



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Knowledge for All

Workshop 2
GRM 2023

Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Model: it's Role in the GCC States' National Visions

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Abstract

The meeting is to discuss the current and future impact of ongoing development sustainability plans within the circular economy framework taking into consideration GCC future visions and the turbulent energy transition and its impact on the dynamics of sociocultural, economic and political developments in the GCC. The main attention of discussion will be focused on four areas:

- a) Exploring the circular economy and sustainability development concepts and strategies and its applications to GCC Economies.
- b) The Water-Food-Energy Nexus and climate change challenges in the GCC long-term national visions within the circular economy perspectives.
- c) The role of governments, private sector and households in achieving GCC circular economy and sustainable development objectives.

Objectives and Scope of Workshop

The current linear economic growth model (exhaust and use our non-renewable energy resources irresponsibly, make a short-lived products-use it –waste it) has been shown to be not sustainable and has a very negative impact on the environment. As our planet is facing a critical climate change and global warming problems that could affect the existence of the next generations. This is due to our previous and current way of extracting and using our non-renewable resources in our modern industrialized economy. A new economic growth model of a circular economy that involves (find a new forms of clean and green renewable energy, use our current resources responsibly and efficiently, make efficient long-term products, use responsibly, reuse and remake).

The Gulf States are, in general, dependent upon export of non-renewable energy resources for most of their revenue, which in turn funds the economic development plans, security, and social underpinnings of society. Can GCC economies move to the new growth model that is a circular economy model without jeopardizing its economic development plans and their long-term national visions?

In order for the GCC hydrocarbon producers to respond adequately to these diverse emerging challenges, it is important to clearly define and understand the origins of these issues, the majority of which are deeply connected to the oil and gas market transformation and regional tensions.

The event will consider the circular economy model and the impact of global energy transition processes on the GCC member states through the prism of challenges faced to their economic development plans. The contributors will deeply analyze how these global challenges affected not only the oil and gas industries, but also other aspects of the GCC social, economic and political development. Consequently, the event will be critically discussing and analysing the importance of GCC economies moving to the new economic growth model, a circular economy, that is a more sustainable and a better one for the next generations in the GCC.

The event will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What is the circular economy model and the different strategies for sustainability?
- How water-food-energy nexus and climate change are very concerning matters for GCC long-term development plans?
- What is the role of governments, private sector, and society in moving towards a circular economy?
- How the circular economy model and applications could play a very important role in achieving the economic development plans and the GCC long-term national visions?

Contributions the Workshop Will Make to the Field of Gulf Studies

The top priority of this event is to offer a comprehensive view of the circular economy applications and strategies that could have a positive impact on sociocultural, economic and political developments in the GCC in the wake of water-food-energy nexus, global climate change and global warming issues. This study will try to demonstrate that the GCC countries should move to the new economic growth model, a circular economy, that is a more sustainable one. The meeting participants will discuss how, under these conditions, the circular economy model can help the GCC economies to face their current challenges due to the high dependency on oil and gas. The circular economy approach will help the GCC economies to achieve their long-term economic developments and national visions. However, the application of this model needs a government, private sector and society collaboration and participation.

Draft of Workshop Agenda with Potential Paper Topics Outlines and Highlighted

Part 1. Gulf Hydrocarbons and its new realities

- GCC Oil and LNG Industry Response to the Energy Transition Challenge
- Sustainability and Green Energy Prospects in the GCC

Part 2. Climate change and water-food-energy nexus

- Climate Change and the GCC: Social, economic and Political Impact
- Water-Food-Energy Nexus in the GCC
- Current economic diversifications and development plans and national visions in the GCC

Part 3. The Circular Economy and sustainability in the GCC Economies

- Different examples and applications of the circular economy in advanced and emerging economies
- The circular economy applications in the GCC Economies
- The role of governments, private sector and society to achieve a circular economy

Publication Plan

The proceedings of the workshop will be transformed in the collective volume published in Palgrave MacMillan publishing house. The expected length of the volume is between 80 and 100 thousand words. The submission of the first full drafts of the chapters to the book editor is expected on 31 August 2023. After the editors' revision, the authors will be given a month to make necessary corrections. The final drafts of the chapters is to be submitted by 15 December 2023. The final typescript is expected to be delivered to the publisher by 1 February 2024. This book is designed for a wide English-reading audience that will include researchers and academics interested in the topic of the circular economy experts and GCC socio-economic and political development with a specific focus on the transformation of the Gulf hydrocarbon economies, social and political landscapes as well as post-doc students interested in GCC foreign and economic policies. The proposed book project also represents one of the first attempts to explain the role of circular economy model in achieving GCC long-term national visions. There is not much work has been done about this topic.

Acknowledgment

By submitting this workshop proposal the workshop directors acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by the Workshop Director Guidelines and Publication Guidelines