



المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات  
Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies

# Third Annual Gulf Studies Forum

3 - 5 December, 2016

[Time Table](#) | [Participants](#)





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# Third Annual Gulf Studies Forum

3 - 5 December, 2016



# Time Table

# Day One: December 03, 2016

Ritz-Carlton Doha

Venue: Lusail Hall	
9:00 – 9:15	Opening Remarks
GCC-Turkey Relations	
9:15 – 11:00	<p>Session One</p> <p><b>Gulf-Turkey Relations: Present-day Realities and Future Directions</b></p> <p>Chair: Marwan Kabalan</p> <p>Muhittin Ataman: Turkey and the Gulf: New Realities Require New Regional Projections Abdullah Al-Shammari: Gulf-Turkey Relations: Prospects and Challenges Mesut Özcan: Turkish foreign policy towards the Middle East: Before and after the Arab Uprisings Mohammed Al-Misfer: Motives for GCC-Turkey Cooperation and Partnership: Qatar-Turkey Relations as a Case Study</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session Two</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GCC-Turkey Economic Relations</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair: Adel Zagha</b></p> <p><b>Khaled Shams Abdelkader:</b> Qatari-Turkish Economic Relations: Present-day Realities and Future Prospects</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SADIK ÜNAY:</b> Qatar and Turkey: The Future of Strategic Trade Relations</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Suliman Al- Atiqi:</b> Turkey-GCC Relations: Drivers and Limitations</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Erdal Tanas Karagöl:</b> The Role of Energy in Turkey's Relations with the Gulf Region.</p>
13:00 - 15:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
15:00 - 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session Three</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Regional Security: Questions and Challenges</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair: Sultan Barakat</b></p> <p><b>Abdulaziz Bin Sager:</b> Gulf-Turkey Relations: Military and Security Cooperation and Regional Crises</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Murat Yeşiltaş:</b> Common Threats and Risks to Turkey and the Gulf</p> <p><b>Suhaim Al Thani:</b> Turkish-Gulf Relations and Strategic Choices for the Arab States of the Gulf</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hasan Basri Yalçın:</b> Turkey and the Gulf: New Forms of Ties in the Middle East</p>

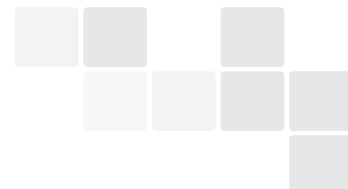
# Day Two: December 04, 2016

Venue: Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies  
Auditorium (1+2), Meeting Room


Auditorium (2)	
9:00 - 10:00	<p><b>Public Lecture: Abdulaziz Bin Nasser Al Khalifa</b> The Contribution of Qatar Development Bank to Economic Diversification Chair: Suhaim Al Thani</p>
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break
Auditorium (1)	
10:30 - 11:30	<b>Official Opening of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies</b>

	<b>Economic Diversification Sessions Auditorium 2</b>	<b>International Relations Sessions Meeting Room</b>
11:30 - 13:00	<p>Session One</p> <p><b>Economic Diversification Strategies in the Gulf States</b></p> <p>Chair: Baqer Al-Najjar</p> <p>Ali Al-Zamia: Development Policies in the Gulf States: the Missing Link</p> <p>Mohammed Al-Rumaihi: Obstacles to Revenue Diversification in the Arab Gulf States</p> <p>Habibullah Turkistani: Evaluating the Economic Diversification Strategies of the Gulf States: Opportunities and Challenges</p> <p>Essam Al Zamel: The Impact of the Expatriate Labor Force on Economic Diversification in Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>Session One</p> <p><b>The Gulf Cooperation Council: Security Challenges and Regional Stability</b></p> <p>Chair: Hasan Johar</p> <p>Saber Al-Suwaidan: Intra-GCC Military Cooperation: the Impact on Regional Security</p> <p>Dhafer Al-Ajami: The Contribution of the Arab Maghreb Countries to Gulf Security post-Arab Spring</p> <p>Majid Al-Turki: GCC Regional Security: the Options Available</p> <p>Andreas Krieg: Yemen and Gulf Security</p>
13:00 - 13:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	





13:30 - 15:00	<p>Session Two</p> <p><b>Economic Diversification in Saudi Arabia: Prerequisites and Challenges</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Hend Al-Muftah</b></p> <p><b>Mohammad Salim Al Sabban:</b> Prerequisites for Successful Economic Diversification in Saudi Arabia</p> <p><b>Adel Hamaizia and Makio Yamada:</b> The Political Economy of Economic Transformation in Saudi Arabia</p> <p><b>Iman Al-Quwaifli:</b> The Welfare State in Transition: Assessing the Saudi National Transformation Plan</p> <p><b>Naser Al-Tamimi:</b> Economic Diversification Policies in Saudi Arabia: Choice or Necessity?</p>	<p>Session Two</p> <p><b>Regional Challenges and Saudi Foreign Policy</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Faisal Abu Salib</b></p> <p><b>Fahad Al-Orabi Al-Harhi:</b> Saudi Arabia's Options in Facing Regional Challenges</p> <p><b>Khalid Al-Dakhil:</b> The Present Reality and Future Prospects of Saudi-Egyptian Relations</p> <p><b>Alain Gresh:</b> Egypt–Saudi Arabia relations in the light of regional developments</p>
15:00 - 16:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>	



