

**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All

# Supporting Research on Gulf Issues

# Table of Contents

- GRC - Overview
  - Vision - Mission - Values
  - Objectives
  - Competencies & Key Facts
  - Concept
  - A Solid Local Foundation & a Global Network
- Staff
- Offices
- GRCF and GRCC
- GRC - Foundation - Council Members
- GRC Cambridge - Board of Trustees
- GRC – Activities
  - Research & Analysis
  - Research Projects
  - Executive Learning
  - Consultancy
  - Events
  - Publications
- GRC - In the Media
- GRC - Global Cooperation
- Contact Us



# GRC - Overview



**GRC** was founded in July 2000 by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, a Saudi businessman. Dr. Sager's vision was to fill an important void and to conduct scholarly, high quality research on all aspects of the wider strategic Gulf region including the GCC countries as well as Iran, Iraq and Yemen. **GRC** operates on an independent, non-profit basis.

Its belief is that everyone has the right to access knowledge, so it has made all its research available to the general public through publications, workshops, seminars, and conferences. As a non-profit organization, **GRC** injects all income back into new programs and activities.

## GRC - The First Twenty Two Years (2000-2022)

The idea of establishing an independent Gulf Studies research center within the Gulf region itself was conceived by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager and motivated by his desire to make solid, research-based knowledge about the strategic Gulf region easily available to all. This is the ultimate origin of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and its maxim – “Knowledge for All”.

The initial GRC offices were established in Dubai in June 2000. Expansion took place quickly and not only in Dubai - as GRC offices were also established in Jeddah, Geneva and Cambridge. The Geneva office was established as a Swiss Foundation – the Gulf Research Center Foundation – in order to facilitate outreach and cooperation with Europe and globally. The Cambridge office was established at the University of Cambridge as a UK Charity – the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge – in order to facilitate integration with the global academic community, primarily through the Gulf Research Meetings, which GRC Cambridge organizes annually.

In the past twenty years, the Gulf Research Center has grown from a creative idea to become a globally recognized research center that has contributed much to the understanding of the Gulf region - never losing sight of its ultimate mission of promoting peace, security, prosperity and sustainability not only in the Gulf region itself, but also globally. The Gulf Research Center extends a sincere thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success during the past twenty two years!



# GRC Ranking



On January 30, 2020, the 2019 Global Go-to Think Tank Index Report listed the Gulf Research Center, for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row, as one of the leading think in the Middle East and worldwide. In particular, the GRC was singled out as one of the 150 leading think tanks worldwide as well as one of the top think tanks specializing in foreign policy and international affairs. In both categories, the GRC represents the top ranked think tank from the Gulf region and as one of the top three from the Middle East.

The annual Global Go-to-Think Tank Index Report, prepared by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the University of Pennsylvania, is considered the most comprehensive ranking of think tanks globally. For the 2019 version of the report, more than 11,175 think tanks worldwide.

GRC Ranking by Category	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
TOP THINK TANKS WORLDWIDE (U.S. and non-U.S.)	140	141	129	131	130	125	143	147	-	-	-	
Top Think Tanks in Middle East and North Africa (MENA)	49	45	37	23	23	8	8	2	2	2	4	4
Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks	77	76	64	58	56	46	45	52	-	-	-	
Think Tanks with the Best External Relations/PublicEngagement Program	57	57	58	55	54	42	41	38	-	-	-	
Best Institutional Collaboration Involving Two or More Think Tanks	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-



# GRC - Vision - Mission - Values

## Vision

To be the leading think tank on Gulf affairs worldwide.

## Mission

To provide an Arab Gulf perspective on regional and global developments in order to promote regional peace and stability and positively influence the policy processes of local, regional and external actors.

## Values

**GRC** believes that the peace, security, prosperity and sustainability of the Gulf region is the right of its people, together with the right of everyone to have access to knowledge.

# GRC - Objectives

**To realize its vision, the GRC focuses on the following objectives:**

- Promote communication and cooperation among GCC citizens to facilitate reforms in the region and secure a better future.
- Publish and distribute relevant and useful information and data on the GCC states within and outside the region so as to enhance knowledge and understanding.
- Provide education and training solutions through implementing a 'Knowledge Program' which targets higher management circles.
- Prepare studies and offer expert consultations to governmental and non-governmental organizations in fields linked with the Center's primary areas of focus.





# GRC - Competencies & Key Facts

**The success of GRC is based on a wide range of strengths...**

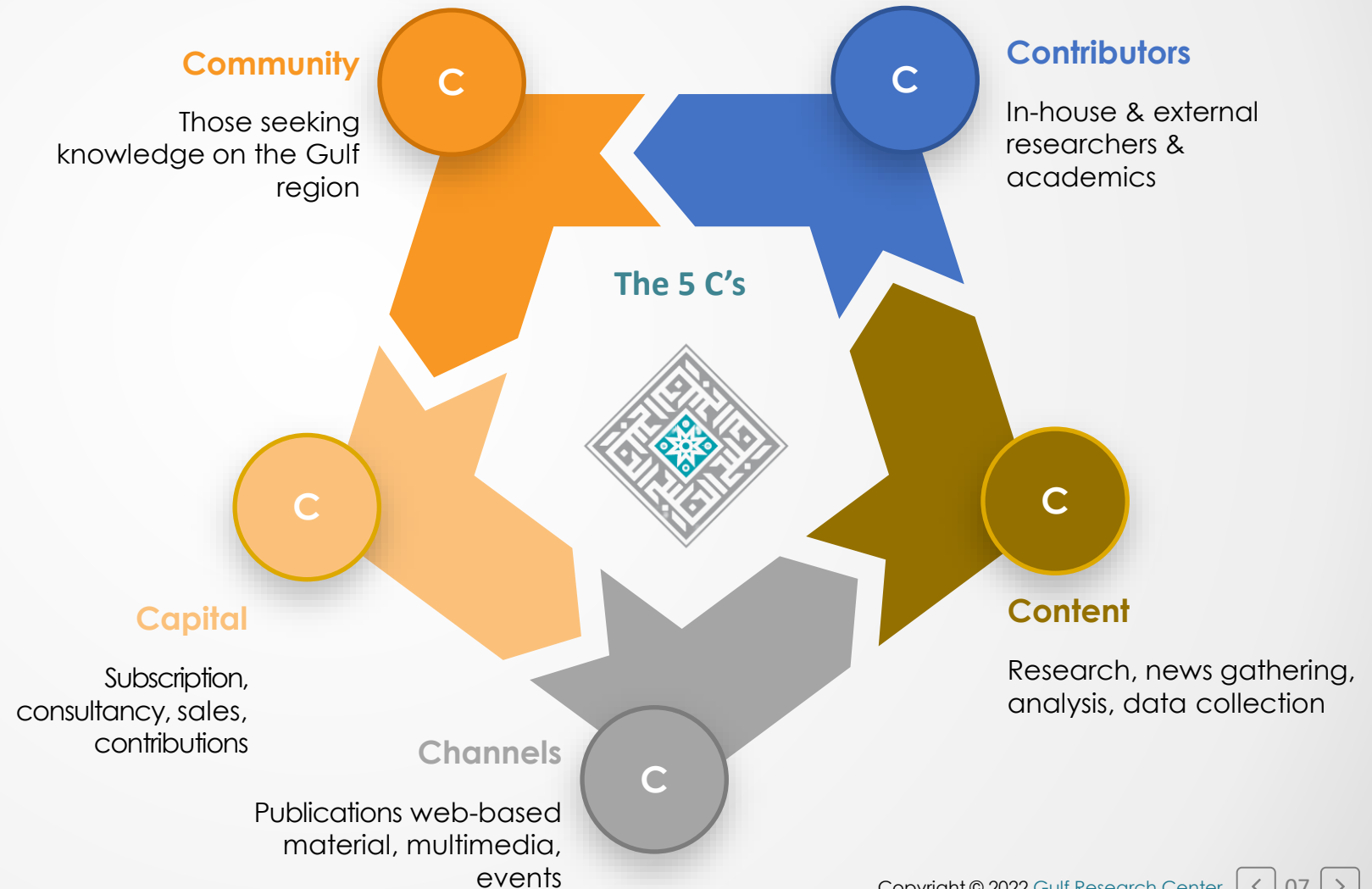
- A unique and unparalleled perspective from the Gulf region
- Proven track record with extensive experience
- Global recognition
- Successful project completion
- Worldwide network
- Solid government consulting
- In-depth GCC knowledge and resources
- Results-driven and results-oriented
- Strong institutional think tank culture





