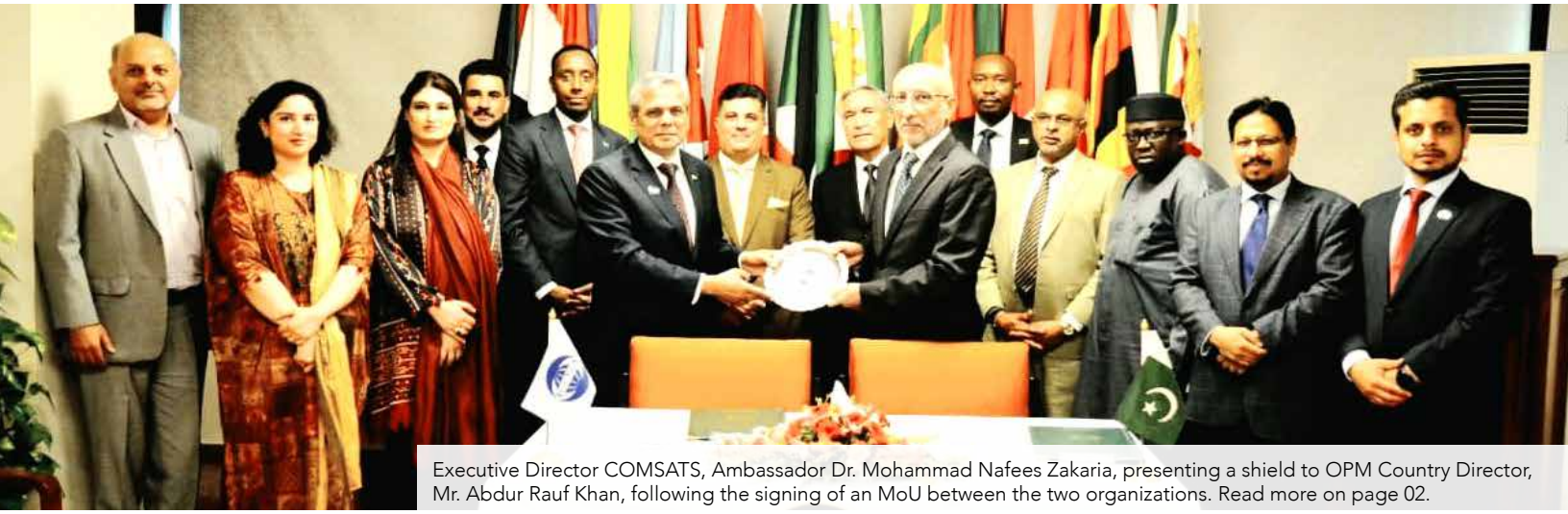
COMSATS Newsletter

Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)

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Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, presenting a shield to OPM Country Director, Mr. Abdur Rauf Khan, following the signing of an MoU between the two organizations. Read more on page 02.

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From the Executive Director's Desk

The Secretariat's engagements during July–August reflect COMSATS' continued efforts to strengthen international cooperation and promote the application of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. Through partnerships with international and national institutions, engagement with diplomatic missions, and dialogue with scientific and research leaders, COMSATS continues to advance its mandate as an intergovernmental organization bringing together 27 Member States of the South.

A significant development during the period was the renewal of the MoU with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The renewed framework provides a basis for cooperation in information and communications technology, energy transition and agriculture, with attention to digital transformation, artificial intelligence and its ethics, clean energy, and food and water security. Cooperation in country studies, capacity-building, training, research and the exchange of knowledge and expertise can help both organizations support their respective member countries in addressing development priorities and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

In July, COMSATS also formalized cooperation with Oxford Policy Management (OPM) Pakistan to promote collaboration in earth sciences, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction through science, technology and innovation. Climate-related risks and disasters require coordinated responses informed by research, sound policy and institutional capacity. The partnership provides a framework for knowledge exchange, policy dialogue, research and capacity-building, and reflects the value of bringing together public institutions, researchers and development partners to address shared challenges across the Global South.

The launch of KALAAM, developed with technology partner KHASTECH Solutions, was another initiative during July. An agreement formalizing the collaboration was signed at the COMSATS Secretariat. The virtual meetings platform is designed to provide a locally hosted option for secure digital communication and institutional collaboration. Its features and deployment options are intended to serve a range of organizations, including government departments, educational institutions and businesses. The initiative also highlights the importance of developing and adopting digital solutions that respond to local operating conditions and institutional requirements.