16:30 - 18:00

Session Three

## Economic Diversification in the Gulf: Case Studies

Chair: Essam Al Zamel

**Nader Kabbani:** The Role of Silatech in Economic Diversification

**Jasim Hussein:** Economic Diversification in the Gulf: Success Stories

**Nabil Alnoor Borhanu:** The Role of Young Entrepreneurs in Economic Diversification

Session Three

## US-Gulf Relations: Challenges and Prospects

Chair: Shafeeq Al Ghabra

**John Duke Anthony:** The Future of US- GCC Relations: the View from Washington

**Abdullah Al-Shayji:** The Future of US- Gulf Relations under the Incoming Administration

**Khalid Al-Jaber:** The Transformations in US- Gulf Relations: New Rules, New Players

**Amr Abdel Ati:** Gulf Security and the US Policy of Off-shore Balancing

# Day Three: December 05, 2016

Ritz-Carlton Doha Lusail Hall (1+2)

	Economic Diversification Sessions Lusail Hall 1	International Relations Sessions Lusail Hall 2
9:30 - 11:00	<p>Session One</p> <p><b>Economic Diversification in the Gulf: Visions and Needs</b></p> <p>Chair: Sharifa Al-Yahyai</p> <p>Saeed Alwahabi: Economic Diversification in the Saudi National Vision 2030</p> <p>Yousuf Hamad Al Balushi: Oman 2020: Prospects and Challenges</p> <p>Rami Mohammed Abu Wadi: Economic Diversification and Development: the Case of Bahrain</p> <p>Lolwah Al-Khater: Management Consultancies and the Drafting of Economic Diversification Strategies in the Gulf States</p>	<p>Session One</p> <p><b>Arab Gulf States and the Challenge Iranian</b></p> <p>Chair: Mohammad Almasri</p> <p>Abdulwahab Al-Qassab: Intra-Gulf Relations and their Geostrategic Impact</p> <p>Anwar bin Mohammed Al-Rawas: Omani-Iranian Relations and the Repercussions for Oman's Gulf Relations</p> <p>Abdullah al-Assaf: The Iranian Challenge and GCC Security</p> <p>Alieu Manjang: Saudi-Iranian Rivalry and its Implications on Saudi Foreign Policy towards East Africa</p>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break	

<p>11:30 - 13:00</p>	<p>Session Two</p> <p><b>Global Economic Transformations and their Impact on the Economic Policies of the Gulf States</b></p> <p>Chair: Hassan Aly</p> <p><b>Tim Niblock:</b> The Transformation of the Gulf's Global Economic Relations, and the Opportunities for Gulf States to Create New Political/Strategic Relationships</p> <p><b>Naji Abi Aad:</b> The Post-Oil Energy Era Already Started: How the Gulf Would Cope</p> <p><b>Makio Yamada:</b> The Role of East Asia in Economic Diversification in Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>Session Two</p> <p><b>GCC Relations with the Great Powers</b></p> <p>Chair: Yousef Al-Abdullah</p> <p><b>Abdullah Ali Al Malek Al Sabah:</b> Future Prospects of GCC Relations with Russia</p> <p><b>Christian Koch:</b> The Gulf and Europe: Changing Dynamics</p> <p><b>Maher Qandil:</b> The Gulf-India Relationship: Ideological Divergence and Shared Interests</p> <p><b>Jeremias Kettner:</b> Qatar - German Relations, 1998-2013: Trends and Features</p>
<p>13:00 - 15:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>	

<p>15:00 - 16:30</p>	<p>Session Three</p> <p><b>Economic Transition as Part of Economic Diversification in the Gulf States</b></p> <p>Chair: Omar al-Shehabi</p> <p><b>Fahad Al-Fadalah:</b> Investing in the Knowledge Economy as a Key to Economic Diversification: the Case of the GCC</p> <p><b>Abeer Al- Aleryani:</b> Economic Diversification in the GCC: the Transfer to a Knowledge Economy</p> <p><b>Hend Al-Muftah:</b> Qatari Women Entrepreneurs: their Contribution to Economic Diversification</p>	<p>Session Three</p> <p><b>GCC Relations with Latin America</b></p> <p>Chair: Yacoub Al Kandari</p> <p><b>Nouf Alenezi:</b> Latin America and the GCC in the Realm of International Relations: Promises and Challenges</p> <p><b>Alejandra Galindo M:</b> Mexican and Brazilian Approaches towards the Gulf: an Assessment of their Economic Diplomacy</p> <p><b>Alanoud Al Sabah:</b> Brazil-GCC Relations</p>
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# Participants

