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GULF RESEARCH CENTER Newsletter

September 2023

GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum Roundtable Introduction Meeting September 27, 2023



GCC - Türkiye Economic Forum



The **Gulf Research Center (GRC)**, in cooperation with the **International Cooperation Platform (ICP)**, are pleased to launch the GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum, which will take place on November 11-13, 2023, at the Çırağan Palace Kempinski Hotel in Istanbul, Türkiye.

On September 27, 2023, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, and President of the International Cooperation Platform (ICP), Mr. Cengiz Özgencil, held a roundtable introduction meeting for

the GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum at the JW Marriot in Ankara. Their Excellencies, Ambassadors of the GCC in Türkiye, and commercial attachés attended the meeting, as well as representatives of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade, and the Turkish Investment Authority. A summary was presented to provide an overview of the Forum, its objectives, main sectors, and participants. A discussion was held to ensure full cooperation from all the GCC countries and their collaboration with their Turkish counterparts.



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September 2023

GRC Events & Activities

At a time of political convergence, the 2023 GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum will facilitate further strengthening of an already strategic relationship. In the context of deteriorating great power relations and an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape, economic development is crucial to strengthening regional ties. The GCC states and Türkiye represent vital regional powers in the Middle East. As part of the GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum, cooperation

will be fostered in the fields of trade and investment, infrastructure, industry and logistics, agriculture and food, and sports. Considering GCC's commitment to collaborating with Türkiye in the coming years and the considerable potential for expanding bilateral trade, the 2023 GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum will be a great opportunity to explore potential cooperation and develop a network for joint projects.



Roundtable Introduction Meeting in Ankara, Türkiye

CONFERENCE CONCEPTS AND OBJECTIVES

The GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum seeks to enhance the bilateral relationship in all its dimensions, with an emphasis on economic development and private-sector cooperation. As such, the forum's key objectives include:

- Exploring the different aspects that make up the strategic economic relationship between the GCC and Türkiye
- Discussing the various developments of legal processes in investing in the GCC and Türkiye
- Highlighting the various economic and business opportunities that exist in light of recent regional and international developments
- Providing a platform for networking by engaging key private and public actors from the GCC and Türkiye policy and corporate community
- Encouraging the exchange of experiences and expertise in the business sectors between the GCC and Türkiye
- Exploring ways to incorporate and stimulate small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Strengthening economic and developmental relations to serve as a foundation for a more cooperative climate that is conducive to better political ties

Conference Themes:

- Trade & Investment
- Infrastructure
- Industry & Logistics
- Agriculture and Food Industry
- Sports

You can register to attend the forum through the following link:
[HERE](#)

Download Brochure [HERE](#)



The brochure features logos for UIP-ICP, Gulf Research Center, and the Ministry of Trade of Türkiye. It prominently displays the event title "GCC - Türkiye Economic Forum" and the dates "11-13 November 2023" at the "Çırağan Palace Kempinski Hotel, İstanbul". The text invites attendees to the forum, organized by the Gulf Research Center in partnership with the International Cooperation Platform. It lists focus sectors: Trade & Investment, Infrastructure, Industry & Logistics, Agriculture & Food, and Sports. A QR code is provided for registration, with the text "scan to register". Logos of participating organizations are shown at the bottom.



This brochure features the event logo and title "GCC - Türkiye Economic Forum". It includes the dates "11-13 November 2023" and the location "Çırağan Palace Kempinski Hotel, İstanbul". A map of the Middle East and Türkiye is shown in the background. Logos for the organizing and supporting entities are displayed at the bottom, along with the website "www.gcc-turkiye.net".

