



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

Summary of Activities

(2016 to 2018)

for

H.E. the President of Republic of Ghana

Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

Chairperson COMSATS

(January 8, 2019)



COMSATS' Member States



Bangladesh



China



Colombia



Egypt



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

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COMSATS' Activities
(2016 to 2018)



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



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



H.E. Mr. Imran Khan
Prime Minister of
Host Country, Pakistan



Ms. Yasmin Masood
Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science
and Technology, Pakistan
Chairperson Consultative Committee



Prof. Ashraf Shaalan
Former President, National
Research Centre (NRC), Egypt
Chairperson Coordinating Council



Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi
Executive Director COMSATS



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Statutory Functions

COMSATS Secretariat's basic functions as stipulated in its statutes constitute a major part of its activities. This includes the meetings of statutory bodies, expansion of membership, and other actions aiding the organization's main functions. During the reporting period, COMSATS held three coordinating Council Meetings, a TAC meeting and three management committee meetings, while also pursuing other important functions.

The Council Meetings

The Coordinating Council of COMSATS comprises the Heads of its 22 International S&T Centres of Excellence. The Council meets once annually to decide on matters relating to the membership of the Network. The Council also approves the programmes and budget of COMSATS' Network, as well as makes rules for governing its own procedures.

The progress of COMSATS' Network is appraised in the annual meetings of the Council held at one of the Centres. Additionally, during the meetings, the Council also reviews the scientific programmes and activities of the Network along with determining its rules, regulations and future course of action.

The 21st Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, Almaty, Kazakhstan (April 2018)

The 21st Council Meeting was held on 3-4 April 2018, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, hosted by Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), Kazakhstan. The two-day meeting comprised three technical sessions in addition to an inaugural and a closing session. The meeting was attended by the Council members or their representatives from 14 COMSATS' Centres of Excellence from Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Iran, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, and Tunisia. The representatives of international

partner (SESRIC-Turkey and ICGEB-Italy) and non-partner organizations (Edibon International - Spain) also attended the meeting as observers. Moreover, the meeting was attended by the Deputy Director-General of the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Technology (TIB), China.

The 20th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, Cairo, Egypt (May 2017)

COMSATS Coordinating Council held its 20th meeting on May 14-15, 2017, in Cairo, Egypt, which was hosted by COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in the country, National Research Centre (NRC). The Centre also holds the Chairpersonship of the Council, by virtue of which the Centre's President Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan chaired the meeting. The two-day meeting had participation from 14 Centres of Excellence of COMSATS belonging to Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia and Turkey. Officials from COMSATS Secretariat and officials of partner international organizations, UNESCO and TWAS also participated in the meeting.

The meeting was inaugurated on 14th May 2017 in a graceful ceremony by His Excellency Prof. Khaled Kassem, Senior Assistant Minister for Strategic Plans and Supporting Systems, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Arab Republic of Egypt.

The 19th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, Islamabad, Pakistan (May 2016)

COMSATS Coordinating Council held its 19th meeting on May 17-18, 2016, in Islamabad, Pakistan, which was hosted by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) now known as COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI). The two-day meeting comprised three technical sessions, in addition to the inauguration and closing sessions, and had participation from 14 Centres,

officials from COMSATS Secretariat and officials of partner international organizations, UNESCO, ECO Science Foundation and SESRIC. Over 150 participants attended the inaugural ceremony, including the Council members, representatives from government ministries and departments, S&T organizations, R&D institutions, and diplomatic missions of COMSATS' Member States in Islamabad.

2nd Meeting of COMSATS' Technical Advisory Committee, Trieste, Italy (November 2017)

The Technical Advisory Committee deliberates on matters affecting technical programmes and international collaborations of COMSATS with a special focus on improving the efficacy of COMSATS' Network. COMSATS held the second meeting of its International Technical Advisory Committee on 15th November 2017, in Trieste, Italy.

The meeting was hosted by The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). The TAC members that attended the meeting were: Dr. Sabah AlMomin, Kuwait; Prof. Huadong Guo, China; Dr. Jalila Ben Salah Abbes, Tunisia; Prof. Dr. Yin Li, China; Prof. Sahalu B. Junaidu, Nigeria; and Prof. Dr. Amal AlAboudi, Jordan; while Dr. Richard Catlow, United Kingdom; and Prof. Dr. Sok Ching Cheong, Malaysia, participated through video-conferencing.

