



Department of Research Development (DRD)

ICAMR 2024 Report

On December 30, 2024, Kardan University hosted the "International Conference on Applied Multidisciplinary Research (ICAMR – 2024) on "Issues and Challenges to Sustainable Development in Afghanistan". The Conference began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by opening remarks of Vice Chancellor Mr. Khawaja Jamshed Seddiqi. He welcomed all esteemed guests, researchers, and participants and thanked them for participating in the Conference. He outlined the Conference's objectives as fostering a platform for academic interaction and pursuing multidisciplinary research to address Afghanistan's pressing economic, social, political, and cultural challenges.

Mr. Khawaja Jamshed Seddiqi highlighted the event's significance, noting the presentation of 49 research papers contributed by national and international scholars. Reflecting on Kardan University's commitment to advancing research, he emphasized the institution's dedication to organizing two conferences annually—one national and one international—each serving as a platform of dialogue and scholarly exchange of thoughts to offer solutions to real-world challenges.

The Chancellor of Kardan University, Dr. Ahmad Khalid Hatam, warmly welcomed the guests and researchers to ICAMR 2024. He provided a comprehensive overview of Kardan University's recent research undertakings and their alignment with the Conference's theme. He discussed key focus areas, including business, mining, technology, and sustainability, which are important for growth and development.

Dr. Ahmad Khalid Hatam emphasized the essential role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in fostering economic development. He addressed challenges in Afghanistan's mining sector, such as inefficiencies in extraction, environmental concerns, and legal ambiguities. He stressed the need for sustainable practices to ensure the sector's long-term viability. On Islamic banking, he noted the delicate nature of its Islamization process and cautioned that improper handling could destabilize the financial system. Additionally, Dr. Hatam discussed research on zakat, which focused on its collection mechanisms in the Hanafi school of thought and the potential for improving its implementation to address societal needs effectively.

Dr. Hatam also discussed research on water management and highlighted research on projects like the Shah wa Arus Dam and the Shahi Irrigation Canal, which are important for the sustainable and efficient use of water resources. Addressing agriculture, he highlighted Afghanistan's dependence on importing food products such as rice and wheat. He stressed the need for modern and innovative practices to achieve high productivity in the sector.

Dr. Hatam concluded his remarks with a reiteration of the importance of academic engagement in raising critical questions, fostering informed dialogue, and providing practical solutions to real-world problems. He expressed confidence that the research presented at the Conference would inspire meaningful action by policymakers and other stakeholders.

Deputy Minister (Academics) Dr. Lutfullah Khairkhwa delivered a thoughtful address as he emphasized the critical role of academia in shaping Afghanistan's future. He commended Kardan University for organizing the Conference and creating a space for intellectual dialogue.

Dr. Khairkhwa stressed the requirements of intellectual infrastructure in the practical implementation of research, highlighted the importance of fostering societal awareness of Afghanistan's challenges and opportunities and emphasized that such conferences play a vital role in building a collective understanding and driving actionable outcomes.

The Conference proceeded with presenting 15 papers in the main conference hall focused on Socio-Economic and Political Sustainability. Topics ranged from the role of SMEs and agricultural self-sufficiency to challenges in water management, renewable energy, mining practices, Islamic banking, and zakat collection mechanisms. Q&A sessions followed each presentation.

In the afternoon, six parallel sessions explored diverse themes:

- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Financial Development and Sustainability-I**
- **Financial Development and Sustainability-II**
- **Innovation and Sustainability**
- **Politics, Society, and Sustainability-I**
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The sessions addressed an array of interdisciplinary topics, which included societal challenges, economic development, and sustainability practices, of which chairs presented and summarized the key findings of the research papers in the main conference hall to all participants.

The Conference concluded with a formal certificate distribution ceremony, and paper presenters and session chairs were honoured for their efforts. Vice Chancellor, Mr. Khawaja Jamshed Seddiqi, delivered closing remarks and expressed gratitude to all contributors who organized the Conference.

The event concluded on a spiritual note with *Dua* by Ustad Hamed Misbah. The ICAMR 2024 by Kardan University was lauded as a significant step in addressing the nation's challenges and fostering collaborative solutions for a sustainable future.



