

CONTACT PERSONS

COMSATS

Mr. Tajammul Hussain

Advisor (Programmes)
COMSATS Headquarters Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9204892
Fax: +92-51-9216539
Email: husseint@comsats.net.pk

Abdul Majid Qureshi

Research Scholar
COMSATS Headquarters Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9214515
Fax: +92-51-9216539
Email: majid13@comsats.net.pk

ISESCO

Dr. Tariq Mahmood

Director Science and Technology
Science Directorate
ISESCO Rabat, Morocco
Tel: +212-537 5660 52 / 53
Fax: + 212-537 5660 12 / 13
Email: sciences@isesco.org.ma

Dr. Ismail Abdel Hamid

Expert of Science,
Science Directorate, ISESCO Rabat, Morocco
Tel: +212-537-566-052/53
Fax: +212-537-566-012/13
Email: iabdelhamid@isesco.org.ma

PAS (Host Institution)

Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari

Secretary General
Pakistan Academy of Sciences
Constitution Avenue,
Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9204843
Fax: +92-51-9206770

Engr. Adnan Bashir

IT Coordinator
Pakistan Academy of Sciences
Constitution Avenue,
Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9204843
Fax: +92-51-9206770
Email: adnan@paspk.org

Submission of the full manuscript of presentation material at least 15 days prior to the commencement of the event is a pre-condition to participate in the Workshop.

9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Travel grants and boarding and lodging (4 nights) will be provided by COMSATS and ISESCO to a limited number of individuals from their respective member countries, selected by the Scientific Committee.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Workshop Dates: 26th - 28th April 2016
- Abstract Submission Deadline: 1st April 2016
- Acceptance of Abstracts: 4th April 2016
- Registration for Participation: 8th April 2016
- Posters Submission Deadline: 15th April 2016
- Acceptance of Posters: 18th April 2016
- Presentation Submission Deadline: 21st April 2016

Regional Workshop on

'BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY IN LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH'

26 - 28 April 2016
Islamabad, Pakistan



Organized by



1. INTRODUCTION

Laboratory biosafety incidents or misuse of infectious agents can lead to infectious disease outbreaks with devastating health and socio-economic impacts. Professional biosafety and biosecurity practices help prevent these incidents, while strengthening laboratory services and supporting public health systems in the global fight against infectious diseases. Rigorous biosafety and biosecurity standards ensure the development of laboratory systems that better control access to and use of dangerous biological pathogens and better protect human, animal and environmental health globally. Despite the hazardous implications of the subject to humans, livestock, poultry, crops and fruits the subject has received little attention in developing countries.

Due to the fast pace of research in life sciences there is a need to develop skills and awareness around biosafety and biosecurity concerns among scientists and researchers and to take measures to combat biological threats within the region by providing training to improve biosecurity, biosafety, pathogen surveillance, and infectious disease surveillance and disaster response. With a 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 Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) is organizing a three days Regional Workshop on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Life Sciences Research on April 26th - 28th 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The key objectives of this regional workshop are to:

- Provide hands-on training in Biosafety and principles of biosecurity to research/lab staff and academicians
- Provide a forum to scientists, researchers, technologists, lab staff and faculty members to update and share the recent developments and latest protocols in the area of Biosafety;
- Provide opportunity to the participants for knowledge-sharing on the understanding, current status and needs of biosecurity;
- Build and strengthen linkages among researchers and forerunners in the field of biosafety for evolving ongoing training programmes in the mode of South-South Cooperation;

- Increase awareness on the benefits of adopting best practices in laboratory and handling in relation to agriculture and life science research;
- Make recommendations for developing organizational and national policies on biosafety and biosecurity.

3. PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 26th - 28th April 2016. The detailed programme will be made available to the participants in due course of time.

4. ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

i) COMSATS

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is an inter-governmental organisation working for the S&T-led socio-economic uplift of the developing countries. It was established in 1994 and has its Headquarters located in Islamabad, Pakistan. COMSATS has 23 Member Countries across three continents; Latin America, Africa and Asia. (www.comsats.org)

ii) ISESCO

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (ISESCO) is one of the largest international organizations of Islamic Countries based in Rabat, Morocco. ISESCO aims at strengthening, and promoting cooperation among Islamic Countries in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, developing applied sciences and use of advanced technology within the framework of Islamic values and ideals, and contributing to the global efforts of world peace and security. (www.isesco.org.ma)

iii) PAS

The Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) is a non-governmental and non-political supreme scientific body of distinguished scientists in the country established in 1953. The Government of Pakistan has given the consultative and advisory status to the Academy "on all problems relating to the development of scientific efforts in the country", and "generally on such matters of national and international importance in the field of science as may be referred to the Academy". (www.paspk.org)

5. PARTICIPATION

Academicians, researchers, scientists, lab technicians/staff and other technical officers working in the fields of Agriculture, Biosafety, Biosecurity, Life Sciences Research, Microbiology etc in the developing/developed countries of the South Asian Region, are invited to participate in the regional workshop.

6. SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS

International Participants

Applications for participation are required to be submitted through duly filled-in prescribed form to COMSATS or ISESCO, at the contact addresses given at the end of this announcement on or before the given due date. The form should be completed in all respects. The submitted application should contain an extended abstract of the proposed workshop and (if any) facilities required for implementation.

Local Participants

Potential participants from Pakistani universities are required to register online (www.comsats.org/BioRegForm.php). Registrants will be required to pay a modest fee through bank draft/pay order in favour of 'COMSATS Secretariat' according to the following categories:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| • Students | Rs. 300/- |
| • Professionals | Rs. 1000/- |

Note: Registration is compulsory, however registration fee will be waived off for speakers/resource persons/poster presenters.

7. KEY AREAS OF THE WORKSHOP

- Biosafety and lab safe handling
- Biosecurity
- Bioethics

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

The participants will be selected on the basis of the relevance and quality of the abstracts, qualification and expertise. Selected participants will be required to present a country status report and/or a research/scientific paper on any of the topics in line with the theme of the workshop.