight of them non-cash, used both globally and in the MENA region. This served as an effective counterpoint to Olivier Hassler's survey report on actual practice of "Mortgage Markets in MENA."

In terms of market activity today, Daniel Soloiman chronicled insights into the "Kuwaiti Housing Market: Challenges and Development." Eric Perino analyzed in depth "Housing and Land Market Dynamics in Riyadh" as a case study representative of the larger challenges within Saudi Arabia.

Stakeholder perspectives were presented by Maha Ismail, whose "Evaluation of Government Housing Policies in the Gulf Region" used an innovative 'snowball sampling' method to hear direct views of citizens in multiple Gulf countries. Chris Sims presented a provocative analysis of "Regional Best Practices for Affordable Housing: A Developer's Perspective," that included a what-if experiment showing that government could cut the delivery cost of quality affordable housing by 30-40 percent by streamlining existing processes and eliminating duplication and charges or costs that work against affordability. This paired intriguingly with Nicolaus Knebel's thought experiment of a zero-carbon-footprint house envisioned in "Designing New Prototypes for Energy-Efficient Houses in Oman."

Perhaps most importantly, participants heard real-world experience from Bahrain, where Sabah al-Moayyed chronicled "Taking Housing Finance to Lower Income Borrowers, the Reinvention of Eskin Bank," while Mohamed al-Marri and Maysa Sabah Shocair described the ongoing challenges in Dubai of "The Evolving Role of Housing Agencies: A Case Study of the Mohammad Bin Rashid Housing Establishment."



All papers were followed by a discussant's remarks, which led into a moderated roundtable debate for each one. Aside from paper authors who acted as discussants, Siham Al Harthy was discussant to Sabah Al Moayyed's paper and Stephen Watson to Chris Sims' paper. Neil McDonald and Sulaiman Al Harthy were active participants in the debate.

### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Gus Freeman**

Gus Freeman is an economist with housing sector expertise and a business leader. In September 2011, he took on a newly-created role within Ernst & Young, MENA as Director of Economic Research. Over the last 10 years, Gus pioneered the establishment of a social and economic research organization in the Sultanate of Oman. Arabian Research Bureau provides culturally relevant analysis and insight to businesses and government organizations in the Arab world. Ahead of his time but seeing the potential demand, Mr. Freeman partnered in 2001 with one of Oman's leading thinkers to provide research to meet the nascent demand for understanding of the housing and housing finance sector in the Gulf. His career has seen him bridging the gap between social and economic information producers and users. He understands the issues involved both in the production of indicators and those facing users of information. This has enabled him to bring insightful analysis to policy debates. Mr. Freeman worked in the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research as Halifax Research Fellow in the late 1990s writing on affordable housing and comparative housing systems, tax and subsidy environments.

#### **Prof. Peter Williams**

Prof. Peter Williams is the Director of the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research at the University of Cambridge with specialist interests in the areas of housing finance, markets and policy. He is a member of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Housing Market Taskforce looking at the long-term stability of the market in the UK. He has authored and edited several books on housing and social change and is on the Management Board of the Journal of Housing Studies and chairs the Housing Studies Charitable Trust. He is also Executive Director of the Intermediary Mortgage Lenders Association and a Board member of the Kent Reliance Provident Society and One Savings Bank, Consult CIH, the National Housing Federation and Thames Valley Housing Association, and Chairman of Acadametrics, the house price consultancy. He is a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Housing Policy, University of York.

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### **David Smith**

David A. Smith is the founder of the Affordable Housing Institute, which develops sustainable housing financial ecosystems worldwide. With more than 30 years direct experience in affordable housing, David uniquely combines the roles of practitioner and theoretician, participant and policymaker.

His work as an international housing finance policy advisor/ program developer encompasses projects on Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, India, Ireland, Kenya, Middle East, Panama, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Turkey, and United Kingdom, and he is a much sought-after speaker on affordable housing issues around the world. In the USA, David provides high-quality analysis to Congress, the Millennial Housing Commission, CBO, HUD, and others, and was a principal member of the 1996 Senate mark-to-market working group. A 1975 Harvard graduate, he is an award-winning author with more than 100 published articles in real estate, valuation, and policy periodicals, and a textbook, as well as an influential blog.

David is also founder and Chairman of Recap Real Estate Advisors. (formerly CASFAS, and before that, Recap Advisors), a Boston-based firm that specializes in complex multifamily asset problems, with an active practice area in the finance of existing affordable housing. In this capacity, he was recently awarded the 2009 Vision Award for his lifetime achievement in affordable housing by The National Housing & Rehabilitation Association (NH&RA).

### Workshop 13 Papers

“Insights into the Kuwait Housing Market: Challenges and Developments from 2000 to Present”

Daniel Soloiman, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

“Housing and Land Market Dynamics in Riyadh”

Eric Perino, Ernst & Young, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

“Financing Affordable Housing: Tools Available to Government”

David Smith, Affordable Housing Institute, Boston, United States

“Regional Best Practices for Affordable Housing - a Developer's Perspective”

Christopher Sims, Ernst & Young, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

“Evaluation of Government Housing Policies in the Gulf Region”

Maha Mahmood Ismail, Information and Decision Support Center, Cairo, Egypt

“Mortgage Markets in MENA”

Olivier Hassler, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., United States

“Outsourcing Finance: Setting the Boundaries, Defining the Rules”

Mohamed al Marri, Mohammed Bin Rashid Housing Establishment, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
and Maysa Sabah, Affordable Housing Institute, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

“Taking Housing Finance to Lower Income Borrowers”

Sabah Al Moayyed, Eskan Bank, Seef Area, Bahrain

“Housing Affordability across Tenure in the Gulf Region”

Gus Freeman, Ernst & Young, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

“Designing New Prototypes for Energy-Efficient Houses in Oman”

Nikolaus Knebel, German University of Technology in Oman, Muscat, Oman

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### Workshop 14:

#### **Structure, Conduct, and Performance: Case of GCC Banks**



**Dr. Lamia Obay**

*Abu Dhabi University, UAE*



**Dr. Anis Samet**

*American University of  
Sharjah, UAE*

This workshop sought to explore the different aspects of the structure, conduct, and performance of GCC banks. There were six presentations on Day 1, and four presentations on Day 2. Each presentation lasted for one hour. A great group dynamic reigned throughout the duration of the workshop. All 14 participants, including listening participants, were equally involved in the discussions. The group homogeneity, despite the diverse backgrounds, was simply striking.

The workshop opened with an introductory presentation by the directors on the performance of GCC banks before and after the recent financial crisis focusing on growth and profitability of Islamic and conventional banks. A simple look at performance indicators showed that Islamic banks overall fared better than their conventional counterparts during this period.

Aram Belhaj of the University of Orléans in France discussed the monetary transmission mechanisms in the case of the GCC/MENA countries using the Generalized Method of Moments estimation technique and found that the lending channel is operational in MENA countries and that lending activity could be positively affected by an efficient institutional framework as well as the size and liquidity of the banking sector but negatively affected by banking concentration.

Ashraf Khallaf of the American University in Sharjah in the UAE tested whether structure – in this case the adoption of the Islamic mode or conventional mode of financing – determined bank performance. The results indicated the superior performance of Islamic banks during the recent financial crisis. The results further indicated that ownership and governance structure affected profitability.



