



2nd MENA IAEE Symposium 5th Annual Derasat Forum

الملتقى الثاني للرابطة الدولية لاقتصاديات الطاقة لمنطقة MENA

2-3 March 2022 | منتدى "دراسات" السنوي الخامس

Kingdom of Bahrain

PROGRAM





Overview

The symposium and forum's main theme will be, "The Impact of Energy Transition in the MENA Region". The launch of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in 2015 institutionalized a focus on shifting the world's energy mix away from fossil fuels toward greener alternatives, including renewable energies such as solar and wind. The entire government policy spectrum has been deployed in the pursuit of this goal, including green regulations, subsidies that target green energy, and gradually increasing taxation on high-carbon activities. Moreover, governments continue to provide strong financial and legislative support for green research and development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a multifaceted impact on the transition toward cleaner energy. On the one hand, the pandemic has caused unprecedented economic stress and has contributed to a breakdown in multilateral cooperation; both of which have been unfavorable for green energy. On the other hand, many economies have leveraged the pandemic as an opportunity to reconfigure the political economy of energy investments, including the sidelining of entrenched and traditionally influential fossil fuel lobbies. One manifestation has been the direction of infrastructure elements of post-COVID fiscal stimulus bills toward green energies as part of a systematic rollback of carbon-related investments.

The Middle East and North African (MENA) region is playing a central and multidimensional role in the prevailing energy transition. For several decades, it has been a major source of global energy, most notably the countries that border the Arabian Gulf. Oil and gas exports have enabled many of these countries to realize high living standards and to grow their populations considerably. However, this has come at the cost of high levels of per capita power consumption.

Alongside population growth, a key driver of increased energy demand in the MENA region has been water scarcity, as the region's arid climate renders power-intensive desalinization a primary source of water. Moreover, many of the heavy industries that have witnessed large-scale investments, such as petrochemicals and metals, involve energy intensive production methods. COVID has served to reinforce



these tendencies by encouraging the localization of production in the pursuit of self-sufficiency, as this usually requires production methods that consume large amounts of energy.

However, the desire to diversify their economic bases and to contribute to the sustainability agenda has pushed many countries in the MENA region toward greener alternatives, most notably wind and solar energy. Moreover, countries that have traditionally been importers of cutting-edge technology, such as Saudi Arabia, have transformed into producers, as they seek to develop versions of prevailing renewable energy solutions that are tailored to their climate. In fact, in the case of hydrogen, the MENA region is transforming into a global technological frontrunner as the region's players look to maintain their competitive advantage in energy exports.

The impact of energy on MENA societies extends well beyond the technical and economic domains. The region's location and its fossil fuel reserves have together given the MENA great geo-strategic importance, motivating foreign powers to expend a large volume of resources on advancing their interests in the region, especially at the height of the Cold War. These efforts have taken the form of strategic partnerships in the security domain, diplomatic alignments, and traditional economic investments across a wide range of sectors.

Consequently, as the energy demands of the major powers evolve as part of the transition to greener sources, so too will the nature of interactions between the region and the rest of the world. An example is the United States, who – partially driven by developments in its shale oil sector – had expressed its clear desire to minimize security involvement in the MENA region, and that the region should become more independent and self-reliant in developing a sustainable security architecture.

Energy transition is, therefore, having profound and wide-ranging impact on the MENA region, due to a combination of internal and external developments. The symposium and forum aim to shed light on these issues from the perspective of policymakers, businesses, and the research community.



Event Consortium

Host

- The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International & Energy Studies (Derasat)

The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International & Energy Studies (Derasat) is a proactive Think Tank dedicated to analyzing and researching strategic developments on the national, regional and global levels. Derasat contributes to Bahrain's prosperity and sustainability by providing evidence-based research on issues of national and regional relevance; and fostering strategic partnerships and diverse conversations with a global network from the academic, industrial and corporate world.

