

COMSATS



**Commission on Science and Technology for
Sustainable Development in the South
(COMSATS)**

Centres of Excellence



BCSIR-Bangladesh



Embrapa Agrobiologia-Brazil



ICCES-China



TIB-China



CIF-Colombia



NRC-Egypt



CSIR-Ghana



IROST-Iran



ICENS-Jamaica



RSS-Jordan



KazNU-Kazakhstan



NMC-Nigeria



ICCBS-Pakistan



CIIT-Pakistan



AQU-Palestine



UCAD-Senegal



ITI-Sri Lanka



IRCC-Sudan



HIAST-Syria



TIRDO-Tanzania



CERTE-Tunisia

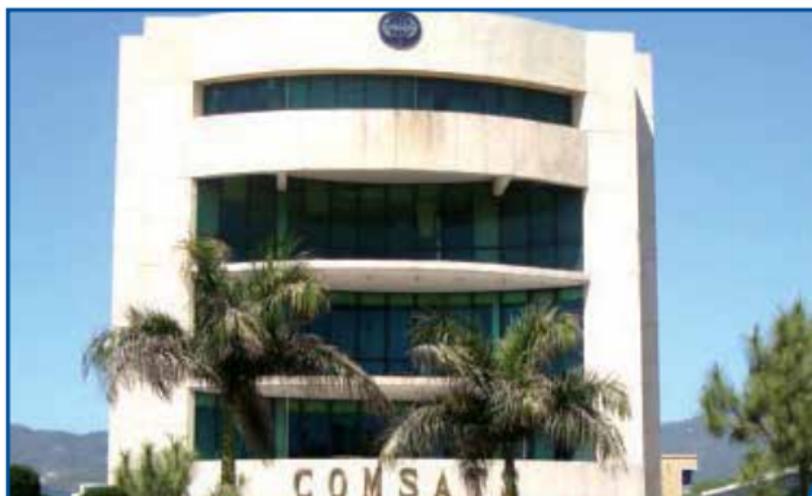


TÜBITAK MAM-Turkey



Introduction

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is an international intergovernmental organization of the developing countries with a mandate to help them jointly meet their developmental challenges through right application of S&T. An inter-governmental organization based in Islamabad, Pakistan, COMSATS came into being in 1994, as a result of a consensus reached by the nations participating in the organization's Foundation Meeting. At present, COMSATS has 26 Member States and a Network of 22 Science and Technology Centers of Excellence that facilitates pursuit of its mission of South-South cooperation.



COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan



The organization's top-most forum is its Commission that comprises Heads of the Member States that meet at the General Meetings. The statutory bodies of COMSATS are the ministerial-level Consultative Committee, a Coordinating Council comprising the heads of S&T Centers of Excellence, and a Technical Advisory Committee comprising of experts from the North and the South. The Coordinating Council along with the TAC and the Secretariat are the organs of COMSATS' Network.



Officials of COMSATS Secretariat with Minister for S&T, Pakistan

Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana, is the current Chairperson of COMSATS while Ms. Yasmin Masood, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Consultative Committee. In addition, Prof. Ashraf H. Shaalan,



President of National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt, chairs the Coordinating Council. The Secretariat is currently being headed by the Executive Director, Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi.

The organization's secretariat is permanently located in Islamabad and is being run through generous annual grant by the Government of Pakistan.



Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
Chairperson COMSATS



Ms. Yasmin Masood
Chairperson
Consultative Committee



Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi
Executive Director
COMSATS



Prof. Ashraf Shaalan
Chairperson
Coordinating Council



Mission

COMSATS considers the promotion of science and technology of vital import to all development plans.

The mission of COMSATS is 'to help create a world where all nations are at peace with one another and capable of providing a good quality of life to their populations in a sustainable way, using modern scientific and technological resources.'



Glimpses of some of the events organized by COMSATS



Programmes

COMSATS tries to create a necessary pool of human resources and facilitation for scientific infrastructure building for undertaking a variety of capacity-building programmes, bilateral and multilateral cooperative research, and consultancy/advocacy.

