



# The Third Commission Meeting of COMSATS

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

27-28 October 2015, Accra, Ghana



Hosted by: Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana, and Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South

## M E S S A G E S



**H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA**  
President of the Republic of Ghana

The Government and people of Ghana are honored to host the 3rd General Meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS). We strongly support science and technology-based development and related initiatives. I welcome to Accra the Ministers of Science and Technology and other high-level officials from COMSATS' 23 Member Countries nominated by the Heads of the Member States/Governments. I hope that the visiting delegates would find their stay in Ghana comfortable and that their deliberations in the Meeting would contribute strongly towards greater S&T cooperation among COMSATS' Member States.

For the last 21 years, COMSATS has been steadfastly engaged in pursuit of its objectives of creating S&T capacity in developing countries through South-South cooperation. It is thus a matter of pride for Ghana to hold the Chair of the COMSATS' Commission that is playing a leading role in promoting sustainable development in the South.

The last existing world calls for stronger cooperation among the developing countries to not only catch up with the development in the North, but to also keep pace with the rapid scientific and technological advancements taking place around the globe. In this regard, the understanding amongst them defines the premises of South-South Cooperation, which is the key mechanism being used by COMSATS for the betterment of its Member States. Apart from its other international programmes and projects, COMSATS has greatly facilitated the integration of scientists, technologists and distinguished scholars on its platform for the promotion of science and technology.

COMSATS is an important player for the Member States' science-led development. As its Chairperson, I endorse the plea for greater patronage extended to this organization.

The Government of Ghana is committed to COMSATS' cause and would continue to play its due role in all its programmes and activities. All delegations are strongly encouraged to deliberate during the course of its General Meeting on how to best utilize the resources of COMSATS and enhance its impact for socio-economic development in our countries.



**H.E. MAHAMA AYARIGA**  
Minister for Environment, ST&I

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) is very glad to host the 3rd statutory body meetings of COMSATS.

One of the greatest tasks confronting the Ministry right now is making Science, Technology and Innovation the foundation of Ghana's socio-economic development and the main thrust behind the government's "Agenda for Transformation".

It is worthy to note the vibrant role that COMSATS has played in fostering scientific cooperation among Member Countries and benefiting their scientific communities by mobilizing technical resources from its Network of Centres of Excellence.

For any nation to succeed in bringing the best quality of life to its people, it must utilize science, technology and innovation as the key agents for re-positioning itself on the track of economic development. Indeed, nations in the North realized this much earlier and invested their human and other resources in Science & Technology, reaping benefits in terms of enhanced global competitiveness. In this regard, the global South also has to make urgent policy decisions to harness their scientific capacity and resources.

Instead of trying to single-handedly solve problems faced by countries of the South, it would be much better to tackle them collectively. This understanding amongst them defines the premises of South-South Cooperation, which is the key mechanism being used by COMSATS for the betterment of its Member States. Apart from its other international programmes and projects, COMSATS has greatly facilitated the integration of scientists, technologists and distinguished scholars on its platform for the promotion of science and technology.

Ghana, through the efforts of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), an affiliated institution of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), also had the honour of partly hosting the Consultative Committee and Coordinating Council Meetings of COMSATS in May 2013, which helped boost Ghana's political backing for the organization. Last but not the least, I also wish to applaud the dynamic role that the Executive Director of COMSATS Headquarters and his secretariat staff have been playing in the economic transformation of the South through suitably implementing the programmes of COMSATS.



**MR. FAZAL ABBAS MAKEN**  
Chairperson Consultative Committee

I am pleased to extend my personal greetings to the delegates of the 3rd Commission Meeting and the 3rd Consultative Committee Meeting of COMSATS in Accra. I would like to convey my special appreciations to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Government of the Republic of Ghana, for hosting these meetings and making the stay of delegates in Accra comfortable. To me, steering the meeting of Consultative Committee on 26th October 2015 has indeed been an honour and I feel highly privileged of my presence in Ghana at these august meetings.

Holding of both the meetings of the Commission and Consultative Committee consecutively this year is especially important, considering that the former draws strategic support from the top leadership of the Member States/Governments, while the latter oversees the overall functions of the organization in the light of national priorities and available resources.

During the 3rd Consultative Committee Meeting, my fellow members of the Committee deliberated on key issues relating to the Committee's mandated functions. One important function of the Committee is to help align COMSATS' programmes with the specific requirements of the Member States. It is hoped that the Committee's deliberations will provide the necessary thrust in this direction. The Committee showed confidence in the President of Ghana's leadership and resolved to provide stronger support to COMSATS' international projects and programmes.

I hope that the delegates attending the Commission Meeting would share the Committee's vision to take the organization to higher levels of success in achieving its envisaged goals and objectives. I wish COMSATS every success in all its future endeavours, and look forward to expressions of support from all delegations during the course of the Commission Meeting. I would like to wish all of them fruitful deliberations and a wonderful stay at the beautiful city of Accra.



**DR. EDUARDO POSADA FLOREZ**  
Chairman Coordinating Council

The holding of COMSATS' 3rd Commission Meeting is a matter of pride and pleasure for me owing to its long affiliation with the organization. During the last five years, COMSATS has reached many milestones, which include the holding of the 2nd and the 3rd Commission Meetings, as well as expansion of the State Membership and joining of new R&D institutions in the Network of Centres of Excellence. The Commission's General Meeting at the level of Ministers provides an excellent opportunity for Member States to renew their commitments to the mission and objectives of the organization and to provide policy framework for its future operations.