For more information visit: www.derasat.org.bh

Strategic Partners

- The International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE)

The International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE) is an independent non-profit organization for business, government, academic and other professionals applying economics in concert with other disciplines to enhance understanding of all aspects of energy production and use. The Association is global in scope and membership and covers the full range of energy industry participants – including businesses, academia, scientific and other research institutions, consultants, governments and intergovernmental institutions. The IAEE was founded in 1977 to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of ideas about the energy industry. The IAEE focuses on three main activities:

- Publications: peer-reviewed journals and electronic media presenting high-quality, leading-edge research and ideas on energy and related issues.
- Conferences: international and regional conferences where participants present their latest research, hear about energy industry developments from inter-nationally renowned experts speaking from different perspectives, and network with other energy professionals.
- Education: programs and summer schools to assist the education of students and young professionals and help them become the next generation of energy professionals.

For more information visit: www.iaee.org



- King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)

The King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) is a leading advisory think tank in energy economics and sustainability. KAPSARC's mission is to advance Saudi Arabia's energy sector and inform global policies through evidence-based advice and applied research. We strive to collaborate with rigor and transparency to achieve excellence, innovation, and continual learning in all that we do.

For more information visit: www.kapsarc.org

- The Saudi Association for Energy Economics (SAEE)

The Saudi Association for Energy Economics (SAEE) aims at building capabilities in energy economics and developing the professional and technical abilities in the energy sector and advancing societal knowledge of energy economics through supporting and producing related research.

Given the central role that energy plays in the Saudi economy, SAEE would contribute to enhance the understanding of the challenges facing the energy industry and provide a forum to debate solutions to these challenges. In addition, SAEE will facilitate and expand the dialogue among the various stakeholders including relevant government entities, energy companies, universities, associations, and others. The Association will conduct lectures, seminars, workshops and will host officials and experts from the Kingdom and abroad.

For more information visit: www.saudi-aei.sa



Session Briefs

Session 1

Advancing Green Energy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

- What is the nature of the fiscal and regulatory support given to green energies in the MENA region?
- To what extent is the prevailing energy mix the result of subsidies and legal support that is favorable to green energy?
- Do the societal benefits that green energies confer justify the cost of the fiscal and regulatory support that they are afforded?
- Does global competition give governments an incentive to limit pro-green regulation as part of a regulatory race to the bottom?

Session 2

The MENA region as a Technological Leader in Green Energy and the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE).

- What are the international policies and practices that support the CCE and how can we measure their impact on both environment and economy?
- What is the MENA region's current contribution to green energy and circular carbon economy research and development, including hydrogen?
- What are the key barriers to the MENA region making a larger contribution?

Session 3

Artificial Intelligence and Energy Transition in the MENA region.

- How can artificial intelligence technologies contribute to the transition to green energy in the MENA region?
- What are the key barriers to taking advantage of artificial intelligence?
- What are the risks associated with using artificial intelligence?

Session 4

Green Uses for Fossil Fuels in the Sustainability Era.

- What methods currently exist for using fossil fuels in a sustainable manner?
- Can the extraction of fossil fuels remain commercially viable in the second half of the 21st century?



Agenda

Day 1 | 2 March 2022

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Opening Session Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa Chairman of Board of Trustees, The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International & Energy Studies (Derasat)• Eng. Fahad Alajlan President, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Right Honorable Nick Hurd Senior Adviser, FMA - Former British Minister for Climate Change and Industry• Saqr Binghalib Executive Director, Office of Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Application, UAE
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Session 1: Advancing Green Energy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Majid Al Moneef Chairman of the Board, Saudi Association for Energy Economics (SAEE)• Amena Bakr Deputy Dubai Bureau Chief, Energy Intelligence• Dr. Omar Al -Ubaydli Director of Studies and Research, The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International & Energy Studies (Derasat)• Dr. Mohammed Sanduk Associate Lecturer, University of Surrey, UK



