The dynamics of globalization are challenging universities to rethink fundamentals: how they operate, what they teach and research, whom they serve, where they are located. Historically embedded in local and national contexts, universities are now seeking to respond to globalizing forces. The conference gathers academic leaders from around the world who are creatively positioning their universities to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century and are reinterpreting the nature of higher education in the global age. Panels highlight four dimensions of this topic: the role of universities in fostering intercultural understanding; the demand for expanded capacity in emerging educational markets; the restructuring of universities as transnational networks; and the function of universities as engines of economically sustainable societies.

Higher Education in the Global Age is organized in conjunction with the dedication of the downtown campus of NYU Abu Dhabi, which opens its doors to students in Fall 2010. NYUAD will be a comprehensive, degree-granting, liberal arts and sciences college with select graduate and professional programs and an institute of advanced research. NYUAD is connected to a major research university and a portal campus of NYU, which has taken a leading role in reconceptualizing the university as a global network.
**DAY 1  SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009**

Location: Al Mamoura Auditorium

10:00 am

**CONFERENCE INTRODUCTIONS**

Welcome
Al Bloom, Vice Chancellor, NYU Abu Dhabi
NYU and Abu Dhabi
Mariët Westermann, Provost, NYU Abu Dhabi

Conference Overview
Hilary Ballon, Deputy Vice Chancellor, NYU Abu Dhabi

10:30 am–12:00 pm

**PANEL 1: UNIVERSITIES AS AGENTS OF GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING**

Universities are ecumenical institutions; they draw people with different backgrounds, beliefs and perspectives, and nurture open-minded discussion, tolerance of divergent views, and mutual respect. In this way, universities can build bridges and foster intercultural socialization and global understanding. This panel will consider the challenges, risks, and rewards of university efforts to build community in global contexts, when different social norms and values come into close contact.

Moderator
Al Bloom, Vice Chancellor, NYU Abu Dhabi

Speakers
David J. Francis, UNESCO Chair of African Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Bradford
Claire McGlynn, Lecturer, School of Education, Queen’s University, Belfast
Jehuda Reinharz, President, Brandeis University

12:00–1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00–3:00 pm

**PANEL 2: EMERGING EDUCATIONAL MARKETS**

A new cohort of universities is being built, at a large scale, to advance workforce development and build national capacity, especially in countries such as China with fast-growing populations in emerging educational markets. This session will focus on the challenges of fast-track development of research universities to meet the demand for higher education.

Moderator
Mariët Westermann, Provost, NYU Abu Dhabi

Speakers
Rami M. Ali, Director, Office of International Relations, University of Jordan
Venansius Baryamureeba, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University, Uganda
Yu Lizhong, President, East China Normal University
Rafic Makki, Head of Institutional Partnerships, Abu Dhabi Education Council

**DAY 2  MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009**

Location: Al Mamoura Auditorium

Convenor
Philip Kennedy, Faculty Director, NYU Abu Dhabi Institute

2:00–3:45 pm

**PANEL 3: UNIVERSITIES AS GLOBAL NETWORKS**

Faculty have historically participated in international networks of knowledge transmission, but 21st-century universities are only beginning to imagine themselves as globalized institutions. In addition to drawing students and faculty to a home base, some universities are establishing worldwide presences, with sites in more than one country, among them NYU. This session will address the emergence of universities as multi-nodal global networks.

Moderator
Allan E. Goodman, President & CEO, Institute of International Education

Speakers
Stephanie Fahey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (international), Monash University, Australia
Yves Meny, President, European University Institute, Italy
John Sexton, President, NYU

3:45–4:15 pm

Coffee Break

4:15–6:00 pm

**PANEL 4: UNIVERSITIES AS ENGINES OF SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES**

Universities and research centers are forging increasingly strong relationships with their host cities and regions. They are eroding the boundaries between town and gown, and academia and industry, by serving as incubators of applied technological and scientific ventures, to drive economic development. This session will examine the strategic role of universities and research centers in the development of 21st-century high-tech economies.

Moderator
Hilary Ballon, Deputy Vice Chancellor, NYU Abu Dhabi

Speakers
Tariq Ali, Vice President for Research & Industry Relations, MASCAR Institute of Science and Technology
Robert M. Berdahl, President, American Association of Universities
Hilary Inyang, President, African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, Nigeria
Wilmot James, Democratic Alliance Shadow Minister of Higher Education and Training, South Africa

Closing Remarks
David McLaughlin, Provost, NYU