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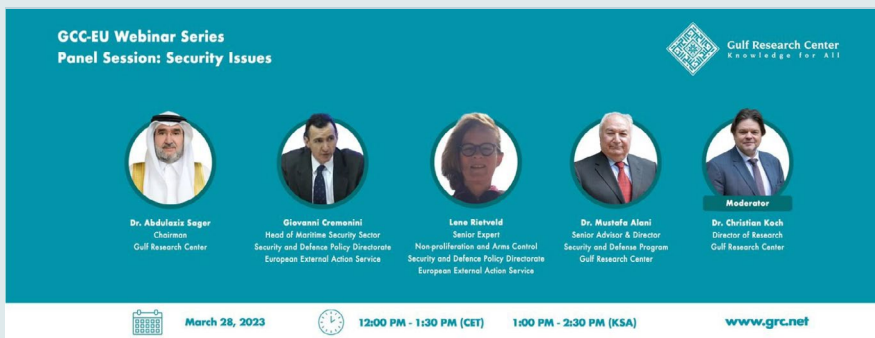
GULF RESEARCH CENTER Newsletter

March 2023

GRC Project

GCC-EU Relations: Toward the Strategic Partnership Webinar Series

Panel Session 7: Security Issues



The seventh session of the GCC-EU webinar series entitled “Security Issues” was held by the Gulf Research Center (GRC) on March 28, 2023. The event focused on the status of relations and the priorities in the realm of security issues as they relate to the EU’s Joint Communication on a “Strategic Partnership with the Gulf.” Particular emphasis was given to maritime security, the subject of proliferation within the context of both weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional arms, and the overall role of technology in the security field. The speakers of the session were Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, the Chairman of the Gulf Research Center; Dr. Mustafa Alani, Senior Advisor and Director of the Security and Defense Program at the Gulf Research Center; Giovanni

Cremonini, the Head of the Maritime Security Sector in the Security and Defense Policy Directorate at the European External Action Service; and Lene Rietveld, a Senior Expert on Non-Proliferation and Arms Control in the Security and Defense Policy Directorate at the European External Action Service. Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center, moderated the session.

The webinar highlighted several relevant points. It was stressed that Gulf security is a key priority for Europe as security in the region is also a core element of European security. One key theme here was maritime security in the region as the Gulf continues to be threatened

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March 2023

by piracy and tanker attacks on the region's waters between the Suez Canal and the Strait of Hormuz. These attacks directly affect the global economy, maritime safety, and transportation, given the Gulf's pivotal role in maritime trade, particularly in the field of energy supplies.

Another critical theme in the webinar was non-proliferation and arms control. Several areas of cooperation highlighted between the GCC and the EU include the key area of weapons inspections by developing practical, evidence-based weapon management and control as well as focusing on an AI strategy and emerging technology, which aligns with the GCC's investments in digitalization.

Panel Session 6: Education and Youth Mobility

GCC-EU Webinar Series
Panel Session: Education and Youth Mobility

H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Asmi
Director-General
Arab Bureau of Education
for the Gulf States

Dr. Latifa Alfryan
Assistant Professor of Educational Technology
Advisor of the President
Princess Noura bint
Abdulrahman University

Mr. Giorgio Guazzugli Marini
Deputy Head
International Cooperation Unit
DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
European Commission

Dr. Auhoud Albulushi
Chairperson
Derasat Consultancy

Moderator
Dr. Christian Koch
Director of Research
Gulf Research Center

March 7, 2023 **11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CET)** **1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (KSA)** **www.grc.net**

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) held the sixth session of its GCC-EU webinar series entitled “Education and Youth Mobility” on March 7, 2023. The event focused on the status of relations and the educational priorities of both regions as related to the EU’s Joint Communication on a “Strategic Partnership with the Gulf,” launched in May 2022. The speakers of the session were H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Asmi, the Director-General of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States; Dr. Latifa Alfryan, Assistant Professor of Educational Technology and Advisor of the President at Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University; Mr. Giorgio Guazzugli Marini, the Deputy Head of the International Cooperation Unit in DG Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture at the European Commission; and Dr. Auhoud Albulushi, the Chairperson of Derasat Consultancy. Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the GRC, moderated the session.