11:00 – 11:30 AM	Coffee Break
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<p>Session 2: The MENA region as a Technological Leader in Green Energy and the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Fahad Alturki Vice President, Research, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) • Dr. Steven Griffiths Senior Vice President, Research and Development, Khalifa University • Dr. Leila Dagher Associate Professor of Economics, American University of Beirut • Jamal Nawaiseh Director, Renewable Energy Investment Society, Jordan
12:30 – 1:30 PM	<p>Session 3: Artificial Intelligence and Energy Transition in the MENA region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eng. Mohammed Al Ta'ani Secretary General, Arab Renewable Energy Commission (AREC) • Professor Jeel Ezzine Advisory Board Member of the UNESCO Science Report 2020, Unesco • Rami Osman Head of Sustainable Energy & Corporate Strategy, NYBL • Dr. Abdulla Al Abbasi Research Fellow, The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International & Energy Studies (Derasat)
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Lunch Break
2:30 - 4:30 PM	<p>Parallel Breakout Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session A: Carbon Economy • Session B: Renewable Energy
7:30 – 9:30 PM	Networking Dinner



Day 2 | 3 March 2022

9:30 – 10:00 AM	Keynote Interview with Maria Ramos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Thomas Group CEO, The Oil & Gas Holding Company
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Session 4: Green Uses for Fossil Fuels in the Sustainability Era <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryam Salman Oil Market Consultant, Qamar Energy, UAE • Adam Sieminski Senior Adviser to The Board of Trustees, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) • Dr. Jauad El-Kharraz Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), Egypt
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Announcement: The 44th IAAE International Conference
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Parallel Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session C: Global Oil Markets • Session D: Climate Change and Hydrogen
01:30 – 3:00 PM	Closing remarks and Luncheon



Speakers Profiles



Dr. Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

Chairman of Board of Trustees, Bahrain Centre for Strategic Studies and Energy (Derasat)

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat). Shaikh Abdullah also holds the post of Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme Defense Council, in addition to serving as Undersecretary for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Previously Shaikh Abdulla held the post of Director General for External Communications (2014) at the Information Affairs Authority, during which he played a pivotal role in drawing up and implementing a strategy for strengthening the country's national communications and public engagement. Shaikh Abdulla was awarded a PhD in International Relations and Diplomacy from the École des Hautes Études Internationales, France and earned a Master of Law (LLM) from Queen Mary College, University of London, UK, focusing on negotiation and mediation. He also holds a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from the Applied Science University, Jordan.



Eng. Fahad Alajlan

President, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)

Mr Fahad Alajlan was appointed as the President of King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) in August 2021.

Prior to joining KAPSARC, Fahad held many senior roles across both government and the corporate world.

In 2020, Fahad was also appointed as head of the Circular Carbon Economy National Program, which aims to manage Saudi Arabia's emissions while creating economic value.

In 2019, he held the position of Director of the Hydrocarbon Sustainability Program at the Ministry of Energy, where he was responsible for looking at the long-term energy trends plus their impact on global energy markets, with special emphasis on the demand for oil and gas.

Before this, Fahad worked at the Ministry of Economy and Planning, where he advised on energy markets, policy, industry trends, and the petrochemical sector. In addition, to the above responsibilities, his experience spans several senior roles in operations, corporate strategy, and investment planning, as well as mergers and acquisitions at Saudi Aramco, where he served for 15 years.

As KAPSARC president, Fahad will build on the momentum the Center has enjoyed while supporting the Saudi energy ecosystem in introducing the Circular Carbon Economy and build on the Think 20 (T20) engagement groups developed during the Saudi G20 2020 presidency.

Fahad holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University and an MBA from Stanford University in California.

KAPSARC was founded as a non-profit institution for independent research into global energy economics and applied research in 2007. From its Riyadh base, in one of the world's most vital energy-producing regions, KAPSARC develops economic frameworks to help achieve effective alignment between energy policy objectives and outcomes.

It brings together an international group of researchers with over 156 experts from more than 15 different nationalities. KAPSARC researchers collaborate with leading regional and international research centers, public policy organizations, and regional and local industry and government institutions to share knowledge, insights, and analytical frameworks.



