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Group Photo of Participants of the 26th Meeting of the COMSATS Coordinating Council, held on 8–9 June 2026 in Surabaya, Indonesia. Read more on page 02.

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From the Executive Director's Desk

Technological developments are rapidly coming to grip the countries and its people across the globe and setting new trends. Among the emerging technologies, the rise of AI alongwith the ethical issues, the question of governance, accessibility and management tools are much discussed topics. Science and technology are most meaningful when knowledge is shared across borders, institutions work together, and innovation is translated into solutions that respond to the needs of people and societies. For developing countries, where access to resources and scientific capacities can vary considerably, international scientific cooperation is not merely desirable; it is essential for advancing sustainable development. COMSATS continues to provide a platform where such cooperation can be put into practice through its Centres of Excellence, Partner Organizations, and Member States. The activities covered in this issue reflect this continuing effort to connect expertise, build capacities, and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, technology, and resources across the Global South.

A significant milestone during the period under report was the 26th Meeting of the COMSATS Coordinating Council, a Statutory Body of Scientists and Experts, held on 8–9 June 2026 in Surabaya, Indonesia. It was hosted by COMSATS Centre of Excellence, the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia, a member of the COMSATS Network. The Coordinating Council meetings bring together representatives of Centres of Excellence from different regions, along with Partner Organizations and Observers. The participation of these institutions and the substantive discussions reaffirm the continuing importance of COMSATS as a forum for South-South scientific cooperation.

The Council meeting was particularly important in reaffirming the practical orientation of the COMSATS Network. Centres of Excellence presented opportunities for joint research, technology transfer, scholarships, scientific exchanges, access to specialized labs and research facilities, high-performance computing, and capacity-building programmes. The areas of proposed cooperation ranged from artificial intelligence, biotechnology and advanced materials to climate science, renewable energy, food security, disaster risk reduction, and industrial innovation.

A significant outcome of the 26th COMSATS Coordinating Council meeting was election of the Chinese Government's nominee, with a unanimous vote, Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun of China as Council's new Chairperson. Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun succeeded the Council's Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, an Egyptian expert, whose ten-year tenure contributed to the continuity and development of the Council. The renewal of the Agreement between COMSATS and the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), China, for the COMSATS Joint Centre on Industrial Biotechnology was another important outcome.

The Council meeting was followed by the COMSATS–ITS Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development. Discussions encompassed artificial intelligence and digital transformation, renewable energy, climate and environmental technologies, water and food security, biotechnology, health technologies, advanced materials, and technology governance. The Conference underlined that the emerging technologies must be accompanied by institutional capacities, responsible policies, and meaningful international cooperation if they are to contribute effectively to sustainable development. Experts from COMSATS Centres of Excellence in China, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Tanzania, along with experts from ANSO and The South Centre, shared perspectives and insights across the Conference themes, including (i) AI, Big Data, and Digital Transformation; (ii) Renewable Energy; Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation, and Environmental Technologies; (iii) Water, Food, and Agricultural Technologies for Resource Security; (iv) Biotechnology; Health Technologies;

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The 26th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council



The 26th Meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) was successfully held on 8-9 June 2026, in Surabaya, Indonesia. Coordinating Council is one of the four statutory bodies of the Commission that conducts meetings of the members of the Network of COMSATS Centes of Excellence (CoE). The meeting was hosted by COMSATS Centre of Excellence, the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia_ member of the Network since 2020.

The Council Meeting was attended by BCSIR-Bangladesh, TIB-China, ICCES-China, CIF-Colombia, NRC-Egypt, CSIR-Ghana, IROST-Iran, ITS-Indonesia, ICENS-Jamaica, RSS-Jordan, KazNU-Kazakhstan, NMC-Nigeria, ICCBS-Pakistan, CUI-Pakistan, AQU-Palestine, ITI-Sri Lanka, IRCC-Sudan, HIAST-Syria, TIRDO-Tanzania, and TUBITAK-Turkiye. COMSATS International Partner Organizations, including ANSO, SESRIC, IOFS, INSME, CPJRC, UNESCO, UNOSSC, The South Centre, and members of the Technical Advisory Committee participated as Observers.

Prof. Bambang Pramujati, Rector, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia; Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director COMSATS; Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, Chairperson of COMSATS Coordinating Council; and the Chief Guest, Mr. Yi Su, Consul General of China in Surabaya launched the opening ceremony.

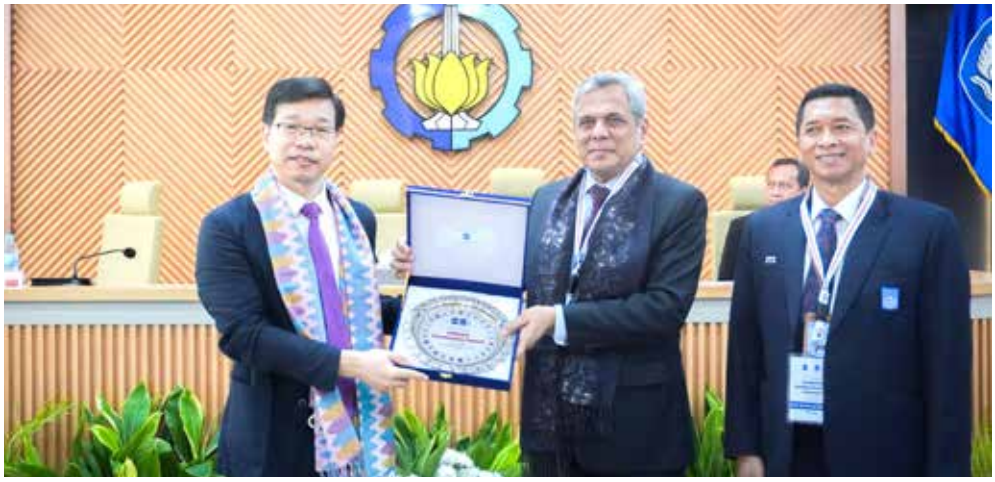
COMSATS' three-decade legacy of fostering scientific cooperation among developing nations, sharing of knowledge, intra-CoEs collaboration, the need for sharing resources and technology and keeping pace with emerging technologies and global trends were at the centre of speakers' remarks. Prof. Bambang shared ITS' RISE framework, while the Executive Director COMSATS emphasized sharing of knowledge, expertise, resources and transfer of technology. He offered the transfer of an indigenously developed Electric Vehicle patented and WP-29 compliant technology, ISO-9001 Nanotech Lab facility, Telehealth Ecosystem developed by COMSATS and KALAAM_an economical with more features online meeting platform like Zoom, GoogleMeet, Microsoft Teams, etc. (for details: www.comsats.org).

Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, the outgoing Chairperson of COMSATS Coordinating Council, reflected with pride on his 10-year tenure as Chairperson. He commended the Executive Director, Ambassador Dr. Nafees Zakaria for steering COMSATS toward renewed direction and applauding the organization's evolution into a practical, action-oriented body, highlighting the financial stabilization of its flagship internet project and a stronger emphasis on R&D and revenue generation.

Mr. Yi Su, Consul General of China in Surabaya, acknowledged COMSATS' vital role in promoting scientific cooperation and sustainable development for developing countries, particularly in addressing shared challenges like climate change and energy transition.







The Council unanimously elected Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun of China as the new Chairperson of the COMSATS Coordinating Council. In his remarks, Prof. Jibin Sun underlined the importance of COMSATS as a vibrant platform with its global outreach, highlighting that COMSATS holds the potential to deliver tangible benefits of science and technology to its Member States through enhanced cooperation among the Centres of Excellence. (https://comsats.org/profile-of-the-chairperson-2/)

The Coordinating Council meetings provide an opportunity for scientists and technology experts representing their respective countries' Centres of Excellence to share progress, achievements, and innovations with a view to sharing their knowledge and expertise with other Member States.

Significantly, the key offers and proposals made by the participating Centres of Excellence are summarized below for wider awareness and benefits:

- **BCSIR-Bangladesh** offered to collaborate with other Centres of Excellence in terms of joint research projects, scientific exchanges, technology transfer initiatives, and capacity-building programmes in areas such as Mineral Resources, Water Quality, Renewable Energy, Nano Technology, Advanced Materials, Food Safety, and Industrial Innovation.
- **TIB-China** expressed intent to broaden cooperation with other Centres of Excellence through the platform of CCIB, particularly in the areas of Future Food, Pharma Chemicals, Plant-based Natural Products, Bioenergy and Climate Change.
- **TIB-China** invited COMSATS and its Centres of Excellence to participate in its upcoming events, including mLife Research Conference 2026, Metabolic Engineering Summit 2026, and CO2 Fixation and Bioconversion International Symposium 2026.
- **ICCES-China** offered collaboration with other Network Members in areas including Climate Research



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(v) Advanced Materials, Nanotechnology, and Industrial Innovation; and (vi) STI Policies and Technology Governance in Developing Countries.

Capacity-building and skill development remain important aspects of COMSATS' work. The International Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Green Development for CPEC, organized in collaboration with ANSO and CPJRC at COMSATS University Islamabad in June 2026. It brought together experts and resource persons from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China, and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan. A significant number of participants from five countries (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, and Syria) benefitted from the specialized training. The programme covered disaster risk assessment, early warning systems, climate science, resilient infrastructure, ecological protection, and renewable energy. Similarly, the 2nd China–Pakistan Symposium on Early Warning for Hydrological and Geological Disasters provided a valuable platform for strengthening cooperation in disaster preparedness, data sharing, and climate resilience. The event was held on 18–19 May 2026 and jointly organized by COMSATS, China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), UNESCO Chair for Mountains Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), and Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan.