Samuel Beji of the University of Paris 13 in France investigated the relationship between institutional development, banking regulation and banking development and documented (i) the existence of a positive and statistically significant effect of the economic development on banking development, (ii) a positive effect of bank regulation on bank development, (iii) the non-existence of a significant statistical relationship between institutional quality and banking development, (iv) and the positive effect of economic growth in banking development.

Rihab Grassa of KPMG Global Islamic Finance in Dubai looked at credit rating migration for a sample of Islamic and Conventional GCC banks between 2006 and 2010. She found that Islamic banks enjoyed credit rating upgrades while their conventional counterparts underwent downgrades prior to the financial crisis. The financial crisis has led to more downgrades of conventional banks than Islamic banks. Another finding presented was that corporate governance had a significant impact on credit rating.

Arafat Farroukh of the University of Carthage in Tunisia looked at market concentration using the H statistic and a gradual move towards a more competitive environment over the 1990-2009 period. The Panzar–Rosse estimations suggested that GCC banking market concentration has a negative impact on banks' financial soundness as measured by the Z-score technique while controlling for macroeconomic, bank-specific, regulatory and institutional factors.



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Zurina Shafii of the Islamic Finance and Wealth Management Institute in Malaysia investigated differences in Sharia audit requirements within Islamic financial institutions using a case study research method. She found a mixed level of disclosures. The majority of Islamic banks in the sample disclosed the information required by AAOFI, except for one Islamic bank which reports only financial information, calling for more regulatory intervention for more disclosure.

Vlad Manole of Rutgers University, USA, used the DEA approach to estimate efficiency scores for GCC banks. He first looked at performance using efficiency ratios, and then at conduct by investigating the relationship between market share and efficiency scores. Data Envelopment Analysis to estimate GCC bank efficiency found a significant loss of efficiency for UAE, Kuwaiti and Bahraini banks during the financial crisis years. Using truncated regression analysis, Vlad (He) found evidence of a positive relationship between market share and efficiency.

Basma Majerbi of the University of Victoria, Canada revisited the finance-growth nexus and departed from the traditional definition of financial structure by introducing institutional financial diversification as a proxy for financial structure. Her presentation introduced a novel way of looking at financial structure.

Anis Samet and Lamia Obay with the American University of Sharjah and Abu Dhabi University, respectively, applied the CAMEL rating system to GCC banks and documented a decrease of the capital adequacy and the liquidity ratios between 2006 and 2008, a deterioration of asset quality and a worsening of their profitability during the financial crisis years.

## Workshop Director Profiles

### **Dr. Lamia Abdelaziz Obay**

Dr. Lamia Abdelaziz Obay is an Associate Professor of Finance at Abu Dhabi University, where she held the chairmanship of the Finance department and the directorship of the Master of Sciences in Finance. She developed and held several training programs for local and visiting executives from neighboring GCC states and Europe. Dr. Lamia is the recipient of several research and industrial grants and has ample consulting experience with both local and international organizations. She authored several research articles that have appeared in scholarly journals such as the International Research Journal of Finance & Economics, the Academy of Banking Studies Journal, and the Journal of Legal, Ethical and Regulatory Issues. She authored 'Financial Innovation in the Banking Industry: The Case of Asset Securitization' with Routledge Publishing, a book that is considered one of the reference books in the topic. Her research focus lies in the areas of financial innovation, corporate finance, bank efficiency, and financial stability.

### **Dr. Anis Samet**

Dr. Anis Samet is an Assistant Professor of Finance at American University of Sharjah. Dr. Anis worked as a Risk Management Advisor with one of the largest institutional investors in Canada and has published in top financial journals, such as the Journal of Banking and Finance. Dr. Anis is the holder of the Financial Risk Management certificate level I, a globally recognized professional certification in financial risk management, and is sitting for the May 2011 Level 2 examination. His research focus lies in the areas of financial risk management, financial markets, Islamic finance, and financial econometrics.

## Workshop 14 Papers

### **“Structure and Performance - GCC Banks”**

Lamia Abdelaziz Obay, Abu Dhabi University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Anis Samet, American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

### **“Bank Lending Channel in MENA Countries: Evidence from Dynamic Panel Model”**

Aram Belhadj, University of Orléans, Orléans, France

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**“Corporate Governance and Bank Performance: Islamic vs. non Islamic Banks in GCC”**

Ashraf Khallaf, American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

**“Institutional Quality and Banking Regulation as Banking Development Determinants in MENA Region”**

Samouel Beji, University of Paris XIII, Paris, France

**“The Effect of Corporate Governance on Banks’ Ratings: A Comparative Analysis between Islamic and Conventional Banks in GCC Countries”**

Rihab Grassa, KPMG Global Islamic Finance, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**“Banking Competition, Governance, Institutional Quality and Stability: The Case of GCC Countries”**

Arafet Farroukh, University of Carthage, Tunis, Tunisia

**“Shariah Governance and Audit Mechanisms in GCC Countries”**

Zurina Shafii, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

**“A Cross-Country Non-Parametric Analysis of GCC’s Banking Sector”**

Vlad Manole, Rutgers University, New Jersey, United States

**“Finance and Growth Revisited: Towards a New Measure of Financial Development”**

Basma Majerbi, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

**“The GCC Banking Sector: An Overview”**

Anis Samet, American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates and Lamia Abdelaziz Obay, Abu Dhabi University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**“Performance Analysis of the GCC Banking Institutions: A Risk Management Approach”**

Sufian Hraze, al-Bayt University, Mafraq, Jordan

## Workshop 15:

### **State-Society Relations in the Arab Gulf Region – Religion, Intellectuals and New Media**



**Dr. Mazhar A.  
Al-Zo'by**  
Qatar University



**Dr. Birol Baskan**  
Georgetown  
University, Qatar

The main goal of this workshop was to explore the more nuanced and multi-faceted conceptualizations of relations between state and society in the Arab Gulf region. More specifically, the objective was to examine the strategies and dynamics through which state-society relations in this region have been cultivated and to investigate the alternative political, social, economic and popular changes that shape those relations. Furthermore, the workshop sought to understand how state sovereignty in the region has been shifting to accommodate internal social, cultural, and intellectual forces and how these forces have been able to balance social and political powers in order to function within and co-exist alongside the state. While the field of society-state relations is a vast and multi-layered research area, the workshop primarily focused on the following two areas: religion and the state (formal and informal institutions, institutional religious scholars, popular religious personalities, and fatwa discourse on public policy) and networked public sphere and state (youth culture, blogging, and gender movements).

The 10 papers presented in this workshop were selected as reflections and analysis of the aforementioned considerations. Over a span of two days, the workshop participants sought to investigate and analyze society-state relations in the Arabian Gulf from multi- and interdisciplinary perspectives. The issues ranged from language, social media, youth and identity, children's media and narratives, religion and public politics, and social classes to minority rights in the Gulf and the presentations and discussions provided insightful and critical perspectives. Given the vastness of their theoretical canvas, not only because of their interdisciplinary backgrounds but also due to their diverse intellectual interventions, those contributions did not (and could not) produce a clear-cut and common approach to the fundamental issues of society-state relations in the region. Although the contributors and participants differed in terms of their analysis of the

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issues under consideration, they all agreed that far from being monolithic, homogenous, and pre-modern societies, the Arab Gulf region represents, in fact, complex and multi-sided social/political formations.

