The summit focused on four areas -- food security, women's entrepreneurship, and teacher's training and natural disaster management -- for discussion.

"Higher education has no alternatives. The US, therefore, internationally develops programmes and facilitates individuals and institutions for better education and research," Thomas Farrell said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of the summit.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, who moderated a session on 'Building Innovative Higher Education Partnerships', said the summit discussed elaborately on the ways the universities in Asia and the US can strengthen partnerships.

These partnerships can surely be with the private sectors, including the national and multinational corporations, he said, adding that representatives of Microsoft, Intel, Aga Khan Foundation have already extended their support to the tertiary education.

"The academics of various countries are sharing their experiences. This is a great scope for partnership," he said, adding that the summit will surely open new avenues of stronger collaboration.

A participant suggested preparing a directory of the universities in Asia and the US to facilitate sharing of the best practices that contribute to the excellence in education.

BRAC Executive Director Mahabub Hossain at a session on food security said developing high yielding varieties of crops is a challenge in the agriculture sector, as arable land is declining in countries like Bangladesh.

However, generating more employments with better pay for poor people to ensure food security is a greater challenge in Bangladesh, he added.

All in all, the summit ended on a successful note with proposals for associating higher education more to the growing challenges in today's world. The successful implementation of these plans is expected to pave the way for a better and more peaceful future.

