



COMSATS Newsletter

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

Issue 3, Volume 15

May - June 2023



ED COMSATS, Amb. Dr. Nafees Zakaria and Co-Founder & Director Syndesis Health, Mr. Kamil Mehmood, signing the MoU (page 02)

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From the Executive Director's Desk

Industry-academia strategic alignment plays a pivotal role in ensuring creation of skilled professionals, graceful employment, and economic growth on one hand. On the other hand, the arrangement would reinforce R&D activities. Therefore alignment of Centres of Excellence with industry is not only intrinsic but also an imperative for its own sustainability. Partnership, collaboration and interaction between industries and academic institutions is essential to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications. This collaboration aims to enhance research, innovation, and skill development, benefiting both academia and industries. As industries face challenges and seek innovative solutions, they often require fresh perspectives that academia can provide. Similarly, academic institutions benefit from real-world insights and practical applications that industries offer.

In the contemporary times, where technological advancements, global competitiveness, and innovation are paramount, industry-academia collaboration becomes essential. It accelerates research, promotes knowledge transfer, and enhances skill development. This collaboration leads to the creation of cutting-edge technologies, products, and services that drive economic growth, addresses social challenges, and contributes to sustainable development.

Through this association industries gain access to the latest research findings, emerging trends, and a pool of talented individuals, while academic

institutions benefit from funding opportunities, real-world research applications, and industry mentorship. Ultimately, industry-academia collaboration is a driving force behind the modern world's progress, which fuels innovation, and promotes socioeconomic prosperity and well-being.

A successful industry-academia collaboration requires commitment, shared vision, and a willingness to learn from each other. It contributes to knowledge exchange, innovation, and development of a skilled workforce that meets the demands of the modern world. It can be established and nurtured by COMSATS, the institution which is enthusiastic to play facilitating role in industry-academia collaboration thus promoting cooperation between academic institutions and industries in its member countries. COMSATS acts as a platform for promoting knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and joint research projects, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between academia and industries.

Through various programs, workshops, and initiatives, COMSATS aims to strengthen the ties between these two sectors to drive innovation, economic growth, and sustainable development in its member countries. With an objective to promote industry-academia collaboration, COMSATS inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Syndesis Health Inc., USA, in May 2023. This collaboration lays a foundation for joint endeavors, focusing on

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM COMSATS SECRETARIAT

COMSATS and Syndesis Health Inc. (USA) Join hands for Genomic Sequencing Programs

COMSATS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Syndesis Health Inc., USA, for “Genomic Sequencing Programs”. The MoU will provide a broad framework for collaborative activities aimed at providing better healthcare to the citizens, supporting curative drugs development, and devising guidelines to help in managing pharmaceutical products.

Executive Director COMSATS, Amb. Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, and Co-Founder & Director Syndesis Health Inc., Mr. Kamil Mehmood, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

The signing ceremony held at COMSATS Secretariat, was participated by Heads / Representatives of diplomatic missions of COMSATS’ Member States in Islamabad, Secretary Incharge Ministry of Science & Technology – focal ministry of the host country for COMSATS, Mr. Usman Akhtar Bajwa, senior officials of relevant ministries, as well as representatives

from print and electronic media. Addressing the participants, the Executive Director COMSATS threw light on the agreement and its prospects for research, impact on the industrial sector, and economy. The MoU was a manifestation of a mutual desire to support each other in the endeavours towards keeping pace with the rapid development in the field of S&T, particularly ensuring better healthcare for all through effective utilization of modern-day technologies.

The Director of Syndesis Health Inc., Mr. Kamil, while highlighting the activities and achievements of his organization, assured full support to COMSATS in implementing the related programs. Ambassador Zakaria and Mr. Mehmood briefed the distinguished participants on how the collaboration would utilize the latest technological know-how for strengthening the healthcare sector, reducing healthcare costs, and contributing to the national economy.

ED COMSATS Calls on the Ethiopian Ambassador

The Executive Director COMSATS, Amb. Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, called on the Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula on May 19, 2023.