One of the primary conclusions of this workshop is that the main hypothesis of the rentier state theory (RST) is not adequate to explain society-state relations in the Gulf. Approaching state and society in the region as if the two are distinct entities and the boundaries separating the two are clearly demarcated, the basic assumption of this theory postulates that oil has fundamentally changed the balance of power between state and society disproportionately in favor of the former over the latter. Differently, and rejecting the total separation between society and state in the Gulf, the workshop presentations illustrated how one is likely to see that the state is embedded more deeply into society in the Gulf and that society has multiple channels to impact and shape state policies and politics.

The small size of the workshop provided an extremely productive environment for both presenters and participants. The structure of the workshop allocated a full hour of managed discussion for each paper, providing each presenter with an array of perspectives, commentary and feedback. The presence of listening participants added an extremely valuable layer to the analysis of the papers. Given their diverse backgrounds and interests, the participants' suggestions, ideas, and thoughts contributed profoundly to the discussions.





### Workshop Director Profiles

#### **Dr. Mazhar A. Al-Zo'by**

Dr. Mazhar A. Al-Zo'by is an Assistant Professor of development and politics in the Department of International Affairs at Qatar University. He received his B.A. and M.A. in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies and his Ph.D. in Comparative Studies with focus on the Arab Middle East all from the University of Minnesota. His interests both in research and teaching focus principally on development, globalization, and social change: an area where economics, society and culture encounter historical transformation. While his work is comparative in nature, his current area of focus is the Arab world in general and the Arabian Gulf in particular. Among the critical issues on which his teaching and writing have concentrated are the role of natural resources in the production of globalization and social change; the role of nation-states in the world system; and the political economy of culture.

#### **Dr. Birol Baskan**

Dr. Birol Baskan is Visiting Assistant Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar. He received a B.A. in International Relations and in Economics from Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey in 1998 and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University in 2006. Baskan taught at State University of New York-Fredonia in 2006-2007 and at Qatar

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University in 2007-2010. His research looks at the roles religion, religious institutions, and grass-root religious groups play in creating, maintaining, undermining and destroying political order in the Middle East. He recently completed a book manuscript contracted to Syracuse University Press, in which he challenges the dominant view on the relationship between the Turkish state and Islamic religious institutions. Currently, he is working on several projects, one of which is a book project analyzing the role of religion in state and nation building in the Gulf. At SFS-Qatar, Baskan teaches courses on comparative politics, religion and politics and methodology. Baskan has published in *Politics and Religion*; *HAWWA: the Journal of Women in the Middle East and the Islamic World*; *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*; *Insight Turkey*, *Akademik Ortadogu*; *Arab Studies Quarterly* and *Comparative Political Systems* (forthcoming).

### Workshop 15 Papers

#### “Society-State Relations in the Arab Gulf: Dilemmas and Prospects”

Mazhar Al-Zo’by, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar and Birol Baskan, Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Doha, Qatar

**“Merchants, Tribes, Shi’ites and the State in Kuwait: A Micro-sociology of State-Society Relations in Kuwait from the Angle of Its Main Voting Blocs (1990s-2012)”**

Rivka Azoulay, Sciences-Po, Paris, France

**“State-Religion-Minorities Tensions in the Arab Gulf”**

Epuras Cornelia, The Arab Center for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity, Beirut, Lebanon

**“Social Media: Impacts on Arabian Gulf Youth and Government”**

Mahmood Abdul Ghaffar, Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies, Manama, Bahrain

**“Social Media and the Forging of a Transnational Shi’a Identity: The Case of the Kingdom of Bahrain”**

Magdalena Karolak, Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

**“The Impact of Global Communication on Dialect Use in Saudi Arabia: A Linguistic Investigation of Najdi Arabic in Internet Relay Chat”**

Ebtesam Al-Othman, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

**“Internet, Youth, and the State in the United Arab Emirates”**

Laure Assaf, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, Paris, France

**“The Emergence of Children’s Media and Animation Industry in the Gulf States”**

Omar Adam Sayfo, University of Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands

**“The Impact of Global Communications on Family Values in Qatar”**

Mark Farha, Georgetown University in Qatar, Doha, Qatar

**“Public Islam and Foreign Policy: The Case of Qatar”**

Turan Kayaoglu, University of Washington Tacoma, Washington, United States

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### Workshop 16:

#### **The Political Economy of Clean Energy Solutions in the GCC**



**Dr. Rabia  
Ferroukhi**

IRENA,  
Abu Dhabi



**Prof. Giacomo  
Luciani**

Paris School of  
International  
Affairs at SciencesP



**Dr. Manfred  
Hafner**

Fondazione Eni  
Enrico Mattei  
(FEEM), Italy

The GCC countries display some of the highest energy consumption per capita, energy intensity per unit of GDP, and emissions per capita or per unit of GDP. Although they are collectively the world's primary source of oil and gas, their excessive dependence on these two sources for satisfying domestic energy requirements has led to multiple expressions of preoccupation and inspired policies and institutions aiming at achieving greater diversification.

The workshop focused on the political economy aspects rather than technology. With respect to the uptake of Clean Energy Solutions (CES), social and political variables are as important as technological ones. In fact, CES require acceptance and convergent behavior on the part of the vast majority of the population and economic actors. The distinguishing feature of CES is that they require a large number of highly decentralized decisions, while traditional energy solutions can normally be implemented on the basis of few, large-scale investment decisions – in fact they mostly display significant scale economies, favoring large-scale over small-scale solutions.

In this context, the workshop called for a discussion of economic incentives for clean energy solutions and subsidizations policies; the role of educational/awareness campaigns and civil society in influencing the behavior of final consumers; regulatory institutions and the role of international cooperation in clean energy, notably with the European Union.



The papers received for the workshop generally attested to the growing interest in analyzing issues related to sustainability in the GCC and can be classified under three main categories.

In the first category of papers, specific conceptual frameworks offered a way of looking at the political economy of CES in addressing the factors enabling or preventing the development of the renewable energy sector and the diversification of the energy mix in the GCC and more broadly in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. Egypt was used as a case study to analyze the dynamics in the existing social contract between the state and society as a clear impediment to the integration of renewable energy. Another paper looked at how CES can bolster the position of small states in the international system, thereby enhancing their energy security. Along the same lines, a potential driver for economic and social development was analyzed in the framework of the unique cooperating scheme between the available capital in the GCC, the abundant resources in North Africa, and the institutional support from the European Union.

The second set of papers addressed urban development in the GCC and the dilemma between high growth of urbanization and sustainability considerations, in particular for CES. One paper highlighted the necessity for urban development to use a cross-disciplinary approach which considers the social, political, and environmental aspects but also the cultural one. In this context, another paper emphasized the importance of using sustainable development indicators and



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similar assessment methods to support decision-makers in selecting a more holistic sustainable development path. The importance of the multi-disciplinary approach was further emphasized in a paper on academic programs and the need to address the relationship between energy management and urban planning, with a special interface between engineering and social sciences.