The Committee members encouraged COMSATS Secretariat to facilitate the expansion of the Network through induction of renowned R&D Centres from the South and the North. TAC also advised COMSATS to facilitate upgradation of existing Centres of Excellence through financial and technical support.

The members also encouraged COMSATS to initiate new programmes and projects, which are of significance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for the benefit of the Member States.

Membership Expansion

Efforts continued to increase COMSATS' membership during the last three years. In this regard, outreach was expanded, networking strengthened and new collaborations made. During this period, the following increase in COMSATS' strength was achieved.

Member States

S #	Country Name	Date
1	Republic of Yemen	6 th November 2018
2	Federal Republic of Somalia	9 th November 2017
3	Islamic Republic of the Gambia	17 th May 2016
4	Republic of Turkey	31 st August 2012 (Ratified 2017)

COMSATS Network of International S&T Centres of Excellence

S #	Institute Name	Date
1	Al-Quds University, Palestine	14 th May 2017
2	Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), China	3 rd April 2018

Diplomatic Outreach

Diplomatic outreach was also continued, whereby senior government officials and representatives from important partner and potential partner organizations from member and potential member states were met. These interactions

Non-member/Potential Member States	Member States
Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Cuba, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam	Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, The Gambia, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen

resulted in new collaborations, pledges and expansion in COMSATS' membership.

Finances

Host Country Contribution - Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan, being the host country of COMSATS Secretariat, is meeting the running costs of COMSATS Secretariat under an international agreement. Currently, the Government of Pakistan annually contributes PKR 40.00 million towards the running cost of COMSATS Secretariat. In addition, the Government of Pakistan is also making US\$ 20,000 as an Annual Membership Contribution (AMC). COMSATS Accounts are regularly subjected to audit and presented for approval of the Coordinating Council.

Annual Membership Contribution

During the calendar year 2016 to 2018, COMSATS received Annual Membership Contributions (AMC) from

eight (08) Member States as shown here.

COMSATS' Endowment Fund

COMSATS Endowment Fund was created by the COMSATS' Commission during its 2nd General Meeting held on 16-17 April 2012 in Islamabad, Pakistan, on proposal by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan (Ex-Chairperson of COMSATS). The proposal called for an amount of US\$ 10M with a commitment of US\$ 1.00M as seed money from the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has since issued US\$ 0.1 million equivalent to PKR 10 million out of the total commitment of US\$ one million (PKR 100.00 million). The balance amount of US\$ 0.90 million (PKR 90.00 million) is expected to be released soon. After receipt of the seed money from the Government of Pakistan, other Member States will be requested to make their contributions towards COMSATS' Endowment Fund.

Annual Membership Contribution received from 2016 to 2018

Country Name	2016	2017	2018	Total
China	US\$ 20,000	US\$ 20,007	US\$ 51,568	US\$ 91,575
Iran	-	-	US\$ 10,000	US\$ 10,000
Jordan	US\$ 5,000	-	-	US\$ 5,000
Kazakhstan	US\$ 20,000	US\$ 20,000	-	US\$ 40,000
Nigeria	US\$ 10,000	-	-	US\$ 10,000
Pakistan	US\$ 20,000	US\$ 20,000	US\$ 20,000	US\$ 60,000
Sri Lanka	US\$ 20,000	-	US\$ 20,000	US\$ 40,000
Sudan	-	US\$ 3,000	-	US\$ 3,000
	US\$ 95,000	US\$ 63,007	US\$ 101,568	US\$ 259,575

Partnerships, Collaborations and Outreach

During the last three years, COMSATS has actively engaged with existing partners, as well as for new partnerships and collaborations with a number of organizations and institutions from the North and the South, including UN development arms. Partnerships forged/strengthened with the following organizations:

- Lancaster University, UK
- Universities UK International (UUKi), UK
- Commonwealth Secretariat, UK
- Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), UK
- British Council, UK and Pakistan
- The European Union, Belgium
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Thailand
- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), New York, USA
- The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (UN-OHRLLS), New York, USA
- Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Morocco

- The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Italy
- Oman National Computer Emergency Readiness Team (OCERT), Oman
- Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPD), Pakistan
- American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), US
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Turkey
- Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), Fiji
- South Centre, Switzerland

Some of these partnerships were renewed/formalized through agreements, which include:

Accreditation with 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.

