Reflections on COMSATS Working Paper and programs

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COMSATS MANDATE and MISSIONS

• Mobilizing political and business leadership in support of S&T for development
  • Articulating S&T relevance to society if it’s to earn its keep in our societies.
    • Demonstrating S&T direct benefit to the lives of people and to world’s stock of knowledge.
  • Helping policymakers to understand the role of S&T and take informed action in situations of uncertainty
    • Promoting policy dialogues and moving from policy to action
    • Developing and communicating messages for policy makers and private sector & community leaders
    • Identifying, engaging and mobilizing “champions” to promote increased awareness and buy-in

• Better defining COMSATS concept of “Center of Excellence”:
  • Lifting the capacity of member institutions in order to provide cutting-edge science, training, professional development and exchange programs.
  • Developing and joining networks of peers, mentors and experts in a focus area that serve as effective leaders in the public and private sectors around the world.
  Competency center, capability center, network of institutions ???.
COMSATS MANDATE and MISSIONS

• Better articulating COMSATS value adding role:
  • providing member countries with targeted services in support to their national economic development agendas (which focus generally on inclusion, sustainable development, job creation, governance and global partnerships).

• Bridging SCIENCE-EDUCATION-SOCIETY gaps:
  • COMSATS bears a social responsibility to connect science with the public
  • Building and popularizing science culture at grass root level, through a compelling program, because S&T (and COMSATS’s) greatest advocates will be the people. They need to see it as an essential tool for them to move the government agenda towards their needs.
COMSATS’ VISIBILITY & OUTREACH

• Boosting communication and knowledge management:
  • Helping institutions to increase publications and research outputs
  • Helping scientists to better communicate their work and what they can achieve

• Expanding COMSTAS outreach within countries and regions
  • increasing connectivity within and between Members institutional frameworks.
    • Centers of Excellence to serve as institutional node/hub in country and within geographical region according to areas of competence
  • CIIT’s to develop outreach program and regional hubs
  • Incentives for increased pro-activity and participation

• Reaching out the diaspora scientific community
COMSATS PRIORITY AREAS and PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

• Broadening ITRG Priorities areas to:
  • cover issues that are be of particular importance to country members,
  • develop programs that would contribute to common evidence-based solutions to growing common threats
  • include more technology deployment components targeting grass-root and entrepreuners.

• **ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE & HEALTH.** Dealing with:
  • GLOBAL DISEASES: focus on Virus-based pandemics such EBOLA, on Malaria (Africa’s single greatest killer), and on emerging risks related to cancer, diabetes, obesity.
    • Development of scientific expertise needed to assess risks, understand and prepare for future pandemics
  • AGRIC-CLIMATE-NUTRITION-HEALTH CONTINUM. Tracking health status indicators, long-term benefits of improved nutrition, etc.

• **ECONOMIC & SOCIAL sciences** –economics (trade, markets infrastructures), sociology (social protection, migration, cross boundary conflicts, gender empowerment), history, etc.

• **TRANSPORT & MANUFACTURING**
  • Facilitating stronger partnerships between research and industry
  • Reaching out SMEs that work in areas including component manufacturing, food processing and engineering services.
COMSATS PRIORITY AREAS and PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

• Addressing the growing disconnect and disparities between Science and Education
  • Giving preeminence to women education (essential to mainstreaming science), getting more youth in science
  • Helping lagging countries to improve their standards of education: developing policies, strategies and road maps (through cross fertilization) to
    • improve the quality science education, qualification of teachers and quality of teaching,
    • raise the profile of SCIENCES in the educational system (from primary level to university); with a focus on MATHs & PHYSICS,
    • address the continuous disconnect between the educational system and youth employment.

• Addressing the critical element issue of recognition and rewards
  • Current university system based impact papers and citations is good but not sufficient for driving outcomes necessary for sustainable development.
  • Need to reflect on a system more suitable to the need of developing countries.