"Today, we are entering a stimulating new phase of growth with expanded academic quality and more sophisticated service capability in our teaching hospital. The Faculty of Health Sciences is the university’s oldest and most advanced endeavour. It is appropriate, therefore, that many new accomplishments and initiatives are focused within that faculty. The Rufayda School of Nursing building, and the Hadi Radiology building, have been successfully completed and inaugurated yesterday. Planning is in an advanced stage for new buildings to house the Community Health Sciences, and research programmes. Foundation stones for those buildings were also laid yesterday. A task force has recently validated the operational soundness of the Institute for Educational Development’s programmes and has identified steps for its strengthening. Significant geographic outreach is occurring with the training of students from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Bangladesh, and with the planned establishment of a Professional Development Centre in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.

"The university continues to expand, effectively, in other areas as well. The School of Nursing is involved in planning an Institute of Advanced Nursing Studies to be located in East Africa and to offer post-basic training for nurses. A second potential overseas programme now in planning is the Institute of Islamic Civilisations, under consideration for location in London. This programme, recommended by the Chancellor’s Commission, will focus on the compelling relevance of Islam, as a world religion and a diversity of cultures, in efforts to address global development issues and promote international understanding. The experience of the Aga
Khan Trust for Culture, of establishing highly effective and influential Islamic centres of learning in architecture, in the West itself, at Harvard and MIT, has demonstrated that a powerful 'multiplier effect' can be achieved by catalysing the skills of East with West and speaking together on issues of critical development importance to the Islamic world."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 1996 Aga Khan University Convocation Ceremony address (Karachi, Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/5197/

"[S]teps are under-way towards the establishment of a major new dimension of AKU that will extend its expression as a university. In keeping with the recommendations of the Chancellor's Commission, the university has launched a feasibility study for the establishment of a College of Arts and Sciences in Karachi. In its initial phase, the new College will start at the undergraduate level and then progress to postgraduate studies. The undergraduate programme will follow the 'liberal arts' model, and aims to develop the skills of critical thinking and analysis, a high order of proficiency in verbal and written communication, and the mastery of a particular academic discipline. An emphasis on ethics, especially of Muslim societies, and on community service, will infuse all of its programmes. The latest information and communication technologies will support the educational programme, and their mastery will be one of its required outcomes....

"I am pleased to announce that the Government of Sindh and Aga Khan University have agreed on the purchase [of a?] 400-acre site for the College of Arts and Sciences on concessional terms. The new campus will be located at Deh Chohan on the link road between Super Highway opposite Sindh Madrassa. I am grateful for this concrete sign of support from the Government. As a reflection of the importance I attach to the development of this new expression of Aga Khan University, I would like to announce a donation of $20 million to launch its funding."
Another recent development relates to AKU’s mission to reach out from its base in Karachi and become directly engaged in addressing problems at the local and regional levels. When Aga Khan University was first conceived, the Harvard University-led feasibility study recommended that AKU should begin its service to its constituencies by being a problem-oriented university. It should focus on the critical national demands for the delivery of social services to the country's population, and especially to the most isolated and impoverished communities of Pakistan....

"Two days ago I had the pleasure of inaugurating a new Professional Development Centre in Gilgit designed to improve the quality of primary and secondary schools in the Northern Areas. The idea of establishing it originated in the realisation that students from schools there performed well below national averages year after year. This was true even for the better students from the better schools in the region, meaning that it was virtually impossible for students to secure places in the country’s leading universities and professional schools on the basis of merit. To break this cycle, the only solution was to find a way to upgrade the quality of the schools across the region....

"I would like to add a few additional comments about the two new initiatives outside of Pakistan mentioned by Rector Vellani. The Advanced Nursing Programme, developed in response to the invitation of three governments in East Africa -- Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda -- is the University's first academic programme abroad. It is significant that it is an example of South-South, technical assistance, with a Pakistani institution providing assistance to other developing countries. I congratulate the School of Nursing for the progress that has been achieved on this new venture. I also salute the School for successfully completing twenty years of service to improving the delivery of health care and the development of women professionals in Pakistan.

