



Seminar on

SDGs Implementation:

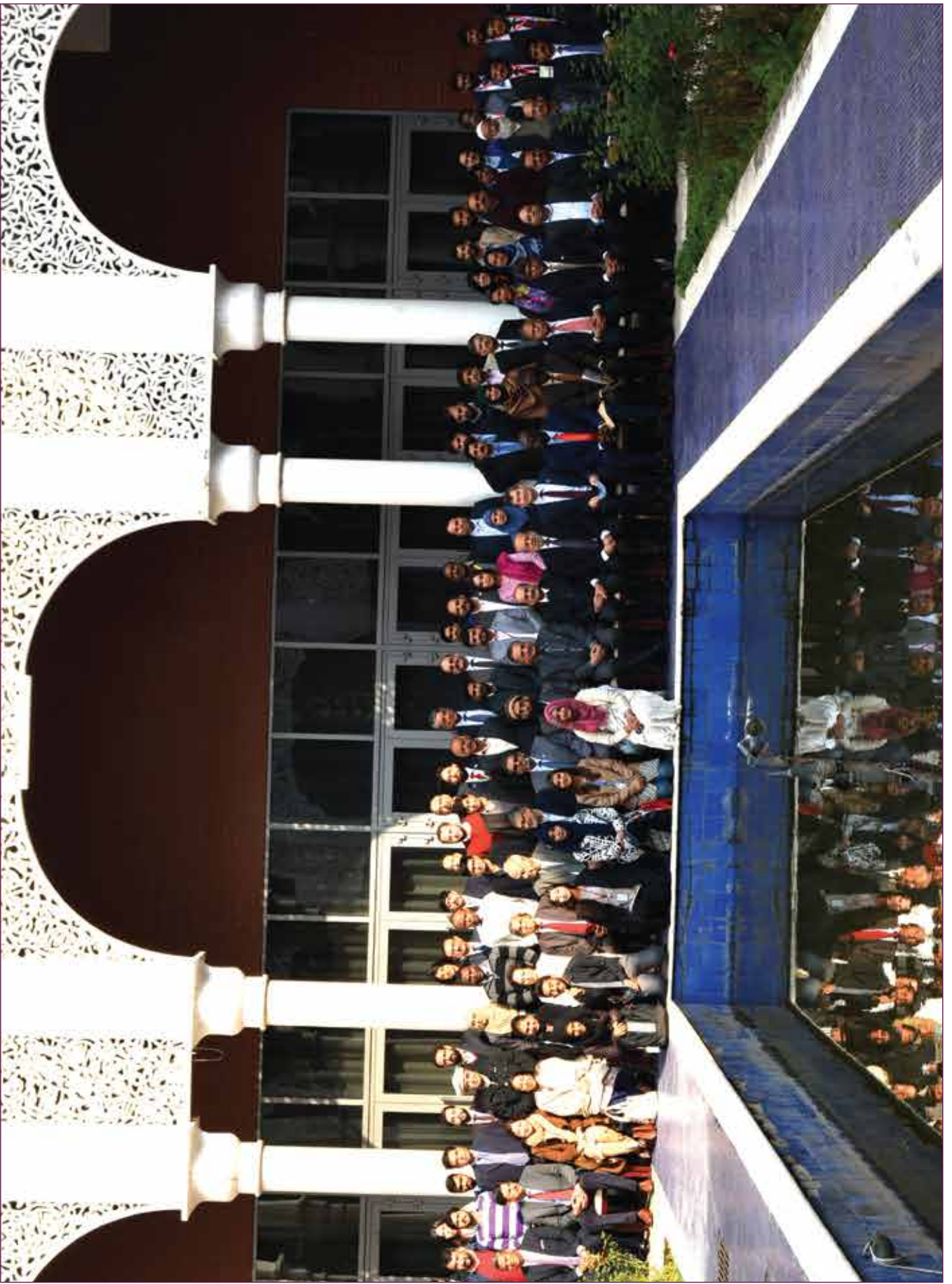
The Collaboration among Universities

12 December 2018 | Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad

Event Report



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



Event Report

Seminar on

SDGs Implementation: The Collaboration among Universities

12th December, 2018 | Islamabad, Pakistan



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

Table of Contents

1.	Foreword	01
2.	Introduction	02
3.	Inaugural Session	04
4.	Technical Session 1	07
5.	Technical Session 2	11
6.	Programme	19
7.	Profiles of Speakers	20

Foreword

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted by nations across the globe as a call of action to transform the world by promoting prosperity and protecting the planet. The 17 goals are interconnected to 'leave no one behind' and work hand-in-hand in order to create a sustainable future through the realization of the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda reflects many of COMSATS' priorities for sustainable development, as set out in its mission statement: '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'. COMSATS convened a Seminar on 'SDGs: The Role of Universities' on 9th July, 2018, in Islamabad. The Seminar brought together the Vice Chancellors of more than 100 Universities from across Pakistan, and highlighted the need for strengthening of Universities' ability to act as a catalyst for innovation and technological solutions to the SDGs.

The success of the event also led to a realization that COMSATS and the higher education institutions can play a vital role as the conduits for bringing together human resource of Pakistan to develop a research and action framework for ensuring effective implementation. This would accelerate efforts to attain the SDG targets in the country for meeting major development challenges. Taking a step forward, a follow-up Seminar was organized by COMSATS on 12th December, 2018 entitled 'SDGs Implementation: The Collaboration among Universities' was an open forum to formulate clusters for the realization of the SDGs amongst the participating Universities, comprising of interactive

brainstorming among the participants with an exclusive focus on each of the 17 SDGs.

