



## USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity

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

**Session 4:** Monday, 11 June 2024 (09:00 to 10:00 hrs)

**Topic:** Navigating Tomorrow: Cultivating Higher Education Online and Micro-Credentials in Traditional Landscapes

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Osman Hassan, Pro-Rector, Academics, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad
- Dr. Deborah Keyek-Franssen, Associate Vice President and Dean for University Connected Learning, University of Utah, USA

**Abstract:** In the rapidly evolving landscape of education, the integration of online platforms and micro-credential initiatives has become an imperative for Pakistani institutions of higher education. But embracing the structural, technological, and cultural changes needed to launch high-quality, workforce-aligned online programs can pose unique challenges to universities. This presentation delves into the rationale behind establishing a robust online higher education framework and micro-credential initiative, emphasizing the necessity of adaptability in traditional higher education settings. Presenters will highlight recent work and developments at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) as both a use case and an inspiration for HESSA institutions to embark on their own online and micro-credential initiatives. Through a blend of virtual, in-person, and pre-recorded elements, presenters and participants will explore the infrastructure and cultural shifts required for success. Join us as we navigate the path towards a future-ready education system that bridges tradition with innovation. Delivery: This session will be delivered through participants to pose questions in real time.

#### Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- describe the rationale for building out a higher education online and micro-credential initiative,
- list three elements of infrastructure, culture, and/or policy to be successful with the initiative, and
- write the one next thing they will do when back at their home institution to take the first step toward campus-wide support of an online and micro-credential initiative.