"The Institute of Islamic Civilisations in London will give expression to our University’s Islamic character, in an international context. Its programmes are quite distinctive. IIC will create an index of published works on Islamic civilisations in various languages, write
abstracts and translate them into the major scholarly languages, and distribute the abstracts globally on the World Wide Web. This unique facility, which would enable many experts around the world to access each other's work for the first time. The second activity involves the engagement of scholars and thinkers in thematic research on issues that affect contemporary societies that have escaped systematic attention in Muslim environments. Participants trained in both traditional and contemporary intellectual traditions, would take part in a given project through periods of residence at IIC and over the Internet, and results will be made available on the World Wide Web.

"An education programme on Islamic civilisations would be the third area of activity. It would develop materials and curricula for the various units of AKU, other institutions in Aga Khan Development Network, and a broad range of institutions from schools to higher education, in Muslim and other societies. IIC would also organise short courses and seminars around themes, or for specialised groups such as diplomats, journalists, and businessmen. A more formal post graduate programme designed to engender a critical humanistic approach to the study of Islamic civilisations will follow.

"Reflecting on this long list of new and impending developments yields several conclusions. The first is that AKU has become a genuinely national institution. It is engaged in addressing national needs by developing high quality human resources in the fields of health and education, engaging in problem oriented research, working with government on policy issues, and reaching out to become directly involved in upgrading the delivery of critical social services at the local and regional levels. The second is that, with the decision to establish the College of Arts and Sciences, AKU will take the major step of moving beyond professional education toward becoming a comprehensive university in its classical form. The third is that the establishment of the Advanced Nursing Programme in East Africa, and of the Institute of Islamic Civilisations in London, give life to the University as a Pakistani institution with an international mandate, reaching out as an expression of Pakistan into the international community."
"The question before this institution at this moment in time is to ensure that it can maintain quality and integrity as it takes on many new activities. What are the specific parameters which should concern us? We cannot take the time this afternoon to formulate all of them, but I would suggest a few as a basis for further consideration:

"The quality of the university's graduates and their contributions towards improving social services in Pakistan.

"The institution's performance in reaching isolated and impoverished communities with quality professional services.

"The fulfilment of the School of Nursing's special role to produce graduates who are sophisticated women professionals making a direct impact in their field, but also acting as role models for women in Pakistani society more generally.

"A research programme that is beginning to push the boundaries of knowledge, particularly with respect to human development needs in Pakistan and the developing world.

"The university ensures three important attributes, or goals, are in constant view as it reviews existing programmes and adds new ones: quality, relevance and impact."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2000 Aga Khan University Convocation Ceremony address (Karachi, Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/5820/

"AKU has made a good beginning in East Africa. In collaboration with Aga Khan Hospitals and Health Services, the School of Nursing has established Advanced Nursing Programs, as the President has indicated, in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with the encouragement of their governments. I should emphasise to you that this is the first time in history of medical education in Eastern Africa that a private sector network of institutions is offering medical degrees to the peoples of Eastern Africa. Postgraduate medical education for
physicians, assisted by our medical College, will soon follow in these countries.

"In the field of education, AKU will soon establish in East Africa a new Institute for Educational Development with its model, tested for a decade in Pakistan, of Professional Development Centres for teacher-improvement and curriculum-development. They will work both with national schools and with the first Aga Khan Schools of Excellence, private boarding schools of international quality that are now being established in East Africa. The objective of these schools is to enable means-blind, merit-based access to educational and extracurricular facilities of the highest international standards with multilingual curricula based on the International Baccalaureate programme. There will, In'sha'Allah, eventually be up to 21 such Schools of Excellence in numerous countries in Africa and Central Asia and South Asia. Students and faculty will be encouraged to live and learn from all that this multinational network of schools can offer, circulating extensively within it. New generations of teachers and graduates with multilingual competencies and a new understanding of human pluralism should emerge. Some of these men and women will return to educate at AKU’s IED here in Pakistan, the future one to be created in East Africa and to teach at the Professional Development Centres. Hopefully this will result in a significant enhancement of the professional standing and strength of teachers in Asia and Africa. In due course, it is possible to imagine a full, comprehensive AKU campus in East Africa with strengths in educational development, health sciences education, and public policy.

"The university is also now working in Afghanistan, where the School of Nursing is helping increase the capacities of the Intermediate Medical Education Institutes of which there are six; in Syria, where we see the beginnings of productive work with the Ministry of Education; and in Central Asia with the University of Central Asia recently established by an international treaty between the Ismaili Imamat and the governments of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan....