Participant	Biography
Abdulaziz Bin Nasser Al Khalifa	<p>Held a number of leadership positions within the Qatar Development Bank, including as Executive Director for Strategic Planning and Operations Development. Al Khalifa was also the Vice President of a number of committees within the QDB. Prior to joining the Qatar Development Bank, Al Khalifa worked at Shell Qatar within the Business Development team after having spent six years in a variety of roles within the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kaharama). A pioneer in the private sector and in entrepreneurial ventures, Al Khalifa has played a leading role in establishing a Qatari loan guarantee program; developing a Qatari export incentive corporation; and devising a program to offer housing loans to Qatari nationals. Al Khalifa holds an MBA from Qatar University, having previously studied Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the University of California-Los Angeles. He also holds a number of specialist degrees from Harvard and INSEAD.</p>
Abdulaziz Bin Sager	<p>Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, he holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Lancaster, UK, and an MA in the same subject from the University of Kent, UK. He has given many training courses in the field of leadership and advanced management and has been a Visiting Professor at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy, and the University of Osaka, Japan. A member of many international research councils, institutes and centers. He has authored many articles in the local and international press on the Gulf and regional affairs. Among his writings are: Reforms in Saudi Arabia: Challenges and Feasible Solutions; GCC Political &amp; Economic Strategy towards Post-War Iraq; and Arab Peacekeeping Forces.</p>
Abdullah al-Assaf	<p>Holds a PhD in Political Media. He was the Chairman of Specialized Media, at the Media and Communications College, Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University. He teaches Political Media, and is the Executive Director of Communication Innovation Corporation, a firm that offers consultancies and Media Studies. He is also a media consultant for several institutions and authorities. Al-Assaf has taught in various Saudi universities and colleges and participated in national and international conferences</p>

Participant	Biography
Abdullah Ali Al Malek Al Sabah	<p>Researcher in Political Science and International Relations. Al Sabah earned a BA in Political Science from Kuwait University in 2012, before completing an MA within the same Department in 2016. Al Sabah's MA thesis was titled "The Strategic Rise of the Russian Federation and its Impact on the International Balance of Powers. He has participated in a number of academic symposia across the globe.</p>
Abdullah Al-Shammari	<p>Assistant Professor and Head of the Gulf Affairs Department at the International Middle East Peace Research Center in Ankara. A specialist in Turkish studies, he is a former Saudi diplomat who served in the United States, Pakistan, and Turkey. His book "The Political History of the Modern Middle East," has appeared in Turkish and is taught as a set-text in Turkish universities. He has also written "The Cyprus Crisis and Saudi-Turkish Relations" and translated "Twelve Years with Absullah Gul". He is fluent in Turkish and English.</p>
Abdullah Al-Shayji	<p>Professor of International Relations at the University of Kuwait and Visiting Professor of Political Science at George Washington University, US. He was previously Head of the Political Science Department at Kuwait University. In 2010 he won the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science Award for overall academic production in the Social Sciences and Humanities. He holds a PhD in the Philosophy of Political Science from the University of Texas, Austin.</p>
Abdulwahab Al-Qassab	<p>Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies with expertise in military affairs and armaments. He is a retired commodore in the Iraqi navy and has worked as a researcher at the Center for Arab World Studies at Al-Mustansiriya University; the Center for International Studies at the University of Baghdad; Dar Al-Hikmah, Baghdad; and as a consultant to several research centers. He has published numerous articles and written and translated several books. He has also co-authored several volumes published by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies.</p>



Participant	Biography
Abeer Al- Aleryani	Senior specialist in research contracts at the Office of Supported Research at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia. She holds an MA in Development Studies and Political Economy from the University of London (SOAS). For the past ten years she has worked in the field of development, and previously worked at the World Bank in Yemen in the economic and social development department for the Middle East and North Africa region. Her research interests include topics such as Economics, and knowledge economy.
Adel Hamaizia	Doctoral Researcher at St Antony's College, University of Oxford, where he focuses on the Political Economy of the Maghreb region. He is also a Tutor at the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford, where he teaches Middle East Politics. Hamaizia is also a Senior Teaching Fellow at the Department of Financial and Management Studies at SOAS, University of London, teaching courses on International Human Resource Management (Japan, China and MENA), and Political Economy/Management in the Middle East and North Africa. He is Vice-Chairman of the Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum (OxGAPS) and has to date worked on a range of government and private sector projects in the GCC and throughout MENA.
Adel Zagha	Received his PhD in Economic Theory and Public Finance from the Free University of Berlin in 1994. A Professor of Economics at Birzeit University, he later became the University's Chairman of the Economics Department and the Director of Master's Program from 1994 till 1999, then Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics till 2004, then Director of Planning, Development till 2005, Vice-President for Planning, Development and Quality Assurance till 2011 and finally Vice-President for Administrative and Financial Affairs till August 2016. He is currently a Visiting Professor and Research Fellow at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies working on a book on international political economics. His latest research was with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), contributing to the writing of a report on Palestine population till 2050. His research interests include issues related to international political economics, financial decentralization, tax system and tax reforms in developing countries, higher education quality assurance and institutional performance and poverty and inequality.

