

Communiqué

**17TH MEETING OF
COMSATS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

19-20 May, 2014

Hosted by

**Iranian Research Organization for
Science & Technology (IROST), Tehran, Iran**



**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH (COMSATS)**

**Communiqué of the
17th Coordinating Council Meeting of COMSATS
(19 – 20 May, 2014, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

The Members of the Coordinating Council of COMSATS participating in the 17th meeting of the Council organized by the COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Iran, the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), after deliberating upon the agenda of the meeting on 19th and 20th of May 2014 in Tehran, wish to express their common views as under:

1. The Members of COMSATS Coordinating Council highly appreciate the excellent arrangements made by IROST administration for holding the 17th Council meeting in Tehran.
2. The patronage of the parent Ministry of IROST, the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran, for the hospitality provided to Council Members is acknowledged with gratitude.
3. The administrative support provided to IROST by COMSATS' Secretariat and the preparation of necessary documentations required for the successful organization of the meeting is noted with satisfaction.
4. The Council Members are pleased to learn about the high quality of multi-disciplinary research work being undertaken in IROST and thank the administration for arranging visits to its various laboratories.
5. The Council welcomes the induction of the Water Research and Technologies Centre, 'Centre de Recherches et des Technologies des Eaux' (CERTE)', as a new Member of the Network of Centres of Excellence and hope that this Centre will be able to make research partnerships with similar Centres in Member States.
6. Appreciating the dedicated efforts of COMSATS Secretariat to fulfil the objectives of the organization, the Council takes note of the following major developments:
 - (i) continued expansion of the Network of Centres of Excellence;
 - (ii) persistence of International Thematic Research Groups' activities;
 - (iii) steady stream of capacity-building events in Member States, with the participation of other international organizations;
 - (iv) consolidation of COMSATS Statutes;
 - (v) relative increase in the Annual Membership Contributions;
 - (vi) launching of Distinguished Professorship Scheme;
 - (vii) utilization of graduate study scholarships for Member countries at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology;
 - (viii) constitution of a Panel of Experts to advise on S&T policy issues;

- (ix) concerted efforts for the regular publication of COMSATS' Newsletter and other information material about the organization.
 - (x) continuation of the publication of 'Science Vision' and support to TWAS for the publication profiles of Centres of Excellence.
7. The Council gratefully acknowledges the support of partner organizations, especially ISESCO, for the implementation of COMSATS' programmes in Member States.
 8. The council records with gratitude the financial and in-kind contributions by Member Countries towards the promotion of South-South cooperation through joint S&T activities and stresses the need to increase the number of contributing countries.
 9. The Council recognizes the need and necessity of the following actions on the part of Network Member organizations:
 - (i) to proactively engage Network partners for undertaking collaborative research programmes;
 - (ii) to make serious efforts for launching new Thematic Research Groups;
 - (iii) to make maximum utilization of scholarships offered by China, Pakistan and Iran and consider the possibility of similar offers from their Centres;
 - (iv) to create hotlines with COMSATS Headquarters through Skype or other information exchange channels for prompt communications;
 - (v) to keep the COMSATS Headquarters aware of new developments or major achievements of their organizations for appropriate projection at international level through COMSATS Newsletter;
 - (vi) to encourage their researchers to submit scholarly scientific articles for publication in COMSATS' bi-annual journal, the 'Science Vision';
 - (vii) to consider placement of their officers at COMSATS Headquarters on secondment.
 10. The participation of the Executive Director in meetings organized by international organizations such as UNESCO and World Science Forum, and his visits to Centres of Excellence, are in line with COMSATS' interactive approach in support of its mission. He is encouraged to continue his devoted efforts towards the implementation of COMSATS five-year strategy.
 11. COMSATS Coordinating Council stands by its observation that the public spending on R&D in developing countries is below the desired level. It calls upon Member States to increase their level of GERD component to a level of 2% of GDP and enhance financial support for international bodies that provide S&T capacity-building opportunities.