"My third aspiration is that AKU now fulfil its mission to become a
comprehensive university and a centre of liberal study of Muslim civilisations. Muslim scholars in South and Central Asia, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa are researching, publishing and discussing far too few books on Muslim history, architecture, city planning, art, philosophy, economics and languages and literatures. There is too little public sustenance for, and debate about, contemporary Muslim architecture and literature -- and relatively little of the literary, cinematic and music talent from Turkey, Egypt and Iran that is now beginning to be recognised. The consequences are an intelligentsia -- and a younger, successor generation -- that is intellectually unchallenged and culturally undernourished, and a one-way flow of scholarship and popular culture from the West, which, in turn, receives all too little that is creative and interpretative, scholarly and artistic, from the Muslim world.

"In the coming decade, I believe AKU can help, less to fill a void than to become a magnet and a concentration for Muslim scholars who are vividly engaged in a broad range of humanistic studies. AKU’s Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, in London, is making a beginning. It is assembling scholars from around the Arabic, Farsi and Urdu-speaking parts of the Muslim world in the fields of philosophy, history and other disciplines. Through public seminars and research monographs on a variety of topics -- ethics, ecology, historiography, scholarly traditions, and dimensions of Muslim identity -- they will develop and test the curriculum of an MA in Muslim Civilisations that will be of value to the liberal professions including diplomats, teachers, business people, publishers and journalists, civil servants and NGO professionals.

"The hub of this scholarly venture will be the AKU’s new Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which will be well under way in the present decade. The Faculty will establish a residential campus on 600 acres of land that the university has purchased to the north east of Karachi. In its first phase it will have 1400-1500 undergraduates and some 100 post-graduate students. Undergraduates will experience rigorous (aside to the faculty) -- I hope you are listening - - rigorous pedagogy, in English, and receive education in the sciences, economics and information technology. But they will also with equal rigour, be expected to master a broad core curriculum
that engages them in world history, in the study of one or more Asian languages and in the strong foundation courses on the elements of Muslim civilisations, on South Asian history and culture, and on the history of the Persian speaking world. They will also (aside to the faculty) -- and I hope you are still listening -- perform summer service and research projects in rural and urban areas of their own societies.

"Such interdisciplinary programs as Human Development, Government, Law and Public Policy, Human Settlements and Architecture will function at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and will prefigure eventual professional schools. Graduates of these programs will be qualified for further study, or employment, anywhere in the world or in Pakistan. The objective of the new undergraduate Faculty, however, is to equip young men and women from within and outside the Ummah, with the skills, ethical commitment and leadership qualities for their future careers wherever they choose. My great hope and prayer is that, in time to come, the Aga Khan University will be only one of hundreds of universities in the Muslim world that are on the frontiers of scientific and humanistic knowledge, radiating intelligence and confidence, research and graduates, into flourishing economies and progressive legal and political systems.

"These aspirations I hold for the Aga Khan University but I also hold them for our new graduates."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2003 Aga Khan University Convocation Ceremony address (Karachi, Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/6830/

"It is in that spirit that I am pleased to announce the Aga Khan University's decision to build a major new campus in East Africa -- and to locate that campus in Arusha.

"This project is, I believe, the first major private sector investment in the East African Community since the formal joining of Rwanda and
Burundi. It is the biggest expansion step for the Aga Khan University since it opened in Pakistan almost 25 years ago. This new campus will be built over a period of fifteen years with a total investment of some 450 million dollars. It will include a new Faculty of Arts and Sciences and several graduate professional schools. It will be committed to teaching and research of world-class standards.

"Building a university is a very exciting process. But it is no small undertaking! It requires enormous resources of time, talent and treasure. Above all, it requires a sustained long-term commitment. It is not a sprint; it is a marathon. But we undertake this effort with some confidence, bolstered by evidence of past success. We are pleased, for example, that the Aga Khan University has been ranked as the best university in Pakistan and that its medical graduates score in the top 10% on licensing exams in the United States."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2007 State Banquet address (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/8225/

"AKU's expanding presence now includes teaching sites in eight countries, three of them in East Africa, working primarily in the fields of medicine, nursing and education. The East African sites now enrol fully one-third of all AKU students.