The third category of papers provided ways in which the greater deployment of CES in the region can be facilitated. These included: the impact of awareness-raising on CES deployment; the importance of climate finance to support CES with a case study on Saudi Arabia; and the relevance of networks such as the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network to identify and support concrete projects, including action plans for municipalities or integrated systems for energy management in buildings.

### Workshop Director Profile

#### ***Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi***

Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi has recently joined the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) as Senior Policy Advisor after four years at Masdar Carbon as Department Manager of carbon project development. Dr. Ferroukhi has been working on energy and development-related issues for over



15 years with different governments in the Middle East and North Africa, energy companies in the Mediterranean region, and international institutions. She holds a Masters in Applied Economics and a Ph.D. in Economics from the American University in Washington D.C.

### **Prof. Giacomo Luciani**

Prof. Giacomo Luciani is Scientific Director of the Master in International Energy of the Paris School of International Affairs at SciencesPo and a Princeton University Global Scholar attached to the Woodrow Wilson School and the Department of Near Eastern Studies. He is also a visiting professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and co-director of the Executive Master in Oil and Gas Leadership. He is Senior Advisor to the Gulf Research Center and in this context serves as the Team Leader in the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network Project. He is also actively involved in the POLINARES FP7 research project. From 2007-10, he was Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation, Geneva. In 1997-2010, he was Adjunct Professor of International Relations at the SAIS Johns Hopkins University Bologna Centre. From 2000-06, he was Professor of Political Economy and co-director of the Mediterranean Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute. In this time, he directed the EUROGULF project within the SYNERGY program and participated in several other EU-supported projects (INDES, ENCOURAGED, MEDSUPPLY,

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EUROGULFHCT). His research interests include the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa and the geopolitics of energy. His work has focused primarily on the economic and political dynamics of rentier states and issues of development in the GCC countries. He is a member of the Oxford Energy Policy Club, the Geneva Petroleum Club, and the Energy, Oil and Gas Club of the Institut Français du Pétrole (IFP). He is a frequent speaker at conferences and events organized by leading institutions in the field of energy affairs.

### **Dr. Manfred Hafner**

Dr. Manfred Hafner has focused on the energy sector in his international career of almost 25 years, specializing mainly on Europe, MENA and Russia/CIS. He presently coordinates energy policy activities at the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM); is President of International Energy Consultants (IEC); and is Professor for energy economics, markets and geo-policy teaching among others at the Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) in Bologna and the Paris School of International Relations (Sciences Po). He has consulted extensively on energy issues for industry, governments and international organizations and was for many years the Scientific Director of the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME).

### **Workshop 16 Papers**

#### **“Introductory Paper”**

Rabia Ferroukhi, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;  
Manfred Hafner, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Milano, Italy and Giacomo Luciani, Geneva, Switzerland

#### **“The Timing is Ripe for EU-GCC Clean Energy Cooperation: First Proposals Emerged from the Respective Network”**

Haris Doukas, National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece

#### **“The Role of CDM and NAMAs to Promote Greenhouse Gas Reductions in the GCC”**

Axel Michaelowa, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

#### **“Clean Energy as a Small State’s Niche Strategy to Guarantee Energy Security. The Examples of the Gulf Countries”**

Jean-Marc Rickli, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

### “An Assessment of Public Awareness Campaigns on Renewable Energy Use in the United Arab Emirates”

Noor Ghazalaswad, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

### “Building Domestic Capabilities in Renewable Energy in MENA: A Case Study of Egypt”

Georgeta Vidican, German Development Institute, Bonn, Germany

### “Clean Energy Issues in the GCC Countries: A Need for Interdisciplinary Graduate and Research Programs”

Youssef Diab, L'Universite Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallee, Paris, France

### “A Vision for a Future Triangle of Growth: GCC-North Africa-EU”

Manfred Hafner and Simone Tagliapietra, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Milano, Italy

### “The Political Economy of Clean Energy in the GCC: A UAE Perspective”

Nnamdi O. Madichie, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

### “Clean Energy Solution Choices for the GCC's Power Industry”

Vijo Varkey, Siemens, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Othman Zarzour, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Prasad Mande Ali Vezvaei

### “Contemporary Gulf Cities' Urbanism: The Dilemma of Unsustainable Developments and Energy Conservation”

Ali Al Raouf, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

### “Environmental Assessment Methods In Abu Dhabi (UAE): From Green Building to Sustainable Urban Settlements”

Huda Alsalmi, Municipality of Abu Dhabi City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

### “India's GCC Energy Dynamics and the Changing Trends”

Vrushal Ghoble, Jai Hind College, Mumbai, India

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### Workshop 17:

#### Healthcare Policies in the GCC: Challenges and Future Directions



**Dr. Ahmed Alawi**

*Gulf Investment and  
Marketing Group, UK*



**Dr. Mohammad  
Al-Khazim**

King Saud bin  
Abdulaziz University,  
Saudi Arabia

The healthcare workshop sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science built upon the success of last year's workshop. This year, the workshop discussed the challenges facing the healthcare systems in the GCC due to the increasing demand on health services caused by rising populations. The effect of a fluctuating economy and the major changes in the lifestyles of the GCC residents pose major challenges as well.

Different papers were presented, ranging from clinical research presentations to innovative and business related solutions to the dilemmas facing all the healthcare systems in the GCC.

The challenges and hurdles faced by the Ministries of Health in the GCC countries are similar. This could be explained by similarities in the political and economic structure of those countries and in the GCC demographics and the genetic makeup of the populations. Moreover, the policies followed by the health authorities in the region are similar.

This year's workshop was well attended with presentations from most of the GCC countries as well as from UK and Canada. A special focus group was created to further discuss healthcare challenges. The workshop started with Professor Lord Ajay Kakkar presenting a paper on the British policies implemented to tackle the increasing numbers of heart attacks and strokes. Lord Kakkar revealed that a clinical research center is expected to be inaugurated in Abu Dhabi in January 2013. It will be the first center specialized in thrombosis (blood thickness related diseases) in the Gulf. A paper on the GCC healthcare sector growth was presented by Sanjay Vig. Professor Abdullah Daar of Grand Challenge Canada discussed how they are supporting innovators from low-middle income countries and Canada to transform their bold ideas so as to have a big impact



on global health challenges. The program is sustainable as it is in partnership with the Canadian AIDS program, private sector, entrepreneurs, foundations and others. The workshop identified a number of challenges facing policymakers, including: the inflated cost of the medical services and the governments are the major financier; the healthcare infrastructure is still lagging behind developed country standards; inadequate numbers of national medical manpower – expatriates form nearly 80 percent of medical manpower; overseas healthcare cost paid by the GCC governments to treat their own nationals; and lack of updated strategic research at the national level where causative and preventive elements are well studied.

The workshop recommended that governments should increase the expenditure on healthcare and health infrastructure in GCC; ministries of health should be the regulatory body and should consider privatizing the healthcare services to meet the increasing demand; the existing market scenario in favor of providing better health services should be considered; preventive medicine/ health education must be emphasized to counteract the rise in obese and diabetic population; pharmaceutical reforms are needed to cut down the costs related to medication; and investment on local/national pharmaceutical companies should be encouraged.



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### Workshop Director Profile

#### ***Dr. Ahmed Al-Alawi***

Dr. Ahmed Al-Alawi is Director of GIMG Ltd. He has over 10 years of experience in academia, technology transfer, and engineering. He consults and advises on strategic healthcare investments, healthcare management, manufacturing and innovation. Prior to GIMG, Dr. Al-Alawi worked at technology transfer and engineering at Philips electronics, Genzyme and Shell. In his career, he has been influential in the pharmaceutical industry where he was steering committee member of the UK/Eire Process Analytical Technologies Community of Practice. Along with this, Dr. Al-Alawi works closely with leading universities, organizations and businesses on shaping the future of healthcare and innovation globally. He is a Chartered Chemical Engineer with a B.Eng. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. He is also currently completing his MBA from Henley Business School.

#### ***Dr. Mohammed Al-Khazim***

Dr. Mohammed Al-Khazim is associate dean at the College of Applied Medical Sciences (CAMS) at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University. Dr. Al-Khazim teaches, researches and practices physical



therapy. He has held a number of positions at CAMS including Assistant Professor and Physical Therapist, and Director of Planning and Development. Dr Al-Khazim holds a Doctorate of Philosophy from Queen's University, Kingston, Canada and an M.S. Science from the University of Oklahoma-Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma, US. He is the founder and supervisor of Saudipt.net. [www.saudipt.net](http://www.saudipt.net)

### Workshop 17 Papers

#### “Policies for Control of Cardiovascular Diseases”

Ajay Kakkar, Thrombosis Institute, London, United Kingdom

#### “The GCC Healthcare Sector Growth”

Sanjay Vig, Alpen Capital, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

#### “Saudi Medical Colleges: Can We Estimate Graduate Numbers?”

Alaa Althubatei, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

#### “Hospital Self Operation in Saudi Arabia: King Fahad Medical City - Experience as Example”

Nahar Al Azmi, King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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### “Challenges and Future Directions - Sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS)”

Ghadir Alshammari, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia / University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom

### “Improving Healthcare Quality in Middle East”

Mussaad Razouki, Kleos Healthcare Corporation, Kuwait City, Kuwait

### “Success and Challenges in the Implementation and Application of Telemedicine in the Eastern province-KSA”

Azza Ali El Mahalli, University of Dammam, Dammam, Saudi Arabia

### “Cancer Healthcare and Patient Satisfaction in Saudi Arabia”

Maha Al Dahmashi Al Enazy, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

### “Pediatric Nurses’ Knowledge, Attitude and Use of Non-pharmacological Methods to Control Children Procedural Pain in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia”

Hanan Fahad Al Harbi, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom,

### “Non- Alcoholic Liver Disease (NAFLD)”

Reda Al Badawy, King Khalid University, Asir Province, Saudi Arabia

### “Cardiovascular Diseases in the Gulf”

Salem Aziz, George Washington University, Washington D.C., United States

### “Gulf Grand Challenges”

Abdullah Daar, McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

### “Genetic Testing Policies”

Mark Kroes, PHG Foundation, Cambridge, United Kingdom

### “Challenges of Continuing Medical Education in Saudi Arabia’s Hospitals”

Awatif Alghamdi, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

## Workshop 18: Islamic Finance in the GCC



**Dr. Mehmet  
Asutay**  
Durham University,  
UK



**Dr. Abdullah  
Turkistani**  
King Abdulaziz University,  
Saudi Arabia

Islamic banking and finance has enjoyed an unprecedented growth worldwide in recent years, and the GCC remains a hub of Islamic banking and finance activities. This is mainly due to the large wealth and capital accumulated in the region, which has provided the required liquidity for the industry to enjoy double-digit growth in recent years, at least until the impact of the global financial crisis hit the region. Indeed, during the financial crisis, a slowdown in the asset growth and operations in the industry has been observed as compared to the performance of the previous period, including sukuk defaults. However, after the initial impact of the global financial crisis, the Islamic banking and finance industry in the GCC has managed to pick up again without major damage. As part of such positive developments, the sukuk market is now enjoying another phase of expansion along with other aspects of Islamic finance and banking.

This workshop aimed at examining, analyzing, and discussing the particularities of Islamic banking and finance in the GCC region by making direct reference to the micro and macro dynamics of the industry and institutions, the regulative and legal developments in facilitating Islamic banking and finance; the impact of GCC economic, financial, legal and regulatory environment on its development; as well as the impact of the global financial crisis on its performance

This was the first time at the GRM that a workshop was fully allocated for Islamic finance in the GCC, and it has proven to be huge success. After the call for papers, in a very short period we received about 140 abstracts on various aspects of GCC Islamic banking and finance. Therefore, compared to other workshops we had to go through two selection processes: after selecting about 60 abstracts, we requested the full papers from these authors. The second round of the selection was based on the full papers, and, as a result, 42 papers were selected to be presented. However, due to visa issues, only 40 papers were presented at the workshop.

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In addition to the paper presenters and a number of co-authors, a number of individual researchers and professionals attended the sessions, and we had around 65 people present in the workshop sessions. We had a very diverse group of paper presenters, as they were from 17 different countries and one-third of them were female. Thus, gender and nationality diversity was a highlight of this workshop. Another highlight was that the presenters were not only from academic backgrounds, but also from various professional fields related to finance, banking, business, regulatory bodies, and international organizations.

The workshop included two main types of papers: empirical papers based on statistical and econometric analysis of primary or secondary data from the GCC Islamic banking and finance industry. About 25 percent of the total papers were discursive papers looking into the particularities of the political economy, and the legal and regulatory aspects of Islamic banking and finance in the GCC region. In designing the program of the workshop, an effort was made to group the papers in 13 relevant thematic areas, including: Political Economy of Islamic Finance, Social Dimensions and Islamic Finance, Financial Development and Islamic Finance, Risk and Risk Management in Islamic Finance and Islamic Finance and Economic Growth.

The papers presented at the workshop focused on these topical areas in relation to Islamic banking and finance in the context of the GCC region or individual GCC member country or countries. Hence, the papers had a general GCC regional focus, but comparative papers focusing on one or more of the GCC countries were also presented.

Comparative analyses of Islamic banking and finance provided valuable understanding of the GCC experience, as rather than examining the GCC alone, comparing its performance on these thematic areas with other countries is rather productive for developing further strategies in areas where the GCC Islamic finance industry has certain shortcomings, such as education and HR development. It also provided the chance to reflect on its future development.

Islamic finance and banking related research has achieved a great deal of success in the past decade, as evidenced by the sophistication and coverage of the papers. The debate and discussion was of a high level, which is again an indication of the growing maturity of academic and professional development in the field.



All the paper presenters in the workshop were invited to submit the final version of their papers for being considered for publication. After the peer review process, we may be able to produce perhaps even three volumes of edited books of the papers from this workshop.

We believe that recognizing and including Islamic finance as an important research area within its activities will further strengthen the position of the Gulf Research Center as a leading research institute in the region. We hope that we will be able to organize more workshops in GCC Islamic finance in future.

