



COMSATS Newsletter

Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)

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The Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, participated as a panelist in the International Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation (ECONEX 2025), held on 17–18 April 2025 in Islamabad. Read more on page 09.

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From the Executive Director's Desk

Science, Technology and Innovation are the bedrock of sustainable socio-economic development, serving as powerful instruments for productivity, resilience, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The advent of emerging technologies such as AI, IoT, blockchain, biotechnology, nanotechnology, etc., has opened transformative pathways for addressing developmental challenges. AI-powered analytics are enabling predictive healthcare, precision agriculture, and smarter urban planning, while IoT networks are making infrastructure, supply chains, and energy systems more adaptive and sustainable. The blockchain technologies are enhancing transparency in financial transactions, trade, and public service delivery. These innovations democratize access to knowledge and opportunities, empowering individuals, enterprises, and governments to make data-driven decisions that foster equitable development and bridge socio-economic divides.

The integration of emerging technologies into national and global development strategies are indispensable for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and preparing societies for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. By investing in digital infrastructure, research and development, and human capital, nations can harness these emerging technologies to create inclusive innovation ecosystems.

It gives me satisfaction to share that the past quarter has been marked by dynamic engagement, productive collaborations, and meaningful progress in advancing COMSATS' mission of harnessing science, technology and innovation for sustainable development across the Global South. Our efforts towards strengthening international partnerships, inter alia, included a substantive engagement with the Executive Director of

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Dr. Marcelo Knobel. COMSATS–TWAS were ideas conceived and translated into reality by Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam. ECOSF was another frontier of collaboration that was invigorated as COMSATS joined hands with ECOSF to coordinate preparations for ECONEX 2025—an international STI conference. At the conference, COMSATS called for unified regional action to bridge the innovation divide, urging greater investment in cross-border research and technology-driven solutions to address shared challenges.

COMSATS' active role in the scientific arena continued with its support for the APS Satellite March Meeting and the International School on Physics & Applied Disciplines (ISPAD 2025), hosted by the National Centre for Physics, Pakistan. These events brought together hundreds of physicists, researchers, and students from around the world to exchange cutting-edge knowledge in high-energy physics, plasma physics, and industrial applications of accelerators. Moreover, in partnership with TÜBITAK-Türkiye, COMSATS co-hosted a High-Level Workshop on Zero Waste, attracting experts from various countries to discuss waste-to-resource technologies, circular economy practices, and biodiversity monitoring.

In April, COMSATS commemorated the World Health Day 2025, themed 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures' by organizing a virtual medical camp and hosting an online international panel discussion. The four-day Telehealth Medical Camp organized in rural outskirts of Islamabad demonstrated the integration of digital diagnostics, COMSATS' Patient Information Management System, and remote consultations across

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM COMSATS SECRETARIAT

ED COMSATS held Virtual Discussion with Executive Director TWAS

On March 4, 2025, Ambassador Dr. M. Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, held a virtual meeting with Dr. Marcelo Knobel, Executive Director of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Italy. The discussions focused on revitalizing institutional collaboration, aligning strategic priorities, and advancing joint initiatives to promote scientific innovation and sustainable development.

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) played a pivotal role in the inception of COMSATS, spearheaded by the visionary leadership of Nobel Laureate, Prof. Abdus Salam. This historic partnership was further formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2000, facilitating collaborative research initiatives, engagement in joint programs, strengthening global scientific networks, and the exchange of valuable scientific resources, including publications and databases.

Ambassador Zakaria provided a comprehensive overview of COMSATS, emphasizing its establishment in 1994 by Prof. Abdus Salam with the core mission of bridging the knowledge and technology divide between the Global South and North. He underscored the instrumental role of COMSATS' Network of 25 Centres of Excellence in driving scientific cooperation and capacity building among its member states.

Dr. Knobel expressed keen interest in gaining deeper insights into COMSATS' operational framework. Ambassador Zakaria elaborated on the governance structure of COMSATS, detailing the functions of its statutory bodies, including the General Meeting, the Consultative Committee,



Dr. Marcelo Knobel
Executive Director TWAS



Amb. Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria
Executive Director COMSATS

the Coordinating Council, and the Secretariat. He further highlighted COMSATS' strategic partnerships with international and intergovernmental organizations in pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, he presented an overview of COMSATS' recent initiatives in cutting-edge domains such as artificial intelligence-driven data analytics, IT training, precision agriculture, renewable energy, and electric mobility solutions.

Ambassador Zakaria outlined a range of forward-looking initiatives that COMSATS is actively pursuing, including the establishment of a state-of-the-art Nanotechnology Laboratory at COMSATS Secretariat. He emphasized the potential for collaboration with TWAS in this domain, a prospect that Dr. Knobel acknowledged with great interest, expressing openness to further exploring joint opportunities.

A key focus of the discussion was the review and renewal of the longstanding MoU between COMSATS and TWAS. Ambassador Zakaria noted that while the original agreement was well-structured and comprehensive, certain elements, particularly those related to emerging technological advancements, warranted enhancement. Both parties concurred on the need for a strategic revision of the MoU, identifying priority areas for collaboration and outlining

actionable steps for its effective implementation.

Amb. Zakaria and Dr. Knobel underscored the importance of corporate responsibility in addressing global challenges, particularly in the realm of climate change. They reaffirmed

their commitment to working together regularly in this domain, sharing forthcoming activities and strategically mobilizing scientific and technological resources for transformational development. Both agreed to exchange areas of interest and explore further collaborative opportunities. Availing the opportunity, Dr. Knobel extended an invitation to Ambassador Zakaria to participate in the upcoming 17th TWAS General Conference, scheduled from September 29 to October 2, 2025, further strengthening institutional ties between COMSATS and TWAS.

ECOSF President Visits COMSATS Secretariat to Strengthen Collaboration on ECONEX Conference

In a significant step towards fostering regional collaboration in science, technology, and innovation (STI), Prof. Dr. Syed Komail Tayebi, President of the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), visited the COMSATS Secretariat on March 12, 2024. He was warmly received by Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, alongside Dr. Mehwish Qayyum Durani, Additional Director (Coordinator for International Organizations) and Head of CCCS.

The visit was part of the preparations



for ECOSF's International Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation: Catalysts for Regional Connectivity and Sustainable Development in the ECO Region (ECONEX), scheduled for April 15–16, 2025, in Islamabad. COMSATS has already pledged its full support for this initiative.

ECONEX 2025 aims to convene Ministers of Science and Technology from ECO member states, policymakers, industry leaders, scholars, and researchers to explore strategies for strengthening the STI ecosystem, with a focus on regional connectivity and sustainable development.

Ambassador Zakaria commended ECOSF's leadership in advancing STI cooperation and reaffirmed COMSATS' commitment to actively participate in ECONEX 2025. He also emphasized the need for deeper collaboration between

the two organizations through frequent joint initiatives in science, technology, and capacity-building programs.

COMSATS and ECOSF have been closely working together under a cooperation agreement signed in July 2024, focusing on mobilizing academia, S&T institutions, and R&D organizations for innovation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange. This partnership has already yielded impactful collaborations, including joint activities on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

NCP, Pakistan, with support of COMSATS, hosts the APS Satellite March Meeting

The National Centre for Physics (NCP), Pakistan, in collaboration with COMSATS and other partner organizations, hosted the American



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multiple specialties, serving over 650 patients daily and laying the foundation for a future sustainable Telemedicine clinic in the area. Complementing this on-ground local initiative, COMSATS partnered with ICESCO to host an international panel discussion on leveraging technology for maternal and child health which convened global experts to discuss AI-powered predictive tools, mobile health platforms, and data-driven systems for bridging inequities in women's and children's health. Together, these initiatives highlight COMSATS' role in leading technology-driven healthcare initiatives, fostering national and international collaborations, and advancing scalable solutions for Member States in pursuit of SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing).

Our climate action agenda also gained momentum. Initiatives included tree plantation drive and renewable energy initiatives on the Earth Day, progress in indigenous development of electric vehicle retrofitting kits, and collaboration with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) to promote climate-smart agriculture.

This period further strengthened COMSATS' international linkages. The Secretariat hosted delegations from Robert Gordon University, Scotland; Kazakhstan's higher education sector; and the academic/R&D institutions of Islamic Republic of Iran, engaging in strategic dialogue to promote joint research, knowledge exchange and trainings. Meanwhile, COMSATS' Centres of Excellence and partner institutions remained active drivers of knowledge exchange, benefiting Member States.

These diverse engagements reflect COMSATS' dedication to its founding vision: bridging the knowledge and technology divide between the North and the South. Looking ahead, we will continue to build on this momentum—transforming dialogue into tangible projects, supporting Member States in developing resilient innovation ecosystems, and fostering partnerships that deliver lasting socio-economic impact. The breadth of activities highlighted in this issue is a testament to the collective strength of the COMSATS Network and the transformative potential of shared knowledge and joint action.

Invaluable feedback of the readers is invited and welcome!

Physical Society (APS) Satellite March Meeting on March 20, 2025, in Islamabad. The Satellite March Meeting was held as part of the APS Global Physics Summit 2025, held on



March 16-21, 2025, in California, USA, which is the largest physics research conference in the world, uniting 14,000 scientific community members across all disciplines of physics.

The objective of the APS Satellite March Meeting was to enhance global scientific collaboration and promote knowledge-sharing in physics, particularly in the areas of condensed matter physics and high-energy physics.

The event comprised of four technical talks, including "Spectral Study of Two Electrons in a Silicon Quantum Dot" by Dr. Bilal Tariq (NCP); "Unveiling the Hottest Secrets of the Universe" by Dr. Shahin M. Iqbal (NCP); "High-Temperature Thermoelectric Properties of Double Perovskite Oxides" by Dr. Falak Sher (Lahore University of Management Sciences); and "Understanding Extrinsic and Intrinsic Ion Migration in Halide Perovskites using Rutherford Backscattering" by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sultan Satti (Kohsar University Murree).

The Satellite meeting held at the National Centre for Physics was attended by over 300 researchers and scholars from various scientific organizations, research institutions and universities in Pakistan. In this regard, COMSATS Secretariat facilitated the participation of over 70

relevant scientists, researchers and students from Pakistani universities, including the COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Riphah International University Islamabad, and University of Engineering & Technology.

The event was broadcasted live from NCP for participants from around the world including those from COMSATS Member States and Centres of Excellence. The APS Satellite March Meeting provided a platform to the leading physicists and researchers from various institutions in order to facilitate discussions on advanced research topics and fostering international networking.

COMSATS and TÜBİTAK Co-host High-Level Workshop on Zero Waste

COMSATS and TÜBİTAK (the Scientific

and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) successfully co-organized a high-level Online Training Workshop on Zero Waste on 10th April 2025. The event brought together a distinguished group of scientists, engineers, policymakers, and practitioners from across the Global South to deliberate on innovative solutions and policy frameworks needed to transition toward a zero-waste and circular economy.

Inaugurated by Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, and Dr. İsmail Doğan, Vice President TÜBİTAK, the workshop was a reflection of the two organizations' longstanding commitment to strengthening science-based sustainable development in the South. In their opening remarks, both leaders emphasized the urgent need for systemic transformation in waste management systems, and underscored the importance of multilateral cooperation in addressing the mounting environmental and resource-use challenges.

In a special message for the event, H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, lauded the joint initiative of COMSATS and TÜBİTAK—two institutions that have long served as pillars of science-driven development in the Global South." The Minister remarked: "Zero Waste is not merely an environmental ambition—



H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi



Amb. Dr. M. Nafees Zakaria



Dr. İsmail Doğan



it is a national governance priority. It is a socio-economic and health necessity, and a commitment to future generations." The Minister further noted that "Pakistan, as a founding member of COMSATS, has placed sustainability at the core of its national development agenda, launching a series of ambitious reforms aimed at inclusive, equitable, and resilient growth."

The technical proceedings of the workshop were structured into two thematic sessions, each highlighting advancements in research and the practical integration of zero waste principles into scientific and technological innovation. The first session, titled "*Waste-to-Resource Technologies*", explored the growing potential of transforming waste streams into valuable resources. Discussions delved into the impacts of microplastics in marine ecosystems and the pressing need for research-driven mitigation strategies. Innovative approaches to

extracting plant-based proteins from agricultural waste showcased how food security and resource efficiency can be addressed simultaneously. The session also presented emerging applications of pyrolysis and biomass gasification for clean energy production, the deployment of advanced materials such as metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) for methane recovery from biogas, and strategies for energy recovery from wastewater sludge and agri-industrial residues, including by-products from olive processing.

The second session, "*Waste Management and Recycling*", focused on enhancing current waste handling systems through technological innovation and circular economy practices. Presentations covered diverse areas, including the re-refining of used lubricants, advanced sludge dewatering techniques for municipal wastewater treatment, and membrane-based technologies enabling the chemical

recovery of valuable compounds from industrial effluents. The session also highlighted novel methods for the recovery and recycling of critical raw materials essential to hydrogen energy systems. Cross-cutting solutions such as artificial intelligence and drone-based imaging for the identification of coastal litter, along with the application of molecular biology for biodiversity monitoring in polluted environments, illustrated how multidisciplinary research is being mobilized to support zero waste goals and foster systemic change across sectors.

The workshop attracted an impressive and diverse range of participants, including representatives of international organizations, research institutions, environmental agencies, and governmental bodies from COMSATS Member States and beyond. The strong turnout reflected the timeliness of the theme and the global momentum behind zero waste





policies and practices. Participants acknowledged the workshop as a significant knowledge-sharing platform, fostering deeper cooperation and capacity building among Global South countries.

The event aligned closely with the Zero Waste Programme of Türkiye, an internationally acclaimed initiative led by the First Lady of Türkiye, H.E. Emine Erdoğan. The programme promotes waste minimization, recycling, and responsible consumption across all sectors of society. In this context, the workshop also acknowledged the commendable efforts being undertaken under Pakistan's "Suthra Punjab" Programme—a flagship initiative envisioned by the Honourable Chief Minister of Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

The programme represents a transformative approach to integrated provincial-level waste management and sanitation, rooted in principles of environmental stewardship, community ownership, and behavioural change.

The workshop marked yet another milestone in COMSATS' efforts to foster South-South and Triangular Cooperation for science, technology, and innovation. With a network of 27

member countries and 25 Centres of Excellence, COMSATS remains dedicated to enabling its member states to harness science for sustainable development and environmental resilience. TÜBİTAK, as Türkiye's leading national R&D organization, continues to serve as a strategic partner in advancing scientific excellence and technology-driven sustainability solutions, both domestically and across the wider Global South.

COMSATS Marks World Health Day 2025 with a 4-Day Telehealth Medical Camp in Gokina

In line with the global theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures", to commemorate the World health day 2025, COMSATS in collaboration with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C) and the District Health Office (DHO) Islamabad, organized a four-day Telehealth Medical Camp from April 14–17, 2025, at the Basic Health Unit (BHU) in Gokina, a remote village in the Margalla Hills region, Islamabad.

This impactful initiative provided free teleconsultations to over 550 patients across various specialties including General Medicine, Pediatrics,

Gynecology, and Dermatology, and aimed to demonstrate how tech-enabled healthcare access gap can be bridged in rural areas.

Reviving a Critical Healthcare Link

Gokina has long faced challenges in accessing reliable healthcare due to its remote location and limited infrastructure in the middle of the hills. This camp also marked the revival of Telehealth services in the region, which provided by COMSATS in the area, however, were discontinued in 2020 on the premise to continue through ICT administration's own resources.

Recent engagement with MoNHSR&C led to the collaborative decision to restart services at Gokina, beginning with a medical camp on World Health Day. The Ministry directed DHO Islamabad to coordinate efforts with COMSATS for implementation, laying the groundwork for future permanent Telehealth deployment in the region.

COMSATS conducted technical assessment to evaluate available resources and carried out training of the staff from the DHO at the COMSATS Telehealth Resource Centre in Islamabad to effectively use the Telehealth system.

During the camp, the BHU was transformed into an operational Telehealth unit with separate rooms designated for registration, teleconsultation, dispensary, and ultrasound support. Teleconsultations were carried out through secure video links between patients at BHU Gokina and doctors stationed at the COMSATS Telehealth Resource Centre in Islamabad.

A custom-built Patient Information Management System (ComSoft) was used to ensure secure handling of patient data, prescriptions, and follow-up records.



NCP, Pakistan, with support of COMSATS, hosts the International School on Physics & Applied Disciplines (ISPAD) 2025 in Islamabad

The National Centre for Physics (NCP), Pakistan, in collaboration with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), COMSATS and other partner organizations, hosted the International School on Physics & Applied Disciplines (ISPAD 2025) from April 14 to 18, 2025, in Islamabad. This prestigious event, organized regularly at NCP since 2009, brought together researchers, scientists, and students to foster scientific knowledge exchange and promote international collaborations in cutting-edge physics disciplines.

As a key Collaborator of ISPAD 2025, COMSATS played a crucial role in broadening the event's reach by providing online participation facility to its 27 Member States and 25 Centres of Excellence.

The objective of ISPAD 2025 was to enhance global scientific collaboration and overview the advances in key research areas of physics, including High Energy Physics, Applications of Accelerators in Industry, and Plasma Physics. The event featured a comprehensive program comprising plenary lectures, parallel sessions, poster presentations, tutorials, and structured discussions, providing deep insights into contemporary and emerging research trends.

ISPAD 2025 had around 200 in person participants, including local and international students, researchers, and university faculty, and distinguished invited speakers.

A highlight of ISPAD 2025 was the Keynote Address delivered by Prof. Asghar Qadir, a renowned Pakistani

Impact and Reach

Over the four days, the camp provided:

- 509 documented consultations, with additional patients seen manually due to system overload.
- Free diagnostic assessments and medicines.
- Emergency care for critical cases, including vasovagal syncope and a COPD patient, both of whom were stabilized and referred for further treatment.

High-Level Visit and Endorsement

On April 15, Mr. Mirza Nasir ud Din Mashood Ahmad, Special Secretary of MoNHSR&C, visited the camp alongwith the DHO Islamabad. They

were joined virtually by Amb. Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, who highlighted the organization's ongoing commitment to Telehealth services across Pakistan.

The Special Secretary praised the setup and recommended the establishment of a permanent Telemedicine clinic at BHU Gokina.

The Telehealth Medical Camp at Gokina demonstrated COMSATS' commitment to bridging healthcare gaps using digital innovation. It stands as a scalable model for remote health service delivery and highlights the importance of multisectoral collaboration in achieving equitable health access across Pakistan.



mathematician and cosmologist, specializing in mathematical physics and physical cosmology. His lecture provided profound insights into the Concept of Dark Matter and Dark Energy in modern physics, inspiring young researchers and fostering academic discourse.

The school included technical talks and presentations by other renowned international experts engaged in the field of Physics from around the globe. The Distinguished Speakers and lineup of international experts for ISPAD 2025 were:

- High Energy Physics:
 - Dr. Gautier Hamel de Monchenault (France),
 - Dr. Thomas Muller (Germany),
 - Dr. Urs Wiedemann (Switzerland),
 - Dr. Mingshui Chen (China),
 - Dr. Adnan Bashir (Mexico), among others.
- Applications of Accelerators in Industry:
 - Mr. Natko Skukan (IAEA),
 - Dr. Jianrong Zeng (China),
 - Dr. Hiroshi Yasuda (Japan),
 - Dr. Thomas Osipowicz (Singapore), among others.
- Plasma Physics:
 - Dr. Atusushi Fukuyama (Japan),

- Dr. Dimitri Batani (France),
- Dr. Stefaan Poedts (Belgium),
- Dr. Naeem Tahir (Germany), and more.

ISPAD 2025 provided a platform to the leading physicists and researchers from various institutions in order to facilitate discussions on advanced research topics and fostering international networking. By supporting ISPAD 2025, COMSATS took forward its mission to facilitate knowledge-sharing, networking, and partnerships among its Member States and Centres of Excellence.

COMSATS Hosts Delegation from Scottish University

On 16 April 2025, COMSATS Secretariat

received a distinguished delegation from Robert Gordon University (RGU), Aberdeen, Scotland, to explore avenues for strategic academic cooperation between the United Kingdom and COMSATS Member States.

The visiting delegation, comprising senior faculty members from Robert Gordon University (RGU)—Professor Lynn Kilbride, Deputy Vice Chancellor; Dr. Dan Allen, Dean of Gray's School of Art; and Dr. John Isaacs, Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and Technology—was welcomed by senior officials at the COMSATS Secretariat. The discussions revolved around establishing joint initiatives in research, innovation, and higher education, particularly within the domains of health sciences, computing, engineering, architecture, and the creative industries. Emphasis was placed on fostering impactful collaborations focused on research commercialization, industry-academia synergy, and capacity enhancement across COMSATS' regional network.

As part of the engagement, the delegation also visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI)—COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Pakistan—where strategic dialogues were held with campus leadership to explore co-development of programs, joint





degrees, and faculty exchange. Both institutions underscored the imperative of addressing shared global and regional challenges through integrative, interdisciplinary partnerships that leverage complementary strengths.

The Executive Director COMSATS provided an overview of COMSATS' Network of International S&T Centres of Excellence (COEs), highlighting institutional efforts to facilitate South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and strengthen innovation ecosystems across member states. The delegation from RGU, in turn, presented their global engagement strategy and reaffirmed their interest in expanding institutional presence and partnerships in the Global South.

The visit was facilitated in collaboration with the Pakistan, United Kingdom and Ireland Business Council of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI). Ranked among the top ten in the UK for teaching quality, RGU is internationally recognized for its entrepreneurial orientation and mission-driven research addressing global development priorities.

This engagement marks a constructive step towards deepening cross-border academic alliances, with a shared vision of promoting innovation-led growth,

knowledge exchange, and socio-economic advancement across regions.

Executive Director COMSATS Calls for Unified STI Action at ECONEX 2025 in Islamabad

The Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, participated as a Panelist in the International Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation (ECONEX 2025), held under the auspices of the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. Convened on 17–18 April 2025 at the HEC Headquarters in Islamabad, the high-level forum brought together distinguished policymakers, eminent scholars, industry leaders, and regional experts from across the ECO region to deliberate on leveraging science, technology, and innovation (STI) as engines of sustainable development, regional connectivity, and economic integration.

The inaugural session of the conference was graced by H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Federal Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan, as Chief Guest. The opening also featured prominent dignitaries, including H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General of the

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Iran; Prof. Mehmet Akif Kireççi, President of the ECO Educational Institute, Türkiye; Prof. Abolfazl Vahedi Vice Minister from the Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Executive Director of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

Structured around six thematic sessions, ECONEX 2025 addressed key strategic areas, namely: enhancing regional trade and connectivity; human capital development; building a resilient and sustainable energy future; agriculture, water, and food security; and regional collaboration in healthcare innovation and biotechnology.

During the Plenary Session on Regional Collaboration on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Ecosystem, Ambassador Dr. Zakaria delivered a compelling keynote address. He underscored the critical importance of strengthening cross-border STI collaboration to effectively respond to shared global challenges. Emphasizing the widening innovation divide between the Global North and South, he highlighted the stark contrast in R&D investments—over 2% of GDP in advanced economies compared to less than 0.5% in many developing nations—calling attention to the implications of this disparity on technological resilience and crisis preparedness.

Drawing on lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, Ambassador Zakaria





illustrated how digitally advanced and technologically integrated nations were better positioned to navigate economic and health disruptions. He cited exemplary South-South cooperation models, including China's large-scale vaccine development and Thailand's indigenous pandemic response mechanisms, as frameworks for emulation within the ECO and COMSATS communities.

Advocating a unified approach among member states of COMSATS and ECO—together representing 23% of global GDP and 37% of the world's population—Ambassador Zakaria called for the strategic pooling of scientific expertise and resources. He emphasized the need for collaborative innovation to bridge the technological divide and build inclusive, knowledge-based economies.

The conference was attended by a distinguished array of participants, including ambassadors, senior government officials, academic leaders, industry specialists, and representatives of the United Nations, international organizations, and ECO member states, making ECONEX 25 a significant milestone in advancing regional STI cooperation and policy dialogue.

High-Level Iranian Delegation Pays Visit to COMSATS Secretariat

COMSATS had the distinct privilege of receiving a high-level delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran at its Secretariat in Islamabad on 18th April 2025. The visit coincided with the presence of the Iranian delegation in Pakistan for the prestigious International Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I), jointly convened by the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. The esteemed Iranian delegation comprised eminent scholars and senior officials from leading Iranian scientific

and technological institutions: Prof. Ali Moosavi Movahedi, Professor of Biophysics and Director, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Tehran; Prof. Dr. Syed Ali Akbar Safavi, Professor of Systems and Control Engineering, Shiraz University; Mr. Reza Aslani, Head of International Affairs, Pardis Technology Park; Dr. Maryam Tajabadi Ebrahimi, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Takgene Zist Group; and Prof. Abbas Rajabi, Director, Sharif Energy Research Institute, Sharif University of Technology. The delegation was accompanied by Prof. Dr. Komail Tayebi, President of the ECO Science Foundation, who played a key facilitative role in fostering multilateral academic cooperation.





The Executive Director of COMSATS extended a warm and cordial welcome to the visiting dignitaries and presented a comprehensive overview of the organization's overarching mandate, governance framework, flagship initiatives, and collaborative programmes aimed at promoting South-South cooperation in science and technology. Senior officers from COMSATS' Programmes and CCCS/ IPOs departments also participated in the deliberations.

During the briefing, particular emphasis was placed on the recent establishment of a cutting-edge Nanotechnology Laboratory at the COMSATS Secretariat, an initiative that captured the delegation's interest as a promising platform for collaborative research and innovation.

In addition, the delegation was apprised of two key upcoming capacity-building activities being organized by COMSATS:

- A Training Workshop on Strengthening R&D–SME Linkages, and
- A Training Workshop on Quantum Sciences, to be convened on the sidelines of the 17th General Conference of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).

The Iranian delegates expressed interest for these forthcoming initiatives

and conveyed their intent to contribute substantively by nominating eminent resource persons and facilitating institutional linkages from the Iranian scientific community.

This high-level engagement underscored the mutual aspiration of COMSATS and Iranian academic institutions to deepen strategic cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, thereby contributing to regional progress and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

COMSATS Commemorates Earth Day 2025

On April 22, 2025: Marking International Mother Earth Day, COMSATS reaffirmed its enduring commitment to ecological preservation and environmental responsibility. Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, led a symbolic tree plantation ceremony at the Secretariat, emphasizing the imperative of fostering environmental consciousness and mainstreaming sustainable practices across societal levels.

In his address to COMSATS officials, Ambassador Zakaria underscored that genuine environmental transformation is rooted in individual responsibility, amplified through collective civic engagement and institutional synergy. He called for a shift from symbolic discourse to tangible behavioural change, positioning it as the foundation of enduring environmental resilience.

In resonance with this year's Earth Day theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," COMSATS remains at the forefront of advancing initiatives that strengthen global climate resilience. Its capacity-building efforts are strategically directed toward critical domains such as green hydrogen advancement, decarbonization pathways, carbon market frameworks, and climate-resilient technological innovation.

Demonstrating technological innovation and indigenous capacity, COMSATS—through a strategic partnership with AGECO—has developed 100% locally manufactured retrofit kits for converting internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles into electric vehicles (EVs), marking a significant milestone in advancing low-carbon transportation solutions. Reinforcing its institutional shift towards clean energy, COMSATS has also recently entered into a formal agreement with Foundation Solar Energy (Pvt.) Limited (FSEL) for the installation of a solar power system at the COMSATS Technology Park, symbolizing a concrete step towards





renewable energy integration.

COMSATS' climate action agenda, spearheaded by its flagship programme—the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS)—demonstrates the Commission's deep-rooted commitment to sustainable development in the Global South. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies and fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation, COMSATS remains steadfast in its pursuit of a greener, more equitable, and climate-resilient future for generations to come.

COMSATS, ICARDA Begin Collaborative Efforts to advance Climate-Smart Agriculture

On April 25, 2025, COMSATS held a virtual meeting with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) to initiate a strategic collaboration under the theme "Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture through Science, Technology, and Innovation."

Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, led the meeting with Dr. Vinay Nangia, Director Research

Program (ICARDA), to explore synergies between the two organizations in promoting sustainable agricultural solutions for climate-vulnerable regions. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Mehwish Durani, Head of the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), and Dr. Huma Balouch, Deputy Director (CCCS), COMSATS Secretariat.

Ambassador Zakaria outlined COMSATS' mandate and its growing portfolio of initiatives in climate-smart agriculture, particularly through CCCS. He emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation in harnessing science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development. Dr. Nangia shared an overview of ICARDA's institutional strengths, including its global research footprint and expertise in climate-resilient agriculture and water resource management.

The discussion centered on aligning institutional priorities and identifying cross-cutting areas for collaboration. Key thematic areas proposed include genetic innovation and crop improvement, precision agriculture, CRISPR-Cas9-based biotechnology, integrated pest management, land reclamation, and climate-data sharing.

The participants agreed on a set of proposed joint activities, such as technical exchanges, regional capacity-building programs, collaborative R&D projects, policy dialogues, and co-authored publications. A significant outcome of the meeting was the consensus between both organizations to formalize collaboration through a six-month action plan and oversee the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding.





This first round of dialogue marks a promising step toward a long-term partnership between COMSATS and ICARDA, focused on applying scientific and technological innovation to support sustainable agriculture and build climate resilience across the Global South.

COMSATS Secretariat Hosts Delegation from Kazakhstan's Higher Education Sector

A delegation of Kazakhstan's higher education institutions on a visit to Pakistan, called on the Executive Director COMSATS at the Secretariat. The delegation was headed by Mr. Tlekali Yegali, Expert, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Higher Education and Science. He was, inter alia, accompanied by Dr. Omirzhanov Yesbol, Director, International Cooperation, AlFarabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), which also is an affiliated Centre of Excellence of COMSATS, and Mr. Abdigali Nurken, Director, Internationalization and Recruiting, KazNU. The meeting was attended by Senior officials of COMSATS, including its Additional Director (Programs), Mr. Irfan Hayee, and Additional Director (IPO), Dr. Mehwish Durani.

During the meeting, Amb. Zakaria discussed various cooperation matters, including the resumption of scholarship

by KazNU for students from COMSATS Member States. He offered scholarships at COMSATS University for students of Kazakhstan. R&D cooperation of KazNU and Kazakhstan's institutions with other Centres of Excellence of COMSATS was also explored.

Panel Discussion on "Leveraging Technology for Better Outcomes in Maternal & Child Health"

In celebration of World Health Day 2025, themed "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," COMSATS Headquarters joined hands with Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) to organize

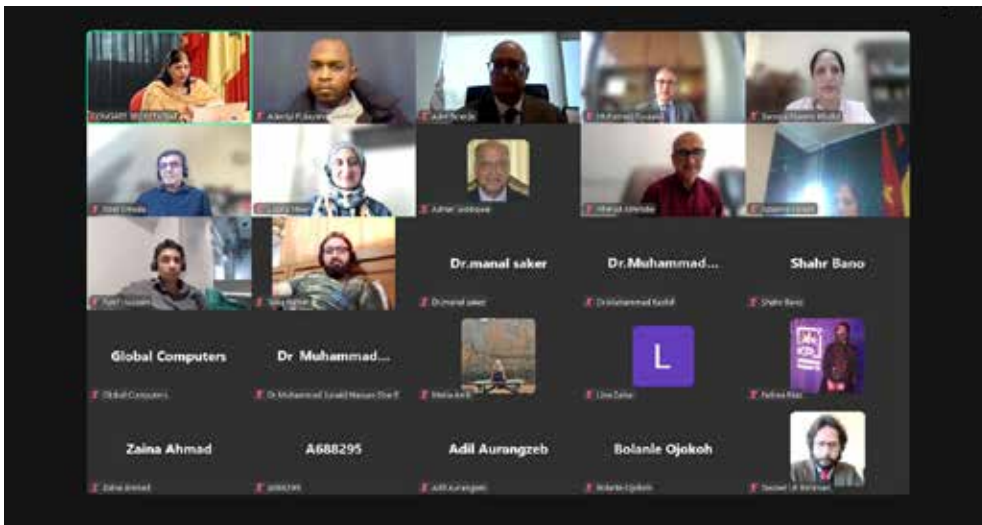
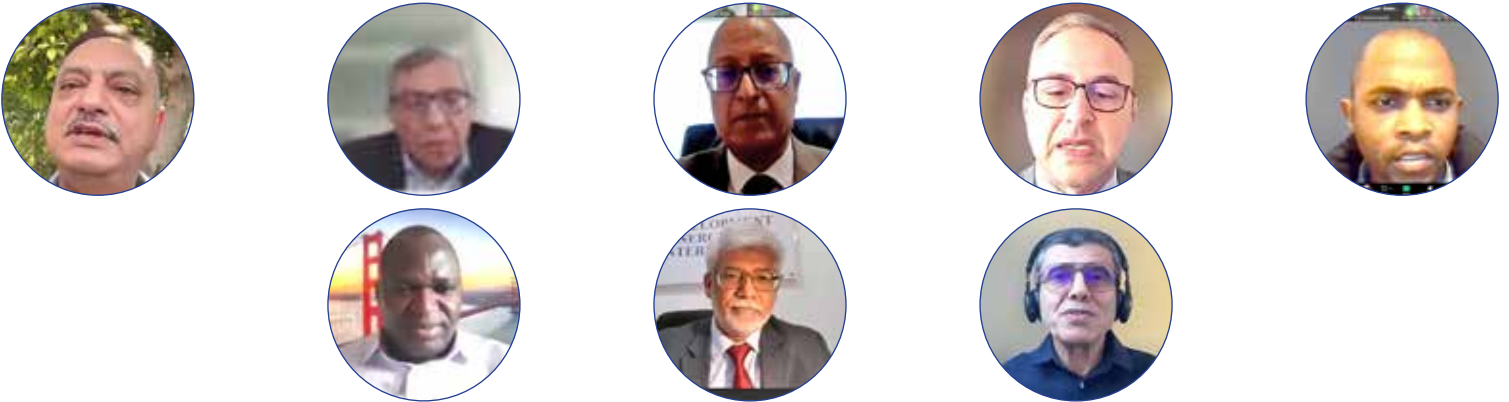
an international panel discussion titled "Leveraging Technology for Better Outcomes in Maternal & Child Health", on 29th April 2025. The event underscored COMSATS' ongoing commitment to harnessing technology for equitable and improved healthcare, particularly for women and children in low-resource settings.

Bringing together leading experts, researchers, and digital health professionals from across the globe, the event provided a platform to explore cutting-edge innovations and collaborative approaches aimed at tackling maternal and child health disparities in developing countries.

Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director COMSATS, opened the session by emphasizing the transformative role of technology in narrowing health equity gaps. He reaffirmed COMSATS' dedication to fostering innovation and promoting scalable tech-driven solutions, such as artificial intelligence and mobile health applications, to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Head of Science and Technology Sector, ICESCO shared upcoming advancements in AI-powered predictive healthcare tools, including





a genetic-data-based Alzheimer's prediction tool being launched in Pakistan. He also discussed the evolving healthcare workforce landscape in light of AI integration.

In her comments, Dr. Sofia, DG, population and DDG Health, at MoHNSRC, shared the challenges where adopting technology could help for example for managing the huge data through technology, reaching out to providing universal access. She acknowledged the efforts of COMSATS and current leadership at the Ministry in recognizing the technology as a tool for betterment of healthcare without compromising on the need for the physical checkups.

Delivering keynote address for the event, Mr. Zulfikar Bhutta, Founding

Director, Institute for Global Health and Development reflected on global progress in child mortality reduction through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), while pointing out the persistent inequalities fueled by geography, gender, and conflict. He advocated for the strategic use of digital tools, including telemedicine and geospatial data, to extend healthcare access to underserved populations.

During the panel discussion, Prof. Mohamed Essaaidi elaborated on how AI can address systemic healthcare challenges, particularly in maternal and child health while Prof. Rachid Jennane, Professor of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Orléans (France) showcased AI applications for early diagnosis of knee osteoarthritis among women of reproductive age, utilizing

deep learning for earlier intervention. Other panelists like Dr. Adeniyi Folayan, a Global Health Research Fellow at Toufik's World Medical Association drew attention to the critical role of mobile health (mHealth) in addressing maternal mortality, emphasizing the dire global need—given that one woman dies from childbirth-related complications every minute. Programme Manager, (Consultant), Pangaea, from Zimbabwe, Mr. Enock Musungwini, introduced the Boost Health App, developed by his organization, which delivers health education to the public, with a focus on those affected by HIV.

From Pakistan, Dr. Samina Naeem called for a National Digital Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) Strategy, data privacy laws, and telemedicine regulations. She emphasized investing in local research, training healthcare workers in digital tools, and fostering public-private partnerships. Dr. Muhammad Tariq shared outcomes of localizing digital health and AI for maternal and child health in Pakistan, emphasizing the importance of tailored solutions for local contexts.

The event reaffirmed COMSATS' position at the forefront of digital health innovation and collaboration, setting the stage for future partnerships to improve healthcare access and outcomes for mothers and children worldwide.

SOME ACTIVITIES OF COMSATS' CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

RSS-Jordan Launches a Smart & Deep Irrigation System

In light of the increasing challenges resulting from climate change and water scarcity in Jordan, technological innovation in agriculture and irrigation has become increasingly crucial for adaptation efforts. In this context, a vocational secondary school in Karak recently witnessed the inauguration of a sustainable, smart and deep irrigation system, implemented by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) through an EU-funded project. This project marks a significant step toward promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing the efficient use of water resources. It leverages modern technologies not only to meet agricultural needs but also to raise community awareness about the importance of water conservation.

Dr. Almoayyed Assayed, Director of the Water, Environment, and Climate Change Centre at RSS, emphasized the success of the partnership with the Ministry of Education. He explained that the system serves as a practical model for vocational agricultural training, showcasing climate-resilient farming and smart irrigation technologies. A comprehensive explanation of the deep irrigation mechanism was provided,

demonstrating how water is delivered directly to the roots through vertical perforated pipes. The components of the smart irrigation system, including moisture sensors, electric valves, and an electronic control panel linked to online weather monitoring stations, were also presented. These features enable automatic irrigation adjustments based on weather forecasts and allow real-time monitoring and control through a mobile application.

Public Sector Leaders Convene to Endorse Jordan's National Roadmap

In a significant step toward advancing Jordan's green transition, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, convened the first high-level National Stakeholder Endorsement Meeting for the public sector. The meeting brought together representatives from 34 government entities, including ministries and relevant public institutions, to discuss and endorse the National Circular Economy Roadmap currently under development.

The session opened with welcoming remarks from Dr. Almoayyed Assayed,

Director of the Water, Environment and Climate Change Center (WEC) at RSS, along with representatives from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

Eng. Omar AlSaleh, Project Manager and Senior Expert, presented an overview of the National Circular Economy Roadmap, outlining the key findings and proposed deliverables across priority sectors. The presentation also highlighted the proposed action plan aimed at scaling circular economy practices across Jordan in alignment with the Economic Modernization Vision (EMV).

Participants reached consensus on the identified priority sector, explored anticipated implementation challenges, and shared valuable insights and feedback reflecting the perspectives of their respective institutions. Their endorsement and contributions mark an important milestone in ensuring that the roadmap is nationally anchored and reflective of public sector priorities.

This meeting forms part of RSS's efforts to develop a National Circular Economy Roadmap under the Green Action in Industries (GAIN) project, implemented by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), and aligned with the





Royal Vision for a modern, inclusive, and green Jordanian economy.

CUI-Pakistan Hosts Awareness Session on International Exchange Programs

The International Office at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) organized an awareness session on March 12, 2025, to inform students about a wide range of opportunities to study abroad. The session aimed to provide comprehensive information on international student exchange programs and featured firsthand experience-sharing by CUI students recently returned from exchanges in the UAE and Türkiye.

Students who had previously participated in exchange programs shared their insights and reflections. Ms. Malaika Junaid, a BS (AI) student who studied at Ajman University, UAE, spoke about her academic experience, cultural immersion, and personal development. Similarly, Ms. Uyma Shahzad and Ms. Haiqa Meerub, both BS (AI) students, recounted the challenges and achievements from their semester at Middle East Technical University, Türkiye.

To share insights, foreign students studying at CUI, were also invited to speak. Ms. Farah El Akkad from

Palestine (MS in Project Management), Ms. Azkiya Nawal from Sri Lanka (BS in Bioinformatics), and Mr. Mohammed Hasan Al-Salehi from Yemen (BS in Software Engineering) shared their experiences of studying in Pakistan and pursuing higher education abroad.

The session included an address from the Head of the International Office, Dr. Hammad Omer, Head, International Office. The event was attended by faculty members, staff, and students enthusiastic about exploring international academic opportunities.

EKTU Delegation Highlights Study and Scholarship Opportunities in Kazakhstan

On April 30, 2025, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) hosted a seminar on study and scholarship opportunities in Kazakhstan, with a particular focus on D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University (EKTU). The event garnered strong interest from students eager to explore international academic prospects.

During the seminar, Ms. Aisaule Nurgazy, Chief Specialist, Department of International Cooperation, presented Kazakhstan as a culturally rich and academically strong destination for higher education. She highlighted EKTU's location in an industrial hub

of the country and introduced its wide range of programs in emerging fields such as mining, meteorology, artificial intelligence, electric vehicle engineering, and economics. She also provided a comprehensive overview of Master's and PhD programs offered in English at EKTU.

It was also highlighted that 15 universities in Kazakhstan, including EKTU, offer generous scholarships for international students.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A segment, during which students expressed strong interest in the academic prospects discussed. The combination of affordable education, English-medium programs, and comprehensive scholarships made Kazakhstan a particularly attractive destination for CUI students.

Visit of Iranian Deputy Minister of Science, Research & Technology to CUI

On April 17, 2025, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) had the privilege of hosting Dr. Abol Fazl Vahedi, Iranian Deputy Minister for Science, Research, and Technology, accompanied by Mr. Mohammad Ghavidel, International Advisor. The esteemed guests were joined by Mr. Irfan Hayee, Additional Director/Incharge of Programs, and Mr. Farhan Ansari, Deputy Director of Programs at COMSATS Secretariat. The visit aimed to explore opportunities for academic collaboration between CUI and Iran's higher education sector, marking an important step toward strengthening mutual academic relations.

The delegation was warmly received by Dr. Hammad Omer, Head of the International Office, and his team. A tour of CUI's renowned Junaid Zaidi Library was conducted to showcase the university's academic infrastructure.



Subsequently, a productive meeting was held between the Iranian delegates and senior CUI officials including: Prof. Dr. Shams ul Qamar, Registrar; Prof. Dr. Sajjad A. Madani, Controller of Examinations; Prof. Dr. Shahzad A. Malik, Dean, Faculty of Engineering; and Dr. Hammad Omer, Head, International Office.

The discussions in the meeting primarily centered around the potential for enhancing academic cooperation between CUI and Iranian universities. Dr. Omer presented an in-depth overview of CUI, emphasizing the university's existing collaborations with Iran and outlining several potential areas for further academic engagements with Iranian institutions. CUI's commitment to research excellence was also highlighted in the presentation. The Registrar and the Controller of Examinations explained about the university's growing number of research publications, many of which have been featured in high-impact factor journals underscoring CUI's strong capacity to contribute meaningfully to international research initiatives.

Dr. Vahedi expressed a keen interest in deepening collaboration between CUI and Iranian universities, particularly through joint research initiatives and student exchange programs. He extended a formal invitation to CUI faculty to visit Iranian universities,

further paving the way for long-term partnerships that will benefit both academic communities. The interaction set the stage for future initiatives that will not only strengthen ties between CUI and Iranian educational institutions but also contribute to broader regional cooperation in science, research, and technology.

At the conclusion of the meeting the delegates were presented with CUI mementos. The visiting delegates were highly appreciative of CUI's modern infrastructure and the high standards of its academic and research facilities. They expressed their gratitude for the hospitality extended by the university during their visit.

CUI & RGU Join Hands for a Promising Academic Future

On April 16, 2025, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) welcomed a distinguished delegation from Robert Gordon University (RGU), Aberdeen, Scotland. The visit aimed to explore avenues for mutual academic and research collaboration. The RGU delegation comprised Dr. Dan Allen, Dean of Gray's School of Art, and Dr. John Isaacs, Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and Technology.

Facilitated by the Pakistan-UK &

Ireland Business Council under the umbrella of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), the visit was coordinated in close collaboration with the COMSATS Secretariat. It was arranged by the University at the special behest of Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director, COMSATS, whose unwavering efforts to strengthen international academic cooperation are widely recognized.

Representing COMSATS Secretariat were Dr. Mehwish Qayyum Durani, Additional Director and Head of the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), and Dr. Huma Baloch, Deputy Director, IPOs and CCCS. FPCCI was represented by Mr. Arsalan Ijaz Anwer (Director), Ms. Sana Mehwish (Project Manager), and Mr. Mishaal Bakhtiar.

The RGU delegation was warmly received by Dr. Hammad Omer, Head of the International Office, along with his team. The visitors toured various labs and facilities within the Departments of Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Science. They also visited the Junaid Zaidi Library and the University's Art Gallery.

A formal meeting featured comprehensive presentations by Dr. Allen and Dr. Isaacs, offering insights into RGU and its academic offerings. The session was attended by CUI's senior academic leadership, including Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, Dean, Faculty of Information Science and Technology and In-Charge, Islamabad Campus; Prof. Dr. Shahzad A. Malik, Dean, Faculty of Engineering; and Prof. Dr. Shahida Mansoor, Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Design. Dr. Hammad Omer and Mr. Zubair Iqbal, UK Desk Officer, were also present.

Dr. Omer gave an overview of CUI's achievements, rankings, and ongoing

R&D efforts, while also sharing the University's longstanding academic connections with the UK. He recalled the 2011 visit of the Rt. Hon. Lord David Cameron, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and noted that over 150 UK-educated alumni currently serve across CUI campuses.

To further academic cooperation, Dr. Omer proposed several collaborative initiatives with RGU, including:

- joint scientific and applied research initiatives;
- identification of mutual research groups to leverage global funding;
- faculty involvement in CUI's flagship academic events;
- reciprocal researcher exchanges lasting six to twelve months to nurture young talent;
- cross-institutional engagement through the University's six research centres; and
- academic mobility through HEC's fully funded Faculty Exchange Program.

The visit concluded on a positive and hopeful note, affirming a shared commitment to forging a long-term Scottish-Pakistani—particularly CUI-RGU—academic partnership. With collaboration now initiated, both institutions look forward to cultivating a robust and enduring alliance in higher education and research.

High-level Tanzanian Delegation Visits ICCBS-Pakistan

On April 18, 2025, a high-level Tanzanian delegation led by Mr. M.C. Mtunga, Director General of the Tanzania Cotton Board, visited the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) to explore avenues of collaboration in research and training.

The delegation was warmly received



by Prof. Dr. M. Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, along with senior officials. The four-member Tanzanian team engaged in detailed discussions with the ICCBS leadership and research faculty, including Dr. Abdul Jabbar and Dr. Mujeeb.

During the meeting, Mr. Mtunga expressed keen interest in developing strong partnerships between the Tanzania Cotton Board and ICCBS. Discussions revolved around collaborative research initiatives in cotton and textile sciences, joint funding opportunities, and knowledge-sharing mechanisms.

"We are particularly interested in capacity building and training programs for Tanzanian researchers and professionals in the textile industry," said Mr. Mtunga. He emphasized the importance of innovation and regional development and acknowledged ICCBS's role in advancing scientific progress.

Prof. Dr. Raza Shah highlighted ICCBS's commitment to regional development and scientific excellence. "We believe this partnership can bring meaningful impact. Our doors are open for collaborative efforts aimed at knowledge advancement and problem-solving," he noted.

He also announced that ICCBS, under the TWAS program, would offer local hospitality and training for visiting Tanzanian researchers and trainees, marking a significant gesture of goodwill and support.

The visit concluded with a mutual understanding to strengthen bilateral ties and develop joint initiatives. Both sides agreed to maintain regular contact and work towards achieving concrete outcomes in the near future.

Forensic DNA Training Session at ICCBS-Pakistan

On April 29, 2025, the Sindh Forensic DNA and Serology Laboratory (SFDL) at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, organized a one-day training session titled "Interpretation of Forensic DNA and Serology Reports" for members of the judiciary. A total of 25 officers participated in the session.

On behalf of Prof. Dr. M. Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, In-charge and Project Director of SFDL, welcomed the participants. In his address, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan highlighted that the training focused on the forensic analysis of DNA in various



criminal cases and the interpretation of forensic DNA and serology reports. He emphasized that SFDL has become a leading center for capacity building in forensic science, regularly training judges, investigating officers, medico-legal experts, prosecutors, and crime scene investigators in evidence collection and handling procedures.

He further shared that the laboratory has provided forensic reports in over 8,800 cases, covering a wide range of forensic DNA and serology investigations.

Following the lecture, a comprehensive panel discussion took place featuring Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Dr. Amir Hussain, Amir Hassan, and others. Participants actively engaged in the session, raising technical questions and commending the quality of training and

arrangements.

Ph.D Student Receives International Travel Award

A Ph.D scholar at the Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD), Mr. Noor Rahman, has been awarded an international travel grant worth £1,400 to attend a workshop on Artificial Intelligence Competencies. The event was held at the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI), Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK. Mr. Rahman is pursuing his doctoral studies under the supervision of Dr. Humaira Zafar. He presented a paper titled "Machine Learning Approaches in Drug Discovery and Vaccine Development" at the workshop. Prof. Dr. M. Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, congratulated Mr.

Rahman and the supervisor on this notable achievement.

KIPA Team Visits ITI-Sri Lanka to Explore Collaboration on Mineral Sand Resource Development

In April 2025, a delegation from the Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA) visited the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) to explore collaborative opportunities aimed at enhancing the value of Sri Lanka's rich mineral sand resources. This potential partnership promises to contribute significantly to innovation, sustainability, and economic growth.

During their visit, the KIPA team, accompanied by ITI officials, conducted successful field visits to the Marawila-Naththandiya region, further strengthening mutual understanding and technical exchange.

ITI and NMRA Sign MoU to Strengthen Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance in Sri Lanka

On April 4, 2025, the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) and the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on enhancing Sri Lanka's pharmaceutical quality assurance program.



GLIMPSES OF SOME EVENTS/ACTIVITIES



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Scholarships offered by COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan, offers MS & PhD Scholarships for students and researchers belonging to COMSATS' Member States and prospective members. The scholarships are offered in the following key programs: Computer Science, Management Science, Electrical Engineering, Biosciences, Mathematics, Physics, and Meteorology.

The relevant details, including terms and conditions, eligibility criteria, admission procedure and schedule, application form, etc., are available on CUI website: http://ww2.comsats.edu.pk/internationalstudents/COMSATS_HQ.aspx.

For further details, please visit:

www.comsats.org or write to:
farhan@comsats.org.

Some Recent Events

Seminar on The Future of Energy: Innovations in Renewable and Clean Energy Technologies

Date: 30 September 2025

For more details, please visit: <https://comsats.org/event/seminar-on-the-future-of-energy-innovations-in-renewable-and-clean-technologies/>

Orientation Session for Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) Certification Bootcamp, 25

Date: September 2025

For more details, please visit: www.comsats.org

The Fifth International Training Course on Industrial Synthetic Biotechnology

Dates: October 10 to October 24, 2025

For more details, please visit: http://english.tib.cas.cn/newsroom/upcomingevents/202507/t20250703_1046787.html

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