Global Leadership Program 2023



Global Leadership Program Module 1: Global Politics September 11-15, 2023

The Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) were delighted to conclude the first one-week module of its **Global Leadership Program on Global Politics** that took place from September 11-15, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Global Politics module focused on topics such as contemporary global governance, broadening stakeholders in global politics, key issues in global politics and strategic foresight, navigating a fragmented international environment, and diplomacy and effective leadership. The GRCF and GCSP are currently planning the upcoming ‘**Global Security module**’ and ‘**Global Economic module.**’

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 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 past, current, 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



**REGISTER FOR UPCOMING
MODULES [HERE](#)**

**DOWNLOAD BROCHURE
[HERE](#)**

14th Gulf Research Meeting

GRM 2024 - Call for Workshop Proposals

Gulf Research Meeting 2024 Call for Workshop Proposals

GRM 2024 – Call for Workshop Proposals

14th Annual Gulf Research Meeting

Cambridge, UK, 9-11 July, 2024



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

Deadline: 16 October 2023



The Gulf Research Center is pleased to announce that we will be holding the **14th Gulf Research Meeting (GRM)** in 2024 from **July 9-11, in Cambridge, UK**.

The Call for Workshop Proposals has now been issued and we are keen on receiving numerous quality proposals

Access the Call for Workshop Proposals [HERE](#)
Click [HERE](#) to submit your Workshop Proposal Application

The deadline for the receipt of proposals is **October 16, 2023**

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) seeks to invite scholars and specialists to apply to direct a workshop focusing on societies and culture, economies, politics, international relations, defense and security, energy, sustainable development, and environment.

A number of topics for which we specifically like to receive proposals are listed on the call poster. However, it is important to stress that the Call is open to any topic in the social sciences and is not limited to the topics listed on the poster.

Please submit any questions to grm@grc.net



Activities September 2023



The Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) programme is an international independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme promoted and hosted by the GRC

Access the GLMM website [here](#).

Publications

The following publications have been or will be published shortly:

- GLMM Policy Brief No. 5 - September 2023: “The UAE as a Center of Innovation: Towards Attracting Global Talent,” by Magdalena Karolak, GLMM Non-resident Fellow
- GLMM Factsheet No. 8 - September 2023: “International Mobility of Tertiary-Level Students in Qatar,” by Sharique Umar, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University
- GLMM Policy Brief No. 6 - October 2023: “The Power of Micro-Level Data: Improving Precision in GCC Policy Design,” by Georges Naufal, GLMM Non-resident Fellow
- GLMM Explanatory Note No. 1 - October 2023: “Numbers Increasing, Dependency Decreasing: The GCC Changing Labor Immigration Emphasis Following the Arab Spring,” by Onn Winckler, Professor in the Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the University of Haifa.
- GLMM Policy Brief No. 7 - October 2023: “Interregional Consultative Migration Dialogues in the Asia-Middle East Corridor: The Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Its Relevance, Challenges, and Prospects for Migration-Development Nexus,” by Froilan Malit, GLMM Associated Researcher

All GLMM recent and past publications can be accessed [here](#)

Data

GLMM gathers, analyses, and republishes weekly national official statistical data concerning population, labour markets, and migration from dozens of websites of 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. Access the data [here](#).

Recently, notable data for Kuwait, were added to the database:

- [Kuwait: Unemployed population \(aged 15 years and above\) by nationality \(Kuwaiti/ non-Kuwaiti\), sex and age group \(census 2021\)](#)

- [Kuwait: Employed population by nationality \(Kuwaiti/ non-Kuwaiti\), sex and sector of economic activity \(census 2021\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Unemployed population \(aged 15 years and above\) by nationality \(Kuwaiti/ non-Kuwaiti\), sex and education level](#)
- [Kuwait: Labour force by nationality group \(census 2021\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Employed population by nationality \(Kuwaiti/ non-Kuwaiti\), sex and occupation group \(census 2021\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Population by nationality \(Kuwaiti/ non-Kuwaiti\), sex and age group \(2022\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Labour force by nationality group and sex \(census 2021\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Non-Kuwaiti population aged 15 and above, by sex, age group and marital status \(census 2021\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Kuwaiti population aged 15 and above, by sex, age group and marital status \(census 2021\)](#)

For all data on Kuwait in the GLMM Database: Click [here](#)

All GLMM data is gathered from published official national sources. For Kuwait, mainly: Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) and Public Authority for Civic Information (PACI).