Participant	Biography
Alain Gresh	Journalist and international human rights activist, Gresh was editor of the French newspaper Le Monde Diplomatique until 2005. He is an active member of the editorial board of the French magazine Maghreb-Machreq, Secretary General of the Association of French journalists specialized on the Maghreb and the Middle East (AJMO) and author of: Israel, Palestine: Truths of a Conflict and De quoi la Palestine est-elle le nom?
Alanoud Al Sabah	PhD student in History at Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona Spain and holds a Master's degree in Chinese Studies from the same University. Al-Sabah has 9 years of work experience in the field of International Relations and has participated in the 3rd Annual Arab Youth Delegation to China, and the Personality of the Year 2013 of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs among others. She has recently spent time doing research in Brazil. Al-Sabah is fluent in Spanish, French and Portuguese and has working knowledge of Chinese.
Alejandra Galindo M	Professor in the Department of Social Science at Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico. She specializes in Middle East Politics, with special focus on Saudi Arabia. Professor Galindo is member of the Mexican National Research System. She has conducted field research in Yemen, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Her research interest includes issues on gender and citizenship and international relations of the Gulf, particularly with Latin America. Among her publications are The Gulf and Latin America: An Assessment of Expectations and Challenges (2013) and The Gulf and Latin America: Exploring New Avenues of Exchange (2016) both titles published by the Gulf Research Center.
Ali Al-Zamia	Former Kuwaiti Minister who held the portfolios for the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs and the Ministry of Planning. Previously also the Minister of State for Administrative Development. He received his PhD in Contemporary Political History in 1989 from the UK with the dissertation, "The Intellectual and Historical Development of the Islamic Movement in Kuwait 1950-1981."

Participant	Biography
Alieu Manjang	<p>PhD candidate in Gulf studies and Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant at the College of Arts and Science, Qatar University. Manjang holds two Master's: an MA in Gulf Studies, (Qatar University, 2015) and one in Public Policy in Islam (Faculty of Islamic Studies, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar-2012). Manjang also obtained his BA in Journalism and Mass Communication (Al-Azhar University, Egypt 2009). His areas of interest include foreign policy and international politics of the Gulf States, with specific focus on Gulf-African relations and education and migration in the Gulf.</p>
Amr Abdel Ati	<p>Doctoral student at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University, where he is also a scholar specializing in American Affairs. He is also an Associate Editor of the <i>Siyasa Duwalia</i> ("International Politics") journal, a publication of <i>Al Ahram</i>, and is a contributor to <i>Al Monitor</i>. Previously, Abdul Atti was the Editor-in-Chief of the <i>Washington Report</i>. A regular contributor to the Arab printed press, Abdul Atti has also had a number of guest appearances on Arab satellite television stations.</p>
Andreas Krieg	<p>Assistant Professor for Defence Studies at King's College London, he is currently seconded to the Defence academy of the Qatari Armed Forces in Doha. Krieg's research in the field of security and conflict studies focuses particularly on the Middle East as a region in transition. He has just published a book <i>Commercializing Cosmopolitan Security</i> and is due to publish a book called <i>Socio-Political Order and Security in the Arab World</i>. Both books will be published by Palgrave.</p>
Anwar bin Mohammed Al-Rawas	<p>Associate Professor at the Department of Media in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University. His research interests are in the areas of satellite communication, new media, media and culture, media and society, and political communication. He received his PhD in Political Media from the University of Exeter, UK, in 1997.</p>

Participant	Biography
Baqer Al-Najjar	is professor of sociology at the University of Bahrain. He was dean of the Arts Faculty there from 1995 to 1999, and was a member of the Bahraini Shura Council from 2000 to 2002. He has published widely, and received the Sheikh Zayed Book Prize in 2009 and the GCC prize for intellectual and academic achievement in 2014.
Christian Koch	Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to moving to Geneva, he spent 16 years working in the United Arab Emirates. His research interests and work combine the various international and foreign relations issues of the GCC states with a particular interest in GCC-EU Relations. Koch is author/editor of six books, has written numerous book chapters and journal articles and is a regular contributor to international media.
Dhafer Al-Ajami	PhD in Arab Gulf Security; Seconded Professor at Kuwait University; Executive Director of the Gulf Monitoring Group; Retired Colonel (Kuwait Air Force); Analyst and Researcher in Arab and Gulf security issues. Al-Ajami graduated from the British Command and Staff College, Camberley in its first session. His books include "Arab Gulf Security: Development and Problems from the Perspective of Regional and International Relations (Center for Arab Unity Studies, 2004 and 2011; "The History of the Kuwaiti Army" (1999 and 2000); "The Army of Kuwait in the period of Mubarak Al-Sabah (2000); and Kuwait's Quest for Security (2009). He writes for local and Gulf newspapers and comments on events on several TV channels.
Erdal Tanas Karagöl	Professor at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University. He currently teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses. He received his MA degree from University of Connecticut and his PhD from York University. Karagöl has been focusing on economic growth, development economics, foreign debts, energy economics, energy security and Turkey's energy outlook. He also spent time at the SETA foundation which is a non-profit research institute dedicated to innovative studies on national, regional, and international issues. His numerous papers, analysis, articles and comments appear on both Turkish and international media outlets. He is also the Head of the Energy Department at the SETA foundation Ankara and currently writes weekly columns for the Yenişafak Newspaper

