

KAPSARC Media Kit

2024



KAPSARC

مركز الملك عبد الله للدراسات والبحوث البترولية
King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center

About KAPSARC

The King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) is an advisory think tank within global energy economics and sustainability providing advisory services to entities and authorities in the Saudi energy sector.

More than 150 great minds in the energy economics field from more than 20 nationalities have gathered in Riyadh to advance the understanding of energy economics and to act as a catalyst for dialogue. Through our initiatives and projects we aim to create a road map to future better welfare for societies locally and globally.

KAPSARC develops economic frameworks to help achieve effective alignment between energy policy objectives and outcomes and improve societal well-being and prosperity, both in the region and worldwide.

Since its inauguration by King Salman bin Abdulaziz in 2016, the Center has served as the focal point of innovation, research and analytics in the energy research industry in the Kingdom and the world.

KAPSARC researchers collaborate with leading international research centers, public policy organizations, and industrial

and government institutions to share knowledge, insights and analytical frameworks.

In 2023, KAPSARC was honored with two awards during the 8th OPEC International Seminar held in Vienna.

At the event, the Center received the 'Best Energy Research Institute Award' recognizing its influential role in producing impactful research that shapes public discourse on critical energy-related issues, in addition to the 'OPEC Award for the Best Energy Research Paper', for the novel research on oil market stability. These awards mark the first time that OPEC has bestowed such honors.

Moreover, KAPSARC announced its recent accreditation of observer status by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), marking another significant milestone in its journey as a leading advisory think tank, actively participating in global dialogues pertaining to energy, climate, and the environment. Plus, its role as an observer to the climate negotiation in the UN Climate Change Conference.

KAPSARC Contributions to Saudi Energy Ecosystem

The Center's mission is to advance Saudi Arabia's energy sector and inform global policies through evidence-based advice and applied research.

KAPSARC is focused on three major domains: Global Hydrocarbon Market, KSA Energy Sector, and Climate and Sustainability.

Our local and global team members are working together to provide advice to the Saudi energy sector using our analytical capabilities, produce internationally recognized research, tools and data to impact global policymaking, in addition to incubating distinctive talent for the advancement of Saudi Arabia's energy sector as well as using KAPSARC's unique foundations and resources for novel initiatives to maximize institutional impact.

Programs of Knowledge and Analysis

We prioritize six research programs that address the most prominent topics in energy economics.

- Oil and Gas
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Utilities and Renewables
- Climate and Sustainability
- Energy Macro and Micro-economics
- Solutions Productization

Initiatives

KAPSARC's research agenda addresses and engages with the interests of its stakeholders, offering informed insights into the impacts of local, regional and global energy-related issues.

Our agenda covers a broad range of initiatives, from the potential impact of global freight on Saudi energy demand to emissions reduction policies that could help the Kingdom meet its commitments to the Paris Agreement.

Evaluation of Public Investment Projects

The Kingdom has begun to diversify its economy, changing its resource use and creating new development opportunities. This initiative assesses the opportunity costs of Saudi energy resources to inform Saudi Arabia's economic decision-making. It will also help shape a framework for evaluating public investment projects in the Kingdom.



Climate Change Policies and Governance

This initiative will investigate emissions-reduction policies to provide options to Saudi policymakers as they implement the Paris Agreement and prepare to negotiate the new nationally determined contributions. It will also examine development pathways that can help Saudi Arabia achieve its economic and carbon abatement goals.



Future of Global Oil Markets

This initiative investigates what role oil can play in an environmentally sustainable future energy and feedstock mix. It also considers the extent to which the Kingdom needs to diversify and bolster its economy to remove its reliance on oil revenue and oil-based economic activity.



Future of Natural Gas Markets

This initiative explores the potential of Saudi Arabia's consumption, domestic supply, and natural gas trade in the global context. It will provide a roadmap for a functioning, competitive and globally connected natural gas market in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Electricity Sector Transitions

This initiative explores the role of electric power in the energy transition and investigates how the transition will affect the global supply of and demand for electricity. How Saudi Arabia can mitigate the risks and capitalize on the opportunities presented by this transition are questions at the forefront of the initiative.



Productivity and Economic Diversification

This initiative focuses on the relationship between employment and sustainable economic growth in Saudi Arabia, and the determining factors that lead to business growth and job creation. It also examines the drivers of productivity in the country and how they might impact upon the Kingdom's economic diversification.



