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USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity

International Summit on Shaping the Future of Higher Education in Pakistan 10-12 June 2024, Islamabad

Session 3: Monday, 10 June 2024 (16:00 to 17:00 hrs)

Topic: Fostering Entrepreneurship Culture in Higher Education Institutions

Speakers:

- Dr. Shahid Qureshi, Rector, GIFT University, Gujranwala, Pakistan
- Dr. Casey G Hyun, Vice President/Executive Director, University-Industry Foundation, University of Utah Asia Campus, ROK

Description: The landscape of higher education in Pakistan is evolving rapidly, with increasing emphasis on preparing graduates for the dynamic demands of the modern workforce. In this context, fostering an entrepreneurship culture within higher education institutions (HEIs) emerges as a pivotal strategy. This session aims to delve into the importance of embedding entrepreneurship within the fabric of HEIs and exploring actionable steps to foster this culture effectively.

Embracing entrepreneurship within HEIs enhances the employability potential of graduates' manifold. By equipping students with entrepreneurial skills, HEIs empower them to create their own opportunities rather than solely relying on traditional employment avenues. In addition, embracing entrepreneurship culture contributes to the sustainability of universities as it helps diversifying revenue streams through commercialization of research, development of startups, and fostering partnerships with industry stakeholders. Furthermore, in the long-run, entrepreneurial alumni networks can serve as valuable resources for furthering collaboration and mobilizing resources.

Implementing an entrepreneurship culture in HEIs faces various challenges, including traditional academic structures, resource constraints, and limited exposure to entrepreneurial ecosystems. However, these challenges can be addressed through curriculum reforms integrating entrepreneurship education, establishing incubation centers and entrepreneurial hubs on campuses, forging industry-academia collaborations, and providing mentorship and funding support to aspiring student entrepreneurs.

In summary, the objective of this session is to explore strategies, share best practices, and outline a roadmap for integrating entrepreneurship into the fundamental ethos of Pakistani universities. Achieving this will cultivate a workforce that is not only aligned with industry demands but also positioned to create employment opportunities.

Learning Outcomes

1. Enhanced understanding of how integrating entrepreneurship culture into the curriculum could enhance graduates' employability potential.
2. Deeper understanding of the challenges hindering the integration of entrepreneurship culture at HEIs, along with actionable steps to overcome them.
3. Increased awareness of how promoting an entrepreneurship culture at the campus level can contribute to the long-term financial viability of HEIs.