# GRC - Concept

Contributors from within the **GRC** and its network of experts create the content, which is then disseminated through a variety of channels, and made available to those interested in the study and development of the region. In many cases, members of the community contribute to **GRC's** research activities, thus completing this creative cycle.



# GRC - A Solid Local Foundation & a Global Network



# GRC - Staff

**Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**  
Chairman and  
Founder



**Dr. Mustafa Alani**  
Senior Advisor, Director  
Security and Defense  
Research Program



**Dr. Ahmed Sager**  
Vice President of the Gulf  
Research Center



**Dr. Christian Koch**  
Director of Research  
Gulf Research Center



**Prof. Giacomo Luciani**  
Trustee and a Founding  
Member of the Gulf  
Research Center  
Foundation Geneva



**Dr. John Sfakianakis**  
Program Director, Economic  
Research, Chief Economist



**Prof. Fawziah Abalkhail**  
Senior Advisor



**Prof. Suzan M.  
AlQurashi**  
Senior Advisor



**Prof. Saleh M. Alkhathlan**  
Senior Advisor



**Dr. Zaid A. Alfadeil**  
Director of Cultural  
Program



**Dr. Naif Al-Rasheed**  
Senior Researcher  
Program Manager



**Dr. Abdulgader Othman  
Amier**  
Director of Urban  
Development & Engineering  
Studies



# GRC - Staff

**Dr. Oskar Ziemelis**  
Director of Gulf  
Research Center  
Foundation



**Dr. Ahmed Alkhabti**  
Senior Advisor



**Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf**  
Senior Researcher



**Eng. Javaid Iqbal**  
MD, Knowledge Corporation



**Ahmad Salah Ahmad**  
Administration Manager



**Vasim Ahmed Shaikh**  
Accounting Manager



**Jamal Hammam**  
Publishing Manager  
Araa Magazine Editor-in-Chief



**Mohammed Gomaa**  
Finance Manager



**Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf**  
Director - Gulf Environmental  
Security & Sustainability  
Research Program



**Khedir Saleh**  
Administration



**Eng. Ahmed Sh. Aldaraji**  
Project Manager



**Youssef K. Khattab**  
Senior Researcher



# GRC - Staff

**Layla Ali**  
Researcher



**Amnah Mosly**  
Researcher



**Abdullah Almutabagni**  
Researcher



**Yosef Alghazoli**  
Researcher



**Christine Williams**  
Researcher



**Imco Brouwer**  
Executive Director  
Gulf Labor Markets &  
Migration Program - GRC  
Foundation



**Noriko Suzuki**  
GRC Japan Branch



**Sanya Kapasi**  
Administration  
Manager



**Hind Alhazmi**  
Graphic Designer



**Suliman Mardini**  
Araa Magazine



**Fatemah S BaSunbul**  
Senior Web Developer



**Reem Alhazmi**  
HR Admin



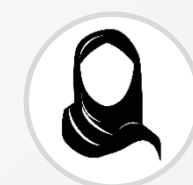
**Mohammed Al-Ghamdi**  
Project Manager



