

KFAS – Baker Institute joint Middle East Energy Roundtable

Role of Energy Transition in Economic Diversification in the State of Kuwait

“Towards Net-Zero Emissions by 2060”

Time: 8:30am–3:30pm Kuwait Standard Time

Date: Monday 8th December 2025

Venue: Hamad AlEissa Auditorium – KFAS Headquarters – Kuwait City

Virtual Attendance



The GCC countries have established net-zero emissions strategies, targeting 2050 and 2060, to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. This target will only be achieved by transitioning national energy systems from a hydrocarbon-based economy to a clean energy-based economy. Kuwait, along with other GCC countries, has established an energy transition strategy with targets that aim to achieve net-zero emissions while seizing opportunities for economic diversification. Localizing part of the energy transition and carbon capture technology supply chain is a crucial tool for enhancing local content and creating unconventional industrial paths that move away from the oil and gas industry. This one-day symposium is dedicated to local and regional energy policymakers, the private sector, experts, and academia working in the emerging field of energy transition and clean technologies.

8:30 – 9:15

RECEPTION

9:15

OPENING REMARKS:

Dr. Kristian Coates Ulrichsen – Fellow for the Middle East – Co-Director, Middle East Energy Roundtable, Rice University’s Baker Institute

9:20 – 9:40

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

Shaikh Nawaf Al-Sabah – Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC)

H. E. Jamal Essa Al-Loughani – Secretary General, The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) (Currently: The Arab Energy Organization)



9:40 – 11:00

SECTION 1: REGIONAL PATH FOR ENERGY TRANSITION

20 MIN

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

Kuwait Energy Transition White Paper

Mr. Alexandre LAVELLE and Mr. Baptiste KNIPILLAIRE, Hartree Partners Consulting

SPEAKERS:

Moderator:

Dr. Jim Krane – Rice University's Baker Institute

- Diversification of GCC Hydrocarbon-Based Economies Through Energy Transition Strategies
 - **Dr. Salem Alhajraf** – Research Scientist – Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. Visiting Research Scholar at Rice University's Baker Institute.
- Net Zero pathways of the electricity sector in Saudi Arabia.
 - **Dr. Walid Matar** – Energy Economics and Policy Analyst – KAPSARC
- Mr. Alexandre LAVELLE and Mr. Baptiste KNIPILLAIRE, Hartree Partners Consulting

General Discussions

11:00 – 12:30

SECTION 2: ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION THROUGH ENERGY SECTOR

20 MIN

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

Opportunities and Challenges for Economic Diversification in GCC

Dr. Karen Young – Center on Global Energy Policies, Columbia University

SPEAKERS:

Moderator:

Dr. Salem Alhajraf – Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

- Energy Subsidy Reform in Kuwait and its Economic Impact.
 - **Dr. Jim Krane** – Diana Tamari Sabbagh Fellow in Middle East Energy Studies – Co-Director, Middle East Energy Roundtable. Rice University's Baker Institute
- Just and Equitable Energy Subsidy Reform
 - **Dr. Osamah Al-Sayegh** – Research Scientist – Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. Non-resident Fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute
- **Dr. Walid Matar** – Energy economics and policy analyst – KAPSARC
- **Dr. Karen Young** – Center on Global Energy Policies, Columbia University

General Discussions

12:30 – 1:30

LUNCH BREAK

1:30 – 3:00

SECTION 3: GCC ECONOMIC GROWTH UNDER NEW ENERGY LANDSCAPE

20 MIN

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

GCC Economic Growth under New Energy Landscape
Mr. Robin Mills – CEO Qamar Energy

SPEAKERS:

Moderator:

Dr. Kristian Ulrichsen – Rice University's Baker Institute

- **Mrs. Sara Akbar** - Chairperson & CEO, OilServ
- National economy diversification and role of oil revenue –
 - **Mr. Justin Alexander** is the Director of Khalij Economics. Non-resident Fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute
- **Mr. Robin Mills** – CEO Qamar Energy

General Discussions

3:00 – 3:30

CLOSING REMARKS

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