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GULF RESEARCH CENTER Newsletter

January 2023

GRC Project GCC-EU Relations: Toward the Strategic Partnership Webinar Series

Panel Session 4: Enhancing the EU-GCC Trade and Investment Partnership



On January 31, 2023, the GRC held the fourth session of its GCC-EU webinar series entitled “Enhancing the EU-GCC Trade and Investment Partnership”. The event focused on the status of relations and the priorities of both regions as related to the EU’s Joint Communication on a “Strategic Partnership with the Gulf,” launched in May 2022. The speakers of the session were Abdulaziz Alageel, Co-Founder of EDHAFAT and Former Secretary General of the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC); Rym Ayadi, the Founder and President of Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA); and Omar Al-Ubaydli, the Director of Research at DERASAT. Dr. John Sfakianakis, the Director of Economic Research and Chief Economist at the GRC provided closing remarks. Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the GRC, moderated the session.

The speakers emphasized the numerous opportunities that exists to strengthen EU-GCC investment ties ranging from the energy sector, digital technologies, agriculture and the food industries to the transport sector and logistics. Key issues to be considered include expanding current cooperation to the areas of the Mediterranean and Africa as part of broader triangular relations as well as overcoming structural issues in terms of European and GCC bureaucracy. A key emphasis should be given to education and training programs that can increase the understanding of the processes on both sides. All speakers underlined the need for more tangible action to take place in order to truly improve and advance the overall investment climate.

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Panel Session 3: Regional Security



On January 10, 2023, the GRC held the third session of the GCC-EU webinar series entitled “Regional Security.” More than 100 participants attended the session. The event focused on the status of relations and the priorities of both the GCC and EU countries as related to the EU’s Joint Communication on a “Strategic Partnership with the Gulf,” launched in May 2022. The speakers of the session were Mr. Carl Hallergard, Director for the Middle East and North Africa from the European External Action Service (EEAS); Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC; Dr. Nathalie Tocci, Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI); and Dr. Zafer Alajmi, Executive Director of the Gulf Monitoring Group, Kuwait. Dr. Christian Koch, the Director of Research at the GRC, moderated the session.

The webinar highlighted a number of points when it comes to regional security issues. First, from an EU perspective, it was stressed that Gulf

security is a key priority for Europe as security in the region is also a core element of European security. Second, Europe has come to realize the contentious role being played by Iran through the use of proxy forces when it comes to countries such as Lebanon and Syria. With Iran now also involved in the Ukraine crisis through the delivery of military drones, European security is impacted more directly. Third, the crisis has further underlined the European dependency on energy imports, another factor that now ties Europe closer to the Gulf region. In addition to Iran and Yemen, the speakers addressed numerous other topics on which EU-GCC cooperation needs to be considered, including nonproliferation issues, nuclear safety, maritime security (Operation ATALANTA and EMASOH), cybersecurity, energy security, environment and climate change, disaster prevention (pandemics and earthquakes), food security, counterterrorism, as well as humanitarian aid and development assistance.

TAFAHUM wa TABADUL Project

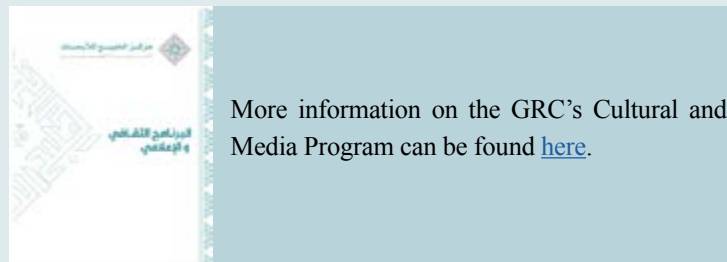


On January 24 and 25, 2023, the Tafahum wa Tabadul project organized a workshop titled ‘Regional Network for Women in Peace and Security Issues: Creating Spaces for Exchange within the West Asia and Arabian Peninsula (WAAP) Regional Setting’ in Brussels. The event brought together women within the security sector. The workshop discussed the opportunities and obstacles that exist in elevating the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda in the countries of the WAAP region.

The workshop also identified mechanisms whereby regional interaction among women interested in regional security affairs can be initiated and structured through fostering regional interaction and exchange. One of the primary outcomes was focusing on how a regional network modeled after the Women in International Security (WIIS) network could be advanced in the region.

GRC Cultural and Media Program

The GRC's cultural and media program held a symposium to launch and introduce the program. The meeting took place at GRC's headquarters in Riyadh on January 24, 2023, in the presence of a group of intellectuals, culture, and media experts. Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, presented the idea of establishing the programs and its activities alongside Dr. Zaid Al-Fadhil, Director of the Cultural and Media program.



