

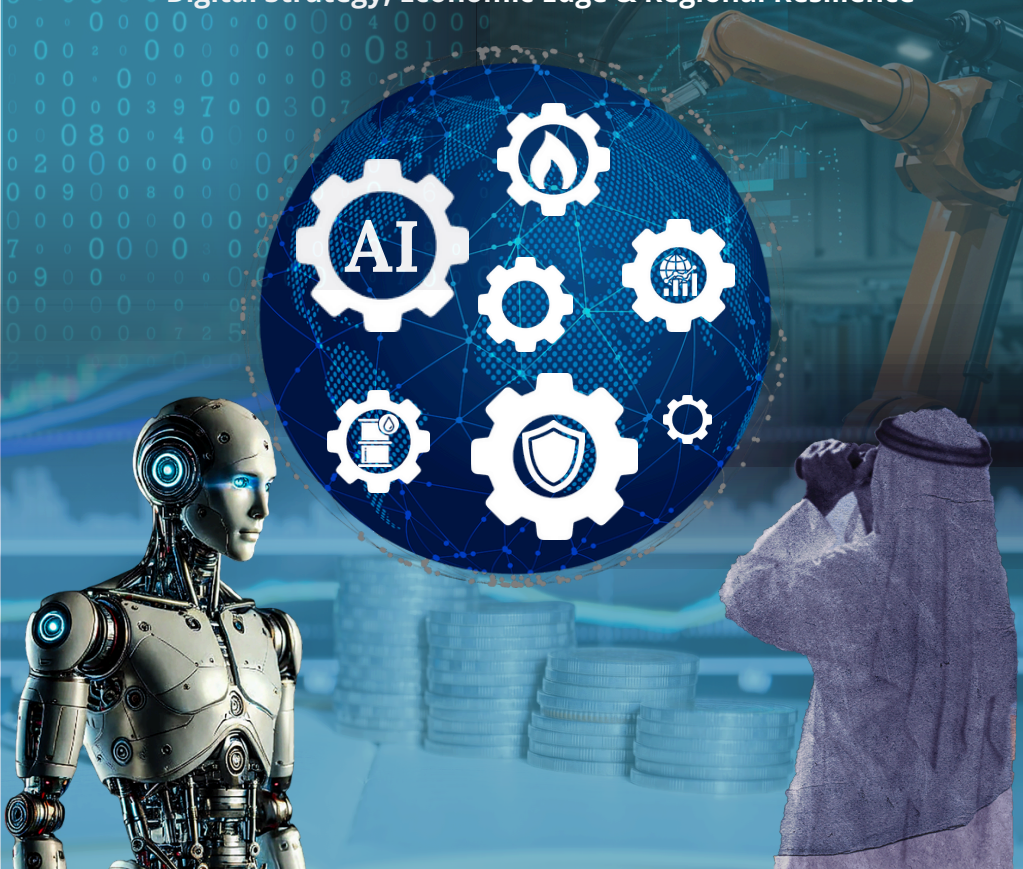


MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL
ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Seventh Annual

Gulf International Conference | 2025

From Energy to Innovation Engine
Digital Strategy, Economic Edge & Regional Resilience



Conference Program

Tuesday, Oct 14, 2025



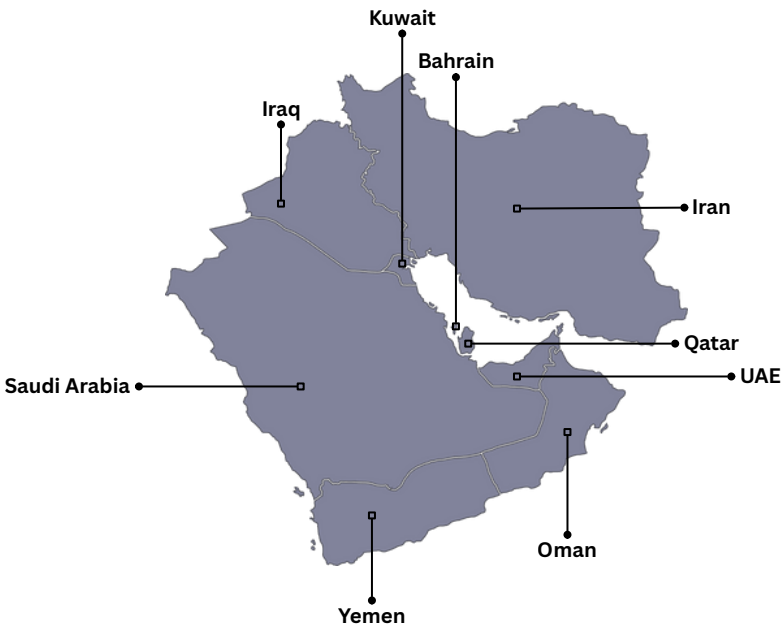
Gulf International Forum HQ, Washington, DC

Vision

Gulf International Forum (The Forum) is an independent Washington-based Institute that aspires to enhance peace, progress, security, and stability in the Gulf and greater Middle East region through the open proliferation of ideas.

Mission

Gulf International Forum strives to be the primary source of credible analysis on the region. Our mission revolves around enhancing understandings; engaging in free dialogue; and promoting independent thinking by building awareness and contributing to the accumulation of knowledge on the Gulf. GIF focuses on political, economic, social, and security issues for the nine regional states: Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Through various educational platforms that promote research, analysis, and dialogue, GIF aspires to encourage objective intellectual debates that inform interested audiences.



8:30 - 9:00

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

9:05 - 9:15

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OPENING REMARKS

9:15 - 9:25

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DEEMAH ALYAHYA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE DIGITAL COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

9:30 - 10:40

ECONOMY FIRST: PRIORITIZING U.S. AND GULF PROSPERITY

Fahad Nazer, Official Spokesperson for the Embassy of Saudi Arabia to the United States

Amine Mati, Assistant Director, Mission Chief for Saudi Arabia, and Head GCC Division, IMF

Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida, Chief Executive Officer, Qatar Financial Centre Authority

Dr. Karen Young, Senior Research Scholar in the Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University; Senior Fellow, Middle East Institute

Dr. Tarik Yousef, Senior Fellow and Advisor, Middle East Council on Global Affairs; Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf International Forum (Moderator)

10:40 - 11:40

FROM DEPENDENCE TO DOMESTIC ENGINES: ECONOMIC PATHWAYS FOR GCC GROWTH

Dr. Amin Mohseni, Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf International Forum

Dr. Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Fellow for the Middle East, Baker Institute; Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf International Forum

Justin Alexander, Director, Khalij Economics

Omar H. Rahman, Fellow, Middle East Council on Global Affairs (Moderator)

11:45 - 12:25

**FIRESIDE CHAT WITH H.E. DR. MOHAMMAD NEDAL
ALCHAAR, MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY OF THE
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, MODERATED BY THE HONORABLE
NICK J. RAHALL II**

12:30 - 1:00

**FIRESIDE CHAT WITH H.E. MAHMOOD AL-AWEINI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF
THE SULTANATE OF OMAN, MODERATED BY DR. DANIA
THAFER**

1:00 - 1:40

LUNCH RECEPTION

1:40 - 2:00

**SPECIAL CONVERSATION WITH HER HIGHNESS PRINCESS
NOURA BINT TURKI AL SAUD, MODERATED BY RACHEL
ZIEMBA**

2:00 - 3:00

**INNOVATION AT THE CORE: TECH AND INVESTMENTS
SHAPING GCC FUTURES AMID REGIONAL
TRANSFORMATIONS**

Mohsin Al Jabri, *Director General, Oman Net Zero Centre*

Rachel Ziemba, *Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf
International Forum*

Dr. Abdullah Baabood, *Board of Directors Member, Gulf
International Forum*

Valentina Pasquali, *Senior Editor, Arabian Gulf Business
Insight* (moderator)



HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MOHAMMAD NEDAL ALCHAAR

Minister of Economy and Industry
of the Syrian Arab Republic

His Excellency Dr. Nedal Alchaar is the Minister of Economy and Industry in the Syrian Arab Republic. Previously, he was the Minister of Economy and Trade, the Chairman of the Higher Investment Council, and the Secretary General of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), an international organization that regulates the Islamic Finance industry with over 200 members from 46 countries.

