



## Gstaad Middle East Dialogue

June 28-30, 2024

Gstaad, Switzerland

The Gulf Research Center (GRC), in partnership with the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Institute of Peace and Diplomacy (IPD), concluded a two-day closed workshop in Gstaad, Switzerland, from June 28-30, 2024, under the framework of the "Gstaad Middle East Dialogue," in which mechanisms and implications for the Middle East post-October 7th were discussed.

The 2024 Gstaad Dialogue brought together – in a discreet policy-focused annual dialogue – a diverse group of security and policy experts from the region to develop fresh thinking and pragmatic initiatives for addressing today's regional dilemmas. The meetings itself focused on the strategic landscape of the Middle East and North Africa post-October 7 while also zeroing in on specific issues such as maritime security and the regional race for nuclear capabilities and advanced military technologies. A final session debated the outlook for the regional Middle Eastern order following the current Gaza War.

By involving relevant governmental actors, diplomatic representatives, experts, and members of civil society, the Gstaad Dialogue serves as a Track 1.5 "theory-to-implementation bridge." Through open and robust discussions, the objective of the meeting is to identify common ground, distill important lessons, and produce actionable policy recommendations that are subsequently conveyed to decision-makers for consideration. In this sense, the 2024 edition of the Gstaad Dialogue once again served as a laboratory for incubating and elaborating upon ideas that are being developed through ongoing dialogue in and about the Middle East.



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All



**GCSP**  
Geneva Centre for  
Security Policy



THE INSTITUTE FOR  
PEACE & DIPLOMACY

Challenging the Conventional, Rethinking Foreign Policy

### ◆ GRC Events & Activities

Gstaad Middle East Dialogue

GRC Webinar: "Food Security Forum in Light of Desertification and Climate Change in the Arab World 2024"

GRC Webinar: "Emerging Trends in Sub-Saharan African Migration to the GCC"

Upcoming: Gulf In-Depth Executive Learning Program

### ◆ GRC Programs

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

Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

Cultural & Media Program

### ◆ GRC Publications

◆ GRC Participations

◆ GRC in the Media



Organized by the Gulf Research Center, Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network, and The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa



## احتفاءً باليوم العالمي للتصحر والجفاف 2024 منتدى الأمن الغذائي في ضوء التصحر والتغير المناخي بالعالم العربي



On June 29, 2024, in recognition of World Day of Desertification and Drought, the Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network, the Gulf Research Center, and The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa participated in a webinar titled "Food Security Forum in Light of Desertification and Climate Change in the Arab World 2024." The Forum supported the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13, 15, and 17.

Ten experts from the following organizations participated in discussions on desertification, drought, and climate change as some of the most important environmental challenges facing the Arab region, exacerbating other environmental problems, whether water, air pollution, food security, etc.:

1. The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
2. The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)
3. Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD)
4. The Gulf Research Center (GRC)
5. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
6. The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)
7. Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network
8. The Arab Union for Water and Food Security (AUWFS)
9. Sulaiman Bin Abdulaziz Al Rajhi Charitable Foundation

10. The Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development (JSDCBD)

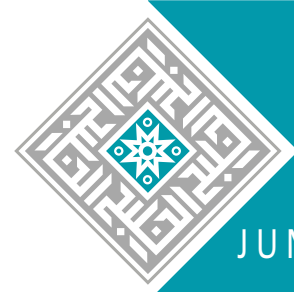
11. Golden Grass Incorporated, Saudi Arabia

The experts presented a wide range of experiences and solutions to fight desertification and climate change. There are a number of policies that must be followed by countries affected by climate change and threatened by desertification. The most important policies are (but are not limited to):

1. Climate change adaptation policies and procedures
2. Sustainable rational management of water resources including water recycling
3. Applying a basket of policy mix tools such as economic tools and legislation to stimulate sustainable agriculture
4. Exchanging best practices and experiences between Arab countries who face the same challenges
5. Investing in new technologies and technology transfer (whether social, economic, administrative, or technological innovation)
6. Encouraging the use of traditional and indigenous methods in agriculture whenever possible

It was noted that the success of the above-mentioned policies is important to achieving the various Vision plans of the Arab countries including initiatives such as Saudi Arabia's Green Initiative and the Green Middle East.

