PSU at CHEA/CIQG 2025 Annual Conference: Global Conversations on AI, Sustainability, and Quality Assurance

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From left to right: Dr. Wadi Alonazi, Dr. Ahmed Al-Yamani, Dr. Cynthia Jackson Hammond, Prof. Mohammed Nurunnabi at the 2025 CHEA Annual Conference

The CHEA 2025 Conference was an unforgettable experience for the Prince Sultan University (PSU) team, marking a significant milestone in PSU's global engagement with quality assurance and accreditation leaders. The event offered a vibrant platform for strategic dialogue, high-impact networking, and the exchange of transformative ideas shaping the future of higher education.

At the conference's opening, the PSU team participated in a special tribute honoring Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Hammond on her retirement, capturing the moment with a commemorative group photo. Although this was the first meeting between Dr. Ahmed Al-Yamani, President of PSU, and Dr. Jackson-Hammond, CHEA's influence on PSU has been longstanding. PSU adheres exclusively to CHEA-recognized accreditations, ensuring all its programs align with internationally respected quality standards.

A highlight of the conference was PSU's featured session, *Shifting Paradigms and Breaking the Mold: Reimagining Accreditation Standards and Roles with AI in the Face of Rapid Educational Change.* Attended by Dr. Jackson-Hammond, members of the CHEA team, and global accreditation experts, the session began with a visionary keynote from Dr. Al-Yamani. He reflected on PSU's founding, established in dedication to the late Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, and inspired by the leadership of King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prince Abdulaziz Bin Ayaaf. Turning to the future, he emphasized the transformative role of artificial intelligence in reshaping accreditation systems and the growing need for responsive, future-ready standards.

Reflecting these forward-looking priorities, Dr. Yamani highlighted several major milestones that underscore PSU's strategic achievements across academic excellence, sustainability, and global engagement:

Sample of Prince Sultan University Achievements:

- Secured over **30 million** SAR in **research grants** from the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- Recognized with more than **40 faculty members** ranked in the top 2% globally, as indexed by Stanford University.

- Achieved **a 90% graduate employability** rate within six months, earning PSU the top employability ranking from the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF).

- Maintains **100% accreditation** of all eligible undergraduate programs across six colleges by national or international agencies and has secured its **third full institutional** accreditation from the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation (NCAAA), valid until 2031.

- **Delivers 20%** of courses through premier global platforms such as McGraw Hill, Pearson, and Cambridge; honored with the 2024 Coursera Global Engagement Award for excellence in digital learning.

- Hosted the Digital University MENA Conference in collaboration with Times Higher Education and regularly hosts high-profile international events, including the **8th Women in Data Science Conference (WIDS)** in partnership with Stanford University (April 2025) and the **3rd International Conference on Sustainability, Development, and Innovation (ICSDI)** (February 2026).

Following the keynote, a distinguished panel explored the intersections of artificial intelligence, accreditation, and educational equity. The panel featured Prof. Rodney Hopson (Interim Dean, School of Education, American University), Prof. Wadi Alonazi (Dean, Deanship of Quality Assurance and Development, PSU), and Prof. Mohammed Nurunnabi (Aide to the President on Internationalization; Director, Center for Sustainability and Climate; Chair, Accounting

Department, PSU). Dr. Tahira Hoke (Aide to the President, Director of the Evaluation and Academic Accreditation Center, and Sustainability Fellow) moderated the session.

Panelists addressed the importance of culturally responsive evaluation in addressing global educational disparities and emphasized that strategic partnerships aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are essential for expanding access, driving innovation, and building inclusive accreditation systems.

The session concluded with a dynamic Q&A segment, where audience members engaged panelists on topics including accreditation reform, sustainability integration, and AI-driven quality assurance. Professors Nurunnabi and Alonazi praised the CHEA 2025 Conference as one of the most impactful they have attended, highlighting its value in fostering international collaboration and strategic visioning.

These discussions laid the groundwork for continued collaboration between PSU and CHEA, reinforcing a shared vision for advancing inclusive, innovative, and sustainable accreditation standards.