COMSATS also strengthened institutional engagement during the reporting period. The visit of the Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan to COMSATS provided an opportunity to explore the use of science, technology and innovation for improved public service delivery, including sustainable mobility. Separately, the visit by a delegation from the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC) reinforced the growing cooperation between the two institutions in climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, capacity building and sustainable development.

COMSATS also continued its engagement in international capacity-building initiatives through its participation in the 11th Term of the ANSO-BIDI School, with 50 participants representing seven Member States of COMSATS and other countries. The 5th African Symposium on Big Data, Analytics and Machine Intelligence, held in Nigeria, provided an avenue for scientific exchange on data-driven artificial intelligence and its applications to development challenges in Africa and the wider Global South.

COMSATS' participation in the 7th General Assembly of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security, reflects its broader efforts to strengthen partnerships around shared development priorities.

COMSATS remains committed to strengthen cooperation among its Centres of Excellence, facilitate capacity building, and promote the exchange of knowledge and technology.



& Prediction, Disaster Prevention & Mitigation, Sustainable Development & Resource Management. ICCES offered its Big Science Facility (Earth Lab) to the Member States and Centres of Excellence.

- **ICCES-China** invited relevant researchers from the Centres of Excellence to participate in the CAS-TWAS-AIT International Training Workshop on Soft Skills to be held in December 2026.
- **CIF-Colombia** offered collaboration to facilitate scientific innovation, technology development, and sustainable development across COMSATS Member States in the fields of Applied Physics, Environmental Sustainability, Renewable Energy, Artificial Intelligence, and Public Health.
- **CSIR-Ghana** shared the details of improved varieties of Cassava, Rice, Yam, and Nile Tilapia with higher growth potential. CSIR possesses research facilities for plantain and banana tissue culture, along with agricultural equipment, food processing, and postharvest technologies. CSIR offered collaboration and technology transfer to other Network Members.
- **ITS-Indonesia** offered various Scholarships for COMSATS Member States, i.e. KNB Scholarship (Master & Doctoral Degree), the Indonesian Aid Scholarship (Bachelor and Master Degree), ITS Global Excellence Scholarship (Doctoral Degree), ITS Postgraduate Scholarship (Master and Doctoral Degree), as well as Student Exchange Program, Lab Internship Program, International Lecturers Opportunity (Adjunct Professor, Visiting Professor, Inbound Researcher Mobility, Virtual Short Program), etc.
- **IROST-Iran** proposed collaboration in the areas of Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence.
- **ICENS-Jamaica** offered Training and Education opportunities utilizing the JM-1 SLOWPOKE-2 and laboratory facilities including chemical analysis of food, assessment of heavy metals and mercury in environmental compartments. ICENS proposed research collaboration in areas such as Environmental Geochemistry, Trace Elements in Air Particulate Matter, Heavy Metal Pollution, Mineral Composition of Food (Food Safety and Security), Trace Elements in Animal/Human Tissue, Forensics, Trace and Heavy Metals in Marine Environment, Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring and Utilization of Multi-Purpose Irradiator.
- **RSS-Jordan** proposed cooperation in the fields of conformity assessment and green chemistry, as well as offered certified online training courses through the







National Software Quality Assurance Centre (NSQAC).

- **KazNU-Kazakhstan** offered to share technologies in the following areas: Robotics, Energy and Neuroscience. KazNU also offered its Supercomputer Center for utilization by COMSATS Member States for joint research.
- **NMC-Nigeria** shared details of GovOptix-NG which is a powerful AI-driven governance platform designed to improve transparency, accountability, and cost-efficiency across Nigeria's public and private sectors. COMSATS Member States and Centres of Excellence were invited to benefit from this technology
- **ICCBS-Pakistan** offered a wide range of advanced analytical and research facilities for joint research and collaboration, including LC-MS/MS, GC-MS/MS, HPLC, FTIR, Atomic Absorption, Superconducting NMR - one of the largest in the Afro-Asian region, XRD Systems, and High-end Microscopy and Imaging Platforms.
- **ICCBS-Pakistan** invited other Centres of Excellence to benefit from Scholarships opportunities, including Joint NAM S&T Centre-ICCBS Fellowship (www.namstct.org), TWAS Fellowship Program (http://www.iccs.edu/twas.php), COMSTECH Visiting Scientists Program (http://www.comstech.org/Programs), etc.
- **ICCBS-Pakistan** expressed willingness to collaborate with TIB-China in the field of synthetic biotechnology and mass production of pharmaceuticals.
- **ICCBS-Pakistan** offered to organize training workshops in Nanotechnology and to train the engineers and technicians from the platform of COMSATS.
- **ICCBS-Pakistan** offered to share its expertise available at the GMP facility for API development with other Network members.
- **CUI-Pakistan** offered collaboration on AI-based climate forecasting to improve disaster preparedness, strengthening wheat genomics research for climate-resilient

Profile of the Chairperson Coordinating Council



Dr. Jibin Sun is a professor at the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechno logy (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences, where he served as Deputy Director General from 2012 to 2023. He earned his PhD in Biotechnology from the German Research Center for Biotechnology and later worked there as a scientist. With over 150 peer-reviewed papers and 100 patents, his engineered cell factories have been successfully commercialized, earning him multiple national and provincial awards.

He initiated the COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB) in 2021, which has been recognized by the UN as a model for South-South and triangular collaboration for sustainable development. His work also contributed to establishing the National Technology Innovation Center for Synthetic Biology and a high-end biofoundry core facility at TIB. Prof. Jibin Sun, was elected Chairperson of COMSATS Coordinating Council a its 26th Meeting on 8-9 June 2026 in Surabaya, Indonesia for a 3 year term.



agriculture, and promoting faculty and student exchange programmes. CUI plans to build multi-country research partnerships within the COMSATS network, undertake joint projects on SDGs and environmental governance, pursue collaborative international research funding, and organize joint workshops and trainings for capacity building and knowledge sharing.

- **ITI-Sri Lanka** offered a wide range of laboratory facilities for joint research with Member States and Centres of Excellence, including Chemical and Microbiological Testing, Residue Analysis, Electro-technology, and Materials Laboratories. ITI also offered to share expertise in Industrial Metrology and Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Research.
- **ITI-Sri Lanka** offered to share expertise with other Centres of Excellence in the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology, food technology, quality control and accreditation.
- **HIAST-Syria** sought to foster partnerships through twinning agreements, connecting other Syrian institutions with COMSATS, and promote resource sharing and technology transfer. HIAST is looking to upgrade its laboratories, train experts, and enable student and faculty collaboration.
- **TIRDO-Tanzania** shared details of its Eco-Carbonizer for production of Eco- friendly Briquettes which is available for commercialization, nationally and internationally. TIRDO expressed willingness to purchase/ transfer of technologies from COMSATS Member States in the areas of mining, energy, agriculture, fisheries and livestock. TIRDO also sought collaboration for joint proposal writing with researchers and experts from other Member States. TIRDO offered collaboration for capacity building in the areas of SMEs, Entrepreneurship and Industrial Development.
- **TÜBİTAK-Turkiye** offered utilization of its High Performance Computing Infrastructures, i.e. TRUBA Supercomputer, MareNostrum 5 Super Computer (among top 500 in the world) by other Centres of Excellence.

Election of New Chairperson, COMSATS Coordinating Council

The Council paid rich tribute to the outgoing Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, Former President of the National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt. He held the post 09 years after he was elected in May 2016. He was re-elected twice. During the tenure, the Coordinating Council was highly active and made considerable progress to the benefit of COMSATS' Member States. Prof. Dr. Hua Xiang, Director-General of Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, formally authorized and designated Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun, Founding Director of the COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB), TIB, to serve as the Representative Plenipotentiary of TIB to the COMSATS Coordinating



Council. Furthermore, on behalf of TIB, Prof. Xiang nominated Prof. Sun as a candidate for the position of Chairperson of the COMSATS Coordinating Council. Prof. Sun's candidacy for the position of Chairperson COMSATS Coordinating Council was also approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China.

During its 26th meeting, the Coordinating Council unanimously elected Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun as the new Chairperson of the COMSATS Coordinating Council. Prof. Sun, a Biotech scientist, was nominated by the Chinese Government. The new Chairperson underlined the importance of COMSATS as a vibrant platform with its global outreach, highlighting that COMSATS holds the potential to deliver tangible benefits of science and technology to its Member States through enhanced cooperation among the Centres of Excellence.

COMSATS-TIB Agreement Renewed

Signing ceremony for the renewal of Agreement between COMSATS and TIB by the ED COMSATS and the Director General TIB, China, Prof. Hua Xiang for the COMSATS Joint Centre on Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB) and appointment of Prof. Jibin Sun as the Director of CCIB for the next five years were the highlights of the Council Meeting.

The elected Chairperson of the Coordinating Council, Prof. Jibin Sun, congratulated the organizers on the successful conduct of the meeting and thanked the Council members for reposing their trust in him to lead the Coordinating Council as its Chair. It was also heartening that COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Kazakhstan, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), offered to host the next (27th) Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council. The offer was warmly welcomed by the Council members. The Coordinating



Council approved the Communiqué of its 26th meeting (please see page 19).

