



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All



THE GULF IN-DEPTH

Executive Learning Program

6-10 October, 2024

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 WHAT IS “THE GULF IN-DEPTH” PROGRAM?	4
02 IMPORTANCE OF THE GULF IN DEPTH	5
03 PROGRAM OUTLINE	7
04 ADDED VALUES OF THE GULF IN-DEPTH	9
05 PROVIDING AN UNPARALLELLED EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE	10
06 WHO SHOULD ATTEND?	11
07 METHODOLOGY	12
08 ELIGIBILITY	13
09 LOGISTICS	14



What is “The Gulf In-Depth” Program?

- An innovative and in-depth executive learning program focusing on the key strategic aspects of the Arab Gulf region and its linkages to the international community.
- An opportunity to gain unprecedented knowledge and insight into the workings of the Arab Gulf region from knowledgeable practitioners and insiders.
- A program bringing together leaders from government, business, academia, and the independent sector for a **week-long session** of highly focused presentations and intense debate.
- An initial building block in the establishment of a life-long network of experts.
- Held in **Riyadh**, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the program incorporates an understanding of the region’s development, including the rapid economic, social, and cultural progress experienced throughout the Gulf. This encompasses various aspects such as urbanization, infrastructure growth, economic diversification, technological advancements, and increased global interactions.

Importance of the Gulf In-Depth Program

The Gulf has emerged as a strategically significant political and economic region, serving as the bridge between the East and the West.

- The Gulf region holds immense strategic importance across the political, security, and energy domains. It continues to play a pivotal role in global energy markets with the region containing two-thirds of the world's proven reserves of oil and currently supplying 32% of the world's total demand.
- In the past decade, the Gulf states have notably embarked on strategic initiatives to diversify their economies away from oil dependency in turn opening themselves up in unprecedented ways. By the year 2050, the combined GDP of the GCC countries is projected to reach \$6 trillion.
- Beyond its economic significance, the Gulf serves as a vital link between East and West, profoundly shaping both regional as well as international diplomacy and security.
- Socially and culturally, the Gulf region is located at the heart of the Middle East with Saudi Arabia the birthplace of Islam and the center of the Islamic world. Recent social transformations are having a widespread regional impact.
- Understanding the Gulf and its dynamics is therefore key for astute decision-making across diverse regional contexts. Awareness of the growing global relevance of Saudi Arabia and the entire Gulf region are of utmost importance today and will prove invaluable in the future.





Providing Insight into the Intricacies of Gulf Life

Gaining insight into the unique social and political structures of the Gulf is crucial for grasping and leveraging the region's strategic significance.

To this end, the program provides for:

- Opportunities to learn from experts on Gulf society, culture, politics, economics, and security.
- Understanding the links between the Gulf and key strategic regions of the globe and what they mean for the development of the region.
- Uncovering the links between educational and social institutions, politics, economics, and media.
- Discovering possibilities for lucrative investment in one of the fastest-developing regions in the world.
- Understanding developments in the Gulf region as separate from those in the wider Middle East.

Program Outline

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

Day 1

The Gulf in Transition

An Overview of the Arab Gulf's Historical Development

Exploring Visions and Plans Across GCC Countries

Gulf Society as a Driver of Change – Women, Youth and Demographics

Day 2

The Political Environment in the Gulf Region

Understanding the Decision-Making Process in the Gulf

Political Reform and Development in the GCC States

Outlook and Role of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Day 3

The Gulf Economy

The Gulf in the Global Economic Context

Oil, Gas, and Energy Markets in the Gulf

Challenges to Economic Diversification in the GCC states



Day 4

Gulf Foreign and Security Issues

The Foreign and Security Policies of the GCC States

Navigating Maritime Security Challenges: The Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf

Security Challenges in the Middle East and GCC Responses

The GCC States and External Powers

Day 5

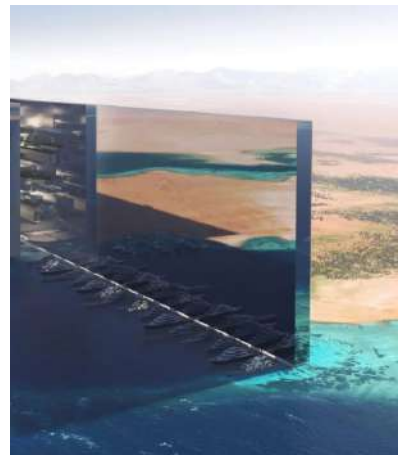
The Gulf Moving Forward

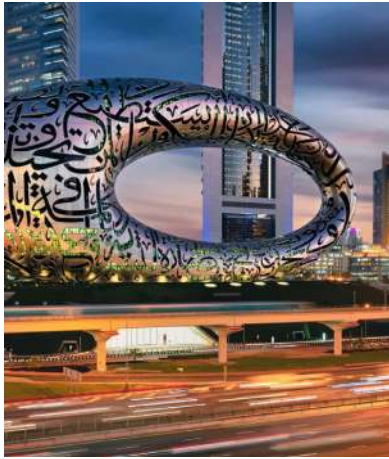
The Post-Oil Gulf: Climate Change and the Environment

The Gulf in a New World Order

The New Social Order in the Gulf

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





Added Values of the Gulf In-Depth

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

Providing an Unparalleled Experience and Expertise

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



GRC Programs & Events



Discover GRC's Global Leadership Program which offers a dynamic platform for professionals to deepen their understanding of global politics, security, and economics while fostering critical thinking and networking in a diverse and interactive environment. For more information, visit our website <https://programs.grc.net/>



GRM (2023) «Fostering Knowledge and Collaboration: Annual Gulf Research Meeting facilitates discussion and dissemination of research to address pivotal challenges shaping the Gulf region's future». Learn more [here](#)

Who Should Attend?

- **Diplomats and Foreign Affairs Officials:** Those involved in diplomacy and international relations will benefit from a deeper understanding of the political dynamics and strategic importance of the Gulf region.
- **Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs:** Individuals engaged in business activities or seeking investment opportunities in the Gulf region can gain valuable insights into the economic landscape and business practices.
- **Academics and Researchers:** Scholars and researchers interested in Gulf studies, Middle Eastern politics, social dynamics, or economic development will find the program enriching in terms of theoretical frameworks, empirical data, and case studies.
- **Government Officials and Policymakers:** Officials responsible for formulating policies related to foreign affairs, trade, security, and development can enhance their decision-making capabilities.
- **Journalists and Media Professionals:** Media professionals seeking to report on events, trends, and developments in the Gulf region will find the program valuable for enhancing their knowledge base and analytical skills.

The Gulf-In-Depth Program reflects the complexities of today's global environment and the overlapping and intersecting interests of various sectors of society.

As such, the composition of the participants reflects the multitude of institutions concerned with the status and future development of the Gulf region.

Methodology

The Gulf Research Center structures its learning programs by emphasizing social research and critical thinking tools to maximize the value for course participants. The program has been developed around **four** layers: classroom teaching, roundtable discussion, interaction with GCC personalities and institutions, and site visits.

Classroom teaching:

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

Open discussion periods:

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

Interaction with GCC personalities:

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

Site visits:

As part of the program, participants will have the opportunity to embark on a site visit to Diriyah, a historic town located just outside Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Diriyah holds immense significance as the birthplace of the first Saudi state and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the visit, participants will explore the rich cultural heritage and historical landmarks of Diriyah and gain insights into the region's history.



Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria:

Candidates must demonstrate direct involvement in professional responsibilities that impact the GCC countries. While possessing an advanced university degree is advantageous, it is not a prerequisite. Proficiency in English is essential, as the program will be conducted exclusively in English.

Expectations:

Selected participants are expected to commit to attending all sessions throughout the program, ensuring their availability for the entire workshop duration. A designated day is allocated for both arrival and departure.

Benefits of Participation:

Accepted candidates will receive exclusive access credentials comprising a username and password to the program's dedicated website. Participants will find essential reading materials and their personal information.

We will keep you updated with the latest program information through this portal, making it easy to communicate with our team and ask any queries you might have.

Logistics

Date:

6-10 October, 2024

Location:

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Specific details on the venue will be provided upon request.

Fees:

The fee for the Gulf In-Depth Program is **3200 USD**. This fee includes attendance at all lectures and discussion groups, course materials, daily lunches, and dinners on selected evenings.

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

Application:

To apply for the program, a completed application form must be submitted to the Gulf Research Center. The application form can be downloaded through the GRC website here:

- Prospective candidates are encouraged to apply online.
- Only complete applications will be considered.
- Candidates must fill out the fields in which they explain how participation will benefit them. It is therefore necessary to fill in these fields with special care.

Payment instructions will be provided upon approval of the application.

Contact:

Executive Learning Program Administrator

Mob: +966 55 2870 049

Tel: +966 12 6511999 ext. 315

Email: gid@grc.net

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