



GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum 11-13 November 2023 Istanbul



The GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum, held from November 11-13, served as a pivotal event aimed at fortifying economic collaboration between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Türkiye. Organized by the Gulf Research Center in partnership with the International Cooperation Organization in the Republic of Türkiye and supported by key entities such as the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Council of Ministers of Trade and Industry in the Gulf countries, the Federation of Chambers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEIK), the forum brought together notable figures from both regions. It witnessed substantial participation, with over 900 attendees from both the public and private sectors in the Gulf countries and Türkiye during the three-day event. This gathering resulted in numerous bilateral meetings, several trade exchanges, and the signing of several memoranda of understanding between the two sides.

Key attendees included H.E. Jassem Albudaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council; H.E. Omar Bolat, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye;

H.E. Mehmet Şimşek, Minister of Treasury and Finance of the Republic of Türkiye; H.E. Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment in the State of Kuwait; H.E. Albara Alaskandarani, Deputy Minister of International Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Economy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and H.E. Shaikh Hamad bin Salman Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Domestic and Foreign Trade, Bahrain Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In his opening speech, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, emphasized the heightened importance of regional relations amid escalating global tensions. He underscored the robust trade relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Türkiye. The forum's primary objective was to explore opportunities for further development of shared economic interests, with a focus on reviewing potential areas for progress and prosperity in a dynamic global landscape.

GRC Events & Activities

- GCC Türkiye Economic Forum
- Global Leadership Program: Global Security Module
- 14th Gulf Research Meeting: Call for Papers
- GRC Webinars:
 - The Future of Labor Demand in the Gulf States: What Skills?
 - Saudi-Canada Relations: Next Steps
 - Countdown to COP28

GRC Programs

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

GRC Publications

GRC Participations

GRC in the Media



Dr. Sager clarified that the forum specifically aimed to explore current aspects of relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the Republic of Türkiye, shedding light on recent achievements and historical milestones to provide guidance for future development. He concluded with an optimistic expression of hope, envisioning the forum as a distinctive environment for developing fruitful relationships and laying a solid foundation for a strategic partnership.



H.E. Jassem Albudaiwi, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, expressed gratitude for the organization of the GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum while underlining the deep fraternal relations between the Gulf countries and Türkiye, particularly in the economic field. He acknowledged historical ties and the strategic depth that Türkiye holds for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Mr. Albudaiwi presented economic statistics reflecting the strong economic ties between the Gulf countries and Türkiye, including the volume of trade exchange, Gulf investments in Türkiye, Turkish investments in the Gulf, and the significant

presence of Gulf and Turkish companies in each other's markets. He expressed the hope of the Gulf Cooperation Council Secretariat to move forward with talks leading to a free trade agreement between the Gulf countries and Türkiye, ensuring the continuity and strength of these economic and trade relations.

Following Mr. Albudaiwi's speech, subsequent addresses were delivered by Mr. Mehmet Şimşek, Minister of Treasury and Finance of the Republic of Türkiye; Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, and H.E. Dr. Saad Albarrak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, Kuwait. A signing ceremony of MOUs between Saudi and Turkish companies underscored the tangible commitment to economic collaboration forged during the forum.



The core sessions of the GCC-Türkiye Economic Forum, held on November 12–13, delved into critical economic domains, including trade and investment, industry and logistics, digital economy, infrastructure, agriculture and food, and sports.

Panel 1 on GCC-Türkiye Trade and Investment Relations addressed perspectives from both the governmental and private sectors in trade and investment. Discussions centered on strategies for enhancing trade relations between GCC countries and Türkiye, with a specific focus on overcoming key barriers such as regulatory obstacles. The panel also focused on identifying investment opportunities and encouraging cross-border investments.