Dr. Alchaar has vast working experience in financial markets and institutions. He was the Director of Market Performance Analysis at Fannie Mae and Vice President at Johnson & Higgins in Washington D.C. Additionally, he was a professor of Economics and Finance at The George Washington University, where he received his Ph.D. in International Monetary Economics.

Dr. Alchaar has appeared as a key-note speaker in over 150 conferences worldwide. He was ranked 8th in the 100 Most Influential Arabs list published by Arabian Business and, for eleven years, has been ranked as one of the 500 Most Influential Muslims by Georgetown University. In 2006, he was awarded the prize for Banking Excellence by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Additionally, he was twice nominated for the Nobel Prize for his contribution to the development of Islamic Banking and Finance.

Dr. Alchaar has published several well-recognized books in the fields of banking and financial markets, including “Fundamentals of Banking Operations,” “Financial Markets,” and “Economic Inquiries,” all of which have been best sellers. In addition to these books, he has published a number of scientific articles in the field of monetary policy and exchange rates analysis.



HER EXCELLENCY DEEMAH ALYAHYA

Secretary General of the Digital
Cooperation Organization

Her Excellency Deemah AlYahya is a digital innovation and transformation leader and a longstanding champion of digital inclusion, particularly for women, young people, and entrepreneurs.

She is the first Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), an inter-governmental organization established in 2020 to work towards a world in which every country, business, and person has a fair opportunity to prosper in the global digital economy. She works directly with heads of state, government ministers, and digital economy leaders to promote the inclusive development of the digital economy, focusing on global initiatives with real-world impact.

Secretary-General AlYahya has spent nearly 20 years building tech communities in the United States and across the Middle East, acting as a catalyst for innovation and improving the environment for digital entrepreneurs and developers. More than 2.5 million people have benefitted from the systems she has built to distribute the digital economy's advantages more widely.

A trailblazer for Saudi women in tech, Secretary-General AlYahya began her career as a developer. She quickly demonstrated her ability to build public sector centers of innovation from the ground up, among them Saudi Arabia's National Digital Transformation Unit and the Innovation wing of the MiSK Foundation.

On the private sector side, she has served as Chief Innovation Evangelist at Microsoft, responsible for expanding the developer ecosystem and empowering youth, women, and independent software vendors by providing the technology, skills, and tools they needed to evolve from job seekers to job creators.

She holds a BA in Computer Science and Information Systems from King Saud University, and has attended senior executive programs with Harvard Business School and the INSEAD business school.

A portrait of His Excellency Mahmood Al-Aweini, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a white thobe and a patterned ghutra. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a solid blue color.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAHMOOD AL-AWEINI

Secretary General of the Ministry of
Finance of the Sultanate of Oman

His Excellency Mahmood Al-Aweini currently serves as the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance and supervises the National Program for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development (Estdamah). Previously, he held the position of Program Director with the aim of leading initiatives in support of Oman's Vision 2040 Directive to improve the effective contributions of the financial sector towards the economy of the Sultanate.

Before his role in the Estdamah program, His Excellency Mahmood Al-Aweini contributed to the National Program for Investment & Export Development (Nazdaher). His professional background includes various senior positions at local and international organizations, such as the energy giant BP, where he served in several leadership roles and, most recently, as a contracts and procurement advisor for the Middle East. Before that, he was the General Manager for Rawsa Oman Investment, which was a regional investment fund specializing in green field projects and private equity. He also played a pivotal role in the establishment of Hutchison Ports Sohar and served as the head of the revenue and billing team. His career commenced as the head of the Trading and Supervision Department at the Muscat Stock Exchange.

With over 20 years of practical experience, Al-Aweini has demonstrated proficiency in strategic institution building and leadership. His expertise spans investment, business development, negotiation, and financial sector management. He has garnered notable achievements in the oil and gas sectors, logistics, and financial markets. Al-Aweini holds a bachelor's degree, with honors, in Finance and a master's degree in Business Administration.



