



**USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity
International Summit on Higher Education and Workforce Development in the 21st Century
November 30 – December 2, 2022
Marriott Hotel, Islamabad**

Day 1: 30 November 2022 (Wednesday)

Time	Session/Chairs/Speakers	
08:00—08:50 08:50 – 09:00 09:00 – 10:15	Registration Guests to be seated Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recitation from the Holy Quran Welcome Remarks by HESSA COP Remarks by Chairperson HEC Remarks by Utah State Senator Keith Grover Remarks by USAID/Embassy Remarks by Federal Minister of Planning and Development Initiatives (TBC) 	
10:15 – 10:30	VIPs/Guests Depart; Tea/Coffee Break	
10:30--13:00	Session 1: Aligning Higher Education to 21st Century Needs	
	Chair: Dr. Shaista Sohail – Executive Director, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Andreas Schleicher (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) Dr. Asim Zia (U of Vermont) Dr. Naveed Anwar (AIT, Bangkok) Dr. Deborah Keyek-Franssen (U of Utah) Dr. Frankie Laanan (U of Utah) 	Session Description: Higher education globally is at a turning point. Universities will keep teaching for social and economic good, conduct research, and serve their communities. That core mission of universities will remain the same for the foreseeable future. However, what we refer to as the global megatrends - climate change, pandemics, technological advances, changing student populations - are forcing universities to reconsider how they deliver services so that they can keep true to their missions. With that in mind, this session was set up to address what we consider are the five key trends relevant to global as well as Pakistani higher education institutions and will define the next few decades of higher education delivery in Pakistan. These include - Sustainability and Interdisciplinarity; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Micro-credentials and Skills Education; Online and Distance Education; and Ensuring Building Diverse Campuses.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch/Prayers Break	
14:00 – 17:00	Session 2: Making HEIs Sustainable and Market Driven: Challenges and Opportunities	
	Chair: Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Former Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Former Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Dr. Mary Lackie (U of Central Arkansas) Mr. Roger Griffiths (U of Birmingham, Dubai Campus) Dr. Steve Burian (U of Alabama) 	Session Description: Most public sector universities in Pakistan rely only on government funds for recurrent as well as development activities. Tuition fee is highly subsidized and any increase in tuition is discouraged for political reasons and the fact that many who attend public universities can't afford to pay. With economic slowdown, universities in Pakistan are struggling with financial sustainability as higher education funding continues to be slashed. Universities need to learn resource mobilization to keep the lights on. This includes but is not limited to building academia industry linkages, public-private partnerships, endowments,

	private fund raising, innovation and commercialization, and development of other business and funding opportunities. Employers also demand university education to be more relevant so that graduating students are skilled and ready for their first jobs and able to learn as demand of the job market changes.
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Day 2, 01 December 2022 (Thursday)

09:30 – 12:00	Session 3: Strengthening University-Level Ecosystem		
	Group 1: Strengthening HEIs Governance	Group 2: Building Faculty Capacities in Preparing Employable Graduates	Group 3: Bridging Career Readiness Gaps
	<p>Chair: Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairperson Sindh Higher Education Commission (TBC)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Mike Barber (HESSA – U of Utah)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Frankie Laanan (U of Utah) • Dr. Mercedes Marie Ward (U of Utah) • Dr. Fazal Khalid (GIK Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology) • Mr. Roger Griffiths (U of Birmingham, Dubai Campus) • Dr. Thomas Piechota (Chapman University) 	<p>Chair: Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairperson, Punjab Higher Education Commission (TBC)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Steven Burian (HESSA - U of Alabama)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Osman Hasan (National University of Science and Technology) • Dr. Muhammad Usman Ilyas (U of Birmingham, Dubai Campus) • Dr. Gerardo Blanco (Boston College) • Dr. Deborah Keyek-Franssen (U of Utah) 	<p>Chair: Senator Keith Grover</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Ayesha Razzaque (HESSA)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mary Lackie (U of Central Arkansas) • Ms. Natalie Humphrey (U of Birmingham, Dubai Campus) • Dr. Naveed Anwar (Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok) • Duaa-e-Zahra Shah, Senior (National University of Sciences and Technology)
12:00 – 13:00	Combined Plenary—Group Reports Co-Chairs: Chairs of Three Groups		
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch/Prayers Break		

14:00 – 17:00	Session 4: Improving Quality of Higher Education and Role of Accreditation	
	<p>Chair: Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, President, SZABIST University</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Samreen Hussain (Vice Chancellor, Aror University) • Dr. Gerardo Blanco (Boston College) • Dr. Sajjad Ahmed (U of Nevada) • Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Secretary, NACTE 	<p>Session Description: This session is designed for a dialogue on challenges and opportunities in implementation of quality assurance mechanisms to improve the market value of degrees. For example, not only how practices followed in Pakistan differ across universities within the country, but from those considered to be international best practices. Topics will include how do we define quality improvements? How do universities/colleges/ programs prepare themselves for accreditation? What should be the role of Federal HEC or equivalent provincial bodies in enhancing quality standards and in the accreditation process? What are global experiences or best practices in accreditation and quality assurance? What are the quality and accreditation-related challenges with reference to coordination between universities, HEC, and regulatory bodies?</p>

Day 3: 02 December 2022 (Friday)

09:00 – 11:30	Session 5: Session 5: Higher Education and Climate Change Adaptation	
	<p>Chair: Ms. Sherry Rehman, Minister of Climate Change (TBC)</p> <p>Speakers:</p>	<p>Session Description: HEIs can contribute to the climate change adaptation and resilience agenda. This issue has been subject to regular debate over the last decade, but</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thomas Piechota (Chapman University) • Dr. Asim Zia (U of Vermont) • Dr. Ghulam Rasool (International Union for Conservation of Nature) • Dr. Michael Barber (U of Utah) 	<p>calamities caused by the recent floods in Pakistan made it even more urgent to look at the state of adaptation efforts and how these could be further improved. As such, this session will create an opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss how HEIs, climate policy think-tanks, policy and advocacy groups, and other stakeholders can come together to build an understanding of the way forward. What are critical knowledge gaps we should be worried about and what direction higher education should take to address those? What best practices or adaptation models provide hope for optimism especially for developing countries like Pakistan? How can higher education help us think our way out of problems as well as prepare workforce of tomorrow that is skilled at sustainable solutions.</p>
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11:30 – 12:30	<p>Closing Session Summit’s Communique by Dr. M. Aslam Chaudhry, COP, HESSA Closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sen. Keith Grover, Utah State Senator • USAID Mission Director • Dr. Shaista Sohail, Executive Director HEC • Federal Minister of Climate Change (TBC) <p>Vote of Thanks, Dr. Mike Barber, University of Utah</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Lunch/Prayers Break End of Summit</p>

Special Side Event:

14:45 – 17:00	<p>Inaugural Meeting of HESSA-ORIC Working Group</p>
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