It is expected that the workshop will assist the participants to enhance their capacities in handling the repairs, maintenance and troubleshooting of instruments and equipment in their organizations.

**Objectives**

- To provide hands-on training to the participants for improving their skills for independently maintaining and repairing the scientific instruments;
- To update the trainees' knowledge on changing technologies in scientific equipments;
- To acquaint the participants with the functioning of scientific instruments through need-based training, as well as documentation in the repair and maintenance of scientific equipments.
- To facilitate information-exchange among scientists, researchers, technicians, service engineers, and industrialists for enhancing the existing scientific capacity.

**Language**

The working language for the workshop will be French.

**Participation and Financial Support**

The workshop is aimed to bring together professional technicians, scientists, researchers, service engineers, industrialists. Partial or full financial support will be provided to a limited number of participants on the discretion of the organizers.
Introduction

Basic and applied research in science and technology is essential for the economic development of any nation. A large proportion of this research is customarily conducted in the educational and industrial organizations both in public and private sectors. The pace of research largely depends on the skills of the scientists and technicians and the availability of the well maintained scientific instruments.

In the developing countries, lack of planning, inappropriate equipment inventories and severe shortage of repairs and maintenance facilities create considerable obstacle in the smooth progress of research programmes. In this context, the teaching and research institutions suffer more from delayed research out-put and the industrial units face production losses. Unfortunately the concerned management in most of the developing countries, including the Islamic Countries, do not pay enough attention to the upkeep of repairs and maintenance facilities, resulting in the abandonment of a large number of very expensive instruments and equipment. These losses can be averted by spending a fraction of money on the effective and preventive repairs and maintenance schemes as compared to the costs incurred on time losses and the procurement of the new instruments and by providing relevant training to the operators, concerned engineers and technicians of such instruments, equipment, etc.

There is obviously a need to develop an indigenous capacity to repair and maintain the scientific equipment, as inviting foreign experts for the purpose is time-consuming and economically unviable, especially for the developing countries. Manpower adept in repairing and maintaining scientific equipments of all sorts used in the teaching and research institutions, and industries, can ensure uninterrupted research work, and thus an overall socio-economic development of a country.

In view of the above, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), in collaboration with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Senegalese National Commission for UNESCO is jointly organizing a national workshop to address the problems facing the developing Islamic countries in the up-keep of the repairs and maintenance facilities. The national workshop is entitled “Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Equipment in Teaching, Research Institutions and Small Scale Industries” and will take place in Dakar, Senegal from 18 to 21 October 2010. The main components of the workshop will include inter-active discourses and practical training.