It is a matter of immense satisfaction and honor that Honorable Sardar Masood Khan, President, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his keynote address, he shared his views on the basis of his past experience on the emerging development paradigm. He emphasized the importance of SDGs in general and for Pakistan in particular. The thrust of his argument was on the role of higher education institutions in R&D on SDGs and in motivating the youth towards the attainment of the goals. He also mentioned that in future the international ranking of higher education institutes would be based on the incorporation of SDGs in their operations.

I take this opportunity to thank the Honorable President of AJK, Sardar Masood Khan and Mr. Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Pakistan for their patronage to the event.



(Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi)
Executive Director, COMSATS

Introduction

The 2030 Global Development Agenda is a voluntary pledge made by the world community in 2015 with the core commitment of “leaving no one behind”. Renewed emphasis has been placed on reducing inequality by promoting inclusive and sustainable development. Equitable development policies and strategies are aimed at removing disparities that lead to exclusion and marginalization. An important component of the agenda is to accord due importance to intergenerational equity by using the resources in a sustainable manner and not allow their depletion to an extent where survival of future generation is jeopardized. Sustainability of the planet and human life and resources occupy a central position in the national and international endeavours.

Engagement of all stakeholders: public and private sectors, universities and academia, research and development institutions and more importantly of youth is critical in fostering the 2030 Global Development Agenda. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) encompass all major socio-economic parameters that enable integration and provide direction to national

and international development plans and programmes keeping in view equity in all its dimensions. The cross-cutting and inter-linked goals are inter-woven as to have spin-off effect of achievement in one on several other goals. The educational institutions, especially the higher education institutions, have a pivotal role in taking the SDGs forward.

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is cognizant of the role of universities, scientific institutions and research and development organizations in crucially facilitating attainment of SDGs. Since its inception, COMSATS has in its activities promoted sustainable development, South-South cooperation and socio-economic development through scientific and technological cooperation and by spurring innovation. Capacity-building through training programmes, workshops, exchange of experts and scientists as well as grant of scholarships have been some initiatives in this direction. This is in line with all the SDGs in particular Goal 17 which talks about South-South and triangular cooperation for the realization of the SDGs.



Among several initiatives to build capacity and galvanize human and material resources for sustainable development, activities at highlighting the role of universities, think tanks, NGOs and public and private sectors, have received due importance. The international seminar on “SDGs: Role of the Universities” organized on 9 July 2018 was followed up by another focused seminar on “SDGs Implementation: Collaboration among Universities” on 12 December 2018. It encouraged exclusively focused discussion among the participants from the universities in Pakistan. They exchanged information about their ongoing work on SDGs and shared ideas about how they can pool in their expertise and resources in the dedicated areas of each of the 17 SDGs to form clusters and develop their collective strength. For example, following universities indicated their area of research and focus prior to

holding of the seminar:

1. Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIITEM) (SDG 8);
2. International Islamic University (IIU) (SDG 4, 5, 16);
3. National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) (SDG 4, 6, 9).

The report outlines how the universities conducted their deliberations and shared their strengths and future course of their activities in the SDGs relevant to their universities’ mandate and courses. Having fulfilled its main objective with regard to the universities’ role in implementing SDGs, Allama Iqbal Open University agreed to take on the project and coordinate university-wide work on the SDGs.



Inaugural Session

The inaugural session commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran and was followed by welcome address by Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi, Executive Director of COMSATS. Dr. Zaidi thanked all the dignitaries and participants for their presence. He stated that it was a privilege that the President AJK Sardar Masood Khan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Zaidi provided a brief overview of COMSATS and its activities related to SDGs as well as the role of the academic institutions for achieving SDGs. He reiterated that the inter-linkage between the academic institutions and SDGs catapults universities as champions for achieving the United Nations 2030 Global Development Agenda. He posited that these were 17 goals and if 10 universities of Pakistan choose one of the SDGs, it would require 170 universities (which is approximately the current number of universities in Pakistan) to accomplish the work related to the 17 goals. He underscored the need to form synergies among universities for the actualization of the SDGs.

In his remarks, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Pakistan, Mr. Neil Buhne, appreciated the keen interest of COMSATS under Dr. Zaidi's leadership in implementing the SDGs. He observed that the SDGs related activities

undertaken under the leadership of Dr. Zaidi with the aim to bring to fore the burning societal issues and quests, are inextricable part of 2030 Development Agenda. He seconded the Executive Director's call to drawing attention of various stakeholders to the important global agenda as well as to collaboration among universities for the SDGs. He also presented the linkage between human rights and education as a fundamental right for all individuals. He also highlighted some specific goals such as those related to climate change and peace and justice as the key SDGs that unequivocally uphold the right to education. Access to education unleashes the potential of the people thereby making SDGs achievement possible. Citing an example of Pakistan and Nigeria, Mr. Buhne stated that 60% of the population was young and still undergoing education in these countries. This boiled down to the fact how universities can enhance their role for prosperity of the society. Mr. Buhne also mentioned relevant other potential areas such as: teaching and learning, equality based ideology, research agenda, external leadership, social policy goals among others. Pakistan, he noted, has 130 million of youth population and it is imperative to engage this potential force for positive change.



