

# Sustainability Summit



February 23 - 24, 2024

## **POST SUMMIT PUBLICATION**



# Welcome to



Nurturing Future Leaders, Shaping a better tomorrow





SDG Goal 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth



### **International Sustainability Summit**

2-day Conference to Assess Pakistan's Progress Across Social, Economic and Environmental Domains of Sustainable Development

> **February 23 - 24, 2024,** at Greenwich University

## POST SUMMIT PUBLICATION



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**Greenwich University** offers its gratitude to the distinguished guests, scholars, officials and participants for their exemplary efforts and dedication in orchestrating a successful International Sustainability Summit. Your commitment to fostering global dialogue and advancing scholarly exchange for sustainability is truly commendable. This monumental achievement not only reflects your unwavering passion but also underscores the ability to conjoin diverse discursive patterns for a just, inclusive and prosperous future for all.

The Department of Social Sciences and Humanities also extends its gratitude to all the organizing committee members, concerned departments, faculty members, staff and volunteers for their outstanding contributions to ensure smooth conduct of conference proceedings.

#### **Conference Committee Members**

1. Dr. Fatima Agha Shah	(Head, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities)
2. Dr. Naveed Ahmed Mughal	(Provost, Greenwich University &
	President, Greenwich Global College)
3. Mr. Ali Jillani	(Vice Chair, Karachi Research Chair)
4. Dr. Rab Nawaz	(Director, Quality Enhancement Cell)
5. Ms. Aisha Naim	(Associate Head, Department of Social
	Sciences and Humanities)
6. Ms. Shazia Anwar	(Creatives)
7. Mohammad Talha Rafiq	(Social Media)
8. Mr. Rohail Intekhab	(Media Affairs)
9. Ms. Rafia Khan	(Corporate Affairs)
10. Ms. Afshan Mushtaq	(Social Media)
11. Ms. Munazza Riaz Khan	(Volunteer)
12. Ms. Humaira Shakeel	(Volunteer)
13. Mr. Hassan Yousuf	(Volunteer)
14. Mr. Hassan Wyne	(Volunteer)



**Greenwich University** is among the pioneers of private tertiary education in Pakistan. Since its evolution from an institute to a University in 1997, Greenwich is committed to excellence by producing competent and conscious future leaders driven for social transformation. Greenwich now enjoys the status of an internationally acclaimed institution with services in educational leadership for over three decades, recognized among top ten business schools in Pakistan. Its journey from pioneer to premier has nurtured artists, business leaders, composers, directors, educators, entrepreneurs, musicians, public servants, scholars and social scientists contributing to several aspects of human endeavor. Greenwich's alumni make their Alma Mater proud by securing leadership positions across prestigious organizations around the world.

Empowered by its charter and stimulated by its vision, Greenwich characterizes a global persona promoting a beyond border approach to education. The internationalization process led to memberships and accreditations with reputed educational entities, and several collaborations with top-notch universities around the world. Greenwich University enjoys membership status with premier international educational entities like NAFSA: Association of International Educators, International Association of Universities (IAU), Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies (INQAAHE), among others. Redefining horizons, Greenwich's academic partnerships expand across five continents of the world with over 15 high-ranking partners in Australia, Austria, Benin, Canada, China, Malaysia, Russia, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom and the United States. The university has graduated students from more than 20 countries of the world, including Turkey, Korea, Iran, Japan, Egypt, UAE, Mauritius, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Comoros, Cameron, Congo, and Nigeria.

Greenwich serves as an efficient knowledge-production hub with its research contributions acclaimed across conferences, symposia and fora at the national and international levels. Greenwich's International Conferences on Sustainable Businesses in 2017, Globalization and Third World in 2018, Applied Research in Business, Management and Economics in 2020, Post Truth Era: Trends in Media in 2021, Inclusion, Innovation and Leadership in Higher Education in 2022, and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development in 2023 have attracted global scholarship, thought-leaders and officials to engage with local narratives producing valuable knowledge to inform academic discourse and governance reforms processes.

Greenwich's emphasis on social transformation led to the establishment of its affiliate policy-think Karachi Research Chair (KRC) in 2018 as a strategic platform for collective reflection and collaborative action to orchestrate social and policy change. KRC now leads the Advocacy Group of the Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM) and has represented it as a lead discussant across various intergovernmental processes including the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2023, Global Peoples' Assembly (2022), World Social Forum (2021), Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (2019-23), and several other policy advocacy forums across national, regional and global levels.

Greenwich also strives to inform global narratives to enhance bi and multilateral relations for Pakistan through cultural diplomacy. The University has the privilege of taking its 25-member delegation to the European Parliament in Brussels in 2018/19, and engages with consulates, embassies and foreign missions on a regular basis to enhance cultural exchange. Greenwich is among the few Pakistani Universities to have the prestigious Erasmus Plus program of the European Commission enabling its students to study for a semester abroad in Austria.

Greenwich's outstanding work on Sustainable Development has earned it unprecedented achievements, most notably its ranking among the top 100 Universities globally in the Times Higher Education's Impact Ranking while being number 1 in Pakistan. The University's unwavering commitment to excellence has earned numerous prestigious laurels, including "Tamgha-i-Imtiaz" - the first-highest decoration for civilians in Pakistan - for the Vice Chancellor, among other awards.



Dear Guests and Participants,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the International Sustainability Summit. This gathering of brilliant minds from around the world signifies our collective commitment to addressing the pressing challenges facing our planet.

Sustainability is not merely a concept; it is a call to action, a responsibility we owe to future generations. As we convene here, let us reflect on the urgent need to harmonize environmental, social, and economic dimensions for a more resilient, inclusive, and equitable world.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative solutions, we have the power to catalyze transformative change. Let this conference serve as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and actionable strategies towards a sustainable future. I extend my gratitude to all the organizers, speakers, and participants for their dedication to this vital cause. Together, let us inspire, educate, and empower one another to create a world where prosperity flourishes in harmony with nature.

Thank you, and I wish you fruitful deliberations and meaningful resolutions.

Seema Mughal (T.I)

As we convene the International Sustainability Summit, it is imperative to assess Pakistan's progress across the interconnected realms of social, economic, and environmental domains vis a vis regional and global trends on the Agenda 2030. The assessment serves as a critical benchmark, highlighting achievements, identifying challenges, and delineating pathways toward a more sustainable future.

Pakistan's journey towards sustainability has been wayward, reckoning several challenges in the social sphere with lackluster progress on education, healthcare, social protection, standard of living, gender equality and access to resources and power, requiring a reconfiguration of national priorities to reverse the trends. Economically, Pakistan has witnessed some growth propelled by initiatives aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, infrastructure development and trade facilitation. However, economic stability remains fragile, underscored by issues of poverty, unemployment, and income inequality, pressing the imperative for comprehensive structural reforms and equitable growth strategies. In terms of environmental protection, Pakistan confronts formidable challenges, exacerbated by climate change impacts, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Despite initiatives to promote renewable energy solutions, conservation efforts, and climate resilience, concerted action is yet to materialize in mitigating environmental degradation or adaptation strategies to safeguard natural ecosystems for future generations.

The situation requires fundamental structural reforms at the national, regional and global levels to address multifaceted challenges. The emphasis on recognizing the significance of intersectional ties across social, economic and environmental domains is a critical consideration for institutionalizing sustainability across state and social institutions through a whole-of-a-society approach. The multi-dimensionality of challenges presses the need to understand issues beyond thematic relevance as well as national jurisdictional capacities to emphasize vertical governance reforms at the regional and global levels for transformative change.

The International Sustainable Summit is an attempt to conjoin critical reflection with collaborative action beyond borders to catalyze a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous future for all.

**Dr. Fatima Agha Shah** Head, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities

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The International Sustainability Summit assessed Pakistan's progress across social, economic, and environmental domains, while contextualizing the discourse at the regional and global levels. The consultative sessions, expert briefings, paper presentations and discussions reflected on achievements, challenges, and recommendations to enhance sustainability outcomes in Pakistan and beyond.

The conference was divided into an Inaugural Session and three Consultation Sessions. The Inaugural Session featured Mr. James Robert Okoth, Head, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dr. Kenneth M. Holland, USAID, Dr. Ahmad Syofian, Head of Chancery, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Noor Ahmed Samoo, Secretary, Universities and Boards Department, and Ms. Seema Mughal, Vice Chancellor, Greenwich University.

This was followed by the updates from the ongoing 11th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in Bangkok. Mr. Ali Jillani, Vice Chair, Karachi Research Chair, shared insights from the intergovernmental negotiations as well as sketching regional and global progress overview with implications at the national level. The session concluded with Media Talk and briefings on national, regional and global progress on Sustainable Development.

