



## Progress on “Implementation of STI Agenda 2026”



**Institution Name:** COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad

**Period:** January to June 2020

Sr. No.	Priority No., Title	Activity Title, date, Venue	Corresponding to Implementation Workplan Activity No.	Status	Outcome / Steps
1.	<b>Implementation of OIC STI Agenda 2026, according to directives of the Astana Declaration 2017.</b>	<b>Titles:</b> 2-Day Meeting of COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Networks (IINETs). <b>Date:</b> 14-15 January 2020 COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad.  <b>Attended by:</b> Inter-Islamic Networks on: Space Sciences and Technology ( <b>ISNET</b> ), Information Technology ( <b>INIT</b> ), Oceanography ( <b>INOC</b> ), Water Resources Development & Management ( <b>INWRDAM</b> ), Nano-Technology ( <b>INN</b> ), Science and Technology Parks ( <b>INSTP</b> ), Virtual Universities ( <b>CINVU</b> ).		Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agreement on sharing of various responsibilities by networks for implementation of STI Agenda;</li><li>• Agreement of seeking enhanced support of host countries for the respective networks hosted by them.</li><li>• Guidance of COMSTECH to the networks on possible avenues for acquiring financial support for their plans.</li></ul>

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2.	<b>Priority # 3b: Safety of Water, Food and the Environment.</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> Virtual Workshop on “Developing National Gene Banks in the OIC Member States”.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 5-6 July 2020</p> <p>Organized by IOFS in partnership with COMSTECH, Dubai Food Security Organization, the FAO headquarters, Italy, the General Secretariat of OIC, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA).</p>	Preserving plant diversity & genetic resources	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dubai Declaration</b> issued as outcome document of Workshop; called among other things for the utilisation of the traditional Islamic financial product of Wakf to finance the establishment of a Seed and Gene Wakf (Endowment Trust)</li> <li>• COMSTECH shared the outlines of a five country project on genebank development and development of new varieties being prepared with FAO support</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Priority # 3b: Safety of Water, Food and the Environment.</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> New Breeding Technologies for Food and Nutritional Security (COMCEC Supported project on Agriculture).</p> <p>a. Training workshop on Genome Editing Vectors &amp; Protocols for Wheat, Rice and potato Date: 28-29 September 2020</p> <p>b. Workshop on Roadmap for commercialization of new breeds and inclusion of elite gene pool for nutritional crops Date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University (NOHU), Turkey.</p>	i. Preserving plant diversity & genetic resources.	Originally scheduled for May-June 2020.  Re-Scheduled to end of September due to COVID-19	<p>Developing self-reliance in OIC countries for natural and genetically modified crop varieties.</p> <p>Developing cooperation between leading groups on new breeding technologies in Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.</p>

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4.	<p><b>Priority # 4: Ensure healthy Lives for all citizens</b></p> <p><b>Strengthening public health through research and technological advancement</b></p>	<p><b>1. COMSTECH-Fellowships for Research and Advanced Training in Virology and Vaccine Technologies.</b> COMSTECH jointly offer fellowships to young scientists in OIC countries to enable them to spend 3 months at a relevant center of excellence in an OIC country, other than their own.</p> <p><b>2. COMSTECH Program for Training of Technical Personnel.</b> COMSTECH announces internships to technical personnel in developing OIC countries to enable them to spend 4-6 weeks at a center of excellence/ university in OIC member state.</p> <p><b>3. Formation of Regional Working Group on Health</b> Officials of WHO-EMRO-OIC working group, and COMSTECH held a video meeting on 1st July 2020 discuss the formation of a Working Group to build</p>	<p><b>4.c. Extensive medical research and clinical programs</b></p> <p><b>4.d. Creation of trained epidemiologists.</b></p> <p><b>4.e. Training of medics, para medics and technicians</b></p>	<p>Fellowships have been announced;</p> <p>Applications invited.</p> <p>Announced</p> <p>In progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The goals are to enhance the research and development capacity of promising young scientists, helping them to foster linkages for further collaboration in the field of virology and vaccine technology.</li> <li>Trainees to 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. Their short term visit is expected to foster links for further collaboration.</li> <li>Revival of earlier OIC-WHO EMRO agreement under consideration by both parties, with COMSTECH as a partner in implementation of the initiatives.</li> </ul>