The highlight of the inaugural session was the keynote address by H.E. Sardar Masood Khan, the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He began by acknowledging the strategic vision of COMSATS under Dr. Zaidi's leadership in creating awareness about the SDGs and the role of academic institutions in realizing these goals. The momentum generated by the earlier seminar held on 9 July has been maintained and the follow up seminar of that day had reflected the commitment of the organizers. He lauded Dr. Zaidi's role in establishing COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), and in laying the foundation for Pak-China Business Forum that helped in further consolidation of Pakistan-China ties.

Honorable Sardar Masood Khan then referred to the patronage provided by the United Nations Secretary General and for his support in making the 2030 Development Agenda a global priority. The dynamism provided to SDGs through integrating the role and function of the academic institutions will boost the end aim of "Leaving no one Behind". He emphasized that everyone, including the international community, needs to craft their SDGs policies and strategies keeping in view the high objectives of SDGs and, therefore, must lend their full support to their implementation. He then listed all the goals and opined that life on land refers to more than just the human population.

The President AJK stressed the importance of education as a cross cutting agenda applicable across the country and as a trust inextricably linked to the SDGs. As such by 2030 it is expected that there would be equitable access to technical, vocational and other institutions of

higher learning. This can be achieved by establishing partnerships through international organizations such as UNICEF and UNESCO. In his view, the universities can make significant contribution in data collection and similar surveys. He advised incentivising the Universities for achievements under the SDGs. International support encourage them to work in coordination with each other. His advice was that more attention should be paid to advocacy and creating literacy and awareness about the SDGs.

Highlighting the potential of SDGs to reduce poverty, the President AJK underscored the importance of the universities in this regard. He opined that the universities need to work in harmony with the line ministries, i.e., Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, in order to tap the potential of the young population of the country. In this connection, research is pivotal and should be in accordance with the market demands and trends, most importantly those related to technology. Media could be instrumental in promoting and popularizing research and its outcomes. His view was that SDGs has a critical role also from the point of view of human development and human security. Drawing attention to the environment related goals, he mentioned the initiatives of the Government of AJK with regard to: i) achievement of high literacy rate; and ii) the establishment of five universities that inculcate focus on cutting edge issues. In conclusion, he hoped that more nation-wide achievements can soon be made in Pakistan.



Technical Sessions

The event had two technical sessions. These were moderated by Dr. Aneel Salman, Head of Department of Management Sciences, COMSATS University Islamabad. He explained the modalities of the workshop-style activity where the participants on the basis of their selection of the goal were expected to exchange information among themselves about their ongoing programmes and activities in the area of SDGs. The first session included three presentations: Representative from the Ministry of Planning, Development and

Reform; Pro Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS (SDG Hub for Goal 8); and a video recorded message received from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) as UNAI's Sustainability Hub.

In the second session, each SDG group presented their ideas on flip charts. Their collective output suggested ways in which they would collaborate with another in the future and play due role towards achievement of SDGs.



Technical Session 1

Presentation on Implementation Status of SDGs in Pakistan by the Economic Advisor (SDGs Support Unit), Mr. Ali Kemal

Mr. Ali Kemal, Advisor (SDGs Support Unit) provided a comprehensive briefing on the government's engagement with regard to SDGs at different levels. Highlighting the government's response to the SDGs, he said that Pakistan is the first country to endorse the 2030 Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. A unanimous resolution to this effect was passed by the National Assembly and since then has been incorporated in the national development agenda. The stakeholders for the institutionalization of the SDGs include:

- Parliamentarians;
- Provincial Governments (provincial SDGs units);
- Local Governments;
- Think Tanks;
- Academia;
- Private sector; and
- Other development partners.

He elaborated that actualization of SDGs involves district level awareness campaigns, local government training programmes, as well as orientation programmes for the Parliamentarians and journalists.

In so far as consultations and coordination related to SDGs was concerned, Standing Committee of Senate, Provincial Ministerial meetings, Project Board meetings, Focal Points in the Federal ministries, provincial focal persons and focal persons of all the line departments at the provincial level were involved. The National Technical Advisory Committee was in the process of formation. There were also Thematic and Core Committees in all the provinces and the meetings of the Support Units' Coordination bodies are held regularly.

Since the Government is required to submit a report to the United Nations on the SDGs implementation process by May 2019, in the form of Voluntary National



Review (VNR), the process of consultations and engagement has been going on at different levels since November 2018. The theme for the VNR-2019 is "Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality". The VNR's aims are to facilitate sharing of experiences including successes, challenges and lessons learned. The ultimate objective is to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Global Development Agenda.

The VNR approaches, it was informed, is based on 'the whole of government' approach that involves all the tiers of the government, society (Parliament, private sector, civil society, think tanks, youth, marginalized





groups and minorities) and SDGs Principles as the ideal principle is "leaving no one behind, furthest behind first".

VNR is compiled on the basis of provincial consultation and the available data. The scope is outlined below:

- Advocacy and awareness campaigns for SDGs;
- Review of legal/ regulatory regime for SDGs, e.g., laws, policies, regulations;
- Institutional mechanisms to achieve SDGs;
- Financing to achieve SDGs (ADPs/PSDP, Donors, Private, Partnership, Others, etc.);
- Key initiatives since 2016 to achieve SDGs; (innovations, pilot districts, business models, best practices etc.);
- Challenges faced during the localization of SDGs and overall SDGs implementation and way forward; and
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms devised for SDGs.