COMSATS' engagement with diplomatic representatives continued to provide opportunities to introduce the Organization's mandate, programmes and network of Centres of Excellence, and to identify areas of mutual interest. During meetings with the High Commissioner of Rwanda and the Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, discussions covered COMSATS' ongoing initiatives, technical resources and opportunities for greater participation by partner countries. The engagement with Indonesia also followed the 26th Meeting of the COMSATS Coordinating Council and the International Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development, hosted by the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember in Surabaya. These exchanges offer a practical basis for sustaining institutional links and exploring cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

The visit of young diplomats from the Islamic Republic of Iran provided an opportunity to discuss diplomacy, multilateral engagement and the growing relevance of science diplomacy in responding to regional and global challenges. A separate meeting with a high-level delegation from Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and associated institutions focused on strengthening cooperation in research, higher education, innovation, technology development and capacity-building. The discussions considered possible joint research initiatives, academic and institutional linkages, scientist exchanges and collaborative

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COMSATS Renews MoU with ESCAP to Strengthen Cooperation in ST&I

COMSATS and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in facilitating sustainable socio-economic development in their respective member countries. Representatives of both organizations attend each other's meetings as observers. COMSATS activities are aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

COMSATS is an intergovernmental organization with a high-level Commission on Science and Technology, a platform of 27 member countries of the South, committed to advancing scientific research, innovations, and technologies for sustainable development. ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations Secretariat for the Asia-Pacific region, with a membership of 52 countries and 9 associate members, committed to promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development. COMSATS and ESCAP have 9 member countries in common.

The MoU will enable COMSATS and ESCAP to foster collaboration in the fields of Information and Communications Technology, Energy transition and Agriculture. Emphasis would be on digital transformation, AI and AI Ethics, affordable and clean energy, as well as food and water security.

The focus of ESCAP-COMSATS joint activities would be on country studies, sharing best practices, capacity building, training and skill development, research and development for Tech-based Solutions to help member countries address their national challenges, and exchange of experts, expertise, knowledge and technology.

The partnership also aims at facilitating the respective member countries of COMSATS and ESCAP in their efforts towards achievement of the SDGs.

COMSATS and OPM Pakistan Formalize Strategic Cooperation in Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction

On 21 July 2026, COMSATS and Oxford Policy Management (OPM) Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a strategic partnership aimed at promoting collaboration in the fields of earth sciences, climate resilience, and disaster risk reduction through science, technology, and innovation (STI). The MoU was signed by the Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, and the Country Director of OPM Pakistan, Mr. Abdur Rauf Khan, in the presence of senior officials from both institutions.

The signing ceremony was attended by Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and diplomats including Turkmenistan, Nigeria, Somalia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Syria, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Representatives of international organizations also participated in the ceremony, highlighting the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in advancing science-led solutions for sustainable development.

The Executive Director, COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria underscored the importance of strengthening institutional partnerships to address emerging global challenges through science, technology, and innovation. He noted that climate change, disaster risk reduction, and environmental sustainability require collaborative approaches that bring together governments, academia, research institutions, development partners, and the private sector. Ambassador Zakaria expressed confidence that the partnership between COMSATS and OPM Pakistan would facilitate knowledge exchange and contribute to evidence-based







policymaking and capacity-building across the Global South.

Mr. Abdur Rauf Khan, Country Director of OPM Pakistan, appreciated the opportunity to formalize cooperation with COMSATS and reaffirmed OPM's commitment to working jointly on initiatives that support policy formulation, climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development.

Under the framework of the MoU, COMSATS and OPM Pakistan will collaborate to promote South-South cooperation, mobilizing scientific and technological institutions, facilitating knowledge exchange and policy dialogue, and jointly design and implement capacity-building programmes, research initiatives, and technical cooperation activities to enhance climate resilience and disaster risk reduction across the Global South.

The partnership reinforces COMSATS' strategic efforts to deepen international cooperation and harness science, technology, and innovation in support of sustainable development, resilience, and inclusive growth across the Global South.

COMSATS Launches 'KALAAM' – A Secure, Pakistan's Own Virtual Meetings Platform

COMSATS in collaboration with its Technology Partner, KHASTECH, launched its indigenous digital SaaS platform, KALAAM, by signing an agreement at the COMSATS Secretariat on 10 July 2026. KALAAM is a virtual meeting platform designed to meet the evolving needs of secure, scalable, cost-effective and locally optimized digital

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projects. Such dialogue is important to translating shared interests into practical cooperation among institutions and countries.