COMSATS & ITS hold Conference in Indonesia on Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Developmentt

The Coordinating Council Meeting was followed by the COMSATS-ITS Conference on "Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development" held on 10th June 2026. The Conference was organized by COMSATS and its esteemed Centre of Excellence, the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia, in collaboration with the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO). The event was held in conjunction with the 26th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council.

The S&T Conference aimed to highlight the role of Emerging Technologies in advancing sustainable development; share best practices, research findings, and policy experiences related to technology-driven sustainability solutions; and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Sharing his thoughts as Chief Guest at the opening ceremony, Dr. Mohammad Fauzan Adziman, Director General of R&D, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Indonesia, shared insights in Indonesia's growing international engagement for scientific research and development. He highlighted the facilitative frameworks to support research collaborations of Indonesian scientists. Stressing that international collaboration is key to development, he praised COMSATS' initiatives and activities, including indigenous EV Technology program,





NanoTech Lab, Joint Center on Industrial Biotechnology, TeleHealth Clinics and other innovative initiatives. He encouraged Indonesian R&D organizations to actively engage COMSATS to benefit from its Centres of Excellence. He expressed keen interest in the COMSATS' mentioned initiatives for sharing of expertise and transfer of technology.

In his remarks, the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, stated that the developing countries continue to face serious and interconnected challenges, however, the real challenge for the developing countries is to harness the emerging technologies in order to effectively respond to local challenges and meet the socio-economic needs of the people. He highlighted the need for sustained investment in science, technology and innovation, establishing strong institutions, instilling forward-looking policies, ethical regulations, and above all, meaningful international cooperation. He emphasized that COMSATS is committed to assisting Member States in their endeavors towards sustainable development.

Prof. Dr. Bambang Pramujati, Rector of ITS, stated that inventions begin with conversations and exchange of ideas, and therefore, such conferences are of huge significance. Highlighting the important role of scientific R&D in addressing various global challenges, the Rector ITS praised COMSATS' efforts to connect scientists across borders to help develop tech solutions for challenges faced by the developing countries.

Prof. Liu Weidong, Executive Director ANSO expressed pleasure on collaborating with COMSATS and ITS for holding this important conference. He highlighted the importance of the event's themes for achieving socio-economic development.

The themes included AI, Big Data, and Digital Transformation; Renewable Energy; Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation, and Environmental Technologies; Water, Food, and Agricultural Technologies for Resource Security; Biotechnology; Health Technologies; Advanced Materials, Nanotechnology, and Industrial Innovation; and STI Policies and Technology Governance in Developing Countries.

During the technical sessions, eminent subject experts from COMSATS Centres of Excellence in China, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Tanzania, as well as ANSO and The South Centre delivered technical talks on various topics related to the event's themes.



ANSO-CPJRC-COMSATS International Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Green Development for CPEC



The Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO), China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), and Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) successfully organized a 5-day International Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Green Development for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at COMSATS University Islamabad from 18 to 22 June 2026. The workshop was endorsed as an official activity of the United Nations International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD 2024–2033).

The workshop brought together more than 70 participants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, and Syria. The opening ceremony was attended by Ambassadors, High Commissioners, diplomats, representatives of international organizations, academia, and government institutions.

H.E. Dr. Fuad Pashayev, Head of Office and Representative of UNESCO Pakistan, graced the opening ceremony as Chief Guest. In his keynote address, he emphasized the growing challenges posed by climate change and natural hazards and highlighted the importance of science, education, innovation, and international cooperation in strengthening disaster preparedness and resilience.

Amb Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director COMSATS, underscored that disaster risk reduction and green development require strengthened international partnerships, scientific cooperation, and knowledge-sharing. Prof. Liu Weidong, Secretary-General ANSO, reaffirmed ANSO's commitment to promoting international scientific cooperation and talent development among Belt and Road countries. Rector COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, highlighted the role of academic institutions in developing practical and science-based solutions for climate-induced hazards, while Prof. Hong Tianhua, Executive Director CPJRC, emphasized the importance of China-Pakistan cooperation in advancing research, innovation, and capacity-building in earth sciences and sustainable development.

Over the course of five days, 18 distinguished experts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China, and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan, delivered specialized lectures and practical training sessions on landslide dynamics and geophysical flow modelling, glacier systems and high-altitude hazard monitoring, disaster risk assessment and early warning systems, resilient infrastructure and de-risking investments





under CPEC, flash flood forecasting, systemic disaster risk mitigation, climate science, circular economy, ecological protection, renewable energy, and regional cooperation for sustainable development.

The workshop concluded on 22 June 2026 with a closing ceremony graced by the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, H.E. Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, as Chief Guest. In her address, she emphasized the importance of integrating climate resilience, environmental safeguards, and disaster risk considerations into infrastructure investments to ensure sustainable and inclusive development. She highlighted the need for people-centred climate action and underscored the potential of CPEC to serve as a model of resilient, green, and sustainable development.

Addressing the ceremony, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria reaffirmed COMSATS' commitment to science-based solutions for climate resilience and sustainable development. He emphasized that future progress depends on integrating risk-informed decision-making, climate science, ecosystem protection, and technological innovation into national development policies and investment frameworks.

Remarks were also delivered by Dr. Lei Yu, Director CPJRC; Prof. Dr. Mohammad Akmal, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF); and Mr. Muhammad Raza Ahmed Khan, Head of ORIC, COMSATS University Islamabad, on behalf of the Rector. The speakers highlighted the importance of





strengthening early warning systems, enhancing institutional preparedness, and promoting international scientific cooperation to address emerging environmental and developmental challenges.

The workshop significantly enhanced participants' technical capacities, facilitated knowledge exchange and networking, and strengthened regional and international collaboration. The partnerships and knowledge generated





through the workshop will contribute to building resilience, promoting green development, and advancing climate-responsive development pathways for CPEC and the broader Belt and Road region.

Federal Ombudsman Visits COMSATS to Strengthen Collaboration on Technology and Sustainable Mobility

On 4th May 2026, the Honourable Wafaqi Ombudsman of Pakistan, Mr. Naveed Kamran Baloch, called on the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, at the COMSATS Secretariat to discuss strengthening institutional collaboration and leveraging science, technology, and innovation (STI) to enhance public service delivery and promote sustainable development.

Welcoming the distinguished guest, Ambassador Zakaria briefed him on COMSATS' mandate, strategic priorities, and ongoing initiatives aimed at addressing developmental challenges through science and technology. He highlighted COMSATS' efforts in facilitating technology transfer, promoting innovation-driven solutions, and supporting its Member States in adopting emerging technologies for sustainable socio-economic development.

During the discussions, the Executive Director appreciated the Federal Ombudsman's vision of improving governance, institutional efficiency, and citizen-centric service delivery through the adoption of innovative technological solutions. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of fostering greater collaboration between public institutions to harness science, technology, and innovation for improved governance and sustainable development outcomes.

Recognizing the environmental and economic challenges associated with Pakistan's transport sector, the Honourable Ombudsman underscored the need to accelerate the country's transition from conventional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles to Electric Vehicles (EVs). He appreciated COMSATS' leadership in promoting technology transfer in the electric mobility sector and its efforts to facilitate the adoption of sustainable transportation technologies within its Member States.

The meeting also explored practical avenues for collaboration in promoting electric mobility within the public sector. In this regard, it was discussed that AGECO, COMSATS' technical partner in the electric mobility initiative, would facilitate the provision of electric bikes for officials of the Federal Ombudsman's Office. The initiative is expected to contribute towards reducing carbon emissions, promoting clean transportation, and demonstrating the viability of sustainable mobility solutions within public institutions.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening institutional cooperation and advancing STI-based initiatives to improve public service delivery and support Pakistan's transition towards a greener and more sustainable future.

COMSATS-ANSO-UCAS, China organise training on AI, Engineering & Climate Change

Supported by the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO), 11th Term of ANSO-BIDI School, an 8-week long online training program, commenced on 4th May 2026 in collaboration with Centre for Environmental Economics, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CEE-UCAS), and members of the ANSO Belt & Road International Innovation Development Institute Network (ANSO-BIDI Institute Network).

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), a member of ANSO and ANSO-BIDI Institute Network, is an active collaborator. The Executive Director COMSATS is a member of ANSO Governing Board since 2023 and has been re-elected for another term in 2025.

The past ten terms of ANSO-BIDI School engaged over 1200 trainees, out of which 580 trainees were nominated



by COMSATS primarily belonging to its Centres of Excellence and relevant scientific institutions in Member States. For the current term, COMSATS nominated 50 trainees belonging to China, Iran, Jordan, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Barbados and Dominican Republic.

The Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, shared his thoughts at the opening ceremony of the training program. He stated that over past few years, the ANSO-BIDI School has become a highly beneficial forum for learning and exchange. He expressed pleasure on COMSATS' collaboration for the 11th term of the training. COMSATS assists Member States towards sustainable development, organizes capacity-building activities, promotes R&D collaboration and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and technology. COMSATS recent initiatives are strategically focused on high-impact fields, including AI, TeleHealth, EV, NanoTech, Cyber Security, Data Analytics, Precision Agriculture, and Renewable Energy.

ANSO-BIDI training is covering key thematic areas, including eco-environment, climate change and sustainable development; AI and computer engineering; green finance; sustainable supply chains; and risk management. Significantly, distinguished experts from leading institutions from across the world, including the USA, Canada, Sweden, Belgium, Brazil, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, and Australia will impart training.