HER HIGHNESS PRINCESS NOURA BINT TURKI AL-SAUD

Founding Partner,
AEON Collective

Her Highness Princess Noura bint Turki Al-Saud is the co-founder of AEON Collective, a cross disciplinary Waqf (non-profit endowment) which advocates for sustainable practices and policies, while actively working towards inclusive and equitable development through its various projects and programs. As such, Her Highness co-leads companies and initiatives under AEON Collective, which focuses on fostering holistic and sustainable approaches to development.

With a professional career spanning almost two decades, she has been a leading voice calling for climate aligned energy policies and strategies in the Kingdom since 2012, where she has focused her work on the geopolitics of energy, global climate policy, energy markets, energy security and affordability. She has also contributed to the Kingdom's efforts on the development of the Circular Carbon Economy and the Circular Carbon Economy National Program. As Managing Partner of Aeon Strategy, she leads and directs development and strategy projects emphasizing environmentally and socioeconomically conscious approaches.

She has co-authored and steered multiple publications that bridge the gap between science and policy, in support of science-backed policy making. She holds a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), where she took an interdisciplinary approach to development and international cooperation.

She previously served as Assistant Director at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS), a think tank based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where she also headed the Unit on Energy Studies, focusing on the geopolitics of energy and energy markets. She is a Founding Board Member of Albaydah Development Society and an Advisory Board Member of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology's (KAUST) Circular Carbon Initiative. She has also served as a member of the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Energy Efficiency Industry Advisory Board.



Dania Thafer
Executive Director and Senior Fellow,
Gulf International Forum

Dr. Dania Thafer is the Executive Director of Gulf International Forum, an institute based in Washington, D.C. that provides analysis on political, economic, social, and security issues for the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Iran, Iraq and Yemen. She is also a Professorial Lecturer at the School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University. Her expertise is on the Gulf region's security, U.S.-Gulf relations, and the political economy of the GCC states.

Dr. Thafer has been widely published and consults regularly on matters concerning the GCC and the Middle East. Dr. Thafer has a new book titled *Creative Insecurity: Institutional Inertia and Youth Potential in the GCC* published by Oxford University Press and Hurst Co. (2023). Additionally, she has co-authored two edited books *The Arms Trade, Military Services and the Security Market in the Gulf States: Trends and Implications* and *The Dilemma of Security and Defense in the Gulf Region*. Her commentary has appeared in international media outlets, including: *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *BBC World*, *Washington Post*, *Forbes*, *Al Jazeera* and others. Additionally, she is regularly consulted by governmental, non-governmental, corporations and research institutions globally.

Previously, she was responsible for building relationships with foreign dignitaries from the Middle East at the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies in Washington, DC. Dr. Thafer has a master's degree in political science from New York University, and Ph.D. in Political Science, specialized in the Political Economy and International Relations from American University in Washington, DC.



Mohsin Al Jabri
Director General, Oman Net Zero Centre

Mohsin Sulaiman Al Jabri is a senior executive with 16 years of experience in sustainability. He is leading the Green and Sustainable Finance initiative which is one of the main initiatives currently executed under the National Program for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development (Estdamah). The aim of this initiative is to enable the public and private sectors to reach net zero at the lowest possible cost, by facilitating access to green and sustainable financing. Al Jabri also led the Oman Net Zero Centre that was recently established with the aim of supporting Oman's efforts to achieve its goals of reaching zero neutrality by 2050. Before joining the program, Al Jabri was the Executive Manager of Corporate Affairs at the SOHAR Port and Freezone Company, where he was in charge of five main units; Environmental, Health Safety, and Emergency (HSE), Security, Procurement & Contract and CSR & Support Services unit. He holds an EMBA from IMD Business School/Lausanne (2022), a master's degree in environmental engineering (2011) and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering (2009) from Sultan Qaboos University.



The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Former U.S. Representative

Former U.S. Representative Nick Rahall is a member of the Advisory Board at Gulf International Forum. Rep. Rahall represented West Virginia's Third Congressional District. He served on both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Public Works Committee for all 19 consecutive terms he served in the U.S. House of Representatives. He held the position of Ranking Member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and served as Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee from 2007 through 2011.

First elected in 1976, Former Representative Rahall is distinguished as the youngest-elected, longest-serving member in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives. As the longest-serving member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he played a leading role in every federal highway debate during his 38-year career.