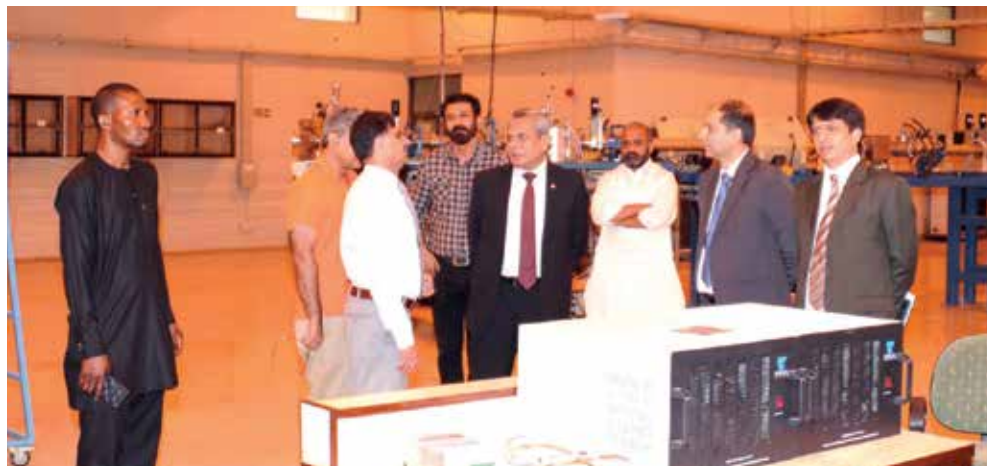
Congratulating the inauguration of Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad, Ambassador Zakaria lauded Ambassador Jemal’s dynamism whose efforts led to significant development. He apprised the Ambassador on initiatives by COMSATS in Genomic Sequencing, Precision Agriculture, EV, Renewable Energy and Digitization.

Ambassador Jemal appreciated the briefing and said the Ethiopian leadership would be interested in COMSATS activities. The Ambassador proposed the Executive Director’s working visit to Ethiopia.

COMSATS and National Centre for Physics agree for scientific collaboration

The Executive Director COMSATS, Amb. Dr. Nafees Zakaria was invited to visit the National Centre for Physics (NCP), Islamabad for a briefing on the academic and R&D work being carried out by the Centre and to witness its technical facilities first-hand on May 26, 2023.





During the visit, meeting with the Director General NCP, Dr. Mansoor Hameed Inayat, and briefing on the role NCP is playing in key scientific areas, boosted greater interest for strengthening scientific collaboration around joint R&D activities, and building synergy. The Director General NCP and Executive Director COMSATS exchanged views on ways to use each other's strength and expertise to the mutual advantage.

Dr. Inayat shared his vision for upscaling scientific work of NCP. In this regard, he saw COMSATS as a platform for expanding NCP's outreach through international collaboration. Both stressed indigenization and self-reliance. They agreed that R&D work was crucial for progress in S&T and innovations.

Amb. Zakaria briefed the DG on some of the initiatives COMSATS has recently taken, including those related to genome sequencing, EV, Precision Agriculture and Renewable Energy.

The meeting was also attended by senior officials of NCP, including Dr. Ishaq Ahmad, Director General COE Physics, Dr. Mohsin Siddiq, Director Theoretical Physics Department, Dr. Hassan Shahzad, General Manager Technical, as well as Mr. Irfan Hayee, Additional Director Programs,

COMSATS.

During a tour of NCP's various technological segments, the Executive Director also met a TWAS's post doc research fellow from Nigeria.

ED COMSATS Calls on the Defence Minister

The Executive Director COMSATS, Amb. Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, called on the then Minister for Defense, Government of Pakistan, H.E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif on June 2, 2023. During the meeting, the Executive Director presented an overview of COMSATS, an intergovernmental international organization comprising 27 member countries and 24 Centers of Excellence.

He briefed the Defence Minister on the latest initiatives including the signing of an MoU with Synthesis Health Inc., USA for the Genomic Sequencing, which will enable better and cost effective healthcare, development of new drugs and scientific interventions in related fields. He also mentioned the Telehealth program, steps taken towards promotion of modern agricultural techniques, his vision for Research and Development (R&D) and alignment with the industrial sector.

Expressing his appreciation, the Defence Minister, H.E. Khawaja Asif recognized the importance of the COMSATS platform and its potential in promoting Science, Technology and Innovation. He endorsed the idea of R&D and expressed interest in the identified areas for R&D projects.

The meeting will help in fostering closer cooperation between COMSATS and Government of Pakistan's Science and Technology related departments.

Students from COMSATS University Islamabad Visit COMSATS Telehealth at CIS

A group of students pursuing MS-Health Informatics from COMSATS University, led by Dr. Nighat Sultana, Associate Professor, visited the COMSATS Telehealth Resource Centre located at COMSATS Internet Services (CIS), on June 8, 2023. The purpose of the visit was to gain insights into the workings of COMSATS' Telehealth project.