Indeed, the Network of International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence affiliated with the organization has, over the years, provided COMSATS the necessary intellectual, scientific and technological resources for successfully conducting its international programmes and activities. Established on the premise that sustainable development in developing countries can be achieved through South-South cooperation, COMSATS has been fully exploiting the human and scientific resources available across its Network Members for its purpose.

The Network has contributed immensely towards promoting S&T as a vehicle for national development, and harnessing the scientific capacity of COMSATS' Member States through, inter alia, conferences, symposia, and hands-on training workshops in key areas of scientific importance. Also, available are other recent initiatives of COMSATS, such as Science Diplomacy Programme, Panel of Experts on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, and Distinguished Professorship Scheme, designed for promoting regional and inter-regional collaboration among developing countries.

As the Chairman Coordinating Council, I am pleased to note that the Network has realized multi-dimensional growth, which is visible in terms of the membership of the affiliated Centres of Excellence; diversity in areas of scientific cooperation, as well as the mechanisms adopted for more effective scientific collaboration. I sincerely hope that one of the key initiatives of COMSATS, the International Thematic Research Groups (facilitating joint cooperative research), would further contribute towards the sustainable development of COMSATS' Member States in a big way. This success can be credited to the top leadership, host ministries, and affiliated S&T institutions of Member States, as well as to the partner international organizations and collaborating institutions, like UNESCO, UNESCO and TWAS. Finally, I would like to congratulate the Government of Ghana for hosting the two statutory meetings of COMSATS in Accra.



**DR. INTINAN ELAHI QURESHI**  
Executive Director COMSATS

On behalf of COMSATS, I wish to extend my cordial greetings to the delegates from COMSATS' Member Countries, who have traveled long distances to participate in the Third Commission Meeting in Accra, on the invitation of COMSATS' Chairperson, Honourable President of Ghana, H.E. Dr. John Dramani Mahama. This is indeed an expression of their commitment to COMSATS' objectives, which are entirely focused on S&T capacity building through South-South and North-South cooperation. The kind hospitality being provided by the Government of Ghana to the visiting dignitaries is highly admirable and signifies Ghana's emergent role in the comity of developing countries.

Knowing too well that the contemporary world is a creation of scientific and technological advances and its sustainability depends on human ingenuity, the leaders of the global South have an unambiguous public stance on the centrality of S&T socio-economic development. The need and urgency of acquiring scientific knowledge and technical know-how is often expressed in unequivocal terms. Yet, the means and mechanisms of creating the necessary infrastructure and developing human resources for this purpose remain elusive and large.

The genesis of COMSATS was based on the understanding that developing countries should join hands and help themselves to surmount difficulties in the quest for rapid progress. The shared aspirations and common challenges make the countries of the South, natural partners in all human endeavors, most notably in Science and Technology. COMSATS, as an inter-governmental organization of 23 developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, is proud to be one of the most potent platforms working for achieving sustainable development, owing to the multi-lateral cooperation avenues that it opens in the sectors of education, technical training, scientific research, science policies and academia-industry liaison.

It is sincerely hoped that the country delegates and other high-level officials attending the Commission Meeting would utilize this forum for important deliberations pertaining to both short and long-term operations of the organization, geared towards socio-economic development through S&T in Member Countries.



## COMSATS

gratefully acknowledges the support of the Government of Ghana for holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commission Meeting and welcomes the delegates of Member Countries

Paving the Way for Sustainable Development through:

- Promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation as a means to fast track socio-economic developments;
- Mobilization of scientific and technological resources through South-South cooperation;
- Capacity building of Member States through a Network of S&T Centres of Excellence.



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# COMSATS

## Achievements and Prospects

The landscape of international cooperation is considerably varied and inherently variable. The long-term common goals of mankind should remain focused on human well-being, which mainly depends on food and water security, environmental preservation, energy supplies and healthcare. These issues, which are immensely important individually, are also knitted in a complex fabric of interdependence. A common denominator for addressing all of these concerns is the human capacity to understand laws of nature and to be able to use them practically to self advantage. Over the ages, some sections of human beings somewhere in the world have been engaged in the process that has incrementally enhanced their ability to control natural environment. During the last three centuries S&T became important factor in the lives and livelihoods of people like never before, making it the bedrock of modern life. The countries that shy away from building strong competence in S&T will remain losers in the race of economic and social progress. Currently, the countries that lag behind in this respect are broadly categorized as 'the South'. To face the future challenges, what is generally available in the global South can be summarized as follows:

- I. Awareness of the role of S&T and knowledge of its areas which are heralding revolutionary developments;
- II. Guidance and support on policy, reforms and capacity-building from concerned scientists, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and other international bodies within the UN system;
- III. Large, young and talented population;
- IV. Vast natural resources;
- V. Conducive environment for information flow and international mobility of manpower and equipment.

On the other hand, the functional deficits, inter alia, pertain to:

- i. strong political will to adopt S&T as a vehicle of progress;
- ii. educational and research infrastructures;
- iii. financial resources and budgetary priorities;
- iv. administrative structures and governance.

