



The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

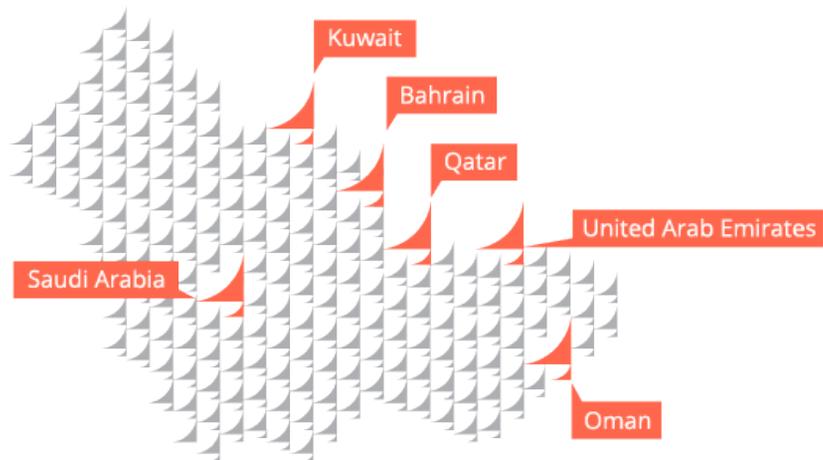
Building bridges of understanding

Annual Report 2022





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Letter From the Chair



A Message From AGSIW Board Chair Ambassador Frank G. Wisner

Events around the globe had a profound impact on the Gulf states in 2022. Russia invaded Ukraine seeking to reset the post-Cold War world order. Widespread and persistent protests lashed Iran. Egypt hosted COP27, as evidence of climate change mounted, handing the baton to the United Arab Emirates to take on the climate action mantle for COP28 in 2023. Chinese President Xi Jinping secured an unprecedented third term as leader of the Chinese Communist Party. And, at the very end of the year, a far-right coalition formed the government in Israel.

These events caused uncertainty, and prompted deep policy reflection, in the Gulf and the broader Middle East.

Throughout the year, the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington strove to stay ahead of events and provide relevant and practical analysis of their impact. Our celebrated scholars, expert staff, and leadership with deep experience in the region brought real depth and understanding to AGSIW's first-rate programs and insightful publications.

AGSIW launched its *China-Gulf Initiative* to help deconstruct the growing economic and political ties between Beijing and Gulf states. It examined Gulf concerns about Washington's reliability as a security partner but also drew a counterpoint with coverage of the U.S. Navy's technologically advanced maritime security initiative in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula. AGSIW's analysis of the sweeping social and political developments in the Gulf – especially in Saudi Arabia – helped policymakers, business leaders, and academics calibrate their political, investment, and research decisions regarding this important part of the globe.

Again, this year I had the honor of serving with AGSIW's board of directors – accomplished businesspeople, scholars deeply rooted in the region, and distinguished former government practitioners – and helping them guide AGSIW's growth and outreach.

I must also send sincere gratitude to all the individuals, corporations, and organizations that supported AGSIW's work in 2022. Their financial support, collaborative partnerships, and suggestions for future coverage made AGSIW a stronger and more relevant institution.

As you read AGSIW's accomplishments in 2022, I invite you in the coming year to turn first to AGSIW for in-depth, well-researched, and engaging coverage of the events and trends that will drive Gulf and U.S. policy into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank G. Wisner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Letter From the President



A Message From AGSIW President Ambassador Douglas A. Silliman

As we reflect on our eighth anniversary at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, I am pleased to share with you some highlights from 2022. It's an impressive record of achievement that encapsulates the institute's successes in capturing key trends, discovering new voices, and facilitating a deeper understanding of the region.

In this lengthy record of accomplishment, a number of key areas stand out. AGSIW continued to focus on U.S.-Gulf relations, with probing contributions such as Senior Resident Scholar Hussein Ibish's "Why the U.S.-Saudi Crisis is So Bad and So Unnecessary." The focus on U.S. relations with Gulf countries was also buoyed by AGSIW programming in the region, such as several members of our board of directors leading a program at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic

Academy in Abu Dhabi and the UAE Security Forum, featuring a keynote address by U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Brad Cooper. We also met the crises unleashed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine with intense effort, including the series *The Ukraine Crisis and the Gulf* and a collaborative program with the University of Haifa. Finally, our coverage of economic and energy issues ranged from national development plans and major projects to energy security and transition.