COMSATS successfully secured two competitive conference grants under the CAS-ANSO Conference Programme 2025, awarded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO), for organizing two international conferences in Islamabad during September and October 2026. One grant (CAS-ANSO-C1A-2025-05) was awarded for the ANSO-COMSATS International Conference on "Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Solutions for Sustainable Water Governance, Security and Safety," held from 22 to 25 September 2026, in collaboration with XIEG-China, NRC-Egypt, and CUI-Pakistan. The Conference focused on leveraging artificial intelligence and scientific innovation to strengthen sustainable water governance, security and safety. Another grant (CAS-ANSO-C1A-2025-01) was awarded for the ANSO-COMSATS-TWAS International Conference on "A Sustainable Future for All Living Species on Planet Earth," held from 13 to 15 October 2026, in collaboration with ANSO and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS-UNESCO), with support from the University of Trieste, Italy. The Conference envisioned three thematic areas: Sustainability Education and Planetary Health; the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus for Sustainability; and Science-Policy Dialogue for a Sustainable Future. Both activities would be recognized as official activity of the UNESCO-led International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) 2024-2033.

These engagements underline a consistent priority for COMSATS: to facilitate partnerships through which knowledge, expertise and technological capacity can be shared for the benefit of Member States. The Organization's network of international Science and Technology Centres of Excellence offers an institutional foundation for collaboration across regions and disciplines. Continued interaction with governments, diplomatic missions, research organizations and development partners help identify opportunities to connect this network with national priorities and emerging needs.

As development challenges become increasingly interconnected, cooperation must be sustained through practical initiatives, institutional coordination and the exchange of experience. COMSATS will continue to encourage partnerships that support research, capacity-building and the responsible use of technology, while keeping the development needs of its Member States at the centre of its work. The Secretariat remains committed to facilitating dialogue and cooperation that can contribute to inclusive and sustainable development across the Global South.

Building on these relationships, COMSATS will continue to work with its Centres of Excellence and International Partner Organizations to identify areas for joint action and translate dialogue into practical activities that support scientific cooperation and the development priorities of its Member States.



communication. The agreement was signed by Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director COMSATS, and Brig. Dr. M. Ashraf, CEO, KHASTECH Solutions. The signing ceremony was witnessed by senior officials from COMSATS Secretariat, KHASTECH Solutions, and COMSATS Internet Services (CIS).

KALAAM has been developed as an enterprise-grade solution, with a strong emphasis on data sovereignty, advanced security, and high performance, making it an ideal choice for government institutions, financial organizations, education sector, and corporate environments.

A key differentiator of KALAAM is its country-based hosting infrastructure, ensuring that organizational data remains within the country. This approach enhances regulatory compliance, strengthens data protection, and supports national digital security objectives. KALAAM ensures that all data is hosted within the country, providing complete control, compliance readiness, and enhanced protection for sensitive communications. This makes it particularly suitable for government entities, banks, and critical organizations where data security is paramount. The platform incorporates end-to-end encryption and secure authentication protocols, enabling organizations to maintain strict governance and oversight.

The platform includes advanced collaboration features such as HD video conferencing, screen sharing, interactive whiteboards, session recording, and virtual classroom tools. KALAAM also supports multiple concurrent meeting rooms, enabling organizations to efficiently conduct parallel meetings, training sessions, and large-scale online events under a single account.

Designed to adapt to varying network conditions, KALAAM delivers stable performance even in low-bandwidth environments, helping organizations maintain seamless communication across diverse geographic regions.

To meet varying enterprise requirements, KALAAM offers flexible deployment options including cloud, private cloud, and on-premise installations. A dedicated local technical team provides support, customization services, and deployment assistance for institutional clients.

The platform offers flexible deployment models including cloud, private cloud, and on-premise installations—allowing organizations to align the solution with their operational and security requirements.

KALAAM is purpose-built to serve:

- Government departments and regulatory bodies
- Banks and financial institutions
- Universities and educational



organizations
- Corporate and enterprise sectors

With the launch of KALAAM, COMSATS reaffirms its commitment to strengthening the country's digital ecosystem by delivering a platform that keeps data within the country. The initiative aims to support technological independence, improve cybersecurity resilience, and provide organizations with a trusted local alternative for virtual collaboration..

A Delegation of Young Diplomats from Iran Visits COMSATS Secretariat

A delegation of junior diplomats from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan visited the COMSATS Secretariat for an interactive learning session with the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria.