The establishment of COMSATS 1994 was to address the very issues by lending a helping-hand to improve the S&T panorama of its Member States. The same is reflected through the mission statement of COMSATS that envisages creation of "a world where all nations/states 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 means".

The cornerstone of COMSATS' international efforts is a strong desirability of synergy and open-ended cooperation with various national and international platforms. There are some distinctive features listed below that set the organization apart from other similar organizations in one respect or the other.

### 1. South-South Cooperation

Over the years, COMSATS has relied on South-South cooperation as its guiding principle in more than one ways. A Network of highly reputed R&D centres was created, which have been working independently in their national capacities but cooperating with one another as nodes of COMSATS' Centre of Excellence. Currently, 20 such Centres spread across four continents are affiliated with COMSATS and provide it an enormously rich

resource for scientific cooperation at the level of working scientists. The Heads of these Centres of Excellence are members of the COMSATS Coordinating Council, which holds its meetings in different countries on a yearly basis, most regularly hosted by the respective Centres of Excellence. The Council is a unique platform, which enables the leaders of R&D organizations to consult one another on the latest developments in their scientific programmes; learn from the best practices and successful initiatives; and, in general, exchange among one another the offers of cooperation and requests for technical assistance.

### 2. Capacity-building events

More than 230 national and international events have been organised/co-organised/supported by COMSATS over the years, in the specific areas of science and technology having direct relevance to the socio-economic development of the Member Countries. The thrust areas identified in this context are: scientific and technological education; environment and climate change; new technologies; agriculture, food and water; health; Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs); as well as renewable energy technologies. A distinctive feature of these programmes is the approach of partnership and synergy with other international organizations of the North and the South, such as UNESCO, ISESCO, and INIT. Some of the workshops conducted jointly with ISESCO have turned into serial events, bearing the themes: 'Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards'; 'Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Engineering Equipment in Universities, Research Institutions and Small Scale Industries'; and 'National Innovation System and Intellectual Property'.

### 3. COMSATS Flagship Projects in the Host Country

COMSATS Institute of Information and Technology (CIIT) was established in the host country of COMSATS during the formative years of the organisation. The Institute is now a full-fledged university with 7 campuses in different cities. Since inception, it has undergone enormous growth in terms of student enrollment, faculty members, academic programmes, scientific publications, and national and international ranking and recognition. Over 3,000 faculty members educate 30,000, under 97 degree programmes. The Institute ranks among the top 10 universities of Pakistan and offers a hundred post-graduate scholarships for students from COMSATS' Member States. ([www.ciit.edu.pk](http://www.ciit.edu.pk))

COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) was established as the pioneer Internet Service Provider (ISP) of Pakistan in 1996. It now has operations in nine major cities of Pakistan, and offers Internet services including wireless broadband, fiber links, and on-demand broadband. The value-added services provided by CIS include specialized services related to domain-hosting and Virtual Private Servers (VPS), website development, videoconferencing and I.T training. CIS has a Video-conferencing Centre, two well-equipped Data Centres, and three Training Centres. Social services of CIS include tele-health consultations. So far, CIS has provided a total of 35,000 tele-consultations ([www.comsats.net.pk](http://www.comsats.net.pk)).

COMSATS started its eHealth Programme from its Secretariat in 2001 with a tele-health pilot-project. Later, a project titled, 'ICTs for Rural Development in the Mountainous and Remote Areas of Pakistan' (ICT4D), was carried out in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (Canada). At present, COMSATS telehealth clinics are operational in Skardu and Zob. Patients from far-flung areas are being provided

specialist medical consultations in Dermatology, General Medicine and Gastroenterology. Moreover, customised software has also been developed by COMSATS to maintain and transfer patient data ([www.ehealthcomsats.com](http://www.ehealthcomsats.com)).

### 4. International Thematic Research Groups

In view of the commonality of research requirements and desirability of pooling of resources by the Member institutions, COMSATS Coordinating Council approved a scheme of 'International Thematic Research Groups'. The objective of these groups is to promote South-South cooperation by undertaking well-defined joint research projects in different thematic areas and having participation of research scientists belonging to different institutions in COMSATS' Member Countries and other developing countries. COMSATS' five active ITRGs pertain to: ICTs; Natural Products Sciences; Climate Change and Environmental Protection; Mathematical Modeling; and Agriculture, Food Security, and Biotechnology. The following modus operandi is in place for the execution of this scheme:

- I. A Group Leader belonging to the Lead Centre supervising a well-defined group of research workers;
- ii. A project out-line prepared by the Group Leader and members;
- iii. Coordination between the Group Leader and members for feedback/guidance and reporting the progress; and
- iv. The Group Leader evaluating and integrating the contributions by all members and for project report.

### 5. Advocacy, S&T Policy, Science Diplomacy Outreach and Publications

COMSATS has been involved in a number of initiatives that broadly fall under the rubric of outreach to stakeholders. On one hand, adoption of an approach to development based on the centrality of S&T, has been advocated through COMSATS' statutory bodies; on the other hand, a team of five policy advisors has been made available to Member Countries for helping them frame policy interventions that are effective for this purpose. Three members of the team of advisors played a central role in designing ST&I policies of Colombia, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka, while two have extensive experience of policy matters working on the platform of TWAS and UNESCO.