Energy and Economic Vulnerability

In an interconnected world, national economies and societies are vulnerable to global energy price shocks and disruptions to energy systems. This initiative will explore policies that can help identify and mitigate against such risks in the Kingdom and help it achieve macroeconomic stability.



Future of Transport and Fuel Demand

This initiative aims to advance the understanding of passenger transport energy demand using a network analysis of future passenger transport activity, starting from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It also investigates how changes in freight movement globally will alter the Kingdom's energy demand.



Models, Data and Tools

This research aims to assess the opportunity costs of Saudi energy resources, to inform Saudi Arabia's economic decision-making. It will also help shape a framework for evaluating public investment projects tailored to the Saudi economy's specific characteristics.



Regional Energy Markets

This initiative analyzes energy market integration among Gulf Cooperation Council countries, the implications of China's changing energy demand, energy policies and security strategies for Saudi Arabia. It also assesses India's energy demand drivers, the significance of its energy policies, and security strategies for the Kingdom.

Leadership

Engineer **Fahad Alajlan** was appointed as the president of the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) in August 2021. Prior to joining KAPSARC, Fahad was the director of the Hydrocarbon Sustainability Program at the Ministry of Energy. He was responsible for looking at the long-term energy trends and their impact on energy markets including global demand for oil and gas. Additionally, he oversees the Circular Carbon Economy National Program, which aims to utilize a comprehensive framework to manage emissions while furthering the socioeconomic development of the Kingdom.

Fahad also worked at the Ministry of Economy and Planning in Saudi Arabia, advising on energy markets, policy, and trends, as well as the industry and petrochemical sector. Before that, he served for more than 15 years at Saudi Aramco, where he held senior positions working across operation, corporate strategy and investment planning, as well as mergers and acquisitions.

He holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University and an MBA from Stanford University in California.



Fahad Alajlan
President

Saad Al Qarni In May 2022, the Board of Trustees of the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) appointed Saad Al Qarni as Vice President of Finance and Operations for the Center.

Saad is responsible for leading the finance and operations functions of the organization and supporting the Center in realizing its vision. Saad joined KAPSARC as Director of Information Technology in 2015.

He spearheaded the modernization of the IT department, redesigned critical IT services and contracts, and introduced new platforms and automation. He was also responsible for providing strategic leadership and support for the Center's transformation plan through the strategy refresh project (TASAMI project).

Prior to joining KAPSARC, Saad worked at Jadwa Investment, overseeing the technology development and support for asset management, private equity, and brokerage functions.

Before that, he managed online banking development in leading Saudi banks and led cross-functional teams to build the related business and technology foundations.

Saad holds a B.A. in Information Systems from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia.



Saad Al Qarni
Vice President of
Finance and Operations

Dr. Axel Pierru has been appointed by the Board of Trustees as Vice President of Knowledge & Analysis at KAPSARC. With over 25 years of experience in energy research, his wealth of expertise has led to substantial contributions and groundbreaking insights in energy economics.

He received his Ph.D. in economics from University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne (France). He also holds an HDR degree, which is a French accreditation to supervise research. In 2007, Dr. Pierru was appointed Chevalier dans des Palmes Académiques (knighthood award in the academic field) by the French Ministry for National Education. He is the recipient of the 2023 OPEC Award for the Best Energy Research Paper (issued by OPEC for the first time).

In 2011, Dr. Pierru joined KAPSARC in Saudi Arabia, after spending 15 years at IFP Energies Nouvelles (France) where he led research, consulting and training projects and taught energy economics and finance to postgraduate students.

Dr. Pierru has served in various leadership positions at KAPSARC, including as interim Vice President for Research, a program director of the Energy Macro & Micro-economics Program, and Vice President of Knowledge and Analysis.

He undertakes applied research that combines methodological innovation with practical relevance for policymaking. His expertise covers energy economics, policy, finance, modeling, the oil market, and commodity-exporting economies.



Axel Pierru
Vice President of
Knowledge and Analysis

KAPSARC Products

Workshop Brief

The Workshop Brief summarizes the insights and recommendations developed during a KAPSARC workshop.

Data Insight

A Data Insight is a one-page publication elaborating a data fact that shows recent data trend changes on topics related to energy, economics, and environment. Data Insights should showcase data trends and entice the users to use the data portal for open access energy data. They include a link to download the open access data behind the Insight and reflect KAPSARC's views as the home of energy data expertise.