Presentation on SDGs Hub in Pakistan on Goal 8 by Pro-Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Quetta, Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan

The second presentation was made by Pro Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences

(BUIITEMS), Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan, related to its function as the United Nations' Academic Impact (UNAI) designated Hub as one of the 17 SDGs (Goal:8). UNAI is an initiative that aligns institutions of higher learning with the UN in supporting and contributing to the realization of UN's goals and mandates. In October 2018, as an effort to connect universities and colleges with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, announced selection of some universities as SDGs hubs in recognition of their innovative engagement related to the SDGs. These Hubs are expected to serve as resources for best practices for the UNAI Network, currently composed of over 1300 universities and colleges in some 140 member countries.

Dr. Khan stated that the global indicators have shown that half of the world lives on 2 dollars per day and that merely having a job means no poverty. He opined that the economic policies had to be reviewed providing equal opportunities to men and women as well as providing work and education to migrant workers. Further achieving economic growth involves fostering entrepreneurship, building capacity and preparing leaders for tomorrow. He mentioned as an example the role of National Incubation Centre established in Quetta which has incubated 54 startups, 37 graduates, 432 jobs and generated revenue for Pakistan (Rupees 71 million). The Centre has also held 6 business idea competitions, trained 69 micro entrepreneurs and 31 women entrepreneurs.



Dr. Faisal then gave an overview of another initiative of the University that of setting up of the International Centre for Refugee and Migration Studies with the support of the UNHCR. Since its establishment in June 2017, the Centre has trained 211 refugee teachers, 134 refugee micro entrepreneurs, held 2 refugee microenterprise-showcasing events and trained additional 16 women refugee micro entrepreneurs.

The aforementioned initiatives were cited as examples. However, according to Dr. Faisal, more impact on economic growth can be achieved by diversifying intake from the most underprivileged areas of the country's different regions and by producing top-class leaders, entrepreneurs and industry professionals and also by spreading optimism and hope for the society. He then talked about the way forward envisaging a Consortium in Support of SDG-8. He said that BUIITEMS was looking forward to partnering with other universities to make a collective effort to support SDG 8 targets. The aim is to identify at least one partner university in each of the four provinces, GB, AJK and Islamabad and five more international partners. Such a Consortium will undertake initiatives including but not limited to: seminars, colloquiums, Expos, conferences, and impactful R&D partnerships.

Video Message of Dr. Azimzhan Khitakhunov, Economics Department, Higher School of Economics and Business, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan (UNAI's Sustainability Hub)

Dr. Khitakhunov shared his views regarding the importance of universities in achieving the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). He mentioned that the 2030 Global Development Agenda is universal and sets out a vision for a better world. He indicated the importance of all 17 SDGs, and particularly Goal 4 entitled 'Quality Education', which emphasizes on the right of education for all and the role of universities in creating leaders, entrepreneurs, and policymakers.



Continuing, Dr. Khitakhunov stated that there are two key reasons that reflect the importance of higher education in achieving the sustainable development goals. The first is the increase in the number of individuals going to secondary school worldwide; whereas the second reason is that the enrollment rate in higher education has doubled between the years 2000 to 2015. The number of students in institutes has increased and technology-driven structural changes have occurred in the global economy. He cited statistics from a study by McKinsey & Company indicating that technologies such as Internet of Things, cloud computing, and advanced robotics amongst others will drive major economic transformation in the coming years.

Dr. Khitakhunov also emphasized the transforming nature of work in the job market. As jobs are becoming increasingly collaborative, candidates need to possess a diverse skill-set in order to meet the requirements of the job. The skills that have gained importance include: complex problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, people management, coordination with others, emotional intelligence, judgement and decision-making, service orientation, negotiation and cognitive flexibility. He also stated that institutions must address the challenges of the digital revolution and can play an important role in contributing towards the innovation eco-system in the societies in four key ways: 1) fostering entrepreneurship, 2) encouraging collaboration with the private sector including leading companies, foundations and research-intensive institutions, 3) promoting diversity and inclusion, and 4) exploring the nexus of technology and society. He emphasized on the fourth factor being most critical and a major obligation for institutions to provide policy making.

Learning to learn was identified as a key area to focus on for the universities of tomorrow, whereas it is essential for governments to invest in knowledge and responsible research, building new partnerships and cooperation mechanisms, particularly regional cooperation. He cited the example of Europe for practicing regional cooperation and developing a strong peer network for higher education. Dr. Khitakhunov also stated that it is essential for universities of the 21st century to provide opportunities for international experiences and develop incubation facilities. To address this need, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University has developed a model to support university startups and establishment of science parks. He mentioned that higher education institutions can play a key role in addressing climate change, for instance in the United Kingdom Universities are promoting a positive vision of how the goals of the Paris Agreement can be met.

According to a recent guide for Universities, higher education institutions and academic sector developed by Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region, the contribution of universities in today's world towards the SDGs is much broader as they are able to support the implementation of each SDG as well as the general framework of the goals. Some of the areas of contribution by higher education institutions include:

learning and teaching, providing students with the skills, knowledge and motivation to understand and address the SDGs, particularly education for sustainable development, and research as a means of providing necessary knowledge. Furthermore, evidence-based technologies/solutions, pathways and innovation to support the implementation of the goals, organizational governance, culture and operations are also essential for the achievement of the SDGs. External leadership was identified as a significant factor as it plays an important role in addressing the goals, initiating and facilitating cross-sector dialogue, and designing policies revolving around the SDGs.