Bilateral Agreements during 2016-18	Signing Date
MoU between COMSATS and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)	30-11-2018
MoU between COMSATS and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Turkey	27-11-2018
MoU between COMSATS and Pakistan Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Society (PAAIS), Pakistan	01-11-2018
MoU between COMSATS and The South Centre, Geneva	03-09-2018
MoU between COMSATS and Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), Fiji	12-03-2018
MoU between COMSATS and American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), USA	04-01-2018
MoU between COMSATS and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Thailand	20-12-2017
Protocol of Cooperation between COMSATS and Oman National CERT, Oman	02-11-2017
MoU between COMSATS and Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPD), Pakistan	22-06-2017
MoU between COMSATS and National Centre for Physics (NCP), Pakistan	14-07-2016
MoU between COMSATS and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Turkey	09-11-2016

Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 UN agenda with its universal dimensions pertaining to economy, society and environment have acquired a prominent place in global cooperation efforts for development. All the stakeholder states and international agencies, including COMSATS, have a strong interest in achieving the 2030 agenda. In continuation of its initiative to promote and institute 2030 Global Development Agenda, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) embarked upon incorporating the SDGs in its activities for S&T-led development of its member states. While all goals have been served in one way or the other by COMSATS over the years owing to the fact that the organization was constituted on the premise of Sustainable Development, a major constant has been the Goal 17, which is not only important but vital for COMSATS operations.

In this connection, two major capacity building events, received recognition from relevant stakeholders, like the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and UNESCO. Moreover, to build capacity of COMSATS' officials to better partake in relevant undertakings, two lectures were also organized. COMSATS' events held during this period also pertained to the SDGs as per the needs of the member States.

Seminar on 'Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Universities'

As a first major activity under revived focus on SDGs, the seminar on 'Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Universities' was held on July 9, 2018. The seminar was organized as a first step in this direction in Member States. For Pakistan, COMSATS partnered with relevant institution in the country, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. Vice Chancellors and other senior officials from around a 100 universities from across Pakistan gathered at the event. The purpose of

the Seminar was to raise awareness in the academia and research organizations on the promotion, advocacy and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

Prominent names from Pakistan and abroad delivered key note addresses on the occasion. These included Prof. Dr. John Thwaites, Chair of ClimateWorks Australia; Dr Max Paoli, Programme Coordinator, TWAS, Italy; and Dr. Adil Najam, Dean, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, USA.

The event resulted in a set of recommendations that were presented at the closing session. The recommendations emphasized the need of the research activities which help in promotion of sustainable development agenda, involvement of students in campus operations, bridging the gap between science and policy, and incubation of ideas and conversion of data into learning.

Seminar on "SDGs Implementation: The Collaboration among Universities"

The event was organized on 12th December 2018 at Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad. The seminar was held in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan and Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Arts and Humanities (IUCPSS) on the sidelines of International Students Convention and Expo 2018. The inaugural ceremony was attended by over a 100 representatives from academia and diplomatic community of Pakistan. His Excellency Sardar Masood Khan, Honourable President of Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) graced the event with his presence.

The dialogues among the participants touched upon policy frameworks, social protection policies, entrepreneurship, international cooperation, equitable quality education, women empowerment, renewable

energy, creativity and innovation, institutional building and sustainable infrastructure. As a result of active discussions and deliberations, clusters of universities and academicians on the seventeen SDGs were created in order to increase the participation of academia in the realization and localization of Global Agenda 2030.

Lectures

Implementation of SDGs in Pakistan

A presentation was made by Economic Advisor, Federal SDGs Support Unit, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Government of Pakistan, Mr. Ali Kemal, at COMSATS Secretariat on November 7, 2018. The presentation was arranged with a view to strengthen the capacity of COMSATS' officials for understanding challenges and opportunities including SDGs in developmental agenda of developing countries, with especial reference to Pakistan.

In his interactive presentation, Mr. Kemal informed that Pakistan adopted the SDGs in its parliament very early after their launch in 2015 and has since been aligning its strategies and programmes with the goals. He made a comprehensive review of all seventeen SDGs and observed that these goals are more multidisciplinary and qualitative on comparison with the MDGs.

Scientific Perspective on Sustainable Development Goals for Pakistan (May 2016)

The lecture was held on 23rd May 2016 by Dr. Seeme Mallick, from the Centre for Climate Research and Development, COMSATS University Islamabad. She emphasized adopting clean energy mechanisms to address several development issues facing Pakistan and other COMSATS Member States. She was of the view that there was need to focus on provision of clean energy and better pricing mechanism for rapid development.