**Noura Mansour Al-Hazmi**  
Business Development  
Manager, Knowledge  
Corporation



**Shahad Alghamdi**  
Marketing Specialist



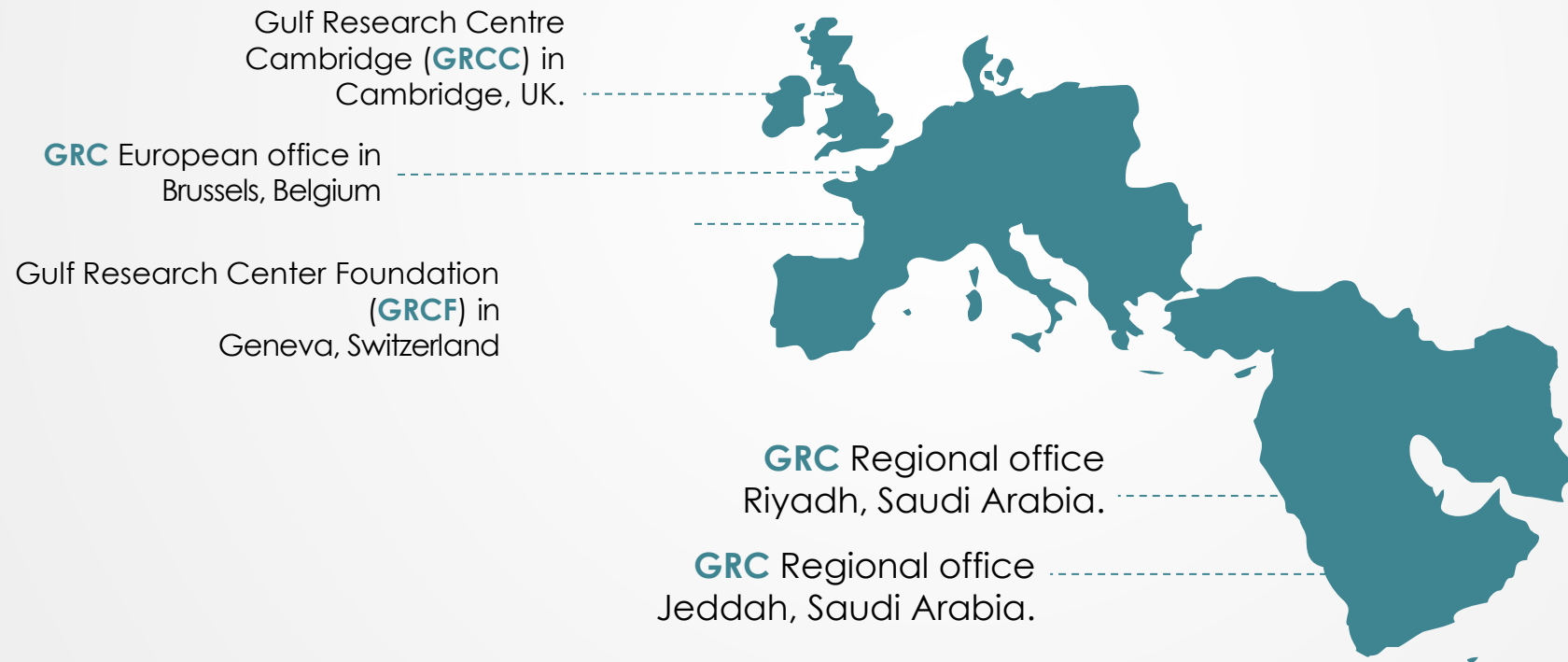
**Yaser Ahmed**  
Araa Magazine





# GRC - Offices


**GRC** has grown from its original Dubai, UAE location to become a global organization with a well-established worldwide network of offices and partners in both the Gulf region and Europe.