GLMM produces unique GCC regional tables: For access, click [here](#).

ILO Meeting

Nasra M. Shah (online), Françoise De Bel-Air, and Imco Brouwer participated in the Migration Advisory Group (MAG) of the Fairway Programme - <https://www.ilo.org/beirut/projects/fairway/lang--en/index.htm> - of the Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Beirut, 7-8 September 2023.

Further information on GLMM

Contact: info.glmm@grc.net

GRC's Cultural & Media Program

Gulf Research Center (GRC) Podcast

Access all the podcasts on the GRC Podcast YouTube channel [here](#).



The GRC Podcast hosted Dr. Fahad Mohammad Al-Sharif from Al-Baha University to discuss and celebrate the year of Arab Poets. Watch the full episode [here](#).



The GRC Podcast hosted HE Dr. Khalil Al-Ibrahim, Former Director of the University of Hail, in celebration of Saudi Arabia's 93rd National Day. Watch the full episode [here](#).

Gulf Dialogue Lab



The Gulf Dialogue Lab hosted a symposium with Dr. Sharaf Al-Mazal and other participants in a session titled 'Cultural Events - Feasibility and Impact.'

Call for Paper Abstracts

The Gulf Research Center, in cooperation with the Gulf International Forum and Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, are pleased to announce the inaugural Gulf Studies Symposium (GSS) on March 4-5, 2024, at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The GSS invites scholars focused on Gulf studies to share their insights and expertise. We are now accepting abstract submissions for our seven workshops.

Our Vision:

At GSS, our driving ambition is to curate a collection of pioneering publications that not only uphold the highest standards of academic rigor but also shed light on fresh, invigorating perspectives about the six Gulf states, as well as Iraq, Iran, and Yemen. This symposium represents a confluence of rich histories, current narratives, and forward-looking analysis.

Who Should Submit?

We welcome the diverse voices and opinions that the academic world offers. Whether you are an emerging scholar carving out a niche or a seasoned academic with years of research under your belt, we are eager to hear from you. We particularly value contributions from scholars of varied backgrounds and affiliations, believing that every unique perspective enriches the collective understanding of the Gulf region.

Key Details:

Submission Deadline: October 10, 2023

The workshops cover seven themes led by top-tier experts focusing on defense and security; economy and governance; foreign policies of Gulf states; energy policies; U.S.-Gulf policy; society and culture; and geopolitics.

Access Abstract Details [Here](#) / Submit Abstract [Here](#) / Access Paper Guidelines [Here](#)

Workshop Topics

U.S.-Gulf Policy

[U.S.-Gulf Relations in Transition and the Future of Policy Dynamics](#)

Workshop Directors:

Dr. Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Fellow for the Middle East at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy

Dr. Jim Krane, the Wallace S. Wilson Fellow for Energy Studies at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy

Description and Topics:

This workshop will delve into the evolving dynamics of the U.S.-Gulf relations over the past decade, assessing potential future trajectories

against the backdrop of mounting uncertainties surrounding long-established U.S. interests in the region. While our primary focus is on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, the workshop will also touch upon Iran and Yemen, recognizing their role as significant points of divergence in U.S.-Gulf relations and among the Gulf States.

Gulf Studies Symposium
Call for Paper Abstracts
Paper Abstract Submission Deadline: October 10, 2023
Location: Georgetown University Washington, DC

The poster features a photograph of Georgetown University's Old Chapel building. Below the photo are three logos: the Gulf International Forum logo, the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies logo, and the Gulf Research Center logo with the tagline 'Knowledge for All'.

Geopolitics

[Nuclear Proliferation and Counter-Proliferation in the Gulf: Impacts on Domestic, Defense and Security Policies](#)

Workshop Directors:

Dr. Banafsheh Keynoush, Scholar of international relations and Middle East studies, a Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute, and a Fellow at the International Institute for Iranian Studies
Alex Vatanka, the founding director of the Iran Program at the Middle East Institute

Description and Topics:

This workshop explores the evolving nuclear landscape in the Gulf and the broader Middle East, shedding light on how these developments reverberate through domestic political landscapes and influence decision-making within the realms of geopolitics, impacting not only the Middle East but also global dynamics.