The size and scope of the programmes and projects of COMSATS vary from regional to national to international levels. The South-South and North-South cooperation programmes of COMSATS are in various cross-cutting themes, including information and communication technologies (ICTs), environmental sciences, nanotechnology, biotechnology, renewable energy technologies, internet security, mathematical modelling, telemedicine, repair and maintenance of scientific instruments, etc. The key programmes and projects of COMSATS are as follows:

► **International Thematic Research Groups (ITRGs):** COMSATS'

ITRGs are undertaking joint research projects in various fields of science and technology, in order to jointly address common issues and challenges impeding socio-economic development of the Member States. These



Prof. Lin Zhaohui,
Director ICCES, Chairing Meeting
of ITRG on Climate Change



Foundation Meeting of ITRG on Renewable Energy, Zahedan, Iran

groups comprise of research scientists belonging to COMSATS' Member States and other developing countries. The six ITRGs have the following themes: (i) Information and Communication Technologies (led by CIIT-Pakistan); (ii) Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology (led by IRCC and University of Khartoum, Sudan); (iii) Natural Products Sciences (led by ICCBS-Pakistan); (iv) Climate Change and Environmental Protection (led by ICCES-China); (v) Mathematical Modeling (led by NMC-Nigeria); and (vi) Renewable Energy (led by IROST-Iran). Apart from serving as a platform for joint research projects, COMSATS' ITRG programme facilitates exchange of experts and sharing of laboratory resources among the member institutions. Moreover, opportunities of short-term trainings are provided to the group members in order to build their capacity in the target area and enable them to perform their research component



more effectively. The travel expenses during ITRG meetings, expert-exchanges, and short-term trainings, of the group members are covered by COMSATS, while the host institutions provide facilities for boarding and lodging.

- ▶ **National/International Events:** COMSATS organizes/co-organizes and sponsors capacity-building S&T events in various themes that are of direct relevance to the socio-economic needs of its Member States. These events are organized in collaboration with various international partner organizations and Centers of Excellence.
- ▶ **Postgraduate Scholarships:** COMSATS offers a number of scholarships that include a standing offer of a 100 scholarships at CIIT to students from COMSATS' member countries. Among the



Participants of the International Workshop on Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards, Kazakhstan



recipients of these scholarships have been students from Bangladesh, Gambia, Ghana, Jordan, Nigeria, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and Tanzania.

- ▶ **Post-doctoral Fellowships:** To promote academic excellence of its member states, scientists from developing countries are offered fellowships to work at the Centers of Excellence for short-term academic activity in science and technology. Apart from CIIT-Pakistan, these fellowships are offered by IROST-Iran, ICCBS-Pakistan, NRC-Egypt, ICCES-China, and BCSIR-Bangladesh.
- ▶ **Short-term Training Programmes:** With a view to build capacity of scientific institutions of member states, scientists and technicians are provided short-



Training session of the Workshop on Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Equipment, Almaty, Kazakhstan



term hands-on trainings at relevant Centres of Excellence. The travel cost is borne by COMSATS, while the host institutions provide facilities for boarding and lodging.

► **Distinguished Professorship Scheme:** COMSATS'

Distinguished Professorship Scheme aims to build capacity of R&D organizations and universities of Member States

through lectures delivered by renowned scientists and professors. In this regard, the travel cost of the visiting professor is borne by COMSATS, while the host institutions provide facilities for boarding and lodging.



Technical Session of the International Workshop on Internet Security, Morocco

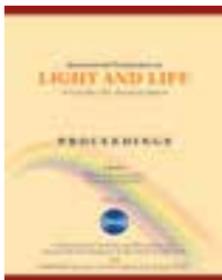
► **Incentivizing Research and Development:**

COMSATS has been a sponsor of Khwarizmi International Award of IROST, Iran, since 1997.

- **Web-portals:** COMSATS has been developing and maintaining web-portals for its partner organizations. For example, the Islamic World Science Net (www.icpsr.org.ma) was developed in 2007 and maintained for Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) till 2016. In addition to that, COMSATS also developed 'Industrial Information Network (IIN)' for UNIDO.



- ▶ **Publications:** COMSATS' scientific journal called "Science Vision" contains research and review articles which focus on the impact of science and technology on sustainable socio-economic development. Another important set of publications brought out from time to time by COMSATS Secretariat is the "COMSATS' Series of Publications on Science and Technology". COMSATS' national and international events focus on promoting science and technology, highlight policy, and emphasize efficacious practices. These are included in the aforementioned series. Apart from these, COMSATS regularly publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, which, inter alia, contains information on the activities of COMSATS Secretariat, COMSATS' Member States, and Centers of Excellence. COMSATS also brings out joint publications with its partner organizations, such as COMSATS-TWAS 'Excellence in Science'.