The webinar highlighted the importance of education in both the Gulf and the EU. The GCC, for instance, has launched meetings and committees to represent joint cooperation regarding education.

The GCC states’ funding and financial commitments to improving their education sectors are among the most significant drivers of growth. Similarly, the EU has placed a significant focus on education as the EU has an extensive education budget and immense history and tradition of supporting them. Education and training continue to be at the heart of many practices and visions within the EU, as well as in relations with other countries.

The webinar then stressed that while GCC-EU collaboration on education exists, there is a growing need to enhance those projects and programs. The session highlighted the importance of cooperation and coordination of efforts between the GCC and the EU in order to achieve common goals, support scientific and educational efforts, and exchange information and experiences. The session focused on increasing cooperation between the two regions in terms of four themes: student mobility, research and innovation, vocational training, and executive programs.

TAFAHUM wa TABADUL Project



On March 14 and 15, 2023, the Tafahum wa Tabadul project organized a workshop titled ‘Regional project development within the Climate-Energy-Health-Nexus: Sustainability in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP).’ The workshop was held in cooperation with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and held at the SIPRI office in Solna, Sweden. The meeting focused, in particular, on how to establish a regional education program on environmental resources and on the creation of a platform for awareness of environmental change and hazards.

The workshop held in Stockholm is the final part of a series of three workshops using the climate-energy-health nexus to develop a ‘common ground’ and ‘understanding’ (tafahum) of the concept of sustainability in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP). This concept was discussed in the first workshop in May 2022 which took place in Bonn (Germany) and serves as the conceptual framework for future exchange (tabadul) on the topic. Based on this evaluation, the topic of pollution featured prominently in the May workshop in relation to the broader dimensions of sustainability such as sustainable

economic growth, environmental protection and social inclusion. In a second workshop which took place in September 2022 in Kuwait at the Kuwait University, the cross-regional and transboundary challenges of air and water pollution were to be examined more closely. It was outlined how similar climatic change impacts and associated hazards are in the region: flashflood, heavy rain, air pollution, sand and dust storm, drought, in addition to pollution from oil are causing tremendous ecological, economic, and social challenges for all societies. The meeting with SIPRI in Stockholm aimed to materialize the conceptual debates in form of concrete regional/joint project implementation and collaboration which could generate a realistic outcome and result of the current Tafahum wa Tabadul project line.

The Tafahum wa Tabadul project started in October 2018 and is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. The aim of the project is to examine the modalities for establishing a regional security process among the countries of the WAAP region alongside three levels of political dialogue, expert discussion on regional energy and economic questions, and civil society networks.



Global Leadership Program



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All



GCSP
Geneva Centre for
Security Policy

The Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) are delighted to launch **the Global Leadership Program**, which will take place in Geneva, Switzerland.

A primary focus of the GRCF is to conduct a variety of high-level executive learning and leadership programs that contain practical policy value.

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) is an international foundation supported by the Swiss government. The GCSP's mission is to advance peace, security, and international cooperation by providing the knowledge, skills, and network for effective and inclusive decision-making.

This Global Leadership Program features three one-week modules that address the core political, security, and economic challenges in the international system today. The modules are convened at regularly spaced out intervals throughout the year.

Intensive 3-module leadership course dates:

