

# GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



CONTENTS

## Gulf Research Center & Ambrosetti Roundtable:

“New Relevance of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and the Middle East - Global Perspectives” Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, January 14, 2024



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) and The European House - Ambrosetti (TEHA) jointly organized a roundtable on January 14, 2024 at the GRC Riyadh office titled “New Relevance of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and the Middle East - Global Perspectives.” The meeting brought together academics, diplomats, and business community representatives to examine Middle East geopolitics from a nuanced perspective. Welcoming remarks were made by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, and Luca Miraglia, CEO of The European House - Ambrosetti Middle East & Central Asia. The event featured key speaker Federico Rampini, journalist, writer, and principal expert in geopolitics at TEHA. Guests included H.E. Roberto Cantone, the Italian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and H.E. Christophe Farnaud, the EU Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.



مركز الخليج للأبحاث  
المعرفة للجميع  
Gulf Research Center  
Knowledge for All



### ◆ GRC Events & Activities

- TAFAHUM WA TABADUL
- Gulf Research Center & Ambrosetti Roundtable: “New Relevance of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and the Middle East - Global Perspectives”
- GLMM Webinar: “Gulf-Born, Second and Third Generation Foreign Residents: A Resource for Gulf States”
- GRC Webinars: Looking Forward: Outlines for Developing GCC-ASEAN Cooperation
- Global Leadership Program - Global Economic Module
- GCC-Swiss Forum: Registration Announcement
- Economic Module

### ◆ GRC Partnership

- Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme
- Cultural & Media Program
- Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

### ◆ GRC Publications

### ◆ GRC Participations

### ◆ GRC in the Media



In his talk, Mr. Rampini argued that several factors have enhanced Saudi Arabia's global relevance:

1. The war in Ukraine redirected focus away from Russia, aligning Europe with the Gulf for energy supplies.
2. The pandemic and the new Cold War between the West and China increased interest in Middle Eastern partnerships for manufacturing.
3. The renewed interest in Africa's resource-rich landscape has led to collaborations with countries like Saudi Arabia.
4. The Abraham Accords initially marked a geopolitical innovation, though the landscape shifted following the October 7th Hamas attack.

5. Saudi Vision 2030 and implemented social changes have attracted global interest.
6. The issue of democracy and human rights within Western countries: Democracy and human rights debates in the West may see improved relations with Saudi Arabia due to shifting political ideologies.
7. The geopolitical posture of KSA: The growing alignment between Saudi Arabia and Russia in OPEC+ raises concerns in the US, offering opportunities for China and Russia.
8. The effects of the War in Gaza and the Red Sea turmoil highlighted Saudi Arabia's regional influence but also exposed diplomatic challenges.
9. Business sentiment contradicts media narratives, as the business community sees Saudi Arabia as an optimistic, thriving market.

The discussions facilitated a thoughtful analysis of the changing geopolitical landscape, contributing to the discourse on the roles of regional powers such as Saudi Arabia in the international system.

تفاهم وتبادل

Following three rounds of high-level policy workshops (August 2022; May and August 2023) in the framework of the regional dialogue initiative Tafahum wa Tabadul with official representatives from all the GCC states, in addition to Iraq, Iran, and Yemen, the fourth meeting at the governmental level took place from January 7 to 9, 2024. The objective of the meeting was to take stock of the recent developments, better understand their impact on ongoing dialogue processes, and discuss what steps would be needed both to shield existing dialogues from the recent escalation of tensions as well to ensure a higher degree of sustainability with the processes themselves.

The Tafahum wa Tabadul initiative has two objectives - to foster a credible regional dialogue format and to identify reciprocal confidence building measures (CBMs). The project follows a multi-track dialogue approach to enhance shared regional understanding on issues of common



interest. The project consists of 3 tracks. The first track is the political process seeking to work along the region's rapprochement approach. The second track is a technical track which focuses on the energy, climate and health topics in the region with the objective of outlining concrete confidence-building measures. The third is the civil society track which aims to broaden engagement in the region through exchange activities, with a focus on women and youth inclusion. It is essential to understand that as part of the overall project logic, these tracks are interlinked.

Tafahum wa Tabadul is implemented by CARPO – Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient and the Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF). The project started in October 2018 and is currently funded by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Switzerland.

# Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Webinar: “Gulf-Born, Second and Third Generation Foreign Residents: A Resource for Gulf States”

January 17, 2024



03

January 2024

**Gulf-Born, Second and Third Generation Foreign Residents: A Resource for Gulf States' Development Process**

**Speakers:**

- Nasra M. Shah**  
Scientific Director of GLMM  
Professor of Migration and Development  
Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan
- Neha Vora**  
Professor of Anthropology  
American University of Sharjah, UAE
- Gennaro Errichiello**  
SOAS University of London, UK
- Musaab Alkhatib**  
Research Associate  
Social and Economic Survey Research Institute  
Qatar University, Qatar
- Areej Jamal**  
University College London  
Social Research Institute, UK
- Nadeen Dakkak**  
Lecturer in World and Postcolonial Literatures  
University of Exeter, UK
- Dr. Christian Koch**  
Director of Research  
Gulf Research Center

January 17, 2024 | 1:00-2:30 PM CET / 3:00-4:30 PM KSA

[Click Here to Register](#)

The GLMM organized its third webinar on January 17, 2024, entitled: **“Gulf-Born, Second and Third Generation Foreign Residents: A Resource for Gulf States’ Development Process”** with six distinguished experts:

- Nasra M. Shah, Scientific Director of GLMM, Professor of Migration and Development, Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan
- Neha Vora, Professor of Anthropology, American University of Sharjah, UAE
- Gennaro Errichiello, SOAS University of London, UK
- Musaab Alkhatib, Research Associate at the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute, Qatar University, Qatar
- Areej Jamal, University College London, Social Research Institute, UK
- Nadeen Dakkak, Lecturer in World and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Exeter, UK
- Among other things, they addressed three key questions:
  - What is the socio-demographic and educational profile of Gulf-born, second and third generation foreign residents?
  - What are their specific skills and competencies?
  - How could existing policies be adapted in order to better channel the potential of these residents to Gulf states’ socio-economic development process?

Gulf-born, second and third generation offsprings of migrants remain foreign citizens in Gulf states and are not able to gain the right for citizenship or permanent settlement. Yet, field studies conducted on these populations emphasize their sense of belonging to the country they were born and raised in. Many of them also pursue higher education in the region, while their transnational upbringing grants them specific competences (languages spoken, cultural adaptability and familiarity with Gulf countries’ social norms, etc.). However, the characteristics of these populations are little known.

The six speakers in the webinar contributed to bridging this gap, sharing their knowledge specifically on the UAE, Saud Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait. They evaluated the socio-demographic and educational profile of second and third generation foreign residents, analyzed policies applied to them in the six GCC countries, discussed the role they could play in GCC states’ labour and economic reforms, and reflect on possible ways to secure the future of these populations in the region.



**GCC-ASEAN WEBINAR**  
Looking Forward: Outlines for  
Developing GCC-ASEAN Cooperation

**12:00-1:30 PM**  
(Saudi Arabia time)  
**January 18, 2024**



**Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**  
Chairman  
Gulf Research Center



**Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee**  
Senior Fellow  
Singapore Institute of  
International Affairs (SIIA)



**Dr. Mansour Almarzoqi**  
Director of the Center for  
Strategic Studies &  
American Studies  
Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute  
for Diplomatic Studies



**Andrea Molina**  
Chief Research Officer (Migration Studies)  
Center for International Relations and  
Strategic Studies  
Foreign Service Institute - Philippines



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**Dr. Hasan Alhasan**  
Senior Fellow for Middle East  
Policy  
International Institute for  
Strategic Studies (IISS)



**Newin Sinsiri**  
Advisor, Geopolitics  
Thailand Development  
Research Institute (TDRI)



**Khin Maung Zaw**  
Joint Secretary  
Myanmar Institute of  
Strategic and International  
Studies



**Dr. Ngo Di Lan**  
Research Fellow  
Institute for Foreign Policy  
and Strategic Studies  
(IFPSS), DAV



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

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) held the first session of its GCC-ASEAN webinar series entitled “Looking Forward: Outlines for Developing GCC-ASEAN Cooperation” on January 18, 2024. The event focused on the status of relations and the priorities related to the “ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council Framework of Cooperation 2024-2028.” Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the GRC, moderated the session.