Some recent publications of COMSATS



Flagship Projects

Some of COMSATS' success stories, rooted strongly in its strength of scientific capacity building, ICTs and building scientific human capital as an engine of economic growth, are as below:

COMSATS Internet Services (CIS): Started

in 1996, CIS is the pioneer Internet Service Provider (ISP) of Pakistan.

Currently, it is providing services to major cities of the country.

CIS is a diversified ISP that offers Internet as well as data and cloud computing services

to corporations, government and academic institutions. They also work

for general welfare by providing tele-health services for rural and remote areas in

Pakistan. CIS' tele-health services are operational through



CIS Technology Park



President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir visiting the facilities at COMSATS Technology Park with ED COMSATS



a network of 13 Tele-Health clinics across Pakistan. Moreover, new grounds are being broken for expanding cooperation at provincial and federal government levels (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir). Three new clinics have been established in KP under a cooperation agreement with KP IT Board.

(www.comsats.net.pk)

COMSATS Institute of Information Technology

(CIIT): CIIT was established in 1998 as a flagship project and acquired the degree-awarding status from the Government of Pakistan within two years. The institution that had started from a very small facility has phenomenally grown over the years to now have impressive campuses in seven cities, and student faculty strength. It is now among the top five academic institutions of Pakistan.



CIIT Islamabad Campus

(www.comsats.edu.pk)



CIIT holds its centennial Convocation



COMSATS eHealth: COMSATS eHealth Programme that was started as a pilot project in 2001 near Islamabad was later expanded to the more remote areas in Pakistan. Initial collaborations in the field included a project titled “ICTs for Rural Development in the Mountainous and Remote Areas of Pakistan” (ICT4D) was carried out with the International Development Research Centre (Canada). Subsequently, patients at the tele-health clinics established in Skardu and Zhob were provided specialist medical consultations in Dermatology, General Medicine and Gastroenterology, with the help of audio-visual and peripheral tools, and customized software. Another project under the banner of COMSATS Internet Services with the support of COMSATS Secretariat is currently providing outpatient facilities and capacity-building of health professionals to 13 telehealth clinics located all over Pakistan. (www.ehealthcomsats.com)

These and other projects of COMSATS are open to Member States for emulation. COMSATS has an open offer of training and consultancy to those Member States who are interested in similar institution-building.



eHealth Facility at Remote Centre



International Cooperation

COMSATS also provides an institutional platform for South-South and North-South technical cooperation in areas of mutual interest, such as Education, Information Technology, Environment, Energy, and Health.

COMSATS actively facilitates exchange of expertise and technology among its Member States. In that direction, it is currently implementing various programmes and projects in collaboration with its Member States as well as some international organizations/agencies. For implementing its South-South and North-South Cooperation programmes, COMSATS has developed working relations with the following international organizations:

- ▶ Abdu Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (AS-ICTP);
- ▶ American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS);
- ▶ Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre);
- ▶ Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS);
- ▶ European Commission (EC);
- ▶ International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB);
- ▶ International Development Research Centre (IDRC);
- ▶ Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO);
- ▶ OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and



- Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH);
- ▶ Oman National Computer Emergency Readiness Team (OCERT);
 - ▶ Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF);
 - ▶ The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS);
 - ▶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
 - ▶ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP);
 - ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
 - ▶ United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

COMSATS' ongoing quest for cooperative action has resulted in sixty (60) agreements with various partners.



Officials of COMSATS Secretariat with Minister for S&T, Pakistan



Under its new vision for future, COMSATS has stepped up its contacts with regional and international organizations. As a part of this exercise in 2017 COMSATS established its institutional arrangement with a regional development arm of the United Nations, UN Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The MoU signed with UNESCAP pertain to cooperation, inter alia, on joint research, events, capacity building, and STI Network of Centres of Excellence. The two Commissions are working to support member countries' efforts to exploit the potential of STI for sustainable development. Based on the decision that the two commissions would invite one another to attend their fora/meetings as observers, COMSATS was invited to attend 74th session of UNESCAP.



MoU Signing between UNESCAP and COMSATS

Member States



Bangladesh



China



Colombia



Egypt



The Gambia



Ghana



Iran



Jamaica



Jordan



Kazakhstan



Korea, D.P.R.



Morocco



Nigeria



Pakistan



Palestine



Philippines



Senegal



Somalia



Sri Lanka



Sudan



Syria



Tanzania



Tunisia



Turkey



Uganda



Zimbabwe



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