Nick Rahall worked tirelessly to build and repair the nation's highways, bridges, and ports; modernize thousands of airports; and provide critical water, sewer systems, and flood control projects throughout West Virginia and across the nation.

As Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Nick Rahall worked on issues close to the hearts of many West Virginians, such as preserving the state's rich coal history and jobs, expanding tourism opportunities, and protecting hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. Through his leadership and close cooperation with the National Park System, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a wide variety of stakeholders, he helped preserve and safeguard special places across the nation for future generations.



Dr. Tarik M. Yousef

Senior Fellow and Advisor, Middle East Council on Global Affairs; Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf International Forum

Tarik M. Yousef is a Senior Fellow at the Middle East Council on Global Affairs. Prior, he served as the director of the Middle East Council on Global Affairs and Brookings Doha Center and was a non-resident senior fellow in the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He is a research fellow with the Economic Research Forum in Cairo.

His career has spanned the academic and think tank world at the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University, the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School, and the Global Economy and Development program at Brookings. His involvement with public policy includes working in the Middle East Department at the International Monetary Fund, the Middle East and North Africa region at the World Bank, and the UN Millennium Project.

He has contributed more than 75 articles, chapters, and reports, and co-edited several volumes including, most recently, “The Belt and Road Initiative: China-Middle East Cooperation in an Age of Geopolitical Turbulence” (Brookings Doha Center and the Shanghai Academy for Social Sciences, 2019); “Public Sector Reform in the Middle East and North Africa: Lessons of Experience for a Region in Transition” (Brookings Press, 2020); and “The Gulf Cooperation Council at Forty: Risk & Opportunity in a Changing World” (Brookings Press, 2021).

Yousef has served on the boards of the Middle East Economics Association; United Nations Development Programme Human Development Reports; Arab Human Development Report; Arab Knowledge Report; Gender Economic Research and Policy Analysis in the Arab World; the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute; the Global Agenda Councils of the World Economic Forum; and the Arab Banking Corporation.



Amine Mati

Assistant Director, Mission Chief for Saudi Arabia, and Head of GCC Division, International Monetary Fund

Amine Mati is Assistant Director in the IMF’s Middle East and Central Asia Department. Since January 2022, he has been the IMF’s mission chief for Saudi Arabia and head of the IMF’s GCC division.

Mr. Mati, a national of Algeria, joined the IMF in 2002 under the Economist Program and has gained extensive experience as a macroeconomist during his career. He has worked in the Middle East and Central Asia, European, and Fiscal Affairs Departments, covering a wide range of countries including Indonesia, Lebanon, Mauritania, Turkey, and Tunisia where he successfully led the negotiations for two IMF-supported programs post-Arab Spring.

More recently, Mr. Mati was the IMF’s Senior Resident Representative and Mission Chief for Nigeria, leading and managing the IMF country work there, including the Covid-19 IMF emergency financial assistance. During the pandemic, Mr. Mati was IMF Mission chief for Uganda where he led negotiations for a new IMF-supported program and headed the IMF’s work on the East Africa Community.

Mr. Mati's research and publications focus on financial crises, fiscal policy, subsidy reform, capital flows, trade and inclusive growth. He holds an MBA in International Finance and a Ph.D. in Economics from the George Washington University in Washington DC.



Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida
Chief Executive Officer, Qatar Financial Centre

Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) in June 2015. He previously held the role of Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Strategic Business Development Officer at QFC where he was responsible for leading the overall strategy and business development functions of the organization.

Prior to joining QFC, he was Head of Indirect Investment at the Qatar General Retirement and Pension Authority, which included overseeing the management of hedge funds, private equity, real estate, fixed income, and equity portfolio investments. He has also worked for Qatar Energy and Dolphin Energy early in his career.

Yousuf serves as board member in leading local and international organizations including the World Alliance of International Financial Centers, the Qatar Financial Centre, the Qatar Finance and Business Academy, the Qatar Free Zones Authority, the Qatar Stock Exchange, the Investment Promotion Agency, and Sidra Medicine.

He is also an advisory board member in the college of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University and sits on the Advisory Council of Qatar University's College of Business and Economics.