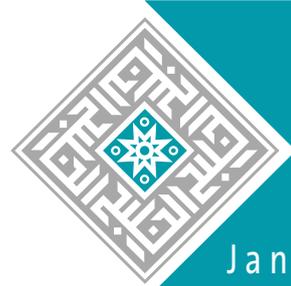
In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, emphasized the importance of developing stronger academic and think tank network relations with ASEAN countries. He also discussed the potential for expanding trade, labor market, investment, and innovation ties. Dr. Sager suggested that attention should be given to bringing about a GCC-ASEAN free trade agreement which would open the door for further cooperation in areas like renewable energy, food security, and the digital economy. The establishment of a GCC-ASEAN business council to facilitate private-sector engagement could also be beneficial.

Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee, Senior Fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), expressed her aims for more dialogue between think tanks in Southeast Asia and the GCC countries as both regions face a lot of complex challenges. Their work together could therefore assist policymakers from the regions to overcome some of these

issues. She highlighted that the current broader geopolitical and geoeconomic developments in the last few years have inevitably led the two regional blocs to strengthen their engagements with each other to build greater strategic alignment at the region-to-region level. In terms of economic relations in 2022, trade between the two blocs increased from USD 85.2 billion in 2021 to USD 110 billion, with the current trade volume reaching close to USD 140 billion.

Trade has not only increased but also diversified from trading primarily in crude oil and fossil fuels and associated logistics to various products and services, from electronics and machinery to other high-growth sectors, such as food, financial services, and e-commerce.

Mr. Newin Sinsiri, Advisor on Geopolitics from the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), highlighted how the ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council Framework of Cooperation could promote more economic cooperation through the increased role of private sectors and shared experience on economic integration in terms of policy dialogue on trade and investment. He underlined the importance of people-to-people connectivity with increased cultural exchanges, knowledge sharing, trade fairs, and other mechanisms essential to narrowing the developmental gap between the two regions.



Dr. Hasan Alhasan, Senior Fellow for Middle East Policy at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), stressed how the GCC is expressing interest in engaging more substantively with ASEAN and how this is part of the GCC's broader strategic diversification plan, given the fact that the Gulf states are attempting to diversify their security, political, and economic relations away from the West, and looking for a broader set of partners. Dr. Alhasan reiterated how the GCC-ASEAN relationship remains centered on energy but he stated that there is also an increased focus on new emerging and renewable forms of energy. For the GCC states, the strategy is to cement themselves as central energy players and play a key role in the transition towards newer forms of energy.

Mr. Khin Maung Zaw, Joint Secretary from the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, highlighted the importance of food security and how ASEAN can provide food supply security for the GCC states. He also identified digital currency and financial technology as another area that both sides should engage in. He suggested that the GCC and ASEAN, as regional blocs, can create a common market framework for food, marine products, livestock, and agriculture.

Dr. Ngo Di Lan, Research Fellow at the Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies (IFPSS – DAV), stressed the importance of fostering cooperation on both the multilateral and bilateral levels. He identified strengthening tourism flows between the two regions as important to further developing infrastructure, creating business opportunities, and boosting trade and investment flows.

Dr. Mansour Almarzoqi, Director of the Center for Strategic Studies & American Studies at the Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies, re-emphasized the institutional instrument of contact and that to understand one another better, one must develop efficient ways of communication through education. He argued that the two blocs were still in an 'exploration stage' of developing their relations with one another. This includes, for example, the divergent security alliances of all the GCC and ASEAN member states and how certain countries have better relations with China than others. It should also be acknowledged that some GCC countries have stronger ties with ASEAN countries than others.

Andrea Molina, Chief Research Officer (Migration Studies) at the Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies, Foreign Service Institute, highlighted the importance of making a conscious effort to bridge the gaps and build a stronger foundation, especially now that the challenges both regional blocs are facing, whether they be economic, geopolitical, or environmental, do not adhere to the arbitrary boundaries. She emphasized the waning influence of traditional global powers, coupled with the rise of new players, which created a shifting landscape. This new reality requires collective solutions that transcend borders in order to better face the apparent challenges in these volatile regions. It also reflects the policies of the GCC countries which are seeking diversification beyond their immediate allies.

