Seminar Programme
The ICEF Middle East Scholarship Summit
18 – 19 Feb, 2024 • Muscat, Oman
Sunday, February 18 (Day 1)

09:30 – 10:00        Official opening

H.E. Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi
Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation of the Sultanate of Oman

10:00 – 11:30        Conference session 1: Regional visions and the opportunities for universities and scholarships

The objective of the session is to introduce a sample of regional visions in a global context and identify the role of scholarships, opportunities for universities and scholarships providers.

Ministerial statements followed by an international perspective, then questions and discussion.

Speakers:

Sultanate of Oman – Vision 2040
Mr. Sarhan Shatayat Suweilem Al Ghannami
VP – Education, Learning, Scientific Research, and National Capabilities Priority

Qatar Vision 2030
H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Bin Saleh Al-Naimi
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Vision 2030
H.E. Dr. Abdulmoneim Al Hayani
Deputy Minister for Higher Education, KSA

UAE Vision
H.E. Dr. Hassan AlMheiri
Assistant Undersecretary for the Planning and Educational Services sector, UAE

Dr. Fanta Aw
Executive Director and CEO, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, USA

David Lock (Moderator)
Education Director, Gulf Conferences, UK
Sunday, February 18 (Day 1)

11:30 – 12:00    Refreshment break

12:00 – 13:30    Conference session 2: Maximising the value of scholarships in a sustainable way

Identifying how success is achieved through scholarships, how their value can be maximised in a sustainable and comprehensive way.

Panel session including case studies and identification of what worked, what didn’t, and lessons learnt.

Panel members:

Craig Hastings
Division Advisor, Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge, UAE

Sarah Kay Wietzke
Director of International Admissions, University of South Florida, USA

Dr. Lily Cho
Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International), Western University, Ontario, Canada

Krista Hestehauge
Global Partnerships Manager, StudentRoomStay

Sarah Crowther (Moderator)
President of Collective Study

13:30 – 15:00    Lunch
Sunday, February 18 (Day 1)

15:00 – 17:00  Conference session 3: Roundtable themed discussions

In-depth discussions around tables of 10–12 on regional opportunities and key strategic issues for universities relating to scholarships. There will be two sittings of each table: 15:00 – 16:00 and 16:00 and 17:00.

**Table themes:**

1. **Oman – Vision 2040**
   Dr. Zaid Zabanoot  
   Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Sultanate of Oman, Washington DC

2. **United Arab Emirates – Centennial plan 2071**
   Michael Armour  
   Program Manager, Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge, UAE

3. **Kuwait – Vision 2035**
   Dr. Khaled Mahdi  
   Undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning, Kuwait

4. **Bahrain – Vision 2030**
   Dr. Raed Mohammed BenShams  
   Advisor for the Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Public Services Development

5. **Qatar – Vision 2030**
   H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Bin Saleh Al-Naimi  
   Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Qatar

6. **Iraq – Vision 2030**
   Dr. Hazeem Baqer Taher  
   Director of Scholarships, Ministry of Education, Iraq

7. **US and International Perspective**
   Dr. Fanta Aw  
   Executive Director and CEO, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, USA

8. **Canada and International Perspective**
   Martin Charron  
   Senior Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Canada, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

9. **UK and International Perspective**
   Dr. Nesma Mostafa  
   Head of MENA Higher Education Insights and Student Mobility, British Council

10. **Rendez-vous en France: Skills & Friends for Life**
    Serge Borias  
    Head of North Africa & Middle East Unit, Campus France

17:00 – 17:30  Refreshment break

17:30 – 18:30  Closing session