**From Coordinator General’s Desk**

COMSTECH organized a virtual orientation session on Palestine programme which includes offer of research fellowships and scholarships for Palestinian nationals by the Pakistani member universities of COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence. The Coordinator General COMSTECH welcomed the participants of the session and said that he is absolutely pleased to have this session and delighted to have very prominent officials from Palestine along with the Ambassador of Palestine in Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Jawad Qazi. Prof. Choudhary said that this programme of scholarships and research fellowships is indeed a culmination of lots of thoughts and work in which the Palestinian science and technology to achieve development in Nigeria. Both the dignitaries discussed avenues of mutual cooperation for the enhancement and application of science and technology to achieve socio-economic development in Nigeria. Prof. Choudhary invited top universities of Nigeria to join the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE) which is an inter-agency science and technology initiative. The message of the Secretary General of OIC, H. E. Hisssein Ibrahim Talha, was delivered by the Assistant Secretary General of S&T, Ambassador Askar Mustinov. Mr. Talha said that the world environment day is an important international day for world environment. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) joins the international community in celebrating this day. He said This year's theme “Only one Earth” with the focus on “living sustainably in harmony with nature” gives us opportunity to protect our earth and adopt green technologies. He said the developed countries must encourage and support developing countries to develop green technologies. He said the OIC attaches high importance to the concerns related to environment, climate change, and sustainable development.
COMSTECH Organizes "Al-Farabi-Iqbal" Forum in Almaty

Almaty hosted the International “Al-Farabi - Iqbal” forum organized jointly by the International Turkic Academy, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and COMSTECH during May 26-27.

The forum was opened by the speeches of the President of the International Turkic Academy, Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Chairman-Rector of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Deputy Minister of Education and Science along with representatives of international organizations.

Several books such as proceedings of the “Al-Farabi Global Forum”, Allama Muhammad Iqbal's book “Reconstruction of Islamic Thought”, Al-Farabi's book “El-Farabi Kitabul Musika'l-Kebir” and “Encyclopedia of Iqbal” have been presented in the forum in English, Kazakh, Russian, Urdu and Azerbaijani languages.

The forum was attended by prominent experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, Pakistan, Great Britain, Russia, Tajikistan and the OIC member states.

OIC Institutions for S&T Approve Multiple Projects

On the sidelines of the recently concluded OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting, the Steering Committee for implementation of the OIC-SCI Agenda 2026 held a day-long meeting at the COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad on 24th March 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress and utility of S&T initiatives for the OIC states.

The meeting organized and chaired by COMSTECH was attended by all the leading institutions and specialized organizations of the OIC that focus on different areas of science, technology, innovation, and their applications.

Besides COMSTECH, which is the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Science and Technological Cooperation, hosted by Pakistan, the heads and representatives of twelve OIC organizations participated physically, while two organizations participated online.

The Committee approved an extended Plan of Action based on joint initiatives involving various member organizations and partners in areas such as higher education and research, health, medicine, vaccine development, food security, water resources, emerging technologies, promoting innovation, and the organization of science competitions, etc.

The special consideration of the meeting was the decision to focus strongly on the lessor developed African countries and to create programs for the development of their manpower and useful technologies. The meeting strongly endorsed the need not only to support programs that channelize science and technology for development, but also to create programs that inculcate the spirit of inquiry and creativity in our youth.

The Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and reviewed the work of the Committee for the past few years and the plans for the future. He also presented to the Committee the prototypes of the ongoing COMSTECH initiative on preparing SCI reports for each of the OIC member states.

The representative from SESRIG presented a detailed statistical report on the general development of STI in member states.

It was decided to constitute expert committees to review the progress of several projects and to initiate various joint efforts as presented in the approved Action Matrix and also to set in motion the implementation of science and technology agenda based on the COMSTECH and SESRIG reports.

CG Meets Russian Representative to OIC & Envoy in Pakistan

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary had a meeting with H.E. Mr. Danila Ganich, the Permanent Representative to OIC and Envoy in Pakistan.

