



GRC Digital Roundtable Discussion: "The Future of the Gulf Economies in the Age of Sparsity"

Date: October 28 2020

Time: 9am-11am Pacific Time (7pm-9pm Riyadh time)

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zoom

Description

The Gulf Research Center is organizing a digital roundtable discussion on October 28, entitled "The Future of the Gulf Economies in the Age of Sparsity".

We have invited a diverse panel of experts to give their perspectives on the subjects of fiscal sustainability and debt, business attractiveness and FDI, and diversification efforts and the role of the state.

The discussion will be moderated by Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Research at the Gulf Research Center.

The event will take place from 9am-11am Pacific Time (7pm-9pm Riyadh time)

The discussion will answer the following questions:

- ◆ How will the Gulf economies manage small budgets that will be defined through a new fiscal contract with business and society?
- ◆ Will a new social contract be devised in light of the new fiscal realities?
- ◆ How will the region manage to attract the appetite of international investors?
- ◆ Can the local private sectors carry the burdens of investment?
- ◆ What is the role of the State and the private sector in the next decade?
- ◆ Is diversification a possibility in the coming years?

Panelists



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
(Opening Remark)



Dr. John Sfakiankis
(Moderator)

Speakers



Professor Jeff Nugent



Amjad Ahmed



Dr. Aisha Al-Sarihi



Ahmad Zuaiter



Tarek Fadlallah



Professor Ishac Diwan

GRC Digital Roundtable Discussion: The Future of the Gulf Economies in the Age of Sparsity (Speakers Bios)



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
Chairman
Gulf Research Center

A Saudi expert on Gulf politics and strategic issues, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager is the founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, a global think tank based in Saudi Arabia with a well-established presence and worldwide network of partners and offices in both the Gulf region and Europe. In addition to having authored and edited numerous publications, Dr. Sager frequently contributes on major international media channels such as Al Arabiya, France 24, CNN and BBC. Dr. Sager has also chaired and moderated the Syrian opposition meetings in Riyadh in 2015 and 2017. Dr. Sager holds a Ph.D in Politics and International Relations from Lancaster University, with a focus on Gulf security affairs.



Dr. John Sfakiankis
Chief Economist and Head of
research of the Gulf Research Center

He is the chief economist and head of research of the Gulf Research Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He previously was director for the Gulf region of the Ashmore Group and Chief Investment Strategist for MASIC, a diversified family office in Riyadh. He also held the position of chief Middle East economist for Credit Agricole C.I.B. and group general manager and chief economist for Banque Saudi Fransi as well as chief economist for The Saudi British Bank/HSBC and chief regional economist for Samba Financial Group. He is a frequent commentator for Bloomberg, CNBC, BBC, CNN and others.



Professor Jeffery Nugent
Professor of Economics at University of Southern California

Jeffrey B. Nugent is Professor of Economics at University of Southern California in Los Angeles where he teaches Development Economics. He has applied a variety of analytical techniques to a wide variety of development issues to countries from all parts of the developing world. Recent interests include: trade, foreign investment, household investments, health program assessments, income distribution, new institutional economics and political economy of development. His books include: Economic Integration in Central America: Empirical Investigations, Economics of Development: Empirical Investigations (with Pan Yotopoulos), New Institutional Economics and Development: Theory and Applications to Tunisia (with Mustapha Nabli).



Amjad Ahmed

Director and Resident Senior Fellow,
empowerME, AtlanticCouncil.

Amjad Ahmad is director and resident senior fellow of empowerME at the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. EmpowerME focuses on shaping innovative investments to empower entrepreneurs, women, and youth in the Middle East. Amjad is also managing partner of the venture capital firm Precinct Partners and serves on the boards of Nuwa Capital, Eyewa, Tapal Tea, RSA Global, Mumzworld, Mr. Usta and The Luxury Closet. Based in the United Arab Emirates for fifteen years prior to moving to Washington, DC, Amjad has collaborated with business leaders and entrepreneurs to build leading companies in the Middle East.



Dr. Aisha Al-Sarihi

Researcher Associate
KAPSARC

Aisha Al-Sarihi is a non-resident fellow at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, a research associate at KAPSARC, and the coordinator of the T20 Climate and Environment Task Force. Her areas of research interest include political economy of environmental sustainability, energy policy, renewables, and climate policies, with a focus on the Arab region. In addition to scientific publications, her research has appeared in different media outlets including Al Arabiya TV, The New Arab, Asia Times, Earth Island Journal, and Oman Daily Observer. She is a former visiting scholar at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies and the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. She also served as a research officer at the London School of Economics and Political Science's Middle East Centre.



Ahmad Zuaiter

Managing Partner
at Jadara Capital Partners LLC

Ahmad has close to 25 years of work experience as an investment professional, serving senior roles in investment management, investment advisory and trading. Prior to founding Jadara Capital Partners in 2013, Ahmad held senior portfolio management positions with Soros Fund Management (New York and Istanbul-Turkey), Morgan Stanley Investment Management Emerging Markets (New York), Scudder Kemper Investments Emerging Markets (New York), EFG-Hermes Regional Markets (Cairo-Egypt) and SHUAA Capital (Dubai-UAE). Ahmad began his professional career as an equity position trader with Merrill Lynch & Co.'s emerging markets team in New York. Ahmad earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Georgetown University and was awarded a Master in Business Administration degree from the Harvard Business School.



Tarek Fadlallah

Chief Executive Officer
at Nomura Asset Management Middle East

Mr. Fadlallah is Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Nomura Asset Management (Middle East). He has over 30 years of experience in the international capital markets. He is a standing member of the Executive Committee for Nomura International in the Middle East. Mr. Fadlallah is a founding member of CFA Bahrain, a former member of the board of academic qualifications at the Bahrain Institute for Banking and Finance, and frequently speaks at industry events and conferences. He is a contributor to the book *The Gulf Region: A New Hub of Global Financial Power*, (Chatham House), *Why the Middle East Needs a Single Market*, (Financial Times, January 2013). He holds a BSc degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and is a CFA charterholder.



Professor Ishac Diwan,

Professor of Economics, at Paris Sciences et Lettres
And Director of the Chaire Socio-économie du Monde Arabe

Ishac Diwan received his PhD in economics from the University of California at Berkeley. He taught international finance at NYU's Business School. In 1987, he joined the World Bank's Research Complex, where he focused on international finance, trade, and macroeconomics. He contributed to the creation of the prime network of economists in the Middle East, the Economic Research Forum, and of a regional policy forum, the Mediterranean Development Forum. In 1996, he joined the World Bank Institute and led the Economic Policy group (1996-2002). Diwan lived in Addis Abeba (2002-07) and Accra (2007-11), as the Bank's Country Director for Ethiopia and Sudan first, and then for Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Guinea.

For any other event-related questions, please contact the meeting coordinator, Ms. Al-Anoud Khalifah at alanoud@grc.net



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