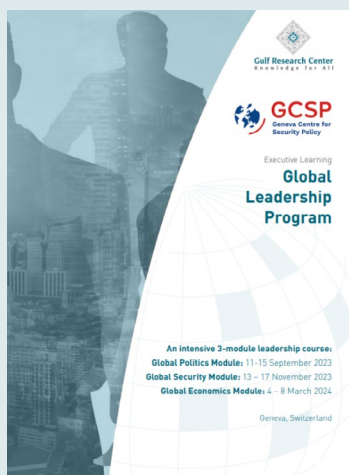
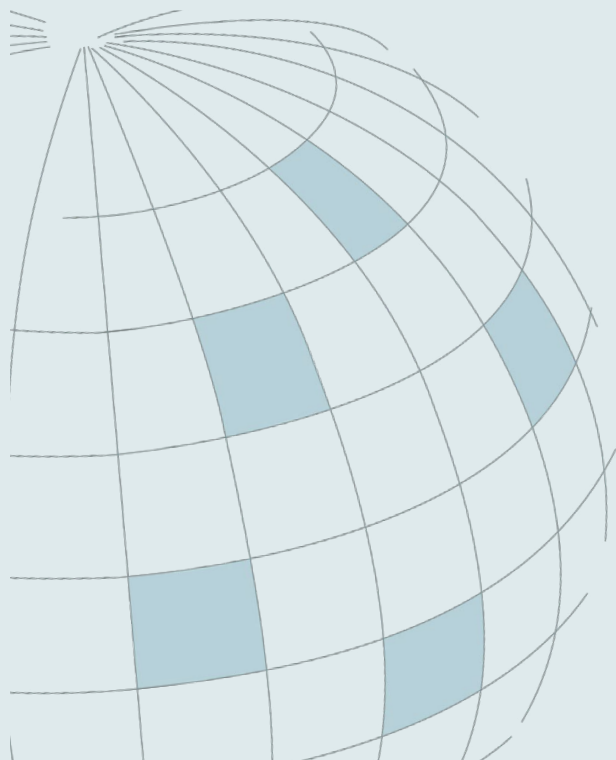
Global Politics Module: 11-15 September 2023

Global Security Module: 13 – 17 November 2023

Global Economics Module: 4 – 8 March 2024

The program offers participants the opportunity to:

- Improve knowledge about global developments in politics, security, and economics, as well as their impact on the state and society.
- Analyze current, past and anticipated changes occurring in the fields of global politics, security, and economics.
- Build critical thinking within a unique learning environment, by joining experienced practitioners and scholars from diverse fields in an interactive atmosphere of exchange and debate.
- Broaden professional networks across cultures and professional domains, through interaction with peers and experts within the program environment.



To find more information, please visit the program's website: <https://programs.grc.net/>

Register [HERE](#)
Download brochure [HERE](#)

Gulf Research Meeting 2023

Registration for Listening Participants



The deadline to apply to participate as a paper presenter at GRM 2023 has passed. **We welcome you to register as a listening participant.** Please submit your information to register as a listening participant [HERE](#).

GRM 2023 WORKSHOPS

- Sustainable Development Financing and the Role of the Financial Sector in the GCC Region
- Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Model: Its Role in the GCC States' National Visions
- Perspectives on Hard Security Issues in the Gulf
- Industrial Policies in the Gulf and the Middle East
- The Renewed & Expanded Role of the Gulf on the Global Energy Scene
- Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies
- The Leading Role of Gulf Higher Education in Achieving Sustainability and Addressing Climate Change
- Cultural Heritage in the Gulf – Emerging Trends, Identity Politics, Challenges, and Concerns
- Women in the GCC: Negotiating Leadership, Power, and Change
- Israel and the Gulf Monarchies: A New Regional Security Complex or Just Complex Regional Security?
- The Future of the GCC as an Institution
- The Gulf and the Horn of Africa: Trans-Regional Competition and Cooperation
- Innovation and Development of Knowledge Societies – The Transformational Impact of Intellectual Property on Knowledge Based Economic Growth with a Focus on Emerging Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and IP financing

13th Gulf Research Meeting

11 - 13 July, 2023



More information on the workshops can be found on the [Gulf Research Meeting website](#)

Questions should be sent to grmapplicant@grc.net

For more details visit www.gulfresearchmeeting.net

GRM 2023 WORKSHOPS:

- Sustainable Development Financing and the Role of the Financial Sector in the GCC Region
- Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Model: Its Role in the GCC States' National Visions
- Perspectives on Hard Security Issues in the Gulf
- Industrial Policies in the Gulf and the Middle East
- The Renewed & Expanded Role of the Gulf on the Global Energy Scene
- Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies
- The Leading Role of Gulf Higher Education in Achieving Sustainability and Addressing Climate Change
- Cultural Heritage in the Gulf – Emerging Trends, Identity Politics, Challenges, and Concerns
- Women in the GCC: Negotiating Leadership, Power, and Change
- Israel and the Gulf Monarchies: A New Regional Security Complex or Just Complex Regional Security?

More details of the GRM workshops can be found [here](#)



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

Activities March 2023

The Gulf Labor Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) program is an international, independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme promoted and hosted by the GRC. The GLMM website can be accessed [here](#).

Access GLMM recent and past publications [here](#).