H.E. Mr. Danila Ganich appreciated the role of COMSTECH in health, science, technology, higher education and climate in OIC member states and informed that COMSTECH is conducting about four training sessions monthly and has established a network of 20 institutions.

He explored the avenues of joint initiatives in the areas of disaster management, training in health sector, and primary diagnostic surveillance.

CG COMSTECH Calls on WHO Representative in Pakistan

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary called on WHO country representative in Pakistan, Dr. Palitha Mahipala at WHO office in Islamabad.

Prof. Choudhary highlighted the role of COMSTECH in health, science, technology, higher education and climate in OIC member states and informed that COMSTECH is conducting about four training sessions monthly and has established a network of 20 institutions.

He explored the avenues of joint initiatives in the areas of disaster management, training in health sector, and primary diagnostic surveillance.

Dr. Palitha Mahipala appreciated the efforts of Prof. Choudhary for capacity building in healthcare. She said that WHO and COMSTECH can work together in telemedicine with respect to maternal and child health.

Dr. Mahipala proposed that patient safety, research in primary healthcare and strengthening of operational research are the areas where both organizations can work together.

It was also discussed that WHO (Pakistan) will work towards recognition of COMSTECH as WHO collaborating center. Dr. Abdur Rashid, Consultant (Health Initiatives), COMSTECH was also present in meeting.

From Coordinator General’s Desk

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To meet the country specific needs, the COMSTECH has launched S&T and health capacity building program with Yemen, while similar programs are finalized with Nigeria, Sudan, and Lebanon, Africa, where most of our member states are located, is in need of urgent attention. Health, and climate change are areas where major interventions are required to build local capacities to meet the emerging challenges.

In collaboration of IABR, OIC-G5, and LRBT, a major ophthalmology program is underway in many countries. Similar training programs on neuro-critical care, public health, biomedical equipment, etc are also being launched.

We are very proud of the excellent support of our partners within the OIC system (IsDB, SMIC, IJPS, WDO, etc) and beyond (IFS, NTD-GCRF, TWAS, UNESCO, etc) in this noble mission.

Special mention is of the support of the member institutions of COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence, located in Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Uganda, Tanzania (Russia), etc.

These are only a few of many programs of COMSTECH. We expect support and feedback from all of you, which will enable COMSTECH to serve even better in future.

CCoE Member Institutions
COMSTECH Offers Host of Programs to Nigeria for S&T Development

Ms. Aazha Maazhar Bukhari Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In his message, the Minister of Science and Technology appreciated the efforts of the COMSTECH, COMSATECH and the Ambassador of Yemen for their efforts in providing the young Pakistani students with such a wonderful opportunity. He appreciated the importance of capacity building programs for the Yemeni nationals.

He appreciated the generous offering of the Ministry of Education and Science of Yemen University of Lahore, Health Sciences University, and COMSTECH consortium of universities. Mr. Balde encouraged all the Yemeni students to take advantage of this opportunity and make them partner in the field of higher education.

He thanked the Yemeni students for their participation and urged them to take full advantage of this opportunity and be a part of this initiative.

CG COMSTECH Calls on Uzbek Ambassador

The Coordination General of COMSTECH, visited the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan and expressed the importance of the scientific and technological cooperation between COMSTECH and Uzbekistan.

The Coordination General discussed the organization of 2nd OIC robotics competition and Olympiad in mathematics and astronomy. They also discussed the possibility of global cooperation between the members of Mirza Muhammad Government of Yemen.

The Coordination General appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the government of Pakistan in promoting scientific and technological cooperation and work together.

Nigerian Delegation Visits COMSTECH

A nine-member delegation of Raw Material Research and Development Council, Abuja, Nigeria on visit during June 19-25, 2022, visited the Coordination General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary to learn about the current programs and discussed the possibility of COMSTECH collaborative initiatives.

The visit was arranged by COMSTECH under reverse programs of Islamic Development Bank.

The Coordination General welcomed the delegation and discussed the current programs of COMSTECH to meet the needs of the African continent.