H.E. Mr. Khalid Ali Salim Al Senaidi, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Development Affairs at the Secretariat General of Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; H.E. Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Al Saleh, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, UAE; H.E. Mr. Sultan Rashed Al-Khater, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Qatar; and H.E. Mr. Fawaz Saad Alghamdi, Deputy Governor for Private Sector Affairs and International Representation at the General Authority for Foreign Trade, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided perspectives from the government side. Mr. Serkan Yavuz, Trendyol, Head of MENA Operations, Türkiye, and Dr. Afsin Hurmuzlu, Chairman of Kingston Global Group, Qatar gave a view from the private sector. The sessions were moderated by Muhammed Zahid Gül, Director of the Sharqiyat Research Center Independent News and Mr. Hakan Güldağ, Chairman of the Board of Nasıl Bir Ekonomi.



Panel 2 on GCC-Türkiye Relations in Industry and Logistics, moderated by Prof. İlder Turan, President of Executive Board International Cooperation Platform, explored strategies to promote collaboration in the manufacturing sector, streamline regulations, and foster partnerships. Discussions covered improving logistical connections and infrastructure efficiency, as well as integrating sustainability and green practices.

The panel featured:

- Mr. Abdulaziz Hamad Alageel, Co-Founder of Value Added Company (Edhafat) and Former Secretary General of Gulf Organizations of Industrial Consulting (GOIC)
- Mr. Alper Özel, Chairman of Executive Committee of International Transporters' Association
- Ms. Ayşem Ulusoy, Managing Director at ATC Group
- Mohammed Nasser Mohammed Almaskari, Chairman of Board, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Al-Sharqiyah North Governorate Branch.



Panel 3 on Digital Economy and its Impact on GCC and Türkiye addressed the overall digital landscape. The panel was moderated by Ms. Sinem Cengiz, researcher at Qatar University, and featured H.E. Deemah AlYahya, Secretary General of the Digital Cooperation Organization. H.E. AlYahya delved into a compelling and critical discussion on the intersection of tech diplomacy, the digital economy, and global cooperation, aiming to address the intricacies of tech diplomacy and global digital cooperation. This conversation touched on various challenges, strategies, and collaborative approaches involving governments, the private sector, and civil society in the GCC and Türkiye.





Panel 4 on GCC-Türkiye Relations in Infrastructure discussed crucial infrastructure projects supporting economic ties between the GCC and Türkiye. Central to the discussion was the vital role played by public-private partnerships in funding and executing major infrastructure projects across GCC countries and Türkiye.

The panel was moderated by Dr. Mustafa Cetin Gümüşolu, Executive International Business Director at Alghihaz Holding. Panelists included:

- Dr. Abdulgader Amir, Deputy CEO for Planning and Development, Aseer Development Authority, Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Atayla Varlık, Special Advisor to the Executive Committee, Kolin Construction
- Mr. Guray Oskay, Director of Atolye Mimarlik



Panel 5 on GCC-Türkiye Relations in Agriculture and Food was moderated by journalist Sadi Özdemir and, focused on collaborative efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, addressing challenges such as water scarcity and climate issues as well as Türkiye's role in enhancing food security in the region. Discussions included exploring opportunities for value-added agricultural products and agribusiness collaborations, along with improving regulatory harmonization for smoother cooperation.

The panel featured insightful discussions led by Mr. E. Feyhan Yaşar, Chair of the Board, Yaşar Holding, and Prof. Dr. Yaşar Uysal, Dokuz Eylül University.

Panel 6 on Sports and Economy in the GCC and Türkiye was divided into two sections, with the first section focusing on representatives of grand organizations and was moderated by Mr. Ahmad Sondos, Executive Sports Producer and Presenter - TRT Arabic. Conversations were focused on fortifying cultural ties and economic relations through



collaborative sporting events. The panel delved into potential investments in sports infrastructure; notably, discussions extended to the organization of FIFA, emphasizing the crucial need for infrastructure companies and the construction of stadiums. Additionally, the panel explored the use of sports diplomacy to enhance overall partnerships, resulting in long-term positive outcomes for both regions.

Panelists included:

- H.E. Nasser Fahad Al-Khater, CEO, FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022
- Mr. Naif I. Al Dossary, Advisor to the Strategic Planning and Investment Deputy of the Saudi Ministry of Sports, Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Mehmet Büyükekşi, Chairman of the Turkish Football Federation



The second section delved into foreign direct investment in football and featured Rasmus Ankersen, President of the Göztepe Football Club, and Acun Ilıcalı, Chairman of Hull City Football Club





The Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) held the second one-week module of its **Global Leadership Program on Global Security Issues** from November 13-17, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Global Security module focused on topics such as the evolving nature of security; transnational challenges in the 21st century; violent non-state actors and extremism; organized crime; crisis management; regional and security arrangements; maritime security; the future of warfare; and energy security.

