



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Knowledge for All

GULF RESEARCH MEETING

16th Gulf Research Meeting

21 - 23 July 2026 – University of Cambridge

Workshop No. 1

The Economic Architecture and Diplomacy of Climate Change in the Gulf: Financing the Transition

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Dr. Aktham Maghyereh
United Arab Emirates University (UAEU)

Dr. Basel Awartani
King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals

First Workshop Day - Wednesday, 22 July 2026

08:15 - 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 09:00 – Introduction of Workshop and Participants

09:00 - 09:45 – Paper 1: Global Climate Commitments and Hydrocarbon Interests: A Gulf Perspective on Climate Diplomacy

Author: Adnan Farhan Aljawareen

Discussant: Abeer Wahaibi

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2: Decarbonization Optimization as a Financial and Strategic Enabler of the Gulf Energy Transition

Author: Abeer Wahaibi

Discussant: Nouf Bin Ayyaf

10:30 - 10:45 – Coffee and tea break

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3: The Underlying Structures and Mechanisms Affecting the Energy Transition in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Author: Nouf Bin Ayyaf

Discussant: Saib Fakhar

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 4: Smart Carbon Markets: Leveraging AI and Blockchain for Climate Diplomacy and Green Finance in the GCC

Authors: Muhammad Ashfaq, Naveed Amjad, Chekola Anoop

Discussant: Justin Dargin

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5: Decarbonization as Statecraft: Carbon Markets and Energy Strategy in the Gulf

Author: Justin Dargin

Discussant: Khalid Shafi

13:00 - 15:00 – Lunch break (lunch served at King's College)

15:00 - 15:45 – Paper 6: Beyond Hydrocarbons: Economic Risks and Opportunities in the GCC's Energy Transition

Authors: Khalid Shafi, Abid Hussain

Discussant: Khalid Khan

15:45 - 16:30 – Paper 7: Navigating the Water -Energy- Food- Climate nexus in the Gulf: Integrated Governance and for Resilience and Sustainable Economic Diversification

Authors: Khalid Khan, Bushra Nauman, Ansar Mahmood Jaspal

Discussant: Muhammad Ashfaq

End of First Workshop Day

Evening Free

Second Workshop Day - Thursday, 23 July 2026

08:45 - 09:00 – Welcome coffee and tea

09:00 - 09:45 – Paper 8: Financing the Transition without Exit: Green State Capitalism and Climate Diplomacy in the Gulf

Authors: Saib Fakhar, Suha Bilquis, Shailee Choudhary, Rinku Dixit, Farhan Mustafa

Discussant: Said Tabuk

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 9: Renewable Energy and the Food–Water–Energy Nexus in the Gulf: Pathways toward Sustainable Agriculture

Author: Said Tabuk

Discussant: Aicha Chorak

10:30 - 11:15 – Paper 10: Gender, Green Construction, and Climate Finance: Human Capital as a Strategic Lever in the Gulf's Energy Transition and External Investments

Authors: Aicha Chorak, Mohammed Ahachad, Mohammed Abakkali

Discussant: Abdulrahman Bamalan

11:15 - 11:30 – Coffee and tea break

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 11: Financing the Circular Carbon Economy in Saudi; Infrastructure Realities, Policy Gaps, and Net-Zero Ambition

Author: Abdulrahman Bamalan

Discussant: Wafa Almaamari

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 12: ESG as a Financial Architecture for Climate Transition in the GCC

Author: Wafa Almaamari

Discussant: Mahmoud Elrefai

13:00 - 14:15 – Lunch break (lunch is served at the workshop venue)

14:15-15:00 – Paper 13: From Net-Zero Pledges to Climate Finance Flows: The UAE's Economic and Regulatory Architecture for Financing the Energy Transition

Authors: Mahmoud Elrefai, Suzanna ElMassah

Discussant: Adnan Farhan Aljawareen

15:00 - 15:45 Publication discussion and questionnaire

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King's College

Not in attendance:

Paper 14: Decarbonisation Pathways in GCC Countries: A Machine Learning Based Analysis

Authors: Ahmed Raza, Moonis Shakeel

Paper 15: Algorithms of Energy Diplomacy 4.0: AI-Driven ESG in the Gulf's Post-Oil Transformation

Author: Elif Calik

Paper 16: Physical Climate Risk and Banking-System Stability in the Gulf: Evidence from a Cross-Country Panel

Author: Ilinka Antova

Paper 17: Sustainability Transitions in the Gulf: Organizational Perspectives on Solar-Energy Adoption in Kuwait and Qatar

Authors: Altaf Albaho, Nafja Al Kuwari