They exchanged ideas on the establishment of a center on information technology and artificial intelligence in Nigeria. They also discussed the possibility of global cooperation between the members of Mirza Muhammad Government of Yemen.

The Coordination General appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the government of Pakistan in promoting scientific and technological cooperation and work together.

Seasoned Diplomat of Pakistani Launches A Handbook on Economic Diplomacy

The launch ceremony of “A Handbook on International Economic Diplomacy” written by Ambassador Mr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Pakistan envoy to Washington, DC, and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rashid Ali, was held at the COMSTECH in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan.

Ambassador Mr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey said that the diplomat’s aim of the book is to nurture good relations with other nations and for which the book is mainly connected with other nations, relations would automatically get better and strong. He said that the diplomat’s mission is to spend their 90% time to meet business communities to enhance the exports of their countries. He advised to make achievable time bound goals to get excellence in economic development.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said that the book is a concise and comprehensive guide to understand the economic development of a country and its desire to be read by all, particularly those who are in the foreign service.

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Training on GIS and Remote Sensing

COMSTECH organized two weeks long comprehensive virtual training on Geographical Information System (GIS) and Satellite Remote Sensing: Application for Natural Hazards, Land Cover and Water Resources. The training was organized in collaboration with International Islamic University in Uganda, National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar and Department of Forestry, Shahed Benazir Bhutto University, Dir Upper. The training aimed to develop the participants’ basic knowledge of space technology and GIS and to be able to acquire free resources, satellite data and open access software to further enhance the capacity and apply that in their field of interest. Prof. Dr. Ismail, Rector Islamic University, Uganda, The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Shafiq from the National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar addressed the inaugural session. Above 100 students, researchers and scientists from around the OIC address the inaugural session included particularly from African region attended the training.

Webinar on Wilson’s Disease

COMSTECH organized webinar on neurosciences Wilson’s disease: the gene, and disease. The webinar was delivered by Prof. Xiao-Ping Wang, Director, Department of Neurology, Shanghai TongRen Hospital, Shanghai Jiao-tong University Medical School, Shanghai. The Patron-in-Chief of the International Center for Biological and Chemical Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, and former federal minister for science and technology, Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman introduced the speaker and said it is a real pleasure to introduce Prof. Wang and we are very fortunate to have him in Karachi at ICCBS. Prof. Atta said, Prof. Wang is a very distinguished scientist. Prof. Wang talked about the history of Wilson’s disease and the modern neurology. He shed light on the neuroscientific and therapeutic work of different scientists on this disease. Prof. Wang also talked about China research exchange initiatives. He said it can mostly be cured, early diagnosis and treatment is very important in managing and treating this disease. Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary in his concluding comment appreciated the work, contribution to the science, and the presentation of Prof. Wang. He appreciated the work of Dr. Wang in the tradition medicine and expressed his help in managing and treating this disease. Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary in his concluding comment appreciated the work, contribution to the science, and the presentation of Prof. Wang. He appreciated the work of Dr. Wang in the tradition medicine and expressed his help in managing and treating this disease.

Workshop on Cancer Genetics

3-day online workshop on Cancer Genetics organized jointly by COMSTECH, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), and Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (SICD) Network during March 21, 22, and 24, 2022 at Latif Ibrar Jamali National Science Information Centre (ICCBS) University of Karachi. The workshop consists of lectures and expressions by renowned expert Prof. Dr. Rafat Ali Siddiqui Senior Investigator at the Methodist University, Pennsylvania and also professor of Cellular Biochemistry, Indiana University School of Medicine, USA.

CG COMSTECH

The Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia at LSHTM (MRCU) was inaugurated a new Clinical Trials Facility at Banjulining Health Centre on Wednesday 22 June 2022.

The new facility funded by PATH, was constructed for the execution of clinical trials that require small sample sizes, typically 3, double blinded, randomized, controlled trial to assess the safety of the vaccine (nOVP2 vaccine in infants and young children, and lot-to-lot consistency of the immune response to nOVP2 infants in The Gambia.

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