

*Day 0, 8 May*

9.00-17.00 Registration

20.00 **Welcome reception**

*Day 1, 9 May*

9.00-9.45 Plenary: **Unlocking the GCC Puzzle**

Where are the opportunities to create a whole greater than the sum of its parts in the GCC? How can cooperation and integration on trade benefit from building on national strengths? Which areas of specialisation are most promising for Bahrain and other Gulf economies? The plenary session will feature results from an exclusive survey of leading businesses and investors about the GCC, conducted by YouGov.

- How can you take advantage of the emerging opportunities in the GCC?
- What are the regional governments doing to work with the private sector and shift their role from operator to regulator?
- How is the region developing hubs for innovation and industries of the future and what does that mean for the private sector?

9.45-10.00 **In Conversation**

One-on-one conversation with a leading global CEO

10.00-10.40 Plenary: **Belt and Road**

China's Belt and Road Initiative is an ambitious plan to jumpstart connectivity and cooperation between East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and East Africa. How does the GCC's central position on this new Silk Road conjure new opportunities for investment and trade?

- How will Belt and Road foster economic cooperation between the GCC and other economies on the new Silk Road?
- What are the infrastructure priorities to kickstart GCC economies benefiting the most from both the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road?
- What areas of investment and trade are most attractive between China and the GCC economies?

10:40-11:00 **In Conversation: GCC Investor Outlook**

An open discussion on country risk and fiscal strategy

- 11:00-11.20 Coffee break
- 11.20-13.15 **Investment sessions** (three in parallel)  
Intensive, deep-dive sessions to delve into concrete, investment opportunities, as well as debate on key investment issues in the GCC.
- I. Oil and gas
  - II. Real estate, tourism & housing
  - III. Regulatory issues and ease of doing business across the GCC
- 13.15-14.30 **Networking lunch**  
Hosted by GCC economies, with table hosts from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait.
- 14.30-16.30 **Investment sessions** (three in parallel)  
Intensive, deep-dive sessions to delve into concrete, investment opportunities, as well as debate on key investment issues in the GCC.
- IV. Electricity and water
  - V. Special real estate projects (current projects)
  - VI. Transport & public works
- 16.30-17.15 Plenary: **Why is This Time Different?**  
For years, investors have heard promises that this time is really different, that Gulf governments will be responsive to their needs. So, how have things really changed? Is there really a sense of urgency now?
- What is the concrete evidence that government has changed in terms of handling investors?
  - Have investor perceptions caught up with today's reality?
- 17.15-19.00 **Ministerial bilateral meetings**  
Individually scheduled meetings between relevant ministers and CEOs and investors.
- 20.00 **Dine Around at Adliya District**

Day 2, 10 May

9.00-9.45 Plenary: **Tech Transformation and Industry 4.0**

In order to drive productivity improvements and achieve target economic growth rates, the Gulf economies must embrace technology and the transformative change it brings. The plenary session will include exclusive research commissioned for Gateway Gulf from Nest VC.

- What are the most significant technology-enabled opportunities for the GCC over the next five to ten years?
- Which industries in the Gulf are most vulnerable to technology-enabled disruption?
- What new opportunities will emerge from technology disruption, such as the local provision of massive cloud computing capabilities?
- What infrastructure development, support systems and regulatory changes will be required to seize the technology opportunities?

9.45-10.00 **Future Flash: Harnessing Technology for the Greater Good**

Insights from a global thought leader in a keynote presentation

10.00-10.40 Plenary: **Is There a New Era for the GCC Sovereign Wealth Funds?**

Sovereign wealth funds in the Gulf region have trillions of dollars in assets under management. How do the economic policies and investment strategies of the regional sovereign wealth funds compare? In this session, leaders from some of the world's leading sovereign wealth funds share their ideas and perspectives on investment opportunities.

- How are fund strategies changing to accommodate new technologies and investment trends?
- How important are regional opportunities for Gulf funds, compared to opportunities in other geographies?

10.40-11.10 Coffee break

11.10-13.10 **Investment sessions** (three in parallel)

Intensive, deep-dive sessions to delve into concrete, investible investment opportunities, as well as detailed discussions on key investment issues in the GCC.

VII. Manufacturing

VIII. Special real estate projects (speculative projects)

IX. Support for innovation and SMEs

- 13.10-14.20 Networking lunch
- 14.20-17.30 **Ministerial bilateral meetings** (in parallel throughout the afternoon)  
Individually scheduled meetings between relevant ministers and CEOs and investors.
- 14:20-15:00 Plenary: **Creating a Tech Start-up Friendly Investment and Growth Climate**
- What kind of ecosystem is required – financial and other support?
  - What are governments in the GCC specifically doing to support start-ups?
  - And to make it attractive for investors?
  - Local, regional, global start-ups – what is the right target?
- 15.00-15.40 Plenary: **The Most Important Capital – Human Capital**  
Quality education and training provide the foundation for a healthy, modern economy. What are the key requirements to improve workforce skills in the Gulf economies?
- Employability through life-long learning – whose responsibility? How to forge partnerships amongst companies and business/education sector
  - How fast can we bridge the gap? Paths to unlocking the easy wins: inclusion of women and well-educated, un/underemployed youth into jobs
  - What initiatives and investments are Gulf states making to ensure the high quality workforce that can meet the skill requirements of global investors?
- 15.40-16.20 Plenary: **Blockchain – Boon or Bust?**  
Cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and other uses of blockchain technology are facilitating transactions in financial markets and supply chains. How should regulators cope with the challenges presented by blockchain? Is the technology only for the speculator, or are there serious use cases? What role might it play in the Gulf economies?
- How is blockchain being used now in the Gulf?
  - Which areas of blockchain technology might prove most fruitful for serious investors?
- 16.20-17.00 **Announcements and Signatures**

- 17:00-17:30 Plenary: **Vision and Reality: Economic Goals for a Decade**  
All of the Gulf economies have set ambitious economic goals for the next decade, looking towards 2030. What are the roadmaps to achieving the visions?
- What makes proposed reforms different from past promises?
  - What concrete steps are being taken to make the various Vision 2030s reality?

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