		<p>institutional capacity of the OIC member states to combat the viral pandemics, while in the longer run, the group would address other pressing and widespread public health issues of OIC member states.</p> <p><b>4. COMSTech Networks OIC Labs to Develop Diagnostic Kits for COVID-19.</b></p> <p>The Coordinator General COMSTech, had a virtual meeting with 22 scientists and heads of the virology diagnostic laboratories in Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Gambia, Sénégal, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, and Azerbaijan. to explore intra-OIC collaboration for capacity building of the laboratories.</p> <p><b>5. Projecting indigenous efforts of member states in developing COVID-19 related technologies.</b></p> <p>COMSTech has collected information on the efforts of member states to develop indigenous medical technology responses to combat the spread of the COVID-19.</p>		<p>In progress.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to the suggestions of the participants COMSTech offered two online training courses in collaboration with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, Karachi, and National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, this year, for building capacities of the scientists in testing and developing diagnostic kits for COVID-19.</li> <li>• The information is shared on COMSTech website for enabling possible sharing of technologies and learned experiences between Member States. (give link)</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>6. Online Certificate Course on Diagnosis of COVID-19:</b> Sample Collection, RNA Extraction, PCR, Data Interpretation, and Serology, 18-20 AUGUST 2020.</p> <p><b>Webinars on Different aspects of COVID -19</b></p> <p>1.Pakistan Randomized and Observational Trial to Evaluate Coronavirus Treatment (PROTECT)”, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 by Prof. Dr. Ghazna Khalid, Pakistan.</p> <p>2.COVID-19 Epidemiology Evidence Based Policy and Prospects for Vaccine, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, by Prof. Dr. Saad B. Omer, Director of the Yale Institute for Global Health at the Yale University, USA.</p> <p>3.Covid 19 Pandemic and related health issues,10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 by Prof. Dr. Wasim Jafri, Aga Khan University of Health Sciences, Pakistan.</p> <p>4.Hepatitis B and C “Discovery to Elimination 2030”, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020, by Prof. Dr. Wasim Jafri, ,Aga Khan University of Health Sciences, Pakistan.</p>		<p>Scheduled</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activity will clarify the diagnostic workflow of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.</li> <li>• Capacity building in combating COVID-19</li> </ul>
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5.	<b>Priorities #5. Improve the quality of higher Education and Research.</b>	a. 2019 COMSTECH Lifetime Achievement Awards in Mathematics and Physics; Young Researcher Award, Best Scientific Book, Best Patent Award, Best Research Paper (Biology, chemistry, Mathematics, Physics).	3. Initiate innovation awards; 4. Initiate best research publication awards annually (quality based) separately for various S&T fields	Call for awards made in August 2019.  Refereeing of awards is in final stages.	Announcement of 2019 winners is expected by end of September 2020.
6.	<b>Priority #5. Improve the quality of higher Education and Research.</b>	b. <b>Webinar</b> on Status of STI in the OIC Region By H.E. Prof. Dr. Adnan Badran Former Prime Minister of Jordan Chancellor, University of Petra., 22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2020		Completed	
7.	<b>Priority #7: Big Data and Digital Economy Building Knowledge Economy in the OIC Region through Digital Skills Development</b>	<b>Title:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> COMSTECH – Showcasing of Artificial Intelligence and IoT Products & Services. <b>Date:</b> 4-5 August 2020 <b>Venue:</b> COMSTECH Secretariat Exhibition and Lectures on Virtual Augmented Reality, Block Chain, and Business Intelligence etc.	<b>Digital Skills Development programme</b> c. Development of digital skills development platform for the OIC member countries	Completed.  Co-organized by COMSTECH in partnership with Min. of S&T, GoP.	Over 120 applications were received; Twenty-six exhibitors were shortlisted to showcase their products/services. Exhibitors from industry, academia, research centers and strategic organizations from all over Pakistan showcased their products and services in areas of Health, Internet of Things, Big Data & Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Digital Transformation – 5G

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8.	<p><b>Priority # 8:</b> <b>Managing Energy Requirements</b></p> <p>Sustainable Energy projects</p>	<p><b>Title:</b> “International Workshop on Sustainable Cities: Issues &amp; Challenges of Rapid Urbanization” <b>Date:</b>28-29, January 2020. <b>Venue:</b> COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad (Supported by OIC General Secretariat)</p>	<p>a. Energy efficiency in power generation, efficient heating, cooling systems. b. Capacity Building Trainings, conferences &amp; workshops</p>	Completed	The 2-day physical workshop gathered over 80 scientists, experts, policy makers and young research scholars from 7 OIC Member States.
9.	<p><b>Priority #.9</b> <b>Environment, climate change and sustainability</b></p> <p>Improve natural disaster mitigation.</p>	<p><b>Title: 4-days Hands-on Virtual Workshop</b> on Environment Modeling based Requirements Engineering, <b>Date:</b> 21-24 AUGUST 2020</p>	ii. Devise risk management and vulnerability studies	Scheduled	After the tutorial, participants will be able to know the basic principles of requirements engineering as well as the essence of environment modeling.