



USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity

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

Session 6: Tuesday, 11 June 2024 (12:00 to 13:30 hrs)

Topic: Leadership and Governance Crisis in Pakistani Universities

- Speakers:**
- Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, President, SZABIST, Karachi
 - Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad, Member DEVCOM, Planning Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad
 - Dr. Faisal Bari, Associate Professor, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)
 - Dr. Zain Ul-Abdin, Project Director, Comcept Pvt Ltd., Islamabad

Four panel speakers will discuss their perspectives on the major challenges facing higher education in Pakistan. They will offer three to five priorities that vice-chancellors should be acting upon to address these issues. The outlined priorities will provide actionable strategic directions related to self-sufficiency and autonomy for individual institutions as they navigate ongoing funding challenges. The priorities will be built around empowering faculty members, responding to societal needs, addressing gender and diversity disparities, navigating the legal and regulatory framework, fostering stakeholder engagement, and other objectives outlined by each speaker. These priorities will be issues that vice-chancellors should address with their leadership councils and communities in their strategic planning. The proposed framework for the session is as follows:

- 90 minutes: Presentations by the 4 speakers
- 15 minutes: Interactive discussions about the recommendations and generation of questions for the speakers
- 45 minutes: Questions from audience, with responses from the panelists