Participant	Biography
Essam Al Zamel	Economic Researcher Fellow at the Gulf Centre for Development Policy, has several publications in the field of economic reform, and has a weekly column in Mecca newspaper and in the Journal of the America Monitors. He gave many lectures in the economic development of the oil states and the impact of foreign workers on the Gulf economies. His blog was nominated as the best economic blog of Global Media Award form organized by Deutsche Villa.
Fahad Al-Fadalah	Technical consultant at the Arab Planning Institute, Kuwait. He holds a PhD in Education from the University of Cairo, and worked as a faculty member and Chairman of the Department of Education at the Open University in Kuwait, in addition to other educational posts. He is a member of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST) and has been Executive Director and a consultant in a number of agencies and institutions in Kuwait in the field of training and human resource development. A regular contributor of specialist research papers, studies and, background papers for international and country reports, Al Fadalah won a state encouragement prize in the Social Sciences and Humanities. His research interests include human resource development, adult education, and human development.
Fahad Al-Orabi Al-Harathi	Director of the Asbar Center for Studies, Research and Communications and Chairman of the Board of the Asbar Company for Training and Management Development. He is a member of the Saudi Shura Council and former editor-in-chief of Al-Yamamah Magazine and administrative board head at the Saudi Al-Watan newspaper. He received his PhD in Arts and Humanities from the Sorbonne, Paris.
Faisal Abu Salib	Assistant Professor in the Political Science department of the Social Science faculty at the University of Kuwait since September 2009. Abu Salib headed the American Studies unit in the same faculty from 2010 to 2014. He has published a number of articles and books on US foreign policy in the Gulf region and gained a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Manchester in 2009.

Participant	Biography
Habibullah Turkistani	Received his PhD from Lancaster University, UK. He worked as Vice-Dean at the Research and Consulting Institute, and Head of the Office for Management and Marketing Studies at King Abdulaziz University. He founded the MERG group for marketing and economic research, where he heads a group of local and international researchers. His research projects are in the fields of strategic management, strategic planning, human resource development, training, and e-marketing with a focus on Gulf affairs and the GCC common market. He is a board member of various associations, including the Jeddah Council for Social Responsibility and the National Retirees Association. Turkistani has published extensively in the field of community work and social responsibility.
Hasan Basri Yalçın	Director of Strategic Research at SETA. He is a Lecturer at the İstanbul Ticaret University – Department of Political Science and International Relations. His interests are in International Relations Theory, International Security, Strategy, NATO and Social Science Philosophy.
Hasan Johar	Kuwaiti academic and Head of the Department of Political Science at Kuwait University. Johar earned a PhD in International Relations at Florida State University in 1989, and is the author of several research papers covering Gulf security, energy policy and political Islam. Johar was elected to Kuwait's National Assembly and served as a parliamentarian from 1996 to 2011.
Hassan Aly	The Founding Dean of the School of Public Administration and Development Economics and Professor of Economics at the Doha institute for Graduate Studies. Aly is also Professor Emeritus of Economics at Ohio State University and currently serves as President of the Middle East Economics Association. He is a member of the Economic Research Forum's Board of Trustees.

Participant	Biography
Hend Al-Muftah	<p>Received her MA in Development Studies from SOAS in 1999, and her PhD in Human Capital Formation from Exeter University in 2004. Since January 2015 she has been working as Associate Professor and Vice-President for administrative and financial affairs at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Previously worked as manager of human resources at the University of Qatar and at Qatar Rail Company, a consultant at Qatar University and the Ministry of Trade and Business, and CEO at the Childhood Cultural Center. She has published many research papers in in the area of human development in international journals, a book in English entitled Human Capital Formation in Qatar and another in Arabic, entitled “Concerns in Administration,” and has also contributed chapters to several books in English.</p>
Iman Al-Quwaifli	<p>Journalist at Al Araby Al Jadeed, the Arabic version of The New Arab, having previously worked for Al Watan (Saudi Arabia), Ash Sharq Al Awsat (London) and Al Majala (Saudi Arabia). Al Quwaifly holds an MA in Sociology.</p>
Jasim Hussein	<p>Bahraini researcher and academic specializing in the economy of the GCC states. A graduate of the Northwest Missouri University, US, Hussein was an elected member of the Bahraini parliament from 2006 to 2011 and worked on the Economy and Finance Committee. He chaired the Economic Research Unit of the Deanship of Scientific Research at the University of Bahrain. Between 2005 and 2006, he taught at the Faculty of Business Administration at the University of Bahrain for nearly 15 years until standing for parliament. In 2010, he was commissioned by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research to write a book on the linkage of the GCC currencies to hard currencies and the status of the dollar in light of the growth of other global currencies.</p>