The Right Honorable Nick Hurd

Senior Adviser to FMA and Former British Minister for Climate Change and Industry

The Right Hon Nick Hurd was a British Member of Parliament between 2005 and 2019. He served as a UK government minister for nine years and was the British Minister for Climate Change and Industry. He is a senior adviser to FMA and works with net zero transition specialists Pollination and Systemiq. He is also chair of (i) Net Zero, a publicly listed investment company that focuses on the energy and built environment transition. In 2021 he was asked to chair the Impact Taskforce supported by the UK Presidency of the G7.



Saqr Binghalib

Director of the UAE Artificial Intelligence Office

Saqr Binghalib is a founder and Entrepreneur in the technology industry. He previously held the role of Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of VBG, a control valve manufacturer for the oil and gas industry. He was also the CEO of Marshall Intech having developed communication networks and venturing into satellite technology. BinGhalib is currently the Director of the UAE Artificial Intelligence Office, mandated to deliver the National Strategy of AI that aims for the UAE to be one of the leading nations by the year 2031.



Mark Thomas

Group CEO, The Oil & Gas Holding Company

Mark brings over 40 years of experience in all aspects of the oil and gas industry to nogaholding. Prior to joining the company, Mark served as the Head of Group Chief Executive's Office working as chief of staff to bp CEO Bob Dudley. Mark stewarded bp's executive processes and worked directly with the executive team and Board of Directors where he had oversight of investment governance and strategy development.

Previously he has served as a regional president of bp's North Sea business, in which he transformed the core business to improve profitability by doubling production in a period of five years. Earlier Mark was the Vice President of Operations at bp Azerbaijan, where he was the operational leader for one of bp's top three global business, accountable for the safe and reliable operation of two mega-fields, that produced one million barrels of oil equivalent daily.

Mark began his career as a Project Engineer for Amoco Canada and was a Commercial Negotiator for Amoco in Trinidad & Tobago when the company merged with bp in 2000. He holds a B.S degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of New Brunswick in Canada and an MBA from European University in Antwerp.



Dr. Majid Al Moneef

Chairman of the Board, Saudi Association for Energy Economics (SAEE)

The president of Saudi Association for Energy Economics and was the chairman of the International Advisory Committee of King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC). He was the Secretary General of Saudi Arabia's Supreme Economic Council and Saudi Arabia's Governor to OPEC, president of the Saudi Economic Association, vice dean and professor of economics at King Saud University, and vice president of World Energy Council. He was a member of the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia, Saudi Aramco Board of Directors, and the Board of trustees of the Economic Research Forum.



Dr. Steven Griffiths

Senior Vice President, Research and Development, Khalifa University

Dr. Steven Griffiths is Senior Vice President for Research and Development and Professor of Practice at the Khalifa University of Science and Technology. At Khalifa University, his responsibilities include development and implementation of the university's research strategy, management of the university's research institutes and centers and management of the departments that are accountable for research partnerships, research services, technology management and innovation, research computing and research laboratories.

In addition to his executive management role at Khalifa University, Dr. Griffiths is advisor to the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science, a Zayed Sustainability Prize Selection Committee member, a member of the Dubai Future Council on Energy, an elected member of the Global Energy Prize International Award Committee, a Governing Board member of the Graphene Engineering Innovation Center at the University of Manchester, a member of the UAE Artificial Intelligence Expert Group, a board member of the Microsoft Energy Core and a Board member of Human Corp Mission established by the Rosatom Corporate Academy and the Higher School of Economics National Research University. He advised the government of Alberta, Canada on provincial innovation system structuring throughout 2014 and continues to support the global advancement of research and innovation via evaluator and mentor roles in regional and international research and innovation competitions and programs.