During the visit, Dr. Azeema Fareed, Incharge COMSATS Telehealth, provided the visitors with an overview of the Telehealth model implemented by COMSATS. She highlighted the numerous benefits associated with this innovative approach and shed light on the medical specialties that are covered



through Telehealth in the remote regions of Balochistan. The students were informed about the transformative impact Telehealth has had on healthcare delivery in these underserved areas.

Following the briefing, the students were given the opportunity to witness live online teleconsultations between doctors at the Telehealth Resource Centre and patients accessing healthcare services at the remote Teleclinics. Dr. Nadia, the Project Manager at the Telehealth Resource Centre, conducted a live demonstration for the students, explaining the teleconsultation process in detail. She also provided insights into the hardware and software employed for Telehealth services.

This visit was a part of the practical field visits that MS-HI students undertook as a component of their curriculum. By experiencing the Telehealth project firsthand, the students gained valuable knowledge and exposure to the advancements in digital health and its impact on remote healthcare delivery.

Webinar on Advancing Climate Diplomacy in the Global South: The Road to COP28

COMSATS organized the Webinar on Advancing Climate Diplomacy in the

Global South: The Road to COP28 on 22nd June 2023, to highlight the importance of climate diplomacy and promote the cause of South-South Cooperation. Held at COMSATS Secretariat in Islamabad, the event held in hybrid format had a gathering of about 50 persons, including officials from UN agencies, government bodies, R&D institutions, civil society as well as academia.

The event included some insightful presentations and speeches on its theme. These were: 'Opportunities and Strengths of the Global South in Advancing Climate Action' by Prof. CAO Jinghua, Executive Director, ANSO Secretariat, China; 'Climate Diplomacy and its Significance in

the Global Climate Governance' by Prof. Dr. Enrique Forero, Chair of the Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Science Council (ISC), Colombia; 'Successful Climate Diplomacy Efforts of FAO for the Global South' by Dr. Zitouni Ould-Dada, Deputy Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO, Italy; 'Key Expectation and Priorities of the Global South for COP28' by Dr. Sohail Malik, Technical Team Lead, Climate Resourcing Coordination Centre (CRCC), Pakistan; and 'Non-Traditional Partnership for effective Climate diplomacy' by Dr. Aneel Salman Chair Economic Security Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) Islamabad, Pakistan.





Executive Director COMSATS, Amb. Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, welcomed the experts and participants for honoring the event in his welcome remarks "Capitalizing on the strengths and opportunities can empower the Global South to play a crucial role in advancing climate action, shaping global climate policy, and contributing to a sustainable and resilient future for all".

Amb. Dr. Zakaria opined that while one can't fight the nature no matter how powerful a country may be but efforts based on recurring experience helped devise ways to lessen the impact and mitigate by bringing about solutions manifested in scientific, political, social and cultural measures. He noted that the developing countries possess strengths and capabilities to address the challenge. We have resources to develop renewable energy in the larger context of addressing the factors impacting environment and causing climate change. Investment in R&D to achieve indigenous solutions through exchange of expertise and sharing of resources and in the development of requisite infrastructure and technology is the way forward, he added.

Prof. CAO Jinghua, Executive Director, ANSO Secretariat, considered the emerging South as the growing center of economic growth offering enormous potential for the developing countries to learn from each other's experiences and best practices to address global climate challenges. The developing countries have assumed a greater role in the global development landscape, he added. Prof. CAO mentioned

that China is committed to achieve Carbon neutrality by 2060. He quoted international bureau of renewable energy; China is no. 1 in hydropower generation and China is contributing 48% of global renewable energy, 45 % of solar and 50 % of wind energy.

Prof. Forero from Colombia shared his views as in the era of contemporary sciences global community is facing challenges of complexity, climate crises and geo-political realignment and aftermath of covid-19. In his talk, Prof. Forero expressed that the Global South is home to vast forest ecosystems and rich biodiversity. Protecting and restoring these forests not only contributes to carbon sequestration but also helps preserve invaluable habitats and species. He opined that El Nino and La Nina events are triggered by warm temperature which will hit hard South American and Pacific regions. The fast track advancement in climate devastation is uncontrollable and in next

decade it will be difficult for the survival of human race.

