



COVID-19 pandemic has put to test resilience of economies and societies worldwide posing new challenges for governments and institutions. The rapid spread of the infection not only overburdened the health systems but created difficulties in dealing with outpatients as well in the management of large-scale corona related data. Global health community and other concerned stakeholders are on a constant look out for digital health solutions (Telemedicine, mobile health applications, e-pharmacy, artificial intelligence driven health tools etc) to effectively adapt to the new and changing healthcare dynamics.

There is growing realization about the benefits of digital health usage within the COMSATS' Member States as well to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare systems with regard to: Disease Knowledge, Diagnostics and Detection, Disease Tracking and Protective Analytics, Screening, Triage and Virtual Outpatient Care, Remote Monitoring and Training and Capacity Development. COMSATS' Member States in South Asia (Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) had advanced in the Information Technology sector relatively early on. This is particularly useful as reliance on digital health draws more attention during the Pandemic. Keeping in view the growing relevance and significance of digital health, particularly for countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka that have multiple socio-economic similarities, it would be mutually beneficial to exchange respective experiences and best practices to build and strengthen long term resilience of the healthcare system through digital health.

With the foregoing in view the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) Headquarters in collaboration with Commonwealth Centre for

Digital Health (CWCDH) is holding a webinar with participation of COMSATS' South Asian Member States. The event would have the following objectives:

- To assess the current COVID-19 related developments in Digital Health and identification of future trends;
- To discuss the issues and challenges faced by the digital health stakeholders, specifically in response to COVID-19 Pandemic;
- To explore opportunities for the use of digital health and suggest measures to strengthen health systems through it.

SPEAKERS

DR. SANIA NISHTAR

SAPM on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Federal Minister, Govt. of Pakistan



Dr. Sania Nishtar is Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection with the status of Federal Minister. She is the founder and lead person of Government's flagship social protection program, "Ehsaas".

She is also serving as the Chairperson of Poverty Alleviation Coordination Council, Pakistan; Benazir Income Support Program, Pakistan; and United Nations University Institute of Global Health. Dr.Nishtar is the former co-chair of the World Health Organization's High-Level Commission on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). She is also a member and former chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Healthcare. In honor of her meritorious services to the cause of humanity, she was awarded Pakistan's Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence) in 2005.

Webinar on Digital Health in COVID-19:

Sharing experiences of COMSATS' South Asian member states

September 07, 2020
at 10:00 Hrs (GMT +5)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86060961989?pwd=VENMMmNma0VWVDBnaUhWY0ErTWhkQT09>

DR. SYED MUHAMMAD JUNAID ZAIDI

Executive Director COMSATS



Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi is the Executive Director of COMSATS. Earlier, he was the Founding Rector of one of the top universities of Pakistan, the COMSATS University Islamabad. Previously, he has worked with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) as an expert on Information Technology. Dr. Zaidi has also worked with United Nations to set-up National Bureau of UNDP's project 'Technology Information Pilot System (TIPS) in Pakistan'. Dr. Zaidi has been awarded with Pakistan's Sitara-i-Imtiaz in 2007 and Hilal-i-Imtiaz in 2014.

H.E. VICE ADMIRAL (RETD) MOHAN WIJEWICKRAMA

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan



Vice Admiral (Retd.) Mohan Wijewickrama is the current High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan. Wijewickrama was appointed as Governor of North Eastern Province and Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, by President Mahinda Rajapaksa. He entered the Sri Lanka Navy, in 1971. He retired after 34 years in November 2005 after holding many important appointments in the Navy. Just before his retirement. He has also held the post of Chief of Staff for 5 years. He has also been appointed as the co-chair for the District Development Committees (DDC) for Ampare, Batticaloa and Trincomalee. In recognition to his services towards Sri Lanka, he has been awarded various awards and medals.

DR. ANIL JASINGHE

Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Former Director General (Health Services), Sri Lanka



Dr. Anil Jasinghe is the Secretary, Ministry of Environment of Sri Lanka. Previously, he has served as the Director General of Health Services in Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka. Dr. Jasinghe joined medical administration as the Medical Superintendent of the Provincial Hospital at Badulla, Sri Lanka in 1996. He has also been the Deputy Director at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka and served the Accident and Orthopedic Service. In 2009, he became the Director of Colombo South Teaching Hospital.