COMSATS Participates in the 7th General Assembly of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS)

On 14th May, 2026, the Secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) participated virtually as an Observer in the 7th General Assembly of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), hosted by the Republic of Kazakhstan under the theme "Food Security through Cooperation and Innovation."

The opening session featured remarks by H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiya, Minister of Municipality of the State of Qatar, who formally transferred the Chairmanship of the IOFS General Assembly to the Republic of Kazakhstan. Following the transition, the session was chaired by H.E. Aidarbek Saparov, Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, who emphasized the growing strategic importance of food security and the need for stronger practical cooperation among Member States.

The session also included statements by H.E. Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of the OIC, and H.E. Ambassador Berik Aryn, Director General of IOFS, highlighting the Organization's ongoing efforts and future priorities aimed at advancing sustainable and resilient food systems across Member States.

The ministerial session brought together representatives from more than 40 OIC Member States and over 15 international organizations to deliberate on collective strategies for strengthening food security, agricultural innovation, biodiversity preservation,







and regional cooperation across the OIC region.

The Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, along with senior officials from the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), attended the online proceedings and observed the ministerial deliberations and interventions by participating Member States and partner organizations. During the General Assembly, Member States adopted 13 resolutions focused on enhancing agricultural innovation, biodiversity conservation, institutional development, and regional collaboration. Key decisions included the establishment of the IOFS International Genebank in Kazakhstan, the designation of 2027 as the IOFS Year of Women Agrileaders and Youth Agripreneurs, the establishment of the first IOFS regional office in Morocco, and the operational launch of the IOFS Food Security and Innovation Knowledge Hub.

The Assembly also approved the Global Islamic Food Security Expo as a recurring international platform for partnerships and innovation, while reaffirming support for ongoing IOFS initiatives addressing food security challenges in Africa, Afghanistan, and across OIC Member States.

Building on the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between COMSATS and IOFS, COMSATS reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation and promoting collaborative pathways for innovation, climate resilience, and sustainable food systems in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

COMSATS Participation in Retrospective Exhibition

May 14, 2026: A retrospective exhibition showcasing the works of renowned Pakistani artist and sculptor Akram Dost Baloch opened at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), highlighting the cultural heritage, identity and lived realities of Balochistan through contemporary visual expression. The exhibition was organized by Nomad Gallery in collaboration with PNCA and curated by distinguished art promoter Nageen Hyat.

Ambassador Dr. Maen Khreasat, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Pakistan, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The opening ceremony was attended by Ambassadors of Yemen, Syria, Oman and Lebanon. Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. M. Nafees Zakaria, participated in the event, underscoring the role of art in promoting cross-cultural understanding and international engagement.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Maen Khreasat appreciated the artist's work for reflecting the resilience and cultural richness of Balochistan and emphasized the role of art in preserving identity and fostering dialogue among





communities and cultures.

Curator Nageen Hyat paid tribute to Akram Dost Baloch's lifelong artistic contributions and highlighted the importance of preserving and documenting Pakistan's artistic heritage through collaborative cultural initiatives. Hailing from Nushki, Akram Dost Baloch is regarded as a leading contemporary Pakistani artist and a pioneering figure in the visual arts of Balochistan. His paintings and sculptures draw inspiration from traditional Baloch motifs, embroidery, weaving and wood carving. A graduate of the National College of Arts, he also served as a founding faculty member and former Chairperson of the Fine Arts Department at the University of Balochistan. He was awarded the Pride of Performance in 2004.
The exhibition features selected works from the artist's acclaimed "Identity" series alongside other major works exploring themes such as culture, memory, identity and belonging. It also highlights his academic research on traditional Baloch embroidery and handicrafts.

COMSATS Co-Organizes 2nd China-Pakistan Symposium on Early Warning for Hydrological & Geological Disasters

On 18–19 May 2026, the 2nd China–Pakistan Symposium on Early Warning for Hydrological & Geological Disasters was held at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Islamabad. The event was jointly organized by the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), UNESCO Chair for Mountains Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), and Quaid-i-Azam University. The Symposium brought together researchers, policymakers, disaster management professionals, diplomats, and technical experts from Pakistan, China, and other countries. Participants deliberated on strengthening regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience, focusing on hydrological and geological hazard monitoring, early warning systems, data-sharing mechanisms, and institutional preparedness against climate-induced disasters, including floods, landslides, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), and debris flows.

The inaugural session was graced by Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, who attended as Chief Guest. He emphasized the urgent need to bridge the "knowing–doing gap" between academia, researchers, and policymakers, stressing that effective early warning systems and coordinated response mechanisms are critical for disaster mitigation and resilience-building in climate-vulnerable regions.



Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, participated as a panelist and attended both the inaugural and closing sessions, accompanied by senior COMSATS officials. He emphasized the vital role of multilateral platforms in scaling up the Pakistan-China Early Warning System ecosystem through resource mobilization, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and expanded regional outreach across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.





He further highlighted that COMSATS' Centres of Excellence possess strong expertise in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), data analytics, and digital technologies, which can significantly enhance disaster preparedness and resilience. He also underscored that COMSATS' partnerships with international organizations and its observer status at UNFCCC act as a force multiplier in advancing global cooperation on climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development.

The Executive Director highlighted that COMSATS network of 25 S&T has 11 Centres of Excellence with strong credentials of environmental expertise and 6 dedicated and renowned scientific institutes with expertise in AI, IoT, Data analytics and Digital Technology. These technologies have profound applications in the Climate Change related Early Warning and Mitigation systems. COMSATS membership of developing countries stretching from Asia to Middle East to Africa and Latin America makes it a unique forum for South-South Cooperation.

The panel discussion featured leading experts and practitioners who shared insights on disaster risk reduction, climate change impacts, and institutional approaches to early warning systems and capacity building.

Mr. M. Idrees Mahsud, Member Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), highlighted that structured cooperation in disaster management gained momentum after the 2005 earthquake, with China emerging as a key partner in disaster response. He noted that operational challenges during the 2010 floods exposed gaps in provincial disaster management systems, emphasizing the need for stronger risk assessments and a shift toward practical, sustainable DRR frameworks. He also highlighted need for funding of the initiatives.

Prof. Kang Shichang, Director General, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), Chinese Academy of Sciences, drew attention to the accelerating impacts of climate change on fragile mountain ecosystems, including a reported 25% decline in glacial area in China since the 1960s; stressed enhanced monitoring of glacial lakes for GLOF risk assessment and the identification of "hidden glaciers" using advanced satellite technologies.













Prof. Muhammad Qasim Jan, Academician, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), emphasized systematic geological mapping in tectonically active regions as the foundation for robust hazard assessment.

Prof. Su Lijun, Deputy Director, China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), underscored the importance of a data-first approach for geo-hazard susceptibility modelling. He highlighted the need for high-quality spatial and temporal datasets to develop accurate AI-based predictive models, and stressed transitioning from static hazard maps to dynamic real-time monitoring systems.

Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), emphasized the role of science diplomacy in translating scientific knowledge into capacity building and partnerships among ECO member countries. He highlighted ECOSF's mandate in promoting science literacy, education, and regional cooperation to strengthen resilience against climate-induced hazards.

Prof. Javed, Chairman, Department of Earth Sciences, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), stressed strengthening academia–industry linkages to better align graduates with market needs, citing initiatives such as the Higher Education Linkages Portal and the NUST Corporate Advisory Council as positive steps forward.

The Symposium reviewed progress on ongoing collaborative initiatives, including the deployment of advanced mountain hazard monitoring and disaster risk warning systems in Pakistan. Participants also explored the use of innovative technologies such as UAV-based disaster assessment systems, digital risk mapping platforms, and climate monitoring tools to support evidence-based decision-making and infrastructure planning under the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

The two-day Symposium concluded with a shared commitment among participating institutions to deepen scientific collaboration, enhance technical capacity, and strengthen regional partnerships for effective early warning systems and disaster risk reduction.

COMSATS Hosts CPJRC Delegation to Advance Strategic Cooperation on Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development

COMSATS warmly received the Director-General of the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), Prof. KANG Shichang at the Secretariat on 19th May 2026. The visit was facilitated by the Prof Hong Tianhua, Executive Director







CPJRC on the sidelines of the CPJRC-NDMA-COMSATS and Partners joint 2nd China–Pakistan Symposium on Early Warning for Hydrological and Geological Disasters, held from 18-19 May 2026 and NDMA Islamabad.

During their meeting with the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, the visiting delegation was briefed on COMSATS' mandate, institutional framework, and extensive scientific resource base comprising its International S&T Centres of Excellence. He also highlighted COMSATS' wide-ranging capacity-building programmes and flagship initiatives in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and- disaster risk reduction, underscoring the Organization's commitment to harnessing science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development across the Global South.