### Workshop Director Profile

#### **Dr. Mehmet Asutay**

Dr. Mehmet Asutay is a Reader in Middle Eastern and Islamic Political Economy and Finance at the School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University. He is also the Director of the newly established Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance, and the Course Director of the M.A./M.Sc. in Islamic Finance; and the Director of the Durham Islamic Finance Summer School. He teaches and supervises masters and doctoral research on various aspects of Islamic moral economy, Islamic finance; political economy of the Middle East, Turkey and the Kurds; and



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economic development related subjects. He is the Managing Editor of the *Review of Islamic Economics* and an Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*. Mehmet's book on Turkey's political economy will appear in 2012; and his two edited books on Islamic finance will also appear in 2012. He is also editing the Islamic Economics volumes of Edward Elgar's *Critical Thinking Series* to appear in 2012. His articles on his research interests have appeared in various journals.

### ***Dr. Abdullah Q. Turkistani***

Dr. Abdullah Q. Turkistani is Associate Professor in the Economics Department at the University of King Abdulaziz, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He is also the Director of the Islamic Economics Research Center at the same University since 2006. The Centre was established in the early 1970s and has made an immense contribution to the academic development in the field, as most of the founding fathers of Islamic economics and finance have worked in the Centre in the past. Dr. Turkistani has published in economics and Islamic finance related areas; and delivered lectures on the same subject in various parts of the world. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Centre for Islamic Economics at the IE University, Madrid, Spain and also in the establishment of a Chair in Islamic Economics and Finance at Sorbonne University, Paris, France.

## Workshop 18 Papers

### “Internationalization of Islamic Banking”

Amr El-Husseini, Qatar Islamic Bank, Doha, Qatar

### “Bridging the Gulf in Islamic Finance”

Harun Kapetanovic, Department of Economic Development, Government of Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### “The Political Economy of Islamic Banking and Finance in the GCC”

Ashraf Mishrif, King's College London, London, United Kingdom

### “The Development of Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and Bahrain as Offshore Financial Centres for Islamic Finance in the GCC: Competitive Position and Challenges”

Salma Sairally, Marjan Muhammad and Shabana Hasan; International Shari'ah Research Academy for Islamic Finance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### “The Searching for the Hub of Ethical Finance: Islamic Financial Services and the World City Networks”

Abul Hasan, Markfield Institute of Higher Education, Gloucestershire University, United Kingdom

### “Development of Islamic Securitization in the GCC Countries to Support Housing Finance Markets. An Assessment of Markets, Regulations and Policies”

Freidman Roy, International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group, United States and Zamir Iqbal, The World Bank, United States

### “The Role of IBF in the Cultural Transformation of the GCC Region”

Necati Aydin, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

### “Mapping the Risks and Risk Management Practices in Islamic Banking”

Wael Eid, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

### “Risk Aspects of GCC Countries Compared to Developed and Emerging Markets with the Help of Islamic and Non-Islamic Indices”

Harun Sencal and Mehmet Orhan, Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey

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### “Displaced Commercial Risk (DCR) and Value of Alpha for Islamic Banks in Bahrain and GCC”

Mohammad Omar Farooq and Sowmya Vivek, Center for Islamic Finance, Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance, Manama, Bahrain

### “The Liquidity Risk Causes: A Comparative Analysis of Islamic and Conventional Banks”

Sabri Mohammad, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

### “New Development and Models for Shariah-compliant Investments 2.0”

Shehab Marzban, IdealRatings Inc., California, United States and Mehmet Asutay, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

### “An Empirical Study of Perceived Service Quality of Islamic Banks: A Comparison between Malaysia and Kuwait”

Ros Aniza Mohamad Sharif, International Islamic University, Malaysia/Durham University, United Kingdom and Tahani Aladwani, Kuwait

### “Exploring Service Quality and Customer Satisfaction in Kuwaiti Banking Industry: A Comparison between Islamic and Conventional Banks”

Tahani Al-Adwani, Kuwait

### “Determinants of Sukuk Yields in the GCC Region from 2006-2011: Under the Prism of Risk Analysis”

Housseem Eddine Bedoui, Paris Dauphine University, Paris, France

### “Factors Influencing the Excess Returns of Sukuk: An Empirical Analysis on USD Denominated Sukuk Issued by Corporations in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)”

Maya Puspa Rahman, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### “Sharia’a-Compliant Corporate Restructurings: Chapter 11-based Workout Mechanisms and Zakat-based Distressed Financing Solutions for Islamic Finance in the GCC and Malaysia”

Tayyab M. Ahmed, Centre for Islamic Finance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### “What Factors Affecting the Development of Debt Capital Market in the GCC?”

Issam Al-Tawari, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

**“What Determines Islamic Financial Development? Empirical Evidence from GCC Countries”**

Kaouthar Gazdar, Institute of Advanced Business Studies of Carthage, Tunisia and Rihab Grassa, KPMG Global Islamic Finance, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**“Islamic Banks Matter for Growth in GCC Countries? A Dynamic Panel Data Analysis”**

Khaled Elmawazini, Khiyar Abdalla Khiyar and Ahmad A. Gaffy, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Hawally, Kuwait

**“The Maqasid and the Empirics: Has Islamic Finance Fulfilled Its Promise?”**

Ercument Aksak and Mehmet Asutay, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

**“Financial Stability of Islamic and Conventional Banks in Saudi Arabia: Evidence from Pooled and Panel Models”**

Hassan Ghassan, King Faisal University, Al-Hassa, Saudi Arabia

**“Islamic Banks and Financial Stability: Further Evidence”**

Kabir Hassan, University of New Orleans, Louisiana, United States

**“A Comparative Analysis of Financial Stability in Islamic and Commercial Banks of the GCC Region”**

H. Saduman Okumus and Oksan Artar, Istanbul Commerce University, Istanbul, Turkey

**“Factors Influencing Islamic Social Reporting in Islamic Banks: A Study of Islamic Banks in GCC and ASEAN Region”**

Miranti Kartikadewi and Priyesta Rizkiningsih, Center for Islamic Economics & Business, University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

**“A Comparative Analysis of the Maqasid Sharia’ah of Islamic Banks in Malaysia, Indonesia and the GCC Countries: An Islamic-Visioned-Development-based Approach”**

Siti Manisah Ngalim, Universiti Putra, Selangor, Malaysia

**“Understanding the Values and Attitudes in Islamic Finance and Banking”**

Nabil Maghrebi, Wakayama University, Japan; Abdullah Turkistani, King AbdulAziz University, Saudi Arabia and Koji Muto, Asia-Pacific University, Japan

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“The Performance of Islamic Banks: A Comparative Study of Conservative, Liberal and Moderate Institutions”

Khaled Aljifri, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates and Sunil Kumar Khandelwal, Wolters Kluwer Financial Services FRS Global, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

“Measuring the Technical Efficiency and Technology Gaps of Islamic and Conventional Banks in the GCC Countries and Determining the Efficiency of the Banks”

Maha Alandejani, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

“Bank Supervision, Regulation and Efficiency: Evidence from GCC Dual Banking”

Nafis Alam, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

“Stock Selection and Market Timing Ability of Saudi Mutual Fund Managers: Evidence from Islamic and Conventional Equity Mutual Funds”

Saeed Binmahfouz, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

“Performance of Islamic Mutual Funds in 2005-2011 Period: A Regional Comparison”

Salina Kassim, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
and Yasin Mohamoud Ibar

“Analyzing Takaful Operators Disclosure System: Customers’ Perception”