The 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 with the final module on Global Economics scheduled for April 22-26, 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

To register for the next module and access more details, please visit the program's website [HERE](#)
Download the brochure [HERE](#)





14th GULF RESEARCH MEETING 2024 - Call for papers now OPEN

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC) has opened its Call for Papers for **the 14th annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM)** to take place in Cambridge (UK) from July 9-11, 2024.

Full descriptions of workshops and other information can be found at <https://gulfresearchmeeting.net>

Those interested in applying with a paper abstract for GRM 2024 should submit their application to: <https://gulfresearchmeeting.net/register-paper-user>.

The deadline for applications is December 31, 2023. The GRM 2024 poster can be downloaded here: <https://gulfresearchmeeting.net/w/finalposter-grm2024.pdf>.

Please submit any questions you might have to: grm@grc.net. Please also feel free to distribute the announcement to colleagues in your network.

The Future of Labor Demand in the Gulf States: What Skills? GRC Webinar November 27, 2023



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November 2023

November 27 2023, 2:00-3:30 PM CET, 4:00-5:30 PM KSA

GLMM Webinar: The Future of Labor Demand in the Gulf States: What Skills?

GUEST SPEAKERS:

 Froilan Malit Visiting Fellow Department of Political Science American University Dubai Ph.D. Politics Candidate University of Glasgow	 Khalil Bohazza Manager of Labour Affairs Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour in the GCC States Bahrain	 Dr. Magdalena Karolak Associate Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences Zayed University Dubai	 Nejla Ben Mimoune Research Associate and Programs Manager Middle East Council for Global Affairs Doha	 Dr. Steffen Hertog Associate Professor in Comparative Politics Department of Government London School of Economics and Political Science	 Moderator: Dr. Christian Koch Director of Research Gulf Research Center
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Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

zoom

The Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) program of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) held a webinar session entitled “The Future of Labour Demand in the Gulf States: What Skills?,” on November 27, 2023. The speakers of the webinar were Nejla Ben Mimoune, Research Associate and Programs Manager, Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Doha; Khalil Bohazza, Manager of Labour Affairs in the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour in the GCC States, Bahrain; Steffen Hertog, Associate Professor in Comparative Politics in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science; Magdalena Karolak, Associate Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at Zayed University, Dubai; Froilan Malit, Visiting Fellow, Department of Political Science, American University Dubai, Ph.D. Politics Candidate, University of Glasgow. Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the GRC moderated the webinar.

The speakers focused on the question what, in the view of the economic reforms enacted recently, is the future of skills demand in the Gulf states, and how will this affect the trends and patterns of labor and labor migration to the region? The webinar reviewed the changes and innovations in the Gulf States’ economies over the last decade and assessed their impact on the actual structure of the workforce, by nationality (national - non-national) and skill level. The webinar discussed future trends in the demand for skilled labor, highlight the challenges they pose and measures to address these challenges, and reflected on possible scenarios for the future of migration to the region, concerning the number and characteristics of migrants. A summary and key notes will be published here.

Saudi-Canada Relations: Next Steps

GRC Webinar

November 5, 2023



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November 2023



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) held a webinar session entitled “Saudi-Canada Relations: Next Steps,” on November 6, 2023. The speakers of the webinar were Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center; H.E. Ambassador Jean-Philippe Linteau, Ambassador of Canada to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; H.E. Hoda Al-Helaissi, Member of the Shura Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; H.E. Dr. Ghazi Binzagr, Member of the Shura Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Board Member of Binzagr Group of Companies; Dr. Thomas Juneau, Associate Professor of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa; Dr. Bessma Momani, Full Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo; Ambassador (Retired) Arif Z. Lalani, Distinguished Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and Senior Advisor at StrategyCorp; and Hon. Gary Mar, President and CEO of Canada West Foundation. Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the GRC moderated the webinar. In total, more than 100 people attended the session.