The full webinar can be viewed [here](https://www.grc.net).



**GLMM and CIRS Webinar:**  
Emerging Trends in Sub-Saharan African Migration to the GCC

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Kristian Alexander**  
Senior Fellow at the Rabdan Security & Defense Institute (RSDI), Abu Dhabi
- Mrs. Aida Awel**  
Chief Technical Adviser, Labour Migration at International Labour Organisation (ILO), Addis Ababa
- Dr. Françoise De Bel-Air**  
Senior Fellow, GLMM
- Mr. Lawrence Egulu**  
Commissioner for Employment Services, Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development of the Republic of Uganda
- Mr. Paul Odhiambo**  
Independent Policy Analyst, Nairobi
- Prof. Lahra Smith**  
Associate Professor and Director, African Studies Program, Georgetown University
- Mr. Imco Brouwer**  
Managing Director, GLMM

**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**  
13:00 - 14:30 Saudi Arabia Time

**zoom**

**Logos:** Gulf Research Center (Knowledge for All), GLMM, and CIRS (Center for International and Regional Studies).

The Gulf Labor Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Program of the Gulf Research Center (<https://gulfmigration.grc.net>) together with the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) (<https://cirs.qatar.georgetown.edu>) organized a joint webinar on the subject of “Emerging Trends in Sub-Saharan African Migration to the GCC” on June 12, 2024. In this webinar, experts explored several important questions concerning migration trends between Sub-Saharan Africa and the GCC region. Migration from Africa has been a significant topic of scholarly interest for many decades, encompassing both intra-continental movements and migration to other parts of the world. Recent trends have demonstrated notable shifts in migration patterns, particularly the growing migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. The GCC region appeals to many individuals seeking economic and personal advancement, as well as enhanced living standards.

**Speakers of the webinar included:**

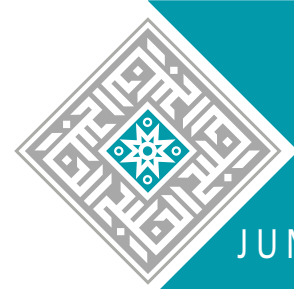
**Mr. Lawrence Egulu** - Commissioner for Employment Services, Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development of the Republic of Uganda; **Mrs. Aida Awel** - Chief Technical Adviser, Labour Migration at International Labour Organisation (ILO), Addis Ababa; **Mr. Paul Odhiambo** - Independent Policy Analyst, Nairobi; **Prof. Lahra Smith** - Associate Professor and Director, African Studies Program, Georgetown University; **Dr. Kristian Alexander** - Senior Fellow at the Rabdan Security & Defense Institute (RSDI), Abu Dhabi; and **Dr. Françoise De Bel-Air** - Senior Fellow, GLMM.



# Gulf In-Depth - Upcoming

Executive Learning Program

6-10 October, 2024



04

JUNE 2024

## THE GULF IN-DEPTH Executive Learning Program

6-10 October, 2024

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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.



Gain unprecedented knowledge and insight into the workings of the Arab Gulf region from knowledgeable practitioners and insiders.

Join leaders from government, business, academia, and the independent sector for a week-long session of highly focused presentations, intense debate, and the opportunity to build a lifelong network of experts.

Discover Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to gain insight into the region's rapid economic, social, and cultural progress, and better understand the kingdom's global

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) is pleased to announce the launch of the 3rd edition of the Gulf In-Depth, a week-long intensive executive learning program focused on the strategic aspects of the Arab Gulf.

### 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,



## THE GULF IN-DEPTH Executive Learning Program

6-10 October, 2024

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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.

**Date:** October 6 - 10, 2024.

**Location:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

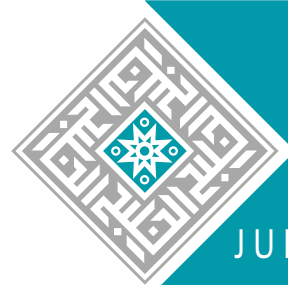
The Gulf In-Depth is designed for diplomats, business leaders, academics, government officials, and media professionals who are interested in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the political, economic, and social dynamics of the Gulf region.