Defense and Security

[Broadening Gulf Security: New Perspectives and Persistent Challenges](#)

Workshop Directors:

Professor David Des Roches, an Associate Professor at the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Security Studies

GRC's Cultural & Media Program

Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, Professor of National Security Affairs at the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Study

Description and Topics:

This workshop endeavors to integrate holistic conceptions of security, such as the Copenhagen School's multi-dimensional security framework (in which "security" includes environmental, economic, and social dimensions), with the more traditional military and diplomatic understanding of security. The Gulf region serves as an ideal subject for a discussion of a multifaceted security paradigm due to the precarious state of its nations and security environment, fledgling national and regional institutions, the ambitious aspirations of local leaders, enduring historical divisions, the interests of global superpowers, its burgeoning youth demographic, and the pervasive subsidy-based rentier politics throughout the area.

Foreign Policies of Gulf States

[The Quest for Strategic Autonomy in the Gulf: Policies and Capabilities](#)

Workshop Directors:

Dr. Jonathan Fulton, Associate Professor of Political Science in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Zayed University, in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council

Dr. Jean-Loup Samaan, Senior Research Fellow at the Middle East Institute of the National University of Singapore and Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative

Description and Topics:

This workshop delves into the evolving Gulf foreign and defense policies, notably the potential pivot of Gulf states from the U.S. towards China or Russia. We will explore Western perceptions of the Gulf as a fresh battleground for major powers and Gulf states' quest for strategic autonomy. We invite papers that dissect the "great power competition" framework, assess local actors, and scrutinize the Gulf's adoption of "strategic autonomy" as a tool to navigate these changes and fit in the changing global order.

Economy, Governance and Reform

[Reimagining the Gulf: Economics, Politics, and Reform in Gulf Arab Nations](#)

Workshop Directors:

Dr. Abdullah Baabood, Chair of the State of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies and a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of International Research and Education, Waseda University, Tokyo-Japan
Özgür Pala, ABD PhD candidate specializing in Gulf Studies at Qatar University

Description and Topics:

Throughout much of the 20th century, Gulf Arab economies heavily leaned on hydrocarbon exports, primarily oil and gas. These vast reserves propelled them to immense prosperity. However, it also exposed their economies to the volatile global energy markets, necessitating a shift towards diversification. Recent decades have seen aggressive pushes towards economic reshaping, with significant investments in finance, tourism, logistics, and technology. This transformation has not only reshaped urban landscapes through mega-projects but also set the stage for a more versatile economic future.

Energy Policies

[Navigating the Energy Crossroads: The Gulf's Evolving Energy Landscape](#)

Workshop Directors:

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad, COO of Petroleb

Dr. Sumaya Yusuf Hasan, Chairperson of the Natural Resources and Environment Department, Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering, College of Graduate Studies, Arabian Gulf University, Kingdom of Bahrain

Description and Topics:

This workshop will study the most recent advancements, policies and developments in the energy sector: hydrocarbons and renewables. The Gulf stands unique with its vast reserves, poised to fuel the ever-increasing global energy demand. Its significance has grown since the Ukrainian Crisis, as it has become instrumental in satiating the world's appetite for petroleum products, petrochemicals, and fertilizers. While global pressures mount on the Gulf to ramp up oil and gas production, domestic demand for these products within the region is also rising.

Society and Culture

[The Art of Diplomacy: Cultural Diplomacy of Gulf states](#)

Workshop Directors:

Fatima Al-Dosari, Executive Director of Qatar American Institute for Culture

Abdelrahman Kamel, PhD student at Queen's University

Description and Topics:

Dive into an immersive exploration of cultural diplomacy as practiced within the Gulf states. This workshop explores how culture strategically fosters international alliances and enhances soft power. By dissecting the ever-evolving cultural diplomacy landscape in the region, participants will journey through both traditional and modern methods, state-driven and transnational practices, and the pivotal role of cultural institutions.