Speakers suggested that the holding of the GCC-ASEAN summit in Riyadh in October 2023 should now be followed up with more focused ministerial meetings and exchanges. At the same time, many specific issues need to be addressed, which requires a second track of experts, where the cooperation of the regional blocs can examine what specific functional collaboration between the GCC and ASEAN can look like. Important issues mentioned were food security, AI technology, and renewables. The main focus on the second track of experts is to coordinate specific working groups between GCC and ASEAN experts to develop concrete ideas that can ultimately be proposed at the political level. On the societal track, people-to-people cooperation should be enhanced and focused on building networks and having regular exchange mechanisms. This will allow for greater familiarity to be created and generate a greater sense of understanding to be promoted between the two regional blocs, eventually moving out of the exploratory phase and towards regular institutionalized cooperation.

Overall, the session put forward several suggestions for policy consideration:

- First, ASEAN should consider having the GCC as a comprehensive dialogue partner and invite the GCC to regular regional meetings, such as the 'ASEAN Regional Forum,' to enhance regional-to-regional cooperation and institutional relationships.
- Second, a comprehensive institutional framework should

# GCC-ASEAN Webinar: Looking Forward:

Outlines for Developing GCC-ASEAN Cooperation  
January 18, 2024



06

January 2024

sustain the current GCC-ASEAN momentum, with more regular dialogues and joint working groups.

- Third, the importance of regular, structured, and institutional contact between GCC and ASEAN and the potential for cooperation in renewable energy, food security, and the digital economy should be emphasized.
- Fourth, it is essential to focus on the context of the rise of the GCC as a geopolitical global player, coupled with the return of regionalism.
- Fifth, there is a dire need for the think tank community

to promote and educate both GCC and ASEAN regional bloc communities and understand each of the regional perspectives better to develop more pertinent and realistic policies.

- Sixth, safeguarding labor rights by the Global Compact for Immigration must be undertaken.
- Seventh, securing vital trade routes and economic interests to ensure regional stability and cooperation will also require that robust maritime security measures between both regions be increased.

## Participating Speakers' Institutions





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

Module 2: Global Security, November 13-17, 2023

**UPCOMING** Module 3: Global Economics, April 22-26, 2024

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) held the first and second one-week module of its Global Leadership Program on Global Politics Issues from September 11-15, 2023, and Global Security Issues from November 13-17, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Global Politics module focused on topics such as contemporary global governance, broadening stakeholders in global politics, key issues in global politics and strategic foresight, navigating a fragmented international environment, and diplomacy and effective leadership.

The 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 GRCF and GCSP are currently planning the upcoming 'Global Economic Module.'



**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](#)

# GCC-Swiss Forum 2024

Registration Announcement



08

January 2024



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CHAMBRE ARABO-SUISSE DU COMMERCE ET DE L'INDUSTRIE  
ARAB-SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
الغرفة العربية السويسرية للتجارة والصناعة



GCC-SWISS FORUM

16-18 April 2024



📍 IMD, Lausanne, Switzerland

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), with the support of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CASCI), and the Federation of the GCC Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FGCCI), are holding the GCC-Swiss Forum 2024 on April 16-18, 2024, at the IMD in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The GCC-Swiss Forum 2024 will serve as a platform to further strengthen an already strategic and vibrant relationship at a pivotal moment of political convergence. Given the commitment by the GCC to cooperate with Switzerland in the coming years and the fact that there is significant capacity to substantially increase bilateral trade, the GCC-Swiss Forum 2024 will be an ideal opportunity to explore areas of potential collaboration and establish a network for joint projects.

The GCC-Swiss Forum seeks to enhance the bilateral relationship in all its dimensions with a specific focus on highlighting the opportunities in the economic and business fields. As such, the key objectives of the Forum are:

- Exploring the different dimensions that make up the exceptional relationship between the GCC and Switzerland
- Increasing the sense of understanding and awareness between the two parties
- Highlighting the various economic and business opportunities that exist and putting current and recent developments in their proper context

- Providing a platform for networking by bringing critical sectors of the Gulf and Swiss business communities together
- Encouraging the exchange of experiences and views between the two parties
- Helping small and medium-sized enterprises benefit from each other in a more structured way
- Focusing on the political and social dimension of relations to provide the proper climate for better ties and improving people-to-people contact
- Establishing a regular forum to enhance and promote GCC-Swiss relations



To register to attend the GCC-Swiss Forum, please click [HERE](#).

Access the GCC-Swiss Forum brochure [HERE](#).