Drawing on his distinguished diplomatic career and extensive experience at Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), as well as his leadership of the Secretariat of an intergovernmental organization, Ambassador Dr. Zakaria shared valuable perspectives on Pakistan's diplomatic landscape, contemporary foreign policy priorities, and the evolving role of diplomacy



in addressing regional and global challenges. The session also highlighted the growing importance of science diplomacy and multilateral cooperation in promoting sustainable development and strengthening partnerships among countries of the Global South.

The interaction provided the visiting diplomats with a valuable opportunity to engage in an open and insightful exchange of views, benefiting from Ambassador Dr. Zakaria's extensive experience in diplomacy, international negotiations, and multilateral engagement. Discussions also covered the role and mandate of COMSATS in promoting science, technology, and innovation-driven cooperation among its Member States and partner institutions.



During Ambassador Dr. Zakaria's tenure as Executive Director, interactions with diplomats and high-level delegations from both COMSATS Member and non-Member States accredited to Pakistan have become a regular feature of the Secretariat's outreach efforts. These engagements have significantly strengthened COMSATS' diplomatic outreach, promoted mutual understanding, and expanded avenues for scientific and technological cooperation.

High Commissioner of Rwanda Calls on Executive Director COMSATS

Her Excellency Ms. Harerimana Fatou, High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda to Pakistan, visited the COMSATS Secretariat and held a meeting with the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria on 16th July 2026.

The Executive Director provided an overview of COMSATS' mandate, structure, ongoing activities as well as new initiatives including Electric Vehicle (EV) technologies, the ISO-certified Nanotechnology Lab, Telehealth services, the KALAAM platform, and postgraduate scholarship opportunities offered by COMSATS' Centres of Excellence. He also highlighted the





expertise and technical resources available at COMSATS' Network of International S&T Centres of Excellence spanning four continents.

The High Commissioner expressed keen interest in COMSATS' diverse programs and initiatives. The discussions explored potential areas of collaboration in emerging fields of science and technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Information Technology (IT), with an emphasis on enhancing Rwanda's engagement with the intergovernmental organization and its Member States and Centres of Excellence.

Both sides expressed a shared resolve to forge collaboration for leveraging scientific innovation and emerging technologies to promote sustainable development and mutual prosperity.

ED COMSATS Calls on the Ambassador of Indonesia

The Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, held a meeting with His Excellency Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, on 21 July 2026. The Executive Director briefed the Ambassador on the outcomes of the 26th Meeting of the COMSATS Coordinating Council and the International Conference on "Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development", which were hosted by COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Indonesia, the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS).

He highlighted COMSATS' ongoing initiatives, including Telehealth services, Electric Vehicle (EV) technology, the ISO-certified Nanotechnology Lab, Data Centre and Cloud Computing, KALAAM platform, and postgraduate scholarship programs. He also highlighted the expertise and technical resources available at COMSATS' Network of International S&T Centres of Excellence.

Ambassador Sukotjo expressed appreciation for the strong COMSATS-Indonesia collaboration and showed keen interest in COMSATS' diverse programs and initiatives. He assured the Executive Director of his full support in further enhancing Indonesia's engagement with COMSATS and its Member States, and Centres of Excellence.

The meeting resulted in a shared commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, building upon the momentum generated by the recent events held in Surabaya, Indonesia.



COMSATS and Iranian High-Level Delegation Discuss Strengthening Scientific Cooperation

On 24 July 2026, the Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, received a high-level delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran at the COMSATS Secretariat in, Islamabad

to discuss avenues for strengthening scientific cooperation and expanding collaboration in research, innovation, and capacity-building among COMSATS Member States.

The Iranian delegation comprised Prof. Mehdi Abtahi, Deputy Minister for Research, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT); Prof. Ahmad Reza Roshan, Advisor to the Minister of Science, Research and Technology; Mr. Mahmoud Hojjati, ECO Coordinator at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF). Dr. Mehwish Durani, Head of CCCS/ IPOs, and senior officials from the COMSATS' International Partner Organizations (IPO) and the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Executive Director briefed the delegation on COMSATS' mandate, institutional framework, and international network. He highlighed the organization's flagship programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting science, technology, and innovation (STI) for sustainable development across the Global South. He also underscored COMSATS' commitment to fostering South-South cooperation by strengthening scientific partnerships, facilitating technology transfer,



promoting knowledge exchange, and supporting evidence-based solutions to shared developmental challenges.