In session 1, esteemed speakers shared their thoughts on Social Development with a focus on access to education, quality and inclusivity, educational reforms and policies, and technology integration in education delineating progress, obstacles and recommendations. Speakers included His Excellency, Cemal Sangu, Turkish Consul General; Prof. Dr. Marc Serge Riviere, Director, Sapere Ltd, Australia; Dr. Fatima Agha Shah, Head, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Dr. Rab Nawaz, Director QEC, and Dr. Shazia Nasir, Assistant Professor, Greenwich University. The Session also briefly touched integrated approaches to enhance health, social protection and standard of living outcomes for the most marginalized in Pakistan and around the world.

In the second session, speakers enlightened the audience on Economic Growth focusing on both macro and microeconomic indicators, identification of growth drivers, and proposed strategies for sustainable development. Speakers included Dr. Chintamanee Sanmukhiya, Associate Professor at the University of Mauritius; and Dr. Nirmal De Silva, Associate professor, Sri Lanka and Ms. Asma Qurban, PhD Scholar, University of Utara, Malaysia. The Session also touched on macroeconomic stability, diversification of economic potential and regional trade and diversification for a prosperous future for all.

The third session focused on Environmental Protection featuring distinguished scholars including David J. Roof, Ball State University, USA; Dr. Passanan Assavarak, Deputy Dean at King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand; and Professor Dr. Zuraidah Mohd Zain, Malaysia. The Session covered the triple planetary crisis i.e. climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution confronting the globe, conservation efforts and strategies for sustainable development.

Expected outcomes of the Summit included enhanced collaboration among participants and institutions, assessment of Pakistan's progress across social, economic, and environmental domains, identification of key challenges and opportunities for development, and formulation of recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels. Postconference activity included publication of Summit proceedings and their projection across relevant stakeholders, concerned departments, print and electronic media for advocacy.

It was a great opportunity for everyone to engage in stimulating discussions, foster new connections, and formulate strategies to catalyze a better future for all. The participants were able to actively partake in the discourse, share knowledge and experiences, and engage with scholarship beyond borders to think globally while acting locally for sustainable development.

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## **2 DAY INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT**

Assessing Pakistan's Progress Across Social, Economic and Environmental Domains

#### DAY 1 Friday, February 23, 2024

#### **Inaugural Session**

1.	National Anthem of Sri Lanka, Australia, Mauritius, Malaysia, Thailand, Türkiye, USA, and Pakistan	10:00 am
2.	Welcome Address by Dr. Fatima Agha Shah, Head, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities	10:10 am
3.	Greenwich University Documentary	10:15 am
4.	Conference Brief, by Ms. Aisha Naim, Associate Head, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities	10:20 am
5.	Dr. Kenneth M. Holland, Chief of Party, USAID Higher Education Project Pakistan, Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA)	10:25 am
6.	Mr. James Robert Okoth, Head of Sindh, Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	10:30 am
7.	Dr. Ahmad Syofian, Head of Chancery, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia	10:35 am
8.	Mr. Noor Ahmed Samoo, Secretary, Universities and Boards Department	10:40 am
9.	Ms. Seema Mughal, Chancellor, Greenwich University, Karachi	10:45 am
10.	Updates from the Intergovernmental 11th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), Mr. Ali Jillani	10:50 am
11.	Media Talk / Tea break	11:00 am

#### 1st SESSION .....

#### **Social Development**

Social development focuses on enhancing access to quality education, equipping individuals with skills and knowledge crucial for personal and societal advancement. It involves initiatives to improve educational infrastructure, curriculum, and teacher training for holistic learning outcomes.



#### Session Chair

**Dr. Ahmed Saeed Minhas** Vice Chancellor, DHA Suffa University

#### Moderator

Ms. Rafia Khan

Manager, Corporate and Alumni Linkages, Greenwich University

#### **Paper Presentation**

2.	Dr. Shazia Nasir, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Greenwich University	11:45 am
3.	Dr. Rab Nawaz, Director Quality Assurance Greenwich University	12:00 pm
4.	Dr. Fatima Agha Shah, Head, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities and H.E. Cemal Sangu, Consul General of Türkiye in Karachi (joint paper)	12:15 pm
5.	Panel Discussion	12:30 pm
6.	Presentation of Souveniors	12:50 pm
7.	Lunch Break	01:00 pm

#### 2nd SESSION .....

#### **Economic Growth**

Economic development involves sustained efforts to improve the well-being of a society through increased production, employment, and wealth creation. It encompasses policies and strategies aimed at fostering growth, reducing poverty, and enhancing overall prosperity.



#### **Session Chair**

**Mr. Ali Muhammad Saeed** CEO, SAO Capital Lecturer, Department of Economics and Finance Greenwich University

#### Moderator

#### **Dr. Naveed Ahmed Mughal**

Provost, Greenwich University & President Greenwich Global College (GGC)

#### **Paper Presentation**

1.	Dr. Nirmal De Silva, Associate Professor CEO of Paramount Realty & Capazity Pvt Ltd, Sri Lanka	03:00 pm
2.	Dr. Chintamanee Sanmukhiya, Professor & Research Associate, Deputy Rector at Modern College, Mauritius	03:15 pm
3.	Ms. Asma Qurban, Ph.D. fellow, Department of International Relations, University Utara Malaysia	03:30 pm
4.	Panel Discussion	03:45 pm
5.	Presentation of Souveniors	04:00 pm

DAY 2 Saturday, February 24, 2024

#### **3rd SESSION Environmental Protection**

Environmental protection is the safeguarding of natural resources and ecosystems from harm, aiming to mitigate pollution and preserve biodiversity. It involves promoting sustainable practices and policies to ensure a healthy planet for current and future generations.



#### **Session Chair**

**Prof. Dr. Zul Azhar bin Zahid Jamal** Former Vice Chancellor, University Malaysia Perlis

#### Moderator

#### Ms. Anab Siddiqui

Lecture, Department of Social Sciences & Humanities Greenwich University

#### **Paper Presentation**

1.	Dr. David J Roof, Associate Professor, Educational Studies Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, United States	10:15 am
2.	Dr. Passanan Assavarak, Deputy Dean, King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand	10:30 am
3.	Prof. Dr. Zuraida Mohd Zain, Associate Professor, University of Malaysia	10:45 am
4.	Panel Discussion	11:00 am
5.	Note of Thanks by Dr. Asif Khan Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Greenwich University	11:15 am
6.	Presentation of Souveniors	11:20 am
7.	Media Talk	11:25 am



The deliberations at the International Sustainability Summit started with the acknowledgement that the Asian Pacific region is not on track to achieve SDG 13, and, in fact, is moving in the wrong direction. The region is declared as the most vulnerable to catastrophic implications of climate change, while being faced with increasing pollution and biodiversity loss amplifying the magnitude of the triple planetary crisis it faces. Fossil fuel dependency, irresponsible consumption and production patterns, and rampant extreme weather events, in the absence of adequate adaptation policies, pose various challenges across several countries in the region.

The increasing vulnerability to the triple planetary crisis is the result of continued negligence of the developed countries to reduce their emissions and provide additional, adequate and predictable climate financing to developing countries, as per the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDRRC) clause of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, instead of fulfilling their historical obligations to pay their climate debt, developed countries, mega corporations and multilateral banks are using the pandemic to capture critical resources in the region, co-opt the energy transition agenda, cement corporate capture, promote market-based false solutions, and shift the burden of climate action on the already aggrieved frontline communities.

Pakistan is among the five most vulnerable countries to climate change, as per Climate Risk Index 2023, indicating that the country is likely to face extreme weather events in the future. The country was once again at the receiving end of its harshest consequences in 2022 with the devastating floods wreaking havoc across all four provinces affecting over 33 million throughout the country, with nearly 8 million displaced. The floods killed 1739 people,

International Sustainability Summit



and caused PKR 3.2 trillion (\$14.8 billion) in damages and PKR 3.3 trillion (\$15.2 billion) in economic losses. The World Bank's Post Disaster Assessment suggested that the devastating effects of the floods will increase the national poverty rate by 3.7 to 4 percentage points, pushing almost 9.1 million people below the poverty line, as 19 out of the 25 of the poorest districts were severely affected.

The International Sustainability Summit is a critical event in the context, bringing international expertise together with local wisdom, to galvanize the discourse on climate financing, governance and response architecture, and mitigation and adaptation strategies to help Pakistan enhance its resilience to climate change, parallel with advancing social and economic priorities of sustainable development.





#### **MR. JAMES ROBERT OKOTH**

Head, Sindh Province Food & Agriculture Organization United Nations

Mr. James Robert Okoth, Head of Sindh, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was welcomed as the distinguished Guest of Honor at the International Sustainability Summit.

