

# Communiqué

**18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF  
COMSATS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**12-13 May, 2015**

*Hosted by*

**Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)  
Colombo, Sri Lanka**



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

**Communiqué of the  
18<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Council Meeting of COMSATS  
(12 – 13 May, 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka)**

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The participants of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, comprising of thirteen Council Members or their representatives after having deliberated upon the eleven-point agenda of the meeting on 12-13 May 2015, are pleased to make the following joint statement:

1. The Members of COMSATS Coordinating Council highly appreciate the excellent arrangements made by the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) for holding the 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and for providing generous hospitality to its participants.
2. The preparation of necessary documentation by COMSATS Secretariat and the administrative support provided to ITI for the successful organization of the meeting is noted with satisfaction.
3. The Council Members are pleased to learn about the high quality of multi-disciplinary research work being undertaken by ITI, and encourage the Institute to seek research partners in COMSATS' Member States.
4. The Council welcomes the induction of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), Kazakhstan, as a new Member of the Network of Centres of Excellence and hopes that the University will actively participate in the programmes and activities of COMSATS.
5. The efforts being made by COMSATS Secretariat for extending COMSATS' membership to other developing countries is noted with satisfaction. The Council is pleased to learn about the initial consent of the Government of Morocco to join COMSATS as a Member State.
6. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between COMSATS and UNESCO for cooperative programmes in different fields of science and technology has been noted with pleasure. COMSATS Secretariat is encouraged to continue its collaboration with international organizations having similar mandates, including UNESCO, TWAS and ISESCO, for the socio-economic uplift of the countries of the South.
7. The Council recognizes the importance of the Charter of the Network of Centres of Excellence and considers the amendments approved in the present meeting an important step towards unified statutes of the organization.
8. The Council appreciates the dedicated efforts of COMSATS Secretariat to fulfil the objectives of the organization, and takes note of the following additional achievements:

- (i) Launching of the fourth International Thematic Research Group (ITRG) and continuation of the activities of three already operational ITRGs;
  - (ii) Preparations for launching of two more ITRGs during 2015;
  - (iii) Steady stream of capacity-building events, organized in collaboration with other international organizations, with the participation of scientists, engineers and technicians belonging to Centres of Excellence and Member States;
  - (iv) Preparations for holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commission Meeting of COMSATS during October 2015;
  - (v) Launching of COMSATS Distinguished Professorship Scheme;
  - (vi) Launching of COMSATS' Science Diplomacy Programme;
  - (vii) Increasing the utilization of postgraduate scholarships at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Pakistan, by Member Countries; and
  - (viii) Concerted efforts for the regular publication of COMSATS' Newsletter, journal 'Science Vision' and other information material about the organization.
9. The visits of Executive Director to the international organizations and Centres of Excellence and interactions with the members of diplomatic and scientific communities of Member States are highly beneficial in promoting COMSATS' mission of South-South cooperation in science and technology. He is advised to continue his efforts towards the implementation of COMSATS five-year strategy.
10. The Council records with gratitude the financial and in-kind contributions by some Member Countries towards COMSATS' activities and encourages all others to provide financial support to the organization for achieving the objectives of South-South cooperation.
11. The Council encourages the Network members to make serious efforts for the following:
- (i) Increasing the number of collaborative research and development projects with other Centres of Excellence;
  - (ii) Redouble efforts to commercialize the products developed in their respective Centres of Excellence
  - (iii) Launching of the remaining four ITRGs;
  - (iv) Maximum utilization of the scholarships offered by Centres of Excellence in China, Pakistan and Iran;
  - (v) Keeping COMSATS Headquarters aware of new developments and major achievements of their organizations;

- (vi) Contributing scholarly scientific articles for publication in COMSATS' bi-annual journal, the 'Science Vision'; and
  - (vii) Placement of their officers at COMSATS Headquarters on secondment.
12. COMSATS Coordinating Council reiterates its recommendation for the 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.