GRC Cultural and Media Program Symposium, Riyadh

Gulf Dialogue Lab



The Gulf Dialogue Lab is one of the first projects launched in the GRC's Cultural and Media program. It focuses on monitoring the cultural activities at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and studying the mechanisms and ways of developing the role of media in each country. It presents many training programs and research, which discusses various topics.

GRM 2023 Call for Papers



The Gulf Research Center announced that it is accepting abstract applications for the 13th annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM). The announcement was posted for the call to papers, in an effort to attract scholars and experts from around the globe to submit in the following workshop topics: politics, economics, gender, culture, energy, security, and social sciences. Specific workshop titles for this year's conference are:

13th Gulf Research Meeting

11 - 13 July, 2023



More information on the workshops can be found on the [Gulf Research Meeting website](#)

Questions should be sent to grmapplicant@grc.net

For more details visit www.gulfresearchmeeting.net

GRM 2023 WORKSHOPS:

- Sustainable Development Financing and the Role of the Financial Sector in the GCC Region
- Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Model: Its Role in the GCC States' National Visions
- Perspectives on Hard Security Issues in the Gulf
- Industrial Policies in the Gulf and the Middle East
- The Renewed & Expanded Role of the Gulf on the Global Energy Scene
- Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies
- The Leading Role of Gulf Higher Education in Achieving Sustainability and Addressing Climate Change
- Cultural Heritage in the Gulf – Emerging Trends, Identity Politics, Challenges, and Concerns
- Women in the GCC: Negotiating Leadership, Power, and Change
- Israel and the Gulf Monarchies: A New Regional Security Complex or Just Complex Regional Security?
- The Future of the GCC as an Institution
- The Gulf and the Horn of Africa: Trans-Regional Competition and Cooperation

- Sustainable Development Financing and the Role of the Financial Sector in the GCC Region
- Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Model: Its Role in the GCC States' National Visions
- Perspectives on Hard Security Issues in the Gulf
- Industrial Policies in the Gulf and the Middle East
- The Renewed & Expanded Role of the Gulf on the Global Energy Scene
- Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies
- The Leading Role of Gulf Higher Education in Achieving Sustainability and Addressing Climate Change
- Cultural Heritage in the Gulf – Emerging Trends, Identity Politics Challenges and Concerns
- Women in the GCC: Negotiating Leadership, Power, and Change
- Israel and the Gulf Monarchies: A New Regional Security Complex or Just Complex Regional Security?
- The Future of the GCC as an Institution
- The Gulf and the Horn of Africa: Trans-Regional Competition and Cooperation
- Innovation and Development of Knowledge Societies – The transformational Impact of Intellectual Property on Knowledge based Economic growth with a focus on Frontier Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and IP financing

The deadline for abstract applications is February 24, and all applications should be submitted [HERE](#).



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



Recent Activities Publications



GLMM Factsheet No. 2:
“Saudi Arabia: Changes in
Labour Force Structure?”

[Click Here](#)

Françoise De Bel-Air



GLMM Research Report
No. 1/2023: “Measuring
the Impact of Covid-19
on Migrant Workers in the
GCC and Jordan”

[Click Here](#)

Françoise De Bel-Air

GRM 2023 Call for Papers

Workshop on Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies at the 13th Gulf Research Meeting

Click [here](#) for more information

GLMM Advisory Board

The recently established [GLMM Advisory Board](#) is composed of nine GCC and international expert. The first time on the advisory board took place on January 12, 2023:

- 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

GCC Regional Data

GLMM published unique GCC regional data:

- GCC: national working-age population by sex and age group, click [here](#)
- GCC: working-age population by nationality (national - non-national) and age group, click [here](#)
- GCC: foreign working-age population by sex and age group, click [here](#)

Updating of GLMMs Public Databases

- GCC demographic-economic database: click [here](#)
- GCC legal database: click [here](#)

GRC Publications

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

Commentary & Analysis



Prospects for Saudi-Brazil Relations Under President Lula

January 2023
Amnah Mosly

Selected Arabic Articles and Research Papers



The Joining of the Arab Gulf states to Regional and International Blocs: Necessity or Choice?

January 2023
Yousef Khattab

Country Updates



Italy - GCC Relations

January 2023



US - GCC Relations

January 2023

Araa Magazine



181 (January 2023): A Year's Dedication Complete, and the New Year's Commitment

GRC Participations

In January 2023, the GRC participated in numerous international events — both online and in-person — tackling issues pertaining to the developments in the Gulf region and its broader neighborhood. The GRC emphasizes participating in such participations, 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.