Dr. Griffiths is Associate Editor and Editorial Board member of Elsevier's international journal Energy Strategy Reviews, Editorial Board member of Elsevier's international journal Smart Energy as well as Associate Editor and Editorial Board member of Springer's international journal Energy Transitions. He further is a non-resident Fellow of the Payne Institute for Public Policy at the Colorado School of Mines, which is a leading Institute focused on energy, natural resource and environmental policy.



Dr. Steven Griffiths (cont'd)

Dr. Griffiths' international research engagements further include an appointment as research affiliate at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado-Boulder. In addition to these roles, Dr. Griffiths serves as advisor to journals and magazines focused on energy systems and technology innovation while regularly providing insights and commentary on technology and innovation for regional and international publications.

Prior to his position at KU, Dr. Griffiths was Vice President for Research and Associate Provost at the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology. Dr. Griffiths transitioned to the Masdar Institute from his role as Executive Director of the Technology and Development Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which is a position he undertook while simultaneously serving as the Founding Executive Vice President and Chief Technologist of Light Pharma Incorporated.

Dr. Griffiths holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering from MIT and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management.



Eng. Mohammed Al Ta'ani

Secretary General, Arab Renewable Energy Commission (AREC)

Eng. Mohammed Al Ta'ani is the secretary general of the Arab Renewable Energy Commission (AREC) and the vice chairman of the Jordanian Renewable Energy Society (JRES) as well as general manager. He is the founder of both JRES & AREC. He was working in the field of renewable energy since 1988 (Solar PV & Green Building) as a project manager and researcher and has published more than 25 papers. From 1999-2007 he was the project manager for Renewable Energy at the King Abdullah II Design & Development Bureau (KADDB).

In 2002, he was the project manager for the Jordanian Solar Car & Zero Fossil Fuel House (Eco House for KADDB). He was the vice director of the Energy Center in Jordan University from 2007 until 2008, where he was working as the founder of this center. He was the founder of the Global Net for Renewable Energy in the Desert Regions (GNREADER). He was also the chairman of the Renewable Energy Committee at the Jordan Institution for Standards & Metrology, ambassador of the DONG energy solar challenge events in the Middle-East countries (World Cup for Solar Powered Boats) and member in the Board of Directors of the Renewable Energy Center at Philadelphia University.



Dr. Omar Al-Ubaydli

Director, Studies & Research, Bahrain Centre for Strategic Studies and Energy (Derasat)

Dr. Omar Al-Ubaydli is Director of Studies and Research, and Director of Economics and Energy Studies. He previously worked as an Assistant Professor of Economics at George Mason University, USA, as well as being a member of Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell's Joint Advisory Board of Economists. Dr. Al-Ubaydli received his BA in Economics from the University of Cambridge (Queens' College) and his MA and PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago. Dr. Al-Ubaydli's research has been published in several international, peer-reviewed journals and has been featured by media outlets including the Economist magazine.



Amena Bakr

Deputy Dubai Bureau Chief, Energy Intelligence

Amena Bakr is Chief Opec Correspondent and Dubai Deputy Bureau Chief, as well as an award-winning correspondent for Energy Intelligence. She covers energy and politics related to Saudi Arabia and other Opec countries. Prior to that, Amena was an Energy Correspondent for Reuters news agency for six years, posted in Dubai, Doha and Riyadh. In 2017, Amena was rated 13th on business information website Marketwatch's ranking of the top Twitter accounts for investors to follow. The influential website praised Amena for her coverage of Opec, noting that "if there is an Opec meeting going on, she's all over it." Amena holds a BA in business administration from the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport in Egypt, with a major in management information systems.



Dr. Mohammed Sanduk

Associate Lecturer, University of Surrey

Mohammed Sanduk is a British-Iraqi Plasma physicist, obtained his PhD from the University of Manchester (UMIST) in 1990. He worked in industry and academia. In 2006, he became head of Laser and Optoelectronics Engineering in Nahrain University (Baghdad-Iraq). In 2008, he joined Centre for Osmosis Research and Applications (CORA) and the renewable energy technology programme for postgraduate studies in the University of Surrey in UK. Dr Sanduk has wide range of interests, foundation of quantum mechanics, scientific foundations of renewable energy, using the magnetic field for aqueous ion control.