Previously, Yousuf was on the boards of Nakilat QSC and the \$1 billion strategic investment fund of Unicorn Investment Bank, as well as serving as Vice Chairman of Mayadeen Real Estate Company KSCC. He graduated from the University of Arizona, USA.



Fahad Nazer

Official Spokesperson for the Embassy of Saudi Arabia to the United States

Fahad Nazer is the official spokesperson for the Embassy of Saudi Arabia to the United States. He was appointed to this role on January 18, 2019. Prior to this appointment, Nazer was a non-resident fellow at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington and served as an International Fellow at the National Council on U.S. Arab Relations. Additionally, He was also a columnist for the daily newspaper Arab News. Nazer earned his BA in political science from New York University and an M.A in political science from Saint John's University in New York City. He has also completed the credit and examination requirements of the PhD program in political science at the Catholic University of America in Washington.



Dr. Karen E. Young

Senior Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University SIPA; Senior Fellow, Middle East Institute

Dr. Karen E. Young is a Senior Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University SIPA. She was founding director of the Program on Economics and Energy at the Middle East Institute and remains a senior fellow. She was a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, and has been a professorial lecturer at George Washington University, teaching courses on the international relations of the Middle East. She regularly teaches at the US Dept of State Foreign Service Institute and at Columbia's SIPA. Earlier, she was Senior Resident Scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute and a Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Middle East Centre. She led a seminar series on emerging markets in MENA at Johns Hopkins SAIS. At the American University of Sharjah, she served as Assistant Professor of Political Science from 2009-2014. Prior to joining AUS, she held research and administration roles at New York University.

She is the author of two books: *The Economic Statecraft of the Gulf Arab States* (2022) and *The Political Economy of Energy, Finance and Security in the United Arab Emirates* (2014), as well as editor of *Energy Transitions of the Middle East* (2024) and *GCC Hydrocarbon Economies and Covid* (2023) and a chapter contributor in: *The Economy of Saudi Arabia in the 21st Century* (2024), *Routledge Companion to China in the Middle East* (2023), *The Gulf States in the Horn of Africa* (2022), and *The Economics of Renewable Energy in the Gulf* (2019). She has published opinion articles and research in the *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Lawfare*, *Al Monitor*, *Journal of Arabian Studies*, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, *Current History*, *Gulf Affairs*, *Security Dialogue*, *ISPI*, *Internationale Politik* and *Middle East Policy*, among other academic and analytical outlets and provided testimony in Congress. Her comments have been featured on NPR, CNBC, CBS, CBC, AFP, in the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg*, *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *Al Arabiya*, *Arab News*, *Debtwire*, *MEED* and *MEES*.

Her work has been supported by grants from Smith Richardson Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of NY, the Fulbright Program (Ecuador 1997-99; Bulgaria 2005-06), the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX), the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the Woodrow Wilson Center, US State Department Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), APSA MENA Fellows Program and Emirates Foundation (via LSE). She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Professor David Des Roches

Associate Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Security Studies; Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf International Forum

Professor David Des Roches is a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at Gulf International Forum. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of at the Near East South Asia Center for Security Studies. Prior to this, he was the Defense Department Director responsible for policy concerning Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Prior to this assignment, he has served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as Liaison to the Department of Homeland Security, as senior country director for Pakistan, as NATO operations director, and as deputy director for peacekeeping. His first job in

government was as a special assistant for strategy and later as the international law enforcement analyst in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. He graduated from the United States Military Academy and obtained advanced degrees in Arab Politics from the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies, in War Studies from Kings College London, and Strategic Studies from the US Army War College. He has also attended the Federal Executive Institute, the German Staff College's Higher Officer Seminar, the US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare School, and the US Army Command and General Staff College.



Dr. Kristian Coates Ulrichsen
**Fellow for the Middle East, Baker Institute; Senior
Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf International Forum**

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Ph.D., is a fellow for the Middle East at the Baker Institute and a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at Gulf International Forum. His research examines the changing position of Persian Gulf states in the global order, as well as the emergence of longer-term, nonmilitary challenges to regional security. Previously, he worked as senior Gulf analyst at the Gulf Center for Strategic Studies and as co-director of the Kuwait Program on Development, Governance and Globalization in the Gulf States at the London School of Economics.