The University has developed an institute which works to address the following priority areas: smart and sustainable cities and urbanization, sustainable green energy and the future of energy balance, and sustainable ecosystems, eco-tourism and sustainable future of the planet. The Al-Farabi Kazakh National University has put in place a strategy that gradually addresses all goals for the implementation of the SDGs. He concluded by emphasizing that in order to successfully implement the goals, universities need to become champions of sustainable development and play a leading role in the implementation of the SDGs.



Technical Session 2

Group Discussions on 17 Goals

Goal 1: No Poverty

The Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST) voluntarily aligned itself with Goal 1 of the SDGs entitled 'No Poverty'. The representative from MUST highlighted that the University has various facilities and activities that are designed to address the goal.

The University works on human resource development, conducts awareness programs and seminars, and provides a conducive and enabling environment for all members. In addition, there is an Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Technology park, Graduate Placement Bureau, and Business Incubation Center that provide services to eradicate the challenges associated with poverty.

MUST promotes and invests in gender balance through its employment practices, provides advisory and counseling services, skills and vocational training, student assistantships, and women economic empowerment. Furthermore, a focal person has also been designated for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Goal 2 entitled 'Zero Hunger' was deliberated on by three institutes that formed a cluster: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), University of Faisalabad and MNS University of Agriculture, Multan. The representatives from the Universities were Dr. Umer Ijaz (MNS, University of Agriculture, Multan), Dr. Yasir Jamil (University of Faisalabad), and Dr. Hajra Ahmad (AIU).

Dr. Ahmad highlighted that AIU's infrastructure and outreach programs include provision of courses related to Health and Sanitation, Health and Nutrition, and Community Health at Matric, Intermediate and Graduate level. In addition, Postgraduate programs are offered on the subject of Community Health and

Nutrition at MSc, MS, and PhD levels. The University also has an FM Radio and Web TV services to raise awareness, while providing 70,000 registered tutors for 1.4 Million students.

The gaps that were identified at the level of the University included the link between the University and the industry for product development and dissemination, as well as the challenge of data collection in order to measure the impact.

MNS University of Agriculture, Multan indicated the activities being carried out in order to address Goal 2 of the SDGs. The institute encourages innovative and modern agricultural practices, the use of biotechnology to enhance production and develop varieties to cope climatic variations, and extension and outreach of new research. Furthermore, the University works in the areas of Mechanization and Corporate Farming (precision), and Kitchen gardening and Hydroponics. The University aims to help the government in develop effective policies for sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) indicated that its activities and programs are spread out in a range of areas, especially Goal 3. The University was represented





by Mr. Ayyaz Mahmood, Mr. Usman Khan, and Mr. Talha Saeed.

CUI highlighted that its work for Goal 3 is broadly divided into three main categories: Physical Health, Mental Health and the Physical Environment.

Physical Health

A fully-functional Sports Center (Long tennis, Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton courts, Cricket ground) and indoor gyms with the facilities of male/female instructors are available for COMSATS' community.

The University also has multiple green, open spaces for relaxation purposes of the students and faculty.

The facility of an on-campus medical clinic with a team of 12 dedicated health workers are provided to address any medical emergencies. CUI also provides ambulance services with a medical nurse and doctor present at all times. In addition to the medical services, indoor and outdoor health insurance can also be availed by all members of the University.

Mental Health

The University has a fully-functional Wellness Center which provides counseling to students and staff of CUI. Furthermore, various extra-curricular activities are

carried out during the academic year including:

- Events on campus such as student week, concerts, invited renowned speakers and personalities;
- Student trips for excursion and exploration;
- Awareness seminars on illegal substance use;
- Seminars on road/traffic rule awareness;
- Pink ribbon awareness campaign;
- Plantation drive along the park road leading to the campus;
- Blood donation camps;
- Disaster management workshop and seminars.

Physical Environment

A range of policies have been implemented at CUI for the enhancement of the physical environment. Some of the policies and practices relate to:

- Janitorial services;
- Separate recycling bin all around the campus;
- Well maintained parks and grounds;
- Use of plastic bag is prohibited;
- Proper food inspection for both student and faculty cafeteria; and
- Non-smoking campus.

Goal 4: Quality Education

Goal 4 entitled 'Quality Education' was represented by various Universities including Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Barrett Hodgson University, and Virtual University of Pakistan.

Virtual University of Pakistan

The Virtual University of Pakistan is presently working on various indicators of Goal 4, as listed below.

- 4.3. Affordable quality higher, technical, vocation education at the doorstep of learners.
- 4.4. Providing relevant skills (Skills for employment and entrepreneurship 4.4.1)
- 4.5. Equality of access to tertiary education and technical skills i.e. gender, remote areas, age (leading to lifelong learning)
- 4.6. Increase in supply of qualified teachers

Future Plans

1. Add more courses in Technical Education and other Secondary School education
2. Strengthening research on Sustainable Development issues – inclusion of all
3. Taking scientific/technical education at the doorstep of learners

Apart from Goal 4, Virtual University of Pakistan is also working towards Goal 8 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'. Goal 8 is being addressed specifically through following targets:

- 8.2 Innovations
- 8.6: Reduce the number of youth not in employment, education or training

Barrett Hodgson University

Barrett Hodgson University also actively participated in the interactive session and highlighted that the Institute is actively working on Goal 4 with emphasis on target 4.7. The University has great focus on broadening of the scope of knowledge of students, and provides courses on the subjects of World Religions, Arts and Literature, Applied Finance and Securities Trading and Appreciation of Cultural Diversity. The University also promotes sports as an extra-curricular activity.

