

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**The Middle East: Shifting Roles, Interests and Alliances**  
**31 March – 1 April, 2015**  
**Conference Program**

**Day One: Tuesday, March 31, 2015**

**9:30 Registration**

**Welcoming Remarks**

**10:00 H.E. Dr. Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi**  
Director General, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR)  
United Arab Emirates

**Keynote Address**

**10:15 H.E. Fouad Siniora**  
Former Prime Minister  
Lebanese Republic

**10:45 Break**

**Panel I: The Current Political and Strategic Landscape in the Middle East**

**Panel Chair Dr. Salem Mohamed Humaid**  
Director General, Al Mezmaah Studies and Research Center  
United Arab Emirates

**11:00 Arab Change States and Regional Powers: Shifting Interests and Alliances**  
**Dr. Paul Salem**  
Vice President, Middle East Institute  
United States of America

**11:20 The Current Situation in the Arab Change States**  
**Dr. Raghida Dergham**  
New York Bureau Chief, *Al Hayat* newspaper; Executive Chairman, Beirut Institute  
Lebanese Republic

**11:40 The International Coalition Against Terrorism: Opportunities and Challenges**  
**Richard Barrett CMG OBE**  
Senior Vice President, The Soufan Group  
United States of America

**12:00 Open Discussion**

**12:30 Break**

## Panel II: Security Threats in the Middle East

<b>Panel Chair</b>	<b>H.E. Dr. Faisal O. Al-Ayyan</b> Executive Vice President, Rabdan Academy United Arab Emirates
	<b>Arab National States in the Face of Sub-State Organizations</b>
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Dr. Amr El-Shobaki</b> Expert at Al-Ahram Center for Studies Former Member of the Egyptian Parliament Arab Republic of Egypt
	<b>Strategies of Terrorist Organizations: Shifts in Ideology and Practice</b>
<b>13:20</b>	<b>Fares bin Hizam</b> Editor-in-Chief, Al Arabiya News Channel United Arab Emirates
	<b>Sectarian and Religious Polarization in the Region</b>
<b>13:40</b>	<b>Dr. Mohammad Al-Haddad</b> UNESCO Chair in Comparative Studies of Religion; President of <i>L'Observatoire Arabe des Religions et des Libertés</i> Tunisian Republic
<b>14:00</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>
<b>14:30</b>	<b>End of first day's proceedings</b>
	<b>Lunch</b>

## Day Two: Wednesday, April 1, 2015

### Panel III: Regional and International Balances in the Middle East

<b>Panel Chair</b>	<b>H.E. Maqsoud Kruse</b> Executive Director, Hedayah United Arab Emirates
	<b>International Relations and Alliances: Implications for the Middle East</b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Amb. Richard Makepeace CMG</b> Registrar, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies United Kingdom
	<b>Energy in the Strategies of Regional and International Powers</b>
<b>10:20</b>	<b>Prof. Paul Stevens</b> Distinguished Fellow, Chatham House

	United Kingdom
	<b>China's Role and the Balance of Power in the Middle East</b>
<b>10:40</b>	<b>Prof. Pan Guang</b> Vice Chairman and Director, Shanghai Center for International Studies People's Republic of China
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>Panel IV: The Future of the Arab Political Landscape</b>	
<b>Panel Chair</b>	<b>H.E. Ibrahim Al-Abed</b> Director General, National Media Council United Arab Emirates
	<b>Arab Change States: Opportunities and Prospects for Stability</b>
<b>11:45</b>	<b>Dr. Marwan Al-Muasher</b> Vice President for Studies Carnegie Endowment for International Peace United States of America
	<b>Arab Institutions for Collective Action: Role and Future Development</b>
<b>12:05</b>	<b>Prof. Ahmad Yousuf Ahmad</b> Professor of Political Sciences, Cairo University Arab Republic of Egypt
	<b>The Future of Inter-Arab Relations</b>
<b>12:25</b>	<b>Prof. Abdullah Al-Shayji</b> Professor of International Relations and Political Science, Kuwait University; Visiting Professor, George Washington University State of Kuwait
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>
<b>13:15</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>Discussion Panel: Regional and International Transformations and the GCC States</b>	
<b>Panel Chair</b>	<b>Dr. Sultan Al-Nuaimi</b> Researcher in Iranian and Arabian Gulf Affairs United Arab Emirates
<b>13:45</b>	<b>Dr. Mohamed Bin Huwaidan</b> Professor of International Relations; Chair, Department of Political Science, UAE University United Arab Emirates

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**Prof. Abdul Reda Assiri**

Dean, College of Social Sciences, Kuwait University  
State of Kuwait

**Sawsan Ali Al Shaer**

Author and Journalist  
Kingdom of Bahrain

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**14:30**

**Open Discussion**

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**Concluding Remarks**

**15:00**

**H.E. Dr. Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi**

Director General, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR)  
United Arab Emirates

**15:10**

**End of conference proceedings**

**Lunch served**