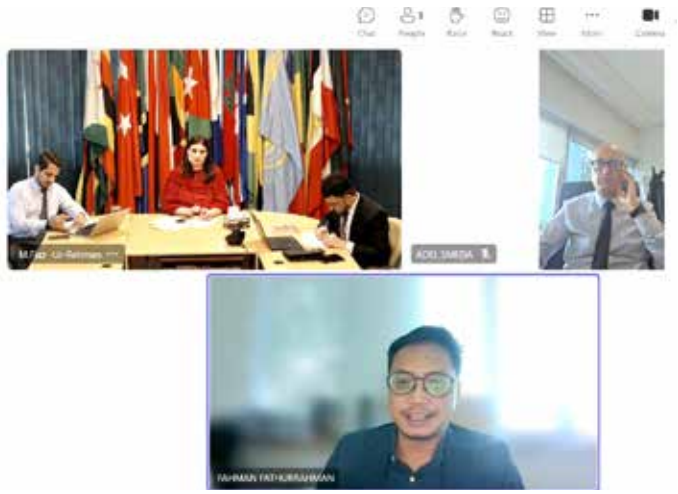
The meeting also reviewed the growing strategic partnership between COMSATS and CPJRC, particularly following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2025, which provides a framework for enhanced cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Under the MoU, the two organizations are also jointly organizing the International Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Green Development for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in June 2026.

During the meeting, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Zakaria Nafees also acknowledged the longstanding and invaluable contributions of Chinese institutions within the COMSATS network. He appreciated the active role played by COMSATS' Focal Point Institutions and Centres of Excellence in China, International Centre for Climate and Environment Sciences (ICCES) and Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB) advancing scientific cooperation, technology transfer, and knowledge share.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved under the partnership and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening South-South cooperation through capacity building, scientific exchanges, and joint initiatives addressing climate change, disaster resilience, and sustainable development challenges facing the Global South.

COMSATS and ICESCO Virtually Discuss Upcoming Joint Initiatives

On 21st May 2026, Director (Coordinator for International Partner Organizations) and Head COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), Dr. Mehwish Durani along with her team, held a productive virtual meeting with representatives of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), including Dr. Adel Smeda and Dr. Fahman Fathhurahman, to advance ongoing collaboration between the two organizations.



The discussions focused on a range of upcoming joint initiatives in key thematic areas, including inclusive artificial intelligence (AI), environmental sustainability under ICESCO's Vision 2030, the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach, ecosystem restoration, nature-based solutions, circular economy,



and leveraging AI and emerging technologies to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

COMSATS and ICESCO also reaffirmed their longstanding partnership and shared legacy of collaboration since 2004, through which the two organizations have jointly organized and supported a number of high-impact conferences, workshops, and training programmes aimed at promoting science, technology, innovation, and sustainable development across the COMSATS-ICESCO common Member States. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to further strengthen strategic cooperation and implement impactful initiatives addressing contemporary development challenges.

5th African Symposium on Big Data, Analytics and Machine Intelligence, held in Nigeria

COMSATS in collaboration with the TWAS Young Affiliates Network (TYAN), convened the 5th African Symposium on Big Data, Analytics and Machine Intelligence (ASBAMI 2026), held from 18-20 June 2026 at the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA), Nigeria. Organized under the theme, "Data-Driven AI for Sustainable Impact: From Research to Real-World Solutions in the Global South", the symposium was organized alongside the 22nd TWAS Young Affiliates Network (TYAN) International Thematic Workshop. The other partners for the symposium include FUTA, Nigeria; GigaScience; Karabük University, Türkiye; and the Automated Contact Tracing Research Group (ACTRG).

Building on the success of its previous editions, ASBAMI 2026 continued its





mission of providing an international platform for researchers, academics, industry leaders, innovators, policymakers, development partners, and students to exchange knowledge, present cutting-edge research, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data Analytics, Data Science, and Machine Intelligence. The symposium aimed to accelerate the adoption of data-driven technologies to address pressing sustainable development challenges across Africa and the wider Global South.

The three-day event brought together participants from universities, research institutions, government agencies, industry, and international organizations representing Nigeria, Australia, Benin, China, Egypt, Guinea, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and several other countries.

As a strategic partner, COMSATS facilitated the participation of distinguished experts from its

Member State, Tanzania, whose technical presentations and scientific contributions enhanced the quality of deliberations and promoted greater scientific collaboration among participating institutions. Their active engagement further strengthened knowledge exchange and reinforced the importance of South-South cooperation in advancing research and innovation.

Additionally, for the subject symposium, the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria served as a member of the Steering Committee, while the Director International Partnerships Office (IPOs) & Head CCCS-COMSATS, Dr. Mehwish Durani served on the Programme Committee, contributing to the strategic planning and successful organization of the event.

The inaugural session of the symposium featured an address by the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, who highlighted Data-Driven Artificial Intelligence as a transformative tool



for addressing complex development challenges across the Global South. Stressing the need for sustained investment in human capital, inclusive governance frameworks, and strengthened international scientific cooperation, Ambassador Dr. Zakaria emphasized that harnessing the full potential of AI requires collaborative



efforts among governments, academia, research institutions, and development partners. He also commended FUTA, TYAN, and collaborating institutions for their significant role in promoting AI-driven research and innovation for sustainable development.

COMSATS' continued partnership for the Symposium reflects its longstanding commitment to advancing scientific collaboration, capacity building, and technology-led development within its Member States and across the Global South. Having partnered in both the 4th African Symposium on Big Data, Analytics and Machine Intelligence (2025) and 5th African Symposium 2026, COMSATS remains committed to supporting regional scientific platforms that facilitate knowledge exchange, foster interdisciplinary research, and promote the application of emerging technologies to achieve the goal of Sustainable Development.

The symposium concluded with renewed commitments by participating institutions to strengthen international cooperation, expand collaborative research, promote innovation ecosystems, and translate advances in Artificial Intelligence and data science into practical solutions for sustainable and inclusive development across Africa and the wider Global South.

Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka called on the Executive Director COMSATS

Mr. Christy Ruban, Minister/ Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, visited the COMSATS Secretariat and held a meeting with the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria on 16th June 2026. Sri Lanka is an esteemed founding Member State of COMSATS.

The discussions focused on reviewing the longstanding relations and ongoing collaboration between Sri Lanka and COMSATS. Both sides expressed a shared commitment to further enhancing cooperation in the fields of education, research, and technology, particularly through leveraging the expertise and technical resources available at the COMSATS' Network of International S&T Centres of Excellence to foster sustainable development in the Member States.

Communiqué of the 26th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council (8-9 June 2026, Surabaya, Indonesia)

The 26th meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council was held on 8-9 June 2026, at the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia.

The meeting was attended by Heads/representatives of 20 Centres of Excellence, namely BCSIR-Bangladesh, TIB-China, ICCES-China, CIF-Colombia, NRC-Egypt, CSIR-Ghana, IROST-Iran, ITS-Indonesia, ICENS-Jamaica, RSS-Jordan, KazNU-Kazakhstan, NMC-Nigeria, ICCBS-Pakistan, CUI-Pakistan, AQU-Palestine, ITI-Sri Lanka, IRCC-Sudan, HIAST-Syria, TIRDO-Tanzania and TUBITAK-Turkiye. COMSATS' International Partner Organizations, including ANSO, SESRIC, CPJRC, INSME, IOPS, UNOSSC and The South Centre, as well as members of COMSATS' Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) joined the meeting as Observers.

The participants deliberated upon the fifteen-point agenda and are pleased to unanimously adopt the following:

1. The Council is pleased to elect Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun, Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China, as Chairperson of the Coordinating Council for a term of three years. The Council is confident that under the able leadership of Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun, the COMSATS Network of International S&T Centres of Excellence will make significant progress in achieving its objectives.

2. The Council highly appreciates the role and contributions of the outgoing Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shaalan, Former President of National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt, who is also Honourary Lifetime Member of Coordinating Council. Prof. Shaalan served as Chairperson Coordinating Council for three terms, since 2016, and played a significant role in enhancing collaborations among the Centres of Excellence for the benefit of the Member States.

3. The academic, research and capacity-building activities undertaken by Centres of Excellence during the period since the last Council meeting, as mentioned in their respective presentations, are highly appreciated.

4. The Coordinating Council appreciates the Annual Activity Report presented by the Executive Director COMSATS, and is pleased to note the progress made since the last Council meeting.

5. The implementation of decisions taken during the Council's 25th meeting (held in September 2024 at TIB, China) by COMSATS Secretariat is noted with appreciation.

6. The Council is pleased to witness the signing of Renewal Agreement between COMSATS and TIB-China for the COMSATS Joint Center on Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB) for five-year period. The Council is also pleased with the appointment of Prof. Jibin Sun (TIB) as Director of CCIB for next five years.

7. The Council expresses support for the following new initiatives proposed by the Executive Director:

    i. Establishment of International Division with deputation of scientific and technological experts for promoting Intra-COMSATS Member States dependence as well as revenue generation to support international programmes
    ii. Grant of status of an IGO to COMSATS by each Member State with special visa facilitation
    iii. Development of COMSATS International Standards and their global recognition

8. The Council is pleased with the establishment of COMSATS Nano Tech Lab, and appreciates the Secretariat for offering its services with the Member States and the Centres of Excellence.

9. The Council appreciates the milestones achieved in terms of COMSATS Electric Vehicle Program and the TeleHealth Program, as presented by the Executive Director COMSATS. The Member States and Centres of Excellence are urged to benefit from these important initiatives. They encourage more such initiatives aimed at providing technology solutions and add to efforts towards attaining COMSATS objectives.

10. The Council is pleased with the Establishment of COMSATS R&D fund, utilized to support projects in areas of EV and Renewable Energy. The Council requests the Member States to support the Fund to facilitate important technology initiatives.

11. The Council appreciates that COMSATS Secretariat co-organized/ supported 56 physical or online capacity building events in collaboration with the Centres of Excellence, international partner organizations, and national scientific organizations of Member States, which engaged over 350 experts/speakers and benefited over 3,000 participants, primarily from the developing countries.