As a prominent figure in the field of sustainability, Mr. Okoth has played a pivotal role in advancing environmental conservation, social equity, and economic empowerment initiatives. His visionary leadership and advocacy have contributed to transformative projects and policies that promote sustainable development and improve the well-being of communities.

Mr. Okoth's presence at the summit underscores the importance of global collaboration and collective action in addressing challenges confronting sustainable development. His insights and unwavering commitment inspired many to redouble their efforts towards building a more sustainable and resilient world for present and future generations. **Mr. James Robert Okoth** addressed the young students at the conference emphasizing their critical role in determining the future of resilience-building activities. He stressed the importance of new approaches to addressing the issues faced by climate change, pushing for a shift away from traditional development tactics untowards community driven initiatives. Mr. Okoth emphasized the transformative power of technology and the need of providing graduates with skills that are not just academically rigorous but also relevant and accessible to the areas they serve. He highlighted the importance of leveraging digital tools, including cell phones, to empower farmers, particularly women, who may not have access to traditional extension services.

In terms of the SDGs achievement, Mr. Okoth questioned the approach of success being primarily dependent on financial input. Instead, he advocated for different approaches to resource use and collaboration, emphasizing the value of working with educational institutions, organizations, and local communities. He also promoted the need to integrate practical experiences into academic curricula, offering significant real-world experience, to generate evidence-based innovative solutions. He also stressed the need to bridge academic outcomes with market and societal needs to also create more employability options for graduates.

In conclusion, Mr. Okoth appreciated the organization of the conference looking forward to its outcomes, seeing it as an opportunity to address crucial SDGs and strengthen collaboration among academia, corporate sector, civil society, and government.



#### **DR. KENNETH M. HOLLAND**

Chief of Party, USAID Higher Education Project Pakistan, Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA)

Dr. Kenneth M. Holland's role as the Chief of Party for USAID's Higher Education Project in Pakistan signifies his deep involvement in fostering sustainability through higher education. As a Guest of Honor at the International Sustainability Summit, Dr. Holland shared insights into the specific challenges confronting the higher education system in Pakistan while also sharing success stories.

His experiences could offer valuable lessons for international delegates seeking to promote sustainability in higher education institutions worldwide. Dr. Holland's presence underscores the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in advancing sustainability at the local and global scales.

**Dr. Kenneth M. Holland** shared his thoughts regarding USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA) - Pakistan's largest project of its type - as an initiative to advance socio-economic development. He shared that HESSA was developed in response to a critical shortage in the Pakistani workforce: an imbalance between the desired skills by employers and those possessed by graduates of public universities. This discrepancy resulted in a large number of vacant job openings while leaving many graduates unemployed. He appreciated the proactive activities already underway by universities such as Greenwich University, which are consistent with the project's goals.

HESSA works in partnership with 16 public universities to address numerous crucial areas that require action. First and foremost, leadership development is prioritized, with the goal of improving the abilities and capacity of university executives, deans, and department heads. Additionally, efforts are made to promote gender equality in leadership positions. Furthermore, the project stresses new teaching and learning methods, calling for a shift away from traditional lecture-based training towards more interactive, outcome-oriented pedagogical approaches. The enhancement of skills is also prioritized, highlighting the value of communication, teamwork, and work ethics in the professional world. Furthermore, HESSA encourages research activities that promote creativity and relevance to Pakistan's social and economic growth, including an emphasis on commercialization of academic research to diversify idea generation vis a vis amplifying individual and institutional contributions to national progress. Finally, the project promotes student achievement by offering complete support such as mental health counseling, career assistance, and micro-enterprise development to enhance scalability of such project interventions.

Dr. Holland acknowledged the need to enhance collaborative measures to enable universities to produce graduates who complement national innovation and economic outcomes through skills upgradation. Dr. Holland expressed his sincere gratitude for the opportunity to participate with Greenwich University and experience personally the revolutionary possibilities inside. He urged continuous commitment and collaboration in inspiring and equipping the next generation of leaders and innovators, thereby forging a path to a brighter, more affluent future for Pakistan.



#### **MR. NOOR AHMED SAMOO**

Secretary of the University and Boards Department

Mr. Noor Ahmed Samoo, as the secretary of the University and Boards Department, holds a pivotal position in shaping policies and initiatives related to higher education in Pakistan. As a Guest of Honor at the International Sustainability Summit, Mr. Samoo provided insights into the government's perspective on integrating sustainability into the higher education sector. His presence emphasized the commitment of Pakistani authorities to fostering collaboration between the academia and government. Delegates at the summit could benefit from Mr. Samoo's expertise by gaining a deeper understanding of how governmental support and policy frameworks can drive sustainable practices in education and beyond.

Mr. Noor Ahmed Samoo's presence testifies the significance of such deliberations to provide actionable recommendations for sustainable development.

**Mr. Noor Ahmed Samo** shared insights into public financing in education, with considerable project allocations for public sector universities, which amount 1023 million for 29 institutions. He noted that Sindh region is home to approximately 25 public sector universities and thirty-seven companies, requiring the need for collaborative platforms for innovative solutions. He underlined the critical significance of universities as innovation hubs and encouraged the government to address the issue of brain drain, highlighting its negative impact on national development efforts.

Mr. Samo also emphasized the importance of prioritizing environmental sustainability, reckoning Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, citing recent floods and other extreme weather events and their devastating consequences across social and economic domains. He called for concentrated efforts to mitigate such catastrophes while also ensuring proactive approaches for adaptation strategies to enhance communal resilience, especially in the most vulnerable areas.

Furthermore, Mr. Samo underlined the need for a whole-of-a-society approach fostering collaborations among academia, industry, civil society and government to propose evidence-based actionable policy recommendations and actions to urgently and effectively address socio-economic, and environmental concerns.



**MR. ALI JILLANI** Vice Chair, Karachi Research Chair (KRC)

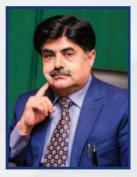
Mr. Ali Jillani is a seasoned development practitioner specializing in advocacy for Climate Justice, Democratic Governance, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global levels. He has been contributing to the discourse around sustainability since 2015 through panels, publications and policy advocacy for governance reforms.

Mr. Jillani was recently selected as the Regional Speaker from Asia and the Pacific region for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2023 and also had the privilege to address the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly during the Political Declaration negotiations on July 19, 2023, in New York. He leads the Advocacy Group of the Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM) - a coalition of over 600 organizations from 37 countries engaging across various intergovernmental processes. He has been APRCEM's lead discussant across various intergovernmental processes, and has conducted several workshops at the national, regional and global levels.

Mr. Jillani joined the International Sustainability Summit virtually from the ongoing 11th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), convened under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand. He sketched the progress overview on the SDGs at the regional level, shared insights from the on-going intergovernmental negotiation process, and set the basis for discussions at the International Sustainability Summit to galvanize momentum on translating transformation on the ground. **Mr. Ali Jillani** shared that Sustainable Development is in peril, especially in Asia and the Pacific Region. The progress at merely 17% of the goals, while having crossed the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, reflecting a dismal halfway there, nowhere near scenario. The current rate of progress shows that none of the 17 SDGs will be achieved by 2030 deadline and the earliest projection when the region can achieve the SDGs is 2062. Moreover, the projection is based on 52% of the available data, with a humongous 48% of the unknown, questioning the accuracy of the projection - meaning that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda could very much drift into the 22nd century. The situation for Pakistan is no different given its respective set of challenges in the absence of equitable financing for sustainable development priorities.

The lackluster recovery from COVID 19 enforced crises across various developing countries, manifested in debt distress, rising inflations and decreasing public services throughout the region continues to impose multidimensional crises. Moreover, parallel with being the most vulnerable region to the triple planetary crisis i.e. climate change, pollution and biodiversity, Asia and the Pacific is experiencing the biggest cost-of-living crisis of the 21st century. This is compounded by the deep-seated systemic barriers manifested in inequalities of wealth, power and resources, within and among countries, invasive trade & investment regimes, militarism and conflict, patriarchy and fundamentalisms, and authoritarian governance forcing a one step forward, two steps back cliché for development prospects.

The situation poses several questions on the efficacy of multilateralism, and the lack of political leadership and will across global decision-making processes. It also urges the need for a whole-of-a-society approach to resolve the most critical concerns of our times. This requires urgent, fundamental and structural reforms across state and societal institutions to reverse the trends for a holistic development programming. It must evolve the academia's role from the brain of the society to being its heart, which dismantles the businessas-usual approach, fosters critical reflection and collaborative action, encourages humane collaborative mechanisms, conjoins efforts, expertise and resources, and prioritizes people and the planet over profits.



