

### **Oil-Rich Countries Consider Nuclear To Meet Future Needs**

Oil-rich member nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have expressed interest in a shared nuclear program in a bid to meet their energy needs. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal says that any nuclear program would be developed “under strict controls and with peaceful intentions, to be an example for any country seeking to adopt the technology without any intention to join the nuclear arms race”. Foreign ministers attending a session of the GCC in March have also been briefed on discussions between the GCC Secretary-General and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The development follows an announcement by Jordan to construct its first nuclear power plant by 2015 to generate electricity and power seawater desalination, and plans by Algeria, Africa’s largest gas exporter, to sign an agreement to build nuclear power stations in the next 20 to 25 years.

[Source esaa news]