AGSIW also launched key initiatives in 2022. Led by Senior Fellow Ali Alfoneh, we premiered the *Iran Media Review* in July and went on to publish more than 50 editions covering issues including the protests in Iran, Iran's prickly relations with neighbors like Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, and Tehran's threats aimed at Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Earlier in the year, Senior Resident Scholar Robert Mogielnicki initiated and led the launch of *Looking East: The China-Gulf Initiative*, putting AGSIW at the forefront on covering China's expanding and multifaceted relations with Gulf countries. I am also pleased to note the distinctive work of Research Associate Nada Ammagui, who has written compellingly about arts, culture, and society under the tutelage of Senior Resident Scholar Kristin Smith Diwan. Ammagui and other *Millennial Gulf* contributors have written on edgy artwork in Bahrain, urban design in Kuwait, and a new era of women's fashion and empowerment in Saudi Arabia, among other topics.

As always, our work was made possible with the support of our donors, our very accomplished board of directors, and our extraordinary staff, for whom I am tremendously grateful.

I hope you enjoy this report, and I invite you to visit AGSIW for a program soon. We would be glad to have you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Silliman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Looking Outward: Gulf Diplomacy on the Global Stage



2022 was a year of important diplomatic initiatives in the Gulf, as countries in the region continued to diversify trade and security relations. In August, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. made his first trip to the region since taking office, while Chinese President Xi Jinping made his own trip to Saudi Arabia in December, solidifying diplomatic and economic ties between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. In July, India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States convened the leaders of the new quadrilateral forum, I2U2, following the opening presented by the Abraham Accords. AGSIW analyzed these developments, the policies shaping the U.S. administration's diplomatic approach to the region, and Gulf states' evolving partnerships around the world

Chinese President Xi Jinping introduces the Chinese delegation to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, after his arrival at Al Yamama Palace, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Dec. 8, 2022. (Saudi Press Agency via AP)

Featured Programming

- ▶ **What Did Biden's Trip Achieve for the United States and Its Middle East Partners?**
AGSIW hosted a discussion examining President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s visit to Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Saudi Arabia and considering implications for relations with the United States' partners in the region.
- ▶ **China and the GCC: A Discussion of the "Routledge Handbook on China-Middle East Relations"**
AGSIW hosted a panel discussion on the China-Gulf relationship, based on the "Routledge Handbook on China-Middle East Relations."
- ▶ **I2U2: Partnership for the Future or Prisoner of the Past?**
AGSIW, the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies hosted a discussion on the new quadrilateral forum comprising India, Israel, the UAE, and the United States.

Featured Publications

Why the U.S.-Saudi Crisis is So Bad and So Unnecessary | Hussein Ibish

Lack of trust has left Washington and Riyadh misreading each other's intentions to the point of creating a crisis where none should have ever existed.

Erdogan Visit Underscores UAE-Turkey Rapprochement is at the Heart of Regional De-escalation | Hussein Ibish

Emirati-Turkish rapprochement has been one of the more striking, and apparently substantial and sustainable, elements of the new era of de-escalation among Middle Eastern regional actors.

The Great Fraying: U.S. Signals Efforts to Repair Relations With Key Gulf Partners | Ambassador William Roebuck

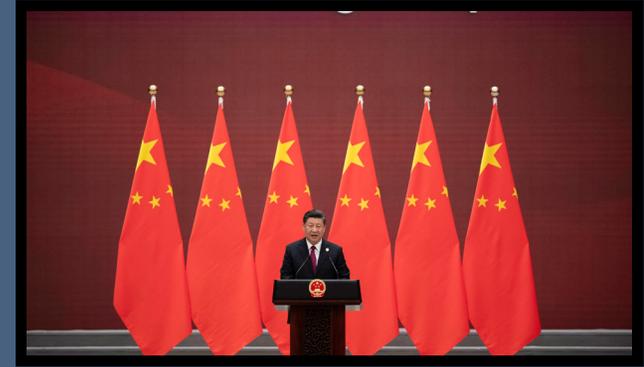
Recent high-level U.S. diplomatic activity seems aimed at addressing a sense of grievance Gulf capitals harbor.

Related Publications

- Qatari Emir's Visit Points to Deepening Cooperation With Washington, Despite Differences
- Iraq and Kuwait Close the File on Reparations, Look to Open a New Chapter
- Macron's Midsummer Rendezvous: France-Gulf Ties Take Center Stage
- Misleading Elements in Current "Gulf"-Israel Discourse

Related Programming

- Can Biden's Visit Create a Lasting Recalibration in the U.S.-Saudi Partnership?
- The Middle East's Coming Centrality: A Conversation With Jon Alterman
- Tending the U.S.-UAE Relationship in a Multipolar World



Looking East: The Gulf-China Initiative

In February 2022, AGSIW launched *Looking East: The China-Gulf Initiative*, which explores the expanding and multidimensional relations between China and Gulf Arab states, deepens understanding of evolving economic linkages, and assesses the associated political, diplomatic, security, cultural, and technological implications of stronger Chinese-Gulf ties.