Dr. Zitouni Ould-Dada, Deputy Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), stressed that the Global South has a unique opportunity to leverage South-South cooperation for climate action. By collaborating with fellow developing countries, they can share knowledge, technology, and financial resources to enhance their climate resilience and mitigation efforts. South-South cooperation allows for tailored solutions that consider specific local contexts and challenges, fostering ownership and empowerment among participating countries. He also mentioned that peace and conflict of the region is also associated with climate change and these issues must be addressed with diplomacy and international cooperation. Dr. Ould-Dada added that we must utilize indigenous capacity to address the local issues.

Dr. Sohail Malik, Technical Team Lead, Climate Resourcing Coordination Centre (CRCC), Pakistan, discussed the key outcomes of the COP27 and shed light upon the anticipated outcomes of COP28. Dr. Malik stated that several



developing countries possess valuable knowledge and practices in adaptation measures, such as water management, drought-resistant agriculture, and community-based disaster risk reduction. Sharing these experiences and collaborating on adaptation strategies can benefit not only the Global South but also other regions facing similar challenges.

Dr. Aneel Salman considered non-traditional partnership – engaging with leaders at sub-national level – cities level as most viable solution to immediately lower emissions and increase resilience against climate change. Dr. Salman noted the nine pre-requisites, which include: partnerships, leadership, crisp goals, funding sources and tracking, management, governance and policies, political and

social impacts, and identification of the problem structure, will act as a catalyst for Global negotiations for climate diplomacy and sustainability.

Panel discussion revolved around the following topics i.e. international cooperation, indigenous capacity enhancement, climate finance, food security, nature based solutions, south-south cooperation and emission reduction. Panelists of the webinar shared success stories and case studies of their respective regions.

The event concluded with a resolve to strengthen climate diplomacy and South-South cooperation ties among the developing countries. The speakers urged to develop workable nature-based solutions that are sensitive to the needs of the indigenous people and

making concerted efforts to put them into action.

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research and development with its prospects on the industrial sector and leading to a better economy. Further, COMSATS is poised to engage in diverse sectors like Electric Vehicles, Precision Agriculture, and Renewable Energy which underscore its dedication to fostering innovation and influencing both the industrial landscape and the economy.

In essence, the symbiotic partnership between industry and academia, exemplified by institutions like COMSATS, not only reflects a harmonious collaboration but also holds the potential to reshape the landscape of innovation, economic growth, and sustainable development. As industries and academic institutions continue to merge their expertise and resources, the horizons of progress expand, paving the way for a brighter, more interconnected future.

SOME ACTIVITIES OF COMSATS' CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Visits at CUI-Islamabad

Delegation from Danubius University, Romania

On June, 16 2023, a delegation headed by Ms. Gergerta Ropciu, Danubius University, Romania, visited COMSATS University (CUI), Islamabad campus to initiate academic partnerships.

Mr. Ali Tawab, Head- International Office, briefed about CUI and extended his full support for initiation and further exploration of various ventures in collaboration with Danubius University, Romania. The meeting also had the participation of senior officials of CUI, including Head International Office, and HoD Humanities.

Ms. Gergerta Ropciu, Danubius University, provided an overview of the university and proposed two programs for CUI: Accredited Language Courses



and ICDL Digital Skills. The participants explored student and faculty exchanges between CUI and Danubius University, considering formal agreements in future.

Delegation from Embassy of Türkiye & Embassy of Germany

On June 20, 2023, delegations from Embassy of Türkiye and Embassy of

Germany, visited CUI to inaugurate the "Thesis Show" of students of the Department of Art & Design. The delegation from Embassy of Türkiye, headed by Dr. Mehmet Toyran, Counsellor of Education, Embassy of Türkiye, Islamabad, discussed possibilities of further strengthening the academic linkages of CUI with Turkish Universities.



Dr. Mehment Toyran, proposed to establish a Turkish Corner at Junaid Zaidi Library and offered Turkish language teaching in the university.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Mehment Toyran, and Ms. Dorota Magdalena Berezicki, First Secretary, Head of Communication and Cultural Section, Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, inaugurated "Thesis Show". The Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar was also present in the event.

An International Student Get-Together

The International Office at CUI arranged a gathering on June 9, 2023, specifically for international students enrolled at the Islamabad campus.

Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head of IO, promoted CUI's educational and cultural richness, urging participants to embrace Pakistan's culture through interactions with locals, cuisine, and music. Ph.D. students from Sri Lanka and Nigeria shared university experiences.