Dr. Coates Ulrichsen has published extensively on the Gulf. His books include "Insecure Gulf: The End of Certainty and the Transition to the Post-Oil Era" (Hurst & Co., 2011), "The Gulf States in International Political Economy" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), "The United Arab Emirates: Power, Politics, and Policymaking" (Routledge, 2016), and "Qatar and the Gulf Crisis" (Oxford University Press, 2020), and, most recently, "Centers of Power in the Arab Gulf States" (Hurst & Co., 2023). Coates Ulrichsen's articles have appeared in numerous academic journals, including Global Policy and the Journal of Arabian Studies, and Third World Quarterly and he consults regularly on Gulf issues for government and private sector agencies around the world. He holds a doctorate in history from the University of Cambridge.



Rachel Ziemba
Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf International Forum

Rachel Ziemba is a geo-economic and country risk expert. She runs Ziemba Insights, an advisory firm that supports clients in macroeconomic scenario analysis and policy due diligence. She tracks how governments use their balance sheets to meet economic and political goals and the ways resource wealth is managed. This includes sanctions, export controls, sovereign investment, and industrial policy.

She is also Senior Advisor, Sanctions at Horizon Engage, Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), and a non-resident fellow at the Gulf International Forum. She teaches International Political Economy at New York University's Center for Global Affairs. As part of her commitment to supporting the next generation she serves on the advisory board of the Harriman Foreign Service Fellows, which supports state department interns.

Before founding Ziemba Insights, Rachel served as the head of emerging markets research at Roubini Global Economics, a global macro strategy and country risk firm. In that capacity she co-led the research team, overseeing the emerging market and commodity research team. This included the firm's quarterly global economic outlook and scenario production, as well as the implementation of many of its customized research projects and due diligence exercises for private equity firms.

Rachel regularly serves as an expert commentator in key media outlets including CNBC, Bloomberg, New York Times, and Financial Times. Her research has been cited by a range of international institutions including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the European Central Bank, as well as many academic institutions. She is the co-author of "Scenarios for Risk Management and Global Investment Strategies" and "Investing in the Modern Age," both in collaboration with Professor William Ziemba, her late father.

She holds a bachelor's degree, with honors, from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Philosophy degree in International Relations with a specialization in international political economy from St. Antony's College, Oxford University (with distinction). She holds the Sustainability and Climate Risk certificate from GARP.



Valentina Pasquali
Senior Editor, Arabian Gulf Business Insight

Valentina Pasquali is a senior editor in Washington DC with Arabian Gulf Business Insight (AGBI). She covers US policy and its impact on Gulf economies in sectors including technology, energy, real estate, and mining. Additionally, she writes on trade and investment ties between the Americas and the Middle East. She was previously with AGBI in Dubai, covering the GCC property, construction, and hospitality markets. Over the course of her career, Valentina has reported from more than a dozen countries, contributing to many media outlets in the US and overseas.



Justin Alexander
Director, Khalij Economics

Justin Alexander is the Director of Khalij Economics. This is a US-based consultancy that seeks to improve understanding of the GCC, the unique features of each state and the region's role in the world. As part of this, he leads a research service for emerging market investors through GlobalSource Partners and is also a non-resident fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy. He has been engaged with the Middle East for over a quarter century, including working in Qatar as an economist for the Ministry of Finance and QNB. He previously covered the GCC for the Economist Intelligence Unit, worked for the United Nations in Iraq and lived in Jordan and Palestine. He holds degrees from Balliol College, Oxford and Birkbeck College, London.



Dr. Amin Mohseni

Senior Adjunct Faculty Member, Columbia University; Senior Lecturer, American University; Non-Resident Fellow, Gulf International Forum

Dr. Amin Mohseni-Cheraghloou (Amin Mohseni) is an accomplished economist, academic, and policy expert with over 25 years of international experience spanning academia, think tanks, international organizations, and the private sector. His expertise encompasses macroeconomics, energy & environmental economics, GeoEconomics, economic statecraft & sanctions, climate finance, international trade & financial relations, emerging markets, and regulatory & policy analysis. He has held pivotal roles in leading global economic initiatives, advising policymakers, and conducting cutting-edge research on IFIs & MDBs, energy transition & sustainable development, and global economic & financial architecture.

