



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

Workshop 5
GRM 2023

The Renewed & Expanded Role of the Gulf on the Global Energy Scene

Workshop Directors:

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad
COO
Petrolab
abiaadnaji@hotmail.com

Antoine Dagher
Editor-in-Chief
East Med Energy
dagher6@hotmail.com

Abstract

- **Crude Oil & Petroleum Products**
 - The Gulf is the only region in the world with huge reserves ready to be developed as much as the market would need
 - The Gulf is becoming more important in the aftermath of the Ukrainian Crisis
 - It must be reminded that the region is also a major producer and exporter of petroleum products, petrochemicals and fertilisers.

- **Natural Gas, both Conventional & Unconventional**
 - The Gulf as a main gas export player:
 - the vital role of Qatar
 - the ambitions of Abu Dhabi and Oman, and
 - the hopes of Iran
 - Role of the Gulf, Especially Qatar, in Supplying Europe with natural gas in the aftermath of the Ukrainian crisis
 - The quest of Gulf countries for a larger share of the global gas market:
 - Qatar with its expanded LNG capacity
 - Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi with their pursuit for gas opportunities around the globe
 - The Gulf as a growing market for natural gas
 - Unconventional gas in the Gulf: the adventures in Saudi Arabia and Oman

- **Renewable Energies**
 - The Gulf developing renewable energies
 - as a way to reserve more fossil fuels for export, and
 - to fulfil the international environmental obligations
 - Solar Energy: while the Gulf got plenty of hydrocarbon energy sources, it was among the pioneers to develop solar energy:
 - the experience of Abu Dhabi, and
 - the ambitious steps taken by Saudi Arabia and Qatar
 - Nuclear: will the experience of Abu Dhabi be replicated in other Gulf countries?
 - Wind Energy: Why this important source is underdeveloped in the region?

- **New Energies**
 - Hydrogen: an increasing number of countries in the Gulf are developing hydrogen industries
 - Ammonia: growing interest in this source of energy in the region

Objectives and Scope

Despite the radical geopolitical transformations in Europe and the Middle East including Turkey and Iran, which are associated with an increasing pressure to lower the reliance on fossil fuel in the “traditional” oil and gas producing countries, the Gulf region has kept its central position in the world energy arena.

The proposed workshop shall be looking at the current and prospective situation in the Gulf oil and gas industries, which aims to keep the leading position around the globe. The workshop shall also review the Gulf ability and willingness to play an important role in the production and deployment of other energy sources like renewable energy and clean energy sources.

The proposed workshop shall have a major impact of the works of the GRM meeting by providing an update on the state of the energy sector in the Gulf region with all its aspects, looking at it from different angles including those of the renewable energy sources, and showing the capabilities of the Gulf region on all energy-related levels. It shall also be able to impact the decisions of the Gulf policy-makers in terms of solving the issue of deciding on the best time and conditions for managing the level of production and export of oil and gas in their countries.

This workshop shall provide an update on the latest developments in the areas of crude oil and petroleum products. The Gulf is the only region in the world with huge reserves ready to be developed to supply the energy-thirsty world market. The area which has gained additional importance in the aftermath of the Ukrainian Crisis, plays an important role in supplying the world markets with petroleum products, petrochemicals and fertilisers.

While the Gulf has been put under considerable pressure to increase the production of oil (and gas) to fill in the gap in the market, the region is experiencing a growing demand for

oil and petroleum products, a demand which has been increasingly eating from the oil export potential from the area.

The Gulf has also been a major producer and exporter of natural gas either through pipeline or in a liquefied form (LNG). In this context, it is important to understand the vital role of Qatar as well as the ambitions of Abu Dhabi and Oman, along with the hopes of Iran. The recent talks about Gulf gas (especially that from Qatar) replacing at least part of the Russian gas to Europe shall be addressed within this framework.

The workshop shall also highlight the quest of Gulf countries for a larger share of the global gas market including Qatar with its expanded LNG capacity, and Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi with their pursuit for gas opportunities around the globe.

Meanwhile, the Gulf has been the scene of a growing local consumption of natural gas, and many countries there have been in continuous search for gas supply to meet the increasing demand which is also eating from the region's gas export potential.

All the above has been coupled with serious efforts to develop the resources of unconventional gas in the Gulf. In this context, the successful experiences of Saudi Arabia and Oman need to be highlighted.