For more details, please access the forum's website [HERE](#)

or contact: [gccswiss@grc.net](mailto:gccswiss@grc.net)

# GRC Partnerships & Programs

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



09

January 2024

مركز الخليج للأبحاث  
المعرفة للجميعة



مركز الملك فيصل للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية  
King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies



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

On January 29, 2024, the Gulf Research Center and the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies renewed the

Memorandum of Understanding between the two centers. The agreement involves research exchanges, holding training courses between both institutions, and providing mutual support in capacity-building programs.

The areas of cooperation also encompass joint research, dissemination of findings, convening conferences, and facilitating the exchange of scholars.



## GLMM

GLMM is an international independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme established in 2010. It is hosted and supported by the Gulf Research Center. The programme provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of understanding and management of Gulf labour migration, population, and labour markets, engaging with, and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders.

Access the GLMM website [here](#).

## Publications

- GLMM Explanatory Note No. 1 - January 2024: "Is Youth Unemployment the Real Labor Challenge to the GCC Countries?" by Wasseem Mina

For all Explanatory Notes, visit the website [here](#).

For all GLMM Publications, visit the website [here](#).

Data and Documents Databases

GLMM has gathered, analyzed, and republished GCC official tables:

[Access the database on Bahrain here](#)

[Access the database on Kuwait here](#)

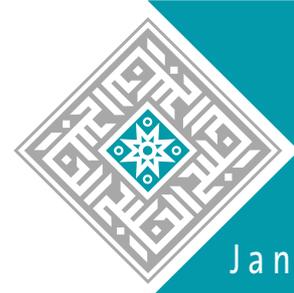
[Access the database on Oman here](#)

[Access the database on Qatar here](#)

[Access the database on Saudi Arabia here](#)

[Access the database on UAE here](#)

GLMM has also constructed regional GCC tables based upon the above listed data sources [here](#).



January 8, 2024

The Gulf Research Center Podcast, under the 'Details' program, hosted Saudi writer Raja Al-Buali, in an episode entitled 'Creative Writing is a Creation of Serious Culture.' Dr. Zaid Al-Fadil, Director of the Cultural and Media program moderated the discussion. Access the full episode [here](#).



## GRC PODCAST

بودكاست مركز الخليج للأبحاث



January 14, 2024

The Gulf Research Center Podcast, under the 'Araa' program, hosted Dr. Kholoud Mohammed Al-Daja, an expert in comparative political systems, in an episode entitled 'A Discussion of the Indo-European Corridor.' Dr. Zaid Al-Fadil, Director of the Cultural and Media program moderated the discussion. Access the full episode [here](#).





## Environmental Security and Sustainability Program Capacity Building Workshop for UNEP Accredited Organizations



January, 17, 2024

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program co-organized an online workshop with the

UNEP Civil Society Unit entitled 'Capacity Building Workshop for UNEP Accredited Organizations' which took place on January 17, 2024. The objectives of the Capacity Building Workshop were:

- Increase understanding of how and where Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) can engage in UNEA-6 and its preparatory processes.
- Educate UNEP-accredited organizations on the Major Group modality to stakeholder engagement in UNEP.
- Develop a joint approach to Major Group coordination towards UNEA-6.

## UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) Monthly Web-Call

### Ad Hoc Science and Technology Major Group



January 19 - 20, 2024

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf also established in October 2023 an Ad Hoc Science and Technology Group to follow the ongoing negotiation process of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Science-Policy Panel (SPP).

Dr. Abdelraouf chaired the monthly telecall for the global Ad Hoc Science and Technology Major group that is following the ongoing process for the establishment of a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. The call discussed the outcomes of the OEWG 2 meeting in Nairobi and the plan for the next 6 months. It decided to establish a core group to draft the vision, scope, and structure for the Group as a permanent think tank after the OEWG 3 concludes in June 2024.

The aim is to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. The Ad Hoc Group is a global group composed of all interested scientists from academia, think tanks, associations, businesses, and governments acting in their own capacities within the SPP process.

The group meets virtually every month to discuss issues on the negotiating table for SPP, propose insights for negotiations and engage as observers to negotiations hosted by UNEP.



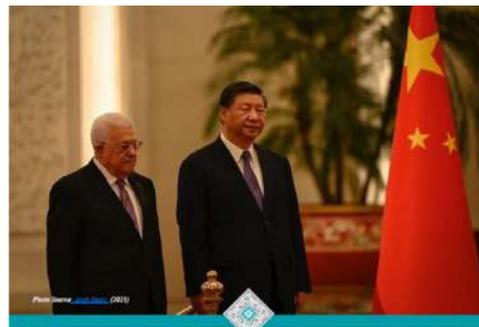
The Gulf Research Center produces various publications through its research programs, projects, and Gulf Research Meetings. The GRC's publications can be accessed on its website via [this link](#), and the commentary and analysis can be found [here](#).

