

Title: Supporting the transformation of the Saudi Economy—How KAPSARC contributes to the policy process

There has been a move toward creating think tanks and research institutions in the Middle East during the past decade supporting programs for energy price reform, economic diversification and moves to greater market liberalization. In Saudi Arabia, an ambitious program of energy efficiency improvement, renewables development and moving up the value chain from bulk commodities to higher margin products are all components of an ambitious Saudi Vision 2030. Nowhere are the effects more visible than in the plans for the Saudi electricity system.

We will discuss KAPSARC's research program and highlights with a focus on the energy policy challenges raised by the global energy transition. The Saudi power system is being completely re-envisioned, mobility choices are expanding and all of this against a background of widespread discussion of when demand for fossil fuels, and more particularly oil, will peak. How can a Think Tank play a constructive role in helping policy makers navigate these potentially turbulent conditions and develop strategies for success?