

**REMARKS at the 22nd Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council, Tianjin,
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Yin Li
Deputy Director-General
Bureau of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Sciences**

- Respected Vice Mayor Yao,
- Respected Prof. Shaalan, Chairperson COMSATS Coordinating Council,
- Respected Dr. Zaidi, COMSATS Executive Director,
- Respected Mr. Linhao Chen, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, China
- Respected Prof. Yanhe Ma, Director General, Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Hon. Members of COMSATS Coordinating Council, Diplomatic Community of COMSATS Member States, Representatives of International Partner Organizations
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman

Good Morning!

It is my great pleasure to attend the 22nd COMSATS Coordinating Council Meeting. On behalf of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), I would like to extend my sincere regards and greetings to all our distinguished guests travelled from afar. CAS is much honored to have the presence in the COMSATS science community, and it is our interest to think how we can further our linkages with COMSATS.

Ladies and gentlemen, in today's world, we, in the South in particular, have been faced with grand common challenges during development. To address these challenges with joint efforts, President Xi Jinping proposed the "The Belt and Road" Initiative for the common development and flourishing in the Belt and Road region and the world beyond.

The Belt and Road concept of common development is one based on cooperation, respect and friendship. As scientists, we stand firmly convinced that in this process, science is a key to provide possible solutions to many of the common challenges.

It is also with this grand objective, together with the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences and other 34 national science organizations, CAS proposed and established a new international science organization, ANSO, hoping that we could unite our scientific resources and wisdom in the grand mission of providing science-based inputs and assistance to support global, regional and national development through collaborations on Science, Technology, Innovation and Capacity Building.

As many of you may know, CAS is the largest and most comprehensive national natural science and high technology research organization in China. Through its research institutes, universities and the Academic Division, CAS performs the strategic functions of doing research, training science talents and providing evidence-based advice on national S&T policymaking. We are proud that our work has in many ways helped the progress of social economic development and improvement of people's livelihood.

In this process, CAS attaches great importance to international cooperation and closely works with our partners around the world. COMSATS is no doubt, one of our most important strategic partners in moving forward. CAS Institute of Atmospheric Physics has been an active participant in COMSATS activities and an early Center of Excellence in the COMSATS framework. Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology has been the second such center hosted by CAS. We are pleased to witness that much fruitful collaboration have been conducted with COMSATS and we sincerely hope more joint efforts and results will be delivered through dialogue and discussions.

With the above, I would like to conclude my talk by welcoming all of you again to Tianjin, a place I worked for several years thus with special personal sentiment. I wish the meeting a success in achieving its designed goals and I hope you enjoy your stay here. Thank you!