Considering that government officials, politicians and diplomats are often confronted with situations requiring informed decision-making based on scientific inputs, COMSATS has launched its programme of Science Diplomacy in partnership with TWAS. The objective is to elucidate scientific underpinning of global issues that impinge on the national interests of developing countries. At present, there are five designated 'Science Ambassadors' in areas of Physics, Climate Change, Engineering and Technology, Energy, and Biotechnology, as well as a Scientist Emeritus in the field of Science Diplomacy.

COMSATS' publications serve the dual purpose of information dissemination and knowledge generation, through a variety of mechanisms, including a bi-monthly Newsletter; a Scientific Journal - 'Science Vision'; S&T Series of Publications; joint publications with other organizations; and official website and web-portals. Recently, a thrust is being built towards popularization of S&T by further engaging media and journalists, especially through focused capacity-building activities, such as Seminars on 'Science Communication and Journalism'.



## Role of S&T in development

STAFF REPORTER

**ISLAMABAD**—The third Commission Meeting of COMSATS highlighted the role of Science and Technology (S&T) for sustainable development. The COMSATS' general meeting convened by the Chairperson of COMSATS, John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, concluded in Accra, Ghana.

The meeting was inaugurated by Elvis Afriye Ankrah, Minister of State at the Office of the President of Ghana, on behalf of the President, said a message received here otherday.

The participants of the meeting appreciated the Government of Pakistan for its gen-

erous and continued support to COMSATS for the past 21 years as well as its commitment for extending its financial support to COMSATS' future activities.

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology Pakistan, Fazal Abbas Maken, who is the Chairman COMSATS' Consultative Committee, pointed out the similarity of challenges faced by the developing countries, he considered S&T of key importance in meeting them. During an open forum for discussion on 'South-South co-operation issues and COMSATS' future programmes', establishment of a 'National Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security' in Pakistan was also proposed.

<http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201511/02/islamabad-2.php>

# Radio Pakistan

02 November 2015

**News Bulletin (<http://www.radio.gov.pk/newsbulletin>)**

## COMSATS-MEETING:

Pakistan has invited COMSATS member states to benefit from the experience of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Pakistan in setting up the COMSATS Technology Park as well as Incubation Centre.

The invitation was extended by Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology Fazal Abbas Maken at the third COMSATS' general meeting in Accra, Ghana.

He also proposed establishment of a 'National Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security' in Pakistan.

The meeting appreciated the Government of Pakistan for its generous and continued support to COMSATS for the past twenty-one years.

Besides Pakistan, delegates from China, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe, attended the two-day deliberations.

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/newsbulletin>

# Daily Messenger

Pakistan  
31 October 2015



Daily Messenger | 31 Oct 2015

Sign In



SPORTLIGHT

## Role of S&T for sustainable development highlighted at COMSATS general meeting

ISLAMABAD, Oct 30: The third Commission Meeting of COMSATS convened by the Chairperson of COMSATS, John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, concluded in Accra, Ghana, with a high note for stronger cooperation among the Member States and commitment towards COMSATS' national and regional programmes and projects.

According to a press release issued by the Comsats secretariat,

Islamabad on Friday, the meeting was inaugurated by Elvis Afriyie Ankraah, Minister of State at the Office of the President of Ghana on behalf of the President.

The inauguration was attended by about 100 people, including country delegates, senior officials from the Ghanaian Flagstaff House, relevant ministries and departments; representatives of foreign missions in Ghana, senior officials of Ghanaian R&D/S&T organizations and

higher education institutions and officials from COMSATS Secretariat.

Also present at the ceremony was Hon. Dr. Alfred Sugri Tia, Ghanaian Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation. The meeting was held at the level of senior officials appointed by the Heads of Member States/Governments.

Country delegates from China, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pales-

tine, Philippines, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe, attended the deliberations of this two-day Meeting.

In his message on the occasion, President Mahama stated that all Member States, including Ghana, have greatly benefitted from the programmes of the organization during the period of over two decades, due to which, it is in the selfinterest of the Member States to provide COMSATS' maximum support.

Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, who is the Chairman COMSATS' Consultative Committee, pointed out the similarity of

challenges faced by the developing countries, he considered S&T of key importance in meeting them.

Add Comment



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<http://www.pressreader.com/pakistan/daily-messenger/20151031/281994671358709/TextView>

# Press Informatin Department

Pakistan  
30 October 2015

PR No. 280

PRESS RELEASE

**ROLE OF S&T FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTED AT COMSATS GENERAL MEETING**

**Islamabad: 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.**

The third Commission Meeting of COMSATS convened by the Chairperson of COMSATS, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, concluded in Accra on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The meeting was inaugurated by Hon. Elvis Afriyie Ankrah, Minister of State at the Office of the President of Ghana, on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015, on behalf of the President. The inauguration was attended by about 100 people, including country delegates, senior officials from the Ghanaian Flagstaff House, relevant ministries and departments; representatives of foreign missions in Ghana; senior officials of Ghanaian R&D/S&T organizations and higher education institutions; and officials from COMSATS Secretariat, as well as local media personnel. Also present at the ceremony was Hon. Dr. Alfred Sugri Tia, Ghanaian Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The meeting was held at the level of senior officials appointed by the Heads of Member States/Governments. Country delegates from China, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe, attended the deliberations of this two-day Meeting. In his message on the occasion, President Mahama stated that all Member States, including Ghana, have greatly benefitted from the programmes of the organization during the period of over two decades, due to which, it is in the self-interest of the Member States to provide COMSATS' maximum support. Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, who is the Chairman COMSATS' Consultative Committee, pointed out the similarity of challenges faced by the developing countries, he considered S&T of key importance in meeting them. H.E. Mr. Mahama Ayariga, Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Government of Ghana, and Executive Director COMSATS, Dr. I.E. Qureshi, also spoke on the occasion.