Book Talks

Book talks provide a platform for authors and scholars to highlight their latest publications and take a deep dive into research on topics of importance to the Gulf and U.S.-Gulf relations.

- Book Talk With Walter Russell Mead: *The Arc of a Covenant: The United States, Israel, and the Fate of the Jewish People*
- Book Launch – *The Gulf States and the Horn of Africa: Interests, Influences and Instability*

Transforming Regional Relationships and Domestic Politics



AGSIW analyzed several important political developments within the Gulf region. Key among these were the political crisis in Iraq, succession concerns in Iran, the presidential transition in the UAE, and the parliamentary elections in Kuwait as well as the prolonged gridlock between the Kuwaiti Cabinet and National Assembly, and considered what these developments mean for Gulf countries' domestic and foreign policy goals.

Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, center, talks with Gulf Arab leaders during the Gulf Cooperation Council Summit, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Dec. 9, 2022. (Saudi Press Agency via AP)

Featured Programming

- ▶ **What's in Store for the Gulf Region in 2022?**
AGSIW hosted a session as part of Gulf Intelligence's Global UAE Energy Forum 2022: "What's in Store for the Gulf Region in 2022?"
- ▶ **Succession in Iran: Who Will Be the Next Supreme Leader?**
AGSIW hosted a discussion on Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's rumored ill health and political succession in Iran.
- ▶ **As Failed Government Formation Escalates Into Violence, What's Next for Iraq?**
AGSIW hosted a discussion on Iraqi Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's announced resignation from politics and the relationship between Sadr's moves over the past year and the current political crisis in Iraq.
- ▶ **Book Launch: Kinship, State Formation and Governance in the Arab Gulf States**
AGSIW hosted a discussion on Scott Weiner's new book, "Kinship, State Formation and Governance in the Arab Gulf States," examining tribe-state relations in the Gulf.

Featured Publications

▲ Saudi Arabia's New Nationalist Foreign Policy | Kristin Smith Diwan

A more self-assertive Saudi Arabia is taking steps to amplify its role on the global stage, at times in defiance of its U.S. partner. What does this mean for global energy markets and the future of U.S.-Saudi relations?

▲ Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan: The Unassuming Leader Who Laid the Infrastructure for the UAE's Transformation to a Modern State | Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba

Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba, AGSIW president emeritus and former ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, reflects on the rule of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, following the May 13, 2022 death of the UAE's president.

▲ Kuwait's Constitutional Stand | Kristin Smith Diwan

A sit-in by members of Kuwait's National Assembly was a relatively rare example of a successful targeted political protest to achieve limited political aims, but it is unlikely the good feelings of national unity will last.

Related Publications

- Old Wine in New Skins: The Yemen Presidential Council
- Inscrutable Ambitions: Sadr's Exit From Iraq's Parliament Strengthens Rivals
- Bahrain Cabinet Reshuffle: Crown Prince and His Team Take Center Stage
- With a President in Place, Can Iraq Finally Form a Government?

Related Programming

- 2022 Outlook
- Making Sense of Kuwait's Parliamentary Election Results: Change or Continued Gridlock?
- Roundtable With Abdullah Al Awadhi, Director of Foreign Relations for the Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly

Ambassador Series

With its *Ambassadors Series*, AGSIW provides a unique platform for international leaders to engage in thoughtful debate and inform the U.S. and Gulf foreign-policy, business, and academic communities about events shaping their respective societies, economies, and political systems.

- A Conversation With Steven C. Bondy, U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain
- Roundtable With Alina L. Romanowski, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq
- Roundtable With Mohammed A. Al-Hadhrami, the Ambassador of Yemen to the United States



Iran Media Review

In July 2022, AGSIW launched the *Iran Media Review*, which provides government officials, policymakers, journalists, private-sector stakeholders, and academics with English-language translation, analysis, and commentary on select Persian-language online media sources. The *Iran Media Review* keeps its finger on the pulse of what is being covered, and how, in the Persian media, and shares these important insights on a twice weekly basis – with more than 16,000 views so far – helping to inform and shape the policy debate on Iran.

Balancing Climate Commitments and Energy Security



As many countries emerged from the worst of the coronavirus pandemic and travel and trade began to normalize, Gulf countries saw an increase in demand for oil, coming as a relief to those heavily dependent on oil revenue to sustain their economies. However, the preceding drop in global demand served as a stark reminder of the importance of diversified economies. AGSIW analyzed Gulf oil, gas, and broader energy policies as well as progress toward climate commitments as Gulf states navigate the energy transition.

An Emirati man passes by a photovoltaic power plant at Masdar City in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

Featured Programming

- ▶ **Following Russia's Invasion of Ukraine, Can Gulf Countries Stabilize Energy Markets?**
AGSIW hosted a discussion examining the impact of the Ukraine crisis on global oil and gas markets and the direct effects on the Gulf region.
- ▶ **China-Gulf Initiative: Evolving Chinese Demand for Gulf Energy and Geopolitical Implications**
As part of the *China-Gulf Initiative*, AGSIW hosted a discussion examining energy relations between China and the Gulf states.
- ▶ **Climate Commitments: Less Reason for the Arab Region to Cop Out?**
AGSIW and the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute co-hosted a panel discussion examining climate priorities in the Arab region.

Paper Spotlight: Kurdistan's Gas Exports: Reality or Mirage? | Yerevan Saeed



There are a host of serious internal political conflicts as well as legal, financial, and geopolitical hurdles to increasing Kurdish gas exports, prompting questions regarding whether such aspirations are realistic. This paper explores these questions and analyzes the challenges and opportunities for Kurdish natural gas production expansion and exportation to Turkey and Europe.

Featured Publications

▶ **OPEC+ to Cut Production, but Should Heed Energy Market Shifts | Robin Mills**

OPEC's oil market management could be more nuanced than the blunt instrument of quotas, and should OPEC recast its mission as assisting its members in energy transition and economic diversification, it might attract less opprobrium.

▶ **COP 27 and Different Narratives for a Net-Zero World | Mari Luomi**

Post-COP 27, Gulf countries have the opportunity to demonstrate a net-zero world is possible through leading by example and bringing together two competing visions of how to get there.

▶ **Evolving Chinese Demand for Gulf Oil and Gas | Robert Mogielnicki**

China's willingness to boost imports of discounted Russian crude oil reinforces why Gulf oil- and gas-producing states should strive for diversified energy partnerships.

▶ **The Ukraine Crisis is Vindicating Qatar's Bold Gas Expansion Strategy | Justin Alexander**

In the long term, Qatar could play a pivotal role in diversifying European gas imports away from Russia.

Related Publications

- Oil Price Rally Resumes After Biden Leaves Saudi Arabia
- Could Iran Replace Russian Oil and Gas?
- Climate Change in the Middle East and North Africa: Hosting Negotiations and Catalyzing Action
- Gulf States Hedge Against Global Energy Transition, Now With Hydrogen



Petro Diplomacy

AGSIW held its eighth annual Petro Diplomacy conference in October 2022 under the theme "Gulf Countries on the Front Line of Energy Security." The hybrid event examined the upheaval in the oil and gas markets following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the role of Gulf Arab oil producing states in meeting the sudden demand surge, as a cascade of economic and energy sanctions disrupted oil and gas flows from Russia.

Sessions:

- Middle East Crude Oil in High Demand but for How Long?
- A Dash for Gas, but Will It Last?
- OPEC+ and U.S.-Gulf Relations

Diversifying Security Cooperation in a Changing Region



A Saikrone Explorer takes part in a joint U.S. and U.K. naval drill in the Gulf, Oct. 7, 2022. (Chief Mass Communication Specialist Roland Franklin/U.S. Navy via AP)

Featured Programming

- ▶ **How Has the Invasion of Ukraine Reshaped Russia's Influence in the Middle East?**
AGSIW, the University of Haifa, and the University of Haifa's National Security Studies Center hosted a discussion examining Gulf-Russia relations since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- ▶ **Understanding Global Political Violence: Implications for the Middle East and the West**
AGSIW hosted researchers and guests from the Chicago Project on Security and Threats to present findings and insights into political violence across the globe for 2021.
- ▶ **Do Houthi Missile Attacks Outline the Limits of De-escalation in the Gulf Region?**
AGSIW hosted a discussion examining challenges and threats to regional de-escalation and rapprochement.

Featured Publications

▶ **The Impact of the Ukraine War on Missile Diplomacy in the Middle East | Hanna Notte**

Russian equivocation, U.S. distraction, and Gulf Arab states' reliance on deterrence and defense will likely undermine prospects for addressing regional missile proliferation through diplomacy.

▶ **A New Chapter for UAE Defense Procurement? | Albert Vidal**

Strategic autonomy and technology transfers take center stage in a shifting UAE procurement policy.

▶ **World Defense Show Reflects Saudi Arabia's Critical Juncture | Emma Soubrier**

This first World Defense Show in Riyadh captured a moment in time when the kingdom's economy, its international relations, and particularly its strategic relationship with the United States all seem to be at a turning point.