## Annual Report



### Gulf Research Center Annual Report

## Commentary & Analyses



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**China's Regional Diplomacy and Strategy in Light of the Gaza Crisis**

Layla Ali  
January 2024



Gulf Research Center  
KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL

**Brazil's Dual Path: Between its OPEC+ Alliance and its Renewable Energy Leadership.**

Hannan Alghamdi\*  
January 2024

The Gulf Research Center published its 2023 Annual Report, highlighting all the activities, programs, and events that took place over the year.

Access the full report [here](#)

China's Regional's Diplomacy and Strategy in Light of the Gaza Crisis

Layla Ali  
January 2024

**Brazil's Dual Path: Between its OPEC+ Alliance and its Renewable Energy Leadership**

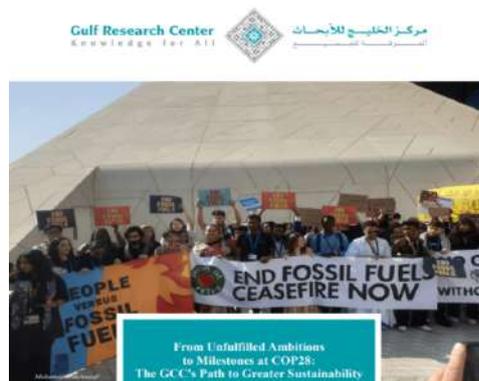
Hannan Alghamdi  
January 2024



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**Saudi Arabia-African Summit: the Road Ahead**

Michael W. Wilson  
January 2024



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**From Unfulfilled Ambitions to Milestones at COP28- The GCC's Path to Greater Sustainability**

Mohamed Abdelraouf  
January 2024



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**BRICS & Saudi Arabia's Membership: What Does This Mean?**

Layla Ali  
January 2024

**Saudi Arabia-African Summit: the Road Ahead**

Michael W. Wilson  
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**From Unfulfilled Ambitions to Milestones at COP28- The GCC's Path to Greater Sustainability**

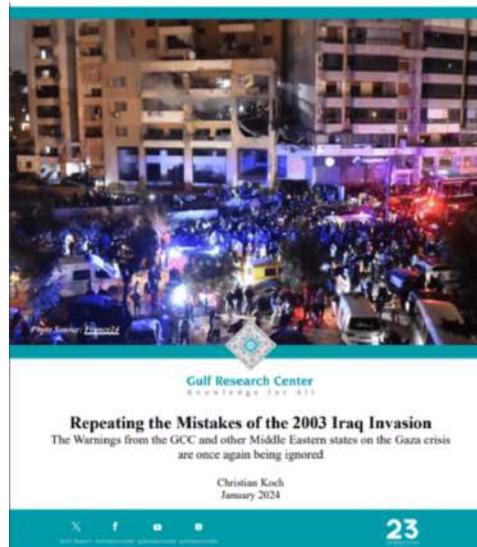
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf  
January 2024

**BRICS & Saudi Arabia's Membership: What Does This Mean?**

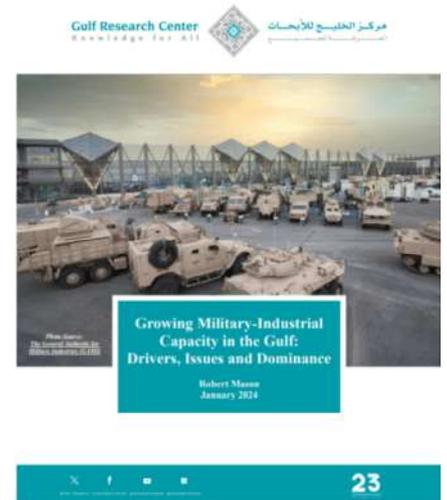
Layla Ali  
January 2024



**Saudi Arabia Needs to See a New Approach from Washington**  
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager  
January 2024



**Repeating the Mistakes of the 2003 Iraq Invasion - The Warnings from the GCC and other Middle Eastern states on the Gaza crisis are once again being ignored**  
Dr. Christian Koch  
January 2024



