

COMSATS



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



Yemen



Zimbabwe

December 2018



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 was founded in 1994, as a result of a consensus reached by the nations participating in the organization's Foundation Meeting. At present, COMSATS has 27 Member States and a Network of 22 Science and Technology Centres 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 Centres 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. 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, Former President of COMSATS Centre in Egypt, National Research Centre (NRC), currently chairs the Coordinating Council. Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi is the incumbent Executive Director of COMSATS Secretariat.

The Secretariat of COMSATS is permanently located in Islamabad and is being run through generous annual grant by the Government of Pakistan.



21st meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council



Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
President of Ghana & Chairperson COMSATS



Ms. Yasmin Masood
Chairperson
Consultative Committee



Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi
Executive Director
COMSATS



Prof. Ashraf Shaalan
Chairperson
Coordinating Council



Al-Farabi Gold Medal for Executive Director COMSATS (April 2018)



Mission Statement

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.



Participants of Workshop on Metrology for LDCs (Turkey)

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 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 CUI-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.



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

- ▶ **National/International Events:** COMSATS organizes/co-organizes and sponsors capacity-building S&T events in various themes that are of



Workshop on Nanotechnology for Young Scientists (Malaysia)

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 CUI to students from COMSATS' member countries. Among the 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 CUI-Pakistan, these fellowships are offered by IROST-Iran, ICCBS-Pakistan, NRC-Egypt, ICCES-China, and BCSIR-Bangladesh.



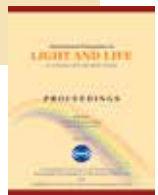
- ▶ **Short-term Training Programmes:** With a view to build capacity of scientific institutions of member states, scientists and technicians are provided short-term hands-on trainings at relevant Centres of Excellence. The travel cost is borne by COMSATS, while the host institutions provide facilities 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.
- ▶ **Incentivizing Research and Development:** COMSATS has been a sponsor of Khwarizmi International Award of IROST, Iran, since 1997.



Workshop on Repair and Maintenance (Nigeria)



- ▶ **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. COMSATS has a dedicated page on the webportal of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).
- ▶ **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'.





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 a network of 13 Tele-Health clinics across Pakistan. Moreover, new grounds are being broken for expanding cooperation at provincial and federal



CIS Technology Park



Operation of CTH at a remote clinic



government levels (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir). Three new clinics have been established in KPK under a cooperation agreement with KPK IT Board.

(www.comsats.net.pk)

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI): CUI 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. Having been granted a structure of full fledged university, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology became COMSATS University Islamabad in 2018.



CUI Islamabad Campus

(www.comsats.edu.pk)



CUI continues to produce high quality graduates



COMSATS Telehealth (CTH): COMSATS Telehealth 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. CTH also organizes events for capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and skill development of health professionals interested and involved in tele-health activities. Such events also help create awareness on preventive healthcare among the general population.

(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.



CTH capacity-building activity (Islamabad)



International Cooperation

COMSATS 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:

- ▶ Abdus 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);
- ▶ Commonwealth Secretariat;
- ▶ 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);



- ▶ South Centre;
- ▶ Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre (SESRIC);
- ▶ 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);
- ▶ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

COMSATS' ongoing quest for cooperative action has resulted in sixty five (65) agreements with various partners.

Cooperation with UNESCAP

Having signed an MoU with the United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in 2017, COMSATS has been actively



COMSATS Delegation with Secretary-General UNESCAP at 74th UNESCAP Session (Thailand)



ED COMSATS as a panelist in a recent UNESCAP event

engaging with the Commission for achieving common objectives. Senior officials of COMSATS participated in the 74th Session (May 2018) and Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation (June 2018) held in Thailand.

Participation in Inauguration of UN-OHRLLS Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries

During 2017 and 2018, COMSATS strengthened its relations with UN bodies and development arms, as well as the Commonwealth Secretariat. As a result of new collaborations sought, COMSATS was invited to attend the Inauguration of UN-OHRLLS Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries on June 4, 2018. With 4 common member countries with Commonwealth Association and LDCs, and in all seven LDCs as its members, COMSATS is well placed to disseminate the benefits of the Bank.



The honorary life-time member of COMSATS Coordinating Council, Prof. Mohamed H.A. Hassan, is the Chair of the Governing Council of Technology Bank.

COMSATS' Accreditation to Commonwealth

In June 2018, the Commonwealth Secretariat officially approved the accreditation of COMSATS. The accreditation provides formal recognition of the organization becoming a part of a large network of accredited civil society and professional organizations associated with the Commonwealth.

Moreover, COMSATS has recently entered into agreement with the following organizations of the North:

- ▶ United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) (November 2018);
- ▶ Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre (SESRIC) (November 2018);
- ▶ South Centre (September 2018).



MoU Signing at SESRIC, Turkey

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



CUI-Pakistan



AQU-Palestine



UCAD-Senegal



ITI-Sri Lanka



IRCC-Sudan



HIAST-Syria



TIRDO-Tanzania



CERTE-Tunisia



TÜBİTAK MAM-Turkey



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