Speakers highlighted the fact that this year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Canada that were first established in 1973. Since then, Saudi-Canada relations have witnessed cooperation on various fronts including on peace and security issues (such as energy security, humanitarian aid, and counterterrorism), as well as advancing economic and cultural ties. The speakers explained that the rapprochement following a break in ties in 2018 should now be structured strategically, as opposed to transactionally, and based both on necessity and shared interests.

The webinar focused on the aspects of political cooperation and security, trade and economics as well as education and culture. On the latter, it was acknowledged that for years, Canada has been one of the preferred destinations for students studying abroad from Saudi Arabia. Exchange programs, cultural events, and university programs were also cited as ways to improve the Canadian public perception of Saudi Arabia. One key issue raised during the webinar was that, presently, the general disposition in Canada toward the Kingdom stems from cultural and societal misunderstanding, even in the midst of Saudi Arabia’s immense transformation. The speakers thus agreed that more needs to be done to improve public perception and awareness between the two countries.

Some of the suggestions put forward for policy consideration include:

- Organizing Saudi-Canadian political dialogue meetings to engage in open discussion to improve understanding of each other’s perspectives.
- Holding a Saudi-Canada Economic Forum to promote trade and dialogue.
- Establishing a Saudi-Canada Strategic Council.
- Reviving the Saudi-Canadian Parliamentary Friendship Committee at the Shura Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Explore partnerships among think tanks, universities, R&D centers, and business-to-business forums.
- Encouraging people-to-people connections through cultural events and visits to improve mutual understanding and goodwill.

Countdown to COP28

GRC Webinar

November 2, 2023



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November 2023



On November 2, 2023, the Gulf Research Center organized an online webinar entitled “Countdown to COP28” examining the issues that would define the upcoming COP28 conference in the United Arab Emirates in December 2023.

Speakers in the webinar included: Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environment and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center; Eng. Emad Saad, CEO of the Abu Dhabi Environment Network; Juhaina Al Ghafri, Youth Representative from the Oman Environment Association; and Tareq Hassan, Founder of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network. Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center, moderated the webinar.

While hosting COP28 in the GCC region signifies the area’s commitment to global climate action and is seen as a potential encouragement for stakeholders to address the environmental challenges specific to the region, the meeting should also be seen as an opportunity for the GCC states to learn and benefit from international expertise in climate change solutions, for example in the areas of innovative practices as well as skills exchange. Thus, COP 28 can facilitate the transfer of climate-related technologies, allowing the GCC to access cutting-edge solutions and innovations in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and water management. Furthermore, it is a chance to garner potential economic opportunities through investments in renewable energy, sustainable technologies, and green infrastructure. This includes exploring funding mechanisms of innovations/technology and capacity building to help mitigate climate change impacts and reduce carbon emissions.

A very important aspect highlighted in the discussion was the need to encourage the youth to be part of the negotiating

parties. The COP being hosted in the GCC will encourage the youth from the region to take on a more participatory role in the GCC countries, vocalizing the importance of climate issues. Youth voices already play an important role in society, especially considering the current youth bulge being witnessed in the region. Oman is a good example of this, where outreach initiatives such as Oman Climate Dialogues, the Namat Competition, and Plastic Awareness Effort, as well as other educational activities in terms of capacity building for local talents all play a critical role.

It was also mentioned that COP28 holds the potential for increased collaboration and cooperation among GCC countries and the broader international community in addressing regional and global climate challenges. Thus, hosting the COP in the GCC region will significantly enhance the global visibility and reputation of the region, providing an opportunity to highlight its environmental efforts and commitment to addressing climate change on the international stage.

At the same time, many issues require more concrete solutions. Specific clarification is needed for the common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries based on the historical responsibility of emissions. Climate finance is one answer on this front but how developing countries and small islands can be assisted to cope with the impacts of climate change, as well as transferring green technology to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, remains unclear. It was further argued that the climate change debate needs to connect with discussions about social vulnerability, gender inequality, and wider instability. Global and regional research shows that women and girls face increased vulnerabilities to climate change, therefore gender issues need more attention in almost all of the MENA countries.



