



COMSTech News

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ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

From Coordinator General's Desk



Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary
H.I., S.I., T.I.

Science is apolitical, and non-dogmatic. It has no boundaries and its dialectal pursuit can help in solving profound and mundane problems between nations, and ideologies. Science for the betterment of human

race, and planet earth is a great unifying force. The world faces many global challenges today, which can only be met with international cooperation, deploying science and technology with a global ownership.

The current urban floods and torrential rains in Pakistan's commercial hub, Karachi, hampered almost all business activities in the city and caused billions of trade and infrastructure losses, is an example of the climate change impact. Similar phenomenon has been observed in many other OIC member states, including Bangladesh. The climate change impact is devastating, it warrants international cooperation to deal with. Similarly, global health challenges of pandemics, infectious diseases, and metabolic disorders demand cooperation between nations regardless of cast and creed.

Unfortunately, during the recent pandemic of COVID-19, international cooperation was all time low. COMSTech with the core mission

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COMSTech Fellowships for Research and Advanced Training in Virology and Vaccine Technologies

COMSTech offers fellowships to young scientists in OIC countries to enable them to spend 3 months at a relevant centre of excellence in an OIC member state, other than their own. The purpose of these fellowships is to enhance the research and development capacity of promising scientists, especially those at the beginning of their research career, helping them to foster linkages for further collaboration in the field of virology and vaccine technology. For further details and application submission please browse <http://www.comstech.org/comstech-fellowships.aspx> ■

COMSTech Program for Technical Training

COMSTech offers internship to technical personnel in developing OIC countries to enable them to spend 4-6 weeks at a centre of excellence/university in OIC member state, and learn the operations, trouble shooting and related details of state-of-the-art instrumentations. The purpose of these fellowships is to strengthen the capacity of technical manpower in the effective and optimal use of expensive and sophisticated research equipments. For further details and application submission please visit <http://www.comstech.org/technical-personnels.aspx> ■

COMSTech in Collaboration with UoL Offers Research Fellowships

COMSTech in collaboration with the University of Lahore announces 10 research fellowships, 15 trainings and Indus-Nile forum for academic management training workshops for OIC least developed member states in Asia and Africa.

These scholarships are offered in health and education sectors. The avenues of collaborative efforts between the two institutions have been explored to benefit from mutual collaboration.

This was decided in a meeting held at COMSTech between Coordinator General COMSTech, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and Mr. Awais Raof, Chairman, BoG, The University of Lahore and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Uganda. Mr. Murtaza Noor, National Coordinator IUCPSS Pakistan, also attended the meeting. ■

Science Communication Scientists' Obligation

Science communication is a neglected area in the developing world and we should look at it as a mainstream profession and discipline just like we look at microbiology, physics, chemistry, and engineering, said Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan, while addressing an online webinar on science communication.

She said that Covid-19 taught us a lot of lessons one of which is lack of science literacy among not only in general public but also in policy makers and politicians which was reflected from their statements that did not stand with science.

While talking about the importance of science and technology she asked, is there any country in the world that has developed without strong pillars of science, technology and innovation? She said that the science and technology is the driver of economic development and the general public, politicians, and policy makers need to have a strong science literacy and defined that science literacy means basic knowledge of science to make decisions.

She stressed the development of science culture, so that people like to visit science theater, science museums and science café in their free time and discuss science on dining table. She stressed the need of making science part of culture for a good science communication.

She mentioned that without public acceptance science cannot be commercialized. She stressed the need of science acceptance by the societies by mentioning that nothing can be accepted blindly, the science has to be tested, proven, and validated for acceptance and once it is tested, proven, and validated, public should be open minded and must be able to

evaluate the information and accept it. Science is for everyone, and citizens should participate in science decisions, she urged.

She indicated that the policies, regulations and guidelines which are not based on science can be dangerous and suggested that policies, regulations and funding mechanisms should be based on science.

She urged scientists to become science communicators. There are benefits of science communication. Scientists can influence regulations, raise funding, garner attention, and initiate collaboration with industry by just communicating their research in simple words. Institutional support, political support, commercialization, and public acceptance can only be achieved by science communication, she informed.

She described the fundamental techniques and strategies of science communication in her webinar for science communicators and who are aspirant to be.