Related Publications

- Saudi-Russian Military Cooperation: Signaling or Strategy?
- With Iran's Drones, Russia Looks to Extend War and Costs to Ukraine – and the West
- Military Relations and the U.S.-Saudi Alliance

Related Programming

- A Conversation With Tim Lenderking on Efforts to End the War in Yemen
- A Conversation With Vice Admiral Bob Harward on U.S.-Gulf Security Relations
- A Conversation With Athol Yates on the Evolution of the UAE Armed Forces



UAESF 2022: Expanding Regional Partnerships for Security and Prosperity

AGSIW's seventh annual UAE Security Forum, held in Abu Dhabi on November 17, invited U.S. and regional partners and experts to present challenges and concrete paths forward relating to security in the Gulf region and beyond. This forum assessed global and regional geopolitical trends, discussed the success of the United States and regional partners in expanding and strengthening maritime security and information sharing in the Gulf, Red Sea, and Arabian Sea, and looked at the potential for developing economic linkages to provide greater human and economic security in the future.

Sessions:

- Keynote Address by Vice Admiral Brad Cooper
- Regional Security Cooperation: Addressing Common Threats and Challenges
- The United States' Place in the World: A Conversation on U.S. Foreign Policy
- Closer Economic Ties Toward Shared Prosperity

Learn more at uaesf.org.

Envisioning Prosperity: Gulf Economic Ambitions



From the reverberations of Russia's war in Ukraine to the World Cup in Qatar to the Gulf's growing economic relationship with China, Gulf economies saw significant movement in 2022. AGSIW analyzed these developments as well as regional diversification efforts, policy challenges, and collaboration and competition within and outside of the Gulf.

A Saudi man looks at buildings on a bridge in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, June 23, 2018. (AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty)

Featured Programming

- ▶ **2022 IMF Report Launch: Economic Prospects and Policy Challenges for the GCC Countries**
AGSIW co-hosted the launch of an International Monetary Fund report on the economic recovery outlook for Gulf countries.
- ▶ **2023 IMF Policy Paper Launch: Economic Prospects and Policy Challenges for the GCC Countries**
AGSIW co-hosted a discussion on a new IMF policy paper examining the key prospects and challenges facing the region with 2023 approaching.
- ▶ **The Role of the Business Community in U.S.-UAE Relations**
AmCham Abu Dhabi and AGSIW hosted a briefing on the role of the U.S. business community within the wider U.S.-UAE relationship.

Featured Publications

What the Ukraine Crisis Means for Gulf Economies | Li-Chen Sim

While the Gulf Arab states may wish to avoid getting caught in the middle of a “Russia versus the West” conflict, the Ukraine crisis is already affecting the region’s tourism, food, energy, and other economic sectors.

Qatar’s World Cup Increases Gulf Cooperation Despite Recent Rift | Eman Alhussein

Easing away from its embrace of controversial regional political positions, Qatar refreshes its regional and international branding with soft power tourism, sports, and labor reforms.

Growing China-Gulf Economic Relations Have Limits | Robert Mogielnicki

Economic ties between China and the Gulf states are indeed growing but not necessarily in every direction nor at an infinitely accelerating pace.

New UAE-India Economic Deal Opens the Door for Minilateral Partnership With Israel | Narayanappa Janardhan and Gedaliah Afterman

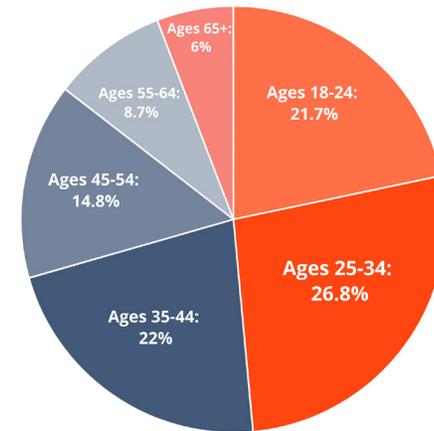
The changing geostrategic landscape provides new opportunities for cooperation between middle powers in the Middle East and Asia.

Related Publications

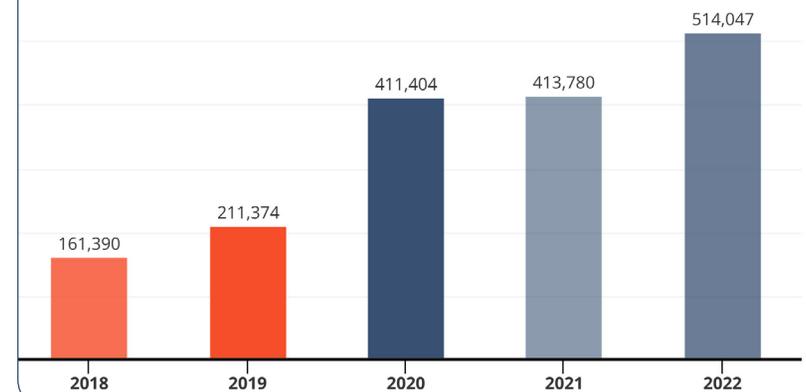
- Tourism Ambitions Transform Saudi Arabia
- Neom’s Ambition Goes Into Hyperdrive
- Investing in Geography: Will the Saudi Bid to Become a Logistics Hub Pay Dividends?
- Implementing the China-Iran Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: Not So Fast
- The Ukraine Crisis Deepens Food Insecurity Across the Middle East and Africa