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 website [here](#).

The GLMM Webinar held on November 27 on “The Future of Labour Demand in the Gulf States: What Skills?” can be found in this newsletter on page 7.

GLMM Publications

The following will be published shortly:

- 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 Explanatory Note No. 2 - November 2023: “Aspirations and Strategies to Remain in Saudi Arabia: The Case of Middle-class South Asians” by Areej Jamal, Doctoral researcher at the University College London, Social Research Institute

The following papers are scheduled to be published in December:

- GLMM Explanatory Note No. 3 - December 2023: “Is Youth Unemployment the Real Labor Challenge to the GCC Countries?” by Wasseem Mina, Professor in Department of Economics and Finance, College of Business and Economics, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain.
- GLMM Explanatory Note No. 4 - December 2023: “Reforms without Rights: The GCC states’ Blinkered View of Labour Reforms” by Rima Kalush and Vani Saraswathi, Migrant-Rights.Org.
- GLMM Policy Brief No. 7 - December 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](#).

GLMM 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 are no longer publicly available online except from the GLMM website [here](#).

Recently data were added to the database:

Kuwait

<https://gulfmigration.grc.net/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/?search=1&cmct=Kuwait>

Oman

<https://gulfmigration.grc.net/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/?search=1&cmct=Oman>

Qatar

<https://gulfmigration.grc.net/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/?search=1&cmct=Qatar>

GLMM produces unique GCC regional tables:

<https://gulfmigration.grc.net/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/?search=1&cmct=GCC>.

GLMM Upcoming Webinar

GLMM will organize a third webinar on Wednesday January 17 at 1pm CET entitled: “Gulf-born, second and third generation foreign residents: A resource for Gulf states’ development process” with five distinguished experts. Details and registration will be available starting 15 December at the GLMM home page [here](#).

For further Information on GLMM, please contact:

info.glmm@grc.net



The Gulf Research Center produces various 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



Recent Developments between Afghanistan and the GCC States
Christine Williams
November 2023



The Effect of the Gaps between North and South on the Crisis in Gaza
Amnah Mosly
November 2023



What Europe Expects from COP28
Robert Mason
November 2023



GCC & Sub-Saharan African Countries Opportunities
Gulf Research Center
November 2023



GCC-Estonia Relations
Amnah Mosly
November 2023



Environmental Impacts of the Current War in Gaza
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf and YU Ruiz
November 2023



The GCC States and Indonesia: Toward New Horizons
Robert Mason
November 2023



The End of Nagorno-Karabakh and the New Power Balance in the Caucasus
Dr. Emil Avdaliani
November 2023



Selected Arabic Articles & Research Papers



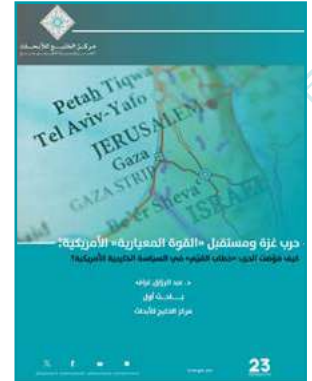
Countdown to COP28: What do the GCC countries expect?
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf and YU Ruizi
November 2023



"Invisible Wars" Managing the War in Gaza on Social Media Networks: "X" Platform in the Eye of the Hurricane "The Price of the Truth"
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf
November 2023



The Israeli nuclear weapon and scenarios for its use in the war on Gaza
Yusef Kamil Khattab
November 2023



Gaza War
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf
November 2023

Araa Magazine



How did the West practice the ritual of "atonement for sin" at the expense of the Palestinian cause?
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf
November 2023



October 7th Attack (Background of the Event)
Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf
November 2023



191 Relations Between the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries and ASEAN: Reality and Hopes
November 2023



In November 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.

November 28, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a keynote speaker in the seminar organized by the Library of Alexandria in Alexandria, the Arab Republic of Egypt. The session was titled “Challenges of Information Circulation in the Digital Age: Between Credibility and Popularity.” It discussed ways to comprehensively confront the problem of misinformation and rumors and the challenges they pose to the quality and credibility of information.