Talk on "Gender and Power in Digital Spaces: A Change or a Different Shade?"

CUI-Pakistan in collaboration with Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), organized a talk titled "Gender

and Power in Digital Spaces: A Change or a Different Shade?", on May 24, 2023.

The talk highlighted the digital divide/unequal technology access among genders and the need for urgent measures to bridge this gap. It stressed the importance of implementing laws and strategies to empower women in technology, providing education, training, and access to information.

The Speaker, Dr. Shahla Tabassum of Fatima Jinnah Women University discussed how smartphone usage in Pakistan's diverse cultural context affects family dynamics and gender norms.

CUI Officers Receive Overseas Training Opportunities

1. Ms. Shazia Shabbir, Senior Program Officer, Quality Enhancement Cell and Mr. Razaqat Ali Uppal, APO, attended "4th International Staff Week" organized by USAK University, Turkiye, from May 29, 2023 to June 2, 2023, on the topic of "Quality Assurance in Education & Research Collaborations". The event allowed participants to learn about exchange programs and international engagements at USAK university.
2. From 22nd to 26th May, 2023, a Staff Week (SW) was held at the

University of Tuscia, Viterbo-Italy, in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme-KA107, funded by the European Commission. Prof. Dr. Shamsul Qamar, Incharge, Islamabad Campus, & HoD Mathematics and Ms. Samira Shah, Senior Program Officer, International Office attended the event.

Exploring Frontiers: International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS)

ICCBS inks MoU with SBCG-Karachi

The International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), has signed an MoU with the Systems Biology and Computational Genomics (SBCG), Pakistan on May 30, 2023 to develop academic, scientific, and technical cooperation between both the Institutions.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Director ICCBS, and Mr. Muhammad Abbas Ali Iqbal, SBCG CEO, signed the MoU on behalf of their institutions. According to the MoU, both institutions will facilitate the exchange of academic members, researchers, and experts for conducting research, teaching, or exchange of ideas. The ICCBS and SBCG will also conduct programs of collaborative research in the areas of interest.

ICCBS ranks 41st in the world in Chemistry

Research.com has revealed that the University of Karachi holds the distinction of having the largest count of leading researchers in Pakistan. Four scientists associated with the university have been prominently listed in Research.com's Chemistry ranking.

Research.com has positioned Pakistan



at the 41st spot worldwide with 12 scholars in the field. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary, Director ICCBS, has been identified as the top researcher in Pakistan by Research.com, with an impressive D-index of 74.

Leading scientists on the list include Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, ICCBS Patron-in-Chief, Prof. Dr. Khalid Muhammad Khan, and Dr. Abdul Hameed. Research.com's ranking of top Chemistry scholars is based on a meticulous analysis of 166,880 researchers, with 43,178 researchers assessed specifically in the Chemistry field.

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) - Nurturing Excellence in Education and Research

Farabi Business School Builds Partnership with Dubai Academic City

On May 13, 2023, representatives of the management of Farabi Business School at Al-Farabi KazNU visited Dubai International Academic City (DIAC), UAE.

DIAC hosted a meeting where Farabi Business School got connected with SP Jain School of Global Management

and Hult International Business School. They explored the avenues for training, global partnerships, and potential joint programs, including student exchanges and research collaborations.

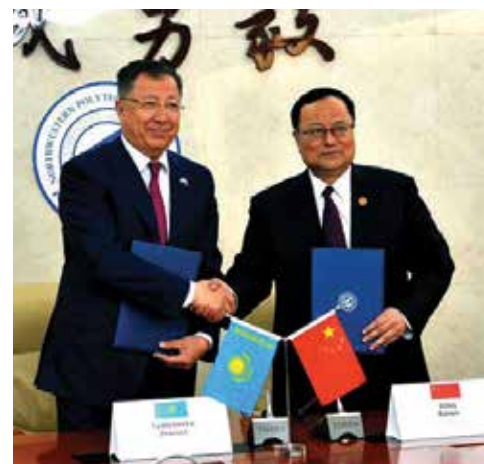
Mr. Ayo Olatoye, Regional Director of the Middle East and Africa Education Programs, Hult International Business School, and Christopher Abraham, Professor at SP Jain School of Global Management, expressed their interest in joint projects with Farabi Business School.