12. The programmes for IT and digital skills development of youth, particularly the "Merged Areas Digital Connect" Program being executed by COMSATS in collaboration with the Science & Technology and Information Technology Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, to train 7,250 youth, are praiseworthy.

13. The Council is pleased to learn about the progress made by the COMSATS Joint Center on Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB) in promoting meaningful cooperation among the COMSATS' Member Countries and Centres of Excellence in the field of industrial biotechnology as presented by the Founding Director CCIB, Prof. Jibin Sun. The financial support of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and Tianjin Government towards the establishment and activities of CCIB is highly appreciated.

14. The progress made by the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) with regard to building capacity of the Member States and facilitate collaboration in the areas of climate change are noted with appreciation.

15. The Council appreciates the participation of members of the Technical Advisory Committee and representatives of international partner organizations in the meeting as observers. The Secretariat may enhance collaboration with the partner organizations in the areas of mutual interest. In this regard, the Council is immensely pleased to learn about the re-election of COMSATS as ANSO Governing Board Member during October 2025 for another term of 2 years.

16. The payment of AMC by three Member States during the period since the last Council meeting is also noted with appreciation. The Council encourages all other Network members to sensitize their respective governments regarding the importance of regularly making AMC for the financial sustainability of COMSATS.

17. The Council is pleased to learn about the meeting of the Executive Director COMSATS with Honourable President of the Republic of Ghana & Chairperson of COMSATS, H.E. John Dramani Mahama during September 2025. The Chairperson's expression of support to COMSATS, particularly for the Proposal of the 4th Summit-level General Meeting of the Commission to be held in Ghana, are highly appreciated.

18. The Council recognizes the significance of other statutory bodies of COMSATS, including the General Meeting of the Commission and the Consultative Committee. The Council would appreciate convening of the next meetings of these important statutory bodies by the respective Chairpersons at the earliest convenience, in order to strengthen the activities and initiatives of COMSATS.

19. The holding of side-event titled "COMSATS-ITS Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development" (10th June 2026), is praiseworthy. The event shall afford opportunity for sharing best practices, research breakthroughs, and policy perspectives related to emerging technologies.

20. The Coordinating Council appreciates the excellent arrangements made by the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia, for the 26th Council meeting and the sideline Conference, and for providing generous hospitality to its participants.

21. The excellent preparation made by COMSATS Secretariat, including necessary documentation and support provided to ITS for the successful organization of the meeting, is praiseworthy.

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SOME ACTIVITIES OF COMSATS' CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

TUBITAK-Turkiye

Turkish Team Wins Medals at the 6th European Girls' Olympiad in Informatics

Competing at the 6th European Girls' Olympiad in Informatics, held in Cesenatico, Italy, the Turkish national informatics team delivered an outstanding performance, winning three silver medals and one bronze medal.

Out of 218 students from 59 countries, the Turkish participants demonstrated their skills on the international stage. Trained through the TÜBİTAK 2202 Science Olympiads Program, Elif Başak Keleş, Nehir Karatopcu, and Zeynep Cansu Mutlu won silver medals, while Aslıhan Buğa secured a bronze medal.

The achievement highlights the growing participation and excellence of young women in informatics, computing, and software-related fields, and reflects the continued success of Türkiye's efforts to nurture young talent in science and technology.

Young Physicists Win Eight Awards at Asian Physics Olympiad

Türkiye's national physics team achieved notable success at the 26th Asian Physics Olympiad, held in Busan, South Korea, winning two bronze medals and six honorable mentions.

Held from 17 to 25 May 2026, the competition brought together 209 students from 27 countries. Trained under the TÜBİTAK 2202 Science Olympiads Program, Mert Andaç Karan and Rüzgar Kuşaklı won bronze medals. Meanwhile, Eren Akarsu, Ömer Akhan, Şenol Tarhan, Yiğit Koca, Kaan Arif Say, and Eyüp Efe Şimşek received honorable mentions.

The achievement highlights the strong performance of Türkiye's young talent in physics and their continued success on the international stage.



Türkiye Maintains Strong Position in the COST Program

According to the 2025 statistics released by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), Türkiye has maintained its leading position as the only country represented across all active COST Actions. In 2025, Turkish researchers received approximately Euros 2.7 million in funding, the highest amount among 41 member countries.

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Furthermore, participation remained strong, with young researchers accounting for 53.4% and women researchers making up 55.2% of the total participation. This broad participation reflects Türkiye's active engagement in international research collaboration. An online information session was scheduled for June 16, 2026, to guide researchers on participation and funding processes.

TÜBİTAK Science High School Binds Its First Graduates

Established to contribute to Türkiye's scientific development, TÜBİTAK Science High School held its first graduation ceremony for 84 students after a five-year educational programme.

Attended by Minister of Industry and Technology, H.E. Mehmet Fatih Kacır and TÜBİTAK President, Prof. Dr. Orhan Aydın, the ceremony marked an important milestone for the school.

The Minister emphasized that the school is more than a high school, describing it as a model supporting Türkiye's National Technology Initiative. During the event, valedictorian Elif Berra Demir placed the first name on the symbolic plaque, followed by the traditional handover of the flag and the tossing of caps.

RSS-Jordan

RSS receives Young Energy Professional of the Year 2026

Husam Almanasir, a sustainability and energy professional at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan, has been recognized with the Young Energy Professional of the Year 2026



award. At RSS, he contributes to national initiatives focused on energy efficiency, resource optimization, and environmental sustainability. Through his work with the National Energy Research Center (NERC), he supports the improvement of energy performance across industrial and commercial systems and contributes to the development of practical, sustainable energy solutions.

In addition to his role at RSS, he serves as an SDG 7 Ambassador for the International Renewable Energy Agency in Jordan, promoting clean and affordable energy and supporting the transition toward more sustainable energy systems. His work focuses on industrial energy efficiency, cleaner production, renewable energy integration, and sustainable development initiatives that support both environmental and economic progress.

During 2025, Husam contributed to several national and international projects, Husam contributed to energy audits, resource-efficiency assessments, and technical training programs that achieved measurable energy savings and emissions reductions. He also trained more than 300 professionals across Jordan through workshops, awareness campaigns, and technical capacity-building activities. Passionate about innovation and knowledge sharing, Husam is committed to empowering communities and young professionals through practical solutions that support Jordan's long-term environmental and energy goals.

CUI-Pakistan

CUI Showcases its Digital Governance Ecosystem for Sustainable University Management

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), under the leadership of its Rector, Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, T.I., has launched a comprehensive Digital Governance Ecosystem as part of the Green and Efficiency Initiative, aimed at building a paperless, sustainable, transparent, and digitally empowered university.

The initiative integrates key institutional functions through a unified digital platform comprising Core Modules: Electronic Filing System (EFS), MeetingSphere, SmartSelect, Orbit, ThesisFlow@CUI, and Fiscus, all supported by a Single Sign-On (SSO) infrastructure and an AI-driven transformation roadmap. Together, these platforms streamline governance, automate administrative workflows, enhance transparency and accountability, and strengthen institutional efficiency.

The initiatives offer a valuable example for knowledge sharing and collaboration among COMSATS Member States and Centres of Excellence in advancing digital governance and sustainable institutional development. These are available for COMSATS Member States and Centres of Excellence:

Core Modules

- *Electronic Filing System (EFS):* The university's central digital filing and approval backbone, which digitizes file movement, endorsements, and sign-offs across departments; thereby reducing paper usage, administrative delays, and duplication of effort.
- *MeetingSphere:* A dedicated workspace for formalizing meetings; agendas, minutes, decisions, and action items are all captured digitally, enabling systematic tracking of outcomes from Senate, Syndicate, and Academic Council meetings..
- *SmartSelect:* A structured, merit-based selection and evaluation module that enhances transparency and auditability in recruitment and committee-based decision making processes.
- *Orbit:* A platform that tracks the implementation of decisions made during operational reviews and board meetings, ensuring that approved actions are effectively implemented.
- *ThesisFlow@CUI:* A dedicated workflow for managing the postgraduate thesis lifecycle; from submission, supervision to evaluation, and approval.
- *Fiscus:* A financial management module that integrates budgeting, financial processing, and approvals into the university's broader digital governance ecosystem..

One Login, One Ecosystem: All of these platforms operate through a single Single Sign-On (SSO) portal, built on Microsoft Entra ID, providing faculty and staff with secure access to EFS, MeetingSphere, SmartSelect, Orbit, and Fiscus through a single login. This creates a unified and auditable digital governance framework.

Smarter by Design: An AI Transformation Plan is layering intelligence on top of this backbone; using different technologies to support automated compliance checking and AI-assisted decision-making, moving

the ecosystem from simply digital to genuinely intelligent.

The Green Dividend: The environmental impact is already measurable: EFS alone has eliminated over 3 million pages of printing annually, reducing an estimated 58 tons of CO2; the equivalent of planting 2050 trees; while reclaiming thousands of staff hours previously lost to manual paperwork. This is the Rector's Green and Efficiency Initiative in action: a university that runs faster, greener, and more transparently.

Visit of International Academic Delegation to CUI

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) hosted a distinguished international academic delegation representing leading universities from Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines on May 5, 2026. The delegation included Prof. Nurul Barizah, Head of Quality Assurance Board (Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia); Prof. Dr. Ritha F. Dalimunthe, Head of the Center of Excellence for Gender (Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia); Dr. Md. Sarowar Hossein, Associate Dean, Faculty of Health & Life Sciences (Daffodil International University, Bangladesh); and Dr. Faustito Amador Aure, Associate Professor (Eastern Visayas State University, Philippines).The delegation was warmly



received by Head, International Office, CUI, Ms. Muniba Nasir.

The visit featured a tour of the COMSATS Art Gallery, introduced by Arch. Farrah Mahmood Rana, In-charge COMSATS Art Gallery, followed by a visit to the Junaid Zaidi Library, which highlighted CUI's academic and cultural excellence.

A formal meeting at the International provided an opportunity for productive discussions on institutional strengths, internationalization strategies, and future collaboration. Key areas of mutual interest included academic exchange, joint research, faculty mobility, and collaborative programs. The visit concluded with an exchange of souvenirs, reflecting goodwill and a shared commitment to strengthening global partnerships.



Visit of OIC-COMSTECH Delegation from Palestine and Somalia

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) hosted a high-level OIC-COMSTECH delegation from Palestine and Somalia on June 11, 2026, to explore opportunities for academic, scientific, and technological collaboration. The delegation included H.E. Ms. Huda Sadi Fandi Alwahidi, Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Economy, Palestine; Mr. Zakarie Sheikh Ismail, Digital Infrastructure Specialist, Ministry of Communication and Technology, Somalia; Dr. Murtaza Noor, Director COMSTECH; Mr. Omar Jallow, Senior Technical Manager; and Ms. Gul Rukh, Program Officer.

The delegation was received at the University and given a campus tour, followed by a meeting with Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector CUI. A comprehensive meeting was subsequently chaired by Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, Campus In-charge, CUI, who led discussions on strengthening academic and technological cooperation. He emphasized the importance of international collaboration in advancing higher education, innovation, and digital transformation. The visit concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening institutional linkages, fostering knowledge exchange, and exploring opportunities for future collaboration.

IRCBM Strengthens International Research Collaborations and Innovation

During May and June 2026, the Interdisciplinary Research Center in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM), COMSATS University Islamabad, Lahore Campus, continued to expand its global research footprint through international collaborations, strategic partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives.

Dr. Madiha Saeed, Principal Investigator, IRCBM, represented COMSATS University Islamabad at the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica (SIMM), China, where she delivered an invited talk on synergistic cancer immunotherapy and participated in advanced collaborative research and hands-on training organized by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Italy.

Prof. Dr. Asma Tufail Shah, Director, IRCBM, attended the Humboldt Award Ceremony in Lahore and engaged with Mr. Arno Kirchhof, Deputy Head of Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, and fellow Humboldt scholars to foster international academic collaboration.

The Centre also welcomed Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Managing Director, Gulf Biotech, Bahrain, to explore strategic partnerships for technology transfer and commercialization across the GCC and other regions.

Additionally, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Member of the Senate, COMSATS University Islamabad and Member, NADRA, and Dr. Salman Naeem Gilani, Medical Director, IRM Hospital, visited IRCBM to discuss research commercialization and strengthen academia–industry linkages.

Furthermore, Dr. Hamad Khalid, Dr. Muhammad Nasir, and Dr. Mian Hasnain Nawaz, researchers at IRCBM, delivered invited lectures at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Centre also organized a Research Excellence Bootcamp to strengthen competencies in patent writing, grant development, quality management systems, artificial intelligence, and research data management.



International Recognition at the Huawei ICT Competition 2025–2026 Global Final

COMSATS University Islamabad celebrated the outstanding achievement of Mr. Muhammad Rashid Mukhtar, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, and Huawei ICT Academy Administrator, CUI Islamabad Campus, who brought international recognition to Pakistan at the Huawei ICT Competition 2025–2026 Global Final, held in Shenzhen, China.

Mr. Rashid Mukhtar achieved a historic double distinction by winning the Grand Prize in the Huawei ICT Teaching Competition and receiving the prestigious Most Valuable Instructor (MVI) Award, one of Huawei's highest global honors for excellence in ICT education and mentorship.

This remarkable achievement reflects Mr. Rashid Mukhtar's dedication to academic excellence, student mentorship, and ICT talent development, while reinforcing COMSATS University Islamabad's commitment to producing globally recognized educators and innovators.

HIAST-Syria

Participation in the 26th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council and Conference on Emerging Technologies

The 26th Meeting of the COMSATS Coordinating Council was held on 8–9 June 2026 at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya, Indonesia. The meeting was followed by a conference on "Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development" held on 10 June 2026.

During the conference, Mr. Yousef Alshekh, Vice Director of the Higher Institute for Applied Science and Technology (HIAST), presented a paper titled "Green Chemistry: Transforming Local Wastes into High-Value Products for Sustainable Development."

HIAST Launches a New Set of Master's Degree Programmes

The Higher Institute for Applied Science and Technology (HIAST) has announced the launch of a new set of Master of





Science (MSc) degree programmes in emerging technologies, engineering, applied sciences, and other specialized fields. The new programmes aim to strengthen advanced education and research in areas relevant to technological innovation and sustainable development.

The newly introduced programmes include: Artificial Intelligence; Cybersecurity; Advanced Robotics Enhanced by Artificial Intelligence; Embedded AI Systems; Smart Control Systems; Advanced and Nano-material Science and Technology; Laser and Optoelectronic systems; Polymer and Composed Material Science and Technology; Metallurgy Science and Technology; Telecommunication Systems: Advanced Signal Processing; Telecommunication Systems: Radio and Mobile Communications; Telecommunication Systems: Networks and Cybersecurity; Environmental Sustainability and Green Technologies; Chemical Engineering; Construction and Infrastructure Management; Aviation: Aircraft Structure and Engine; Aviation: Control and Aircraft Systems; Aviation: Control and On-board Systems.

HIAST Explores International Research Collaborations

The Higher Institute for Applied Science and Technology (HIAST) is exploring opportunities for international cooperation with leading scientific and academic institutions, including Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia; the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Pakistan; and The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), Türkiye. The proposed collaborations aim to strengthen institutional linkages and promote joint research and scientific cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

TIB-China

TIB Accelerates Integration into Global Innovation Network Through COMSATS Platform

On 8–9 June, a delegation from the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), led by Prof. Xiang Hua, Director-General, participated in the 26th Coordinating Council Meeting of COMSATS held at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya, Indonesia. The visit resulted in several significant outcomes.

During the Council Meeting, Prof. Xiang Hua presented TIB's scientific and technological strengths and signed, together with COMSATS Executive Director Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, a renewed cooperation agreement on the COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB) on behalf of their respective institutions. The renewed agreement reaffirms CCIB's role as a flagship platform for industry–academia–research collaboration in biomanufacturing across the Global South.

In another significant development, Prof. Sun Jibin, the founding Director





of CCIB, was unanimously elected Chairperson of the COMSATS Coordinating Council, becoming the first Chinese scientist to hold this position in the organization's 32-year history. The Coordinating Council, a statutory body of COMSATS comprising the Heads of its Centres of Excellence, provides strategic guidance on capacity-building, research and development, and scientific cooperation among Member States.

On 10 June 2026, the TIB delegation also participated in a side event on 'Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development,' co-hosted by COMSATS and ITS, where its representatives highlighted the role of biomanufacturing in advancing sustainable development.

TIB and COMSATS established the COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB) in April 2021 to promote industrial biotechnology innovation and support the development of the biomanufacturing sector in developing countries. Since then, CCIB has conducted a series of activities, including joint R&D, talent cultivation, and technology demonstration. It was selected as a Good Practice in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), with its activities endorsed by the IDSSD and featured in the Enhancing Scientific Research Capacities Exhibition at the first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange.

Looking ahead, TIB will draw on its new coordinating role in the COMSATS Coordinating Council and the renewed CCIB platform to foster deeper international partnerships, facilitate knowledge sharing, and strengthen broader participation in global science and technology governance. Through these efforts, the institute aims to accelerate biomanufacturing innovation in the Global South, strengthen collective S&T capacity among developing countries, and contribute practical solutions to shared sustainable development challenges.

A*STAR SIFBI Delegation Visits TIB to Explore Future Collaboration

On 18 May, a delegation from the Institute of Food and Biotechnology Innovation (SIFBI) of Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), led by Deputy Executive Director Dr. Wong Min Hao, visited the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB). Prof. Tian Chaoguang, Deputy Director-General of TIB, together with relevant researchers and administrative staff, received the delegation and participated in the exchange.

During the visit, the SIFBI delegation toured TIB's Bio-foundry and gained a comprehensive overview of TIB's disciplinary layout, major research breakthroughs, platform development, and international cooperation. The SIFBI delegation also presented A*STAR's

Upcoming Events at TIB-China

The Sixth International Training Course on Industrial Synthetic Biotechnology (ITC-ISB)

The sixth ITC-ISB, tentatively scheduled in October, 2026, will be hosted by TIB and organized by COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB) and State Key Laboratory of Engineering Biology for Low-Carbon Manufacturing. The course aims to inspire more young scientists to pursue careers in synthetic biology and to strengthen global collaboration in tackling our common challenges.
For more information, please visit:
http://english.tib.cas.cn/newsroom/upcomingevents/t_1174950.html

CO_2 Fixation and Bioconversion International Symposium 2026

The CO_2 Fixation and Bioconversion International Symposium 2026(CO_2FIX 2026), hosted by Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences, will be held on Oct. 22-26, 2026 in Tianjin. The symposium will bring together leading international experts to explore frontier research in CO_2 fixation pathways, synthetic biology, enzymatic conversion, and industrial biomanufacturing.
For more information, please visit:
http://english.tib.cas.cn/newsroom/upcomingevents/t_1145697.html



RIE2030 strategic plan, SIFBI's key research directions, and representative achievements serving the bioeconomy.

