

Comstech News

July - September 2025

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OIC MINISTERIAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION



From Coordinator General's Desk



Greetings from the COMSTech Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan.

As the world try to navigate the complexities of geopolitics, trade wars, conflicts of unprecedented magnitude, economic meltdown, displaced population, and ever increasing impact of climate change, deployment of science and technology through international cooperation appears to be the only way forward. However, the current world order is tilting more towards self-centrism, departing from the spirit of multilateralism, and global common good. Rise of right wing politics and islamophobia are leaving little space for international cooperation between the Global North and the OIC world. In these turbulent times, the institutions who holds the values of international cooperation and interconnectedness for the benefit of people in need represent the only hope for a better and more inclusive world.

COMSTech's programs in over 36 countries truly reflect the shared spirit of cooperation between the leading R&D institutions, and distinguished scholars in OIC member and observer states. COMSTech offers the largest number of scholarships and fellowships, in partnership with CCOE institutions, for capacity building in science, technology, innovation,

→ ON PAGE 3

Inside



International Workshop on Nature-Based Medicinal and Cosmetic Products

PAGE 2

Workshop on Bioinformatics, Infectious & Genetic Diseases in Mauritania

PAGE 3

Workshop on R&D Project Development in Cameroon and Gabon

PAGE 4

CG of OIC-COMSTech Visits Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Coordinator OIC-COMSTech, H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary paid an official visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, on 29th July 2025, where he held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, H.E. Prof. Choudhary presented an overview

of COMSTech's ongoing and future initiatives in the areas of science, technology, innovation, health, agriculture, and climate change within the OIC Member and Observer States. He emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and proposed several key joint initiatives to enhance cooperation between Thailand and the OIC community.

The proposed initiatives include, establishment of a Regional Halal Science Centre in Thailand to support research and development in halal standards and certification. Inclusion of Thailand's top ten universities in the COMSTech Consortium of Excellence, fostering academic and research excellence through regional collaboration.

→ ON PAGE 3



Sudan Envoy Calls On CG OIC-COMSTech

H.E. Mr. Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddig, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan along with H.E. Mr. Ihab Abdulrazig Abdallah Mohamed Deputy Head of Mission, visited the OIC-COMSTech on Aug. 19, where he held a meeting with Assistant Secretary General (S&T) of OIC H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher and Coordinator General OIC-COMSTech, H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary.

The discussions focused on training opportunities for Sudanese youth in Pakistan, along with other areas e.g. science, technology, higher education, and health.

The Ambassador appreciated COMSTech's significant contributions and initiatives in advancing science, technology, higher education, and healthcare across the OIC Member States. ♦



Ambassador of Somalia Visits COMSTech

H.E. Sheikhnur Mohamed Hassan, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia to Pakistan, called on

H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTech, at COMSTech on July 24. ♦



H.E. Prof. Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury Visits OIC-COMSTech

H.E. Prof. Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury, President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, visited the OIC-COMSTech on August 11. He met with Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTech, and exchanged views on enhancing collaboration between COMSTech and



Bangladesh in the fields of S&T, and higher education. ♦

CG OIC-COMSTech Inaugurates 3rd OIC Youth Forum on Agri-Biotech in Dhaka

The Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTech, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, inaugurated the 3rd OIC Youth Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology at North South University, Dhaka, on September 13. The two-day event is being jointly organized by COMSTech, the Islamic Organization

for Food Security (IOFS), and North South University (NSU). The event brought together eminent policymakers, academics, and representatives from international organizations to highlight the importance of biotechnology in addressing global food security challenges.

→ ON PAGE 3



Advisor of Religious Affairs of Bangladesh Visits COMSTech

The Advisor of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Bangladesh, Dr. A. F. M. Khalid Hossain paid an official visit to the COMSTech Secretariat in Islamabad on Sept. 11. Dr. Khalid Hossain appreciated the efforts of COMSTech in advancing science, technology in the Muslim world.

→ ON PAGE 3



COMSTech Hosts Delegation of Senegal

On the request of the Senegalese Pharmaceuticals Regulatory Agency, OIC-COMSTech hosted a five-day official visit of a high-level delegation from Senegal to Pakistan from Aug. 16-20. The visit was focused on exploring the infrastructure and operations of WHO-prequalified drug testing laboratories in Punjab, Pakistan.

→ ON PAGE 3



CG COMSTech Meets Presidents of Gaza Universities

The Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTech, H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, held a high-level virtual meeting with the presidents of all major universities in Gaza to coordinate a collective humanitarian and academic response to the catastrophic impact of the ongoing war on the higher education sector in the region, on July 16.