KazNU Establishes Multiple Partnerships with Leading Universities of China

1. On May 5, 2023, a delegation led by Mr. Zhang Tao, Vice-President, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), visited Al-Farabi KazNU, along with Mr. Wen Ya, Director General, Bureau of S&T for Development of CAS, and Mr. Jiang Wei, Consul General of China in Almaty. During discussion, it was agreed to sign a memorandum of cooperation between KazNU and the CAS in the near future.
2. Moreover, on May 15-18, 2023, during a working visit to China, as part of a delegation headed by Mr.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Dr. Zhansait Tuimebayev, Rector Al-Farabi KazNU, signed a memorandum of cooperation with leading universities of China.

3. Dr. Tuimebayev met with Mr. Chen Feng, Chancellor, China University of Petroleum, Mr. Zhang Yuanming, Director General, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Mr. Zhang Xueji, Vice President, Shenzhen University. The meetings led to agreements for academic collaboration and knowledge exchange, sharing scientific publications, and organize joint conferences and research.
4. Rector, Al-Farabi KazNU had a meeting with Mr. Wang Shuguo, President Xi'an Jiaotong University. The two institutions had previously signed a cooperation memorandum in 2016. The recent discussions focused on enhancing collaboration under the existing memorandum, including increasing student and faculty exchanges, and collaborating on scientific endeavors.
5. As part of the state visit by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the People's Republic



of China, on May 17, 2023, an agreement was formalized to establish a branch of Northwestern Polytechnical University (PRC) at KazNU.

6. On June 9, 2023, Rector Al-Farabi KazNU received a delegation led by Prof. Liang Zhen, Vice-Rector, Harbin Institute of Technology. During the meeting, KazNU and Harbin Polytechnic University signed a memorandum of cooperation, focusing on scientific and educational sphere.

KazNU Signs Memorandum with Seoul Cyber University, Korea

On May 20, 2023, Rector Al-Farabi KazNU, Dr. Tuimebayev visited Seoul Cyber University, Korea. A significant milestone was achieved as he engaged with Mr. Lee Eunjo, the Rector, and formalized a memorandum of understanding through their signatures.

Dr. Tuimebayev briefed about the activities and achievements of the university. Focusing on the direction of international cooperation, he noted that the university is expanding ties with foreign universities.

The Rector, Seoul Cyber University (SCU), introduced Seoul Cyber University, which was founded in Year

2000 and that SCU aims to develop the talents and creative thinking of students. The partnership aims to strengthen ties between the institutions through academic cooperation, including joint programs, faculty and student exchanges, and collaborative research.

The First Ministerial Meeting of OIC -15 Dialogue Platform & Establishment of OIC Center Announced

On May 25-26, 2023, the first Ministerial Meeting of OIC-15 Dialogue Platform was held at the Al-Farabi KazNU. Dignitaries from countries including Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Indonesia, Iran, Morocco, Turkey, Qatar, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia participated in the event. The Minister of Science and Higher Education of Kazakhstan, Mr. Sayasat Nurbek, and Dr. Tuimebayev, Rector Al-Farabi KazNU, welcomed the official representatives of the Muslim world.

Mr. Nurbek Sayasat, the Honorable Minister, inaugurated the conference, highlighting Kazakhstan's scientific achievements. Dr. Tuimebayev, KazNU's Rector, emphasized better education in Islamic Cooperation countries and discussed the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform.

OIC Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Askar Musinov and COMSTECH Coordinator General, Mr. Mohammed

Iqbal, highlighted the event's importance. They signed the "Almaty Rules and Regulations of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform" following the Ministerial Meeting.

Dr. Tuimebayev discussed partnership development with Mr. Askar Musinov and Mr. Muhammad Iqbal and proposed opening an Islamic Cooperation Organization Center for Science and Technology at the university.

Mr. Askar Akhmetuly supported the university's proposals and endorsed the OIC Center at KazNU, with a memorandum signing in the future. Collaboration plans with Qatar, UAE, and others were discussed, and IT and robotics expertise sharing with African universities was encouraged by Mr. Askar Musinov.

Iran's Vice Minister of Science, Research & Technology Visit to KazNU

On May 23, 2023, Vice-Minister, Science, Research & Technology, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Vahid Haddadi-Asl, visited Al-Farabi KazNU. The meeting included discussions on mutual cooperation in science and education, reflecting shared interests.

Welcoming the guest, Vice-Rector Mr. Nurzhan Aydosov thanked the Consulate General of Iran in Almaty for supporting educational, scientific, and cultural collaboration between KazNU and Iranian universities. KazNU has forged nine agreements with various leading Iranian institutes and universities, fostering a robust partnership.