Hashem Alnemer, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

“An Analysis of VAR in the GCC Islamic Banks”

Hylmun Izhar, Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

“Predicting Banking Distress In GCC Countries Using Emerging Market Z-Score Model: A Comparative Study”

Jaizah Othman, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia / Durham University, United Kingdom

“Credit Risk, Capital Structure and Investment Decision: The Case of Islamic Banking Industry in GCC”

Roland Rulindo, Islamic Financial Services Board, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

“Legal Environment for Islamic Banks: Status in Selected GCC Countries”

Habib Ahmed, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

**“Shari’ah Governance Regimes in the GCC Countries:A Comparative Study”**

Humayon Dar, Edbiz Consulting Limited, London, United Kingdom

**“Spectral and Wavelet Analysis of Stock Price Behavior Effects and Co-Movements on Market Indices: Case of GCC Stock Index Return”**

Abdel Kader Al Alaoui, International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**“Efficiency and Stock Market Performance of Islamic Banks in GCC Countries”**

Samir Srairi, University of Jendouba, Jendouba, Tunisia; Imen Kouki, Higher Institute of Management of Tunis, Tunisia and Nizar Harrathi, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management of Nabeul, Tunisia

**“Impact of Global Financial Crisis on Islamic and Conventional Stocks in GCC Stock Markets:An Application of Arch and GARCH Methods”**

Raditya Sukmana, Airlangga University, East Java, Indonesia

**“Islamic Finance Programs at Higher Education Institutions in the GCC Countries: an Analytical Comparative Study”**

Ahmed Belouafi and Abderrazak Belabes, Islamic Economics Institute, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

**“Islamic Finance in the GCC Region: Human Capital Challenges and the Role of Universities”**

Wafica Ali Ghoul, Lebanese International University, Lebanon



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### Workshop 19:

### **The Gulf-India Strategic Partnership in a Pan-Asian Cooperative Paradigm**



**Prof. Abu Backer  
Bagader**

King Abdulaziz  
University, Saudi  
Arabia



**Amb. Ranjit Gupta**

(Fmr. Member)  
National Security  
Advisory Board, India

The issues discussed at the workshop included: incrementally deepening economic and political ties between the principal Asian countries and the Gulf nations, increasingly referred to as the “New Silk Road of the 21st Century”; the impact of Arab Spring on the Gulf region reflected in the heightening confrontation between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Iran; the implications of the Iran-West strategic competition articulated in the context of the nuclear issue; the steady decline in the influence of the United States in the region; and, the perceptions of different Asian countries, such as India, China, Japan, ROK, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, about implications of these developments for Gulf security.

The participants understood the challenges facing the pursuit of an Asian strategic consensus given that the idea of Asia was itself still at a nascent stage. Asia had begun to claim a more effective role on the global stage only over the last 10 years since becoming the major driver of the global economy. While Asian cooperation on soft security issues was easier to realize in the short term, joint efforts on hard security issues were bound to be beset with challenges even in the long term. Among other problems, this is due to the lack of consensus on strategic perceptions and mutual confidence and trust between the principal Asian and Gulf countries as well as among several Asian countries themselves. For instance, the GCC countries are averse to China’s and India’s close ties with Iran, while, in Northeast Asia, South Korea and Japan, apart from having major disputes among themselves, are greatly concerned about the rise of China and its implications for their own security; putative Sino-Indian rivalry is an issue too. The lack of clarity about American power in the long term was a particular dynamic that added to the complexity of the scenario.



The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to explore an entirely new approach in Asian foreign policy discourse, namely, promoting the idea of an Asian security paradigm as an alternative to the contemporary West-dominated political scenario in the Gulf region, which increasingly seems unable to ensure the stability and well-being of this region vital for the whole world. It is noteworthy that, though the idea of Asian security cooperation was quite novel, it obtained all-round support from the other Asian participants. There was broad agreement that the time may have come for India and other Asian countries to pursue focused exploration of the realization of a broader 'cooperative security approach'. The first step could be to set up dialogue platforms: these could be based on a BRICS-plus paradigm, bringing in Japan, ROK, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey and Pakistan, and modeled on the ARF, in terms of which dialogue partnerships could be set up on bilateral and multilateral basis between the GCC and other Gulf countries and Asian countries with a deep interest in Gulf security. There was a consensus that further work on this was needed and desirable.

### Workshop Director Profile

#### **Amb. Ranjit Gupta**

Amb. Ranjit Gupta is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer. During his 39-year career with the Ministry of External Affairs, he served successively in Cairo, New York, Gangtok, Jeddah (Deputy Chief of Mission), Frankfurt and Kathmandu. Later, he was successively India's Ambassador to Yemen (North), Venezuela, Oman, Thailand and Spain and finally was Head of the non-official

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Office in Taiwan. One of his postings at Headquarters was as Head of the West Asia and North Africa Division in the Ministry of External Affairs dealing with Arab countries. Currently, he is a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies; and, a visiting Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies. Until recently, he was a Member of India's National Security Advisory Board. He is leading the Indian team in a joint research project on India-GCC Relations sponsored by India's Ministry of External Affairs with the Gulf Research Center; he has very recently been granted a two-year research project on India-GCC Relations by the Indian Council of World Affairs. He has been delivering lectures at think tanks and other academic institutions in India and abroad and participating in conferences, seminars and workshops primarily relating to India's relations with the Gulf region, Southeast Asia and East Asia, as well as countries and issues of relevance to these regions.

### **Prof. Abu Backer Bagader**

Prof. Abu Backer Bagader is professor of social sciences at King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He recently completed his term as Deputy Minister for International Cultural Relations in the Ministry for Culture and Information. He is an active member of Arab Council for Social Sciences and many other similar social organizations. He has authored more than 10 books on subjects related to the Middle East, including history, social science, literature, human rights, Arab women's social issues, environmental concerns, Muslim minorities and poverty in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Prof. Bagader is also well versed with Indian history, literature and culture.

### **Workshop 19 Papers**

#### **“New Silk Roads of the 21st Century: GCC-Asia Economic Connectivities and their Political Implications”**

Talmiz Ahmad, The Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

#### **“Security Challenges in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean - Case for Asian Alliance”**

Atul Aneja, The Hindu Newspaper, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

#### **“Pan-Asian Cooperation and Prospects of Peace in the Gulf”**

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, United Kingdom

#### **“South Korea's Interests in the Gulf”**

Jeong-Min Seo, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea



### “Pakistan’s Interests in the Gulf”

Sajjad Ashraf, National University of Singapore and at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore

### “The Arab Spring and its Impact on Turkey-GCC Partnership”

Zenep Oktav, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

### “India’s Relations with Iran: Looking beyond Oil”

Sujata Ashwarya Cheema, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

### “Indian Energy Interests in the Gulf and Sino-Indian Cooperation”

Maoxia Jiang, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, Kunming, China

### “Geo-Politics of New Silk Road: New Contours of Crouching Tiger and Hidden Dragon”

Ajit Kumar Jha, Qatar Tribune, Doha, Qatar

### “India-GCC Strategic Economic Partnership: Building Block for Pan-Asian Economic Integration”

Samir Pradhan, Tanween, Doha, Qatar

### “India, China and the Gulf: Cooperation, Competition or Confrontation?”

N. Janardhan, Political Analyst, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### “Indian and Chinese Security Interests in the Gulf: Chinese Perspective”

Zhen Jiang, Northwest University, Shaanxi, China







## **The 2013 Gulf Research Meeting**



## The 2013 GRM

### The 2013 Gulf Research Meeting



The Gulf Research Center, in association with the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge, is pleased to announce the 2013 Gulf Research Meeting. The 2013 GRM will be held from July 2-5 at the University of Cambridge. Building on the success of past editions of the GRM, the fourth annual Gulf Research Meeting will provide an academic environment to foster Gulf studies and promote scholarly and academic exchange among scholars. Through wide-ranging discussions in the 10 workshops being organized as part of GRM, GRC hopes to offer deeper insights into the issues facing the GCC, thereby adding to scholarly research on the region.