# GRCF and GRCC

## GRC Foundation (GRCF)

- **GRC** Foundation was established in Geneva, Switzerland (2007) under the laws of the Canton of Geneva and Swiss foundation law
- **GRCF** is a non-profit institution
- **GRCF** conducts research, training and educational programs
- **GRC** Foundation is governed by an internationally renowned foundation council with strong academic credentials

[For more details please click here](#) 

## GRC Cambridge (GRCC)

- **GRC** Cambridge, which was founded in 2009, operates as a non-profit organization and is a registered UK Charity
- The prime directive of **GRCC** is to advance education and research on political, economic, social, and security issues and other matters relating to member countries of the GCC
- **GRC** Cambridge organizes the annual Gulf Research Meeting

[For more details please click here](#) 





# GRC - Foundation - Council Members

**Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**  
Chairman and  
Founder



**Dr. Mustafa Alani**  
Senior Advisor,  
Director  
Security and Defense  
Research Program



**Dr. Ahmed Sager**  
Vice President of the  
Gulf Research Center



**Eng. Javaid Iqbal**  
MD, Knowledge  
Corporation



**Prof. Giacomo Luciani**  
Senior Consultant  
GRC Foundation



# GRC Cambridge - Board of Trustees

**Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**  
Chairman and  
Founder



**Amb. Stuart Laing**  
Former Master - Corpus  
Christi College  
University of Cambridge



**Dr. Abdullah Baabood**  
Visiting Research Professor,  
Middle East Institute,  
National University  
of Singapore



**Prof. Giacomo Luciani**  
Senior Consultant  
GRC Foundation



**Dr. John Sfakianakis**  
Program Director,  
Economic Research,  
Chief Economist



**Dr. Christian Koch**  
Director of Research  
Gulf Research Center



**Dr. Ahmed Sager**  
Vice President of the Gulf  
Research Center



**Prof. Yasir Suleiman**  
Professor  
Modern Arabic Studies  
University of Cambridge



# GRC - Activities



# GRC - Research & Analysis

## Research and Analysis Overview

The Gulf Research Center's mission is to further information and knowledge relating to the Gulf by providing a comprehensive, independent and credible platform for advanced research on GCC politics, economics, defense, security and social issues, and their implications and relevance. The scope of the research programs is defined in coordination with the **GRC** Academic Board and is continuously updated to ensure that the research is in accordance with current issues of concern.

The **GRC** undertakes research on all elements impacting policy-making in the Gulf, including: political systems and development, foreign relations of the Gulf, defense and security issues, the economy, as well as environmental issues and the role of energy and its regional and worldwide dimensions. In each of its research programs, it is the objective of the **GRC** and its extensive community of researchers and contributors to shed light on unexplored issues and relationships that are and will be of increased importance both for the Gulf region and the rest of the world.

- 
- 1 **Foreign Relations**
  - 2 **Economics & Energy**
  - 3 **Labor Markets & Migration**
  - 4 **Environmental Security & Sustainability**
  - 5 **Politics & Society**
  - 6 **Security & Defense**

# GRC - Research & Analysis

- **Gulf Foreign Relations Research Program**

A main focus of the **GRC** research program on Gulf Foreign Relations is the interaction of the Gulf states with the rest of the world both regionally in the wider Middle East and globally. Within this research area, GCC foreign relations with a number of countries and regions are analyzed in order to be able to adequately and comprehensively understand the dynamics that are driving the foreign policies of the Gulf States, the issues and developments that are determining the direction of those relations, and how the individual and bilateral ties are impacting the broader regional environment. This research area comprises a number of sub programs which include: Gulf Relations with the European Union, Gulf Relations with Asia, Gulf Relations with Africa and Gulf-US relations.

- **Gulf Economics and Energy Research Program**

The Gulf Economics and Energy research program focuses on the economies of the GCC member countries and the three neighboring countries, Iraq, Iran and Yemen. Special attention is given to the still paramount oil and gas sector and the extension of its value chain into petrochemicals, refining and energy intensive industries such as aluminum. Other diversification attempts in trade, services and tourism are also analyzed, with a special emphasis on renewable and nuclear energy. Other areas of interest regulatory and business environments, capital markets and trade relations (e.g. WTO, FTAs).