If you have any questions about the Gulf Studies Symposium, please email us at gss@gulfif.org.

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



The Case for Establishing a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Gulf
Dr. Robert Mason
September 2023



The Future of Hydrogen in the GCC Countries
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf & Asuka Nagasawa
September 2023



It's Not Sportswashing, It's Just Sports
Amnah Mosly
September 2023



Saudi Arabia's Efforts to Promote Dialogue on Ukraine
Amnah Mosly
September 2023



UAE – Brazilian Relations in Expansion Mode
Dr. Robert Mason
September 2023



The seventy-eighth Summit of the UN General Assembly: demands for reform and requirements for overcoming challenges / is the UN renewing its role in the international arena?
Dr. Abderrezaq Gherraf
September 2023



People Are Starting to Lose Hope
Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al Khatthan
September 2023



"Zangezur Corridor" The conflict of geography, politics and economics: How did it revive the conflict in the Caucasus again?
Dr. Abderrezaq Gherraf
September 2023



Will Dissolving the Rapid Support Forces End the Conflict in Sudan? Or Will it Prolong and Expand its Scope?
Yousef Kamil Khattab
September 2023



Does Burhan's visit to Egypt contribute to the calm situation in Sudan?
Yousef Kamil Khattab
September 2023



The Niger coup: Most Notably, the Algeria initiative. Will the settlement initiatives succeed in stopping the option of military intervention for the ECOWAS forces?
Dr. Abderrezaq Gherraf
September 2023



The Gabon coup was one of eight coups in West and Central Africa within three years: Has the era of French influence ended in Central West Africa?
Dr. Abderrezaq Gherraf
September 2023

Araa Magazine



189 (September 2023): International and regional economic partnerships and their impact on the future of the Gulf countries

GRC Participations

In September 2023, the GRC participated in numerous international events—both online and in-person — tackling issues pertaining to 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 this month.

September 13, 2023

The Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), Dr. Ahmed Sager, and the GRC's Senior Advisor, Professor Dr. Saleh Al-Khathlan, received at the GRC's office in Riyadh on September 13, 2023, the Head of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNASdc), Mr. Jonathan Lord. Both sides discussed areas of common interest.



September 6, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the closed online session of the Council of Council's Eighth Virtual Conference on 'The Securitization of Economics.'



September 6, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated remotely at the 2023 Strategy-20 Plus (S20+) International Conference: How the G20 Can Manage Conflicts and Advance Development in the World, on September 6, organized by the Guangzhou Institute of GBA, in a session on the prospects of Saudi-Iranian relations. He discussed several topics, including the return of bilateral diplomacy between the two countries, broader regional relations, and a pledge to maintain regional security and stability.



September 6, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received at the GRC's office in Riyadh, H.E. Mr. Mark Donovan, the Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, accompanied by the Deputy Ambassador Ms. Kim Ralston. During the meeting, both sides discussed Saudi-Australian relations and ways of developing them.



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 Gulf Research Center, participated on Al-Arabiya news channel and discussed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statements that Israel is close to reaching a peace agreement with Saudi Arabia. Watch the full interview [here](#).



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Director of the Economic Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated on Al-Arabiya news channel in a session entitled 'The Saudi Crown Prince explains to Fox News how Saudi Arabia became the Story of the Century.' Watch the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated on MBC channel and discussed the interview of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with Fox News.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in Al-Akhabariyah and discussed the interview that was done by Saudi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with Fox News. Watch the full interview [here](#).



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 Gulf Research Center, participated in Al Hadath news channel in a session entitled 'It is time to strive to end the conflict in Yemen.' Watch the interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated on the Al-Arabiya news channel in a session entitled 'Riyadh and Tehran... The two ambassadors arrived and began their duties.'



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in a program on Al Sharq TV (Bloomberg) discussing the interview that was done by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with Fox News. Watch the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abderrezek Gharraf, Senior Researcher at the GRC, appeared in Algeria International Channel News 24, to talk about the future of the role of France in Niger.



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