The University emphasizes on changing the pedagogical approach from lectures to blended learning and skipped classes and capturing lectures on videos to convert the role of a teacher to a facilitator and problem solver. In addition, the University is moving towards increasing the portion of formative assessment and reducing summative assessment. The faculty is also encouraged to use interactive platforms such as mobile phone applications to conduct tests and quizzes (e.g. Kahoot). Furthermore, the University has also developed industry immersion projects which involve the community and the industry.

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)

Allama Iqbal Open University is working on Goal 2 and Goal 4, with a large outreach to the community through its 44 regional offices, main campus and 1200 study centres. All programs of the university are internally funded. The University is greatly focused on education with impressive enrollment statistics, as listed below:

- 1.3 million (1.25 million in SSE/HSE/BA);
- 0.04+ million BS (4 years);
- 3000 in M.Phil/PhD;
- 56% girls from remote areas;
- Free education for special needs; and
- Free education for Marginal, displaced, transgender, prisoner, jail inmates.

The University also works on mass education and has developed a Literary Centre for employees and promotes life-long and skills based learning. The University also focuses on teacher education and provides a range of trainings: ECE and EFED, Certificate for Literacy and NFE, Secondary Teacher Education,





Entrepreneurship in ECE, and 90,000 Interpool. Along with on-campus education, the University also has an open distance-learning system.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Goal 5 (with a focus on target 5.1) was represented by a number of Universities, including Allama Iqbal Open University, Women University and COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI).

Allama Iqbal Open University

The University has an open merit policy where all students are provided equal opportunities, at a rate of 56% enrolment. The facilities of a hostel and day-care are also provided for members of the community. The programs being provided at the University promote literacy, basic girls education, free elementary and skill based education. In addition, free education till matriculation is also being provided to the students. Financial Support is provided by the University for the following: Beyond Matric, FATA & Balochistan, EFA, Entrepreneurship Education, Media Campaign, and the Department of Gender Studies – Harassment Committee for holding Seminars and Conferences.

Fatima Jinnah Women University

Fatima Jinnah Women University has an all-female

faculty, with a great emphasis on entrepreneurship. The University is also providing education in the field of entrepreneurship in order to enhance employability and has set up an incubation center. The institute is also providing scholarships covering the accommodation and transportation for female students from remote areas.

Additionally, the University provides an opportunity to students to complete an internship in the Senate, avail daycare facilities and obtain a maternity leave. However, it was recommended that a paternity leave should be introduced.

COMSATS University Islamabad

COMSATS University Islamabad promotes gender equality by providing an open merit environment, with the provision of equal opportunities for all members. Furthermore, around 53% of the total student population at the University is female.

The University also provides scholarship for women from rural areas, covering the transport and accommodation. A day-care facility is also provided to the female community at the University to support them in carrying out their roles as a student or faculty member.

The representatives of CUI recommended that Loans and Small-Medium Business Grants should be provided,



and the glass ceiling that exists in the management should be eliminated.

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Government College University Lahore (GCU) participated and aligned their institute with Goal 6 entitled 'Clean Water and Sanitation'. The representative from GCU highlighted that the University earns profits covering 20 districts of Punjab from the project titled 'Ecosystem Health of the Indus Water Shed' which includes: drinking water quality data, people health data, and surface water quality data. The University has state-of-the-art water testing laboratory and waste water treatment systems. In addition, PhD and M.Phil theses have already been written on the following subjects: River water quality, water-borne diseases and their health cost, as well GIS mapping of quality of ground water in Punjab for difficult parameters.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Dawood University represented Goal 7 entitled 'Affordable and Clean Energy' for the interactive session of the Seminar. The University has already developed a Food Laboratory, Water Testing Laboratory, and Solid Waste Management. Furthermore, the Department of Energy at Dawood University focuses on the subjects of clean energy, biomass, and solar/wind. The institute also carries out research on renewable energy in the areas of biodiesel clean energy, carbon capture and entrepreneurship skills.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The National University of Science and Technology (NUST) is presently working on aligning research activities with the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets and supporting innovations (incubators/startups). NUST is aligning the SDGs with the programs and activities at strategic and operational levels.

It was recommended to formulate NUST SDGs steering Committee with representatives from a multitude of sectors including academia, government, and civil service organizations. In addition, the University aims to start working towards the licensing of innovative solutions to industries.

Possible Collaboration – NUST & COMSATS University Islamabad

A representative of COMSATS University presented the idea of partnership between COMSATS University and NUST. It can create valuable synergy on SDG 9 while creating startups and opportunities. The text presents an overview of the activities that are being carried out by both the Universities in relevance to SDG Goal 9, which could be achieved and could create a greater impact for attainment.

COMSATS University Islamabad

1. Industry-Academia Management boards
2. Student Start-up Business Center (SSBC):
 - Rounds for mentorship



- Creating funds for startups
- Steering startups in Idea phase

NUST

1. Science Park
2. Research and Development Projects (RES)
3. Mechanism for Liaison with Industry – Science Park
4. Commercialization of Research

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The Imperial College of Business Studies, Lahore is also working to address the SDG Goal 11 and is focusing on a range of activities which are listed below:

- Identification and upgradation of slum areas
- Tackling social inequality
- Involvement of architecture students and faculty through inclusion of 11th goal as part of the curriculum
- Waste management, flood management, and preparations for climate change
- Development of green spaces and areas, playgrounds, tree plantation/ one billion trees
- Public transport
- Preservation of heritage
- Government has already taken an initiative of developing one million affordable houses in the next 5 years.
- Employment opportunities will be increased in the next 5 years, public toilets will be developed (for all), and shelter homes will be created.
-

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Government College University (GCU) Lahore is also working to address the SDG goal 12 entitled 'Responsible Consumption and Production'.