Participant	Biography
Jeremias Kettner	PhD Candidate at the Free University of Berlin. A strategic consulting, government relations, communication and public affairs professional with in-depth knowledge in German Foreign Policy towards the Middle East. Jeremias has worked in the corporate, the non-profit, and academic sectors. Currently he is writing his PhD about Qatari-German relations at the Free University of Berlin. He advises various organizations and companies in the field of business development, stakeholder management and the search for investment capital.
John Duke Anthony	Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council on US-Arab Relations. He currently works for the Advisory Committee to the US State Department on international economic policy and its subcommittee on sanctions. He received a PhD in Middle Eastern Studies and International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.
Khaled Shams Abdelkader	Dean of the College of Business Studies and Economics at Qatar University, having previously been the Head of the Department of Finance and Economics at the same faculty, until 2013. Abdelkader gained an MA in Economics from Claremont University in California in 1998 before obtaining a PhD from the University of Wales-Bagnor in 2003. His research interests are varied, and include: risk management; banking; securities; the unified Gulf currency; inflation; and the Gulf labor market. Over the course of his professional career Abdelkader has been involved in research and advisory roles within a number of state institutions, including the Amiri Diwan, Masraf Al Rayyan and the Qatar Central Bank.
Khalid Al-Dakhil	Researcher in Political Sociology and a member of the editorial board of journal Dirasat Filistiniya (Palestine Studies). Al-Dakhil worked as professor at King Saud University in Riyadh and has a number of published research papers in the field of political reform. He is a regular contributor to both Arab and foreign press, and writes weekly in Al-Hayat newspaper. He is the author of “Wahhabism: between Polytheism and the Fracturing of the Tribe.” Al-Dakhil received his MA and PHD in Political Sociology from UCLA.



Participant	Biography
Khalid Al-Jaber	<p>Director of the Al Sharq Center for Research and Opinion Polling, he works as Assistant Professor teaching Political Media in the Gulf Studies Program at the University of Qatar. He was previously editor-in-chief of Al Sharq newspaper, and is currently editor-in-chief of the English-language daily, Peninsula which is part of the Al Sharq group. His research interests include the role of the media, political media and international relations.</p>
Lolwah Al-Khater	<p>Director of Planning and Quality Management at the General Authority for Tourism, Qatar. Previously worked at the Qatar Foundation and the Rand Policy Institute, Qatar as Director for research projects. She has worked on a range of research projects including ones in education and family studies and has measured the effect of research projects in Qatar academically, socially and economically. She obtained her MA in Information Systems from Imperial College, London.</p>
Maher Qandil	<p>Holds an MA in Law and Political Science from the University of Algeria. He holds the second Master degree in Internal Security from University of Nice Sophia Antipolis in France 2015.</p>
Majid Al-Turki	<p>Saudi academic and researcher, he is currently the Head of the Center for Media and Arab-Russian Studies. AL-Turki is also a board member of the National Center for Youth Research, a member of the permanent secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, Kazakhstan, a member of the Saudi Association for Media and Communication, and an academic adjudicator for a number of academic institutions and research centers. Al Turki has many publications and participated in numerous international academic conferences.</p>

Participant	Biography
Makio Yamada	<p>Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, Yamada specializes in the political economy of Saudi Arabia, and Saudi Arabia's economic relations with Asian countries. His publications include: "Saudi Manufacturing: Can Monozukuri Take Root in the Kingdom?" in <i>Employment and Career Motivation in the Arab Gulf States: The Rentier Mentality Revisited</i>. (2015); "Saudi Arabia's Look-East Diplomacy: Ten Years On", <i>Middle East Policy</i> (2015); "Gulf-Asia Relations as 'Post-Rentier' Diversification? The Case of the Petrochemical Industry in Saudi Arabia", <i>Journal of Arabian Studies</i> (2011). He obtained his DPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford in 2015.</p>
Mesut Özcan	<p>Received his BA in Political Science and International Relations from Marmara University in 2000 and his MA in 2002 from the same institution. He completed his PhD at Boğaziçi University in 2007. He studied at St. Antony's College, Oxford University on the Jean Monnet Master Scholarship for one year between 2005-2006. He lectured at Istanbul Ticaret University's Department of International Relations from 2007 to 2011 and continues to teach at Istanbul Sehir University on a part-time basis. Özcan served at the Center for Strategic Research (SAM) as the Deputy Chairman between 2011 and 2013 and as the Acting Chairman between 2013 and May 2014. He is currently the Director of Diplomacy Academy of MFA. Özcan has written several books and articles on Turkish foreign policy and the Middle East.</p>
Mohammad Almasri	<p>Almasri is a Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies as well as its Executive Director, Almasri previously worked at the University of Jordan and has extensive experience in public opinion polling. He oversees the Arab Opinion Index, the largest survey of public opinion in the Arab world.</p>