**Growing Military-Industrial Capacity in the Gulf: Drivers, Issues and Dominance**  
Robert Mason  
January 2024



**Eurasian Powers Are Benefiting from the War in Gaza**  
Emil Avadliani  
January 2024



**GCC-Iceland Relations**  
Amnah Mosly  
January 2024



**Joint Defense Agreements: Between Restlessness and Anxiety**  
Dr. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khathlan  
January 2024



دعوى الإبادة الجماعية ضد إسرائيل  
أهميتها.. وحيثياتها .. ودوافع إقامتها  
وسيناريوهاتها المتوقعة.. وجدواها

ورقة تحليلية  
يوسف كامل خطاب  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

23



الممر المائي المقترح بين قبرص وغزة  
حيلة إسرائيلية للتهدير وتشديد الحصار أم جهد دولي لرفع معاناة الفلسطينيين؟  
يوسف كامل خطاب  
باحث أول  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

23



قضية الإبادة الجماعية ضد إسرائيل  
الاسترشاد بقضية غامبيا ضد ميانمار وقضايا أخرى

أ.د. صالح بن محمد الخثلان  
مستشار أول  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

23

## Genocide Lawsuit Against Israel: Importance, Rationale, Expected Outcomes, and Feasibility

Yousef Kamil Khattab  
January 2024

## The Proposed Maritime Route between Cyprus and Gaza: An Israeli Strategy for Displacement and Reinforcing the Blockade, or an International Effort to Alleviate the Suffering of Palestinians?

Yousef Kamil Khattab  
January 2024

## The Genocide Case Against Israel. Guidance from Gambia v. Myanmar and Relevant Cases

Dr. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khathlan  
January 2024



حرب غزة  
"حصار مائة يوم"

د. عبد الرزاق غهرف  
باحث أول  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

23



التطرف الإسرائيلي وهم حل الدولتين

أ.د. صالح بن محمد الخثلان  
مستشار أول  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

23



اغتيال صالح العاروري  
«أسئلة معقدة وأجوبة محتملة»

د. عبد الرزاق غهرف  
باحث أول  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

23

## Gaza War "One Hundred Days' Harvest"

Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf  
January 2024

## "Challenging the Illusion of the Two-State Solution: Examining Israeli Extremism"

Dr. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khathlan  
January 2024

## "Analyzing the Assassination of Saleh Al-Arouri: Unraveling Complex Questions and Exploring Possible Answers"

Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf  
January 2024



## "The United States' Role in Fueling the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Point of View"

Yousef Kamil Khattab  
January 2024



## GRC External Study Saudi Foreign Policy Over Three Centuries

Prof. Dr. Saleh Al-Khathlan

Published in Darah Journal of Arabian Peninsula Studies

Access [here](#)



## Araa Magazine# 193

## Harvest of the Past Year and Anticipation of a Year to Come (2023/2024)

January 2024





In January 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.

Regional Crises' at the Mashura Center for Studies in Amman, Jordan. The lecture was moderated by Dr. Amer Al-Sabaila. Dr. Zaid Al-Fadeil, Director of the GRC's Culture and Media program also attended the lecture. More details about the lecture can be found [here](#).

## January 29, 2024

## January 28, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with the Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Dr. Bisher Al-Khasawneh, before giving his lecture on Saudi-Jordanian relations at the invitation of the Mashura Center for Studies and Research in Amman, Jordan

Prof. Dr. Saleh bin Muhammad Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center and Member of the National Society for Human Rights, announced the results of the elections of the Saudi Journalists Association in electing a new Board of Directors for the Authority in his capacity as Chairman of the Election Monitoring Committee.

## January 29, 2024

## January 25, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker in a lecture entitled 'The Centrality of the Jordanian-Saudi Relationship in Light of

The GRC Riyadh office received Beatriz Salvador Garcia, Deputy Head of Division, MENA.1 Regional Affairs at the European External Action Service in Brussels. She was accompanied by Jaap Ora, Deputy Head of Mission the EU Delegation Office in Riyadh and Lacramioara Iwaz, Political Officer at the EU Delegation. From the GRC side, Chairman Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Vice-President Dr. Ahmed Sager and the Director of Research Dr. Christian Koch attended the meeting. The two sides discussed the status of overall EU-GCC relations and elaborated on ways the institutional cooperation can be enhanced.

