



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Jobs as part-time researchers – project on private sector politics in the Arab world

The Arab Reform Initiative (<http://www.arab-reform.net>) and the Gulf Research Center (www.grc.ae) are looking for part-time researchers to contribute to a multi-country, funded research project about the role of the Arab private sector in economic and political reform. The project aims to evaluate the private sector capabilities and degree of dependence on government spending or protection, and to discuss the actual and potential role of the private sector in promoting economic and political reform.

We are particularly looking for research students with an interest in political economy and institutional reform issues in the MENA region. Participation would be remunerated through service contracts. The project intends to take stock of the increased individual and collective capabilities of business as a political partner and/or antagonist of Arab regimes, producing research papers on topics such as:

- the changing scale and scope of government-generated vs. privately generated business income in the region
- the shifting balance of domestic vs. internationally generated returns
- levels of business concentration and competition in different sectors
- the evolution of corporate structures and governance
- channels of formal and informal participation in political decision-making processes
- the private sector and social responsibilities
- the private sector in media and education
- access to and transparency of government tenders

In a first stage, the project envisages the production of draft research papers based on available written sources and the project's own data base, with an option for subsequent field research missions for in-depth case studies. The project will kick off in October 2008 and continue for two years. It will hold a number of workshops that will also involve local private representatives from the Arab world. It aims at producing a number of research publications in peer-reviewed journals and through edited volumes.

For further information please contact Prof. Giacomo Luciani (giacomo@grcf.ch).