January 31, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, received the Director of the Middle East and North Africa Program at the European Council on Foreign Relations Julien Barnes-Dacey and his colleagues Ellie Geranmayeh, Cinzia Bianco and Hugh Lovatt. During the meeting, both sides discussed the current developments in Saudi-European relations.



January 29, 2023

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program, represented the GRC as a co-chair of Major Groups at UNEP by co-organizing and speaking at the International Major Groups and Stakeholders preparatory meeting at the United Nations conference center. Dr. Raouf also attended the Ad-hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. Both meetings took place in Bangkok, Thailand.

GRC Participations



January 27, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, received at the center's headquarters in Riyadh the Deputy Director General, Head of the Department for the Middle East and North Africa of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Magnus Hellgren. During the meeting, regional and international developments of concern were discussed.

January 26, 2023

Noriko Suzuki attended the Japan Arab Association's quarterly meeting.



January 22, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the GRC, and Dr. Zaid Al-Fadhil, Director of the Cultural and Media program, held a meeting with the Association of Journalists, represented by Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Eid, Secretary-General Nasser Al-Gharbi and retired Major General Abdullah Al-Orabi. As a result, the two sides agreed on the initial activities of the memorandum of understanding that will be signed this year.



January 27, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, received at the center's headquarters in Riyadh the head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Tobias Tunkel. During the meeting, regional and international developments of concern were discussed.



January 22, 2023

At the invitation of Ambassador Patrick Simonnet, the EU Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, and Sultanate of Oman, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in a meeting with the EU member states ambassadors and heads of missions.

GRC Participations



January 19, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, has been appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Crisis Group for three years, starting from January 2023. More details can be found [here](#).



January 18, 2023

Layla Ali, Amnah Mosly, and Christine Williams, researchers at the GRC, attended the reception at the German Consulate General hosted by The Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany and Dr. Dalia Samra-Rohte, Delegate of German Industry & Commerce for Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen.



January 16, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, virtually participated in a closed session on ‘Yemen-Gulf Dialogue - Yemen’s Status in Regional Policies’, organized by the Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies and The Exchange Foundation.



January 15, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated as a speaker in a closed workshop on regional security prospects in the Gulf, organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) in Manama.



January 15, 2023

Dr. Zaid Al-Fadhil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program, participated in a meeting titled ‘The Historic Novel: The Body and the Margin.’



January 12, 2023

Dr. John Sfakianakis, Director of the Economic program at the GRC, participated in the program on Al-Sharq TV (Bloomberg).

GRC Participations



January 12, 2023

Dr. John Sfakianakis, Director of the Economic Program at the GRC, participated in the International Mining Conference to talk about the mineral sector, stressing that institutions are the basic principle for a strong and unique mining sector.



January 12, 2023

Noriko Suzuki attended the Foreign Press Center Japan's New Year's event. Professor Saho Matsumoto and Noriko Suzuki delivered a brief speech on "Women's positions on Islamic and Christian communities."



January 11, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, met with Ambassador Ludovic Pouille, the Ambassador of France to KSA, and Ambassador Brigitte Curmi, the French Special Envoy for Syria, for a rich exchange of views on developments in Syria.



January 10, 2023

Dr. Zaid Al-Fadhil, Director of the Cultural and Media program, participated in the Al Thalia program on Radio Jeddah, in which he discussed the cultural trends of the post-millennium generation in a research study conducted by the Saudi Ministry of Culture.



January 5, 2023

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, received the CEO of SPARK, Mr. Yannick Du Pont, accompanied by the Regional Business Development Director, Mr. Mohamed Skaik, at the GRC's headquarter office in Riyadh. Both sides talked about ways of cooperation.



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

Recent Media Participations



Al Riyadh newspaper published a commentary about the symposium meeting of the GRC's Cultural and Media program that took place in the GRC's office in Riyadh.



La Fabrique L'Opinion published a press interview with Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, during which he outlined several essential topics. Click [here](#) to read the full interview.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on the Saudi TV channel 'Saudia' in an episode that dealt with several issues, including the Saudi presence in Davos, Saudi-Iranian relations, the Yemeni crisis, Saudi-American relations, as well as the war in Ukraine. Watch the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the program 'On the Borders' on Bloomberg in an episode entitled 'Will India become an alternative to China for the US?' Watch the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the 'Huna Al-Riyadh' program in an episode entitled 'The Most Important Issues in 2023.'



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