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023

Al-Farabi KazNU is the only Kazakhstani university in Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings (THE IR 2023) for all 17 SDGs, assessed for research,



social initiatives, resource management, and educational contributions.

Al-Farabi KazNU ranks in the top 400 of the THE IR. It focuses on goals like No Poverty, Gender Equality, Clean Water, Reduced Inequalities, Life below Water, and Life on Land, improving its position on SDG 5 "Gender Equality", and on SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals".

Leading Initiatives from Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan

Global Network of Young Mappers

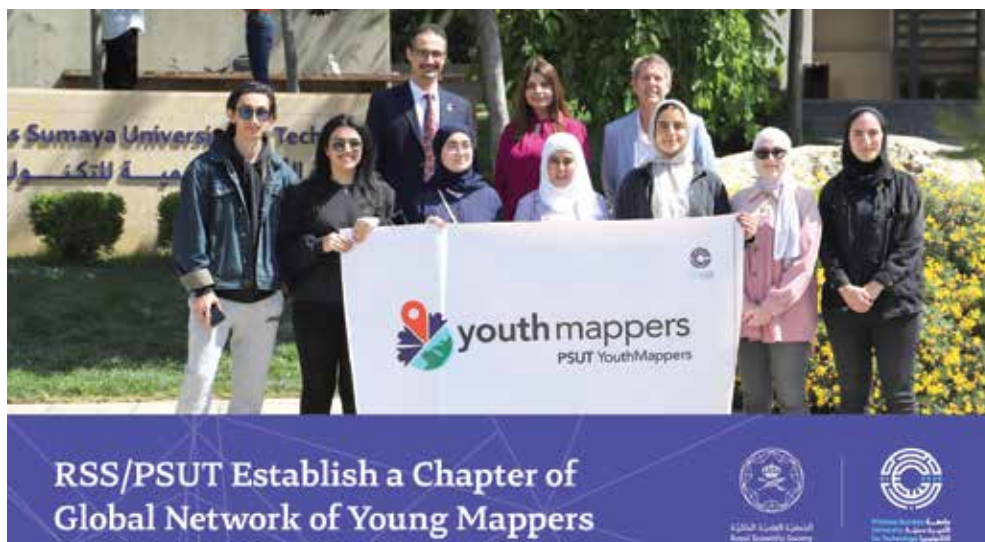
A 'YouthMappers' chapter was established through collaboration between Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) and the Royal Scientific Society's Research for Sustainability Team. The idea was adopted by Prof. Iain Stewart, Director, El-Hassan Research Chair in Sustainability with the support of the President of PSUT, Prof Wejdan Abu Elhaija.

PSUT YouthMappers, a leading Jordanian-Middle Eastern branch, part of an international student network focusing on open-source mapping and GIS for sustainable development, fostering collaboration between youth, universities, and development organizations.

National Cooling Strategy

In cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society and with the support of Cool Up programme, the Jordanian Ministry of Environment kicked off the development of the National Cooling Strategy. The NCS aligns with climate, energy, and economic strategies, including Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision, to address cooling needs.

Jordan's National Cooling Strategy (NCS) promotes sustainable cooling



through advanced technologies in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) sector and eco-friendly refrigerants. NCS covers all of Jordan, incorporating various cooling sectors like stationary refrigeration, industrial cooling, and more.

Dr. Hussam Hussein of Royal Scientific Society Jordan Elected to GYA

On June 6, 2023, the Global Young Academy (GYA) selected Dr. Hussam Hussein, Executive Director of Partnerships for Development, Royal Scientific Society (RSS), as one of the 41 new members to join the GYA for a five-year tenure. Dr. Hussein was selected for his research in Middle East water policies, hydropolitics, and the political economy of water.

Founded in 2010, the GYA is an independent science academy comprising 200 outstanding researchers from six continents. HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, RSS President, is an Advisory Board member of GYA.

RSS Unveils the Results of the SwitchMed TEST Project

On 18th May, 2023, the Royal Scientific Society unveils results of the SwitchMed Transfer of Environmentally Sound

Technology (TEST) project, during a ceremony held in Amman. In two phases (2015-2023), it saved resources in 27 Jordanian industries, annually reducing over 2,000 tons of materials, 30,800 MWh of energy, 179,000 m3 of water, and over 11,400 tons of CO2 emissions.