In a heartfelt message of solidarity, Prof. Choudhary conveyed his deep concern for the plight of the Palestinian people, particularly academics, students, and researchers enduring the relentless devastation. "The suffering of the people of Gaza is unbearable, yet their resilience is inspiring," he said, reaffirming COMSTech's commitment to supporting Gaza's

academic institutions during this crisis. During the meeting, the Coordinator General extended a formal invitation to university presidents of Gaza currently outside the region to visit Islamabad. The visit aims to foster direct dialogue with key stakeholders and explore collaborative solutions to sustain academic continuity under these extraor-

inary circumstances. Highlighting COMSTech's active support for the Palestinian academic community, Prof. Choudhary shared updates on ongoing programs, including operations through its representative office in Jordan and the provision of 5,000 scholarships and fellowships dedicated to Palestinian students and researchers.

→ ON PAGE 2

COMSTECH Distinguished Scholar Visits Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) hosted a two-day workshop on X-ray Diffraction Techniques as part of the COMSTECH Distinguished Scholars Program on July 30-31, 2025. The workshop, held at USU, featured a series of lectures

and hands-on training sessions led by the Prof. Dr. Sammer Yousuf. Prof. Dr. Sammer Yousuf, a renowned expert in the field, served as the key resource person for the workshop. ♦



COMSTECH-Ida Rieu Schools 2nd Cohort Starts

The inaugural ceremony of the 2nd Cohort of the Master Trainer Program in Special Education for OIC Member States, jointly organized by OIC-COMSTECH and Ida Rieu Schools, at the Ida Rieu School for the Blind and Deaf in Karachi on August 18. The participants will get three months extensive hands-on training in using modern tools and techniques of special education.

In her welcome remarks, Ms. Panjwani warmly greeted the guests and the participants of the 2nd cohort, joining from Nigeria, Uganda, Gambia, and Kenya. She said that the candidates were chosen after a rigorous selection process and expressed her appreciation to Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Co-

ordinator General COMSTECH, for initiating this joint program aimed at empowering special education teachers across the Muslim world.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants of the program and lauded Ms. Nadira Panjwani's vision and philanthropy for supporting the cause of special education. He highlighted the success of the first batch of trainees and the positive feedback received from OIC Member States. Prof. Choudhary proposed the establishment of an OIC Training Centre in Special Education at Ida Rieu, envisioned as a legacy institution for strengthening the special education community across all 57 OIC member states. ♦



COMSTECH & Central Islamic Council of Thailand to Launch Initiatives for Muslim Communities

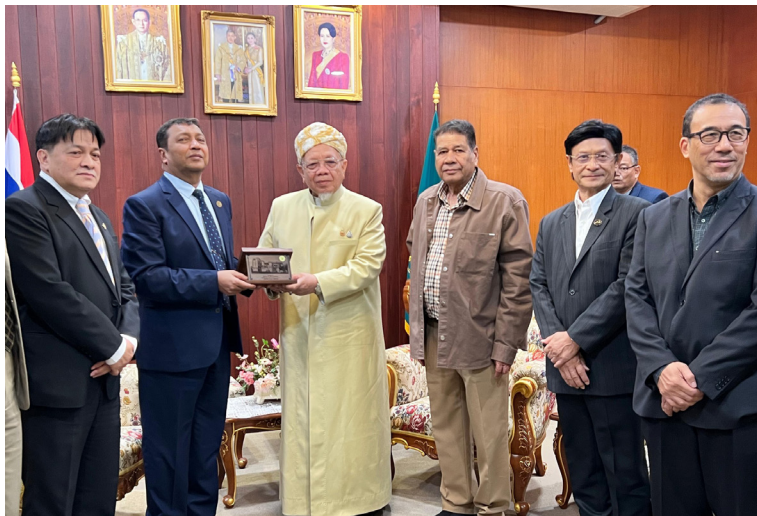
Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, met with His Excellency Mr. Arun Boonchom, Sheikhul Islam of Thailand, at the Central Islamic Council of Thailand in Bangkok on July 29.

Prof. Choudhary briefed His Excellency on OIC-COMSTECH's strategic initiatives in the fields of science, technology, innovation, health, and climate change, aimed at uplifting Muslim communities across OIC Member and Observer States.

Prof. Choudhary proposed awarding of one hundred scholarships to Muslim students of Thailand, establishment of a Regional Halal Science Centre in Thailand,

and establishing a network of Halal Science Centers under the auspices of the Sheikhul Islam of Thailand along with providing one hundred scholarships and specialized trainings in Halal Science to students from the twenty least developed OIC countries in Africa in collaboration with leading Thai institutions such as the Halal Science Centre at Chulalongkorn University and Prince of Songkla University.

