

INAUGURATION
25th Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council,
(Tianjin, China, 10-12 September 2024)

OPENING ADDRESS BY
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Executive Director COMSATS

Bism...

H.E. Prof. Dr. Liu Weidong, H.E. Dong Keqin (Kechin), Hon. Prof. Ashraf Shalaan, Hon. Prof. Dr. Xiang Hua, Esteemed Members of the Coordinating Council, Distinguished Advisors, Partners, Observers, Ladies & Gentlemen

Assalaam Alaikum & Good Morning!

I am honoured and take pride that this is the second Coordinating Council Meeting in less than 2 years of my tenure as Executive Director. On behalf of COMSATS Secretariat, I express gratitude to the esteemed Government of China, a founding member of COMSATS, for generously hosting 25th meeting of the Coordinating Council at the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB).

Happily, the participation at this Council meeting is overwhelming. I extend a warm welcome to everyone.

COMSATS TAC Members and partner organizations namely; World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), ICESCO, The South Centre, SESRIC, ECO Science Foundation, Pacific Islands Development Forum and INSME, are participating online while ANSO is attending this inaugural, physically.

Our profound gratitude for their collaboration and support.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Inventions and knowledge have brought a windfall of wealth to the Members in Global North and led to disparities vis-à-vis Global South. Technologically advanced assumed lead in most domains of the world affairs. The only way to check the Haves from exploiting their upper hand in technology was to make the knowledge and expertise universally available. It was heartening to learn when the Chinese Leadership, President Xi Jinping, at a BRI event undertook that China will share its technologies and knowledge with everyone.

It is satisfying to note that some of the COMSATS countries have made significant progress in S&T.

I pay a rich tribute to Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam, a visionary Pakistani scientist and Nobel Laureate, who conceived the concept of COMSATS

to bridge the widening gap between the Global North and Global South in the realm of S&T.

COMSATS is a significant scientific forum with its own strengths.

The only S&T IGO of 27 Members States with 25 Centres of Excellence, spread over Asia, Africa, Latin America & Europe. Collective population 3 billion (37% of global population) with a youth population of 850 million. Total GDP is 23.37 trillion. Total trade would also have a significant share in the global trade.

With such Statistics and the largest pool of Scientists, COMSATS can act as a significant pivot in world affairs, provided we exploit our strengths.

COMSATS should establish its own Scientific standards. Its own Science Journal. Its own Tech News Letter. For standardization, COMSATS should develop its own AI, Cyber Security and Emerging Technologies curriculum for school students and higher classes. It will help turnaround the future of our next generations. Pooling of resources and sharing of expertise among COMSATS nations is the key to our collective success.

Distinguished Friends! We need to invest in R&D, education, and foster intra COMSATS reliance. Increase membership. Secretariat is endeavouring to that end.

COMSATS Network of Centres of Excellence have expertise in Biotechnology; Food Technology & Agriculture; Health & Medical Sciences; Information and Communication Technologies; Clean Energy; Climate Change; Nanotechnology; Water Research; and Material Sciences, which are high in demand, globally.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since the last Council meeting, COMSATS cultivated strategic partnerships, supported important projects and innovative initiatives in emerging areas of science and technology. Our endeavor remains sharing of expertise and knowledge.

COMSATS has established an R&D Fund, duly approved at the 24th Coordinating Council meeting. 1st ongoing initiative is **Case Study Pakistan:** Conversion of ICE vehicles to Electric Vehicles. A complete eco system and next phases of development, including development of batteries already blueprinted.

Technology upgrade of COMSATS Data Centre enabled launch of COMSATS Cloud Computing Service and its offer to the Member States.

Assisted Government of Pakistan in the Skill Development in Web Design and Development, Graphics Design, Mobile App Development, Business Intelligence and E-Commerce, Telefarming and Digital Services Platform program. I urge other Member States also to benefit from the

expertise that COMSATS has gathered. COMSATS also conducted Bootcamps to impart training in AI and SQA Learning.

TIB hosted COMSATS Joint Centre on Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB), benefitted Member states in industrial biotechnology and bio-industry.

The COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), organizes Climate Change activities in coordination with the relevant Institutes in COMSATS member states. We owe our thanks to the Centres of Excellence and Partner Organizations for their support and cooperation.

We are making best use of technology to benefit common people. COMSATS Tele-Health Clinics is a manifestation. The Doctors at the Resource Centre in Islamabad provides primary healthcare to the people in difficult to reach far flung regions in Pakistan. Proudly, our Tele Health Clinics program won Commonwealth's Digital Health Award.

COMSATS' Observer Status of the UNFCCC, COMSATS election as a Member of the Governing Board of ANSO last year have added significant chapter to COMSATS profile.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am confident that this Council meeting will provide further impetus to the beneficial collaboration, R&D advocacy, Government policy backed alignment of technology and academia with the industry and interdependence.

I highly commend and thank the organizing teams at TIB and COMSATS Secretariat for their untiring effort to make this Council Meeting happen so smoothly.

Long Live COMSATS! Thank you everyone!