Publications



GLMM Factsheet No. 5:
“Domestic Workers in the GCC: a Diverse Population,”
by Françoise De Bel-Air –
March 2023
Access the Factsheet [here](#).

GLMMs public databases

The GLMM gathers, analyses, and republishes national official statistical data concerning population, labor markets, and migration from dozens of websites across the GCC countries. All these data can be viewed, printed, and downloaded in MS Excel. Having done this for more than a decade, GLMM’s database contains data that is no longer publicly available, except via the GLMM website, which can be accessed [here](#).

Based on these data, GLMM produces unique GCC regional tables: Access [here](#).

GLMM also gathers, analyses, and republishes national official legal documents concerning population, labor markets, and migration: Access [here](#).

Non-Resident Fellow

In March, the GLMM welcomed two new non-resident fellows.



Dr. George Naufal is an associate research scientist at the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University, a visiting Scientist at the Center for Health Data Science and Analytics at Houston Methodist Research Institute, a research fellow at the IZA Institute of Labor Economics and the Economic Research Forum (ERF). Previously he was the Technical Director at Timberlake Consultants. He was also an Assistant/Associate Professor of Economics at The American University of Sharjah (2007 to 2014) in the United Arab Emirates. George earned his Ph.D. in Economics in 2007 from Texas A&M University. His area of expertise is applied econometrics with applications to labor economics including criminal justice, education, migration, and public health. He has published extensively on migration and labor market issues in the Gulf region including a book titled “Expats and the labor force: The Story of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.”



Dr. Anis Ben Brik is an Associate Professor and founding director of the Program for Social Policy and Evaluation Research (PROSPER) at the College of Public Policy at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar. With a diverse background in advancing evidence-based decision-making and social policy, he has made significant contributions to the field. Previously, he served as the Director of the Family Policy Department at the Doha International Family Institute and held senior advisory roles with the UAE government. Dr. Ben Brik has been a trusted advisor to multiple ministries and has served on national and regional Scientific Committees for Development Strategies. Dr. Ben Brik’s primary research interests lie in the empirical analysis of welfare systems, family and child welfare, social protection, evaluation, and digital transformations. He has published extensively in international peer-reviewed journals and has authored several books on program evaluation, social protection, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public policy in the Middle East and North Africa.

For further information on GLMM non-resident fellows and other GLMM staff, please visit the website [here](#).

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

GLMM non-resident fellows write papers, policy briefs, explanatory notes, and factsheets on key topics concerning GCC population, labor, and migration, and contribute to GLMM workshops, webinars, and podcasts.

Non-resident internships

GLMM welcomes non-resident interns. More information can be found [here](#).

Workshop

The GLMM is organizing a workshop within the framework of the 13th

Gulf Research Meeting (GRM, Cambridge 11-3 July 2023) on “Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies at the 13th Gulf Research Meeting.” The deadline for applications for paper presenters has passed. Fifty-two paper proposals were received of which twenty were selected. Limited places are available for non-paper presenters (against a fee).

Access the GRM workshop details [here](#).

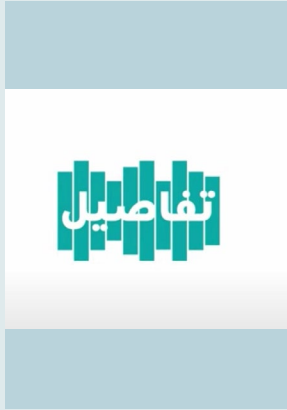
Further information

Contact: imco.brouwer@grc.net

GRC's Cultural & Media Program

Gulf Research Center (GRC) Podcast

The GRC hosted three episodes under the Cultural & Media program this month



March 20, 2023



Topic: Discussing the phenomenon of earthquakes: How and why they occur?

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Ali Adani Ashgy, Environmental Specialist

Access the full episode [here](#).

March 15, 2023



Topic: Assessing the political situation in Iran

Speaker: Dr. Fatima Al Shamri, Political Researcher and Writer

Access the full episode [here](#).

March 12, 2023



Topic: Reality of the Iranian crisis and ways for engagement between the Gulf and Iran

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Al-Rumaihi

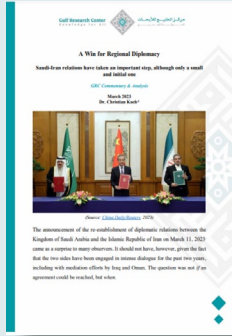
Access the full episode [here](#).