- **Labor Markets & Migration**

The GLMM programme, established in March 2013, is an international independent, nonpartisan, non-profit joint programme of the Gulf Research Center and the Migration Policy Centre (MPC – Florence). The GLMM programme provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of understanding and management of Gulf labor markets and migration, engaging with and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders. The GLMMP has released a number of analytical papers and books on Gulf migration and labor market issues. In addition, the program has its own website which features an ever expanding set of data and documents relating to the GCC's labor markets: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/>. Being a joint programme between a university and a think tank, its activities are geared towards both researchers and students in addition to policymakers, civil society and media.





# GRC - Research & Analysis

## ■ Environmental Security & Sustainability

The **GRC** Environment Security & Sustainability research program looks at environmental issues in the Gulf region, and seeks to document relevant and related information about specific concerns related to the Gulf, in order to deepen the awareness and understanding of the following key environmental issues:

- Trends in the state of environment and natural resources in the Gulf and their natural, social and economic drivers
- Major environment and sustainability initiatives
- Environmental threats such as water, desertification as well as climate change and C&D debris


## ■ Politics & Society

The Gulf Politics and Society research program focuses on the following topics:

- **Political systems:** constitutions, legislatures, judiciaries, executive systems, political and social movements, and civil society and human rights
- **Social issues:** education, gender studies, youth, media, history, civil society, academia and research, environmental issues from a social perspective
- **Culture and demographics**

## ■ Security & Defense

The Gulf Security and Defense research program focuses on the latest security developments in the Gulf states, including the six GCC member states, Iran, Iraq and Yemen, in addition to the neighboring region of South Asia and especially Pakistan and Afghanistan. It deals with hard and soft security issues with a special focus on counter-terrorism, nuclear development and Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Gulf, regime stability, maritime security, narcotics and human trafficking.


[For more details please click here](#) 



# GRC - Research Projects

In parallel with its research programs, **GRC** organizes and participates in a diverse range of research projects which address a broad spectrum of issues, including:

- Tafahum – A Roadmap Towards a Security Arrangement in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula
- INCONET-GCC2: Science, Technology and Innovation International Cooperation Network between the European Union and the Arab Gulf Countries
- Gulf Migration: Data, Analyses and Recommendations for Innovative Policies – A Pilot Project
- Promoting Deeper EU-GCC Relations
- GRFC is part of the INFOCORE Project: the Role of Media in Violent Conflicts
- EU-GCC Clean Energy Network
- GCC-India Joint Study Group
- Violent Non-State Actors in Contemporary World Politics
- EU-GCC Al-Jisr Project on Public Diplomacy and Outreach devoted to the European Union and EU-GCC Relations
- Cluster-based Industrial and Economic Growth for Sustainable Development
- Gulf-Asia Relations.
- The Political Role of Tribes: An Analysis of Tribalism, Islamism and Gender in Iraq, Yemen and Jordan. A Case Study
- SECURE - Security of Energy Considering its Uncertainty, Risk and Economic Implications
- Russian and CIS Relations with the Gulf Region: Current Trends in Political and Economic Dynamics
- Maritime Security in the Gulf: A Gulf Research Centre Project Proposal
- Global Trade Alert

[For more details please click here](#) 





# GRC - Executive Learning

A central aim of the activities of the Gulf Research Center is the conduct of a variety of executive learning programs. These programs are designed to provide leadership development opportunities in all aspects of public policy. It is the view of **GRC** that programs in governmental processes and critical policy issues are critical to understand today's environment and prepare emerging and established leaders to more effectively engage with individuals and institutions throughout the rest of the world.



[For more details please click here](#) 


**GRC** programs are directly tied to the Center's commitment to research and its involvement with public policy. Participants have the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with leading scholars and senior public policy officials in the respective field. In that context, **GRC** Executive Learning Programs create a learning environment that is unparalleled in both its scope and value as far as Gulf issues are concerned.

# GRC - Consultancy

The **GRC** provides expertise on the wider Gulf region (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Iraq and Yemen) and Gulf relations with countries worldwide, with expertise in the following topics:

- Foreign Relations
- Economics & Energy
- Labor Markets & Migration
- Environmental Security & Sustainability
- Politics & Society
- Security & Defense
- GCC Integration & Unity

Our clients include public, private sector, and educational institutions.