Dr. Fahad Alturki

Vice President, Research, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)

Dr. Fahad Alturki, Vice President Research, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC).

Dr. Fahad Alturki is Vice President of Research at King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC). In this role he oversees KAPSARC's research programs and priorities, ensuring that these are strategically focused on impacts within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both regionally and globally. Dr. Fahad interacts with key stakeholder groups within the Kingdom and internationally, in the private, academic, and government sectors. Moreover, he is responsible for setting the overall directions and parameters for collaboration with KAPSARC's partners and affiliates.

Externally, Dr. Fahad is an independent board member of the General Authority of Statistics Board of Directors and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). He frequently presents papers at a number of high profile local, regional, and international conferences, participates in roundtable discussions and is a well-known media figure in Saudi Arabia and overseas.

Prior to joining KAPSARC, Dr. Fahad was the chief economist and head of research at Jadwa Investment Company in Riyadh, where he managed the economic research department and published regular reports on issues related to the Saudi and global economies and the world oil market. He was also the chairperson of the Public Funds Board, a board member of the Jadwa REIT Al Haramain Fund and Jadwa REIT Saudi Fund, and a member of Jadwa's executive management committee.

Dr. Fahad has a proven track record in economics, with more than 20 years of experience in the field. Before joining Jadwa, Dr. Fahad was the chief economist at Barclays, Saudi Arabia. Prior to his time at Barclays, Dr. Fahad was an economic specialist at the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority, where he worked for 11 years in the Economic Research and Statistics Department. Dr. Fahad has also worked as an economist at the Middle East and Central Asia Department of the International Monetary Fund.

Dr. Fahad holds a B.A. in Business Administration from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia and Master's and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Oregon (Eugene, United States)



Jamal Nawaiseh

Director, Renewable Energy Investment Society of Jordan

Jamal Al-Nawaiseh is a climate change researcher, international environmental activist, and member of the Arab Climate Action Network CANAW. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Renewable Energy Investment Society in Jordan. He holds a Diploma in Electronic Engineering from Al-Balqa Applied University and is a solar energy systems trainer. He is a member of the Environmental Sustainability Council in al-Karak province.



Dr. Leila Dagher

Associate Professor of Economics, American University of Beirut

Dr. Leila Dagher is an Associate Professor of Economics at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Economic Adviser to the Lebanese Minister of Economy, Minister of Industry, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and has been an adjunct lecturer at the George Washington University (GWU) since 2016. Prior to her current appointment, she previously served in various capacities; economic adviser to the former Prime Minister, former Deputy Prime Minister, former Minister of Economy, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Director of the Institute of Financial Economics (AUB), and chairperson of the Department of Economics (AUB).

Dr. Dagher's research applies her econometric knowledge to the areas of energy, environmental, and financial economics with a focus on producing policy-relevant studies. She has written extensively on the energy-economic growth nexus, oil price shocks, and green power markets. Her work has appeared in leading academic journals such as the Energy Journal, Resources Policy, Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance and others. Dr. Dagher has been a visiting scholar at various higher education and research institutions including Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She currently serves on editorial boards for Finance Research Letters, Utilities Policy, and Energy Policy. Dr. Dagher is a Senior Fellow at the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies and serves on the steering committee of the Mashreq Gender Facility. She received her Bachelor of Engineering from the American University of Beirut and her Ph.D. in Mineral Economics from the Colorado School of Mines.



Prof. Jeel Ezzine

Advisory Board Member of the UNESCO Science Report 2020, Unesco

Jeel Ezzine is presently full Professor of Systems Theory and Control at the University of Tunis ElManar. He has more than thirty years experience in Higher Education and Research. He taught and carried research in several countries. He launched since 2015 the "Engineering and Technology Policy (ETP)" Master Program at ENIT. He founded lately the UNESCO Chair on Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy that he is presently Chairing. He is the Founding and current President of the Tunisian Association for the Advancement of Science, Technology, and Innovation (TAASTI) Think Tank.