Events

COMSATS capacity building events of last three years touched upon key areas under the SDGs as listed in the

table below:

SDGs	Relevant events
GOAL 1: No Poverty	1
GOAL 2: Zero Hunger	7
GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being	8
GOAL 4: Quality Education	4
GOAL 5: Gender Equality	1
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	1
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	4
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	3
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	11
GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality	1
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	1
GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	1
GOAL 13: Climate Action	4
GOAL 14: Life Below Water	1
GOAL 15: Life on Land	1
GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	1
GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal	12

Multilateral Research in SDGs

COMSATS' International Thematic Research Groups (ITRGs) are based on research collaboration among clusters of scientific institutions in specific fields of Science and Technology related to developmental needs of Member States, most of which are directly relating to SDGs. The groups activities pertained to the following SDG:

COMSATS' International Thematic Research Group	SDGs
'Climate Change and Environmental Protection'	SDG 13
'Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology'	SDG 2 & 9
'Renewable Energy Technologies'	SDG 7
'Natural Products Sciences'	SDG3 and 12
'Mathematical Modeling'	SDG 9 & 13

Capacity Building and Collaborative Activities

A number of events were organized during the reporting period. In all COMSATS organized, co-organized, and/or

supported 44 events in 27 countries. A summary of some core activities is given in the table below.

Events	Beneficiary Countries	Partners
8 th COMSATS-ISESCO-INIT International Workshop on “Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards”, 23-27 December 2018, State of Qatar	Syria, Ghana, Palestine, Gambia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Turkey, Qatar, Pakistan, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Jordan, Morocco, Bangladesh, Oman and Maldives	ISESCO, INIT
Seminar on SDGs Implementation: The Collaboration among Universities, 12 December 2018, Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	HEC, Pakistan; IUPSS
Workshop on Metrology for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 26-27 November 2018, Gebze Kocaeli, Turkey	Tanzania, Senegal, Bangladesh, Gambia, Uganda, Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Libya, Turkey and Austria	TUBITAK UME
Workshop on Metrology for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 26-27 November 2018, Gebze Kocaeli, Turkey	Tanzania, Senegal, Bangladesh, Gambia, Uganda, Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Libya, Turkey and Austria	TUBITAK UME
4 th International Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology, 13 – 14 November 2018, Rabat, Morocco	China; Kazakhstan; Nigeria; Sri Lanka; Sudan. Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Indonesia, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia and Turkey	ISESCO, INIT
COMSATS-HEC Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals – The Role of Universities, 9 th July 2018, Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	HEC, Pakistan
COMSATS-European Union Awareness Seminar on Horizon 2020, 7 th May 2018, Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	EU
COMSATS-ISESCO-INIT-AI-Farabi KazNU International Workshop on Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards, 19-23 December 2017, Almaty, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Mauritania, Iran, Pakistan and Sudan	ISESCO, INIT, KazNU
COMSATS-ISESCO-UTG 1st International Congress on Viruses and Vaccines in Tropical Areas, 11 th – 12 th October 2017, Sere Kunda, The Gambia	Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sudan	ISESCO, University of Gambia
COMSATS-ISESCO-AIFarabi KazNU National Training Workshop on Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Engineering Equipment in Universities, Research Institutions, and Small Scale Industries, 2-6 October 2017, Almaty, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	ISESCO, KazNU
COMSATS-IPD Forum on South-South Cooperation: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 12 September 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan	Iran, Malaysia, Tunisia, Oman, Sudan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, China, Kenya, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia	IPD, Pakistan