Country Statements constituted a major part of the 14-point agenda of the meeting. The Heads of the country delegations gave overviews of these countries' scientific and technological activities in the S&T institutions and research organizations. The participating delegates also highlighted the importance of S&T for development; called for stronger cooperation among the Member States; and showed commitment towards COMSATS' national and regional programmes and projects.

During an open forum for discussion on 'South-South cooperation issues and COMSATS' future programmes', establishment of a 'National Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security' in Pakistan was proposed. Other matters of mutual interest discussed during the session included preserving genome and biodiversity resources and safeguarding intellectual property rights. Special emphasis was given to the participation of the Member States in the International Thematic Research Groups of COMSATS; COMSATS' Panel of Experts on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy; COMSATS Distinguished Professorship Scheme; and COMSATS' Science Diplomacy Programme. Pakistan invited other Member States to benefit from the experience of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Pakistan, in setting up the COMSATS Technology Park as well as Incubation Centre. The participants of the Meeting appreciated the Government of Pakistan for its generous and continued support to COMSATS for the past 21 years, as well as its commitment for extending its financial support to COMSATS' future activities.

With the re-election of H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, as COMSATS' Chairperson for the next three years, the next meeting of the Commission will be held in 2018, in Ghana.

<http://www.pid.gov.pk/press30-10-2015.htm>

# The Daily Democrat

Ghana  
30 October 2015

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER, 2015

The Daily Democrat

## GHANA WELCOMES SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION - Ayariga

### ...Pledges To Support COMSATS Member States

By Osumanu

Al-Hassan

**M**inister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), the Hon. Mahama Ayariga, has stated that the goal of achieving sustainable development in the future for developing countries is not only an uphill task but requires extraordinary efforts on national fronts.

According to him, this effort also demands stronger and effective collaboration and cooperation on regional and international levels.

The Minister made the statement in a welcome address he delivered at the inaugural session of the Third Commission Meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in South (COMSATS) in Accra.

He explained that being a committed Member State of COMSATS, Ghana welcomes the Science and Technology (S&T)-led South-South cooperation and pledges to play its due role for the benefit of other Member States.

Hon. Ayariga averred that the Ghana government is cognizant of the multifaceted challenges facing developing countries in the fast changing geo-political environment of the world.

He stressed that on one hand, governments of the South are required to fulfil the basic needs of their populations and on the other hand, are obliged to make efforts to keep pace with the Science and Technology (S&T) developments taking place in countries of the North, that are revolutionary in nature.

He revealed that in 2010 the MESTI framed the National Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) policy of Ghana with clear vision to integrate ST&I into national plans for harnessing the nation's S&T capacity to achieve national



objectives of poverty reduction, competitiveness of enterprises, sustainable environmental management and industrial growth.

Ghana, he said, has achieved a lot in terms of establishing science and technology infrastructure and building the scientific capacity of its Research and Development (R&D) institutions.

"The objectives set out in the ST&I policy of Ghana are yet to be fully realized. Enormous effort is required to meet out STI targets and Ghana as a state certainly requires the support of other developing and developed countries in its strides for growth and development," he stated.

The Minister averred that efforts have been made at the national level to improve the country's international standing and noted that Ghana is the 7<sup>th</sup> best governed country in Africa and rates 13<sup>th</sup> highest on the Human Development Index (HDI) in continental Africa according to the Index of governance (2013).

The Ghana government, he said, is focused on its Agenda for transformation, which calls for adopting new and innovative ways of doing things, drawing on the power of science and technology to diagnose and solve problems.

He said, "The international forums and programmes of COMSATS provide Ghana the opportunities to learn and reflect, especially in terms of inculcating S&T in national development agendas."

In his remarks, the Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of Pakistan and Chairperson of the

COMSATS Consultative Committee, Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken explained that the establishment of COMSATS is one of the bright spots of the vision of the political leadership in Pakistan and reflects the commitment of the Pakistan Government to give S&T its due share in national development strategy.

According to him, the investments made by Pakistan has been paid back in several ways with COMSATS able to launch an educational institution unlike other traditional university, and within 15 years captured a ranking slot among top ten universities of Pakistan.

Mr. Abbas Maken averred that since it is the age of free information flow, it is possible to fully understand the causes of underdevelopment.

He said, "We do know what technologies are making headways leading to huge economic dividends for the creators of these technologies. We do understand that knowledge is increasingly becoming more precious than any amount of commodities and agriculture produce."

He noted that knowledge product such as Microsoft Windows, produces more revenues than ship loads of cotton or jute and that knowledge of human genetic code and knowledge of how to manipulate genes are decidedly worth more than all the gold and diamonds in the mines of the world adding, "So we know that S&T capacity is the key to unblocking the door of our progress."

According to him, together member states can make differences from the platform of COMSATS as well as any number of fora that serve collective interests.





