COMSTECH with partner organizations, including Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications of Pakistan and Center for Advanced Research in Engineering (CARE) organized “1st COMSTECH Showcasing of Artificial Intelligence and IoT Products and Services: AI and IoT for Pakistan” on 4th and 5th August 2020.

The President of Pakistan, H. E. Dr. Arif Alvi, inaugurated this exhibition on August 4, 2020. He appreciated COMSTECH for taking a pioneering step to initiate a series of exhibitions on modern technologies, and close collaboration with partner institutions in OIC countries to hold such events and mentioned that under the new leadership of Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, COMSTECH has initiated a large number of capacity building activities and programs using its strong networking in 57 OIC member states.

He highlighted the need of AI and its application while stressing for innovation creation and marketing the products.

The President congratulated COMSTECH and its partner institutions, including Ministry of S&T, Ministry of IT and Telecommunications and CARE on taking this important initiative. Such showcasing not only encourages a culture of innovation, but serves as a platform for interfacing between business and research institutions, he added.

The President pointed out weakness in human resources and mentioned a major initiative taken by his office to meet this lacking on Artificial Intelligence & Advance Computing (PIAIC) as a youth trainee program, to introduce the youth to these latest technologies.

The President urged to produce software developers, empower women, use software extensively. He stressed the need of motivating and growing the human resources. He mentioned that there are tremendous opportunities in OIC member states to get benefit from the latest technology.
He stressed that the dream of a smart future for our nation cannot be fulfilled without much more vigorous efforts of the business community and greater synergy between the private sector, government, and academic institutions. He wished a very successful exhibition, and a very bright future for COMSTECH in these exciting ventures.

The minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan also addressed the inaugural session. He mentioned that the Ministry of S&T strongly believes that scientific and technological developments in our country must be translated into products and services. The Ministry continues to support research institutions, assured the minister. He mentioned that COMSTECH, science and technology cooperation organization of OIC is the most important international organization Pakistan hosts.

He informed that the Ministry of S&T greatly values the central role that COMSTECH is playing not only in the capacity building of OIC countries through bilateral and multilateral linkages and exchanges, but also its pivotal role in presenting the best of Pakistan’s scientific and technological capabilities for the promotion of export of high technology products. We are closely working with the COMSTECH for the success of a large number of initiatives and programs, which have been launched under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary.

He mentioned that COMSTECH is a most prestigious organization with the mandate to bring socio-economic development through S&T in 57 OIC member states and suggested measures to raise funding for COMSTECH projects. He urged the need of STEM education and the use of 5G technology, programmes in AI, Drone development and the unity among the Muslim world. He disclosed that Pakistan is 4th largest software exporters which we need to showcase.

Coordinator General COMSTECH also addressed the event and briefed the President about 120 new programmes of COMSTECH to promote science and technology between the OIC member states. He mentioned that main focus of COMSTECH programmes is to develop skills and capacity of youth of the OIC region in modern technologies. He also mentioned that COMSTECH is projecting Pakistan’s image as scientifically leading country through inter- and intra-Islamic initiatives.
In his welcome address, Mr. M. Aamir, Project Director, CARE, a partner organization of this event, said that the impact of AI alone on the global GDP is expected to be 15.7 trillion USD. Countries around the globe are strategizing to take maximum benefit from these technologies. If Pakistan captures even a miniscule percentage like 1% of this market, it values 157 billion USD something like 25 trillion Pak Rupees.

Twenty-six exhibitors from industry, academia, research centers and strategic organizations from all over Pakistan participated in this exhibition and showcased their products and services in areas of Health, Internet of Things, Virtual Assistants & Chatbots, Big Data & Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Digital Transformation – 5G, Virtual Augmented Reality, Block Chain, and Business Intelligence. A large number of students and researchers visited this two-day exhibition.

Addressing the closing ceremony Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary congratulated the partner organizations, including Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications of Pakistan and Center for Advanced Research in Engineering (CARE) for holding this event successfully. He assured that COMSTECH would organize such events in future in advanced cutting-edge technologies throughout OIC member states. He mentioned that main focus of COMSTECH programmes is to develop skills and capacity of youth of OIC region in modern technologies. He also mentioned that COMSTECH is projecting Pakistan’s image as scientifically leading country through inter- and intra-Islamic initiatives.