**Fee:** 3,200 USD/12,000 SAR

To apply for the program, a completed online application form must be submitted to the Gulf Research Center. The deadline for registration is three months before the program date.

**To register for the program, click [here](#).**

**For more information and details, click [here](#).**



## Database

For more than a decade GLMM has gathered, analyzed, and republished official data related to labour and migration from multiple sources of all six GCC states. The database contains more than 1,000 tables.

## Country tables

Access Bahrain Data [here](#)

Access Kuwait Data [here](#)

Access Oman Data [here](#)

Access Qatar Data [here](#)

Access Saudi Arabia Data [here](#)

Access UAE Data [here](#)

## GCC regional tables

GLMM also constructs unique GCC regional tables based exclusively on the official country data. [Access them here.](#)

## Publications

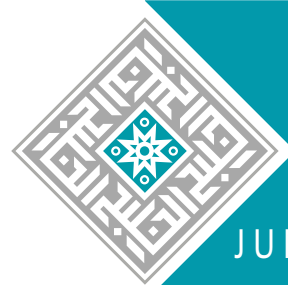
Françoise De Bel-Air, "Sub-Saharan African Migrants in the Gulf States," GLMM Factsheet No. 11, June 2024 - <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/publications/#Factsheets>

All GLMM publications: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/publications/>

## Advisory Board

On June 10 the GLMM international advisory board met to discuss GLMM activities of 2023-2024 and its plans for 2024-2025. The board is comprised of: **Prof. Mouawiya Al Awad**, Professor at Zayed University/Director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), Dubai; **Prof. Lubna Al Kazi**, Professor at the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Kuwait University, Kuwait City; **Dr. Fahad Al Sharif**, Senior Researcher at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS), Riyadh; **Dr. Marla Asis**, Director of the Scalabrini Migration Center (SMC)/ Editor of the Asian Pacific Migration Journal (APMJ), Manila; **Prof. Ibrahim Awad**, Director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS), Cairo; **Dr. Khalil Bohazza**, Director of the Labour Affairs GCC Executive Bureau, Manama; **Dr. Ryszard Cholewinski**, Senior Migration Specialist at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS), Beirut; **Dr. Jean-Christophe Dumont**, Head of the International Migration Division in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Organisation for Economic Development (OECD), Paris; **Prof. Ray Jureidini**, Professor at the Hamid Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Doha; **Dr. Nader Kabbani**, Director of Research at the Middle East Council for Global Affairs (MECGA), Doha; and **Prof. Gerasimos Tsourapas**, Professor of International Relations, University of Glasgow. For more information on the advisory board members click [here](#).

Contact: Mr. Imco Brouwer - [imco.brouwer@grc.net](mailto:imco.brouwer@grc.net)



### Bonn Climate Change Conference UNFCCC SB60 (June 5-10, 2024)



Photo Source: [United Nations](#) (2024)

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the GRC's Environmental Security and Sustainability program, attended the 60th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in Bonn which is the main preparatory meeting for UNFCCC COP29 in Azerbaijan in November 2024.

Dr. Abdelraouf participated in various sessions on climate justice, finance, loss and damage, as well as meetings of the Climate Action Network. He also met with various stakeholders from civil society organizations, the UN, and member states, including with the holder of the next presidency of COP29 from Azerbaijan.

The key meeting was with the UN Science Policy Business Forum, in which the GRC will play an active role and form an alliance with Major Groups at UNEP as well as other UN agencies in preparation for the COP29.

### International Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) preparatory meeting for the OEWG3 SPP (16-21 June 2024)



The third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare proposals for a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (OEWG-3), was held

at the International Conference Center in Geneva (CICG), Switzerland, from June 17-21, 2024.

The Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) led the Civil Society participation in the meeting as GRCF is currently the co-chair of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) of UNEP. As part of the GRCF's responsibilities, it coordinated the:

- UN Major Groups consultations on June 16th as a preparatory meeting
- Daily morning briefings for UN Major Groups
- Two meetings for the proposed Global Scientist Alliance for Chemicals on June 17th and 21st.
- A meeting with UNEP Chief Scientist to discuss the proposed Global Scientist Alliance for Chemicals



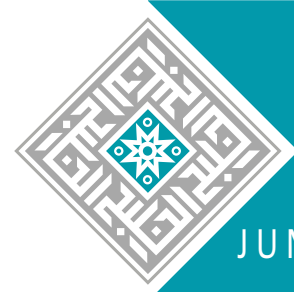
*Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf co-chairing one of the morning meetings*



Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf speaking during the opening session of the consultation day on June 16th with the Chair of Chemicals Secretariat and Chair of OEWG3 (Government of Netherlands)



Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf speaking to colleagues from the proposed Global Scientist Alliance



مختبر الحوار الخليجي  
Gulf Dialogue Lab

## Publications

### Research Paper



'Traits and Characteristics of Soft Power'

By: Shahad AlGhamdi

June 2024

Access the full paper [here](#).

### Research Paper

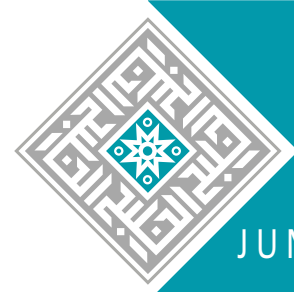


'Professional Opportunities for the Arabic Language'

By: Shaker Nouri

June 2024

Access the full paper [here](#).



**GRC PODCAST**

بودكاست مركز الخليج للأبحاث

### GRC Podcast Activities

**June 5, 2024**



The GRC podcast aired a new episode that focused on the emergence and development of the cultural movement in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In this episode, Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the GRC's Cultural and Media program interviewed researcher and writer Mr. Hussein Bafqih. Access the full episode [here](#).

**June 6, 2024**



The GRC podcast aired another episode this month on the tools of diplomacy as a method governed by intelligence and refined by conscious experiences. In this episode Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the GRC's Cultural and Media program, interviewed Ambassador Faisal Trad. Access the full episode [here](#).





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 & Analyses



### GCC-Norway Relations

Amnah Mosly

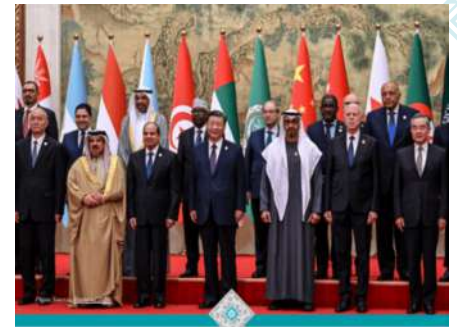
June 2024



### Gulf Investments in China

Layla Ali

June 2024



### Opportunities and Limits of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum

Layla Ali

June 2024

## Selected Arabic Articles and Research Papers



### The Launch of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Leaders' Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan

Ambassador Madyar Menelbekov

June 2024



### The Iranian Presidential Elections and their Domestic, International, and Regional Impact

Yousef Kamil Khattab

June 2024



### Putin and Kim: Comments on the Visit

Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khatlan

June 2024



**Sudan's Orientation Towards Russia: Historical Dimensions, Current Motivations, and Future Implications**  
 Yousef Kamil Khattab  
 June 2024



**The Global South: When Illusion Intersects with the Truth**  
 Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khatlan  
 June 2024



**The Rise of Extreme Right-Wing Gains in European Elections**  
 Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf  
 June 2024

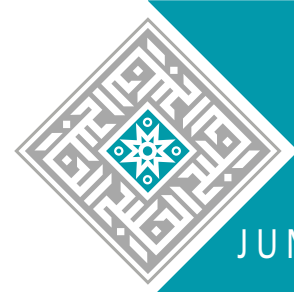
**Araa Magazine**



**Riyadh and Washington: Towards a Partnership for the Next Five Decades**  
 Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khatlan  
 June 2024



**The Impact of the US-China Trade War on the Arab Region and the Gulf States**  
 #198 (June 2024)



In June 2024, 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.

## June 24, 2024



Noriko Suzuki, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) based in Tokyo, Japan, met with H.E. Dr. Ghazi Faisal Binzagr, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Japan. Both sides discussed ways of collaboration between the GRC and the Saudi embassy in Tokyo in various fields of interest.

