



Bangladesh Development Conference 2023

at University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA

Date: 06 October 2023 | 8 am - 6 pm

Private Universities in Bangladesh – Challenges, Opportunities and Stakeholder Engagement

Seminar Discussion Topics

1. State of Private Universities in Bangladesh

Private universities have grown to take a significant role in the higher education in Bangladesh over the last 25 years. Currently, there are more than 100 private universities in Bangladesh, and some of these universities are doing very well in terms of enrollment and providing quality education and supplying skilled workforce to the country's job market. However, questions have been raised in recent years about the governance, educational quality, and strategic initiatives for delivering best practices. While the private universities face many challenges to ensure high quality education, there are plenty of opportunities to work with multi sector stakeholders to overcome these barriers. The panelists of this session will discuss on these strategic areas of delivering best practices and offer their valuable perspectives.

2. Quality Assurance in Higher Education

UNESCO and OECD guidelines suggest that quality assurance and accreditation of higher education system play important role of protecting the students and learners from the risks of misinformation, low-quality provision, and qualifications of limited validity and reliability. National quality assurance and accreditation agencies need to enhance international collaboration to prepare transparent, coherent, equity and reliable accreditation guidelines to achieve international validity and portability of the college programs and curriculums. In this session, experts will discuss how accreditation enhances the branding and reputation for institutions which increases public trust of education quality, better industry relationship, increased funding, higher rankings, and global stakeholders' collaboration.

3. Role of Technology in Shaping the Future of Higher Education

In this session the speakers will discuss how major advancements in technology may pose threats for universities and offer opportunities at the same time. AI, metaverse and system-based learning are emerging as major change agents in higher education with unprecedented academic, ethical, and legal challenges. But majority of experts and practitioners believe that these technologies are bringing in positive transformation by bridging the education gap, improving access to higher education and STEM education, saving cost and time, and thus enhancing research collaboration. The panelists of this session will provide examples of the use of technology in taking these new challenges and opportunities to the next level of higher education.



Bangladesh Development Conference 2023

at University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA

Date: 06 October 2023 | 8 am - 6 pm

Private Universities in Bangladesh – Challenges, Opportunities and Stakeholder Engagement

4. Global Engagements – Opportunities for Private Universities in Bangladesh

In this session, the panelists will explore how the global engagements and the needs to maintain robust pipelines of international students for the US higher education institutes can benefit the private universities in Bangladesh. The discussion will focus on the opportunities and challenges for global engagement, and compare relevant issues between the private universities in Bangladesh and other neighboring countries. The outcome of this session will help the private university leadership develop new strategic plans and tie those with future faculty hiring and institutional growth strategies. This strategic initiative will help identify the directions they can pursue realistically with much more constrained and focused resources. The panelist in this session will provide valuable insights and recommendations to the marketing management officials of Private Universities.

5. Industry Relations and Experiential Learning

To enhance the value of higher education in the 21st century, it requires bridging the gap between classroom learning and application of academic knowledge in real world settings. The conversation in this session will focus on the importance of providing practicum opportunities to students to gain real world experience while at school. In this regard, students and teachers must engage in building relationships in relevant local industries under experiential learning programs. A combination of cooperative education and experiential learning programs remains a challenge for HEIs. This innovative approach is even more challenging for developing nations like Bangladesh. The panelist of this session will discuss challenges and opportunities to develop a comprehensive approach for the private universities of Bangladesh to engage students and other stakeholders in advancing the career through experiential learning.

6. Sustainability and Research collaboration

This session will highlight private higher education as public good or common good resources. In emphasizing its actual and potential role in enhancing gender equity in higher education and in widening professional opportunities for women. AI has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life of children, adults, and families around the world through providing a more accessible and good quality education system. Experts at this session will focus on global challenges to achieve educational sustainability with strategic initiatives by universities with shared institutional vision for the future of their research output. The panelist will also discuss how international collaboration among researchers can help accelerate innovation and faster solutions for global problems.