

ABOUT COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

COMSATS: The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is an international organization established as a result of an inter-governmental agreement among 21 developing countries from across three continents (Asia, Africa and Latin America). Also, there are 16 renowned R&D organizations world-wide, which are affiliated with COMSATS as a network of Centres-of-Excellence. The organization is striving to facilitate South-South and South-North cooperation for achieving S&T-led sustainable socio-economic development in the South. Its headquarters is in Islamabad and the Prime Minister of Pakistan is its current chairperson.

HEC: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has been set up by the Government of Pakistan to support the development of Pakistani universities to be the world-class centres of education, research and development. Through facilitating this process, the HEC intends to play its part in spearheading the building of a knowledge-based economy in Pakistan.

COMSTECH: The OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) was established by the OIC's Islamic Summit in 1981 held at Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It comprises 57 OIC member States and has the mandate to ensure implementation of OIC resolutions aimed at S&T development of the Muslim countries. COMSTECH works for building indigenous capabilities in science and technology, promotion and cooperation in relevant areas, and establishment of institutional structure for planning and development in the countries of the Islamic Ummah.

CONTACT PERSONS

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Schedule

26th - 28th October 2009

Venue

COMSTECH Secretariat
G-5/1, Islamabad.

COMSATS-COMSTECH National Meeting

Challenges for Socio-economic Development in Pakistan: Role of Science and Technology

26th – 28th October 2009
Islamabad, Pakistan



Organizers



COMSATS



HEC



COMSTECH

For more information on the meeting, view the
latest details at the website:
www.comsats.org

BACKGROUND

Pakistan is currently facing several socio-economic challenges in spite of being the 6th most populous country of the world with abundant natural resources. The major segment of Pakistan's population comprises young people below the age of 30. The country's future depends on how they perceive the situation and what remedies they consider necessary for improving the conditions of our institutions.

Science and technology have proved to be the main driving force behind the industrial and economic development, particularly for the leading world economies. S&T provides avenues for continuous growth as well as quantum leap. The countries such as South Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia are good examples of the nations that have realized development goals in a relatively short span of time through science and technology.

There is no denying the fact that the judicious use of science and technology has the potential to offer many pragmatic solutions for Pakistan's socio-economic challenges.

INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) and the OIC's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), are organizing this national meeting to deliberate upon the challenges faced by Pakistan on both social and economic fronts. The meeting shall take place in the premises of COMSTECH Secretariat from 26th to 28th October 2009.

The organizers aim at stimulating fresh thinking in the youth, mobilizing the key stakeholders, as well

as developing synergies amongst the present policy-makers and future custodians of the country.

MAIN THEME AND OBJECTIVES

The meeting is expected to serve as a forum for interaction between the country's promising youth and eminent subject experts to discuss Pakistan-specific socio-economic issues and their practicable solutions through appropriate scientific and technological applications.

The youth of the country, through this meeting, would be given an opportunity to express their views and identify the problems facing Pakistan, as well as to come up with concrete, practicable and economically viable solutions. Main emphasis will be laid on the ideas and recommendations made by the participating youth, the applicability of solutions in the light of the present socio-economic circumstances and the existing scientific and technological capacities in the country.

The main thematic areas of discussion are:

1. Agriculture and Environment
2. Energy
3. ICTs and Media
4. Education
5. Health
6. Economy and S&T Issues

FORMAT OF THE MEETING

The national meeting would be of a unique format, comprising two panels of discussants. One panel shall include nationally renowned senior resource persons and the second panel will consist of a group of 25-30 young participants, i.e., students and researchers at post-graduate level and subject enthusiasts from all over Pakistan.

Each technical session is designed to be conducted by two senior resource persons. They

shall give keynote addresses to the young participants and trigger brainstorming and discussions concerning the issues relevant to the particular theme of the session and their appropriate solutions via science and technology. By the end of each technical session, the senior resource persons, with the active participation of young scholars, will compile a set of recommendations as meaningful outcome of the discussions.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

The programme will consist of 6 technical sessions, each linked with a set of thematic area(s), spread over three days of the event. The main feature will be the extensive discussions and presentations to identify problems and their solutions related to socio-economic development of Pakistan. The participants are expected to attend the meeting on full-time basis.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The outcomes of the meeting are expected to be:

1. A concise report of the identified challenges and their viable scientific and technological solutions that could be utilized by the policy-makers and other concerned persons for the benefit of the country.
2. Development of a think-tank of young people and experts to carry forward the ideas and recommendations developed in this meeting with the participation of COMSATS and COMSTECH.
3. The possibility of establishing a web-site as a follow-up phase to this meeting for the continued post-meeting interaction among the members of the think-tank.