



International Conference

on

Higher Education in the Arab World: New Priorities in the Post COVID-19 Era

24-25 November 2021

Programme

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Starting time 11:00 Amman time (09:00 GMT)

11:00 – 11:30 **Opening Remarks**

Session I

11:30– 11:45 **Do disruptive Events Favor the Bold or the Old?**

Graham Galbraith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, United Kingdom

11:45 – 12:00 **The Post-COVID Classroom: Lessons from a Pandemic**

Adnan Badran, President, Arab Academy of Sciences and Chancellor, University of Petra, Amman, Jordan

12:00 – 12:15 **How to Prevent a Crisis Becoming a Catastrophe**

Quintin McKellar, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, United Kingdom

12:15 – 12:30 **Diverse Modes of Learning as a Dependency on Access to Resources for Learning**

Simon Askey, Dean of Undergraduate Laws, University of London, London, United Kingdom

12:30 – 13:00 **Discussion of Session I Presentations**

13:00 – 13:30 **Break**

Session II

- 13:30 – 13:45** **Leveraging Research and Innovation as Key Tools for a Post COVID Era: Lessons Learned and Future Plans Moving Forward Towards Resilient Economic Reconstruction**
- Rida Shibli**, Department of Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture Technology, Al-Ahliyya Amman University, Amman, Jordan
- 13:45 – 14:00** **E-Learning Quality Requirements for Post COVID-19 Era in the Arab World**
- Hany Helal**, Professor, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt
- 14:00 – 14:15** **Oral Histories of Teaching During the Pandemic**
- Colin Smith**, Professor, Department of Biology, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
- 14:15 – 14:30** **Opportunities in Disruption: Higher Education Post the COVID-19 Era**
- Abdallah Shanableh**, Professor and Director of Research, Institute of Sciences & Engineering, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 14:30 – 14:45** **Survival of the University Campus in a 21st Century Economy**
- Elie Al-Chaer**, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Physiological Sciences, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
- 14:45 – 15:00** **Reconceptualising Business Education: An Innovative Curriculum Approach**
- Isam Zabalawi**, President, Australian College of Kuwait, Safat, Kuwait
- 15:00 – 15:30** **Discussion of Session II Presentations**

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Session III

- 11:00 – 11:15** **Bridging Academia with Industry and Society**
Malcolm Parry, Visiting member of Staff, University of Surrey,
Surrey, United Kingdom
- 11:15 – 11:30** **Effective Partnerships with Multinational Companies – A
Case Study from Sohar University**
Hamdan Al-Fazari, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Resources), Sohar
University, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman
- 11:30 – 11:45** **Investing in Infrastructure and Digital Resources**
Milad Sebaaly, Managing Director, Global Learning Office, Jal
el Dib, Lebanon
- 11:45 – 12:00** **Revisiting Existing Financial Models**
Simon Neaime, Director, Institute of Financial Economics,
American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
- 12:00 – 12:15** **Libraries as Catalysts for Community Engagement and
Infodemic Management**
Ola El-Zein, Director, Medical Library, American University of
Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
- 12:15 – 12:45** **Discussion of Session III Presentations**
- 12:45 – 13:15** **Break**

Session IV

- 13:15 – 13:30** **The COVID-19 Teaching Experience: The University of Petra as a Case Study**
Marwan Muwalla, President, University of Petra, Amman, Jordan
- 13:30 - 13:45** **Higher Education in Syria Post-War and Pandemic: Challenges and Opportunities**
Wael Mualla, Former President, Damascus University, Damascus, Syria
- 13:45 – 14:00** **Shaping the Future: North African Universities after COVID-19**
Wail Benjelloun, Honorary President, UNIMED-Mediterranean Universities Union, Rome, Italy
- 14:00 – 14:15** **Flagship Project for Accelerating R&D on COVID-19 in Kuwait**
Samira Omar, Principal Research Scientist, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Safat, Kuwait
- 14:15 – 14:30** **Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 4 Post COVID-19 Crisis: The Medical Education Programme at the Syrian Virtual University**
Mayssoon Dashash, Director, Medical Education Programme, Syrian Virtual University, Damascus, Syria
- 14:30 – 15:00** **Discussion of Session IV Presentations**
- 15:00 – 15:30** **Concluding Remarks**