Reports

Each quarter, our Center publishes a special report named KAPSARC Oil Market Outlook (KOMO), which provides a comprehensive overview of world oil market fundamentals, including supply and demand balances, OECD crude oil inventories, risk assessments, and a Brent crude oil price confidence interval based on the researchers' analyses.

Discussion Paper

Discussion Papers are policy papers written to showcase research results. Discussion Papers are similar to academic papers in structure except they are written for a wider audience that includes policymakers.

Instant Insight

An Instant Insight is a short written piece about recent news or events related to energy, economics, environment, and policies.

Commentary

A Commentary is a written piece that captures short-term and intermediate research insights.

Methodology Paper

Toolkit and methodology papers are detailed explanations and justifications for KAPSARC online or in-house tools.

KAPSARC Data and Tools

In order to assess the effect of energy economics policies and predict the future, KAPSARC launched an open data portal to the public in 2016, which has grown to around 1,500 public datasets. The portal is designed to enable users to better understand energy, economy and environment. Critical energy economic data is available in an easy-to-use machine-readable format.

Our datasets are classified into 16 themes, to represent the energy-intensive sectors and the economy as a whole. They are collected from more than 230 sources and cover more than 30 countries.

To date, our dataset has had more than 10 million downloads. We develop tools and models to inform, and to help policymakers to make educated decisions. Our data and tools are important in presenting scenarios and understanding what will change our lives, and what will be the force driving energy markets.

KAPSARC Events

2023 was a quite busy and productive year for KAPSARC, as we organized the first International Association for Energy Economics IAEE conference in the Middle East. The 44th International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE) was held at KAPSARC from February 4-8, in collaboration with the Saudi Association for Energy Economics (SAEE).

The conference, held under the theme “Pathways to a Clean, Stable and Sustainable Energy Future”, brought together more than 500 policymakers, academics, companies, and NGOs within an effective platform to present and discuss current obstacles and potential solutions to the challenges of energy sustainability.

The conference addressed seven topics covering the economy and energy mix diversification; development and climate change; energy changes and their courses; investment and financing in the energy sector; methods and means of transport and technology; industrial efficiency and competitiveness; and changes in the energy markets and security of its supplies.

In addition to that we host more than 40 webinars, workshops and seminars per year, relevant to energy ecosystem and environment to provide a forum to share views, challenges, thoughts, and solutions to shape the future of energy and support the Kingdom to achieve its Vision 2030 goals and net-zero carbon emissions.

KAPSARC Academy

Inspired by His Royal Highness, KAPSARC Chairman and the Minister of Energy, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud's passion for education, human capital development and innovation, KAPSARC Academy was founded to play a fundamental role in the transformation and education of public policy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

KAPSARC Academy is located at King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center, in Riyadh. The academy offers a variety of executive education programs in public policy, leadership, and management skills in collaboration with leading local and global educational institutions to professionals in the public and private sectors.

We offer a lot of high level programs in collaboration with the top global educational and training institutions, such as International Institute for Management Development, Luiss Business School, FULLBRIDGE and the King Abdul Aziz and his Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity, known as Mawhiba.

The academy aims to enable and empower future global public policy leaders and professionals to positively impact society by equipping them with the skills they need to effectively realize the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.

CCE Guide

KAPSARC's role in producing the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Guide

As part of Saudi Arabia's G20 Presidency, the Kingdom has pioneered the concept of the circular carbon economy (CCE). Following on from the G20 Energy Ministers' Communiqué, the G20 leaders endorsed the CCE's 4 Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove).

In September 2020, the G20 energy ministers' meeting, organized and held under the Saudi Arabia G20 presidency, commended King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center's (KAPSARC) role in presenting the CCE (Circular Carbon Economy) Guide in collaboration with several international organizations: the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), the Global CCS Institute (GCCSI), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Under this framework, carbon emissions can be reduced by energy efficiency, recycled through the natural carbon cycle with bioenergy, reused as an input for chemicals and fuels, or removed and stored in geologic formations. Watch the **video** to explore more about how we can safeguard the planet.

The CCE is an integrated and inclusive approach toward more comprehensive, resilient, sustainable, and climate-friendly energy systems that support and enable sustainable development. It encourages countries to take advantage of all technologies, forms of energy, and mitigation opportunities, according to resource availability, economics, and national circumstances.