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Successful Science Diplomacy Requires Coordinated Effort

Vice Chancellor of QAU, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah pointed out that organizations like COMSTech, Diplomats, Universities and Research Organizations can combine together and foster science diplomacy. He said that policies are made by policy experts, and implemented by institutions, universities and civil society. He has informed that as partner University with COMSTech. We are trying to develop a consortium of 20 universities from OIC member states to look at COVID-19 and many more interests, like economic, health, earth sciences and many other areas of interest. He stressed the use of online platform for education, interaction and discussions.

Mr. Kamran Akhtar Malik, DG, ACDIS, MoFA, Pakistan said that the role of science in diplomacy is not new. Diplomacy has been used to facilitate S&T. Covid-19 reinforced the significance of science diplomacy. He pointed out that science diplomacy is not limited to health, science diplomacy encompasses entire spectrum of S&T areas. He highlighted many diplomatic efforts taken during this pandemic. He recommended adopting multidisciplinary approach for science diplomacy and involving multiple facilitating agencies in the process. He further mentioned that COMSTech, MoST and Universities conduct proper mapping and foresight activities for diplomats.

Farhat Asif, Founder President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, moderated the entire session and explained the aim and reasons behind hosting the Webinar to promote emerging forms of diplomacy and building coalitions amongst the scientists and diplomats in order to boost cooperation to further promote the quick and effective response to the rising national, regional and global challenges and pandemics.

The Webinar was livestreamed and attended by larger number of Diplomats, Ambassadors, Students, Faculty Members and member of civil society with keen interest in Science Diplomacy.

Video of this webinar is available on comstech-oic youtube channel. ■



4-Day Workshop on Environment Modeling Based Requirements Engineering Concludes

4-Day Workshop on Environment Modeling Based Requirements Engineering conducted by Prof. Zhi Jin of Peking University and Prof. Xiohang Chen and organized by COMSTech in collaboration with the IEEE Education Activities Karachi Section.

It was attended by 25 researchers physically and 60 virtually. In his concluding remarks the Vice-Chancellor University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Iraqi, congratulated the participants of the workshop and appreciated the efforts of the organizers and the

collaboration between COMSTech, IEEE Karachi Section and University of Karachi and hoped for future institutional collaborative activities.

Coordinator General, COMSTech, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary thanked the participants, organizers and the resource persons for their tireless effort to conduct this 4-day long workshop. He commended this cooperative effort and hoped that such collaborative joint activities with Chinese institutions will be carried out in the future. ■

Webinar on Hepatitis B and C: “Discovery to Elimination 2030”

On the Occasion of World Hepatitis Day, COMSTech arranged web based seminar to discuss diagnosis and prophylaxis of Hepatitis B & C.

Dr. Wasim talked about targets for the elimination of Hepatitis B & C by 2030. He highlighted the discovery of both HBV and HCV and the prospects of global elimination as per WHO's vision of 2030 elimination target. This webinar was attended by a large number of health experts,



physicians, academicians, scientists, public health officials and general public from OIC member states.

Prof. Dr. Wasim Jafri, is Professor of Medicine, Consultant, Gastroenterologist & Hepatologist, Director World Gastroenterology Training Centre, Aga Khan University and Director centre of Digestive and Liver diseases South City Hospital Karachi Pakistan conducted this seminar.

This webinar is available on comstech-oic youtube channel. ■

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From Coordinator General's Desk

of using science and technology for human well-being is striving to bridge this gap, and to reconnect nations, and international organizations for global common good.

In this pursuit, COMSTech is working closely with OIC-WHO working group on healthcare, UNESCO science and technology office (Jakarta), European Union, TWAS, IFS, etc., along with many sister organizations in OIC member states. COMSTech welcomes every suggestion which strengthens S&T cooperation between countries for a better future of humanity, and other fellow living beings. ■

COMSTech Courses & Webinars

1. Online Certificate Course on Intellectual Property for Scientists
2. Online Certificate Course on Serological Testing SARSCOV2
3. Online Workshop on Innovation in Entrepreneurship Education
4. Webinar on Light and Polymers
5. Webinar on Science Advice to Governments

For detailed information and registration in any event mentioned above please visit www.comstech.org

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Science Communication Scientists' Obligation

At the end of her talk she quoted famous physicist, Richard Feynman "The ultimate test of your knowledge is your capacity to convey it to another".

Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTech, introduced the speaker and the topic to the audience and said that the lack of science communication has been seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and stressed the need of science communication.

This webinar was organized by COMSTech, more than 75 researchers attended it online. Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujan, Executive Director, Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre, and Global Coordinator, International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotech Applications delivered this webinar.

Video of this webinar is available on comstech-oic youtube channel. ■



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