

Draft Speech

Vice Chancellor/Chairman Executive Board ICCBS University of Karachi

24th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council (25-26 January 2023, Karachi, Pakistan)

Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman FRS Patron in Chief ICCBS

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Hassan Hon. President The World Academy of Sciences

Prof. Dr. Ashraf Shalan Chairman COMSATS Coordinating Council

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary Director ICCBS/ Coordinator General OIC COMSTECH

Ambassador Dr. Nafees Zakraia Executive Director

Distinguished Heads of COMSATS Centers of Excellence

Members of Diplomatic Community

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalam o alaikum

- I am very pleased to welcome you all at the inaugural ceremony of the 24th Coordinating Council meeting of COMSATS held at the premier research establishment of the University of Karachi, The International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences.
- The ICCBS is the founding member of the COMSATS Coordinating Council and has played a key role in strengthening of this network of leading R&D institutions in COMSATS member states.
- The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) being an inter-governmental organization is striving to facilitate sustainable socio-economic uplift of the developing countries through practical applications of science and technology. At present, 27 developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America are Member States of COMSATS. The Secretariat/Headquarters of the organization is based in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- COMSATS comprises a Network of 24 International S&T Centres of Excellence (R&D centres or universities). The Heads of these Centres of Excellence constitute COMSATS Coordinating Council, which is an effective forum for scientific and technical cooperation among the developing countries. The Council is to meet annually to take important decisions regarding the ongoing and future programs and activities of the Network.

- The present (24th) Coordinating Council Meeting is being held in Karachi, from January 25-26, 2023. Hosted by COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Pakistan, the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Karachi, Pakistan, the meeting will be inaugurated by H.E. Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Professor Emeritus and Patron-in-Chief, ICCBS, on January 25, 2023.
- The Council members belonging to Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, and Tanzania, will be attending physically while other Council members will be attending online.
- Apart from the Council members, the meeting will be attended by the representatives of partner international organizations, as well as members of COMSATS' Technical Advisory Committee.
- The meeting aims to facilitate meaningful collaboration among the 24 Centres of Excellence of COMSATS, as well as invite and encourage cooperation with partner international organizations, in order to make cohesive efforts for overcoming present and future global socio-economic challenges.
- We are glad that our world class research institution the ICCBS is hosting this important meeting. While you are here at the campus of the University of Karachi all would like to invite all the participants and other dignitaries to visit 17 research centers of the ICCBS and enjoy the excellence and academic leadership of this world class research center, achieved through life long efforts and unparalleled leadership of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary (Mustafa Pbih Prize Laureate) and his outstanding team of young researchers. I am sure you will be able to explore many areas for mutual collaboration.
- The International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, is already playing a key role in global science and technology capacity building and we would be happy to contribute further in this much needed global pursuit.
- With this, I would like thank all of you once again for your presence here and assurance of the sustained support of the University of Karachi and its institution in you mission.
- Allah Hafiz