

Global Strategy Group Middle East
18-19 February 2008, Kuwait City
Agenda

Sunday 17 February 7:30 pm	<i>Welcome dinner for the participants</i>
Monday 18 February	<i>Sessions will take place at the Marina Hotel, in the Coral Ballroom</i>
9:00 - 9:15	<i>Welcome and introduction</i>
9:15 - 10:45	Session one <i>What have been the one or two most important developments in the Middle East in 2007 and what do they portend for 2008?</i> During a "tour de table" discussion participants will review the salient developments of 2007 in the region and outside the region (if they have had an impact on the region) and how these developments could shape the trends of 2008
10:45 - 11:15	Break
11:15 - 12:45	Session two <i>The "surge strategy" in Iraq: Can it go from a fighting lull to opening a political stabilization process? What implications for the country and for the region?</i>
13:00 - 14:30	Discussion over Lunch (session three) <i>Is Saudi Arabia on a course of major domestic and regional power consolidation? What are the implications for the region as a whole?</i>
14:45 - 16:10	Session four <i>Can 2008 be the year of a "grand bargain" with Iran? What domestic factors in Iran and what political considerations beyond and outside Iran will shape the course of events in 2008?</i>
16:10 - 16:30	Break
16:30 - 17:45	Session five <i>Assessing the risks factors in the Arab world in 2008: Is the Jihadi threat receding? Is Egypt becoming a political time bomb despite a better economy? Where could Palestinian despair lead if no possibility of diplomatic breakthrough arises? Etc...</i>
19:30 - 21:30	Dinner and session six <i>Arab Youth: Serious challenges or Enormous Opportunities?</i>



Tuesday, 19 February	Special session <i>Coping with the “wealth surge”</i>
9:00 - 10:00	Session seven <i>What kind of changes is the explosive economic growth in most countries of the region generating in the social fabric of the societies? What kind of impact on political stability in the region?</i>
10:00 - 10:15	Coffee break
10:15 - 11:30	Session eight <i>What new opportunities are arising in the region? How can the new oil wealth be best leveraged domestically and outside the region?</i>
11:30 - 11:45	Break
11:45 - 13:00	Session nine <i>Are the economic changes ushering in a new era for the Arab world? What kind of “new Arab world” – if any – is shaping up?</i>
13.00 - 13:10	Concluding remarks
13:15 - 14:30	Closing luncheon