

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH
(COMSATS)**

**Executive Director's Message
for
37th Khwarizmi International Award (KIA)
27th February 2024**

COMSATS congratulates and appreciates its esteemed Centre of Excellence in Iran, the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) for organizing the 37th Khwarizmi International Award (KIA), to honour outstanding scientists and researchers for their significant contributions towards science, technology and innovation (ST&I). The organization of this prestigious Award since 1987 signifies the important role IROST is playing in benefiting from the valuable resource and expertise of scientists, researchers and innovators to bring about constructive change in the society by providing S&T-based solutions to address the global challenges. My heartiest congratulations to the winners of this year's KIA award on their well-deserved distinction.



Undoubtedly, Science, Technology, and Innovation have consistently proven to be the panacea for humanity. Their impact has been far reaching for the socio-economic development. In today's rapidly evolving world, R&D driven ST&I stand as the bedrock of progress and the key to unlocking solutions for pressing global challenges.

The empowerment of young scientists and innovators plays a pivotal role in fostering sustainable socio-economic development. Recognizing and celebrating their contributions, the Khwarizmi International Award stands as a commendable initiative. This award acknowledges and supports the outstanding work of scientists and researchers, contributing to the fruitful advancement of knowledge and innovative solutions.

The National Poet of Pakistan, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, emphasized the potential of Youth often referring to them as Eagles. A poignant line from his verses reads:

نہیں تیرا نشیمن قصر سلطانی کے گنبد پر

تو شاہیں ہے بسیرا کر پہاڑوں کی چٹانوں میں

English Translation

Your resting places are not the minarets of the royal palaces.

You are an Eagle, the rocks of the mountains should be your habitat.

Young scientists and researchers should aspire to dream big, search for knowledge, and challenge the status quo. The potential for utilization of science and technology knows no bounds. Undoubtedly, the future's potential hinges on the diligent efforts and perseverance of today's young scientists.

Technology has transformed the world into a global village and hence made the collective approach to tackle common issues practicable and effective. To view the problems through a shared lens and come up with solutions that are supported by science and technology and accepted by all, there need to be a cross border cooperation, and partnerships that may improve resource usability, and enhance knowledge generation. COMSATS, being an international/intergovernmental organization is endeavoring to unite developing countries for judicious use of science and technology.

Having 27 Member States and a Network of 25 renowned International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence, COMSATS has been striving to promote South-South and Triangular cooperation through facilitating capacity building; collaborative research and development; and sharing of knowledge, experiences, good practices and technological resources among the member countries. R&D Centres and their sustainability is important, which will come with alignment with the industrial sector. COMSATS has recently ventured into a series of new initiatives in the fields such as Artificial Intelligence based Data Analytics, Genome Sequencing, IT Trainings, Precision Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Electric Vehicles, Tech-enabled Health Units, Drone Technology, and the forward march is on.

COMSATS recognizes the contributions of its esteemed Centers in placing science and technology at the forefront of development initiatives within its member nations. It is noteworthy to highlight IROST's commendable efforts in advancing S&T-driven development in Iran and across other member countries.

Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria

Executive Director

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