AGSIW at a Glance

AGSIW.org 2022 Age Demographics



Yearly Total Visits to AGSIW.org



Telling the Region's Story: Arts, Culture, and Society in the Gulf



The arts, culture, and social sectors in the Gulf rebounded in 2022, emerging from the largely virtual format of recent years with renewed energy. Qatar expanded its public art program ahead of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Saudi Arabia established a new Founding Day, and Kuwait began a revitalization process, seeking reshaped urban and architectural realities to better mirror the identity of its people. AGSIW analyzed priorities and shifts within the Gulf's creative and cultural sphere, and how they translated into meaningful social and political change.

Iranian pop star Googoosh performs during a concert at the Dubai Expo 2020, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, March 17, 2022. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

Featured Programming

- ▶ **Art Talk: Artists in the Gulf Push Creative and Cultural Boundaries**
AGSIW and the Khaleeji Art Museum hosted a discussion featuring three artists from Kuwait, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.
- ▶ **Living Heritage: Passing on Traditions, Exploring the UAE's Cultural Traditions at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival**

AGSIW, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, DC hosted a discussion featuring three culture bearers from the UAE.



A falconer from the UAE displays a falcon at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC, July 3, 2022. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Featured Publications

▲ **The Saudi “Founding Day” and the Death of Wahhabism | Sultan Alamer**

Saudi Arabia’s “Founding Day” signifies a radical break with the Wahhabi political influence that had legitimized the Saudi political projects since 1744.

▲ **Iran Protests: Reform, Revolution, or Status Quo? | Sara Bazoobandi and Dastan Jasim**

The demands of the protesters for regime change are a clear manifestation of the deep frustration and the loss of hope for reform among the Iranian public and seem to signal that the time is ripe for comprehensive change.

▲ **Saudi Arabia’s Nation-Branding Strategy | Eman Alhussein**

As part of a nation-branding strategy, Saudi leaders aim to foster the kingdom’s cultural resources to improve its image abroad as a means to attract investment and align interests.

Related Publications

- The UAE Looks to the Stars
- Building a New Urban Identity: Revitalizing Kuwait City
- “Jeddah Central” at a Crossroads: Development in an Age of People-Centered Urbanism
- Saudi Arabia’s Abaya Signals a New Era of Fashion, Empowerment, and Cultural Pride

Related Programming

- Contemporary Female Voices in the UAE Art Sphere
- State and Culture in Saudi Arabia: Understanding the Moment of Transformation
- A New “Founding Day” and the Transformation of Saudi Society
- Podcasting the Middle East: A Conversation With Kim Ghattas



“Infinite Karak” (2021) by Abdulla BinHindi, an artist, profiled in *Millennial Gulf*.

Millennial Gulf

AGSIW’s *Millennial Gulf* reports on youth-led initiatives in the realms of culture, politics, technology, and entrepreneurship in the Gulf Arab countries. The goal of *Millennial Gulf* is to elevate the voices of youth in the region and offer fresh, human insights on the diverse artistic and social perspectives in the Gulf.

Featured publications:

- Abdulla BinHindi: The Rise of NFT Art in the Gulf
- Oman Debuts at the 59th Venice Biennale With “Destined Imaginaries”
- The Meccan Modernist: Hatem Alzahrani, Poetry, and a New Saudi Synthesis
- Asim Abdulaziz: Pushing Boundaries Through Experimental Film in Yemen
- Qatar’s World Cup and Public Art: Expanding the Field of Dialogue

Collaborating

AGSIW believes in the importance of collaborating with like-minded partners to support relevant research and expand its reach around the world. In 2022, AGSIW worked with a number of organizations, such as the University of Haifa, the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute, the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, and AmCham Abu Dhabi, to highlight important studies, deepen expertise on topics of mutual interest, and reach new audiences.

Featured Program Collaborations

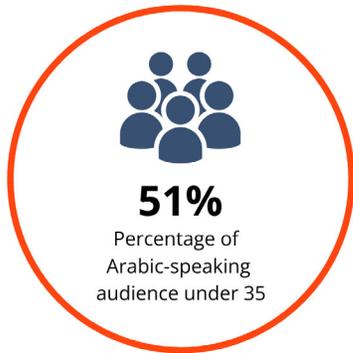
- ▶ **Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, DC**
Contemporary Female Voices in the UAE Art Sphere
- ▶ **Smithsonian Folklife Festival and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, DC**
Living Heritage: Passing on Traditions, Exploring the UAE's Cultural Traditions at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival
- ▶ **Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies**
I2U2: Partnership for the Future or Prisoner of the Past?
- ▶ **AmCham Abu Dhabi**
The Role of the Business Community in U.S.-UAE Relations
- ▶ **University of Haifa and the National Security Studies Center**
International and Regional Involvement in the Middle East
How Has the Invasion of Ukraine Reshaped Russia's Influence in the Middle East?
- ▶ **Khaleeji Art Museum**
Art Talk: Artists in the Gulf Push Creative and Cultural Boundaries
- ▶ **National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute**
Climate Commitments: Less Reason for the Arab Region to Cop Out?
- ▶ **International Monetary Fund**
Economic Prospects and Policy Challenges for the GCC Countries: IMF Report and Policy Paper Launch