Implemented by UNIDO, Water, Environment and Climate Change Centre, and National Energy Research Centre at RSS, the project received European Union funding. It partnered with Jordan and Amman Chambers of Industry, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

TUBITAK-Turkiye: Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation

Completion of Instructor Training for Deneyap Technology Workshop in Niger

From April 29th to May 5th, 2023, a training was held for the instructors who are responsible to provide education at the Deneyap Technology Workshop. The workshop was conducted at the Ankara Şehit Ümit Çoban Technology Workshop. The Deneyap Technology Workshop Foundation was created to



engage young talents in technology advancement, foster startups, and R&D.

TÜBİTAK Student Achievements: Recognizing Excellence

TÜBİTAK Hosted the Balkan Mathematical Olympiad (BMO): From May 8th to 13th, 2023, the 40th Balkan Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) was held in Antalya, under the auspices of TÜBİTAK, that welcomed 131 students representing 21 countries.

Within the framework of the 2202 Science Olympiads Program conducted by TÜBİTAK BİDEB, young scientists represented Türkiye on the international stage and achieved 1 Gold, 5 Silver, 5 Bronze Medals, and 1 Honorable Mention.

Participation in the 45th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and 25th Committee for Environmental Protection Meeting

On May 28 and June 8, 2023, the 45th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the 25th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) were held in Helsinki, Finland. A delegation representing Türkiye, consisting of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and

Climate Change, and TÜBİTAK MAM Polar Research Institute, attended the meetings.

During the meetings, Türkiye's current polar activities were introduced, contributions were made to the conservation of the Antarctic environment.

TÜBİTAK Participation in the TNC'23

From June 5 to June 9, 2023, TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM participated in the TERENA Network Conference (TNC) held in Tirana, Albania. The meeting was the flagship event of GÉANT, the collaboration of European National Research and Education Networks, for research and education network building. TNC, as a conference for research and education networks, attracts a diverse audience of over 800 participants from more than 70 countries, providing a unique collaborative experience.

President TÜBİTAK Participated in the Scientific Advisory Council Meeting of COMSTECH

President TÜBİTAK, Dr. Hasan Mandal, participated in the 2nd Scientific Advisory Council Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific

and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) on Monday, June 12, 2023.

The meeting focused on enhancing scientific collaborations among member countries of Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Prof. Dr. Mandal's presentation highlighted TÜBİTAK's global cooperation, emphasizing the role of member countries and potential joint projects. The importance of integrating skilled human resources from OIC nations into international research for addressing global challenges and ensuring sustainability was stressed.

Protocol Signed Between TÜBİTAK and Falling Walls Lab

On June 12, 2023, TÜBİTAK and Falling Walls Lab entered into an agreement, with the aim of offering a platform to entrepreneurs, interdisciplinary students, and early-career professionals to Participate in the International Falling Walls Labs Competitions

This competition will provide a stage for presenting inventive ideas with positive implications for science and society. The selected winner will also get the opportunity to participate in the Falling Walls Lab final scheduled for November 7, 2023, in Berlin.

Scholarships/Fellowships for Member States by COMSATS' Centres of Excellence

The COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan, has offered Graduate (MS and PhD) scholarships for Fall 2023 session for students/researchers belonging to COMSATS Member States.

This scholarships are offered in the following key programmes: Computer Science; Management Science; Electrical Engineering; Biosciences; Mathematics; Physics; and Meteorology

The relevant details, including academic programs, eligibility criteria, admission procedure and schedule, application form, etc. are available on CUI website: (http://ww2.comsats.edu.pk/internationalstudents/COMSATS_HQ.aspx).

Students from COMSATS' Member States and Centres of Excellence are encouraged to benefit from this opportunity. The last date for submission of applications is June 30, 2023.

For further details on the scholarships, please visit www.comsats.org or write to farhan@comsats.org.

Call for participation in the 37th Khwarizmi International Award

Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), Iran, is organizing the 37th Khwarizmi International Award (KIA), and has invited applications from scientists, researchers, innovators and inventors belonging to COMSATS' Member States.

The Khwarizmi International Award is presented annually to acknowledge and appreciate the outstanding contributions in the realms of science, technology, and innovation from around the world. Since the year 1998, COMSATS is a part of the aforementioned activity.

Deadline for submission of applications:
November 1, 2023

Details are available on KIA website:
<http://khwarizmi.ir/kia/>

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