Currently, Dr. Mohseni serves as a Senior Adjunct Faculty member at Columbia University and a Senior Lecturer at American University, where he designs and teaches graduate-level courses on political economics, development economics, energy & environmental economics, and development finance. His academic contributions extend beyond teaching, as he has actively mentored graduate students, supervised research projects, and played a key role in developing new courses and programs.

His professional experience includes serving as a Senior Advisor at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he provides strategic insights into international financial institutions and macroeconomic policies. Previously, he was a Macroeconomist at the Atlantic Council's GeoEconomics Center, leading the Bretton Woods 2.0 initiative aimed at reimagining global economic governance and financial architecture. He also contributed to major research projects at the World Bank, where he spearheaded the development of the Global Financial Development Database and Banking Regulation and Supervision Survey, and worked on influential policy reports on financial inclusion, banking supervision, and energy economics. Throughout his career, he has held teaching and research positions in major academic, research, and policy institutions in the U.S., China, Switzerland, Türkiye, Qatar, and Iran. During his tenure in Qatar, he worked closely with the Qatar Foundation on various aspects of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Dr. Mohseni has been a frequent speaker at global conferences and high-profile forums, sharing insights on economic development, climate finance, and financial governance. Most recently he led conversations with AIB's president Mr. Jin Liqun, and World Bank's managing director of operations, Ms. Anna Bjerde. His expertise has been widely recognized in international media, with contributions to outlets such as Al Jazeera, the South China Morning Post, and the Atlantic Council. Additionally, he has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, authoring research on topics ranging from energy economics and development economics to the role of financial institutions in economic growth. He is also an expert in the field of Islamic Economics and Banking and has published extensively on this topic. He was a faculty in Qatar's Hamad Bin Khalifa University, teaching graduate courses on Islamic finance and banking and contributing to the university's research on this front. He is also fluent in English, Persian, and Turkish, with advanced proficiency in Arabic.



Dr. Abdullah Baabood

**Chair of the State of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies,
Waseda University, Tokyo-Japan; Board of Directors
Member, Gulf International Forum**

Dr. Abdullah Baabood is a member of Board of Directors at Gulf International Forum. He is an academic from Oman who currently holding the Chair of the State of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies and a visiting professor at the Faculty of International Research and Education, Waseda University, Tokyo-Japan. Abdullah taught at different universities and institutions in Europe and the Gulf, and was a visiting professor at the Middle Institute, National University of Singapore and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar. He has previously held the positions of the Director of the Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University and the Director of the Gulf Research Center at the University of Cambridge, UK. Abdullah's teaching and research interest focuses on international relations, international political economy, especially on globalization and regionalism. His area focus is on the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economic, social and political development and their external relations. He has published widely and is frequently invited to speak on international conferences and seminars as well media programs.



Omar H. Rahman

Fellow, Middle East Council on Global Affairs

Omar H. Rahman is a fellow at the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, where he focuses on Palestine, Middle East geopolitics, and American foreign policy in the region. He is the Editor of Afkār, the Council's online publication providing insights and analysis on current events in the region.

Rahman was previously a non-resident fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy and a visiting fellow at the Brookings Doha Center, where he researched and wrote about Palestine-Israel, the Arab Gulf, and the intersection between the two. Prior to this, Rahman was a research analyst at the Arab Gulf States Institute, where he focused on the political economy of the Gulf states.

Rahman established his career as a journalist based in the U.S. and the Middle East, including three years in Palestine where he was a columnist for +972 Magazine. Rahman was also an associate editor at World Politics Review in New York, as well as an editor and senior Middle East correspondent at Argus Media. His writing has been published in The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, Rolling Stone, The National Interest, Lawfare, VICE, PBS NewsHour, Quartz, Al-Jazeera English, and The National, among other outlets.

Rahman's other work includes peer-reviewed policy papers, academic articles, and book chapters including in the recently-published volume: What is Israel/Palestine? (Routledge, 2022). He is currently working on a book about Palestinian de-fragmentation in the post-Oslo era. Rahman is also a frequent speaker on panels, at conferences, and in the media.



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