# Daily Graphic

Ghana  
30 October 2015

## Science, technology and innovation priority of govt — Ayariga

By Charles Andoh, ACCRA

THE Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr Mahama Ayariga, has said that the government of Ghana attached much importance to science, technology and innovation in its bid to achieve accelerated growth and national development.

In view of that, he noted that the ministry had framed the National Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Policy with a clear vision to integrate ST&I into national development plans to harness the nation's science and technology capacity.

That, he stressed, would go a long way to enable Ghana to achieve its national objectives of reducing poverty, and ensuring sustainable environmental management and industrial growth.

"Over the years, Ghana has achieved a lot in terms of establishing science and technology infrastructure and building the scientific capacity of its institutions," Mr Ayariga added.

The minister was speaking at the inaugural session of the third Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) conference in Accra.

### Assistance from other countries

Ghana as a state, according to Mr Ayariga, required the support of other developing and developed countries in its strides for growth and development in spite of the fact that it was endowed with a lot of natural resources.

"The government of Ghana is focused on its agenda for transformation which calls for adopting new and innovative ways of doing things, drawing on the power of science and technology to diagnose and solve problems," he indicated.

He also added that international programmes such as COMSATS, provided the country with greater opportunities to learn and reflect, especially in terms of inculcating science and technology in the national agenda.

The Executive Director of COMSATS, Dr Imtihan Elahi Qureshi, called on leaders and COMSATS member states to do their best towards the expansion of science and technology in their respective countries.

### About COMSATS

The COMSATS was established in 1994 as an inter-governmental organisation based in Islamabad.

It is currently chaired by President John Dramani Mahama. The commission has 23-member countries on three continents; Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The commission aims at fostering the sustainable development of member countries through the use of science and technology and serves as a platform to mutually identify

common development problems and in turn, devise appropriate technical solutions.

In a speech read on his behalf, President Mahama added his voice to the call on African leaders to dedicate a great deal of resources to the improvement of science and technology on the continent.

He said it was the responsibility of African leaders to ensure that the necessary frameworks were created for science and technology to flourish.



• Mr Mahama Ayariga (2nd left) interacting with Mr Fazal Abbas Maken (2nd right), Chairman of COMSATS and Dr I.E Qureshi (extreme right), Executive Director of COMSATS, at the conference in Accra. Looking on is Mr Elvis Afriyie Ankrah (left), Minister of State at the Presidency. Picture: GABRIEL AHIABOR



Online  
30 October 2015

## Third COMSATS conference ends in Accra

The third Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) conference aimed at fostering sustainable development in developing countries, through science and technology, has ended in Accra.

It was organised by COMSATS in collaboration with Ghana's Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Dr Imtinan Elahi Qureshi Executive Director of COMSATS, called on member countries to ensure that research and development organisations acquire the status of centre of excellence.

"These should be able to attract the attention of the world by rolling out new scientific theories and technical products," he said.

Dr Qureshi made the call at the opening of the two-day conference, in Accra, attended by the 23 member countries in three continents-Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Dr Qureshi explained that modern science and technology is the key in unlocking doors to socio-economic progress and its neglect would be disastrous for the economic growth of member countries.

He called on member states to provide support for strengthening the technical and intellectual resources available at COMSATS' affiliated Research and Development organisations as well as universities to ensure that they are at par with international standards.

He implored member countries to give greater trust to people who have adopted a scientific career and successfully negotiated a steep learning curve to reach the levels of scientific knowledge.

"These people are the cream of our societies, representing all that is noble and exalted as human being," he added.

Mr Fazal Abbas Maken, Chairperson COMSATS Consultative Committee acknowledged the fact that developing countries are plagued with poverty and underdevelopment, "But with technologies, we will be making headways leading to huge economic dividends".

He commended Ghana for being fully committed to COMSATS and making use of the platforms offered by the body to fully serve the collective interests of its people.

Mr Mahama Ayariga, Minister of MESTI noted that Ghana attaches great importance to science technology and innovations as a means to achieving accelerated growth and national development.

He expressed Ghana's support for the Science and Technology South- South cooperation and pledged Ghana's support in sustaining the cooperation.

Mr Elvis Afriyie Ankrah Minister of State at the Presidency who represented President John Dramani Mahama, commended the organisers for the conference and said Ghana is committed to adopt new and innovative ways of doing things, drawing on the power of science and technology to diagnose and solve problems.

He acknowledged the numerous contributions made by COMSATS towards science and technology in many developing countries over the period of two decades, and urged member states to extend its maximum support to science and technology for socio-economic development in their countries.

He also entreated member countries to make science and technology the pillar of sustainable development and ensure that the South- South cooperation is strengthened.

COMSATS periodically holds international conference in its member countries for experts to deliberate on critical scientific issues, knowledge sharing, technology transfer and capacity building as well as providing opportunities for students, scientists, engineers and technicians to discuss pressing needs of their respective countries.

COMSATS, is a Pakistan-based inter-governmental organisation, made up of 23 developing countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, China, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Syria and Iran, and has President Mahama as its chairperson.

COMSATS plans workshops and training programmes, provides platforms for renowned scientists, technologists and scholars, to promote relevant science and technology for the development of member-states.

The Commission serves as a platform to mutually identify common developmental problems and devise appropriate technical solutions.

Fourteen Scientists of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, who had benefited from the workshop on Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Instruments organised by COMSATS were presented with certificates.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Third-COMSATS-conference-ends-in-Accra-390816>



online  
30 October 2015

## **Science, technology and innovation priority of government — Ayariga**

The Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr Mahama Ayariga, has said that the government of Ghana attached much importance to science, technology and innovation in its bid to achieve accelerated growth and national development.