Participant	Biography
<p>Mohammad Salim Al Sabban</p>	<p>Consultant on economic and petroleum-related affairs. He earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Colorado in 1983, before joining the faculty at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He was also an Adviser to the Saudi Minister of Electricity and Industry; to the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources; and in 1997 became the permanent Senior Adviser to the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. Al Sabban was the senior Saudi negotiator to the United Nations climate accord, becoming the Chief of the Saudi delegation to climate conventions since 1997 and eventually became the Deputy Chairman of the UN Climate Change Committee.</p>
<p>Mohammed Al-Misfer</p>	<p>Professor of Political Science at Qatar University. He has written extensively in the field of political science and on issues of Arab nationalism, and is a regular columnist for both Doha-based and pan-Arab newspapers. He earned his PhD in Political Science from New York University.</p>
<p>Mohammed Al-Rumaihi</p>	<p>Director of the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies and Professor of Political Sociology at the University of Kuwait, where he supervises graduate studies in sociology. He is also a consultant to the Alam Al-Maarifa series of monographs published by the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture. He has a number of published books in English and Arabic on Gulf societies and Arabic culture. He edited the well-known Al-Arabi magazine and a number of daily newspapers including Sawt Kuwait and Al-Awan (published in London and Kuwait). Al-Rumaihi has won a number of cultural prizes including the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Republic, the Sultan Al Owais Cultural Award, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science prize in sociology, and the Kuwaiti State Merit Award in 2010.</p>

Participant	Biography
Muhittin Ataman	<p>Deputy General Coordinator at the SETA foundation. Graduated from the Faculty of Political Science in the Department of International Relations at Ankara University. Ataman earned his MA at Central Oklahoma University, and PhD at University of Kentucky between 1996 and 1999. He worked as an RA and a faculty member afterwards in the Department of International Relations at Abant izzet Baysal University from 1993 until 2014. Ataman is currently a faculty member at the Faculty of Political Science in the Department of International Relations at Yıldırım Beyazıt University. He previously worked at SETA for three years as a part-time research in Foreign Policy Research Department. Currently, he serves as SETA's Deputy General Director in Ankara, and conducts academic research on Turkish Foreign Policy, the Middle East Politics and the Gulf Politics.</p>
Murat Yeşiltaş	<p>Director of the Security Field at the SETA Foundation. Completed his BA and MA at the Department of International Relations of Sakarya University, in 2003 and 2009, respectively. He earned his PhD at the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Marmara University in 2012 with the thesis titled "Positioning Turkey: Geopolitical Mentality and the Army in Turkey". Yeşiltaş was a visiting researcher at the Department of European Studies and International Politics of Lanchester University between 2008 and 2009. He was a visiting professor at Virginia Tech's Institute of Government and International Relations in 2010-2011. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at Sakarya University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses, such as Turkey's Middle East Policy, Critical Geopolitics, Political Geography, and comparative foreign policy analysis.</p>
Nabil Alnoor Borhanu	<p>Entrepreneur and adventurer. Borhanu holds MBA degrees in Entrepreneurship and International Marketing, and is well known for his embrace of technologies. Borhanu has been a speaker and judge at various entrepreneurship and venture capital meetings in Silicon Valley. Over the past five years, Borhanu has helped to establish a number of ventures, including in communications, sport and media, which combined have had a combined income of 300 million Saudi Riyals. His own venture capital firm, Graphene Ventures, has invested over \$100 million in start-ups across the world, and made headlines for its investment in Snapchat.</p>

Participant	Biography
Nader Kabbani	<p>Director of Policy and Research at Silatech. Before joining Silatech, Kabbani served as Director of the Syrian Development Research Center at the Syria Trust for Development, a member of the Faculty of the American University of Beirut, an Economist with the US Department of Agriculture, and a Fellow and Analyst with the California State Senate Office of Research. Kabbani holds a BA from Claremont McKenna College, an MA in Public Management and Organizational Behavior from California State University, Sacramento and a PhD in Economics from the Johns Hopkins University.</p>
Naji Abi Aad	<p>General manager for operations at the Beirut-based (PETROLEB) company. He worked in Qatar starting as a strategic consultant for research and media at Qatar Petroleum (QP) and at the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for the Qatari Minister of Energy and Industry. He was then appointed Senior Adviser to the Executive Director of Qatar Petroleum international (QPI). Holds a PhD in Energy Economics from the University of Grenoble, France. He has written more than 80 reports and studies on energy issues in the Middle East, and authored a book in 1996 about the security of oil supplies from the region.</p>
Naser Al-Tamimi	<p>Independent UK-based Middle East researcher, he holds a PhD in International Relations from Durham University. He is a regular contributor to Al-Arabiya English. His research interests focus on energy policies in the Gulf and Iran, Asia-Gulf relations, China in particular. Al-Tamimi's work has been published by many renown research centers, such as Durham University, Brookings Institute, the Middle East Institute in Washington DC, the Gulf Research Center, the Italian Institute for International Political Studies and <i>Al Jazeera Center for Studies</i>. <i>He previously worked as researcher and journalist in the United Kingdom and in the Middle East.</i> Al-Tamimi authored the book, <i>China-Saudi Arabia Relations, 1990-2012: Marriage of Convenience or Strategic Alliance?</i> (Routledge, 2013).</p>

