



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

The Gulf In-Depth

Executive Learning Program



Muscat, Sultanate of Oman |
April 2 to 5, 2007 |





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What is “The Gulf In-Depth” Program?

- ◆ An innovative and in-depth executive learning program focusing on the key strategic aspects of the Arab Gulf Region and its linkages to the international community.
- ◆ An opportunity to gain unprecedented knowledge and insight into the workings of the Arab Gulf region from knowledgeable practitioners and insiders.
- ◆ A program bringing together leaders from government, business, academia and the independent sector for a week long session of highly focused presentations and intense debate.
- ◆ An initial building block in the establishment of a life-long network of experts.
- ◆ Held in Muscat, the capital of the Sultanate of Oman, the program blends knowledge of the region, experiences of the Gulf’s dynamic growth of the region and its traditional heritage.



A program of strategic importance

The Gulf has emerged as a strategic political and economic region and as the bridge between East and West.

- ◆ The Gulf contains two-thirds of the world's proven reserves of oil and currently supplies 28% of world total demand. By 2020, it will produce 35 mb/d of oil thereby further increasing its strategic importance.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is home to Islam and the center of the Islamic world.

By the year 2010, there will be a unified GCC economy bringing together world-renowned hydrocarbon and service powerhouses.





- ◆ The close proximity and economic ties that the Gulf region shares with such emerging markets as Iraq, Iran and the Asian Subcontinent means that partnership with the Gulf will open the door to other regions, including serving as a gateway to East Asia.
- ◆ The Gulf States boast among the highest GDPs per capita in the world with strong business relations throughout the world.
- ◆ The Gulf region has witnessed three major conflicts in the past 25 years. These conflicts have had a world wide impact. Moreover, the relevance of the Gulf is set to increase due to the fact that the region is in the midst of accelerating and transformational political and economic change.

Understanding of the Gulf region today will prove invaluable in the future.





Providing insight into the intricacies of Gulf Life

Understanding the essence of the distinctive social and political structures in the Gulf is essential to comprehending and utilizing its strategic importance. To this end, the program provides for:

- ◆ Opportunities to learn from experts on Gulf society, culture, politics, economics and security.
- ◆ Understanding the links between the Gulf and key strategic regions of the globe and what they mean for the development of the region.
- ◆ Uncovering the links between educational and social institutions, politics, economics and media.
- ◆ Discovering possibilities for lucrative investment in one of the fastest-developing regions in the world.
- ◆ Understanding developments in the Gulf region as separate from those in the rest of the region.
- ◆ Promoting dialogue and expanding information exchange on issues of regional and international concerns.



Program outline

Based on an intensive five day course, the program sessions to be included are:

DAY 1

STATE AND SOCIETY IN THE GULF

◆ Featured Topics

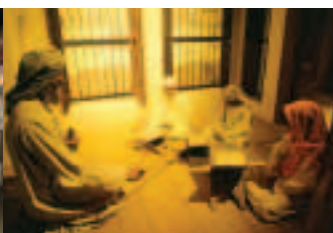
- Historical Development of the Arabian Gulf
- Contemporary Roles of Tradition and Religion
- Understanding the Decision-Making Process in the Gulf
- Understanding Gulf Institutions: The Development of Legislatures

DAY 2

THE GULF ECONOMY

◆ Featured Topics

- Oil, Gas, and Energy Markets in the Gulf
- The Challenges of the Gulf Labor Markets
- Towards a Single Market: Status and Prospects for GCC Economic Integration
- Exploring the Gulf Trading Environment: Opportunities and Challenges and the Status of Free Trade Agreements



At the end of the program, it is expected that participants will walk away well-equipped with a strong background in Gulf affairs and well-prepared to discuss and interact with the region on a number of levels.



DAY 3

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE IN THE GULF

◆ **Featured Topics**

Exploring Human Rights and the Rule of the Law

Education: Driving Force or Stumbling Bloc for Development?

The Rising Importance of Environmental Issues in the Gulf

DAY 4

GULF FOREIGN AND SECURITY ISSUES

◆ **Featured Topics**

The Foreign and Security Policies of the GCC States

Security Challenges in the Gulf: The Cases of Iran and Iraq

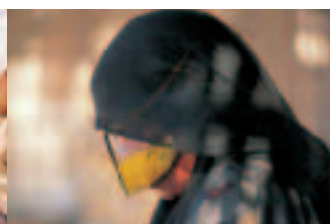
Regional Relations and the Prospect for Conflict Management

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Added values of the “Gulf In-Depth” Program

- ◆ Customized content for each program session to maximize relevance and enhance value;
- ◆ A conference reader containing background readings and course materials. This reader will serve as reference tool even after the program is concluded;
- ◆ Building exclusive institutional and organizational partnerships among all participants;
- ◆ Providing a forum for continuous e-learning through the provision of services on the GRC website related to Gulf issues and their relationship to current and future developments;
- ◆ Join an alumni network that seeks to establish lasting partnerships;
- ◆ Focusing on problem-solving mechanisms as a means to promote relationships and gain knowledge.





