



Participants FAQ



Speakers FAQ

Global Competitiveness Forum 2010

The enthusiasm generated by the 3rd GCF fuelled a passion for forward thinking that has been carried forward into the 4th annual GCF, with the theme “Sustainable Competitiveness” being chosen as the ideal way to symbolize 2010 as the start of a new decade of thinking.

To deliver sustainable prosperity, the global corporate and public sectors must be attentive to the social, environmental, political, and financial systems in which they are integrally woven. This imperative is reinforced daily by the diverse stresses placed on the foundations of the world’s economic well-being. Achieving sustainable competitiveness has never been a more pressing challenge for Saudi Arabia and other forward-looking nations. Economic growth activities that occur under fair market conditions and that enhance and restore the health of natural and social systems are the essence of Sustainable Competitiveness.

GCF Background:

The Global Competitiveness Forum (GCF) was founded in 2006 by the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA). It is an annual meeting of top business leaders, international political leaders, and selected intellectuals and journalists, to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



More than a thousand leading global businessmen and women, government officials and academics participated in the First Annual Global Competitiveness Forum in Riyadh, held in November 2006, under the patronage of HM King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz. That year set the tradition of excellent keynotes with a speech titled “ICT as an Enabler of Competitiveness” given by Bill Gates, Chairman of the Microsoft Corporation.



Vision

An annual program of activities attended by top business leaders, international political leaders, and selected intellectuals that share a common interest in global competitiveness.



Mission

To formally raise awareness and enthusiasm around competitiveness challenges, and to critically evaluate competitiveness theory and practice as related to International Trade, Regional Development, FDI, Environment, Innovation, Human Resources Development, Sustainability, Globalization, and the Micro- and Macroeconomic consequences of becoming globally competitive.



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1. When will the GCF be taking place?

The GCF will be held on the 23rd to the 26th of January 2010

2. Where will the event take place?

The event will take place in Riyadh, the capital city of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the Four Seasons Hotel

3. Do I need a Visa to attend the GCF?

A visa is required to travel to the Kingdom if you are not a citizen of the GCC (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain).

4. How do I obtain a Visa?

Obtaining your Visa to attend this year's GCF is as easy as registering. You can complete the Visa Application Process online as part of your normal registration. The online registration process will allow you to complete the visa application and upload a scanned copy of your passport.

Once your visa request has been approved (typically within 5-7 days), you will receive a notification email from the GCF Registration Team with the visa approval number and instructions on getting your visa stamped on your passport at your local Saudi embassy.

To register for the GCF and complete the visa application, please visit the website (<http://www.gcf.org.sa>) and click on the "Register Online" button.

- a. During registration you will be asked if will need a visa, please select **yes**.
- b. Fill the application form and attach a **scanned copy of your passport**.

5. What does 'Select the Embassy where you will collect your visa' mean in the Visa application form?

This is the Local Saudi Embassy where you will be picking up your visa from (the Saudi Embassy in the country you choose to get your visa from).

6. Where can I pick up my visa?

You must pick up your visa from the same Saudi Embassy you indicated on your Visa application form.

7. Is there anything I should take with me to the Saudi Embassy?

The document requirements for obtaining your visa will differ from one country to the other. Please be sure to contact the local Saudi Embassy where you will be picking up your visa from for a list of required documentation.

You should be prepared to provide the embassy with a minimum of the following:

- A printed copy of the visa approval we sent you (this can also be downloaded from your registration account online) .
- Your original passport (valid for at least 6 months)
- Two passport pictures
- 2 adjacent blank pages in the passport

8. How long will it take to process my visa request?

Processing your visa request will take approximately one week. After complete, we will send you your visa reference number, and scan of the approval, which you will need to follow up with the local Embassy selected in your application form.



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9. How do I know that my visa has been issued?

After your visa has been processed, you will receive an email notification with the above scan of the approval. You will need to present a hardcopy of the scanned approval we send you when going to the Embassy, along with any required supporting documents. You can then collect your visa from your local Saudi Embassy in the country stated in your application form.

10. How long will it take the embassy to place the visa in my passport?

The amount of time that embassies take to process a visa will vary for each embassy, but usually this will take around a week .

11. what`s the fee structure for attending the GCF ?

The Early Bird Price up until Nov/18th : \$1100
 Nov / 19th up until Jan/2nd : \$1300
 Jan / 2nd up until on sight event : \$1500

12. How can I pay my fee ?

Payment can be made either online , Wire Transfer , or cheques .

Please note that Visa will not be processed until payment is received fully .

13. When entering the event , Is there anything I should bring with me to confirm my subscription ?

Yes , please print the Online Confirmation receipt .

11. Is there anything I need to consider while travelling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

While travelling please keep in mind that Saudi Arabia is a Muslim country with its own specific cultural and traditional values. Key factors to keep in mind are:

- When in public, women should at all times wear an abaya – a traditional loose-fitting black robe covering from the neck to ankles and wrists. They should also cover their hair with a black scarf. An abaya will be provided for female speakers at the hotel.
- Shorts and singlets/vests are not appropriate dress for males in public.
- Openly practicing or preaching of any religion other than Islam is not permitted.
- Photography/videography of any government building or installation is strictly forbidden, unless permission has been granted by the Ministry of Information.
- Alcohol and pork products are forbidden in the Kingdom and consumption and/or possession of such is a crime.
- Like most countries, illicit drugs are illegal. The death penalty applies for drug trafficking.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its people are very welcoming, provided you are respectful of local customs and traditions.



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12. How can I arrange my accommodation?

After you register on the GCF website, you'll be contacted by our partnering agency to continue your travelling arrangements.

13. Will there be someone to meet me when I arrive at Riyadh airport?

When you arrive at King Khaled International Airport, you'll find a GCF 2010 desk after you exit customs. GCF volunteers will provide any assistance that you may require.

14. Are there any additional activities arranged to take place over the course of the forum GCF in addition to the forum?

Cultural activities have been scheduled for the GCF, a complete agenda will be provided prior to your arrival to the Kingdom. The agenda listing all events taking place will also be available on the GCF website.

15. Whom do I contact for further information?

For further inquiries Please Contact: