



# COMSTECH

MINISTERIAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION OF ORGANIZATION OF  
ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)

***BUILDING S&T CAPACITY  
OF OIC MEMBER STATES***





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST BENEFICIENT & MERCIFUL



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## COMSTECH in brief

COMSTECH the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) was established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia in January 1981.

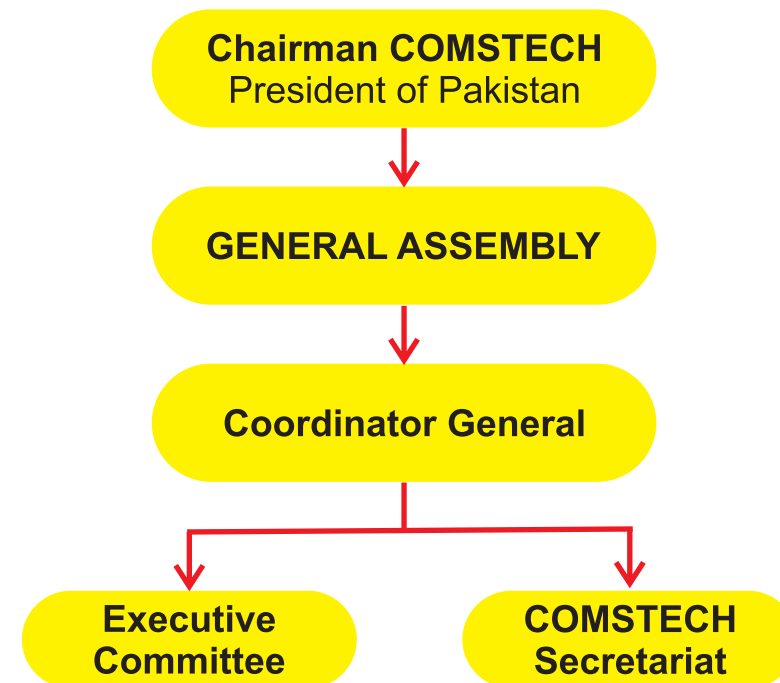
COMSTECH is composed of all the member states of OIC represented by their ministers of science and technology and chaired by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is Co-Chairman of COMSTECH.

The structure of the COMSTECH consists upon General Assembly, Executive Committee; General Secretariat and COMSTECH Secretariat. The COMSTECH Secretariat functions under the supervision and control of the Coordinator General who is its Chief Executive.

The core mandate of COMSTECH is to strengthen cooperation among OIC member states in science and technology (S&T), and enhance their capabilities through training in emerging areas, undertake follow-up-actions and implementation of the resolutions of the OIC, and to draw up programs and submit proposals designed to increase the capability of the Muslim countries in science and technology (S&T).

The ultimate aim is to build and nourish a scientific culture in addition to using S&T as a major contributor to socio-economic development and rapid industrialization.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



### COMSTECH General Assembly

COMSTECH General Assembly is the main decision making body, composed of the ministers of science and technology/ higher education of OIC member states.

## Coordinator General COMSTECH



The president of Pakistan appointed Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary the Coordinator General of COMSTECH in April 2020.

Prof. Choudhary is a world renowned medicinal chemist. He has published 1,175 research papers in the fields of organic and bioorganic chemistry in international journals, 76 books and 40 chapters in books published by major US and European press. He has secured 40 US patents so far.

Dr. Choudhary's work has been cited by the researchers from around the world by 36,000 times and his h-index is 80. By now 102 national and international scholars have completed their PhD degrees under his supervision.

Dr. Choudhary is D.Sc., Ph.D., and C. Chem. He has been awarded by different governments of Pakistan with Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. He has also received prestigious Mustafa<sup>(pbuh)</sup> Prize 2021, Friendship Award of Peoples Republic of China (2022), ECO Award (2005), Khawarzimi Award (2006), COMSTECH Award (2011), TWAS Young Scientist Award (1994), and Prof. Abdus Salam Prize (1989).

He is a fellow of world renowned science academies: Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, Islamic World academy of Sciences, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of Chemistry, and Chemical Society of Pakistan.

Prof. Choudhary started a number of programs for the capacity building and socio-economic development of OIC member states.



## COMSTECH-IFS Research Grants Program



COMSTECH and International Foundation for Science (IFS), Stockholm, started joint program in 1998. The purpose of the collaboration is to enhance research capability in the OIC region.

This Program has so far financed 358 research projects amounting to US\$ 3.898 million in 32 OIC member states: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote D'ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somali, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-ifs-research-grants-programme/>

## COMSTECH-ICGEB Cooperation Program



COMSTECH signed a memorandum of understanding with International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in April 2022, to establish a general framework for cooperation in science, education, and technology.

COMSTECH-ICGEB program, launched in January 2022, is offering research grants, fellowships and visiting professorship scheme to organize workshops in emerging technologies for capacity building of OIC states in various aspects of biotechnology and genetic engineering.

ICGEB is based in Trieste, (Italy), Durban (South Africa), and New Delhi (India).

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/icgeb-comstech-scientific-cooperation-programme/>

## COMSTECH-TWAS Science in Exile Fellowship Program



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) have partnered with COMSTECH in 2021 to launch the Science in Exile Fellowship Program for displaced and refugee scholars and scientists.

The fellowship program aims to provide displaced and refugee scholars and scientists who have not yet found a safe and long-term host country to pursue doctoral studies in Pakistan, at institutions which are members of the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE).

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-twas-science-exile/>

## COMSTECH Research Fellowships for OIC LDCs



In April 2022, COMSTECH and member Institutions of COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence jointly offer research fellowships to young researcher in OIC countries to enable them to spend 6-12 months at a relevant center of excellence in many listed institutions of OIC member states.

The purpose of these fellowships is to enhance the research and development capacity of promising researchers and engineers, and helping them to foster linkages for further collaboration in their fields, especially those who are from least developed OIC member states and are at the beginning of their research career.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-research-fellowships-for-least-developed-countries-2/>



## COMSTECH Fellowships for Virology and Vaccine Technologies



In 2021, COMSTECH in collaboration with key centers of excellence in OIC countries, announced the training scholarship in the fields of virology and vaccine technology. This is indeed an attempt to prepare next generation of scientists of OIC nations to meet the challenge of current and future pandemics/epidemics.

COMSTECH jointly offered fellowships to young scientists from OIC countries to enable them to spend 3 months at a relevant center of excellence in another OIC country.

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 fields of virology and vaccine technology.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-fellowships/>

## COMSTECH Scholarships and Fellowships for Palestine Nationals



COMSTECH has launched in 2022 a special program offering scholarships, research fellowships, technicians training & workshop participation grants for Palestinian students.

This program is a collaborative effort of the member institutions of COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence, Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan, and COMSTECH.

These scholarships and research fellowships are being provided to undergraduate, graduate students, and research fellows. Workshop participation is being facilitated for the students, Scientists, Engineers and technicians of the State of Palestine.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-scholarships-for-palestinian-nationals/>

## COMSTECH Research Fellowship Program for Muslim Minorities in Non-OIC Countries

Muslim minorities in Non-OIC states comprise of 500 million Muslims which constitute one third of the total Muslim population. With such large population spread all over the world, the complexity of social and economic problems of these Muslims have gained immense importance for the OIC.

COMSTECH and CCoE (COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence) member Institutions in Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Iran, Indonesia and Uganda jointly offer research fellowships to young researcher in Muslim minorities in Non-OIC countries, to enable them to spend 6-12 months under COMSTECH fellowship program at a relevant center of excellence in many listed institutions of OIC member states. The purpose of these fellowships is to enhance the research and development capacity of promising researchers and engineers from Muslim minorities in the Non-OIC member states who are at the beginning of their

research career, to help them to foster linkages for further collaboration in their fields. Therefore, through this initiative, COMSTECH wishes to promote economic, technological and social change, and build capacity of the Muslim minorities. The major focus of COMSTECH has been on higher education and human resource development of Muslims brethren. The program was started in November 2022.



**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-research-fellowship-program-for-muslim-minorities-in-non-oic-countries/>



## COMSTECH Research Fellowships for Women Scientists in OIC LDCs

In August 2022, COMSTECH and CCoE (COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence) member Institutions started offering research fellowships to young women researcher/ scientists/ engineers in OIC countries to enable them to spend 6-12 months at a relevant center of excellence in many listed institutions of OIC member states. The purpose of these fellowships is to enhance the research and development capacity of promising women researchers and engineers from the OIC least developed countries at the beginning of their research career, helping them to foster linkages for further collaboration in their fields.



**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-research-fellowships-for-women-scientists-ldc-oic/>

## COMSTECH-IOFS Research Fellowships in Food Security



Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) & COMSTECH have agreed in May 2022 on cooperating to enhance the capacity of OIC member states particularly LDCs in the field of food security by arranging research fellowships for researchers in this discipline.

The purpose of these fellowships is to provide opportunities to OIC researchers to perform short/medium term research work or acquire training in specialized techniques in Agri-Tech and systemic understanding of food security governance at the relevant advanced research centers in OIC countries.

Sixty percent of these fellowships have been reserved for OIC LDCs. Gender balance amongst the awardees is ensured.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-iofs-research-food-security/>

## COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE)

COMSTECH has launched “COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE)” in September 2020 comprising upon key academic, science, technology and engineering research institutions of OIC member countries.

The strategic intent of the CCoE is to:

Create S&T interdependence among OIC member countries.

Build capacity in key areas of S&T through exchange programs and Institutional linkages.

Provide enabling environment to increase investment, and trade through technology-based projects within OIC member countries.

Build an ecosystem of collaboration and enable knowledge-based economic growth in the OIC region.

Currently, 45 universities from OIC member states have joined the consortium as full member or as associate members, and a number of S&T capacity building programs are underway at different institutions.

### Member Institutions of the Consortium



URL: <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-consortium-of-excellence-ccoe/>



## COMSTECH-CCoE Kyrgyzstan Program



COMSTECH and Kyrgyzstan are in process to launch the COMSTECH-Kyrgyzstan Program. The program will include research fellowships, international workshops, exhibitions of products developed by the universities, and technicians training program.

Research fellowships will be offered to young researchers/scientists/engineers of Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan to enable them to spend 6-12 months at a relevant center of excellence in of OIC states, especially in Pakistan. International workshops will be organized in Pakistan, in the areas of climate change, healthcare, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, machine learning and deep learning. Exhibitions of products, developed by the students/researchers in the universities of Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan, will be organized. Technicians/Researchers from Kyrgyzstan will spend 4-6 weeks at a center of excellence/ university in OIC member states to learn the operations of the state-of-the-art instruments.

## COMSTECH-CCoE Nigeria Program



In September 2022, COMSTECH launched COMSTECH-Nigeria Program for science and technology capacity building in Nigeria.

COMSTECH-Nigeria Program includes launching of women scientist research fellowship program, institution linkages between Nigeria and Pakistan, capacity building of Nigerian scholars and students, launching of book comprising of joint research publications and patents of Pakistani and Nigerian scientists, industrial internship of Nigerian professionals in food processing and value addition, and study visit of Pakistani students to Nigeria.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-nigeria-st-cooperation/>

## COMSTECH-CCoE Sudan Program



COMSTECH is in process to launch “COMSTECH-Sudan Collaborative Program in Science and Technology” for the capacity building of Sudanese scientists and students. The COMSTECH-Sudan Program will include:

1. **Fellowship Program**
2. **Workshops and Training Courses**
3. **Compilation of a Book of Joint Research Publications and Patents**
4. **Women in Science Fellowship Program**
5. **Skill Development Fellowship Program**

## COMSTECH-CCoE Somalia Program



COMSTECH is in process to launch a collaborative S&T program with Somalia to invite top two universities to join the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence, offer training in agriculture, food security, health, technician training, fellowships and conduct health camps in the fields of ophthalmology/ cataract surgery and capacity building workshops.

## COMSTECH-CCoE Yemen Program



COMSTECH in collaboration with Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Islamabad launched “COMSTECH-CCoE Yemen Program” in June 2022 for the capacity building of Yemeni scientists. H. E. Mohammed Motahar Alashabi, the Ambassador of Yemen had a series of meetings with Coordinator General COMSTECH to start this program.

Under this program COMSTECH initially announces 50 fellowships for Yemeni nationals who are currently in Yemen. These fellowships are being offered by members of COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE), International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) (University of Karachi), The University of Lahore, Lahore, and Health Services Academy (HSA), Islamabad.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-ccoe-yemen-programme-announcement/>

## OIC Technology and Innovation Portal



The COMSTECH Technology and Innovation Portal is a digital platform to showcase the prowess of scientists, innovators from the OIC world. The portal is in line with the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Agenda 2026 initiated by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). It provides an ecosystem to key actors in OIC states to showcase innovative solutions and technologies that tackle the challenges within the OIC world and to build a culture of science and innovation amongst the Muslim nations.

The portal enables innovators, startups, SMEs, academics, governments and NGOs, to benefit from this tailor-made database. It will bring meaningful change to the lives of millions of people across the OIC member countries by giving every scientist, technologist and innovator an opportunity to make a difference to the Muslim world.

The portal was launched in October 2021.

**URL:** <https://technologyportal.comstech.org/>



## COMSTECH STI Profiles of OIC Member States



The member countries of the OIC are vigorously engaged with science, technology and innovation, both as a pursuit of knowledge and in harnessing the forces of nature for human betterment. Depending on their circumstances they have advanced to different levels, but much needs to be done, in general, to catch up with the attainments of the more advanced countries.

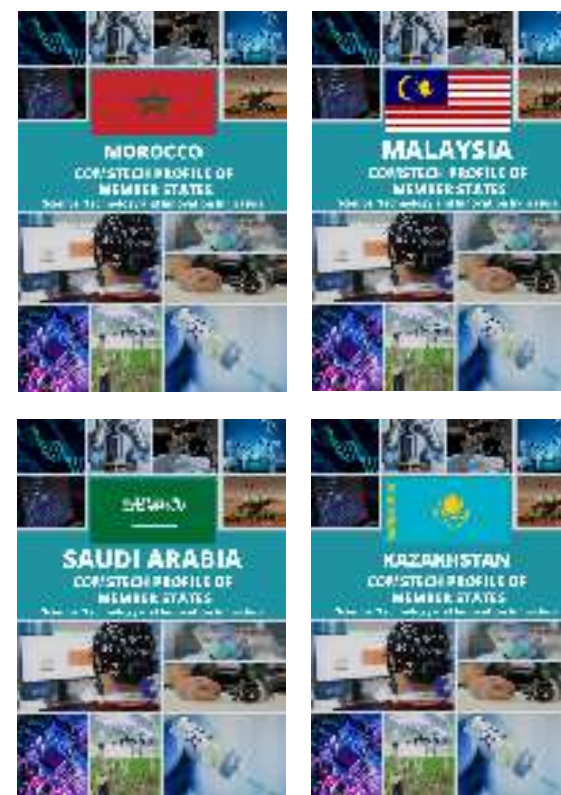
However, there exists a well-defined need to catalogue national efforts in this direction. In particular, to identify respective strengths, achievements and shortcomings, as well as the institutions and policies that are shaping the scientific research and development profiles of OIC member states.

To achieve the above mentioned goals COMSTECH has ventured on this ambitious task of preparing a summarized version of the science, technology and innovation landscape of each OIC member state.

COMSTECH hopes that the scientific community as well as the planners and administrators of member states will find these profiles both useful and inspiring.

COMSTECH started this project in September 2021, and has so far completed STI profiles of 21 OIC states enlisted below:

1. Algeria
2. Bangladesh
3. Egypt
4. Indonesia
5. Iran
6. Jordan
7. Kazakhstan
8. Kuwait
9. Lebanon
10. Malaysia
11. Morocco
12. Nigeria
13. Oman
14. Pakistan
15. Qatar
16. Saudi Arabia
17. Tunisia
18. Turkiye
19. UAE
20. Uganda
21. Uzbekistan



**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-science-technology-innovation-sti-profiles-of-oic-member-states-2/>

## COMSTECH Five-Year Action Plan of Health for African Countries

The Five Year Action Plan on Health for African Countries describes a set of interventions and related strategic, operational, monitoring and evaluation plan. The plan includes

- (i) Awareness and Collaboration on Health Sector
- (ii) Strengthen Linkages and Virtual Networks
- (iii) Capacity Building of Doctors, Researchers, and Technicians, and
- (iv) Strengthen Health Policy Training.

The process will harmonize donor funding commitments, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic Solidarity Fund, and improve the way in which international agencies, donors, COMSTECH, Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust (LRBT), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Al-Shifa Eye Trust and developing countries particularly least developed countries in Africa to work together to develop and implement health plan.



## COMSTECH Launches Alliance of Islamic Universities of Africa

In December 2022, COMSTECH organized foundation meeting of the Alliance of Islamic Universities of Africa at COMSTECH Secretariat. Vice Chancellors/Rectors of Muslim Universities from Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan participated in the meeting.

The key motivation for the formation of the alliance was to foster

linkages between the Islamic universities of Africa and leading universities of the OIC region.

It was realized that harnessing the creative potential of young African Muslims is the only way forward for the prosperity and development of Muslim communities in African continent. With this objective in mind, this alliance is created under the leadership of Prof. Ismail Gyagenda, Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU).



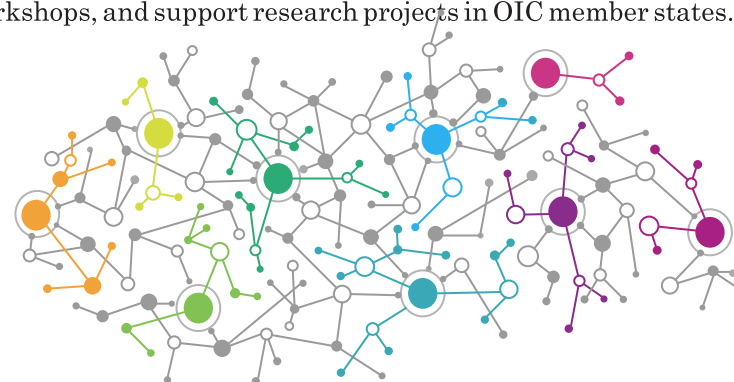


## COMSTECH Institution Building Program

Under the institution-building program, the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, headquartered in Amman, Jordan, was the first institution, COMSTECH established in 1986, and subsequently established thirteen Inter-Islamic Networks in different OIC member states as listed below.

1. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), Karachi, Pakistan.
2. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development & Management (INWRDAM), Amman, Jordan.
3. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Oceanography (INOC), Izmir, Turkey.
4. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT), Islamabad, Pakistan.
5. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities (CINVU), Tehran, Iran.
6. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Science and Technology Parks (INSTP), Rasht, Iran.
7. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Nano-Technology (INN), Tehran, Iran.
8. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Tropical Medicine (INTROM), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
9. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Biosaline Agriculture (INBA), Dubai, UAE.
10. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (INOGB), Cairo, Egypt.
11. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Environment (INE), Khartoum, Sudan.
12. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Veterinary Science Research (INVSR), Khartoum, Sudan.
13. COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Renewable Energy Sources (INRES), Niamey, Niger.

COMSTECH Inter-Islamic S&T Networks organize seminars, workshops, and support research projects in OIC member states.



URL: <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-inter-islamic-networks/>

## COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration

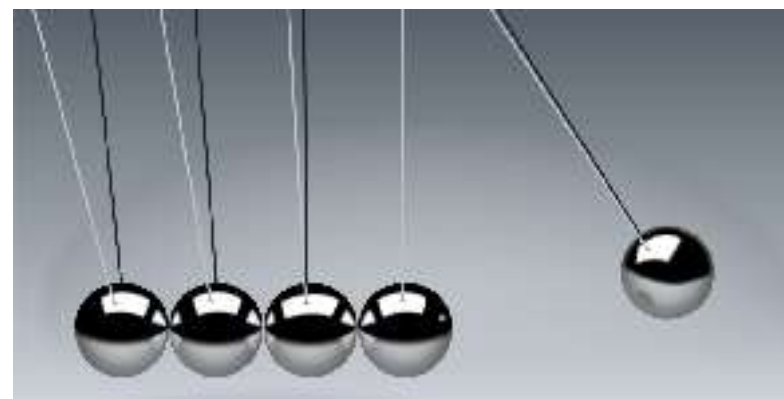
Based on the central importance of the fast emerging environmental and ecosystem challenges and their impact on the livelihood of people in OIC member states, COMSTECH has launched “COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER)” in June 2022, to deliberate upon collective actions to meet ecological challenges.

In the Muslim lands urban expansion continues, whereas desertification, soil erosion, land degradation, and depletion of fresh water bodies has created an alarming situation which demands urgent and collective actions to avoid fast approaching major human tragedies. CFEER will work in the Framework of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2023, as well as the UN Framework on UN 2030 SDG Agenda.

The importance of the environment for sustainable social and economic development is well stipulated in the OIC-2025 Program of Action as well as STI agenda, which guides member countries to protect and preserve the environment, promote sustainable production and consumption patterns and enhance capacities for disaster risk reduction as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. CFEER will strengthen the work of the OIC in these areas, and will provide a collaborative platform to address challenges of climate change.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-forum-on-environment-and-ecosystem-restoration-cfeer/>

## COMSTECH Basic Sciences Program



COMSTECH has initiated a new program to strengthen understanding and application of basic sciences. Under this program, COMSTECH aims to promote capacity building in the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and their interdisciplinary linkages. Under the program online lectures are being arranged to address the fundamental concept of basic fields of science. The program was started in September 2021.

## COMSTECH Launches the Proceedings of Global Al-Farabi Forum

In February 2022, COMSTECH Launched the Proceedings of the Global Al-Farabi Forum. The launching ceremony of the proceedings of the Global Al-Farabi forum held at COMSTECH Secretariat.

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said that this is very important to celebrate the contributions of great Muslim scholars, such as Abu Nasr Al-Farabi. He said that the proceedings present best writings on the contributions of Al-Farabi. The objective is to build the legacy of this great scholar for new generation.

Consultant in advocacy, communication, education, and human rights, Dr. Naazir Mahmood said that the proceedings of Al-Farabi forum contains multi-dimensional aspects of work and life of the great scholar - Al-Farabi. He proposed that it should be translated into many other languages so that a vast number of people can get benefit from this account.

Advisor COMSTECH, Dr. Khurshid Hasanain, introduced the Global Al-Farabi Forum and its proceedings.

Abu Nasr Al-Fara (Abū Nasr Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Fārābī) known in the West as Alpharabius; lived in the period between around 872 and 950-951AD. He was a renowned Islamic philosopher and jurist who wrote in the fields of political philosophy, metaphysics, ethics and logic. He was also a scientist, cosmologist, mathematician and music theorist. In Islamic philosophical tradition he was often called "the Second Teacher", following Aristotle who was known as "the First Teacher". He is credited with preserving the original Greek texts during the Middle Ages because of his commentaries and treatises, and influencing many prominent philosophers, such as Ibn-e-Sina (Avicenna) and Maimonides. Through his works, he became well-known in the West as well as the East.





## COMSTECH Development Insight Profiles of OIC States

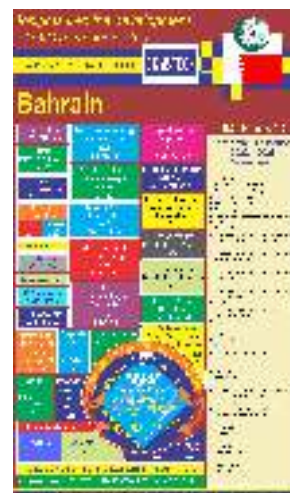
COMSTECH regularly publishes development insight profiles of OIC member states.

Each profile reflects 37 indicators reflecting the key areas of development.

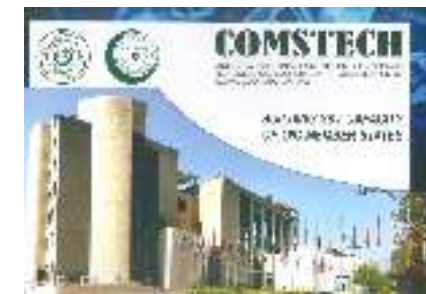
The purpose of these profiles is to get a comprehensive idea of the key areas that need the immediate attention of the policy makers to improve on.

These profiles also give a comparative overview to find the strengths and weaknesses.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/COMSTECH-Development-Insight-Profiles-of-OIC-States.pdf>



## COMSTECH Recent Publications



## COMSTECH Africa Program in Health and Science and Technology Innovation



COMSTECH Africa program include:

- ▶ Research Grants for Young Scientists
- ▶ Research Fellowships Program
- ▶ Technicians Training Program
- ▶ Technical Cooperation
- ▶ Eye Camps and Training in Ophthalmology Niger, Benin, Chad, and Uganda (2022)
- ▶ Operation and Repair of Medical Equipment

In November 2021, COMSTECH and Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust (LRBT) in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) organized free eye camps in The Gambia and Niger and carried out cataract surgeries, maintenance of eye medical equipment, and training workshop for cataract surgery.

COMSTECH in collaboration with The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)

network, Durham University, UK, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, and University of Nairobi organized a 3-day workshop on, “Identification of New Lead Compounds and Diagnostic Tools for Leishmaniasis: Concepts, Approaches, and Capacity Building”, from February 23 to 25, 2023 at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.





## Reverse Linkages Program With IsDB

COMSTECH and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) are strategic partners working on several projects including Reverse Linkages Program through South-South Cooperation (SSC) to connect developing countries to help solve common problems.

Reverse Linkage is a technical cooperation mechanism enabled by the IsDB where OIC countries exchange their knowledge, expertise, technology and resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions for their autonomous development.

Sixteen Resource Centers in Pakistan are mapped by IsDB as Provider Institutions for Reverse Linkage Program with focus on Agriculture, Agro-based Industry, Pharmaceuticals Industry, Information Communication Technology.

More than 10 Reverse Linkage projects such as vaccine development, improvement of corn variety, SMART Agriculture, cancer therapy & food packaging have been submitted to IsDB by COMSTECH in collaboration with OIC countries including Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Malaysia & Turkey.

Under the program, a project “Consultancy for Capacity Building in Fruit Juice Production in Nigeria” has been initiated. A Nigerian delegation visited Pakistan to witness the best practices being used by Pakistani academic, research and commercial institutions for production and marketing of best quality fruit juices and other products, and offering to facilitate them to practice these in Nigeria. A team of Pakistani experts has been selected to provide consultancy and training to Nigerian

scientists and framers for capacity building and transfer of technologies to improve their system and processes.

Under the Technical Cooperation Program of IsDB, Al-Khwarizmi Institute of Computer Sciences (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore under a project “Supporting the Establishment of a Computer Science MS(CS) program in the university of the Gambia” has provided expertise in the establishment of MS(CS) program at the University of Gambia, trained the faculty and staff, helped in curriculum development, and provided design consultancy for newly established Faraba campus. KICS assisted in R&D of different IT domains which include software systems, embed systems, wireless and networking technologies, information technologies, and industrial automation.

The main objective of the IsDB funded project was to enhance the capacity of the faculty and staff in areas of computer science and machine learning. For this purpose:

1. KICS developed customized 10 courses for MS(CS) program.
2. UTG faculty members got 4-week training session at KICS.
3. Experts and IT staff from KICS visited UTG for survey of IT infrastructure, design, and documentation.

By appreciating the efforts of KICS, UET Lahore, to reuse the KICS’ expertise, IsDB has planned to establish an ICT vocational training laboratory in 2023 at University of Gambia.

Similarly, IsDB has asked COMSTECH to help Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala, in establishing a Halal Products Research and Development Laboratory in collaboration with International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS).

## COMSTECH Distinguished Scholars Program



In September 2020, COMSTECH started the Distinguished Scholars Program which is focused on building the scientific capacity of the OIC member states in various scientific fields of science, technology, & innovation (STI), through benefitting from the best talent globally. In this program, top distinguished scientists/ engineers are engaged to serve as experts for inter-Islamic activities.

The nominated eminent scholars are requested by COMSTECH to conduct online webinars and physical workshops/ training courses in the OIC member countries along with reviewing academic structure for institutions that request it. So far, 41 eminent scholars with expertise in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics have been inducted into the distinguished scholars program.

This initiative will allow scholars to showcase their prowess in the field internationally, and would allow other countries to learn from trained eminent scientists and engineers.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-distinguished-scholars-program/>

## COMSTECH Technicians Training Program



COMSTECH offers internships to technical personnel in developing OIC countries to enable them to spend 4-6 weeks at a centre of excellence/ university in the 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 equipment.

In the first cycle of this initiative, 24 candidates from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Gambia, Gabon, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Yemen have been selected and placed at the International Center for Chemical And Biological Sciences (CCBS), University of Lahore, The Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), Government College University, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), National Institute of Health (NIH), COMSATS University Islamabad, and the University of Punjab.

The program was started in February 2021.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-program-for-training-of-technical-personnels/>



## Capacity Building of R&D Organizations Affiliated with the MoST, Pakistan

COMSTECH in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan has initiated a Program for Capacity Building of the R&D Organizations/ Institutions/ Universities affiliated with the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Two meetings have been held between COMSTECH and the R&D Organizations/ Institutions/ Universities at the COMSTECH Secretariat under the Chair of the Federal Secretary MoST and the Additional Secretary MoST. Areas of interest for potential collaboration with the partner institutions in the OIC member states have been discussed.

## Facilitating MoST Pakistan Towards Indigenous Human Vaccine Production

COMSTECH is leveraging its network of relevant institutions in the OIC member states including Pakistan to promote and facilitate initiative of indigenous human vaccine production through the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) of Pakistan. COMSTECH has already organized 3 expert level meetings on human vaccine development in Pakistan. Two of these meetings were chaired by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, H.E. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz. These meetings had representation from leading pharmaceutical companies of Pakistan.

COMSTECH has drafted proposed actions for the human vaccine development in consultation with the stakeholders. These proposed actions have been shared with the Ministry of Science and Technology.

COMSTECH programs are focused on nurturing scientific culture, enhancing mutual cooperation among OIC member states, building capacity for the development of science and technology ultimately leading to prosperity through socio-economic development of the Ummah.

**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/human-vaccine-production/>



## COMSTECH AWARDS

COMSTECH decided in 1996 to give awards to recognize outstanding research work carried out by scientists who are citizens of, and working in, OIC member states. Each award carries a certificate, shield of honor and cash prize. COMSTECH gives awards in “Basic Sciences” and “Excellence in Science and Technology”.

### BASIC SCIENCES

The basic sciences award is given in the fields of Biology and Chemistry alternating biennially with Mathematics and Physics. Each award carries a cash prize of US\$ 5000. The awards in Basic Sciences are conferred on the recipients by H.E. President of Pakistan (Chairman COMSTECH) in the COMSTECH General Assembly meeting.

### EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

These biennial awards started in 2009, carry a certificate, shield of honor and cash prize.

#### 1. Best Young Researcher Award

This award is for scientists under the age of 40. Carries cash prize of US\$ 3,000.

#### 2. Best Scientific Book Award

This award is for the author of an outstanding scientific book published by internationally renowned publisher during the last two years. Carries cash prize of US\$ 3,000.

#### 3. Award for Patent

This award recognizes individuals for outstanding contribution that have had lasting impact in furthering the theory and or development of commercial systems. The patent must have been registered during the past five years. Carries cash prize of US\$ 3,000.

#### 4. Best Research Paper Award

This award recognizes outstanding research paper published in an international journal in the last two years. The award is given in each of the four basic sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics). The award in each discipline carries cash prize of US\$ 2000.

URL: <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-awards-2/>



## COMSTECH Events

COMSTECH organizes webinars, workshops, seminars and exhibitions on emerging and disruptive technologies frequently for the capacity building of OIC member states.

Students, researchers, scientists, scholars and academics are welcome to attend these events. All events are announced on COMSTECH website, Twitter handle, and Facebook page.

**Website:** [www.comstech.org](http://www.comstech.org)

**Facebook Page:** [OIC.comstech](https://www.facebook.com/OIC.comstech)

**Twitter Handle:** [OIC\\_comstech](https://twitter.com/OIC_comstech)

**Youtube Channel:** [comstech-oic](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmstech-oic)

**LinkedIn Page:**  
[www.linkedin.com/companies/comstechsecretariat](https://www.linkedin.com/companies/comstechsecretariat)



**URL:** <https://www.comstech.org/>



## COMSTECH Facilities





# COMSTECH



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