The two sides exchanged views on enhancing collaboration in scientific research, higher education, innovation, technology development, and capacity-building. Discussions focused on opportunities for joint research initiatives, academic and institutional linkages, scientist exchange programmes, and collaborative projects in areas of mutual interest.

Both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening regional scientific cooperation and leveraging existing institutional networks to address emerging global challenges through science, technology, and innovation.



Ambassador Zakaria reaffirmed COMSATS' commitment to expanding partnerships with leading scientific and research institutions across its Member States. He noted that sustained collaboration among governments, academia, research organizations, and international partners is essential for advancing scientific excellence, innovation, and sustainable development throughout the Global South.

Prof. Mehdi Abtahi appreciated COMSATS' contributions to promoting scientific cooperation and capacity-building among developing countries and expressed Iran's keen interest in further strengthening collaboration with COMSATS. He highlighted the importance of enhancing institutional linkages, facilitating knowledge exchange, and promoting joint research programmes to contribute regional development and scientific advancement.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to deepening cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, and exploring new opportunities for joint initiatives to support sustainable development, regional integration, and scientific excellence among COMSATS Member States.

SOME ACTIVITIES OF COMSATS' CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), China

TIB held mLife Research Conference 2026 in Tianjin

The mLife Research Conference 2026 (mRC 2026) was held from July 2 to 5, 2026, in Tianjin, bringing together nearly 300 scholars from across the globe, including Australia, Canada, France, South Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States, and China, to share advances in microbiology and explore future research directions.

The conference was co-chaired by Prof. Qian Wei, Co-Editor-in-Chief of mLife and Director-General of the Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IMCAS); Prof. Zhou Jizhong, Co-Editor-in-Chief of mLife from the University of Oklahoma; and Prof. Xiang Hua, Associate Editor of mLife, Director-General of the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), CAS, and Secretary-General of the Chinese Society for Microbiology (CSM).

The programme featured 31 invited talks and plenary lectures by four distinguished scientists: Prof. Deng Zixin of Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Prof. Tan Tianwei, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and President of Beijing University of Chemical Technology; Prof. Zhou Jizhong, Member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences; and Prof. Ma Wenbo of the Sainsbury Laboratory, UK, and Fellow of the Royal Society.

A poster session showcased research by 39 young scholars and graduate students from 22 universities and research institutes.

The event was hosted by IMCAS, TIB, and CSM, organized by the State Key Laboratory of Engineering Biology for Low-Carbon Manufacturing, and co-organized by the Engineering Cells and Intelligent Manufacturing Professional Committee (preparatory) of the Chinese Society of Bioengineering, Tianjin University of Science and Technology, and Tianjin Society of Young Scholars.

The conference will be held biennially to promote academic exchange and advance global microbiology research.

TIB and ICCBS Renews MOU on Science and Technology Cooperation

On August 31, the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences, renewed its Science and Technology Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Pakistan. The event also featured a thematic seminar on deepening industry–academia–research collaboration in natural products.

The event was attended by Prof. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and UNESCO Chair on Medicinal and Bio-organic Natural Product Chemistry; Mr. Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science and Technology Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing; and Prof. Xiang Hua, Director-General of TIB. Prof. Sun Jibin, Director of the COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology, chaired the meeting. Researchers and administrative staff from TIB also participated in the exchange and signing ceremony.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Xiang Hua highlighted the complementary research strengths of the two institutions. He noted ICCBS's expertise in natural product identification and bioactivity evaluation, alongside TIB's capabilities in the microbial recombinant synthesis of key constituents of traditional Chinese medicine. He expressed confidence that their collaboration could advance the clinical application and industrial development of natural products.

Prof. Muhammad Raza Shah introduced ICCBS's research strengths, appreciated TIB's research infrastructure and achievements in scientific and





technological innovation, and expressed his expectation of more tangible outcomes following the MoU renewal. The renewed MoU was signed by Prof. Xiang Hua and Prof. Muhammad Raza Shah on behalf of their respective institutions. It provides for joint research, talent cultivation, academic exchanges, and industrial promotion in areas including traditional medicine resources, natural product biosynthesis, and the large-scale preparation and clinical research of natural products.

TIB and ICCBS are both COMSATS Centres of Excellence and signed their first MoU in 2019. The renewal marks a further step in their cooperation and provides a foundation for continued collaboration in natural products and related fields.

Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan

RSS Inaugurates a Pioneering Permaculture Educational Model

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) inaugurated a permaculture educational model at Ajloun National University, under the patronage of the European Union Ambassador to Jordan, H.E. Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas. The initiative was implemented under the EU-funded "Baraka" project to promote sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture and the circular use of resources.