PROF. VAJIRA H. W. DISSANAYAKE

Chairman, Commonwealth Center for Digital Health (CWCDH) and Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka



Prof. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake is Chairman of the Commonwealth Center for Digital Health (CWCDH) and is also serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Previously, he has served as the President of Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA), Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), President of Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics (APAMI) and Vice President of International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA). He was elected fellow of National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) and International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics (IAHSI). In recognition of his Scientific achievements, he was conferred the Sri Lankan national titular honor of 'Vidya Jayothi' in 2019.

DR. GHAZNA KHALID

Member PM Task Force for COVID-19, Pakistan



Prof. Dr. Ghazna Khalid is a Pakistani technocrat, social activist, an internationally acclaimed gynecologist and health expert with over 20 years of experience. She is currently serving as a member of the COVID-19 task force in the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan. She is also advisor at Federal Ministry of National Health Regulations and Services in Islamabad as well as at KPK Department of Health. She earned double Medical doctorate degrees; MBBS from Imperial College London and PhD Doctorate in Research from University College London UK.

DR. NIZAM UDDIN AHMED

CEO, Synesis Health Shastho Batayon, Bangladesh



Dr. Nizam Uddin Ahmed is the CEO of Synesis Health (Shastho Batayon 16263). He is a senior management and public health professional with over 20 years of experience. Dr. Ahmed has led numerous project health and development teams at national and international levels with international NGOs, UN agencies, bilateral donors and private sector. He has extensive experience in ICTs and has utilized its tools in health sector programs. He is instrumental in m-health and mobile apps for health and development services and conducting innovation search with brightest talents in Bangladesh.

DR. ANIL SAMARANAYAKE

Director-Health Information, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

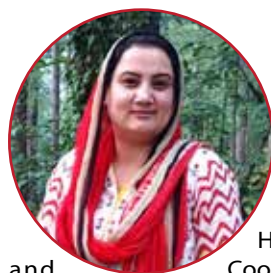


Dr. Anil Samaranayake is currently serving as Director Health Information Ministry of Health Sri Lanka. He is a doctor by profession and a Consultant Community Physician. He has done MD, ICCA from USA, masters in Mass Communication from Saint

Joseph's University, Graduate Program for Neuroscience from Boston University, USA, International Human Resource Management from Uppsala University, Sweden.

MS. LUBNA YAQOOB

Senior Specialist Digital Health & Information System- HPSIU, M/o NHR&C, Pakistan



Ms. Lubna Yaqoob is a specialist with 12 years of experience in the field of Information Technology. She is currently working at the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations

and Coordination (NHSRC) as Senior Specialist Digital Health & Information Systems at national level as part of its Health Planning, Systems Strengthening & Information Analysis component. She is also extending technical support to the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination for developing Digital Health Transformation Strategy and implementation of HIS action plan in Pakistan.

PROGRAMME

OPENING SESSION

(10:00 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.)

Welcome Remarks by

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

Remarks by

H.E. Vice Admiral (Retd) Mohan
Wijewickrama, High Commissioner of Sri
Lanka to Pakistan

Remarks by

Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary Ministry of
Environment, Sri Lanka

Remarks by

Speaker from Bangladesh

Remarks by

Dr. Vajira Dissanayake, Chairperson,
Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health

Keynote Address by

Dr. Sania Nishtar SAPM and Federal
Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social
Safety, Pakistan

Vote of Thanks by Amb. (Retd) Fauzia
Nasreen, Advisor at COMSATS

TECHNICAL SESSION

(11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Chair: Dr. Ghazna Khalid, Member PM's
Task Force on COVID-19, Pakistan

PANELISTS

1. Digital Health Initiatives in Bangladesh in COVID-19 Context

By Dr. Nizam ud Din Ahmed, CEO of
Synesis Health (Shastho Batayon),
Bangladesh

2. Digital Health Initiatives in Sri Lanka in COVID-19 Context

By Dr. Anil Samaranayake, Director
(Information), M/o Health

3. Digital Health Initiatives in Pakistan in COVID-19 Context

By Ms. Lubna Yaqoob, Senior Specialist
Digital Health and Information System,
M/o NHR&C

Discussion/Q&A

Closing Remarks by the Chair

Contact Person

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