Building Bridges

In 2022, AGSIW utilized a hybrid format for its programs, welcoming guests back to the office while also providing an opportunity for those in the Gulf and around the world to participate in important discussions with a diverse array of officials and experts. This format allowed approximately 6,500 participants to join AGSIW's programs over the course of the year. AGSIW also resumed in-person programs in the region, hosting briefings with students and diplomats at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi, partnering with the U.S. Commercial Service in the UAE to brief the U.S. business community in the country, and hosting the UAE Security Forum on the campus of NYU Abu Dhabi.

AGSIW 2022 by the Numbers

AGSIW's Gulf and Arabic-speaking audience is on the rise, indicating a growing regional interest in insightful analysis and commentary on Gulf politics and policy.



Team Spotlight: Sussan Saikali

Sussan Saikali is a research associate at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. Her primary research focus is identity politics and the effects of sectarianism on political attitudes and behaviors in the Middle East as well as the spillover of sectarianism in the Middle Eastern diaspora population in the West. Saikali has worked with a number of local institutes and organizations, both political and nonprofit, and analyzed and assessed the effects racial and religious identity can have on communities as well as their political behaviors and policies. Saikali is a PhD student at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She holds an MA in political science and a certificate in international affairs from Villanova University and a BA in political science from Temple University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa.

Informing

AGSIW remains a go-to source for prominent outlets for expert commentary on the Gulf. AGSIW scholars and leadership made 191 media appearances for major broadcast networks, such as CNN, BBC, and CNBC, in addition to being interviewed by prominent media outlets, such as The New York Times, Foreign Policy, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Reuters, Financial Times, AFP, The National, and more.

Highlights From AGSIW's U.S. and International Outreach

- ▶ **United Nations Secretariat**
Senior Resident Scholar Hussein Ibish briefed officials and desk officers on developments regarding the Gulf and the Middle East at the United Nations Secretariat.
- ▶ **World Affairs Council of Hilton Head and World Affairs Council of Savannah**
Ambassador Douglas A. Silliman, AGSIW president, spoke about the Biden administration's foreign policy in the Middle East in an evolving multipolar world.
- ▶ **American Academy of Diplomacy**
Ambassador William Roebuck, AGSIW executive vice president, delivered the lecture "Pattern Recognition in Syria: Reversion to Tragic Mean."
- ▶ **Council on Foreign Relations**
Senior Resident Scholar Robert Mogielnicki was accepted as a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.
- ▶ **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom**
Senior Resident Scholar Kristin Smith Diwan briefed the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom ahead of its trip to Saudi Arabia.
- ▶ **Middle East Policy Council**
Chief Program and Development Officer Raymond Karam received MEPC's "40 Under 40 Award" for individuals shaping U.S.-Middle East relations.
- ▶ **Gulf Intelligence**
Non-Resident Fellow Kate Dourian received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Energy Journalism Awards 2022.

Partnering

Membership in AGSIW's Corporate Circle provides unique access to exclusive programming and bespoke briefings on the major issues shaping the Gulf Arab states that have direct implications for U.S. political and commercial interests in the region. Members receive opportunities to attend invitation-only discussions with U.S. and Gulf policymakers and experts and may request briefings with AGSIW scholars to dive deeper into areas of interest. For more information, please contact Michela Roberts, development manager, at michela.roberts@agsiw.org.

Chairman's Circle

The logo for Raytheon, featuring the word "Raytheon" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

President's Circle

The logo for Lockheed Martin, featuring the words "LOCKHEED MARTIN" in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized blue and white starburst graphic.

Friends of AGSIW

The logo for Aramco, featuring the word "aramco" in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by a green and blue square graphic with a white starburst pattern.The logo for Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, featuring the number "50" in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by the words "Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck" in a blue, sans-serif font.The logo for General Electric, featuring the GE monogram in a blue circle, followed by the words "General Electric" in a blue, sans-serif font.