## June 14, 2024



Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental Security and Sustainability Program at the Gulf Research Center, and GRC Researcher Hannan Alghamdi attended a breakfast meeting organized by the Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CASCI) on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. The meeting featured representatives from the Ministry of Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA), and members of CASCI.

The meeting highlighted the evolving dynamics of Saudi Arabia's economy and emphasized the Kingdom's commitment to fostering a welcoming environment for international investors. The discussion also showcased new regulations and policies, illustrating how they streamline the investment process and pave the way for growth and collaboration.

## June 11, 2024



Layla Ali, Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker and presented her paper, written in tandem with Leontine von Felbert, in a panel session on 'The GCC, Germany, and Differing Approaches to Multipolarity' at the GCC-German Young Leaders Forum which was an exclusive side event of the 6th German-Arab Gulf Dialogue on Security and Cooperation organized by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the German-Arab Friendship Association (DAFG) in Berlin on June 11, 2024.

## June 10, 2024



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker in a panel session at the 6th German-Arab Gulf Dialogue on Security and Cooperation organized by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the German-Arab Friendship Association (DAFG) in Berlin on June 10, 2024. The panel focused on the 'Socioeconomic Transformations in Germany and the Gulf – Understanding Objectives, Identifying Opportunities for Cooperation.'



## June 8, 2024



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), attended the 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), which took place from June 5-8, 2024, in Russia in which the Sultanate of Oman was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Sfakianakis held discussions and participated in meetings with various enterprises at the forum.

## June 7, 2024



The third Wanshou Dialogue on Global Security kicked off on Wednesday June 5 in Beijing, with more than 60 international security experts from over 20 countries and international organizations in attendance. Rafael Hernandez de Santiago, Senior Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) participated in the forum. Minister LIU Jianchao, Head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivered a keynote speech at the meeting, saying that to inject more certainty and stability into world peace, countries need to foster a vision of common security, uphold the principles of openness and inclusiveness, strengthen solidarity and coordination, and adhere to dialogue and consultation. Mr. Jianchao said that China will work with all people and countries that value peace and are committed to development to build a bright future of lasting peace and common security.

## June 5, 2024

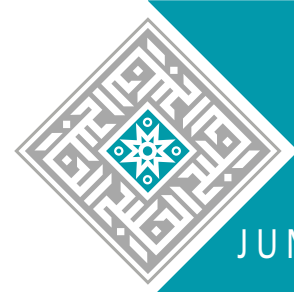


Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker in a panel on Diplomatic Dialogues: "Ambassadors Unveil Visionary Ventures in Arab-German Collaborations" that was organized by the 27th Arab-German Business Forum in Berlin, on June 5, 2024. Dr. Sager emphasized the importance of enhancing business ventures between Germany and the Arab region, focusing on the Gulf and specific sectors in which they can be achieved. Speakers of the panel also included: Dr. Christoph Ploß, Member of the German Parliament, H.E. Maitha Saif Majid Al-Mahrouqi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Germany, H.E. Khaled Mohamed Galaleldin Abdelhamid, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr. Dorothea Schütz, Head of the V.D. Subdivision Middle East, Africa, Development Policy- Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, H.E. Mr. Wacef Chiha, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia, H.E. Dieter Walter Haller, Managing Director of Haller Consult GmbH.

## June 5, 2024



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and Prof. Saleh Al-Khatlan, Senior Advisor at the GRC, met with Dr. Małgorzata Bonikowska, President of the Center for International Relations Foundation (CIR), at the GRC's office in Riyadh on June 5, 2024. During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance cooperation and exchange experiences between the research centers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Poland.



GRC media participation can be accessed [here](#), at the GRC official YouTube channel



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the FRANCE 24 program discussing deaths among the pilgrims during this year's Hajj season. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the 'Huna Riyadh' program in an episode that covered the following titles 'Cooperation Council: Biden's proposal for Gaza"positive"' and 'The Gulf system: "A unified vision for the future."' Watch the full episode [here](#).



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# GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER **JUNE 2024**



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