[For more details please click here](#) 

## **GRC** provide services such as:


- 1 Country reports/profiles
- 2 Market research/corporate reports
- 3 Security assessments
- 4 Executive briefings and other education programs (either in-person or virtual)
- 5 Gulf business etiquette & cultural competency trainings & workshops (either in-person or virtual)
- 6 Conference organization
- 7 English/Arabic translation of publications on relevant topics

# GRC - Events

Events are a key aspect of the work that **GRC** carries out because they stimulate collaboration and link GRC into a worldwide network of leading individuals and research initiatives. Events also play a key role for **GRC** in the Gulf region because they promote widespread research efforts among different institutions from within the Gulf and neighboring regions to heighten awareness of important Gulf-specific issues.

**GRC** has organized more than **480** Events, with more than **10,000** participants till date. These include a wide range of events related to its research work and of importance to the Gulf Region. These include:


- Annual Gulf Research Meetings at the University of Cambridge
- Annual conferences and forums
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Lectures
- Research project meetings

[For more details please click here](#) 



# GRC - Publications

Publications play an important role in fulfilling the mission of the **Gulf Research Center**, which is to provide an Arab Gulf perspective on regional and global developments in order to promote regional peace and stability and positively influence policy processes. **GRC** publishes a variety of publications in both Arabic and English that stem primarily from the research and analysis work **GRC** carries out or that is carried out by external partners in preparation for **GRC** events. Some important external works are also translated by **GRC** and published in Arabic. **GRC** publications can be generally classified into the following categories – a few representative publications are shown here:

[For more details please click here](#) 





# GRC - In the Media

**GRC** is a regular contributor to international media with appearances on television, including BBC, CNN, Al-Arabiya, DW news, and NHK Japanese TV. **GRC** also writes for and is cited in news publications such as the Washington Post, the New York Times, Reuters, the Associated Press, the Guardian, the Financial Times, Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Al-Hayat, El Pais, and Agence France Press. With its international media outreach, **GRC** is able to significantly influence public opinion and ensure that a regional perspective enters the national debates.



The New York Times




# GRC - Global Cooperation

Collaboration with think-tanks and research organizations is a vital part of the Gulf Research Center's mandate. The cooperation agreements that the center has signed with a number of institutions worldwide aim to support each other in the areas of research, policy facilitation and implementation of long-term conditions for peace, security and sustainable development.

In partnering institutions of interest, we hope to work in pursuit of creating greater national, regional and international awareness on issues pertaining to security and stability in the Gulf region and beyond.

The areas of cooperation encompass joint research; dissemination of findings; convening conferences; facilitating exchange of scholars; translation, re-publication and distribution of selected publications; as well as sharing of relevant databases.

[For more details please click here](#) 





مركز الخليج للأبحاث  
Gulf Research Center

### Jeddah

**Address:** 30 Rayat Al-Itihad Street  
(19).  
P.O. Box 2134  
Jeddah 21451  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**T:** +966 12 6511999

**Email:** [info@grc.net](mailto:info@grc.net)

**Website:** [www.grc.net](http://www.grc.net)

### Riyadh

**Address:** Unit FN11A  
King Faisal Foundation  
North Tower  
King Fahad Branch Rd  
Al Olaya Riyadh 12212

**T:** +966 11 2112567

**Email:** [info@grc.net](mailto:info@grc.net)

**Website:** [www.grc.net](http://www.grc.net)

### Geneva

**Address:** Avenue de France 23  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

**T:** +41 227 162730

**Email:** [Info@grc.net](mailto:Info@grc.net)

### Cambridge

**Address:** University of  
Cambridge  
Sidgwick Avenue  
Cambridge CB3 9DA  
United Kingdom

**T:** +44 1223 760758

**Email:** [info@grc.net](mailto:info@grc.net)

### Brussels

Soon