In view of that, he noted that the ministry had framed the National Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Policy with a clear vision to integrate ST&I into national development plans to harness the nation's science and technology capacity.

That, he stressed, would go a long way to enable Ghana to achieve its national objectives of reducing poverty, and ensuring sustainable environmental management and industrial growth.

“Over the years, Ghana has achieved a lot in terms of establishing science and technology infrastructure and building the scientific capacity of its institutions,” Mr Ayariga added. The minister was speaking at the inaugural session of the third Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) conference in Accra.

### **Assistance from other countries**

Ghana as a state, according to Mr Ayariga, required the support of other developing and developed countries in its strides for growth and development in spite of the fact that it was endowed with a lot of natural resources.

“The government of Ghana is focused on its agenda for transformation which calls for adopting new and innovative ways of doing things, drawing on the power of science and technology to diagnose and solve problems,” he indicated.

He also added that international programmes such as COMSATS, provided the country with greater opportunities to learn and reflect, especially in terms of inculcating science and technology in the national agenda.

The Executive Director of COMSATS, Dr Imtihan Elahi Qureshi, called on leaders and COMSATS member states to do their best towards the expansion of science and technology in their respective countries.

### **About COMSATS**

The COMSATS was established in 1994 as an inter-governmental organisation based in Islamabad.

It is currently chaired by President John Dramani Mahama. The commission has 23-member countries on three continents; Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The commission aims at fostering the sustainable development of member countries through the use of science and technology and serves as a platform to mutually identify common development problems and in turn, devise appropriate technical solutions. In a speech read on his behalf, President Mahama added his voice to the call on African leaders to dedicate a great deal of resources to the improvement of science and technology on the continent.

He said it was the responsibility of African leaders to ensure that the necessary frameworks were created for science and technology to flourish.

<http://graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/52412-science-technology-and-innovation-priority-of-government-ayariga.html>



# The Nation

Pakistan  
29 October 2015

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## More cooperation sought to speed up Comsats' S&T projects

**N**  
**OUR STAFF REPORTER**  
**ISLAMABAD**

Expressing satisfaction over the COMSATS contribution towards science and technology in developing countries during a period of over two decades, the organization's Commission meeting has emphasized upon the member states to extend maximum support to it so that their S&T-led socio-economic development is put on a fast track.

These remarks were expressed during the inaugural ceremony of the third Commission Meeting of COMSATS convened by COMSATS Chairperson and Ghanaian President, John Dramani Mahama, in Accra, Ghana, says a press note issued on Wednesday by the COMSATS Headquarters, yesterday. The Commission is the apex statutory body of COMSATS, comprising the heads of 23 member states.

Elvis Afriyie Anirah, Minister of State at the Office of the President of Ghana, read out the address of the Ghanaian President, who appreciated the presence of member states delegates.

He said that all Member States, including Ghana, have greatly benefitted from the organization and they need to further gather their resources for their collective benefit towards socio-economic development.

Country delegations from China, Egypt, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe attended the deliberations of this two-day meeting. Apart from the delegates, the inaugural ceremony was attended by about 80 senior officials

from the Ghanaian Flagstaff House, relevant ministries and departments; representatives of foreign missions in Ghana; senior officials of Ghanaian R&D/S&T organizations and higher education institutions as well as officials from COMSATS Secretariat. Also present at the ceremony was Hon. Dr. Alfred Sugri Tia, Ghanaian Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

Earlier, Executive Director COMSATS, Dr. I. E. Qureshi, in his introductory remarks, urged the Member States to provide support for strengthening the technical and intellectual resources available at COMSATS' affiliated R&D organizations and universities for bringing them at par with highest international standards. He opined that financial inputs in such projects and initiatives are an investment that will certainly pay back.

Fazal Abbas Malken, Federal Secretary, Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, who is the Chairman COMSATS' Consultative Committee, also spoke on the occasion. Pointing out the similarity of challenges faced by the developing countries, he considered S&T of key importance in meeting them.

Mahama Ayariga, Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Government of Ghana, acknowledged COMSATS' efforts for promoting peace and prosperity in the Member States by facilitating South-South cooperation in science and technology. He informed that Ghana is a member of various regional and international organizations, and is committed to actively participate in the international activities of COMSATS.

# The News

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## **Comsats' meeting calls for more support on S&T operations**

ISLAMABAD: Expressing satisfaction over the Comsats' contribution towards science and technology in the developing countries during the period of over two decades, the organisation's Commission meeting has emphasised upon the member states to extend maximum support to it so that their S&T-led socio-economic development is put on a fast track.

These remarks were expressed during the inaugural ceremony of the third Commission Meeting of Comsats convened by its Chairperson and Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama in Accra, Ghana, says a press release received here by the Comsats Headquarters, Islamabad. The Commission is the apex statutory body of Comsats, comprising the heads of 23 member states. —PPI

<http://e.thenews.com.pk/pindi/10-29-2015/page5.asp>



# Daily Times

Pakistan  
28 October 2015


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## COMSATS calls for more support in science, technology operations

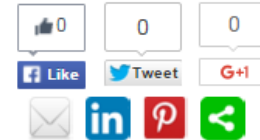
ISLAMABAD: Expressing satisfaction over the COMSATS' contribution towards science and technology in the developing countries during the period of over two decades, the organisation's commission meeting has emphasised upon the member states to extend maximum support to it so that their science and technology led socio-economic development is put on a fast track. These remarks were expressed during the inaugural ceremony of the third Commission Meeting of COMSATS convened by COMSATS Chairperson and Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, in Accra, Ghana. The commission is the apex statutory body of COMSATS, comprising the heads of 23 member states.