He has been a high-level civil servant for more than a decade. He is the former Director General of International Cooperation, at the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research where he designed, concluded and oversaw several strategic higher education and scientific research cooperation projects with several countries and international institutions. He was the founding Director of Graduate Schools in Tunisia. Prior to that, he was the Director of University

Research where he managed, evaluated and financed related programs and activities in the country. Prof. Ezzine is Senior Member of IEEE, Senior Associate at ICTP, Editor/Associate Editor of several academic journals and scientific organisation, Expert/Senior STI Consultant with AAAS, AfDB, BC, World Bank-CIM, DAAD, EUC, IAEA, UNESCO. He is listed in Who's Who in the World, and Who's Who in Science and Engineering. In addition he is a Board Member of The International Network of Resource Information Centres (INRIC), USA, known as the "Balaton Group."



Rami Osman

Head of Sustainable Energy & Corporate Strategy, nybl

Mr. Rami Osman has a background in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy development at the United Nations Development Programme and in the private sector.

Currently Rami is working at nybl to develop machine learning models and artificial intelligence applications to promote and deliver on sustainable development goal number 7 – sustainable energy for all. Mr. Osman most previously worked with Bahrain's Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) on the implementation and followup of several initiatives under the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) & National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP).

Rami has been involved in Energy Management as well as the research and development of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs), including pilot studies for energy efficient lighting and cooling technologies. He currently serves on the board of the Energy Institute Middle East, is reading Energy Policy at the University of Sussex and has over 10 years' experience in energy and education. Rami is passionate about sustainable development and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



Maryam Salman

Oil Market Consultant, Qamar Energy

Maryam is Qamar Energy's lead consultant covering the Middle East's energy spectrum. She has been at the forefront of investigating the region's latest energy developments and providing commercial and economic consulting, business analysis, and strategic recommendations for the future supply of energy in an increasingly climate action-driven world for various governmental and private stakeholders, with particular focus on hydrogen, carbon capture use and storage, and renewables.

Maryam has co-authored Powering Iraq: Challenges Facing the Electricity Sector in Iraq for the Al Bayan Center for Planning & Studies, Renewable Energy Market Analysis: GCC 2019 for IRENA, and was the supporting author for the flagship report, The UAE's Role in the Global Hydrogen Economy, prepared on behalf of ADNOC and the UAE Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure. Maryam writes for leading energy websites and international media outlets and has been a speaker for the Energy Industries Council, the Sharjah Research Technology & Innovation Park, and others. She graduated summa cum laude as a Master of International Studies from the University of Wollongong in Dubai, with specialisation in Middle East energy security and foreign policy and knows 5 languages.



Adam Sieminski

Senior Adviser To The Board Of Trustees, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)

Adam Sieminski is the Senior Advisor to the Board of King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center. KAPSARC is a leading think tank located in Riyadh. Its mission is to advance Saudi Arabia's energy sector and inform global policies on energy, economics, and the environment. He served as the President of KAPSARC from April 2018 to August 2021, and before that held the Schlesinger Chair for Energy & Geopolitics at CSIS. From 2012 through 2016 he served as head of the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

While awaiting Senate confirmation for EIA, he was Senior Director for Energy and Environment at the U.S. National Security Council. Earlier, he was Deutsche Bank's chief energy economist and integrated oil company analyst, working in Baltimore, London, New York, and Washington. Sieminski holds the CFA designation and earned a BS degree in Civil Engineering and a Master in Public Administration, both from Cornell University.



Dr. Abdulla Alabbasi

Research Fellow, Bahrain Centre for Strategic Studies and Energy (Derasat)

Dr Abdulla Isa Alabbasi is a Research Fellow at Bahrain Centre for Strategic Studies and Energy (DERASAT). He obtained a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from King Fahad University, Dharan, Saudi Arabia. He has an MSc and PhD in Renewable Energy from the University of Surrey, UK. Abdulla is a chartered engineer with 10 years of experience and is a published researcher.



