

**Introduction.** Global rankings have been a stable phenomenon for over 20 years, major global rankings kept their methodology stable and still rely mainly on research and reputation. However, rankings are now under pressure as the world has faced tremendous global challenges. The climate crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian war on Ukraine, all of which impact higher education. University rankings do not exist in a vacuum; to be meaningful, they need to reflect the changes in higher education on a global as well as regional scale. The IREG 2023 Conference will be a forum to discuss rankings response to the above mentioned changes. It will consider rankings ability to identify indicators and data that focus on societal challenges and major global issues. The conference will pay special attention to ambitions of universities of Central Asia striving to improve their place on the global higher education landscape.

### 27 April (Thursday)

- 9.30 – 10.00 OPENING Session
- **Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov**, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Uzbekistan
  - **Waldemar Siwinski**, President of IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, Poland
- 10.00 – 10.20 Special guest
- **Komiljon Karimov**, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Uzbekistan: - A place of University in the Uzbekistan new Strategy (tbc)
- 10.20 – 11.00 Academic keynote address
- **Seeram Ramakrishna**, National University of Singapore, Singapore: Where is science heading? The main challenges before today's scientists.
- 11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee break*
- 11.30 – 12.30 SECOND SESSION
- University and Rankings – A difficult neighborhood?**
- Chair: **Luiz Costa**, Rector, IESB University, Brasil
- Invited speakers:*
- **Alojzy Nowak**, Rector, University of Warsaw, Poland
  - **Mustafa Versan KÖK**, President, Middle East Technical University, Turkey
  - **Hassan Rashid Al-Derham**, President, Qatar University (tbc)
- 13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 – 15.00 THIRD SESSION
- Rankings – competition and social responsibility**
- Chair: **Gero Federkeil**, Vice President of IREG Observatory, Head of U-Multirank, Germany
- Invited speakers:*
- **Anne Spiegel**, German Rectors Conference (HRK), Germany
  - **Representative** of European University Association (tbc)
- 15.00 – 16.30 FOURTH SESSION
- The World of Rankings in difficult times**
- Chair of the session: **Alex Usher**, President, Higher Education Strategy Associates, Canada:
- Invited speakers:*
- **Representative**, Times Higher Education (THE World Rankings)
  - **Ying Cheng**, President & CEO, Shanghai Ranking Consultancy (Shanghai Ranking)
  - **Ben Sowter**, Senior Vice President QS (QS World University Rankings)
  - **Bob Morse**, Chief of Data, US News & World Report (USN Global University Rankings)

16:30 – 16:45 *Coffee break*

16:45 – 17:45 FIFTH SESSION

### **A new Higher Education landscape of Central Asia**

Chair: **Ulugbek Tashkenbayev**, Head of State Inspectorate for Supervision of Quality in Education, Uzbekistan (tbc)

*Invited speakers:*

- **Alisher Shadmanov**, Rector, Tashkent Medical Academy, Uzbekistan (tbc)
- **Mukhambetkali (Mukash) Burkitbayev**, f. First Vice-Rector, Al Farabi University in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **Mamadamon Abdulloev**, Vice-Rector, Tajik National University of Technology in Duzanbe, Tajikistan

19.30 – 22.00 Conference Gala Dinner

### 28 April (Friday)

09.30 – 10.00 Second Day Keynote Speaker

- **Alex Usher**, President, Higher Education Strategy Associates, Canada: - Breakthrough changes in global higher education and a place for modernized rankings

10:00 – 11:00 FIFTH SESSION

### **International university cooperation: impact on research quality and university visibility - how it is done in Europe**

Chair: **Gyorgy Fabri**, ELTE Etvos Lorand University in Budapest, Hungary

*Invited speakers:*

- **Marian Preda**, Rector, University of Bucharest, Romania
- **Representative** of European Commission (tbc)

11.00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 12:45 SIXTH SESSION

### **The role of research in rankings**

Chair: **Habib Fardoun**, Professor at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

*Invited speakers:*

- **Rachel Martin**, Global Director of Sustainability at Elsevier (The Netherlands)
- **Marek Pawelczyk**, Vice Rector, Silesian University of Technology, Poland
- **Isidro Aquillo**, Head of Webometrics

12:45 – 13.00 CLOSING Session

- **Komiljon Karimov**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Uzbekistan
- **Waldemar Siwinski**, President of IREG Observatory, Poland

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 15:00 IREG General Assembly