- **The GCC States-Turkey Relations: Opportunities and Challenges**  
Dr. Ozden Zeynep Oktav, Yildiz Technical University, Turkey  
Dr. Birol Baskan, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- **The Relationship between the Gulf Countries and Latin America: The Role of Non-State Actors**  
Dr. Alejandra Galindo, University of Monterrey, Mexico
- **The Gulf and Asia Political Relations and Strategic Options in a Developing Scenario (China, India, South Korea and Japan)**  
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom  
Dr. Yang Guang, Institute for West Asian and African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

- **Saudi Arabia and the Arab Uprisings: National, Regional, and Global Responses**  
Paul Aarts, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Dr. Saud M. Al Tamamy, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia
- **The Rentier State at 25: Dismissed, Revised, Upheld?**  
Prof. Giacomo Luciani, Switzerland  
Dr. Steffen Hertog, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom
- **Gulf Cities as Interfaces**  
Dr. George Katodrytis, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
Sharmeen Syed, Sharjah Art Foundation, United Arab Emirates
- **Sustainable Development Challenges in the GCC**  
Dr. David Bryde, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom  
Dr. Yusra Mouzughy, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom  
Dr. Turki Al Rasheed, Al Ulama Management & Agricultural Consultancy Services, Saudi Arabia
- **Educational Challenges in the GCC in the 21st Century**  
Dr. Khadijah Bawazeer, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia  
Dr. Tariq Elyas, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia  
Dr. Ahmar Mahboob, University of Sydney, Australia
- **GCC Relations with Post-War Iraq: A Strategic Perspective**  
Dr. Omar Al Ubaydli, Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DERASAT), Bahrain  
Dr. Bashir Zain Al Abdin, Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DERASAT), Bahrain
- **Boundaries and Territory in the Gulf Region**  
Richard Schofield, King's College London, United Kingdom

To learn more about this event and how to register, please visit our website:

<http://grm.grc.net>

## GRM Sponsors

### Our Sponsors

The GRC would like to express its deep thanks and gratitude to all of our sponsors as without their support and enthusiasm, the meeting would not have been possible.

The **2012 GRM** was sponsored by:

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The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (the Arab Fund), based in the State of Kuwait, is an Arab regional financial institution focused on funding economic and social development by financing public and private investment projects and providing grants and expertise. The Arab Fund's activities are characterized by a number of important aspects that make it a model of cooperation and Arab economic integration, and a reflection of outstanding joint Arab action. With all the Arab countries as its members and concentrating on economic and social development affecting the same countries, the Arab Fund carefully follows guidelines on neutrality in pursuing its activities and organizes itself under substantive rules to ensure independence from any political considerations when conducting in its operations.

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With assets worth over USD 15 billion, Bank Muscat is the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman with a strong presence in Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Investment Banking, Treasury, Private Banking and Asset Management. The Bank has the largest network in Oman exceeding 130 branches, 386 ATMs, 131 CDMs and 4500 PoS terminals. The international operations consist of a branch each in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait and a Representative Office in Dubai (UAE).

## Derasat



Derasat is a think tank in the Kingdom of Bahrain dedicated to encouraging the use of research and dialogue to inform policy makers and interest groups and to increase understanding of current and emerging international issues in the pursuit of a prosperous and peaceful world for all. In today's rapidly changing world of opportunities and challenges, Derasat aims to build bridges between differing perspectives, create forums for open debate, use strategic insight to enhance understanding and to promote new thinking and independent thought that can generate creative solutions for our future peace, security and stability.

## KAB Holding



KAB Holding was established by Sheikh Khaled Ahmed Bagedo and focuses on promoting the real estate business and building materials manufacturing, mainly targeted at the Saudi Arabian and Middle Eastern markets. Based in Jeddah, KAB Holding is known for its ambition, enthusiasm and devotion to community development, through large scale business.

## GRM Sponsors

### Georgetown University



Georgetown University is a private, Jesuit, research university whose main campus is in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Founded in 1789, it is the oldest Catholic university in North America and one of the first post-colonial institutions of higher learning in the United States.

Georgetown administers 180 academic programs in four undergraduate and three graduate and professional schools, of which the schools of international affairs and law are particularly selective and well regarded. In addition to its main campus, Georgetown operates a law Center on Capitol Hill, as well as auxiliary campuses in Italy, Turkey, and Qatar.

### Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences



KFAS aims to stimulate, support, and invest in initiatives and human resources that contribute to the building of a strong STI system and culture and fostering an enabling environment. The initiatives include improving public understanding of science, strengthening innovation and research capacity and enhancing the enabling cultural environment, supporting the gifted and talented as well as translating knowledge into innovation and encouraging more private technological capability.

### Silatech



Silatech promotes large-scale job creation, entrepreneurship, access to capital and markets, and the participation and engagement of young people in economic and social development. Founded in 2008 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the company finds innovative solutions to challenging problems, working with a wide spectrum of NGOs, governments and the private sector to foster sustainable, positive change for Arab youth.



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All

## About the Gulf Research Center

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) is an independent research institute founded in July 2000 by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, a Saudi businessman, who realized that in a world of rapid political, social and economic change, it is important to pursue politically neutral and academically sound research about the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and disseminate the knowledge obtained as widely as possible. GRC seeks to provide a better understanding of the challenges and prospects of the GCC countries.

Since its establishment, the Gulf Research Center has grown from its original Dubai, UAE location to become a global organization with a well-established worldwide network of cooperation partners and offices in both the Gulf region and Europe. Key steps have been the opening of the Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) in Geneva and the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC). GRC operates its regional offices from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

GRC focuses on achieving the following main objectives:

- Conducting objective and scholarly research bearing on political, economic, social and security issues, as they relate to the GCC states in particular and the Gulf region in general.
- Promoting communication and cooperation among GCC citizens, along with propagating information about the GCC states and the Gulf region through a series of conferences and workshops the GRC holds and hosts.
- Publishing and disseminating relevant and useful information and data on the GCC states within and outside the region.
- Interacting with and answering the knowledge requirements of individuals and/or corporate organizations, including GCC nationals and expatriates living in the GCC countries, university students, academics, the press community, businessmen, and decision-makers.





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



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**I would like to express my admiration for  
the GRC's solid scientific effort in the field  
of research and studies on Gulf issues**

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***H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al-Zayani***  
Secretary-General, The Cooperation Council for  
the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)



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