#### **BRIG.(R.) DR. AHMED SAEED MINHAS** Vice Chancellor DHA Suffa University

Brig.(R.) Dr. Ahmed Saeed Minhas was commissioned in the Pakistan Army in March 1990. During his 36 years' service, Brigadier Minhas has been on sensitive appointments including United Nations Military Observer at Congo, Brigadier (Internal Security) in a deployed Infantry Division in Balochistan, and as an Arms Controller at Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs Branch of Pakistan Strategic Plans Division (SPD) for seven years. During his stint at SPD, he has been looking after Pakistan's strategic program from political and diplomatic perspectives and successfully represented Pakistani perspectives on different strategic issues domestically and around the world.

He did his PhD in International Relations from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad and has the honor of being fellow of "Center for Non-Proliferation Studies (CNS)", California, and "Sandia National Laboratories", New Mexico, USA.

Brig. Minhas is currently the Pro Vice Chancellor at DHA Suffa University, Karachi, since 2019.

**Dr. Ahmed Saeed Minhas** chaired the session on Social Development covering SDGs 1 on No Poverty, 2 on Zero Hunger, 3 on Good Health and Wellbeing, 4 on Quality Education, 5 on Gender Equality, 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, and 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Dr. Minhas synthesized the discussions signifying the transformative potential of Quality Education, enshrined in SDG 4, as a powerful tool for empowerment, enlightenment, and progress with complementarity to poverty and hunger eradication, gender equality, and social protection to ensure inclusive, just and peaceful societies for all. He emphasized that Education is widely recognized as a fundamental pillar of progress fostering cultural enrichment, social development, economic growth, and environmental protection.

The Session elaborated that education serves as a cornerstone of human capital development, encompassing knowledge, skills, and competencies individuals acquire throughout their lives. Quality education equips individuals with the tools necessary to participate effectively in the workforce, engage as informed citizens, and lead fulfilling lives. Investments in education, therefore, has various strategic outcomes across multiple fronts, while parallelly enhancing adaptability, innovation, entrepreneurship, technological prowess and productivity within economies.

The session also highlighted that despite its transformative potential, education systems worldwide face a myriad of challenges, including inadequate public financing, inequitable access, poor quality, outdated curricula, and inefficient regulatory mechanisms. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from governments, policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to prioritize education, invest in infrastructure and teacher training, and implement structural reforms to enhance educational quality outcomes for all.

Dr. Minhas reminded everyone that as we strive towards a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future, education remains indispensable in shaping a world where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the collective advancement of humanity. As we navigate discussions and deliberations, let us remain mindful of the urgency and significance of our collective endeavors. Let us harness our expertise, experiences, and insights to identify innovative solutions, foster partnerships, and drive meaningful change in education systems worldwide.

He thanked Greenwich University for offering a wonderful deliberative platform at this Summit, appreciated the participants for their active engagement as an xcellent audience, and wished meaningful outcomes for the Summit to catalyze the discourse for a better tomorrow.



**MR. MUHAMMAD ALI SAEED** CEO, SAO Capital Lecturer, Economics & Finance Greenwich University

Mr. Ali Saeed has been in the business of transforming "People" and "Processes" for more than a decade, with expertise in facilitating Critical Thinking, Persona Development, Stress & Time Management, Sales Evolution, Communication (Oral, Written and Gesture Sciences), Strategy and Business Acumen. His career spanning over 15 years as an investment banker entails him to carry out technical training workshops on Financial Modelling, Corporate Finance, Investment Banking, Financial Statement Analysis and Finance for the Non-Finance Manager.

Ali has trained and mentored more than 50,000+ people across Pakistan and the MENA region with over 450 workshops, seminars and keynotes enchanting audiences with his sagacity and anecdotal performances with real life skews, his interactions with the audiences display the power of the "Triple E" effect in action. Ali pioneered the Lego® SeriousPlay® approach in Pakistan and has been a facilitator of the LSP Methodology in Pakistan since 2015, he has carried out over 100+ interventions on Strategy, process Map, Communication, Creativity and Innovation and TeamBuilding using this powerful unorthodox tool of Lego® bricks in "Metaphorical Thinking" inculcating creativity and out of the box thinking workplace environments.

In 2018, Ali visited Mauritius as a consultant to transcend their education system for the MPSSU wherein he instigated 40 new "Teaching Pedagogies" for various learning environments, wherein his efforts were lauded by the Mauritius Vice President Mr. Barlen Vyapoory and the Minister for Education Mrs. Leela Devi Dookun. Over the weekends, Ali imparts knowledge as an adjunct faculty member at leading business schools in Karachi to MBA and EMBA students. **Mr. Muhammad Ali Saeed** chaired the session on Economic Growth covering SDGs 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 10 on Reduced Inequalities, 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, and 17 on Partnership for Goals.

Mr. Ali synthesized the discussions requiring a holistic approach for developing economies to retain macro and micro economic balance by diversifying their economic potential, revitalization of agricultural, industrial and services sectors, and adequate management of fiscal capacities to ensure inclusive economic growth for all.

In Pakistan's context, he emphasized that economics is very much intertwined with politics and it is ever more significant to enhance soft power projection capabilities as a foreign policy tool to advance politico-economic outcomes. He shared that our neighbors have advanced their diplomatic influence by projecting cultural, social and economic achievement as an impetus. The shifting dynamics of the world require us to recalibrate our approach to alliances and rivalries, through trade and regional diversification. He shared that it is impossible to remain in isolated bubbles and therefore urged the need to explore avenues for collaboration with India, specifically through trade, to have multiple positive outcomes on the economic, political as well as security front.

Mr. Ali also emphasized the need to enhance bi and multilateral relations, especially across the Middle East as more than 60% of our remittances come from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. More than 80% of our fossil fuel imports come from the Middle East, parallel with our export potential also linked with these countries. Moreover, we also have cultural correlation with these countries other than economic ties, meaning that whatever happens in the Middle East has a dictate to us. Recently, and more often, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar contribute to the stabilization of our foreign exchange reserves albeit offering immense political influence to these countries leaving us with little choice in our foreign policy direction. Nevertheless, such issues are confronted by pretty much all countries as we live in a globalized village and it is imperative to forge strategic alliances to safeguard your interests while gradually enhancing your economic footprint to actualize your sovereignty in the political sphere.

He appreciated Greenwich University's role in advancing discourse around sustainability for meaningful deliberative outcomes and policy action within Pakistan and beyond.



DR. ZUL AZHAR ZAHID JAMAL

Former Vice Chancellor University Malaysia Perlis(UniMap), Malaysia

Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal started his academic journey by attending Western Michigan University, USA, where he graduated in BSc and MSc in Physics. He then acquired his PhD from the University of Liverpool, UK, focusing on defect characterisation of electronic materials. Upon graduation, Dr. Zul Azhar worked at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), and later, Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP).

In his 30-year career span, he has held numerous academic and administrative posts: Coordinator of Diploma Studies (USM), Dean of the School of Microelectronic Engineering (UniMAP), Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research & Development (UniMAP), Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic and International Affairs (UniMAP), and finally, Vice-Chancellor (UniMAP).

As an academician, Dr. Zul Azhar taught, supervised and assessed undergraduate and postgraduate students, and carried out research projects primarily in the field of electronic materials flaw analysis. With more and more leadership posts assigned to him, his research interest turned to the evolution, development and enhancement of higher education, particularly in assuring its sustainability in the face of contemporary and future challenges.

Upon retirement in 2022, Dr. Zul Azhar turned to humanitarian work under the NGO Briged Bakti Malaysia (BBM).

**Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal** chaired the session on Environmental Protection covering SDGs 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy, 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13 on Climate Action, 14 on Life below Water and 15 on Life on Land.

Dr. Zul Azhar synthesized the discussions stressing the need for both mitigation and adaptation strategies for sustainable development. He shared valuable examples of societal change, citing that the usage of plastic bags has been banned across Malaysia and they are not offered in the markets anymore. He shared that such measures are time taking but have lasting impacts at the broader societal level. He emphasized the need for raising awareness through targeted campaigns involving academia to ensure attitudinal transformation across social, corporate and state institutions to reduce carbon emissions for a safe future environment.

Dr. Azhar emphasized the need to harmonize the use of technological innovations, in the wake of the 4th Industrial Revolution, and bridge the digital divide. He urged the need to integrate the considerations of sustainable development across curricular and extra curricular activities throughout the education system.

He appreciated Greenwich University for bringing international expertise together for critical reflection and collaborative action to address climate change in Pakistan and beyond. He also stressed the need to mobilize relevant stakeholders at the national level and beyond to forge meaningful collaborations to propose actionable solutions to advance development outcomes across all domains of sustainability.