Both organizations agreed to sign dedicated Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to implement these initiatives. All related activities and programs will be coordinated through the Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad. ♦



International Workshop on Medicinal and Cosmetic Products

COMSTECH in collaboration with the Institute of Botany, Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, organized "COMSTECH – Azerbaijan International Workshop on Nature-Based Medicinal and Cosmetic Products" at the COMSTECH in Islamabad on Sept. 2.

The event attracted eminent scientists, researchers, and young scholars from Pakistan and Azerbaijan to exchange knowledge, explore collaborative research opportunities, and build capacity in the fields of medicinal plants, and natural product sciences.

In his welcome address, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH, underscored the importance of natural medicine. He said that the workshop would strengthen research

collaboration and deepen historic ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan within the OIC framework. Addressing the inaugural session, H.E. Mr. Khazar Nadir Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, welcomed participants and expressed gratitude to COMSTECH leadership. He emphasized that relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan are highly developed both bilaterally and through the OIC. He highlighted Azerbaijan's ancient history of natural medicine. He reaffirmed Azerbaijan's

keen interest in strengthening cooperation with OIC-COMSTECH and Pakistan in natural medicine and related sciences.

Prof. Dr. Sayyara Ibadullayeva, Director General, Institute of Botany, Azerbaijan, also addressed the inaugural session and later delivered presentations on current problems and challenges of studying useful plants of Azerbaijan flora.

The technical sessions were addressed by leading experts from both countries. ♦



COMSTECH & Ningbo University Organize Course on Applied Biomedical AI

OIC-COMSTECH and Ningbo University organized a 19-day certificate course on "Applied Biomedical Artificial Intelligence" at COMSTECH in Islamabad during Aug. 18 to Oct. 18. Over 350 people participated from more than 35 OIC States and other countries in this hybrid training.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH, extended his gratitude to Ningbo University, especially Prof. Dr. Zhao, Prof. Dr. Liu Xinmin, Prof. Dr. Yuzong Chen, and Dr. Wang for their valuable contributions and support. He also deeply appreciated the dedication of course participants, who actively engaged and enriched the program through their enthusiasm and commitment to learning.

Dr. Shahid Mahmud, Advisor, COMSTECH, extended his sincere thanks to the distinguished experts from Ningbo University for their valuable contributions and praised the participants for their active engagement throughout the 19-day program. He noted that the course successfully combined theoretical depth with practical learning and enabled participants to apply AI tools effectively in their research and

professional work.

Sharing her experience, one of the participants of the course, Ms. Huda Sarwar, faculty member, Rawalpindi Women University, said that the program was very well structured and engaging. She informed that she has learned valuable concepts which she can now apply in her future work. She thanked COMSTECH and Ningbo University for arranging this course. ♦



COMSTECH Organizes Ethiopia-Pakistan Green Dialogue

COMSTECH in collaboration with the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Islamabad, organized "Ethiopia-Pakistan Green Dialogue: Lessons from Ethiopia's Green Legacy" at the COMSTECH Auditorium in Islamabad on Aug. 18. The programme began with recitation from the Holy Qur'an, followed by the national anthems of both countries and a special video presentation on Ethiopia's flagship "Green Legacy" initiative.

In his welcome remarks, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator

General, OIC-COMSTECH, highlighted the importance of green diplomacy and collective action in tackling global challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and environmental degradation.

Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula underlined Ethiopia's remarkable achievements through the Green Legacy campaign, which has set an international benchmark for combating climate change through mass tree plantation and sustainable practices.

The event was graced by H.E. Senator Yusuf Raza Gillani,

Chairman Senate of Pakistan, as chief guest. In his address, he said climate change is an urgent reality for Pakistan. He said that despite contributing less than one percent to global emissions, Pakistan is among the most climate-affected countries, facing floods, glacial melt, and droughts. He praised Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative as a global model of reforestation and sustainability, noting that both nations face common challenges but can find solutions through South-South cooperation. ♦



CG COMSTECH Meets Presidents of Gaza Universities

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking on behalf of Palestinian university leadership, Professor Omar Milad, President of Al-Azhar University in Gaza, expressed deep gratitude for COMSTECH's sincere efforts.

He described the meeting as "a meaningful gesture of solidarity and a lifeline for Gaza's academic future," and lauded the generous 5000 scholarship/fellowship initiative by the OIC-COMSTECH, as a

critical step in rebuilding the higher education sector in Palestine.