In addition to the development of conventional and unconventional oil and gas, the Gulf region has been investing considerable efforts in developing renewable energy sources. The development in the Gulf of these renewable energy sources could well lead to save more fossil fuels for export from the region without the need for increasing oil and gas production. It would also assist the region in meeting the international environmental standards and the global efforts to reduce carbon emissions through renewable energies. The main form of renewable energies developed in the Gulf is solar energy. In fact, while the Gulf got plenty of hydrocarbon energy sources, it is one of the richest regions in the world in terms of solar availability. This makes it among the pioneers to develop solar energy. Thus, the workshop aims to discuss the solar experience of Abu Dhabi, and the ambitious steps taken by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Reviewing the latest technological and economic developments in the industry related to solar energy would be suitable in this context.

Other renewable energy sources shall be looked at in the workshop, including the nuclear energy. The experience of Abu Dhabi needs to be discussed and evaluated, together with the question frequently asked about the feasibility of replicating that successful experience on other Gulf countries. The workshop shall also look at wind energy, and try to explain the reasons behind the underdevelopment of this important energy source in the region.

Our speakers shall also be discussing the importance of new energy sources like hydrogen, especially the green hydrogen. An increasing number of countries in the Gulf are developing hydrogen industries and are looking into the possibility of exporting green hydrogen to the world market. Another promising source of energy is ammonia, with a growing interest in this source of energy in the region and around the world.

Contributions of the Proposed Workshop in the Field of Gulf Studies

1. The proposed workshop on the Renewed & Expanded Role of the Gulf on the Global Energy Scene aims at setting up a high-standard knowledge and research platform for academics, scholars, decision-makers and any other interested person or body on the

current function of the Gulf energy producers in supplying the world's markets with their needs for oil, gas and other forms of energy, especially in the aftermath of the Ukrainian crisis.

2. The proposed workshop is also aiming at shedding the light on the future responsibilities of the energy producers and exporters in the region for meeting the growing demand for energy, not only worldwide, but even within these countries. In fact, the rapidly-increasing consumption of energy within the Gulf nations has been growingly eating from their capacities for exporting their resources to the world.
3. In addition, the proposed workshop shall highlight the importance of the energy sector to the economies of various Gulf countries and its impacts on other political, economic and social activities. The issues related to social subsidies and public financial support, as well as the urgent need to diversify the rentier economies in the region away from fossil fuels would enhance the discussions and the resulting researches and studies.
4. Thus, we strongly believe our proposed workshop with its potential paper topics (as outlined here below) will enrich the regional and international literature related to the Gulf and its energy industry, will establish a prestigious and important hub to be visited by researchers on the region, and will contribute to the enhancement of the level of knowledge, learning and studies on the vital energy sector in the Gulf.

Draft Agenda & Potential Paper Topics

Day 1 – July 12, 2023

9:00 AM --- Opening of the Workshop by the Directors

9:20 AM --- General Discussions & Introduction

9:45 AM --- Topic 1: - The Strategic Importance of Crude Oil Production & Export from the Gulf

Topic 2: Impact of the Growing Domestic Oil Consumption in the Gulf on its Export Capabilities

Topic 3: How the Ukrainian Crisis has been Affecting the Oil Industry in the Gulf

11:15 AM --- Coffee break

Topic 4: The Significant Role Played by the Gulf Petroleum Products, Petrochemicals & fertilisers on the Global Markets

Topic 5: Expansion of the Gulf Natural Gas Industries in the Region and Around the Globe - The cases of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi

Topic 6: Role of the Gulf, Especially Qatar, In Supplying Europe with Natural Gas in the Aftermath of the Ukrainian Crisis

1:15 PM --- Lunch Break

2:30 PM --- Topic 7: The Growing Demand for Natural Gas in the Gulf - impacts on the Export Potential; Ways to Fulfil the Growing Consumption

Topic 8: Efforts to Develop Unconventional Gas in the Gulf - the Cases of Saudi Arabia & Oman

Topic 9: The Logics for Developing Renewable Energies in the Gulf – The National Programs, the International Requirements & recommendations of COP.