#### **About the Speakers**

The international sustainability summit is privileged to host a distinguished lineup of speakers from renowned universities across the globe. These esteemed speakers bring a wealth of expertise, research, and insights to enrich the summit discussions and inspire collaborative action towards a sustainable future.

Here's a glimpse of some of our esteemed speakers:



#### **DR. MARC SERGE RIVIERE**

Director, Sapere Ltd, Mauritius

A distinguished academic whose journey spans continents and accolades. Raised in Mauritius, he pursued higher education in Scotland, Canada, and Australia, culminating in a PhD from Glasgow University. With a career spanning from 1970 to 2008, he lectured on French Language and Francophone Literature across various prestigious institutions. Upon retirement, he was honored as Professor Emeritus of Limerick University, Ireland, and decorated by the French Government for his cultural contributions. Now residing in Mauritius, he continues his impactful service as a community leader, serving as Past President of the Rotary Club of Port Louis and the current President of the English Speaking Union - Mauritius. Professor Rivière's enduring dedication to education and cultural promotion exemplifies a lifetime commitment to excellence and service.

#### **Dr. Marc Serge Riviere**

#### Impact of Extreme Weather Events on Vulnerable Communities and Infrastructure: A Case Study Analysis

Extreme weather events, exacerbated by climate change, pose significant challenges to vulnerable communities and infrastructure worldwide. This paper investigates the multifaceted impacts of such events on these communities and infrastructure, utilizing a case study approach to provide comprehensive insights. Through a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, we analyze the social, economic, and environmental repercussions of extreme weather events, focusing on vulnerable populations such as low-income households, indigenous communities, and coastal settlements. Our findings reveal the disproportionate burden borne by vulnerable communities, who often lack the resources and adaptive capacity to cope with and recover from extreme weather events. These communities face increased risks of displacement, loss of livelihoods, and compromised health and well-being. Moreover, the destruction of critical infrastructure, including housing, transportation networks, and water and sanitation systems, exacerbates their vulnerability and impedes longterm recovery efforts. Furthermore, the paper examines the interconnectedness of climate-related hazards, emphasizing the cascading effects of extreme weather events on different sectors and regions. It highlights the need for integrated risk management strategies that account for the complex interplay of social, economic, and environmental factors. Additionally, it explores the role of community-based adaptation measures, early warning systems, and policy interventions to reduce vulnerability, enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity of grassroot communities. By synthesizing empirical evidence and theoretical frameworks, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the challenges posed by extreme weather events to vulnerable communities and infrastructure. It underscores the urgency of concerted action at local, national, and global levels to build resilience, mitigate risks, and ensure the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities in the face of climate changeinduced disruptions.



**DR. DAVID J. ROOF** Associate Professor of Educational Studies Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, United States

David J. Roof, Ph.D. (Principal Investigator) currently oversees the Center for Economic and Civic Learning (CECL) and is Principal Investigator (PI) of the U.S. Department of Educationfunded Civic Renewal through Education for Agency, Tolerance, and Engagement or CREATE project. Dr. Roof recently participated in the Institute of Civic Studies and Learning for Democracy, a residential retreat that brings together influential leaders from around the world to grapple with the pressing challenges of modern democracy.

Dr. Roof designed BSU's Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan. Dr. Roof serves on the Educating for American Democracy's Community of Practice (CoP) for Professional Development with Colleagues at Harvard. He is also a member of three statewide civic education-related committees. Dr. Roof has extensive experience working in central Asia in regions formerly part of the Soviet Union on education development and policy analysis. Dr. Roof was the PI of the U.S./Uzbekistan Network and International Exchange for Development (UNITED), and the Regional Afghan Junior Faculty Development Program.

Dr. Roof is a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. Dr. Roof has been invited as a keynote speaker at multiple education conferences across Central Asia.

#### Dr. David J. Roof

## **Empowering Change: Higher Education's Role in Mitigating Environmental Degradation in the US and Pakistan**

Environmental degradation poses a significant threat to the sustainability of ecosystems globally, necessitating urgent action. This abstract explores the pivotal role of higher education institutions in fostering environmental stewardship and driving change to mitigate environmental degradation, with a comparative focus on the United States (US) and Pakistan. In the US, higher education institutions have embraced sustainability initiatives, integrating environmental education into curricula and implementing campus-wide sustainability practices. These efforts have cultivated a culture of environmental awareness and activism among students, faculty, and staff, leading to innovative research and impactful community engagement projects aimed at addressing environmental challenges. Conversely, Pakistan faces formidable environmental degradation challenges, including deforestation, pollution, and water scarcity. Despite these challenges, higher education institutions in Pakistan have the potential to serve as catalysts for change by prioritizing environmental education, research, and advocacy. By integrating sustainability principles into academic programs and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, Pakistani universities can empower students to become agents of change in their communities. This abstract underscores the importance of international collaboration and knowledge exchange between higher education institutions in the US and Pakistan to address shared environmental challenges. By leveraging resources, expertise, and best practices, universities can enhance their capacity to drive meaningful change and contribute to global efforts to combat environmental degradation. In conclusion, higher education plays a vital role in empowering individuals and communities to address environmental degradation effectively. By equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to become environmental stewards, higher education institutions can catalyze sustainable development and foster a brighter future for both the US and Pakistan.



#### DR. FATIMA AGHA SHAH

Head, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities Greenwich University

Dr. Fatima Agha Shah, is currently serving at Greenwich University as HOD Social Sciences and Humanities.She has been Associate-Editor at Pakistan Journal of International Affairs (PJIsR) since 2019. She has completed her PhD from Area Study Center for Europe, University of Karachi. She has completed her Masters in three disciplines, General History, International Relations and Social Work. She previously served as Chief-Editor at Asian Social Sciences Review (ASSR) Journal. She has contributed many research papers for national and international Journals. Her articles have been published in Newspapers and Magazines as well. Her areas of research interest and publications include: international politics, emerging social issues, and peace and security. She has been associated with the profession of teaching since 2015 and has served at different universities.



#### **H.E. CEMAL SANGU**

Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye in Karachi

H.E. Cemal Sangu has been serving in the capacity of Consul General of The Republic of Türkiye in Karachi since December 2021. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1988. In addition to various departments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has worked at Turkish Missions abroad in Dhaka, Jakarta, Rome, Nur-Sultan, Marseille, and Dublin respectively. The Consul brings wealth of experience from bi and multilateral collaboration for international trade and development.

### Dr. Fatima Agha Shah and H.E Cemal Sango

#### Constructing a "New Türkiye" through Education: Policies and Recommendations

The shift from traditional academic metrics to a holistic educational framework is revolutionizing Türkiye's educational landscape. This comprehensive approach highlights its crucial role in nurturing personal growth, fostering community involvement, and promoting global citizenship. The paper focuses on the concept of high-quality education, emphasizing its connotations beyond traditional academic achievement to foster personal development, a positive impact on society, and cultivation of global citizenship. It covers Türkiye's active and innovative foreign policy direction leading to the establishment of institutions like Turkish Maarif Foundation - TMF, with a strong emphasis on education and cultural diplomacy. It highlights Türkiye's contribution to providing higher education opportunities to students from Turkic States and nearby populations, highlighting the commitment to education as a means of international engagement. In addition, the establishment of institutions like Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related communities (YTB) and the Turkish Scholarships Program showcases Türkiye's commitment to promoting culture and education as a key foreign policy tool. The paper emphasizes the importance of education in achieving broader societal objectives, such as fostering a sense of responsibility, empathy, and active involvement in building a better society. It provides an overview of the impact of the Turkiye-Pakistan alliance on educational policies, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas focusing on mutual learning, cultural exchange, and shared goals. The paper concludes by offering a forward-looking perspective for a New Türkiye promoting education as a means for global transformation fostering knowledge corridors, innovative collaborations and cultural alliances to ensure a deeply connected global community.



#### **DR. PASSANAN ASSAVARAK** Deputy Dean King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand

Dr. Passanan Assavarak is the Assistant Dean for Research in the Social Sciences & Humanities department at the School of Liberal Arts, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi. Dr. Assavarak holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Environment, Development, and Sustainability from Chulalongkorn University, along with a Master's degree and Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the same institution. With a rich academic background and diverse experience, including roles as a lecturer, research assistant, and government officer, Dr. Assavarak brings invaluable expertise to her position, shaping the research landscape at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi.