The institute expressed that there is a lack of awareness regarding balanced consumption of food and the waste and predisposes of metabolic problems. The University representative highlighted a number of problems including dry lands, improper value chain and there being no prices for live animal, and low livestock contribution towards the economy. The University also focuses on reduction of dependence on Methane through Biogas plants, and suggested that there should be a bank loan system for financial support, a farm to market initiative, and enhancement of infrastructure and support services.

Goal 13: Climate Action (Imperial College for Business Studies)

The Imperial College for Business Studies, Lahore, also aligned itself with SDG Goal 13 entitled 'Climate Action'. The College is carrying out a range of activities associated with the goal and is working to address the issues of climate action, as listed below. The current activities and programs include the development of a Community Level Micro Hazard Vulnerability Assessment, compilation of existing research database on various climate change related disasters, and the involvement of students, women and youth through various societies for creating awareness at community level.



The recommendations that were made for a future plan of action included creating partnership with public and private sector organization working in climate change related disasters and increasing focus on thematic research in the areas of climate change and related disasters. It was also suggested that climate change funding should be availed and universities must focus their research on Biomass/Forrest Carbon stock assessment. Furthermore, student bodies must be especially involved in a Forestation drive of the government (1 student to 10 trees campaigns) and to encourage the use of space and new technology.

Goal 15: Life on Land

Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity.

No university was represented under this Goal.

Goal 14: Life Below Water

The representatives from Barrett Hodgson University, Karachi, associated themselves with Goal 14 entitled 'Life Below Water'. The recommendations that were made to help achieve Goal 14 are as listed below.

- Proper waste disposal practices
- Paper bags should be used instead of plastic bags and aluminum foils
- Recycled dustbin
- Water filtration plants to be used instead of plastic

- bottles or bottled water
- Garbage trucks
- Laws should be implemented for littering
- Minimize storm waters runoff
- Practice responsible use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides
- Filter runoff practices

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The representative from International Islamic University aligned their institute with SDG Goal 16 entitled 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'. The University presented several suggestions including collaboration with other countries, student exchange programs, inviting Ambassadors from other countries. In addition, it was recommended that the institution follows country's laws and implement them and ensures merit based selection with equal distribution rewards and awarding of scholarships.

It was also suggested that there should be minority representation and Anti-Harassment and Bullying Laws should be implemented in order to effectively achieve SDG Goal 16.

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

Greenwich University and COMSATS Secretariat aligned themselves to SDG Goal 17 entitled 'Partnerships for the Goals' and presented their current activities and recommendations for future programs and initiatives.

Greenwich University

The University institutionalized the SDGs by developing a Policy think-tank named Karachi Research Chair. The University focuses on various goals:

- Social Development (SDGs 1-5, and 8)
 - Infrastructure (SDGs 6, 9, 11)
 - Environment (SDGs 12, 13, 14, 15)
 - Peace and Security (SDG 16) – Policy Advocacy and Diplomacy
1. *Policy Advocacy*
 - Delegation to EU Parliament for Reimaging Pakistan (School of Diplomacy)
 - Means of Implementation (Goal 17)
 - Policy Papers (Office of the High Commissioner, UN Independent, Accountability Panel and Special Rapporteur)
 2. *Review Process*
 - Development of Shadow Reports – SDG 5 (Upcoming initiative)
 3. *Analysis*
 - Contributes to YNR, HLPF, APFSD Processes
 - Framework Design, National Complementary Indicators, Criticism of IMF, and Macroeconomic Policies

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

COMSATS was established in 1994 with the objective of promoting science and technology for sustainable development through South-South and North-South cooperation. In view of the socio-economic challenges confronted by the countries of the south it was expected that institutionalized arrangement and various COMSATS' mechanisms would create the necessary environment for finding indigenous solutions to the local problems. The pooling of resources and collective scientific knowledge through the Network of Centres

of Excellence would generate momentum towards achieving these ends of the Commission. By integrating research and policy through the leadership of the governments of the member countries, the Commission envisaged to make this effort result-oriented.

In the 21st century, the development parameters have acquired a nuanced international character. With the changing global development related environment, there is a need to integrate the global 2030 Development Agenda in the research and other activities of COMSATS. It is a matter of great satisfaction that COMSATS was conceived based on the ideals that are now incorporated in the SDGs. Its International Thematic Research Groups, constituted as clusters from within the Network and also non Network Centres, have focused on the following areas:

1. Climate Change & Environmental Protection
 - SDG #13
2. Renewable Energy
 - SDG #7, #11
3. Agriculture, Food Security & Biotechnology
 - SDG #2
4. Natural Product Sciences (Drug Discovery)
 - SDG #3
5. Information and Communication Technology (e-education, e-health, e-agriculture)
 - SDG #2, 3, 4
6. Mathematical Modeling (Air and Water Pollution)
 - SDG #3, #6, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15

Apart from the activities outlined above, COMSATS Secretariat carries out different activities including capacity-building events, international collaborations, triangular cooperation, expert exchange, student exchange, and trainings.