"This brings me to a central point of these remarks, which is to announce another major step forward for the University. Building on the success of its existing programmes, the Aga Khan University is planning to establish a new Faculty of Health Sciences here in Nairobi. To my knowledge, this will be the first private sector university in Eastern Africa to create a full-fledged Faculty of Health Sciences offering under-graduate and post-graduate degrees in Medicine, Nursing and the allied health sciences.

"The central challenge of this new faculty will be to address the crucial health care priorities of the East African population -- and indeed all of sub-Saharan Africa -- from Sudan to Mozambique, from
the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic.

"The new Faculty of Health Sciences will educate future generations of professional leaders in the evidence-based practice of medicine. Emphasising both teaching and research, it will be accompanied by a major expansion of the Aga Khan University Hospital here, including a new Heart and Cancer Centre, which is scheduled to begin construction this year.

"What we envision here in the coming years is an institution of some 1,000 students and 175 faculty members, admitting students on a merit basis. Our new facilities, including a teaching hospital of 500 beds, will eventually occupy some 80,000 square meters. The total investment over the next fifteen years will be about 250 million dollars. When the project is complete, the Aga Khan University in Kenya alone will employ over 4,000 people."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2007 Faculty of Health Sciences of the Aga Khan University Inauguration Ceremony address (Nairobi, Kenya)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/8189/

"Today's inauguration of the Heart and Cancer Centre follows in this long tradition -- and points the way to broader, future horizons. We are planning for the day when this Faculty will include undergraduate education in medicine, nursing and allied health professions, as well as post-graduate nursing and medical studies -- and a 600-bed hospital. We plan to award bachelors and masters degrees in medicine, surgery and nursing, and, in due course, to offer Ph.D. degrees as well.

"Meanwhile, beyond the medical field, the Aga Khan University is planning bold steps in other directions, including a new campus in Arusha to house a Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the expansion of our Institute for Educational Development in Dar-es Salaam. Later this week, we will hold the Foundation Ceremony here in Nairobi for a new Graduate School of Media and Communications. And we envision other new Graduate Schools as well -- in fields such as
"I take up this topic today in my role as Chancellor of the Aga Khan University -- an institution which is now 25 years old and based in eight countries, including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United Kingdom, Syria and Egypt. This University, which originally focused on health sciences and education, is now pursuing a widening array of subjects.

"I am pleased to tell you that The Aga Khan University is planning to establish a new Graduate School of Media and Communications, based in East Africa and dedicated to advancing the excellence of media performance and the strengthening of ethical media practices throughout the developing world. The School will be driven, above all, by an absolute commitment to quality.

"It will have several components. It will offer a Masters Degree programme, serving recent university graduates as well as media owners, managers, and mid-career journalists. It will also offer continuing education classes -- short courses designed to enhance media skills and to nurture media values. It will establish a special programme in media management -- one of the first in the developing world -- devoted to enhancing more robust media institutions. Journalistic independence, after all, depends on financial independence. In addition, the new School will create a Forum on the Media Future, a place for conducting and disseminating cutting edge research that will help shape public communication in the decades ahead. In all of these efforts, the School will be driven by an active public service agenda providing a resource for the media community throughout Africa and in places beyond...."
"A new campus hosting this programme will be developed in Nairobi over the coming year. It will work closely, of course, not only with the Nation Media Group -- but also with other local, continental and international media organisations.

"Over the longer term, the Graduate School of Media and Communication will ally itself with another new project of the Aga Khan University: a Faculty of Arts and Sciences, to be created over the coming years in Arusha. In a world of growing complexity, journalists must increasingly understand the substantive, sophisticated dimensions of the fields on which they report from medical and environmental sciences, to economic and financial disciplines, to legal and constitutional matters. And a new generation of African media entrepreneurs could well be born from programs which blend economic and media disciplines."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2010 Address to the Conference Marking Nation Media Group's 50th Anniversary, 'Media and the African Promise' (Nairobi, Kenya)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/9372/

See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on knowledge for people in mountainous regions

See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on why the Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications will be unique
See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 1/5: Rational, vision and hopes


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See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 2/5: The School of Nursing


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See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 3/5: Institute for Educational Development


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See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 4/5: Research


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