#### Dr. Passanan Assavarak

## Exploring Climate Change Vulnerability in Thai Rice Farming and the Adaptive Potential of Palmyra Palm

Climate change poses significant challenges to agricultural systems worldwide, particularly in regions heavily reliant on staple crops like rice. This abstract explores the vulnerability of Thai rice farming to climate change and investigates the adaptive potential of the Palmyra palm in mitigating these impacts. Thai rice farming faces multifaceted risks from climate change, including altered precipitation patterns, temperature fluctuations, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. These changes threaten rice yields and food security, endangering the livelihoods of millions. The Palmyra palm, native to Southeast Asia, exhibits resilience to climatic stressors and possesses diverse uses in agriculture, providing a potential adaptive solution. Through an interdisciplinary approach combining ecological, agronomic, and socioeconomic perspectives, this study evaluates the suitability of integrating Palmyra palm into Thai rice farming systems. It examines the ecological compatibility, agronomic benefits, and socio-economic feasibility of such integration, considering local contexts and stakeholder perspectives. By elucidating the adaptive potential of Palmyra palm, this research contributes to climate-resilient agriculture strategies and underscores the importance of diversifying cropping systems to enhance agricultural sustainability in the face of climate change.



#### **DR. NIRMAL DE SILVA**

Associate Professor CEO of Paramount Realty & Capazity Pvt Ltd, Sri Lanka

A distinguished business professional and entrepreneur, boasting nearly two decades of 'C Level' expertise across the globe. With a track record of leadership in numerous Multinational and Fortune 500 companies, he has garnered multiple awards for his outstanding contributions. Dr. De Silva's recent endeavors have centered around Entrepreneurship Development, Strategy Consulting, and nurturing startups.

Currently, as the Co-Founder/CEO of Paramount Realty & Capazity Pvt Ltd, Dr. De Silva continues to drive innovation and growth. Additionally, he serves as an Independent Non-Executive Director at PMF Finance PLC in Sri Lanka, bringing strategic insights to the boardroom.

On the academic front, Dr. De Silva holds roles as an Associate Professor, Visiting Lecturer, Curriculum Developer, and Thesis Supervisor at various local and international universities. His teaching focus spans Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Corporate Strategy, reflecting his commitment to nurturing future business leaders. Moreover, he contributes to the advisory boards of prestigious educational institutions like the Asia Pacific Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (IMED) and NANASKA Pvt Ltd.

#### Dr. Nirmal de Silva

# Implementing Circular Economy Principles for Sustainable Resource Management"

The concept of a circular economy has gained significant traction in recent years as a sustainable alternative to the traditional linear economy model. This abstract explores the implementation of circular economy principles for sustainable resource management, focusing on the efficient use and reuse of resources to minimize waste and environmental impact. Circular economy principles emphasize the importance of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. This approach requires a shift from the traditional "take-make-dispose" model to a more circular and regenerative model that promotes the continual use and reuse of resources. Implementing circular economy principles for sustainable resource management involves several key strategies. These include designing products for durability and recyclability, promoting the use of renewable and biodegradable materials, and implementing innovative recycling and waste management practices. Additionally, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, including businesses, governments, and consumers, is essential for driving the adoption of circular economy practices. While the implementation of circular economy principles presents challenges, such as the need for new infrastructure and changes in consumer behavior, the potential benefits are substantial. These include reduced resource consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and enhanced resilience to environmental and economic shocks. In conclusion, implementing circular economy principles for sustainable resource management is essential for achieving long-term environmental sustainability. By embracing these principles, businesses and governments can create a more sustainable and resilient economy that benefits both people and the planet.



#### **DR. CHINTAMANEE SANMUKHIYA**

Professor & Research Associate Deputy Rector at Modern College, Mauritius

Dr. Chintamanee Sanmukhiya is a distinguished scholar in the field of education, hailing from Mauritius. Holding a PhD in Economics of Education from the Institute of Education, University of London, her academic prowess is recognized by her examiners who graded her thesis as exceptional. With a tenure as Deputy Rector at Modern College, Mauritius since 2007, Dr. Sanmukhiya has demonstrated her expertise through publications in esteemed ISI and SCOPUS indexed journals, alongside accolades earned at international conferences.

Her experience spans across academia and administration, having served as a Professor, Head of Academics and Operations at Greenwich University Pakistan-Mauritius Branch Campus. Equipped with proficiency in quantitative and qualitative analysis, she has conducted workshops and seminars globally, imparting knowledge on research methodology. Currently, as a part-time lecturer at the Open University of Mauritius, Dr. Sanmukhiya continues to contribute to the educational landscape, specializing in areas such as educational leadership, pedagogy, and research methodology.

#### Dr. Chintamanee Sanmukhiya

# Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Development in Pakistan"

Pakistan faces a myriad of challenges and opportunities in its pursuit of sustainable economic development. This abstract examines the key challenges and opportunities that the country must address to foster long-term economic growth and prosperity. One of the major challenges is the country's unstable political environment, which has hindered policy consistency and implementation. This has resulted in a lack of investor confidence and hindered economic progress. Additionally, Pakistan faces significant infrastructure deficiencies, particularly in transportation and energy, which impede industrial growth and limit access to markets. However, Pakistan also possesses several opportunities for sustainable economic development. The country's strategic geographic location provides access to major markets in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, offering significant trade potential. Furthermore, Pakistan has a large, young population that can be leveraged to drive economic growth through increased productivity and consumer spending. To capitalize on these opportunities, Pakistan must address its challenges by implementing structural reforms to improve governance, enhance infrastructure, and promote private sector investment. Additionally, investing in human capital development and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship can help drive sustainable economic growth. In conclusion, while Pakistan faces significant challenges in its quest for sustainable economic development, the country also possesses numerous opportunities that, if properly leveraged, can pave the way for a prosperous future.



### **DR. ZURAIDAH MOHD ZAIN**

Former Dean Academic & International Affairs Management University Malaysia Perlis (UniMap), Malaysia

Dr. Zuraidah Mohd Zain acquired Bachelor of Science & Engineering (Materials Eng.) from University of Florida, USA in 1985, after which she worked as Reliability & Failure Analysis Engineer at National Semiconductor. In 1990, she did her PhD from University of Liverpool, specializing in Assurance & Management of Quality. She then worked in Universiti Sains Malaysia from 1993 to 2002 in faculty and quality assurance roles.

Dr. Zuraidah joined Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), taking up various pioneering positions with contributions in developing academic curricula, standard operating procedures, and strategic planning, new academic programs, among others. She held various management positions including Assistant Vice Chancellor, and Deputy Chairperson of the University Council of Professors.

Along the way, Dr. Zuraidah supervised more than 15 postgraduates and taught close to 10 undergraduate courses. In addition, she was Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow) under the Erasmus Mundus program and at the Universiti Tun Hussein Onn, Malaysia. She was also a Visiting Scholar at the University of Sindh, Pakistan, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Bangladesh, and Gono Bishwabidyalay, Bangladesh.

In the later years of her career, Dr. Zuraidah headed a campuswide initiative to make UniMAP a green campus. In 2021, she opted for retirement, and she now volunteers at the Briged Bakti Malaysia (BBM) - an NGO that does humanitarian works particularly in Cebu, Philippines.

#### Dr. Zuraidah Mohd Zain

#### **Greening the Campus**

As concerns over environmental sustainability continue to grow, universities and colleges worldwide are increasingly adopting initiatives to green their campuses. This abstract explores the rationale, strategies, and benefits of such endeavors. Greening the campus involves implementing measures to minimize environmental impact, conserve resources, and promote eco-friendly practices within the institution. Key strategies include integrating renewable energy sources, enhancing waste management systems, promoting sustainable transportation options, implementing water conservation measures, and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship through education and engagement. These efforts not only contribute to mitigating climate change but also serve as valuable learning opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. The benefits of greening the campus are manifold. They include reduced carbon emissions, cost savings through energy efficiency measures, improved air and water quality, enhanced biodiversity, and the cultivation of a sense of responsibility towards the environment among campus community members. Furthermore, sustainable campuses serve as models for broader societal change, inspiring individuals and institutions to adopt eco-conscious practices. In conclusion, greening the campus is a multifaceted endeavor with far-reaching benefits for both the institution and the wider community. By prioritizing sustainability, universities and colleges play a pivotal role in shaping a more environmentally responsible and resilient future.



Director, Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), Greenwich University

Dr. Rab Nawaz holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Management. He has vast international exposure and hands-on experience of the Higher education sector around the globe. He has represented Greenwich University across various national and international platforms including Pakistan, Mauritius, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Uganda, Rwanda, Japan, China, Turkey, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Sri Lanka.