Participants at the 2005 “Understanding the European Union” Executive Learning Program in Brussels, Belgium



Providing unparalleled experience and expertise



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

The Program is being coordinated by the **Gulf Research Center**, the only independent think tank in the region and a pioneer of a number of academic research programs and political, social, economic and strategic initiatives. The GRC combines the qualities of research expertise, a broad network of researchers and partners from which to draw on with its in-depth knowledge about the current status of public policy research in the Arab world and the Gulf region.



Participants of the “Understanding the European Union” Executive Learning Program receiving a briefing at the EU Ministerial Council, September 2005



Who should attend?

- ◆ **Government officials** whose work relates to the Gulf and who wish to gain a deep understanding of the political, social and economic intricacies of the region in order to be able to see developments within a larger context.
- ◆ **Aspiring corporate officials** who wish to take advantage of the growing commercial opportunities in the region. By having a more comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and obstacles present, chances for successful business endeavours are far greater.
- ◆ **Mid- to high-level professionals** who seek a qualitative edge to the information they receive and to the relationships they want to build.

The Gulf Program reflects the complexities of today's global environment and the overlapping and intersecting interests of various sectors of society. As such, the composition of the participants is a reflection of the multitude of institutions concerned with the current status and future development of the Gulf region.



Methodology

The Gulf Research Center structures its learning programs by emphasizing social research and critical thinking tools to maximize the value for course participants.

The program has been developed around three layers: classroom teaching, roundtable discussion and interaction with GCC personalities and institutions.

◆ ***CLASSROOM TEACHING:***

Each day is structured around individual presentations focusing on a specific aspect of the overall topic. This will help set the stage for deeper discussion.

◆ ***OPEN DISCUSSION PERIODS:***

The purpose of the sessions will be to strengthen analytical skills and to provide a forum for better communication and interaction among the participants. This way, each attendee will gain a systematic understanding of the Gulf region and will be able to apply the lessons learned to their professional area of expertise.

◆ ***INTERACTION WITH GCC PERSONALITIES:***

Through personal interaction with the movers and shakers of the region, participants will not only be able to build a strong network of contacts on which they can rely, but will also have the opportunity for deep discussion of pressing issues and burning topics in a strategic region of ongoing political, social and economic development.



Eligibility

To be eligible for participation, individuals must show that their professional responsibilities are directly related to the GCC countries and that through their participation they can add significant value to the promotion and development of the region. An advanced university degree is desirable but not essential.

The conference language will be English thus applicants must have a thorough working knowledge of the English language to be able to follow the presentations and engage in detailed discussion and exchange of opinion.





Successful candidates are expected to attend all sessions of the program meaning they have to be able to confirm their availability for the entire period of the workshop. Participants are given one day each for arrival and departure.

Once candidates have been accepted, they will be provided with a username and password enabling them access to the dedicated program website which includes the program's reading materials and their personal information. Participants will be able to use their access to receive any updates to the program, edit their own profiles or convey any questions and concerns to the relevant GRC personnel. As material will be constantly added right up the beginning of the program, individuals will be encouraged and expected to check in regularly to the web portal.





Logistics

Date: April 2-5, 2007

Location: Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. Specific details on the venue will be provided upon request.

Fees: The fee for the Gulf In-Depth Program is 2,950 US-dollars. This fee includes attendance of all lectures and discussion groups, course materials, daily lunches and dinners on selected evenings.

Not included in the fee are hotel accommodations and travel to and from Muscat. The GRC has however been able to secure preferential rates at the venue site.





Application: To apply for the program, a completed application form must be submitted to the Gulf Research Center. A form is included or can be downloaded through the GRC website. Prospective candidates are encouraged to apply online. Only complete applications will be considered. Of particular importance are the open fields in which the candidate explains of why he/she will benefit from participation. Thus, these fields should be filled in with special care.

Payment instruction will be provided upon approval of application.

Contact: Executive Learning Program Administrator

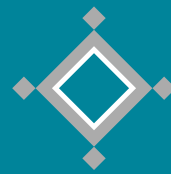
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To apply, please fill in and submit the enclosed form.







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