4:00 PM --- End of Day One

Day 2 – July 13, 2023

- 9:00 AM** --- Topic 10: Impact of an Increased Deployment of Renewable Energies in the Gulf on the Production & Exports of Oil & Gas – Would Such Increase be a Way to Spare More Fossil Fuels for Export without the Need for Increasing Production?
Topic 11: Renewable Energies Gulf Case studies: The Ambitious Plans of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar
Topic 12: Development of Wind & Solar Energies in the Gulf: Prospects & Challenges
Topic 13: Can the Successful Nuclear Experience of the UAE be Replicated in Other Gulf Countries?
- 10:30 AM** --- Coffee break
Topic 14: The Role of the Gulf in Supplying the New Sources of Clean Energy – Hydrogen, Especially Green Hydrogen
Topic 15: Ammonia: A New Energy Source from the Gulf to the World
Topic 16: As per suggestions of participants
- 1:00 PM** --- Lunch Break
- 2:30 PM** --- Topic 17: As per suggestions of participants
Wrap-up Discussions on the Workshop in General along with Evaluations and Suggestions from Participants
- 4:00 PM** --- End of Day Two and Conclusion by the Workshop Directors

Publication Plan

We are aware that the GRC has established publication contracts with various publishing houses. We shall positively work with all publishing houses to have a selection of papers published either in a specialized book on the meeting or in separate publications.

A list of potential publication will be developed for potential publishers who may agree to cooperate.

On the other hand, we will ensure that all our presenters are aligned on this strategy and get their agreement to publish their edited work according to the guidelines of the organizers. We shall try to solicit papers that are likely be published, the workshop participants and directors shall have a clear plan of how to ensure attracting quality publishable papers and specific ideas for potential publication outlets.

The directors shall also follow clear criteria on the quality of the papers and discuss them with individual writers through continuous communications. The deadlines for the submission of draft papers as well as edited papers shall be strictly respected.

As to the electronic publications, we shall focus on publishing some of the papers and/or presentations on the website of the GRM if it is allowed and also under the guidelines of the organizers and the publishers.

We shall evaluate some of the papers that are worth publishing in international and regional media and work with the GRM team on making this possible.

Naji Abi-Aad, Ph. D.

In September 2012, Naji Abi-Aad started acting as COO to Petroleb, an oil company based in Beirut and active in petroleum exploration offshore the East Mediterranean and the Gulf. In the meantime, Naji had been engaged with the US Tellurian as Senior Advisor for the Middle East from December 2016 to March 2020.

Prior to his move to Lebanon, Dr Abi-Aad was serving for eight years in Qatar, first as Research Advisor for Qatar Petroleum (QP) and its Board of Directors Department, and as Media and Research Strategist in the Office of HE Qatar's Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy & Industry, before being appointed to top positions in Qatar Petroleum International (QPI).

Dr Abi-Aad studied in Beirut at the American University and Universite St Joseph before being awarded a Ph.D. degree in Energy Economics from Grenoble University in France. During his 35 years of experience, he has been involved in extensive consultations, conferences and studies, particularly on oil and gas in the Middle East, their resources and supply prospects. He has authored over 100 reports and studies on Middle East energy issues, as well as a book on security of petroleum supply from the region ("Instability & Conflict in the Middle East: People Petroleum & Security Threats, Macmillan, London 1997").

Antoine (Tony) Dagher

Tony Dagher has over 30 years of diversified energy and research experience in Lebanon and the Gulf region. With such a long experience, and a solid educational background, Tony has provided senior consultancy services for high-level business conferences and events particularly in the oil and gas field.

For the past ten years, Tony worked as an independent, free lance consultant for a number of very successful events working as Conference Producer / Program Director for major conferences by supporting local and international event organizers. Between 2005 and 2011, he worked as HR consultant at RasGas -- a major natural gas company in Qatar where he gained considerable experience in the field of energy and conducted valuable research.

Throughout his work experience, Tony relied on intensive and professional research. He was a speaker in a number of local, regional and international conferences and workshops. He presented a number of research papers which were published in regional and international publications.

Prior to 2005, Tony worked as business journalist covering the Arab region, particularly in the energy sections of major Pan Arab publications having hundreds of valuable articles and research papers published.

His educational background consists of:

- Post Graduate studies in Public Administration at AUB.
- Accredited equivalence from the Government of Quebec, Canada
- International HR Certification from CIPD-UK— Passed with distinction
- Published work in respectable academic books (e.g. Gulf Research Center)
- Hundreds of published business articles in both English and Arabic.