He played a key role in the establishment of Greenwich University Pakistan Mauritius Branch Campus. He has served as Director Academics and International Linkages at the Mauritius Campus. He has spent several years in internationally focused roles working in Mauritius and Pakistan. In his former role, he led the global stakeholder engagement activities for one of Nepal's largest admission consultancies, helping to establish relationships with senior diplomats, C-Suite executives from leading global companies and the management teams of some of the top universities and research institutions in the world. He has also been instrumental in negotiations with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to enhance the educational outcomes for the youth of Rodrigues. During his tenure, he has also served in various key positions at Pakistan Campus. Presently, he serves as Director, Quality Assurance.

He is a member of Oman Association for Quality in Higher Education (OAQHE), Mauritius Institute of Directors (MIoD), and Pakistan Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (PNQAHE).

#### Dr. Rab Nawaz

#### **Quality Assurance in Higher Education Perspective in Pakistan**

This abstract explores the landscape of Quality Assurance (QA) in higher education within the context of Pakistan. The significance of QA in higher education is paramount for ensuring the delivery of effective and impactful education. InPakistan, a country marked by a diverse educational landscape, QA mechanisms face multifaceted challenges and opportunities. The abstract begins by elucidating the importance of QA in higher education, emphasizing its role in enhancing the credibility and competitiveness of academic institutions. It then delves into the specific challenges encountered in the Pakistani higher education system, including limited resources, outdated infrastructure, and bureaucratic hurdles. Moreover, the abstract highlights the prevalence of academic dishonesty and the need for robust measures to combat it. Despite these challenges, the abstract also sheds light on the initiatives and advancements in QA practices within Pakistan. It discusses the establishment of regulatory bodies such as the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and their efforts in implementing QA frameworks and accreditation systems. Additionally, it explores the role of technology in facilitating QA processes, such as online assessment tools and plagiarism detection software. Furthermore, the abstract touches upon the evolving paradigms of QA, including the shift towards outcome-based education and continuous improvement models. It underscores the importance of stakeholder collaboration and engagement in fostering a culture of QA in higher education institutions. In conclusion, this abstract underscores the complex yet dynamic nature of QA in higher education in Pakistan. It advocates for sustained efforts towards institutional capacity building, regulatory reforms, and technological integration to ensure the delivery of quality education and promote national development agendas.



#### **DR. SHAZIA NASIR**

Assistant Professor, Departmet of Social Sciences & Humanities Greenwich University

Dr. Shazia Nasir is an Assistant Professor of Education at Greenwich University, renowned for her expertise in the field of special education. With a PhD specializing in Special Education, her research focuses on understanding the unique needs of students with Learning Disabilities (LD) and developing effective instructional strategies to enhance their academic outcomes.

Dr. Nasir's journey into the realm of special education began during her teaching career, expanding over twenty-seven years, where she developed a passion for advocating for the educational rights of diverse learners. This led to her pursuit of PhD to delve deeper into the complexities of learning disabilities and remedial interventions to transform lives. Her doctoral research centered on identifying evidence-based practices for supporting students with LD in inclusive classroom settings, and has been published in leading academic journals, contributing significantly to the knowledge base in the field of special education.

In addition to her scholarly pursuits, Dr. Nasir is also a dedicated teacher trainer, committed to equipping educators with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively support students with LD in their classrooms. Drawing upon her research findings and practical experiences, she delivers engaging and informative professional development workshops and seminars for educators at all levels.

Outside of academia, Dr. Nasir is actively involved in advocacy efforts aimed at promoting the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the society. She collaborates with community organizations, policymakers, and stakeholders to advocate for policies and practices that ensure their equitable access to quality education. Her expertise, research contributions, and commitment to teacher training make her a valuable asset to both the academic community and the broader educational landscape.

#### Dr. Shazia Nasir

#### Experiences of Parents with Children Having Learning Disabilities and/ or ADHD in Pakistan

This interpretive phenomenological qualitative research study explored the psychological and emotional experiences of parents with children having specific learning disabilities in Pakistan from the context of United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Focus group discussions with five parents were conducted on zoom. After the data collection from each of the participants was assessed, a cross-case production of the data was completed to develop a list of the themes common among the participants. The sub-themes and the themes originated from the codes are (1) Parents Challenges with the sub-themes of Parenting Style, Emotional Responses and Sufferings. (2). Support from Academia with the sub-themes of Relationship with the teachers, Financial Stress and Modifications in Assessments/ Examinations. The themes originated, after the focus group discussion with the five parents, contain the struggle of the parents of LD children in preparing them to do better academically and socially. The findings revealed that the parents with children having learning disabilities have a very challenging and demanding role as a parent. Their struggles and challenges are more exhausting emotionally, physically, and financially. Parents struggle to identify academic problems faced by children due to lack of awareness which adds to their struggle as well as the children. Parents are the primary caretakers and guardians and are responsible for the upbringing of their children. It is not easy being a parent, but the situation gets difficult when children are identified with learning disabilities.



**Dr. Naveed Ahmed Mughal** Provost, Greenwich University & President, Greenwich Global College

Dr. Mughal is an educationist with over 8 years of experience striving for globalization of education. He holds a PhD in Educational Leadership and Management and completed his Masters in the same from Warwick University UK.

Dr. Mughal demonstrates a diverse range of expertise in educational planning, governance, and educational policy & management at National and International level. He played a catalyst role in the establishment of Greenwich University Pakistan Mauritius Branch Campus and continued to serve as part of the executive management to mainstream the marginalized African Region into educational leadership. He was also instrumental during negotiations with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to enhance the educational outcomes for the youth of Rodrigues, as well as expanding Greenwich's Outreach further in the African Continent.

Dr. Mughal's leadership abilities were exquisite as he led the 25 students' delegation to the European Parliament in 2018 to enhance cultural diplomacy across the Euro-Asian region. He was also central to the delegation's engagement with the Brussels Parliament, and Universities and dignitaries across the European Union. His emphasis on social responsibility ranges from helping an orphan in the neighborhood to campaigning in the UK to collect donations for Ghana's underprivileged children. He is also vibrant in policy and advocacy for the marginalized communities and people at the local and global levels.

#### **Dr. Naveed Ahmed Mughal**

# Strategies for Cultivating Effective Teaching Practices within Educational Leadership and Development"

The field of educational leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping the quality of teaching practices within educational institutions. This paper explores strategies for cultivating effective teaching practices within educational leadership, focusing on the crucial role of instructional leadership in enhancing teaching quality. Effective instructional leadership entails the creation of a supportive environment that fosters continuous professional development among educators. This involves providing instructional resources, professional development opportunities, and feedback mechanisms to help teachers improve their instructional practices. One key strategy is to promote a culture of collaboration and shared leadership, where teachers are empowered to take ownership of their professional growth and contribute to the broader educational goals of the institution. This can be achieved through the implementation of collaborative learning communities, where teachers collaborate to develop and share best practices, reflect on their teaching experiences, and engage in ongoing professional dialogue. Another essential strategy is to provide targeted support and mentoring for teachers, particularly those who are new to the profession or facing challenges in their teaching practice. This can help build their confidence, enhance their teaching skills, and ultimately improve student outcomes. Additionally, leveraging technology can enhance teaching practices by providing teachers with access to innovative instructional tools and resources. Overall, effective teaching practices within educational leadership require a multifaceted approach that combines instructional leadership, collaboration, professional development, and technology integration. By implementing these strategies, educational leaders can create a supportive environment that enables teachers to excel in their roles and ultimately enhance student learning outcomes.



MS. ASMA QURBAN Doctoral Student Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia

Asma Qurban, Ph.D, a distinguished fellow in International Relations at the School of International Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia. With expertise in qualitative data analysis and literature review, Asma contributes significantly to the scholarly community at SOIS UUM. As an esteemed presenter at international conferences, she sheds light on academic research and contemporary issues in International Relations, captivating audiences with her insights and expertise.

#### Asma Qurban

## The fourth industrial revolution has brought many changes due to automation, artificial

The fourth industrial revolution has brought many changes due to automation, artificial intelligence, big data analysis, and the utilization of technology around the globe. The quality of life has advanced due to the use of technology and the digital economy. People in developing countries are optimistic about the opportunities and benefits of technology in the workforce. Anyhow, the Fourth Industrial revolution has brought many challenges for developing countries including gender disparity. Therefore, this study critically reviews gender gaps that have amplified the negative impact on women particularly in Pakistan's context as a developing nation. One of the main objectives of this study is to explore IR 4.0 impact on gender equality in inclusive societies and economies in general and Pakistan in particular. In addition, the study attempts to use contextual analysis to address the issues of gender parity emerging due to IR 4.0 that pertains to Pakistanis women economic growth. The study depends on secondary data from academic literature, articles, and reports as secondary sources tackling this issue. This is a qualitative conceptual research paper that is designed to investigate the sweeping impact on women's status in the workplace after the application of the fourth industrial revolution in Pakistan. This study finally concludes the Fourth Industrial Revolution has changed our lives by widening the gender gap in social, political, economic, and technological fields particularly for women around the globe.

