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 compeling 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:
 - <u>GLOBAL DISEASES</u>: focus on Virus-based pandemics such <u>EBOLA</u>, on <u>Malaria</u> (Africa's single greatest killer), and on emerging risks related to <u>cancer</u>, <u>diabetes</u>, <u>obesity</u>.
 - Development of scientific expertise needed to assess risks, understand and prepare for future pandemics
 - <u>AGRIC-CLIMATE-NUTRITION-HEALTH CONTINIUM.</u> 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.