The two sides held in-depth discussions on future collaboration and reached a consensus on establishing an academic exchange mechanism and promoting joint talent cultivation. The visit enhanced mutual understanding, clarified the next steps for cooperation, and laid a solid foundation for deeper collaboration in biomanufacturing.

NASB Chairman Leads Delegation to TIB to Advance Biotechnology Cooperation

On 20 May, Uladzimir Karanik, Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB), led a delegation to the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences, to deepen bilateral cooperation in biotechnology.

The delegation was received by Dr. Zhang Xuecheng, Secretary of the Party Committee and Deputy Director-General of TIB, and Prof. Tian Chaoguang, Deputy Director-General of TIB. The exchange meeting was also attended by Aliaksandr Charviakou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to China; Aliaksandr Shepshaleu, Director of the Institute of Microbiology of NASB; Liang Jie, Vice President of CITIC Construction Co., Ltd.; a representative from the Bureau of International Cooperation of CAS; as well as relevant researchers and administrative staff from TIB.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Zhang Xuecheng extended a warm welcome to the delegation. He noted that the two sides, brought together through CITIC Construction, had already built a solid foundation for cooperation. Biotechnology, he stressed, was a priority cooperation area designated by both CAS and NASB. He expressed hope that the exchange would deepen bilateral collaboration and inject new momentum into biotechnological innovation and the high-quality development of the bio-industry in both China and Belarus.

Chairman Karanik highlighted that biotechnology is a priority direction for Belarus and highly commended TIB for its scientific and technological achievements in the field. He expressed his strong interest in strengthening cooperation with TIB to jointly promote the translation and application of frontier and advanced biotechnologies, thereby contributing to the well-being of the people of both countries.

Prof. Tian Chaoguang and Prof. Shepshaleu presented the overall status and research profiles of TIB and the Institute of Microbiology of NASB, respectively. Liang Jie introduced the Hi-Tech Agro-industrial Full Cycle Complex Project in Belarus. Prof. Zheng Ping presented her team's technological achievements in constructing high-yield amino acid-producing strains, while Prof. Wu Xin shared his work on the biomanufacturing of feed proteins and related fields.

During the meeting, the participants held in-depth discussions focused



on technical issues and cooperation modalities concerning the implementation of the Hi-Tech Agro-industrial Full Cycle Complex Project, and reached preliminarily cooperative intentions.

During the visit, the delegation also toured the High-Throughput Editing and Screening Platform and the Intelligent Biomanufacturing Platform at TIB.



ICCBS-Pakistan

Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine Pharmacopoeia Commission Appoints ICCBS Director as Executive Member

Prof. Dr. M. Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, has been appointed as an Executive Member of the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine Pharmacopoeia Commission (APTMPC), established in China.

Prof. Shah was appointed during the second meeting of the APTMPC, held in China in early June 2026. The Commission comprises members from China, Japan, South Korea, India, Malaysia, and other countries, and promotes the development of traditional medicine in the Asia-Pacific region while supporting its safe and rational use.

An internationally recognized scientist, Prof. Shah has authored more than 560 research publications, received over 13,900 citations, and holds an h-index of 59. He has also authored and edited several books, contributed book chapters published by Elsevier, and holds Pakistani and U.S. patents.

Prof. Shah is the recipient of several prestigious national and international honours, including the *Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, the Khwarizmi International Award, the Abdus Salam Award in Chemistry, and the Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman Gold Medal.* He currently serves as President of the Chemical Society of Pakistan and Editor of the Journal of the Chemical Society of Pakistan.

Bangladeshi Universities Sign MoUs with ICCBS

Two leading universities of Bangladesh have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), to promote collaborative educational, teaching, research, and cultural activities between institutions of the two countries.

The MoUs were signed during a visit by senior academics from Bangladesh to ICCBS, as part of an academic engagement initiative. Under the agreements, two prominent Bangladeshi higher education institutions, including the University of Chittagong and the University of Rajshahi, have established formal academic collaboration with ICCBS. The MoUs were signed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, and the respective representatives of the partner universities.

The visiting delegation comprised senior academic and administrative officials, including Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Heads of Departments, Directors, Faculty Members, and other representatives from the University of Rajshahi, University of Dhaka, University of Chittagong, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Jahangirnagar University, North South University, BRAC University, Asian University of Bangladesh, and Southeast University.

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, followed by an introduction to the members of the visiting delegation. Discussions focused on establishing new academic and research linkages, exploring opportunities for future partnerships, and sharing experiences in higher education and research.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah highlighted the academic and research achievements of ICCBS and described the collaborations as important milestones in promoting educational, teaching, research, and cultural cooperation. He emphasized that Pakistan and Bangladesh share deep-rooted historical and cultural ties that should be further strengthened, particularly in the fields of education, science, and technology.

He further noted that ICCBS is among country's leading Centres of Excellence in chemical, biological, and biochemical sciences and serves as an international hub for training scholars from various countries.

ICCBS-Incubated Startup Signs E-Commerce Agreement

Emerging Software Pvt. Ltd., an incubated startup at the ICCBS Technology Park and Technology Incubation Center, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), has signed a US$15 million cross-border e-commerce agreement with Shanghai Pingyuan-Tech Co., Ltd. of China.

The agreement was signed during the Pakistan–China B2B Investment Conference held in Hangzhou, China, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Shehbaz Sharif. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, congratulated the leadership of Emerging Software on the achievement.



ITI-Sri Lanka

ITI Conducts Environmental Study for Proposed Industrial Zone

The Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) is conducting the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the proposed 64-acre Industrial Zone in Ambulambe, Dambulla. The project, led by the Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, aims to support the development of an export-oriented and regionally balanced industrial economy.

ITI's Environmental Technology Section is leading the environmental assessment, carrying out studies on water quality, air quality, solid and hazardous waste, ecology, and sociology to ensure the project complies with environmental regulations and standards.

ITI Signs MoU with ATG Ceylon

The Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ATG Ceylon (Pvt) Ltd on 4 May 2026. The agreement aims to strengthen industry collaboration and create opportunities for skills development and future careers.

ITI Conducts Fifth Awareness Webinar

The Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) conducted the fifth webinar in its Awareness Webinar Series on 16 May 2026. Titled "In-Plant Validation Using Surrogates: Proving Kill-Step Efficacy," the lecture was delivered by Dr. Wasundara Divisekara, Principal Research Scientist of the Food Technology Section.

ITI Conducts Knowledge Sharing Session on Advanced Analytical Techniques

The Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) held the second session of its Knowledge Sharing Series on Advanced Analytical Techniques on 26 May 2026. The session focused on "Fundamentals of GC-FID & GC-MS: Instrument Basics and Applications."

ITI Participates in Vidatha Enterprises Exhibition

Officers of the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) participated in the Vidatha Enterprises and New Initiative Clinic Exhibition, held at the Kalutura District Secretariat on 25–26 June 2026 under the purview of the Ministry of Science and Technology. During the event, ITI officers contributed their expertise through the exhibition and clinic.





GLIMPSES OF SOME EVENTS/ACTIVITIES











GLIMPSES OF SOME EVENTS/ACTIVITIES











INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION




OIC Specialized Organizations
COMSTECH
ICESCO
Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology
SESRIC
International Financial Institutions
ADB
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
IsDB
GREEN CLIMATE FUND
Non-Profit Organizations and Private Sector
Living Indus
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Scholarships offered by COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan, offers MS & PhD Scholarships for students and researchers belonging to COMSATS' Member States and prospective members. The scholarships are offered in the following key programs: Computer Science, Management Science, Electrical Engineering, Biosciences, Mathematics, Physics, and Meteorology.

The relevant details, including terms and conditions, eligibility criteria, admission procedure and schedule, application form, etc., are available on CUI website: http://ww2.comsats.edu.pk/internationalstudents/COMSATS_HQ.aspx.

For further details, please visit: www.comsats.org or write to: farhan@comsats.org.

Upcoming Events

ANSO-COMSATS Conference on AI Enabled Solutions for Sustainable Water Governance, Security and Safety

COMSATS is organizing a high-level international conference titled "ANSO-COMSATS Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enabled Solutions for Sustainable Water Governance, Security and Safety," funded by the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions.

Date and Venue: September 22-25, 2026, Islamabad, Pakistan
For further details: comsats.org/anso-comsats-conference-ai4water-2026/

ANSO-COMSATS-TWAS Conference on "A Sustainable Future for All Living Species on Planet Earth

COMSATS, in collaboration with UNESCO-TWAS, the University of Trieste (Italy), and COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), is organizing the ANSO-COMSATS-TWAS Conference on 'A Sustainable Future for All Living Species on Planet Earth' in Islamabad. The conference will bring together leading scientists, policymakers, and researchers to deliberate on science-driven solutions for sustainable development.

Date and Venue: October 13 to 15, 2026, Islamabad, Pakistan
For further details: comsats.org/anso-comsats-conference/

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