

# Activity Report

Department of Applied Geosciences  
Departments of Mathematics & Science



The opening ceremony (left) of the international workshop “Economics of Conflict” at the SQU Conference Center started with a welcome addresses of Her Highness Dr. Muna Fahad and of the Rector of GUtech Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Modigell. At the right a group photo of the members of both the organizing and scientific committee at the end of the closing ceremony at GUtech.

## International Workshop “Economics of Conflict” and Foundation of the Muscat hub of the Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR)

Supported by The Research Council of Oman (TRC) and initiated and organized by Leon Goldsmith from the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), Martin Leroch from the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, and Florian Rupp (GUtech) the three day international workshop “Economics of Conflict” took place at the QSU and GUtech from the 31<sup>st</sup> of March until the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2015.

Conflict is typically associated with inefficiencies, both in the time of its occurrence and its aftermath. From an economic point of view, it is thus of interest to understand the drivers and consequences of conflict to avoid costly conflicts and how to design effective institutions to settle conflicts.

The question what drives conflict, both from a macro and a microeconomic perspective, is currently one of the topics debated in the community. While, for instance, it appears to be consensus that disputes over access to economic resources like land or oil may cause an outbreak of violence, factors favoring or triggering episodes of conflict, such as possibly ethnic diversity, need to be better understood. Ultimately, it also remains to be clarified how groups manage to overcome the public good problem associated with engaging in group conflicts – i.e. why people stand to fight for their fellows, if they suffer from the possibility of getting injured, whilst their individual effect on the outcome of the conflict appears marginal.

Consequently this workshop brought together scholars addressing all three core questions: 1. What drives conflict? 2. What are the consequences of conflict?, and 3. How can institutions be designed to effectively settle conflict?

To foster further international activities the board of directors of the Center of Conflict Resolution (CCR), represented by Prof. Dr. Manfred Holler, congratulated the founding members of the Muscat CCR hub: Ahmed Al-Salmi (GUtech, Tamayouz), Leon Goldsmith (SQU, College of Economics and Political Science), Bernhard Heim (GUtech, Department of Mathematics and Science), Michael Jansen (Research Center Indian Ocean), Florian Rupp (GUtech, Department of Mathematics and Science), Houchang Hassan Yari (SQU, College of Economics and Political Science), and Mahmut Cuneyt Yenigun (SQU, College of Economics and Political Science).

### About the Activity Report 2014/ 2015

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