COMSATS-ISESCO-INIT-FMST-4th International Workshop on Applications of ICTs in Education, Healthcare and Agriculture, 25-27 July 2017, Abuja, Nigeria	Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, and Sri Lanka	ISESCO, INIT, FMST, Nigeria
COMSATS-ISESCO-PARC 3rd International Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology, 26-27 April 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan	Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Sudan, Iran, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan	ISESCO, PARC, COMSATS
6th COMSATS-ISESCO-INIT International Workshop on 'Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards', 19-23 December 2016, Rabat, Morocco	Palestine, Uzbekistan, Iran, Sudan, The Gambia, Ivory Coast, and Morocco	ISESCO, INIT, COMSATS
International Workshop on Nanotechnology for Young Scientists (IWYS-2016), 28-30 November 2016, Putrajaya, Malaysia	Republic of Korea, Japan, China, Pakistan and Turkey	ISESCO, UKM, COMSATS
National Seminar on Science Centres and Science Museums, 17 November 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	COMSATS University Islamabad
Regional Expert Meeting on 'Renewable Related Energy Focusing on Microalgae Technology Using Ocean Resources Including Solar and Fuel Cell', 31 Oct. to 1 Nov. 2016, Zahedan, Iran	Iran, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Syria and Spain	IROST, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran
International Conference and Exhibition on Renewable Energy Technologies, 18-20 October 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan	Sudan; Kazakhstan; Iran; Germany; Jordan; USA; Taiwan; and Egypt	ISESCO, PCRET
2nd International Conference on "Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology", 17-18 October 2016, Khartoum, Sudan	Egypt, Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Senegal, and Sudan	ISESCO, IRCC, University of Khartoum
3rd International Workshop on Applications of ICTs in Education, Healthcare and Agriculture, 31 May - 1 June 2016, Amman, Jordan	Jordan; Palestine; Pakistan; Morocco; China; Tanzania; Egypt	ISESCO, INIT, RSS
National Training Workshop on Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Engineering Equipment in Universities, Research Institutions, and Small Scale Industries, 23-27 May 2016, Enugu, Nigeria	Nigeria	ISESCO, PRODA
Regional Workshop on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Life Sciences Research, 26-28 April 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan	Kazakhstan, Jordan, Bahrain, Iran, USA, and Nigeria	COMSATS University Islamabad

Sponsorships and Travel Grants

The table below indicates the country-wise sponsorships for travel grants during the past three years.

Country	Scientists Sponsored	Amount (US\$)
Bangladesh	1	1,606
Brazil	1	2,596
China	10	11,358
Egypt	5	2,961
Gambia	1	1,465
Ghana	3	3,468
Iran	9	7,833
Italy	1	984
Jamaica	2	3,257
Jordan	7	7,511
Kazakhstan	6	5,281
Kuwait	1	820
Morocco	1	1,171
Nigeria	5	4,709
Pakistan	24	31,668
Palestine	1	500
Saudi Arabia	2	4,328
Senegal	1	1,544
Sri Lanka	11	8,768
Sudan	4	4,807
Syria	1	553
Tanzania	3	2,903
Tunisia	1	740
Turkey	3	2,016
UAE	7	8,383
USA	3	3,816
Uzbekistan	1	2,213
Total	115	127,258

Scholarships

COMSATS Secretariat has been engaging the Centres of Excellence to cooperate in a number of fields. One includes higher education, whereby some of the centres make available for the students of member states scholarships. These are:

- Hundred (100) scholarships for students/researchers for postgraduate studies and ten (10) for post-doctoral fellowships at all campuses of COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan.
- Ten (10) doctoral scholarships/post-doctoral fellowships at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Science (ICCBS), Pakistan.
- Five (05) post-doctoral fellowships at the National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt.
- Postgraduate Scholarships and Post-doctoral Fellowships at International Centre for Climate and Environment Sciences (ICCES), China, and PFIF programme.
- One (01) post-doctoral fellowship at Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Bangladesh.

These scholarships are being availed by a number of students from different member countries.

Flagship Projects

COMSATS Internet Services

CIS is operating in 17 cities of Pakistan, and has more than 10,000 customers from prominent organizations from public and private sector, well-known national and international companies and firms, software and business companies, foreign missions, consulate and embassies, non- governmental organizations, universities, social development and research organizations.

During the reporting period:

- CIS Technology Park building was inaugurated.
- Three new CIS nodes in Gujranwala, Gujrat and Sukkur cities of Pakistan, and also expanded its operations in the twin cities.
- Inauguration ceremony of CIS Tele-Health Center Islamabad was held on December 02, 2016.
- A Node at Toba Tek Singh was established by CIS, Faisalabad. Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) project won last year by CIS is being executed successfully in Attock, Bahawalpur, Jhelum, Sargodha, and Okara (50 BHUs connectivity and support).

COMSATS University Islamabad

Established as the premier IT institute of the country, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology continued its growth during the reporting period. With expanding partnerships to North and South, increasing in academic programmes, faculty and student enrollment, as well as publication and R&D, the institute acquired the charter of University from the Government of Pakistan during the reporting period.

In the newly announced international rankings, CUI has yet again maintained its position as one of the leading Institutions for higher education. CUI is ranked # 301-400 in 2018 Times Higher Education (THE) Engineering

& Technology subject ranking and #401-500 in Physical Sciences and Social Sciences subject ranking. While in the THE world universities rankings, CUI has been placed among 601-800 world best universities, at #125 in Asian Universities, and ranked 2nd in Pakistan. The University has also been ranked 190th in QS Asian Universities Rankings 2018.