Minister of State at the Office of the President of Ghana Elvis Afriyie Ankrah read out the address of the Ghanaian president, who appreciated the presence of member states delegates. He said that all member states, including Ghana have greatly benefited from the organisation and they need to gather their resources for their collective benefit towards socio-economic development. Delegations from China, Egypt, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe attended the deliberations of the two-day meeting. Apart from the delegates, the inaugural ceremony was attended by about 80 senior officials from the Ghanaian Flagstaff House, relevant ministries and departments, representatives of foreign missions in Ghana, senior officials of Ghanaian research and developments organisations and higher education institutions as well as officials from COMSATS Secretariat. Also present at the ceremony was Ghanaian Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation Dr Alfred Sugri Tia. Earlier, COMSATS Executive Director Dr I E Qureshi urged the member states to provide support for strengthening the technical and intellectual resources available at COMSATS' affiliated R&D organisations and universities for bringing them at par with highest international standards. He opined that financial inputs in such projects and initiatives are an investment that will certainly pay back. Government of Pakistan Science and Technology Federal Secretary Fazal Abbas Maken, who is the Chairman COMSATS' Consultative Committee, also spoke on the occasion. Pointing out the similarity of challenges faced by the developing countries, he considered science and technology of key importance in meeting challenges. Government of Ghana Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation Mahama Ayariga acknowledged COMSATS' efforts for promoting peace and prosperity in the member states by facilitating South-South cooperation in science and technology. He informed that Ghana is a member of various regional and international organisations, and is committed to actively participate in the international activities of COMSATS. Another highlight of the inaugural ceremony was the presentation of certificates to 14 scientists of the Ghanaian Atomic Energy Commission, who had benefited from the workshop on Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Instruments, organized by COMSATS in Accra. In addition to the country statements by the Heads of delegations, the 3rd general meeting deliberated extensively on a 14-point agenda, which, inter alia, relates to - South-South cooperation avenues and COMSATS' future programmes pertaining to science and technology, capacity-building events, joint research projects, science diplomacy, consultancy for science, technology and innovation policy, lectures by distinguished professors, COMSATS Science & Technology Park (CSTP), mobilisation of financial resources for the organisation, approval of COMSATS' statutes and election of one of the heads of state as the chairperson for the next three years.

 Staff Report

 October 29, 2015

 Be First To Comment



# The Ghanaian Times

Ghana  
28 October 2015

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Website: [www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh](http://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh)

The Ghanaian Times Wednesday, October 28, 2015

## News

### African states urged to promote science, techn.

By Times Reporter

**T**HE third Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) meeting opened in Accra yesterday, with a call on African leaders to put research and development (R and D) at the centre of national development.

Attended by representatives of heads of state, members of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials, and scientists and engineers

from the COMSAT- member states, the objective of the two-day programme was to deliberate on critical scientific issues, share knowledge for technology transfer and capacity building, as well as come out with strategies to promote science, technology and innovation and in the member countries.

COMSAT is a 23-member states body from Africa, Asia and Latin America forward to promote science, technology and innovation as a catalyst for national development.

The President, John Dramani Mahama, in a speech read on his behalf by Elvis Afriye-Ankrah, a minister of state at the Presidency, called on the member-states to promote South-South Cooperation especially in the areas of STI.

He pledged the governments support to promote STI to accelerate national development and reduce poverty.

The Executive Director of COMSATS, Dr Imtihan Elahi, who made the call, explained that research

and development held a key prospect for the development of the member countries.

He, therefore, appealed to governments to ensure research and development organisations of their countries working for national causes and for international science and technology, cooperation acquired the status of the centres of excellence.

Dr Elahi called for collaboration among the member countries to promote STI as well as research and development and expressed the hope

that the meeting will take bold decisions to promote STI and Research and Development".

The Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mahama Ayariga, in his remarks, said in view of the importance of Science and Technology and Innovation (STI), the government developed the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy with the view to integrating STI into national development plans.

He said the objective was to harness the country's STI capacity to address poverty and promote sustainable environmental management and industrial growth.

"Over the years, Ghana has achieved a lot in terms of establishing science and technology infrastructure, and building the scientific capacity of research and development," he said, adding that "the objectives set out in the National STI policy are yet to be fully realised."

Mr Ayariga appealed to the developed economies to support the country in its efforts to implement the STI policy and other development projects.

Mr Fazal Abbas Maken, Secretary and Minister of Science and Technology of Pakistan, who chaired the programme, said STI was key to "unlocking the door of our progress".

He appealed to the member countries to increase their Gross Domestic Product funding for research and development, saying the 0.7 of GDP currently allocated was woefully inadequate.



Mr. Elvis Afriye-Ankrah (fifth from left), Mr. Ayariga (middle) and Dr. Imtihan Qureshi (fifth from right) Executive Director, COMSATS in a group photograph with the participants.