Implemented by RSS on the university campus, the model provides a practical learning and demonstration platform for students, researchers, and local communities. It promotes agricultural practices inspired by natural ecosystems to enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, optimize resource use, and strengthen food security.

H.E. Chatzisavas commended RSS for applying science and innovation to sustainable development and climate adaptation and highlighted the important role of Jordanian universities in advancing environmental knowledge and preparing young professionals to lead the transition toward sustainable development.

RSS Vice President Eng. Rafat Assi highlighted the strong partnership with the European Union and the importance of translating scientific knowledge into practical solutions that benefit local communities. He also commended Ajloun National University for hosting a model that integrates education, innovation, and sustainability.

Dr. Almoayied Assayed, Director of RSS's Water, Environment and Climate Change Centre, presented the key achievements of the Baraka project, which has promoted climate-resilient agriculture, cleaner production, efficient water and resource use, and circular economy approaches through applied demonstration models. He presented the permaculture concept and demonstrated the model's components, including agricultural terraces, Azolla production ponds for poultry feed,



poultry raising, and earthworm-based treatment of poultry waste to produce organic fertilizer. Together, these components create an integrated circular system in which resources and agricultural by-products are reused efficiently.

The initiative reflects RSS's commitment to applying science and knowledge to environmental and climate challenges and supporting the transition toward more resilient and sustainable agricultural systems through national and international partnerships.

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan

CUI Ranked No. 1 in Pakistan in U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings 2026–2027

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) has been ranked No. 1 among Pakistani universities featured in the U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings 2026–2027, securing the 410th position globally with an overall score of 52.0.

The U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings place particular emphasis on academic research performance, research reputation and scholarly impact, making CUI's achievement a recognition of its continued focus on research excellence and international academic visibility.

Commenting on the achievement, the Rector of COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar T.I., said that CUI's standing reinforces the University's commitment to research excellence, innovation and international collaboration. He noted that the recognition would further motivate the University to enhance its global impact through knowledge creation.

CUI also demonstrated strong performance across a number of subject areas, ranking 28th globally in Mathematics, 67th in Green and Sustainable Science and Technology, 142nd in Engineering, 151st in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and 178th in Artificial Intelligence. The University also secured notable global positions in Computer Science and Chemistry.





The achievement further strengthens CUI's position as one of Pakistan's leading research intensive universities and highlights its growing contribution to research, innovation and international academic engagement.

Iranian Delegates Visit COMSATS University Islamabad to Strengthen Academic and Scientific Cooperation

A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Dr. Syed Mehdi Abtahi Forooshani, Deputy Minister, visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on July 23, 2026, to explore avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation in higher education, research, and innovation. The delegation was accompanied by Dr. Muhammad Roshan, Senior Advisor to the Minister, along with representatives from the Embassy of Iran in Pakistan and Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology.

The delegation was received by Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, T.I., Rector, CUI, and senior university officials. Discussions focused on expanding collaboration in teacher education, curriculum development, digital learning, artificial intelligence, educational technology, joint research, faculty and student exchanges, and the joint academic seminars and webinars.

Both sides agreed to strengthen





institutional linkages through sustained coordination between the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology. They also explored reciprocal scholarship opportunities for students of both countries, reaffirming their shared commitment to promoting academic excellence, scientific cooperation, innovation, and people-to-people connectivity.

International Workshop on Dissemination of SRM Research Findings and Sensitisation of Policymakers in Pakistan

The Department of Meteorology, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), organised a one-day international workshop on "Dissemination of SRM Research Findings and Sensitisation of Policymakers in Pakistan" on 11 August 2026 at Ramada by Wyndham Islamabad, under the ongoing project titled "Implications of SRM under Marine Cloud Brightening for Climate and Malaria Dynamics in South Asia," led by Principal Investigator (PI) Prof. Dr. Athar Hussain.

Supported by the Degrees Initiative's Modelling Fund (DMF), the event brought together researchers, policymakers, public health experts, government representatives, academics, and development partners to promote informed dialogue on Solar Radiation Modification (SRM), climate change, and public health.

The programme commenced with welcome remarks by Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, T.I., Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad, followed by opening remarks by Prof. Dr. Athar Hussain, Head, Department of Meteorology.

The workshop featured expert presentations on SRM and projected climate responses, drought, malaria transmission, vector-borne diseases, climate–health policy coherence, and SRM governance. It also included a demonstration of the SRM Malaria Dashboard and an interactive Climate Intervention Game. The event provided a platform for science–policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and interdisciplinary collaboration, contributing to informed discussions on the potential implications, uncertainties, and governance considerations of SRM for Pakistan and South Asia.

5th International Conference on Green Sustainable Technology and Management (ICGSTM 2026)

The 5th International Conference on Green Sustainable Technology and Management (ICGSTM 2026)



was co-organized by Department of Biotechnology at COMSATS University Islamabad, Abbottabad Campus, in collaboration with INTI International University, Malaysia on 22 July 2026, in hybrid mode. The conference's thematic areas included Bioremediation, Biofortification, Nano Composts, Phytopathogen, Crop Improvement, and Epigenetic Variability.

The conference brought together researchers, academics, professionals, and students from multiple countries, providing an excellent platform for the exchange of innovative ideas and research findings in green and sustainable technologies and materials.

Students and alumni presented their work at the conference. CUI alumnus Dr. Zahid Ahmad Khan received the Best Presenter Award from INTI. This recognition reflects the excellence of the presentation, the quality of research, and ability to effectively communicate the work by our students to the varied conference-participants belonging to multiple universities from multiple countries.

Such contributions enriched the conference and reflected the academic standards promoted by that ICGSTM and CUI.

International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) Pakistan

Iranian University Signs MoU with ICCBS

The Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences (IASBS), an Iranian mission-based university, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), to strengthen academic, research, and technological cooperation between the two leading institutions.



The MoU was formally signed during an online ceremony by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, University of Karachi, and Prof. Sadollah Nasiri, President of IASBS, on behalf of their respective institutions.

Speaking at the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah highlighted the importance of the agreement. He said that the MoU would facilitate the exchange of academic staff, researchers, experts, and students between the two institutions for academic, educational, and research activities.

He said the partnership would strengthen research capacity, foster innovation, and contribute to scientific advancement through joint academic and research initiatives. Highlighting the significance of ICCBS in the region, Prof. Dr. Raza Shah said that ICCBS is among Pakistan's leading centers in chemical, biological, and biochemical sciences and serves as an international hub for training of scholars from various countries.

Under the agreement, IASBS and ICCBS have agreed to collaborate on mutually beneficial academic, scientific, and research activities, while providing high-quality education and conducting research in accordance with applicable national regulations and international standards.

IASBS provides an academic and research environment for domestic and international students and researchers in chemistry, physics, mathematics, biological sciences, computer science, and earth sciences. The institute also promotes academic, scientific, and research collaboration with higher education and research institutions worldwide.

According to the MoU, academic staff from IASBS and ICCBS will jointly develop research proposals and submit them to relevant funding bodies. PhD students from both institutions may also participate in these research projects or grants, as mutually agreed by the two institutions.

The two institutions may also jointly organize short courses, training programmes, summer schools, and other academic programmes in areas of mutual interest, subject to the availability of resources.

Nigerian University Signs MoU with ICCBS

The University of Ilorin, Nigeria, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICCBS to strengthen academic and research collaboration between the two institutions.

The agreement was signed during an online ceremony by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, and Mr. Mansur Adeleke Alfanla, Registrar of the University of Ilorin, on behalf of their respective institutions.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah said the MoU aims to promote collaborative research in chemical, biological, and pharmaceutical sciences, covering preclinical studies, translational research, and clinical investigations. He added that the collaboration would facilitate shared access to research facilities, equipment, and other resources, subject to the availability of financial and institutional support, while strengthening research capacity, fostering innovation, and advancing scientific research.

Mr. Mansur Adeleke Alfanla said activities under the MoU would align with the scientific missions of both institutions, with emphasis on postgraduate education, collaborative research, and the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Under the agreement, the two institutions will collaborate on joint research projects and proposals, promote teaching and research activities, exchange scientific expertise, and develop skills in areas of mutual interest. The MoU also provides for training and professional development opportunities for postgraduate students, young researchers, laboratory technicians, research assistants, research officers, and other academic and technical staff through mutually agreed collaborative programmes.

Workshop on "Cell Culture Techniques in Biomedical Research"

A two-day workshop titled "Cell Culture Techniques in Biomedical Research" was held at ICCBS on July 21–22.



Prof. Dr. M. Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, inaugurated the workshop with an online address. Prof. Dr. Syed Abid Ali, Acting Director of ICCBS, also spoke on the occasion.

In his address, Prof. Raza Shah welcomed the participants and said that the workshop would provide an excellent opportunity to gain practical experience in cell culture methodologies while building research capacity and supporting the application of laboratory techniques in academic, industrial, and clinical settings.

He also briefed the participants on the international stature of ICCBS, highlighting that it is among Pakistan's leading centers of excellence in chemical, biological, and biochemical sciences and serves as an international hub for training scholars from various countries.

Prof. Syed Abid Ali emphasized the importance of acquiring knowledge, stating that the Holy Quran also encourages the pursuit of knowledge.

He said that education is an essential human right and a key driver of both personal and societal development, as it equips individuals with critical thinking skills, promotes self-reliance, and enhances opportunities for economic success.

He further noted that cell culture is one of the foundational techniques in modern biology, biotechnology, and biomedical research. Whether we study disease mechanisms, test new drugs, or manufacture vaccines and biologics, the ability to grow and maintain cells is essential, he said.

Dr. Almas Jabeen, one of the workshop facilitators, informed the participants that the workshop comprised formal lectures and laboratory sessions delivered through an integrated learning approach. The training included theoretical concepts, underlying principles, and hands-on instruction in aseptic techniques, media preparation, cell line maintenance, subculturing, cryopreservation, contamination control, and good laboratory practices to ensure laboratory safety and quality standards.

It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Dr. Asmat Salim of the Stem Cell Research Laboratory and Dr. Almas Jabeen of the Immunology Laboratory served as the resource persons for the workshop.

The workshop was attended by around 50 participants from Karachi and other parts of the country, including graduate and postgraduate students as well as faculty members from the disciplines of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Biotechnology, and related fields.

GLIMPSES OF SOME EVENTS/ACTIVITIES













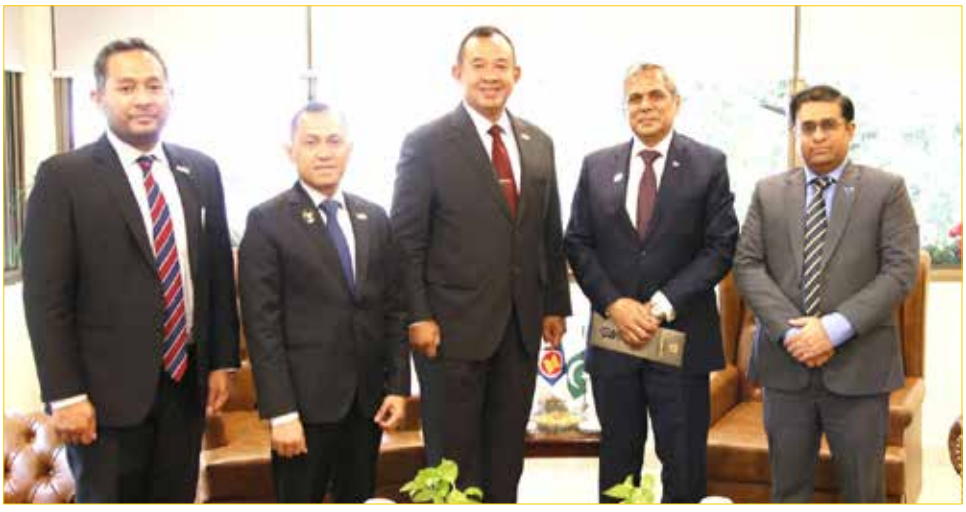


GLIMPSES OF SOME EVENTS/ACTIVITIES











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Upcoming Events

Security against AI Driven Cyber Attacks – 6-Weeks Training Boot Camp

In line with the COMSATS' objectives of keeping pace with the advancements in the field of S&T and the global trends that the Emerging Technologies are setting, a 6-week Training Boot Camp on the theme of "Protection Against AI Driven Cyber Attacks. The Training course will be conducted by COMSATS technology partner, KHASTECH.

For details, please visit: **https://comsats.org/event/security-against-ai-driven-cyber-attacks-6-weeks-training-boot-camp/**

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

The COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB), in collaboration with the State Key Laboratory of Engineering Biology for Low-Carbon Manufacturing, China, is organizing the Sixth International Training Course on Industrial Synthetic Biotechnology (ITC-ISB). The Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), CAS, an esteemed Centre of Excellence of COMSATS will host the training from October 21 to November 2, 2026 in Tianjin.

For details, please visit:**https://comsats.org/event/sixth-international-training-course-on-industrial-synthetic-biotechnology-itc-isb/**

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