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# Asia Regional Higher Education Summit

## “Higher Education’s Response to Global Challenges”



Dhaka, Bangladesh  
October 6 - 8, 2008

### Dhaka Summit Objectives

The Summit will provide a forum to bring together presidents of higher education institutions from Asia and the United States, with senior executives from the private sector, foundations, and government for the purpose of developing partnerships. The Summit will encourage partnering to share talent, expertise, and capacity to address the following critical issues:

- Food Security
- Women’s Entrepreneurship
- Teacher Training
- Natural Disaster Management

### Dhaka Summit Outcomes

The Summit will mobilize the talents and resources of the public and private sectors to develop innovative, effective, and practical responses to these challenges, together. The Summit will enable participants to do the following:

1. Share programs and experiences related to key thematic areas.
2. Explore partnership opportunities amongst universities in Asia and with U.S. universities to share talents and expertise and build capacity.
3. Explore public-private partnership opportunities with local and multinational corporations and civil society.

### Preliminary Summit Schedule

#### October 6, 2008

- 1700 Registration Opens
- 1930 Opening Ceremony & Keynote Address followed by Dinner Reception

### Preliminary Summit Schedule

#### October 7, 2008

- 0730 Breakfast
- 0830 Plenary: Building Innovative Higher Education Partnerships
- 1000 Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030 Plenary: Creating Opportunities for Public-Private Partnering
- 1115 Facilitated Discussion & Networking
- 1200 Luncheon & Keynote Address
- 1330 Breakout Sessions;
  - 1) Food Security
  - 2) Women’s Entrepreneurship
  - 3) Teacher Training
  - 4) Natural Disaster Management
- 1530 Coffee/Tea Break
- 1600 Plenary: Higher Education’s Role in Building the Workforce
- 1700 New Partnerships: Announcements and Networking Session

#### October 8, 2008

- 0730 Breakfast
- 0830 Plenary: Broadening Partnerships and Networks
- 1000 Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030 Plenary: Higher Education’s Role in Meeting Labor Market Needs
- 1115 Facilitated Discussion & Networking
- 1200 Luncheon & Keynote Address
- 1330 Sub-regional Breakout Sessions: Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia
- 1500 Coffee/Tea Break
- 1530 Plenary: New Commitments and Sustaining Partnerships
- 1700 Closing Ceremony & Keynote Address

## The Program

The Summit is anchored by a series of plenary and networking sessions that facilitate in-depth exploration of the issues around food security, women's entrepreneurship, teacher training, and disaster management.

## Background

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance Henrietta Fore convened the Higher Education Summit for Global Development in Washington, DC on April 29 - May 1, 2008. The goal of the 2008 Summit was to expand the role and impact of U.S. and foreign higher education institutions in worldwide social and economic development. While the first two days comprised of global meetings, the third day focused on regional agendas.

The Asia regional meeting was attended by over 45 participants comprising Asian and U.S. university presidents and vice chancellors with representatives from the private sector, foundations and governments. Capitalizing on the momentum and interest generated during the Summit, USAID announced support for a follow-on Asia Regional Higher Education Summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh, October 6-8, 2008. Participants agreed there needs to be a concerted multi-disciplinary effort to mobilize the talents and resources of the academic community, private sector, foundations and government to collaborate on key research and development challenges facing Asia.

## Summit Advisory Committee

- Aga Khan Foundation USA
- Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
- Dhaka University
- Engineers Without Borders, US
- Global Higher Education Summit Participants from Asia
- Intel Corporation
- Microsoft Corporation
- US Department of Education
- US Department of State
  - Bureaus for East Asia and the Pacific, Educational and Cultural Affairs, International Organizations, and South and Central Asia
- USAID
  - Bureau for Asia, Mission in Bangladesh, Global Development Commons, and Office of Education

## Accommodation and Travel

The [Westin Dhaka](#) will be the venue for the Summit. Room reservation information will be forthcoming. All participants will be met at the airport and transported to the hotel by Dhaka Summit staff.

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For additional information please contact the Summit Coordinator or the Summit Logistical Support Team:

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