

Welcome Address

Prof. Dr. Yanhe Ma, Director-General of TIB, CAS

April 16, 2019, Tianjin, China

- Respected Mr. Laiying Yao, Vice Mayor of Tianjin Municipal Government,
- Respected Dr. Junaid Zaidi, Executive Director COMSATS,
- Respected Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, Chairperson COMSATS Coordinating Council,
- Respected Mr. Linhao Chen, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, China,
- Honorable Members of COMSATS Coordinating Council,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman,

Good morning!

First of all, on behalf of the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to all our distinguished guests.

It's truly our great honor to host the 22nd meeting of COMSATS' Coordinating Council. As one of the prestigious inter-governmental organizations, COMSATS plays

significant roles in supporting the socio-economic sustainable development for the South. In the past 25 years, COMSATS has developed an excellent network of International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence for South-South cooperation, and extended its cooperation with the North, thus the members could closely work together to fulfill the UN sustainable development goals. Many joint projects in the fields of information and communication technologies, agriculture, environment, biotechnology, medicinal products and materials sciences, were launched by COMSATS for promoting the socio-economic development in the developing countries. Congratulations on these achievements made by COMSATS.

We at the TIB share a similar vision with COMSATS, that is to promote the sustainable development of economy and society through providing next-generation industrial biotechnologies. TIB is the only institute in the CAS system working on synthetic biology for industrial bioproduction, with space dedicated to industrial enzymes, advanced microbial manufacturing, and advanced bioprocess engineering. We have built strong reputations on translational research and technology transfer, and developed cooperative relationships with many commercial companies and local governments.

Since TIB joined the COMSATS Network as the 22nd center of excellence of COMSATS last April, we established an internal COMSATS office to strengthen the connections with COMSATS. Moreover, we signed a Memoranda of Understanding with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Pakistan. We are planning to take more concrete actions to enhance our cooperation with COMSATS members. For instance, an international training course on industrial biotechnology will be held in TIB in the coming October, and I encourage you to use this opportunity to send people who are interested in this course to join, so we can share our knowledge and insights with our colleagues in the South.

Presently, TIB is undertaking a very challenging task, that is to develop a National Technology Innovation Center for Synthetic Biology. The new center will be an open, comprehensive, and integrated innovation platform, where COMSATS members can use this platform to reinforce bilateral or multilateral collaboration in the area of biotechnology. We believe only by the concerted international cooperation, we will be able to tackle the key challenges hampering the sustainable development, and finally create a greener, healthier and more prosperous world for our community with shared future for mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen!

The meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council is an important mechanism for COMSATS centers to learn more about each other and strengthen mutually-beneficial collaboration. I believe all participants will be inspired by the experiences and creative ideas shared by each other, through presentations, discussions, brain-storming and networking in the next two days. Moreover, I hope solid friendship and in-depth collaborations will be further established and developed between your esteemed centers and the TIB.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to thank the Ministry of Science and Technology of China for supporting and sponsoring the meeting. I am immensely thankful to the COMSATS Coordinating Council members and other foreign participants for taking time and travelling afar to Tianjin, at this beautiful spring. I am also grateful to COMSATS Headquarters for their guidance and help during the preparation of this meeting.

Last but not least, I wish all of you enjoy the meeting and enjoy your stay in Tianjin.

Thank you.