## January 24, 2024

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, and Dr. Christian Koch, GRC's Director of Research, attended the reception hosted by Amb. Christophe Farnoud of the EU Delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the framework of the first EU-GCC Security Dialogue held in Riyadh.



## January 24, 2024

GRC Chairman Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Vice-President Dr. Ahmed Sager, Director of Research, Dr. Christian Koch, and GRC Senior Advisor Dr. Saleh Al-Khatlan participated in a discussion at the Japanese Embassy in Riyadh with Kazutaka Kawahara, Deputy Chief of Missions; Kazuhiro Higashi, Charge d’Affaires and Fumihiko Goto, Counsellor and Head of the Political Section in which they discussed recent developments and the impact on GCC-Japan ties.

## January 18, 2024



At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, participated in a dialogue session held at the Ministry’s headquarters in Manama on January 18, 2024, as part of the activities of the Conference of Heads of Missions of the Kingdom of

Bahrain. The session discussed the competition between great powers, the resulting challenges and opportunities, and the role of Middle Eastern countries in this emerging global order. The former Ambassador of the European Union, Mr. Marc Pierini, participated in the discussion.

## January 17, 2014



Dr. Saleh Al Khatlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center, and Dr. Saud Alsehal examined the dissertation of Dr. Fahad Suleiman Al Farraj titled “The Arab Press Discourse

Towards the Western Approach to Human Rights Issues in the Arab World: An Analytical Study on a Sample of Arab Newspapers.” Dr. Al Farraj successfully obtained his PhD degree from the Department of Journalism and New Media at Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University under the supervision of Dr. Abdullah Al Rifai.

## January 16, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, received His Excellency Mr. Javier Solana, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, former Secretary-General of NATO, former High Representative for the European Union, and former Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, at the Center’s headquarters in Riyadh. During the meeting, several topics related to the Gulf and the Middle East regions were discussed.

## January 16, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, received at the center’s headquarters in Riyadh, a number of 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 targets visiting students from a number of prestigious universities from outside the Kingdom.



## January 12 and 16, 2024



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research, held the following meetings in Brussels:

- With the staff of the EU Special Representative of the Gulf office including Philipp Schönbrun-Kappman, Political Advisor; Elsa Jouanolou, also Political Advisor; and Lucio h, who is in think tanks and mediation exercises on their staff.
- Christos Aivaliotis, Policy Officer in the European Commission Directorate for Education, Youth and Sports where he works on the GCC states where the focus was on the various educational opportunities offered to the GCC through Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus Mundus Plus.
- Perla Srour-Gandon of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Beatrix Immelkampand the European Parliamentary Research Service
- Birgit Loeser, Head of Division of MENA Regional Affairs and Ingo Schendel, OIC Desk Coordinator in the European External Action Service
- Amer Mohamed Al-Amr, Deputy Head of Delegation of the GCC in Brussels and Abdulwahab Besharah, Counsellor.

## January 3, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated as a speaker in a panel at the Arab Strategy Forum in Dubai, UAE, entitled 'Twenty Years Since the Iraq Invasion: The Consequences and Results.' Dr. Sager discussed how Iraq has turned into an arena used to launch new operations, and how the country entered a phase of greater presence of foreign forces.



GRC media participation can be accessed at [the following link](#), which leads to the GRC official YouTube channel.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview on Al-Arabiya entitled 'Israeli strikes...targeting members of the Al Quds Force and Hezbollah in Damascus and Lebanon, Saudi Warns that Tension in the Red Sea may get out of control.' Access the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview on Al-Sharq entitled 'Ethiopia and Somalia... the Crisis of Alliances.' Access the full interview [here](#).



Arab News released an article on the recent roundtable held on January 14, 2024 in Riyadh at the Gulf Research Center's office on "the new relevance of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf region, and the Middle East." Access the full article [here](#).

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), was quoted in the POLITICO article 'Middle East braces for chaos as Iran and West square up.' Access the full article [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), published an article in 'Asharq Al-Awsat' entitled 'Blinken's visit to Saudi Arabia and the expected solutions.' Access the full article [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), published an article in the Arab News newspaper, entitled 'Saudi Arabia needs to see a new approach from Washington.' Access the full article [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview with the Al-Mawgif program and discussed the prominent events that are affecting the region, specifically Saudi Arabia, during the year 2023. Access the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview with 'Dubai This Morning' discussing the Arab Strategy Forum 2024.



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