Participant	Biography
Nouf Alenezi	<p>Earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Sciences from Kuwait University in 2004, her Master's degree in politics from New York University in 2009, and her Doctorate degree from University of Utah, Department of Political Sciences in 2015, with emphasis on international relations. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Sciences at Kuwait University and also the Head of the Unit of Latin American Studies at the College of Social Sciences, Kuwait University.</p>
Omar al-Shehabi	<p>is assistant professor and director of the Gulf Center for Development Policies, Gulf University of Science and Technology, Kuwait. He was previously an associate at McKinsey and Company and a consultant at the World Bank. Al-Shehabi has also served as economics director of studies at the University of Oxford. He holds M.Phil. and D.Phil. degrees in economics from the University of Oxford.</p>
Rami Mohammed Abu Wadi	<p>Holds a PhD in Business Economics and a BA in Accountancy from the University of Jordan and an MA in Accountancy from Amman Arab University. He has worked at the Arab College and Al-Quds College in Jordan, and is currently working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Accountancy and Economics at Ahlia University, Bahrain.</p>
Saber Al-Suwaidan	<p>He retired in July 2000 after serving for 34 years. During his service he took part in many activities to develop the Air Force, especially the planning, supervision and implementation of the Museum of Air Force History, which took four years of work before it opened in November 1997. He has written and published three books: "The First 40 years of the Air Force" (1993); "Days Captive in Iraq" (1993); and "The History of the Kuwaiti Army from 1949-1999" (November 1999).</p>

Participant	Biography
SADIK ÜNAY	<p>Director of the Economy Department at the SETA foundation. Completed his undergraduate education at Bogaziçi University-İstanbul in 1997 and received his MA (1999) and PhD (2005) in International Political Economy from the University of Manchester in the UK. He worked as an academic at the Universities of Manchester, Birmingham, Huddersfield in the UK; and at Maltepe, Yıldız Teknik and İstanbul Şehir universities in Turkey. He also acted as an advisor to Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). As an expert on international political economy, development economics, industry-technology policies and the Asia-Pacific he published numerous articles in esteemed national and international academic journals. Currently he writes weekly columns for the Daily Sabah newspaper.</p>
Saeed Alwahabi	<p>Graduate student at Cornell University, working toward his Master degree in public administration, with a concentration in government, politics and policy studies. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration Systems from Arab Open University, in Saudi Arabia. Since 2010 he has been working as a journalist and writer in many publications and news websites and he is an author of two books in Arabic.</p>
Sharifa Al-Yahyai	<p>Lecturer and Researcher specialized in Women Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. Formerly Oman's Minister for Social Development (2004-2011), she received her PhD in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies from Leeds University, UK in 2001.</p>
Suhaïm Al Thani	<p>Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, and Secretary of the Organizing Committee of the Forum for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies. Al Thani has published a number of studies in academic journals and holds an MA in Political Science specializing in International Relations from Royal Holloway College, London.</p>

Participant	Biography
Suliman Al- Atiqi	<p>PhD Candidate at St Antony’s College, University of Oxford, and a researcher on the GCC states. He is the Committee Chairman of the Oxford Gulf &amp; Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum and the Managing Editor of its journal, Gulf Affairs. Al-Atiqi previously served as an analyst for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) where he led the “Barriers and Opportunities at the Base of the Pyramid” research program and report. He holds an MA in Psychology from Columbia University specializing in Social and Political psychology, and an MA in International Affairs from Florida State University specializing in international relations and the GCC region.</p>
Sultan Barakat	<p>The Director of Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies. Barakat was the director of research at the Brookings Doha Center and a senior fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy. Barakat has been widely published, and has over 25 years of professional experience working on issues of conflict management, humanitarian response, and post-conflict recovery and transition.</p>
Tim Niblock	<p>Emeritus Professor of Middle East Politics at the University of Exeter, UK, and Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the same university (1999-2005). He is a Visiting Professor at several Chinese universities. His publications include works on the economic ties between Asia and the Gulf in the 21st century, such as: Asia-Gulf Economic Relations in the 21st Century: The Local to Global Transformation (2013), and Security Dynamics of East Asia in the Gulf (2014).</p>
Yacoub Al Kandari	<p>Professor of Anthropology and Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Faculty of Social Science, Kuwait University. His previous posts include Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Kuwait University, and Director of the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies. Al Kandari received his MA and PhD from Ohio State University, USA</p>



Participant	Biography
Yousef Al-Abdullah	<p>Associate Professor at Qatar University. He holds a doctorate in Modern and Contemporary History. His published titles include: British-Qatari Relations: 1914-1945, The History of Education in the Arab Gulf: 1913-1971, The Political Evolution of Qatar, The Modern and Contemporary Political History of the Arab Gulf States and Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani. He was the coordinator of and a participant in the history symposium held during the Qatar National Day celebrations in 2008, and he later edited its proceedings. He is currently co-authoring a book entitled Sheikh Abdullah Bin Jassim Al-Thani.</p>
Yousuf Hamad Al Balushi	<p>economist with more than two decades of experience within his country's Central Bank and the Ministry of Economy, as well as the Supreme Planning Council. He also served as a Statistical Adviser on Foreign Direct Investment within the Technical Assistance Program run by the International Monetary Fund. He holds a PhD in Political Economy from King's College London, where his thesis concentrated on the impact of FDI on enhancing the capabilities of the private sector, and its contribution to incentivizing economic development within Oman. Today, Al Balushi remains a keen student of globalization, the development of the private sector, FDI and monetary, financial and trade policies.</p>

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