November 28, 2023



On November 28, 2023, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Library of Alexandria, represented by its director, Professor Dr. Ahmed Zayed, and the Gulf Research Center, represented by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, for cooperation between the two parties in the fields of research, studies, and publishing, as well as the establishment of an association of centers.

November 27, 2023



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) contributed a chapter on Saudi Arabia to a dossier of the Middle East Council on Global Affairs on “The Middle East’s Fragile Reset: Actors, Battlegrounds, and (Dis) order” edited by Galip Dalay & Tarik M. Yousef. The dossier can be found [here](#).

November 24, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Ekotürk television program ‘Time Difference’ and discussed the regional and global developments on whether Saudi-Israeli normalization is still possible, and also the GCC-Turkish economic relations. The full interview can be seen [here](#).



November 21, 2023



The Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), Dr. Ahmed Sager, and Senior Researcher, Dr. Nayef Al-Rasheed, received several students visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as part of the 'Kingdom Gateway' program that the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies is working on and which targets visiting students from many universities. The students visited the GRC and discussed the culture of Saudi society, especially in the youth community.

November 21, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, received Mr. Manuel Hernandez Gamallo, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. The meeting was attended by GRC's senior researcher, Dr. Rafael Hernandez de Santiago.

November 21, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received at the GRC's office in Riyadh Mr. Cliff Kupchan, Chairman of 'Eurasia Group' and a former official in the US State Department. The meeting was attended by Dr. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the GRC. Both sides exchanged views on topics of common interest related to the current situation in the region.

November 21, 2023



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research, participated in the 7th EU-GCC Business Forum held in Bahrain on November 21, 2023. The theme of the forum was "Strategies for Economic Inclusion and Sustainable Development," with panel discussions on energy security, the circular economy, logistics and women's empowerment. Supporting trade and investment is considered a core element of the EU's Strategic Partnership with the Gulf.



November 21, 2023



The Gulf Research Center received a delegation from the Academy of Diplomacy of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the GRC office in Riyadh. The delegation was led by Mr. Nguyen Hung Son, Vice President of the Diplomatic Academy. The discussion focused on KSA's foreign policies and active role in regional mediation and other regional developments.

November 19, 2023



The GRC participated in the 19th Manama Dialogue that gathered more than 500 participants to take stock of Middle East regional developments. Sessions focused on War, Diplomacy and De-escalation; Navigating Global Competition; New Initiatives for Regional Peace; the Politics of Energy Security; and the Future of the Middle East.

November 3, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, received the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Park Joon-Young, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. Both sides discussed a number of topics of common interest related to the current situation in the region.

November 19, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in a discussion at the Residence of France with H.E. Mr. Ludovic Pouille, the French Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Ms. Anne Grillo, Director of North Africa and the Middle East in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The discussion focused on the implications of the crisis in Gaza and French-Saudi cooperation on regional issues.

November 16, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, spoke virtually in the opening session of the Fifth Annual Gulf International Conference, held in Washington D.C., on November 16, 2023. Dr. Sager discussed Saudi Arabia's diplomatic relations with the United States, China, and Russia, in light of the war in Gaza and other international crises, such as the crisis in Ukraine.

November 2, 2023



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC participated in an interview on the 'Tafaseel' podcast for the GRC, which was held by Dr. Zaid Al-Fadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media program at the GRC. 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 Participation



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in Al-Arabiya's news program and discussed Saudi Arabia's humanitarian aid to Gaza. Watch the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on Al-Akbariyah news program in an episode entitled 'Saudi Arabia in the BRICS.' Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in Al-Arabiya news program in an episode entitled 'China: We reject the displacement of the Palestinians.' Watch the full interview [here](#).



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist at the GRC, participated in an interview with Bloomberg in an episode entitled 'Investing in the African continent is a wonderful opportunity that benefits Saudi Arabia.' Watch the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the Al-Mawgef news program in an episode entitled 'The Saudi position on the Palestinian issue.' Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in Al-Akbariyah news program in an episode entitled 'The Arab position does not accept double standards.' Watch the full episode [here](#).



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GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER **November 2023**



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