

**Communiqué of the
16th Coordinating Council Meeting of COMSATS
(2 – 3 May, 2013, Accra, Ghana)**

The Members of the Coordinating Council of COMSATS participating in the 16th meeting of the Council organized by the COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Ghana, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), after having deliberated upon the issues of common interest on 2nd and 3rd of May 2013 in Accra, wish to express their unanimous views as under:

1. The arrangements made for the 16th Council meeting and the hospitality extended to the Council Members by CSIR and its parent department, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) are highly appreciated.
2. Thanks are due to the Government of Ghana for patronizing COMSATS through the office of the Chairperson of COMSATS, the honourable President of Ghana, H.E. Dr. John Dramani Mahama.
3. The leadership provided by Professor Dr. Eduardo Posada F., as the Chairperson of the Council during the period (2010 – 2013) has been outstanding. His re-election for the same position for a second tenure of 3 years is warmly welcomed.
4. The Council welcomes the induction of a new Centre of Excellence in the Network; namely, the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) of Sri Lanka. The continuing expansion of the Network is indication of the success of S&T cooperation mechanism through interactivity among the leaders of R&D organizations, afforded through Council meetings.
5. The efforts of COMSATS Secretariat to meticulously prepare necessary documentation for the Council meeting and effectively engage Council members as well as the host Institution in order to ensure successful organization of the meeting are noted with appreciation.
6. The scope of scientific R&D being undertaken by various Institutes under CSIR is very encouraging. Considering that the CoE in Ghana has been re-designated since 2011, it is strongly recommended that apart from Building Road Research Institute (BRRI), other Institutes under CSIR should be encouraged to get into cooperative R&D activities with Members of the Network of CoEs.

7. The COMSATS' Centres of Excellence are undertaking R&D work in different disciplines of S&T according to their mandates and the national priorities of respective Member States. However, the number of scientific collaboration visits among the Network members need to be encouraged and enhanced.
8. The Council appreciates the standing offers of 100 postgraduate scholarships per year by CIIT-Pakistan, and seven PhD scholarships and five post-doctoral fellowships by IROST-Iran, and encourages other Centres of Excellence to offer such scholarships/fellowships to researchers/students from COMSATS' Member Countries in order to promote the exchange of knowledge, expertise and resources.
9. The partnership of International organizations in the capacity-building workshops and training programmes undertaken by COMSATS is acknowledged with gratitude. In particular, strong mutual cooperation between COMSATS and ISESCO leading to six joint activities in 2012, is highly encouraging. In this connection, the ISESCO medal awarded to COMSATS is much appreciated.
10. The Council encourages COMSATS Secretariat to continue its efforts towards enhancing the Membership of the Commission and the Network of Centres of Excellence.
11. The Council has noted the efforts of COMSATS Secretariat to implement COMSATS five-year strategy and advises all Centres to extend full support to the Secretariat in this regard. In particular, the launching of more International Thematic Research Groups should be expedited by all concerned Lead Countries.
12. The progress reported by the leaders of three active International Thematic Research Groups, in the areas of Climate Change, Natural Products and ICTs are praiseworthy. The relevant group leaders are requested to acknowledge COMSATS in their research publications.
13. A Committee, which was constituted during the 15th Council meeting, and entrusted to recommended amendments in the Charter of the Network completed its work in time to make it possible for the Council to unanimously adopt these amendments in the 16th meeting. All members of the Committee are thanked for their valuable contributions.

14. The Council has noted the Secretariat's request regarding the participation of Centres of Excellence in COMSATS' publications and emphasizes the need to contribute News reports and scholarly articles for publication in COMSATS' two-monthly Newsletter and biannual journal, 'Science Vision'.
15. While appreciating the generous in-kind contributions towards COMSATS' activities made by Member States and Centres of Excellence alongwith the annual grant of 0.4 Million US \$ from the Government of Pakistan, the budgetary handicap of the organization to fulfil all provisions of its mandate is noted with concern. It is strongly advised that the efforts to seek voluntary Annual Membership Contribution may be enhanced, and avenues be found to operationalize the Endowment Fund approved during the Second Commission meeting.
16. The Council reiterates its firm commitment to enhance S&T capacity of all Member States through mutual cooperation and assistance to one another through the platform of COMSATS. In turn, the Council calls upon Member States to increase funding for the development of their S&T sectors with a clear target of achieving a level of 2% of GDP to be spent as Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD).