



COMSATS

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

Member States



Bangladesh



China



Colombia



Egypt



Gambia



Ghana



Iran



Jamaica



Jordan



Kazakhstan



Korea, D.P.R.



Morocco



Nigeria



Pakistan



Palestine



Philippines



Senegal



Somalia



Sri Lanka



Sudan



Syria



Tanzania



Tunisia



Turkey



Uganda



Yemen



Zimbabwe

September 2019



Introduction

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is an international intergovernmental organization of the developing countries with a mandate to help them jointly meet their developmental challenges through right application of S&T. An inter-governmental organization based in Islamabad, Pakistan, COMSATS was founded in 1994, as a result of a consensus reached by the nations participating in the organization's Foundation Meeting. At present, COMSATS has 27 Member States and a Network of 22 International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence that facilitates pursuit of its mission of South-South cooperation.



COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan

The organization's top-most forum is its Commission that comprises Heads of the Member States that meet at the General Meetings. The statutory bodies of COMSATS are the ministerial-level Consultative Committee, a Coordinating Council comprising the heads of S&T Centres of Excellence, and a Technical



Advisory Committee comprising of experts from the North and the South. The Coordinating Council along with the TAC and the Secretariat are the organs of COMSATS' Network.

Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana, is the current Chairperson of COMSATS while Mr. Fawad Hussain Chaudhry, Federal Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Consultative Committee. In addition, Prof. Ashraf H. Shaalan, Former President of COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Egypt, National Research Centre (NRC), currently chairs the Coordinating Council. Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi is the incumbent Executive Director of COMSATS Secretariat.

The Secretariat of COMSATS is permanently located in Islamabad and is being run through generous annual grant by the Government of Pakistan.



22nd meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council



Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
President of Ghana & Chairperson COMSATS



Chaudhry Fawad Hussain
Chairperson
Consultative Committee



Prof. Ashraf Shaalan
Chairperson Coordinating
Council



Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi
Executive Director COMSATS

Mission Statement

The mission of COMSATS is 'to help create a world where all nations are at peace with one another and capable of providing a good quality of life to their populations in a sustainable way, using modern scientific and technological resources.'



Glimpses of some of the events organized by COMSATS

Programmes

COMSATS tries to create a necessary pool of human resources and facilitation for scientific infrastructure building for undertaking a variety of capacity-building programmes, bilateral and multilateral cooperative research, and consultancy/advocacy.



18th CTWF International Symposium on Aerosol and Climate Change:
Observations, Modelling and Interaction (China 2019)

The size and scope of the programmes and projects of COMSATS vary from regional to national to international levels. The South-South and North-South cooperation programmes of COMSATS are in various cross-cutting themes, including information and communication technologies (ICTs), environmental sciences, nanotechnology, biotechnology, renewable energy technologies, internet security, mathematical modelling, telemedicine, repair and maintenance of scientific instruments, etc. The key programmes and projects of COMSATS pertain to the following:

- **Sustainable Development:** COMSATS' original mission, aims and objectives envisaged on its inception directly pertain to UN's inclusive development agenda, such as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and later the 2030 Global Agenda popularly known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For meaningful realization and achievement of the SDGs, COMSATS is aligning its plans and activities increasingly for the accomplishment of goals and targets relevant to its mandate. In this regard, recent activities that transpired from this focus related to role of higher education institutions and youth engagement.
- **Capacity Building:** COMSATS organizes/ co-organizes and sponsors capacity- building



Participants gaining hands-on training during Workshop on Repair and Maintenance (Kazakhstan 2017)



S&T events in various themes that are of direct relevance to the socio-economic needs of its Member States. These events are organized in collaboration with various international partner organizations and Centers of Excellence.

- **Science Diplomacy:** COMSATS has been engaged in advocacy of Science at all levels through its different organs, activities of COMSATS Secretariat as well as, other number of means. However, COMSATS Science Diplomacy programme was formally institutionalized in 2015 after an MoU with The World Academy of Sciences. The recent launch of the COMSATS' Science Diplomacy Programme is a new approach towards addressing needs of scientists, diplomats, journalists and policy-makers to build peace among nations using scientific knowledge and principles for allowing informed decision making.
- **Multilateral Research: International Thematic Research Groups (ITRGs):** COMSATS' ITRGs are undertaking joint research projects in various fields of science and technology in order to jointly address common issues and challenges impeding socio-economic development of the Member States. These groups comprise of research scientists belonging to COMSATS' Member States and other developing countries. The six ITRGs have the following themes: (i) Information and Communication Technologies (led by CUI-Pakistan); (ii) Agriculture, Food Security



and Biotechnology (led by IRCC and University Khartoum, Sudan); (iii) Natural Products Sciences (led by ICCBS-Pakistan); (iv) Climate Change and Environmental Protection (led by ICCES-China); (v) Mathematical Modeling (led by NMC-Nigeria); and (vi) Renewable Energy (led by IROST-Iran). Apart from serving as a platform for joint research projects, COMSATS' ITRG programme facilitates exchange of experts and sharing of laboratory resources among the member institutions.



Prof. Lin Zhaohui, Director ICCES,
Chairing Meeting of ITRG
on Climate Change

Moreover, opportunities

of short-term trainings are provided to the group members in order to build their capacity in the target area and enable them to perform their research component more effectively. The travel expenses during ITRG meetings, expert-exchanges, and short-term trainings of the group members are covered by COMSATS, while the host institutions provide facilities for boarding and lodging.

- **Postgraduate Scholarships and Fellowships:** COMSATS offers a number of scholarships that include a standing offer of 100 scholarships at CUI to students from COMSATS' member countries.



Among the recipients of these scholarships have been students from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Jordan, Nigeria, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and Tanzania. Also scientists from developing countries are offered fellowships to work at the Centers of Excellence for short-term academic activity in science and technology. Apart from CUI- Pakistan, these fellowships are offered by IROST- Iran, ICCBS-Pakistan, NRC-Egypt, ICCES-China, and BCSIR-Bangladesh.

- **Short-term Training Programmes:** With a view to build capacity of scientific institutions of member states, scientists and technicians are provided short-term hands-on trainings at relevant Centres of Excellence. The travel cost is borne by COMSATS, while the host institutions provide facilities for boarding and lodging.
- **Institution Building:** Scientific institution building has been a strong suit of COMSATS, since quite early after its inception. Two such success stories are in the host country: an ISP (COMSATS Internet Services) and a higher education institution in IT (COMSATS University Islamabad). A Karachi-based institution, COMSATS-COMSTECH-MTM-IT Centre (1999) and one in Syria, Syrian-COMSATS-COMSTECH Information Technology Centre (2001), were also established later, in the fields of Information Technology. Further, to provide an institutional platform for coordination, facilitation, advocacy, and regional and international

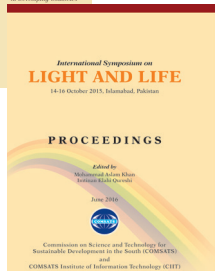
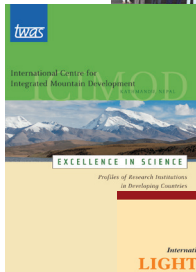


collaboration in Climate Change, COMSATS has set up a Network of COMSATS Centre for Climate & Sustainability (CCCS) in its 15 member states. Moreover, the organization aims to establish more centres in specialized fields, such as Biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Cyber Security, and Nanotechnology, as well as COMSATS universities in member states.

- **Web-portals:** COMSATS has been developing and maintaining web-portals for its partner organizations. For example, the Islamic World Science Net (www.icpsr.org.ma) was developed in 2007 and maintained for Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) till 2016. In addition to that, COMSATS also developed 'Industrial Information Network (IIN)' for UNIDO. COMSATS also has a dedicated page on the web-portal of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).
- **Incentivizing Research and Development:** COMSATS is a privileged partner of Al-Khwarizmi International Award of IROST, Iran, since 2000.
- **Distinguished Professorship Scheme:** COMSATS' Distinguished Professorship Scheme aims to build capacity of R&D organizations and universities of member states through lectures delivered by renowned scientists and professors. In this regard, the travel cost of the visiting professor is borne by COMSATS, while the host institutions provide



- facilities for boarding and lodging.
- **Publications:** COMSATS' scientific journal called "Science Vision" contains research and review articles which focus on the impact of science and technology on sustainable socio-economic development. Another important set of publications brought out from time to time by COMSATS Secretariat is the "COMSATS' Series of Publications on Science and Technology". COMSATS' national and international events focus on promoting science and technology, highlight policy, and emphasize efficacious practices. These are included in the aforementioned series. Apart from these, COMSATS regularly publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, which, inter alia, contains information on the activities of COMSATS Secretariat, COMSATS' member states, and Centers of Excellence. COMSATS also brings out joint publications with its partner organizations, such as COMSATS-TWAS 'Excellence in Science'.



Flagship Projects

Some of COMSATS' success stories, rooted strongly in its strength of scientific capacity building, ICTs and building scientific human capital as an engine of economic growth, are as below:

COMSATS Internet Services (CIS): Started in 1996, CIS

is the pioneer Internet Service Provider (ISP) of Pakistan.

Currently, it is providing services to major cities of the country. CIS is a diversified ISP that offers Internet as well as data and cloud computing services to corporations, government, and academic institutions. They also work for CIS

Technology Park general welfare by providing tele-health services for rural and remote areas in Pakistan. CIS' telehealth services are operational through a network of a number of telehealth clinics across Pakistan. Moreover, new grounds are being broken for expanding cooperation at provincial and federal government levels (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir). Three new clinics have been established in KPK under a cooperation agreement with KPK IT Board.

(www.comsats.net.pk)

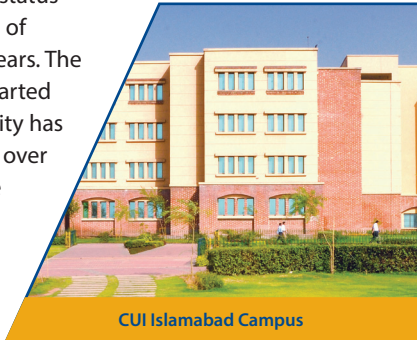


President AJK during a visit to CIS



COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI): CUI was established in 1998 as a flagship project and acquired the degree-awarding status from the Government of Pakistan within two years. The institution that had started from a very small facility has phenomenally grown over the years to now have impressive campuses in seven cities. It is now among the top five academic institutions of Pakistan. Having been granted a structure of full-fledged university, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology became COMSATS University Islamabad in 2018.

(www.comsats.edu.pk)



CUI Islamabad Campus



CUI's outstanding research output is indicative of its top-class research facilities



COMSATS Telehealth (CTH): COMSATS Telehealth has been making significant contributions to the socio-economic condition of the marginalized communities of the remote and inaccessible areas of Pakistan in the form of benefits of IT for health being passed on to them since 2001.



Initiated as a pilot project in Gujar Khan, COMSATS Tele-health (CTH) continues to provide online healthcare services to the remote communities of Pakistan with operations now based at COMSATS Internet Services Technology Park. CTH is currently benefitting the following areas of Pakistan, including Jhelum, Gawadar, Quetta, Mansehra, Multan, among others. Around 65,000 patients have been provided tele-consultations by the doctors from the COMSATS Telehealth Resource Centre located in Islamabad via audio-visual connections, peripheral medical tools and software.

CTH has also been at the forefront in host country, Pakistan, for creating awareness among public and private stakeholders through events aimed at capacity building, knowledge sharing and skill development.

www.ehealthcomsats.com



These and other projects of COMSATS are open to Member States for emulation. COMSATS has an open offer of training and consultancy to those Member States who are interested in similar institution building.

International Cooperation

COMSATS provides an institutional platform for South-South and North-South technical cooperation in areas of mutual interest, such as Education, Information Technology, Environment, Energy, and Health. COMSATS actively facilitates exchange of expertise and technology among its Member States. In that direction, it is currently implementing various programmes and projects in collaboration with its Member States as well as some international organizations/agencies. For implementing its South-South and North-South Cooperation programmes, COMSATS has developed working relations with the following international organizations:

- Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (AS-ICTP);
- American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS);
- Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre);
- Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS);
- Commonwealth Secretariat;
- European Commission (EC);
- International Centre for Genetic Engineering and



- Biotechnology (ICGEB);
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC);
 - Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO);
 - Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC);
 - OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH);
 - Oman National Computer Emergency Readiness Team (OCERT);
 - Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)
 - South Centre;
 - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre (SESRIC);
 - The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS);
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
 - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP);
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);
 - United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

COMSATS' ongoing quest for cooperative action has resulted in sixty five (65) agreements with various partners.

Some Recent Cooperative Arrangements

- **UNESCAP**

Having signed an MoU with the United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in 2017, COMSATS has been actively engaging with the organization for achieving common objectives. Senior officials of COMSATS participated in the 74th Session of UNESCAP (May 2018) and Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in the Asia and the Pacific (June 2018) held in Thailand.



- **UN- OHRLLS Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries**

As a result of its strengthened relationships with Commonwealth Secretariat and UN bodies, COMSATS was invited to attend the Inauguration of UN-OHRLLS Technology Bank for LDCs on June 4, 2018. With 4 common member countries with Commonwealth Association and LDCs, and in all seven LDCs as its members, COMSATS is well placed to disseminate the benefits of the Bank. The honorary life-time member of COMSATS Coordinating Council, Prof. Mohamed H.A. Hassan, is the Chair of the Governing Council of Technology Bank.



- **Accreditation to Commonwealth**

In June 2018, the Commonwealth Secretariat officially approved the accreditation of COMSATS. The accreditation provides formal recognition of the organization becoming a part of a large network of accredited civil society and professional organizations associated with the Commonwealth.



- **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

In March 2019, COMSATS entered into an Agreement with OIC for the promotion of STI for achieving sustainable socio-economic development through sharing of experiences, expertise and resources.



- **United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**

COMSATS and UNOSSC joined hands in November 2018, for promoting science-led sustainable development in its twenty-seven (27) Member States through South-South and Triangular Cooperation schemes.

- **Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)**

Furthering its collaboration, COMSATS renewed the MoU with SESRIC for joint cooperative schemes and programmes in areas of common interest including STI, sustainable and social development.

- **South Centre**

COMSATS join hands with South Centre in September 2018, in order to advance South-South and Triangular Cooperation through various regional and cross-regional cooperation initiatives.

Centres of Excellence



BCSIR-Bangladesh



Embrapa Agrobiologia-Brazil



ICCES-China



TIB-China



CIF-Colombia



NRC-Egypt



CSIR-Ghana



IROST-Iran



ICENS-Jamaica



RSS-Jordan



KazNU-Kazakhstan



NMC-Nigeria



CUI-Pakistan



ICCBS-Pakistan



AQU-Palestine



UCAD-Senegal



ITI-Sri Lanka



IRCC-Sudan



HIAST-Syria



TIRDO-Tanzania



CERTE-Tunisia



TÜBİTAK-Turkey



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