The CCE Guide describes key aspects of the 4Rs approach to managing carbon emissions: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove. The website includes the CCE Visualizer that allows users to explore how the energy and carbon management system might evolve through 2050 within a CCE framework, and will serve as a global knowledge hub for the CCE.

Discover more about how we can safeguard the planet by visiting the CCE website **[here](#)**.

Story of the CCE Index

During the G20 Riyadh Summit, the Kingdom launched the Circular Carbon Economy concept, which was adopted by G20 countries as an integrated, comprehensive framework to reduce their carbon footprints.

The G20 energy ministers' Communiqué has commended KAPSARC's role in presenting the CCE (Circular Carbon Economy) Guide in collaboration with several international organizations: the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), the Global CCS Institute (GCCSI), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Throughout 2021, KAPSARC's team worked hard to launch the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Index, which aims to support planning and decision-making in the nexus of energy, emissions, and the economy.

In 2022, KAPSARC launched the second edition of the Circular Carbon Economy Index, a tool to compare how 64 countries are deploying various methods and technologies to reduce their CO2 emissions.

Launched during the UN Climate Change Conference, COP27, the CCE Index covers 90% of the global economy and carbon emissions. The number of countries included in the Index has increased from 30 to 64, compared with the first index that was launched during COP26 in Glasgow.

The newly launched CCE is based on four Rs, namely, reducing, recycling, reusing, and removing.

The index also seeks to expand and add rigor to the conceptual basis of the concept of CCE, as well as its practical operationalization, by developing a robust quantitative framework to measure country performance and progress toward it.

The CCE Index is based on two sub-indices: one for measuring countries' current performance in the various dimensions of the CCE and the other for gauging how countries are positioned to make progress toward the CCE, based on key enabling factors.

Awards

In 2023, KAPSARC was honored with two awards during the 8th OPEC International Seminar held in Vienna on 5-6 July. At the event, the Center received the 'Best Energy Research Institute Award,' recognizing its influential role in producing impactful research that shapes public discourse on critical energy-related issues. Furthermore, Axel Pierru, Acting Vice President of Knowledge and Analysis, accepted the 'OPEC Award for the Best Energy Research Paper' on behalf of his co-authors Hossa Almutairi and James Smith, for their novel research on oil market stability. These awards mark the first time that OPEC has bestowed such honors.

KAPSARC Sets New Record in Saudi Arabia With Five LEED-EBOM Platinum Certifications. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) awarded the Center in Saudi Arabia five Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certificates under the Existing Building: Operation and Maintenance (EBOM) rating system with a rating of over 80 points.

KAPSARC's facilities are the only buildings in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to have achieved LEED-EBOM Platinum certification. Platinum LEED-EBOM certifications were awarded to five of KAPSARC's community buildings, which together total 52,284 square meters. The certificates were awarded for achieving the highest international

sustainability standards across KAPSARC's facility design, construction, operations, and maintenance procedures.

All five certificates were obtained in 2021 and 2022 as a testament to KAPSARC's commitment to environmental and sustainability stewardship.

Since KAPSARC's inauguration, the Center has received several awards highlighting its knowledge, insights, architecture and engineering:

- LEED Platinum Certified
- Global Best Project of the Year in the category of education and research buildings, presented by ENR Engineering News-Record
- World Architecture Community Award
- Described by New York Times® as Environmental Beauty and Efficiency
- Saudi Arabia's "Smartest Building" in the Honeywell® smart building award.
- Best Energy Research Institute and Best Energy Research Paper Awards – OPEC
- Best Paper Award in the renewables track at the 10th edition of the Saudi Arabia Smart Grid Conference

Partners

KAPSARC has the strength of its international ties with more than 25 research institutes, public policy organizations and government institutions worldwide. Its collaborations allow it to further enrich its advisory output. They include:



Testimonials

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KAPSARC is one of the most empowered think tanks in the world. It has the facilities, the accommodations, the endowments, and the talent to advance the energy industry. I am certain that it will be the incubator of more influential events like the 44th IAEE Conference, which has received record attendance.

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KAPSARC is today a globally renowned center of research excellence for energy and sustainability issues, and a partner for many other research institutes and policy organizations worldwide. It is the embodiment of high quality, innovative, collaborative and objective analysis aimed at finding solutions to our global energy challenges.



**HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin
Salman Al Saud**

Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia,
and Chairman of the Board of
Trustees of King Abdullah Petroleum
Studies and Research Center
(KAPSARC)



HE Haitham AlGhais
OPEC Secretary General

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