COMSATS Telehealth (CTH)

Despite its limited resources, COMSATS has successfully managed to sustain its Telehealth program in Pakistan since 2001 with the support of partner organizations, COMSATS Telehealth has recently received honorable mention in International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) ICT Mountain Development Award 2018 for its role in providing healthcare and using telehealth in the knowledge and skill development of the local community. The major crux of its Telehealth activities during the year 2016-2018 is as below.

In addition to previous Telehealth centres in various areas of Pakistan, another agreement with the IT board of Khyber Pakhtun Khwa (KPK) province was signed and three new Telehealth clinics were established under the agreement in Sawabi, Mardan and Mansehra, respectively. Thousands of Teleconsultations were provided in the year 2016 to 2018 by doctors at COMSATS Telehealth resource centre to the patients at Telehealth clinics.

Tele-consultation 2016-2018	
Year	Consultations
2018	3072 (till August)
2017	6850
2016	752

Some major activities and achievements during the period are as follows:

- Trainings and hands on practice of staff at new Telehealth clinics carried out to develop the understanding of telehealth, the standard procedures to carry out teleconsultations, use of Telemedicine hardware and software, as well as for handling ultrasound probe to assist the gynecologist in Islamabad in Ante natal ultrasounds. Around 20 people were trained in two different sessions.
- Capacity building seminar conducted in a health expo in Islamabad with 50 participants including representatives from NGOs, health organizations and universities.
- COMSATS Telehealth participated in capacity building events on ehealth and relevant themes in Pakistan and in Sri Lanka. Also, Telehealth demonstration stalls were setup at various health and relevant events including International Health expo in Islamabad, Tourism Gala in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, IT exhibition on Peshawar etc.
- MoU and agreements were signed to set up Telehealth centre with the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab province-IT board, KPK-IT board, and Baluchistan Research and Development foundation (BRDF), International Rescue committee (IRC) and Pakistan Asthma Allergy and Immunology Society (PAAIS).
- Possibilities of collaboration were sought with Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Midland Doctors Medical Institute (MDMI), Welthungerhilfe, and Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health (CWCDH).
- COMSATS is in touch with few of its Centres of Excellence working in some form of eHealth like AlFarabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) and Industrial Research and Consultancy Centre (IRCC) in its efforts to create a network of Telemedicine within member states.

Public Engagement and Information Dissemination

COMSATS Science Diplomacy Programme

Realized as a result of deliberations of the 18th Coordinating Council Meeting held in Sri Lanka, in May 2015, COMSATS Science Diplomacy Programme entails a COMSATS' Science Ambassador Scheme, a series of lectures on Science contributing to International Diplomacy, discussion forums on contemporary issues affected by science and other capacity building activities in the planes of Science popularization, advocacy and diplomacy. Major activities under the programme during the reporting period were the following lectures:

- Scientific Perspective on Sustainable Development Goals for Pakistan (May 2016)
- Biosurveillance: Science Needs for Microbial Forensics (April 2016)
- Science Diplomacy: An Overview (March 2016)

Publications

The following publications were brought out during the reporting period:

- COMSATS Newsletter: 3 Volumes, 18 Issues;
- COMSATS Annual Reports: 3 Reports;
- COMSATS' Journal: 'Science Vision': Volume 21 (1&2);
- An Introduction to COMSATS Coordinating Council

and the Network of Centres of Excellence (May 2016);

- Profiles of COMSATS' Network of International S&T Centres of Excellence (April 2018);
- COMSATS – TWAS 'Excellence in Science' Books 3: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD);
- Report on 'Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Universities, 9th July 2018, Islamabad, Pakistan';
- One Hundred Reasons to be a Scientist – (Urdu Version) (January 2016); and
- COMSATS' Series of Publications on Science and Technology- Book16: International Symposium on Light and Life.

Print and Electronic Media

Apart from an impressive projection through its official website, COMSATS continued to promote its cause by projecting its activities through releases on print and electronic media, as well as special supplements in relevant newspapers. Social media presence of COMSATS has also been augmented during the last three years.

COMSATS also has its presence on UNOSSC website under the partnership between the two organizations.

Centres of Excellence



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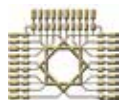
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