Programme

Opening Ceremony	
11:00 am	Registration
11:20 am	Guests to be seated
11:25 am	Arrival of the Chief Guest and other dignitaries
11:30 am	Recitation from the Holy Quran
11:35 am	Welcome address by the Executive Director COMSATS Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi
11:45 am	Remarks by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Neil Buhne
11:55 am	Keynote address by the President, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Honorable Sardar Masood Khan
12:25 pm	Signing Ceremony of agreement between COMSATS Internet Services & Balochistan Development Authority for provision of Tele-Health services in Quetta (Balochistan)
12:30 pm	Vote of Thanks by the National Coordinator, Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Murtaza Noor
	Group Photograph
12:40 pm	Lunch/ Prayers Break
Technical Session – I	
01:30 pm	Message from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Republic of Kazakhstan on “United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Sustainability Hub” by Dr. Azimzhan Hitakhunov (a representative of the University’s Higher School of Business and Economics)
01:45 pm	Presentation by Pro-Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Quetta/ SDGs Hub in Pakistan on Goal – 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan
02:00 pm	Presentation on the Implementation status of SDGs in Pakistan by the Economic Policy Advisor (SDGs Support Unit), Planning, Development and Reform Mr. M. Ali Kemal
Technical Session – II	
02:20 pm	Briefing by the Moderator Dr. Aneel Salman, HoD Management Sciences, COMSATS University, Islamabad
02:35pm	Group Discussions on each of the 17 SDGs among the Participants
04:30 pm	Closing Remark
04:40 pm	Refreshments

Profiles of Speakers

Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi

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

Dr. Zaidi is also the founding Rector of COMSATS University Islamabad. In addition, he served as Advisor to the United Nations' ESCAP, APCTT as the UN-expert on Information Technology. He worked with UN to set-up National Bureau of the UNDP's project "Technology Information Pilot System (TIPS) in Pakistan. He was also one of the six-member team of international experts to review the Industrial Technology Development Policies and Strategies and proposed a long term Plan for the Government of Ghana.

Dr. Zaidi has been awarded with Pakistan's Sitara-i-Imtiaz in 2007 and Hilal-i-Imtiaz in 2014. In 2001, he was awarded "IT Pioneer 1987-1995" by NCR Corporation. Additionally, University of Lancaster conferred on Dr. Zaidi an honorary doctorate degree in 2012 for his unmitigated service for promotion of transnational education.



H.E Mr. Sardar Masood Khan

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)

Sardar Masood Khan was elected by the AJK Legislative Assembly and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council on August 16, 2016, as the 27th President. He took oath of office of the President Azad Jammu and Kashmir on August 25, 2016.

Sardar Masood Khan had a long diplomatic career with the Foreign Service of Pakistan, and has served as the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2003 to 2005; Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2005 to 2008.

In his earlier diplomatic career, he has also held important diplomatic positions in China, The Netherlands, United Nations (New York) and the USA (Washington D.C). Apart from his service in the Foreign Service, he has also held various leadership positions in the international community including his role as the President of the Governmental Group of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Chairman of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Geneva among others.



Mr. Neil Buhne

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Pakistan

Mr. Niel Buhne has been serving as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Pakistan since 2015. Previously, he has served as the Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva.

During his 30 years of service at the United Nations, he has served as the Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in three countries for 12 years, including Sri Lanka (2007-2011), Bulgaria (2003-2007), and Belarus (1993 – 2003), followed by Pakistan. He has spent many years in Asia, as UNDP Deputy Representative in Malaysia (and acting Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative) from 1995 to 1999, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in Pakistan from 1990 to 1995 and Programme Officer in UNDP Bhutan.

**Mr. Murtaza Noor**

Coordinator General of The Inter University Consortium for the Promotion of Social Sciences Arts and Humanities (IUCPSS)

Mr. Murtaza Noor is working as the Coordinator General of The Inter University Consortium for the Promotion of Social Sciences Arts and Humanities (IUCPSS) since its establishment in 2012.

Mr. Noor liaises with the consortium Chairperson office to conduct and manage various activities. He has several years of experience of working in the higher education sector and mainly contribution of universities towards society development and progress.

**Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan**

Pro-Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS).

Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan is Pro-Vice Chancellor at Balochistan University of Information Technology since 2014. He has previously held the positions of Assistant Professor/Chairman (2008-2014) and Lecturer (2007-2008) at BUITEMS. Dr. Khan's areas of specialization include electrical and computer engineering, network security and mobile computing.



Mr. M. Ali Kemal

Economic Policy Advisor (SDGs Support Unit), Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform

Mr. M. Ali Kemal is working as Economic Policy Advisor (SDGs Support Unit) at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Government of Pakistan. Prior to this role, he had been working at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics since 1999. His current role includes work on various issues pertaining to localization and mainstreaming of SDGs, identifying bottlenecks and development of relevant synergies among different institutions.

**Dr. Azimzhan Khitakhunov**

Assistant of Economics Department, Higher School of Economics and Business, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Dr. Azimzhan Khitakhunov received doctoral degree in Economics from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2016. He is currently working as Assistant of the Economics Department at KazNU, Almaty (since April 2013). Furthermore, Dr. Khitakhunov has over 5 years of research experience with the Ministry of Science and Education, Kazakhstan, in the field of Economics. Dr. Khitakhunov's research work has also been published in the book of Eurasian Studies in Business and Economics, published in Springer. .







COMSATS Secretariat
Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, G-5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan
Ph: (+92-51) 9214515-7, Fax: (+92-51) 9216539
URL: www.comsats.org, Email: comsats@comsats.org



www.facebook.com/COMSATSofficial/



twitter.com/comsats_en