The incisive discussions across all three dimensions of sustainability culminated into the following recommendations:

### **Social Development** (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16)

- A holistic, rights-based and inclusive approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires recognition of intersectional ties across social, economic and environmental domains vis a vis programming development to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to ensure equality of outcomes for all.
- Holistic development programming should focus on intersectional ties across goals; meaning enhanced access to healthcare and other essential services by reducing disparities complements various SDGs for instance SDG 2 on hunger eradication, 4 on education, 5 on gender equality, 6 on access to safe drinking water, and 10 on reducing inequalities.
- Loan conditionalities from international lenders that decrease public financing in key strategic sectors such as education, health and social protection, must be challenged to avoid unsustainable austerity measures that exacerbate poverty.
- Inclusive education requires reconfiguration of educational policy to ensure equitable financing, inclusive governance and integration of adequate pedagogic mechanisms combined with a whole-of-a-society approach to ensure enhanced educational outcomes for all.
- Sustainable redress of the cost of living crisis and provision of adequate social security to lift people out of poverty requires pro-poor, gender-transformative, and disability-inclusive social development policies.
- Design and implement comprehensive poverty reduction programs by including provisions for low-cost housing, income-generating activities and flexible credit opportunities for all.
- Ensure coverage of informal sector workers, poor families and people experiencing multiple forms of vulnerabilities through Universal Social Protection Floors (USPF) for all focusing on the most marginalized.

- Ensure the meaningful participation of marginalized communities, youth, indigenous peoples, and other stakeholders in decision-making processes to promote social equity and justice.
- Disaggregation of data on social, economic and political participation based on gender, age, caste and disability must be prioritised to curb regressive patterns by advancing gender equality outcomes.
- Strategic investments in agroecology, education and the public health systems, as well as disaster and pandemic preparedness should be prioritized through public sector financing recognizing basic rights of citizens for sustainable outcomes.
- Partnership between the people and government based on mutual trust, responsibility, and recognition of each other's contributions is a far more strategic and bottom-up approach than public-private partnerships and should be promoted.

### Partnerships (SDG 17)

- Foster cross-sectoral collaborations and partnerships between governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector to leverage collective expertise and resources.
- Prioritize cross-communal, transnational and cross-regional resiliencebuilding measures and adaptation strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and other environmental stressors on vulnerable communities.
- Embrace a spirit of global solidarity and cooperation in addressing transboundary sustainability challenges, recognizing that the pursuit of sustainability is a shared responsibility that transcends borders.

### **Economic Growth** (SDGs 8, 9. 10, 12)

- SAARC needs to be revitalized through enhanced multilateral tech and trade collaborations to foster regional diversification and growth.
- Cross-regional collaboration could foster exchange of expertise in e-governance to enhance sustainable development outcomes.
- Governments must ensure gender- just, equitable, labor standards compliant entrepreneurial ecosystem to create decent and fulfilling jobs for all.
- Governments must resist and regulate trade agreements that violate labor and environmental safeguards through strong legal infrastructure at national levels.
- Responsible consumption and production patterns need to be institutionalized parallel with waste management initiatives.
- Tax incentives and fiscal subsidies must be directed towards small and medium enterprises compliant with labor and environmental standards vis a vis progressive taxation from the rich to realize redistributive justice.
- Enact comprehensive policy reforms to curb inequitable land distribution, widening inequality traps, and marginalization of the poorest for inclusive development outcomes for all.
- Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence must be regulated and governed, as well as ensuring just and equitable transition to avoid massive job losses, and the deepening digital divide affecting millions of the digitally deprived.
- The UN should undertake more in-depth assessment of new and emerging technologies including digital technology to prevent their adverse impacts on livelihoods, economy, culture, peoples' rights, and climate.

### Environmental Protection (SDGs 7, 11, 13, 14, 15)

- Governments must ensure holistic development programming to address multifaceted triple planetary crises: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
- Sustainable transition to renewable energy solutions like solar, wind and hydroelectric power needs to be prioritized parallel with the elimination of fossil fuels.
- Enhanced approaches for conservation of natural resources and ecosystems such as forests, fisheries and fresh water reservoirs needs to be institutionalized through international best practices as a responsibility to future generations.
- Curb and regulate corporate control and consolidation in the food, agriculture, and nutrition sectors such as land use conversation, use of hazardous pesticides, predatory trade practices, and dumping etc. through stringent competition policies and global oversight under the UN to ensure that environmental degradation is accounted for.
- Recognise the role of small farmers and herders in policies and programs on food security, nutrition, and sustainable ecological agriculture as the foundation of an inclusive STI promoting diverse sources of knowledge and people-led climate action.
- Encourage and promote local innovations, indigenous knowledge systems and endogenous technologies, not reliant on technological options alone.
- Security is a key aspect in disaster management and risk response activities and requires bi and multilateral collaborations to enhance country and sub regional resilience vis a vis broader regional security.
- Global North, mostly responsible for climate change, must commit the most of financial, technical and technological resources, in compliance with the Paris Agreement's Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDRRC) clause, to support Global South countries for mitigation and adaptation measures.

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On behalf of the organizing committee, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants, speakers, sponsors, and partners for their invaluable contributions to the success of this international sustainability summit.

We are deeply appreciative of the insightful discussions, thought-provoking presentations, and collaborative engagements that have enriched our collective understanding of sustainability challenges and opportunities.

Special thanks to our esteemed speakers for sharing their expertise and vision, inspiring us to chart bold pathways toward a more sustainable future.

To all participants, your active participation, enthusiasm, and commitment to driving positive change have been truly inspiring.

As we conclude this summit, let us carry forward the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and collective action to address the urgent sustainability imperatives facing our planet and future generations.

Thank you again, and we look forward to continuing our journey towards a more sustainable and resilient world together.

**Dr. Muhammad Asif Khan** Head, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities Greenwich University As we depart from this Summit, let us carry forward the momentum generated here and redouble our efforts to build a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient world for all. Together, we can turn the vision of sustainability into a reality and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

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PICTORIAL GLIPMSES

International Sustainability Summit





International Sustainability Summit



## Greenwich University Hosts 2-Day International Sustainability Summit with Global Perspectives on Pakistan's Progress

Greenwich University successfully organized a transformative 2-Day International Sustainability Summit, titled "Assessing Pakistan's Progress across Social, Economic, and Environmental Domains." The summit brought together renowned speakers and participants from around the world to engage in insightful discussions on the multifaceted dimensions of sustainability.

Distinguished speakers from Türkiye, Malaysia, USA, Thailand, Mauritius, Australia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka shared their expertise, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of global sustainability challenges and opportunities. The Guests of Honor Mr. James Robert Okoth, Head of Sindh, United Nations, **Dr. James Robert Okoth, Head** of Sindh, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, **Dr. Kenneth M. Holland**, Chief of Party of the USAID Higher Education Project in Pakistan, **H.E Dr. Ahmad Syofian**, Head of Chancery, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, **H.E Mr. Cemal Sangu**, Consul General of Türkiye in Karachi, and the speakers Prof. **Dr. Zul Azhar bin Zahid Jamal**, former Vice Chancellor, University Malaysia Perlis, **Dr. Passanan Assavarak**, Deputy Dean, King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand, **Prof. Dr. Zuraida Mohd Zain**, Associate Professor, University of Malaysia graced the occasion with his presence and insights.

The summit, held at Greenwich University, comprised three thematic sessions focusing on Educational Development, Economic Growth, and Environmental Protection. Each session explored key issues, best practices, and innovative solutions relevant to the respective domains, fostering a holistic approach to sustainability.

The 2-Day International Sustainability Summit attracted a diverse and global audience, with participants hailing from various countries and backgrounds. The engaging discussions and knowledge exchange underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the complex challenges that intersect social, economic, and environmental domains.

We are delighted to have hosted such an impactful summit that brought together thought leaders, experts, and enthusiasts from across the globe. The diverse perspectives shared during the sessions will undoubtedly contribute to shaping a more sustainable and resilient future for Pakistan and beyond," said Ms Seema Mughal, Vice Chancellor, Greenwich University.

Greenwich University extends gratitude to all speakers, participants, and sponsors for their valuable contributions to making this summit a resounding success. The university remains committed to fostering ongoing dialogues and initiatives that drive positive change and sustainable progress.



International Sustainability Summit



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## Summit with Global Perspectives on Pakistan's Progress held







## VISION

Emerge as a premier institution producing thought-leadership committed to catalyze a better future for all.

## MISSION

Nurture the competence and character of future leaders through academic excellence and humane consciousness



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