AGSIW.org in Arabic

Translating its publications from English to Arabic presents an important opportunity for AGSIW to reach and engage with its core audiences. In 2022, AGSIW continued to expand its Arabic translation work and, as a result, saw a 19% increase in Arabic-speaking users, with a total of 13% of AGSIW's visitors reading the institute's publications and other content in Arabic.

Support this work today at www.agsiw.org.

About

About AGSIW

The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW) is an independent, nonprofit institution dedicated to highlighting the importance of the relationship between the United States and the Gulf region through free and open exchange of multiple points of view on issues that concern the Gulf.

AGSIW strives to support this goal by:

- Providing expert analysis and thoughtful debate on the economic, energy, environmental, security, social, cultural, and political dimensions of the Gulf Arab states as well as their relations with the United States and other countries.
- Informing a global audience of policymakers, legislators, businesspeople, academics, media, youth, and others as the foundation for strategic decisions regarding this important region.
- Employing multiple avenues to inform public understanding of the importance of the relationship between the United States and the Gulf Arab states.
- Encouraging strong academic coverage by developing scholars who concentrate on the study of the region.

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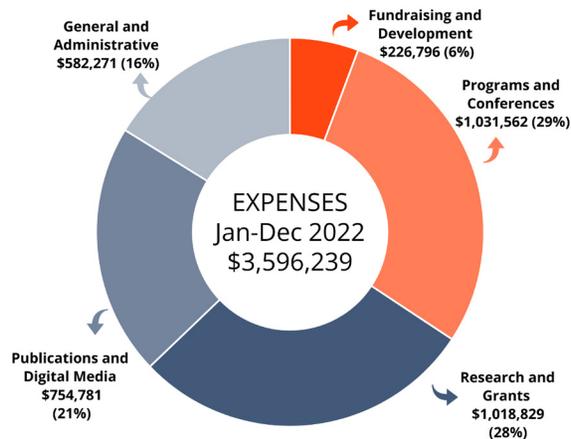
Financials

Statement of Financial Position

As of year ended December 31, 2022

ASSETS	2022
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and short-term investments	3,822,977
Grants and accounts receivable	3,073,996
Property and equipment, net	81,520
Other assets	988,119
Total Current Assets	7,966,612
TOTAL ASSETS	7,966,612
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	146,797
Operating lease liability	985,426
Total current liabilities	1,132,223
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,132,223
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	3,821,056
With donor restrictions	3,013,333
NET ASSETS	6,834,389
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	7,966,612

2022 Expenses by Function



Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

For January 1 – December 31, 2022

	JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Grants and contributions	110,405	3,000,000	3,110,405
Membership	16,666	13,333	29,999
Interest income	20,156	-	20,156
Contributed nonfinancial assets	22,627	-	22,627
Net assets released from donor restrictions	3,110,079	(3,110,079)	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	3,279,933	(96,746)	3,183,187
EXPENSES			
PROGRAM SERVICES			
Programs and Conferences	1,013,562	-	1,013,562
Research and Grants	1,018,829	-	1,018,829
Publications and Digital Media	754,781	-	754,781
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	2,787,172	-	2,787,172
SUPPORTING SERVICES			
General and Administrative	582,271	-	582,271
Fundraising and Development	226,796	-	226,796
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	809,067	-	809,067
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,596,239	-	3,596,239
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(316,306)	(96,746)	(413,052)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	4,137,362	3,110,079	7,247,441
NET ASSETS, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022	3,821,056	3,013,333	6,834,389

2022 in Pictures



H.E. Mohammed A. Al-Hadhrami, ambassador of Yemen to the United States, left, and Ambassador Douglas A. Silliman participate in a roundtable discussion.



A coffee demonstration at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.



Ambassador Silliman, right, introduces a panel at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

2022 in Pictures



AGSIW staff members attend the Middle East Studies Association's Annual Meeting.



Munira Al Sayegh, left, gives a tour of the exhibit "While the Coffee Grounds Settle: Stories from Women in the UAE" before the panel "Contemporary Female Voices in the UAE Art Sphere."



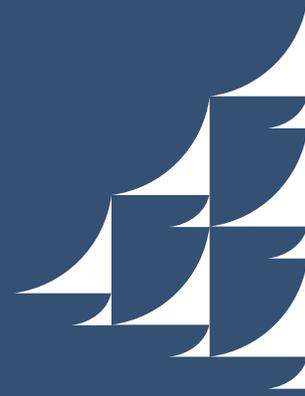
From left: Khawla Almarzooqi, Rand Abdul Jabbar, Munira Al Sayegh, and Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba participate in the panel "Contemporary Female Voices in the UAE Art Sphere."



From left: Robert Mogielnicki, Scott Livermore, Ksenia Svetlova, Narayanappa Janardhan, and Ambassador C. David Welch participate in a panel at UAE Security Forum 2022.



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معهد دول الخليج العربية في واشنطن

لبناء جسور التفاهم