March 2023

GRC Publications

The Gulf Research Center produces a wide variety of publications through its research programs, projects, and Gulf Research Meetings. The GRC's publications can be accessed on its website via [this link](#), and the commentary and analysis can be found [here](#).

Commentary & Analysis



A Win for Regional Diplomacy: Saudi-Iran relations have taken an important step, although only a small and initial one
March 2023
Dr. Christian Koch

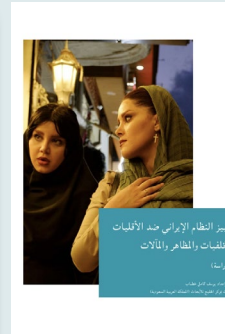


The GCC's 2023 Economic Agenda
March 2023
Abdullah Almutabagani

Selected Arabic Articles



The Iranian regime discriminates against minorities backgrounds, appearances, and prospects (study)
March 2023
Yousef Kamil Khattab

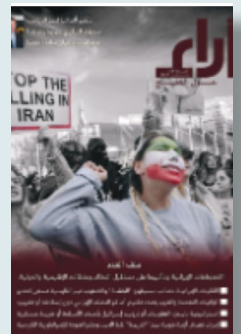


Arab food security and port conflict in Ukraine: repercussions and ways of confrontation
March 2023
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf



France - GCC Relations
March 2023

Araa Magazine



#183 (March 2023):
The Iranian protests and their impact on the future of the regime and its regional and international relations

GRC Participations

In March 2023, the GRC participated in numerous international events — both online and in-person — tackling issues pertaining to the developments in the Gulf region and its broader neighborhood. The GRC emphasizes participating in such events, as it allows for the inclusion of a regional perspective in the debate. The following is an overview of the critical events in which the GRC participated.



March 22, 2023
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, and member of Crisis Group's Board of Trustees, participated in an interview with Crisis Group and talked about the revival of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Access the full interview [here](#).



March 20-21, 2023
Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, took part in the inaugural Schuman Security and Defense Partnership Forum held in Brussels at the European Parliament. The Schuman Forum flows from the 2022 EU Strategic Compass and seeks to collectively gauge the evolving geopolitical context as well as take stock of the EU's security and defense partnerships.

GRC Participations



March 21, 2023

Professor Saleh AlKhatlan, Senior Advisor at the GRC, participated in a closed meeting with HRH Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, as he met with a number of experts and researchers in the Kingdom.



March 19 - 20, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, and Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, participated in the workshop on "Understanding Security Dynamics in the Gulf and the MENA region: How to Advance on De-Escalation" held in Geneva, Switzerland by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Amnah Mosly, a researcher at the GRC, also attended the workshop. Dr. Sager opened the discussion with a talk on "Dialogue around the Gulf and its Impact on Regional Security." The workshop brought together almost 40 participants from institutions involved with and/or supportive of regional security initiatives.



March 20, 2023

Amnah Mosly, a researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), represented the GRC at the 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CASCI). At the end of the AGM, Ambassador Ivo Germann, Head of the Foreign Economic Affairs Directorate at the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO), presented on trade and economic relations between Switzerland and Arab Countries and future prospects.



March 17, 2023

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, participated in a meeting of the Yemen Strategy Group convened by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), in partnership with the Swedish Government and held in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting drew together senior officials from the EU and GCC and respective member states, as well as experts from Europe and the region, for a discussion on enhanced cooperation towards Yemen. The idea of the meeting was to identify specific ideas for an enhanced EU-GCC partnership on Yemen in advance of the upcoming EU-GCC ministerial meeting.

GRC Participations



March 16, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, spoke in a panel organized by the Gulf International Forum, which focused on the Saudi-Iranian agreement and its implications on the Middle East, relations with the U.S., and China's growing role in the Gulf. Watch the full panel session [here](#).



March 14 - 16, 2023

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, GRC environmental security and sustainability research director participated in the second face to face meeting of the members of the UNEP GEO7 Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) in Bangkok, Thailand.



March 13-14, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated as a speaker in the 'Conflict in the Grey Zone' symposium, which the Center for Strategic Studies organized at the Command and Staff College of the Armed Forces in Riyadh.



