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Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh is the Vice-Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University, Karachi. He holds his PhD in Mass Communication from University of Karachi. He has been the Fulbright Scholar/Faculty-Fellow at American University, Washington during 2009-2010. As a Fulbright Scholar, he conducted post-doctoral research on 'Citizens' Right to Information'. He has also attended Fulbright Institute at the College of Journalism and Communication, University of Florida, Gainesville. His academic background is in engineering from Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro in 1985.

Dr. Shaikh has served in various public and private sector positions as the administrator and academician. He has served as Director, SZABIST Center for Information & Research, Karachi, Director-General, Sind Ombudsman Secretariat, Director-General, Sind Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Director-General, Sind Coastal Development Authority and Director-General (Colleges) Sind.

Dr. Shaikh has also served as Assistant Professor and Deputy Provost at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro, as well as, Executive District Officer (Higher Education) in Karachi City District Government. He also held the additional charge of being Chairman, Sind Textbook Board, Jamshoro and Administrator, Sheikh Sultan Trust, Karachi, along with teaching Print Media at the Institute of Business Management, Karachi. Dr. Shaikh has authored several books on subjects related to education and communication. In addition, he has written biographies of leading personalities of South Asian origin.

Panel Discussion Session 7: Role of Higher Education in Economic Revitalization