Dr. Jauad El-Kharraz

Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), Egypt

Currently Executive Director of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – RCREEE (Intergovernmental Organization) based in Cairo, Egypt. He has been senior consultant, advisor and/or evaluator for several international institutions (European Commission, PRIMA Foundation, the Mediterranean Water Institute, FAO, UN-ESCWA, EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, KAS-REMENA, Ocean Oasis, the Palestinian-Dutch Academic Cooperation Program on Water "PADUCO", COMSTECH Scientific Advisory Council (COMSTECH-SAC), the EMME-CCI Task Force on Water Resources led by the Cyprus Institute, the International Desalination Association as member of its R&D committee and the European Desalination Society where he was elected as a board member).

He has been the R&D Director at the Middle East Desalination Research Center, Oman (2015-2020), in charge of research programs/ projects on sustainable desalination technologies, renewable energies for desalination, water-energy-food nexus, climate change, and science diplomacy. He launched the USD 700,000 Prize Oman Humanitarian Desalination Challenge with his colleagues in MEDRC on 2018 and took part of its judging committee panel as well as its parallel research pathway panel. He has been projects manager at the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water sector (EMWIS), France (2004-2015). Earlier he was research at the Global Change Unit, University of Valencia (Spain), and he is still a Visiting researcher. He got MSc & PhD degrees in Earth Sciences (Physics) from the University of Valencia, Spain. He also got a Diploma in Enterprises Management & Strategy from SKEMA Business School, France. He is Co-founder and Secretary

General of Arab World Association of Young Scientists and member of the Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Arab World (SASTA), and alumni of the Global Young Academy (GYA). He organized and launched an important number of scientific events and networks. He was nominated in 2011 by the French Ministry of High Education & Research as representative at the Intergovernmental framework for EU Cooperation in Science & Technology (TN1301). He has published and contributed to hundreds of conferences in more than 55 countries, journals and reports in the aforementioned fields.



Dr. Jauad El-Kharraz (cont'd)

He co-authored UNESCO Science Report 2015. He has built a strong record of attaining progressively responsible managerial positions during his 20 years international career (MENA & Europe) in relation with sustainability, climate change impact and management of natural resources (water, energy, food, etc.), desalination technologies, water-energy-food nexus and agriculture. He demonstrated efficiency in diversifying the funding of his organizations through obtaining funds from the European Commission programs as a PI, coordinator and contributor (FP7, H2020, ENPI CBC Med, INCO MED, INCO NGOs, SMAP, LIFE, PRIMA, etc.) and also from international donors such as GIZ, USAID, and national ones such as the research council of Oman, and also through CSRs from embassies and private companies (e.g. oil and gas companies, water & energy utilities, etc.). Dr. Jauad is fluent in French, Arabic, Spanish and English.



Maria Ramos

Forum Moderator, International TV Anchor

Maria is a journalist and international news anchor. She presents daily live news shows on TRT World from Istanbul and hosts the flagship news programme 'News Hour with Maria Ramos'.

She is a highly-acclaimed, engaging and regular conference Master of Ceremonies and Moderator for international events that focus on humanitarian, political and global affairs, particularly with the United Nations.

Maria started her TV career at Bahrain International TV and Radio Bahrain as a Newsreader and Reporter. Prior to joining TRT World, she also reported/anchored for the BBC, Bloomberg, CNBC and UNICEF. Over the past 20 years, she has lived in, and reported from countries all around the globe with long stints in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Latin America.

British-born to Spanish parents, Maria speaks five languages: English, Spanish, French, Italian, basic classical Arabic and is learning Turkish.

In the business world, she worked as an advisor to the CEO of Formula E and founded a UK/Spain-based international media consultancy for European blue chip companies.

Maria graduated with a 2:1 in French and Spanish from King's College London. She is a mentor to aspiring journalists through KCL and Women in Journalism UK.



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