March 15, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, presented a keynote speech at the Maritime Security in the Red Sea Workshop organized by the embassies of the Kingdom of Netherlands, France, and Denmark in Riyadh in association with the EU delegation, and with the presentation of the European-led Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH), which provided the European perspectives on maritime security in the Gulf region. In his opening speech, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager focused on the regional perspectives on maritime security in the Red Sea.



March 11-12, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated as a speaker in the 14th Al-Jazeera Forum held in Doha. The title of the session was 'The Middle East: Growing Crises and Opportunities in the Context of the Russian War on Ukraine.' Watch the full panel session [here](#).

GRC Participations

March 11-12, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the semi-annual meeting as a member of Crisis Group's Board of Trustees.



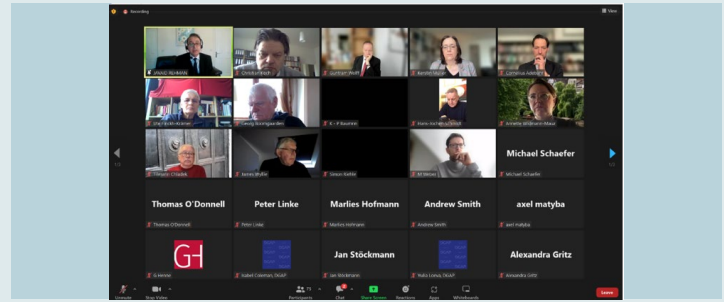
March 8, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in a podcast for Thamaniyah and spoke about Iran's history in the nuclear file, from the time of the "Shah" through the nuclear agreement in 2015 to its current behavior after the 2018 U.S. exit from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Access the full podcast [here](#).



March 7, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, and Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, took part in the seventh virtual session of the Council of Councils on the topic of "Resolving Global Challenges in a Fragmenting World Order." The Council of Councils is composed of twenty-eight major policy institutes from around the globe and designed to facilitate candid, not-for-attribution dialogue and consensus-building among opinion leaders from both established and emerging nations.



March 9, 2023

Dr. Christian Koch took part in the online briefing of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) on "Iran: A Challenge for European Security and Feminist Foreign Policy." The event brought together nearly 90 European participants from the policy and academic field examining recent developments in German and European approaches toward the Islamic Republic.



March 1, 2023

Dr. Abdulqader Amir, Director of the Urban Development Program at the GRC, participated in the third international engineering conference and exhibition entitled 'Engineering and the Road to 2030,' which was held in Riyadh.



March 1, 2023

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, participated in the 10th Ideas Lab Forum of the Center for European Policy Studies held in Brussels. Issues discussed at the meeting included, Ukraine and European Security, energy crisis and the green transition, European strategic autonomy in defense matters, and protecting the rule of law.



GRC media participation can be accessed at [the following link](#), which leads to the GRC official YouTube channel.

Recent Media Participations



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the Al-Hadath program entitled ‘Saudi Crown Prince to Chinese President: We Support the Initiative to Develop Good Neighborly Relations with Iran.’



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the Al-Sharq program entitled. ‘The American Fifth Fleet for the “East”: Committed to the Security of the Region.’



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, participated in an interview with BBC Ukraine on the Gulf position towards Ukraine. Access the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the Al-Mawqaf program on SaudiaTV, and discussed the Saudi-Iranian agreement.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the Panorama program on the Al-Arabiya channel about the Chinese mediation in the Saudi-Iran agreement in resuming diplomatic relations.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the news program (NEWSHOUR) on Al-Jazeera channel, entitled ‘Iran and Saudi Arabia to Restore Ties.’

GRC in the Media



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on the Al-Arabiya news channel and talked about the Saudi-Iran agreement to resume diplomatic relations.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the Al-Jazeera program, in an episode entitled 'Saudi Arabia and Iran: Contexts of Normalization...and its Possible Repercussions.'



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the Al-Arabiya channel to talk about the Saudi-Iran agreement.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the 'Here is Riyadh' program to discuss the Saudi Foreign Minister's visit to Moscow and Kyiv.



Professor Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor to the GRC, participated in the program Al-Mawqif, and talked about the Kingdom's position on the Ukraine crisis and Iran's role in the ongoing war.



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