The meeting included a comprehensive presentation from Gaza's university representatives, outlining urgent institutional needs. ♦

From Coordinator General's Desk

FROM PAGE 1

health, climate resilience. COMSTech Science in Exile program is truly the need of the time to productively engage scientists and students from various conflict zones. Health and S&T programs for Africa are structured to fill voids in various critical areas of socio-economic development. COMSTech Science, Technology, and Innovation Research and Policy Center (STIC) has launched major programs for training of human resources in the policy domain in various areas. Despite resource constraints, COMSTech has launched initiatives to promote women in science through research grants, and mobility support. Most importantly beyond the member states, the key institutions of China, Russia, and Thailand are now engaged with the COMSTech for capacity building of Muslim youth in key areas of emerging sciences and technologies.

The current newsletter provides some glimpses of various activities and programs which COMSTech is executing in partnership with leading institutions, within and outside OIC member states. We invite you to join hands for the shared mission of science based sustainable and inclusive development of communities, within and beyond OIC member states. Your contributions in terms of advice, joint organizations of capacity building events, partnerships for institutional strengthening, as well as disseminating information about COMSTech's programs are most urgently needed. ♦

OIC-COMSTech Hosts Delegation of Senegal

FROM PAGE 1

The delegation had a detailed meeting with H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Chaudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTech.

The delegation visited the WHO-Prequalified Drug Testing Laboratory, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Lahore, and Multan. Dr. Qalandar Khan, Additional Secretary, and Muhammad Sohail, Director General, Directorate of Drugs Control Punjab, facilitated the visits. Dr. Abdur Rashid, Consultant (Health Initiatives), OIC-COMSTech, served as a key liaison person.

The Senegalese delegation appreciated and thanked Prof. M. Iqbal Chaudhary, Coordinator General COMSTech, for hosting and arranging the visits. ♦

Advisor of Religious Affairs of Bangladesh Visits COMSTech

FROM PAGE 1

He acknowledged the allocation of 100 scholarships for Bangladeshi students at the University of Lahore, thanking COMSTech for this valuable initiative. Dr. Hossain stressed that "we must unite under the banner of Islam, under the guidance of the Quran and Hadith, for the greater interest of the Muslim Ummah.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Pakistan H.E. Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan extended heartfelt thanks to the Coordinator General and officials of COMSTech for warm hospitality and reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to work closely with COMSTech for achieving mutual benefits and strengthening cooperation among OIC member states. ♦

International Workshop to Reimagine Healthcare Leadership Across OIC

A high-level international hybrid workshop titled "Healthcare Leadership: Global Models for Transforming Systems and Culture" was jointly organized by COMSTech, IiLM, and HealthRAB at COMSTech Secretariat Islamabad, on July 18. The event brought together senior healthcare leaders, policy experts, and practitioners from OIC Member States to explore innovative models of leadership essential for transforming health systems and cultures across the Muslim world. The workshop was attended by representatives from national health institutions, teaching hospitals, academia, diagnostic laboratories, and allied health organizations from countries: Afghanistan, Egypt, Bangladesh, China, Cameroon, Azerbaijan, Sudan, Uganda, and the United Kingdom, among others.



Symposium on Preventing Inherited Disorders

COMSTech organized a hybrid symposium on "Preventing Inherited Disorders in Consanguineous Populations: A Framework for Action" at COMSTech on Aug. 12. Over 20 OIC member states including 25 on-site speakers and participants, and more than 500 online attendees joined the event. It was aimed at researchers, clinicians, geneticists, public health specialists, and students to provide them a forum to share expertise and explore collaborative strategies to address inherited diseases in the Muslim world.

CG OIC-COMSTech Inaugurates 3rd OIC Youth Forum on Agri-Biotech in Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

The opening session was graced by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Advisor, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Bangladesh as chief guest. While Mr. M.A. Kashem, Member, Board of Trustees, NSU; Mr. Aziz Al Kaiser, Chairman, Board of Trustees, NSU; Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Member, Board of Trustees, H.E. Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, Assistant Director-General of IOFS; Prof. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, and Vice-Chancellor of NSU, participated as special guest of the session.

In his remarks, Prof. Choudhary recalled that the Youth Forum was envisioned to provide a platform for young scientists from OIC countries to connect, innovate, and collaborate. He noted that the first

In his remarks, Dr. Zakiuddin Ahmed, renowned leadership coach and founder of IiLM, emphasized the urgent need for values-based leadership in healthcare. "This is not merely about management, it is about understanding why leadership matters and how we adapt global frameworks to our local realities," he noted.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTech, in his keynote remarks, highlighted COMSTech's expanding role in health sciences. "We are addressing infectious diseases, advancing bioinformatics, supporting vaccine development, and exploring AI in medicine, but all this requires visionary leadership," he said. He stressed that health is a shared moral responsibility and a unifying force across OIC countries. ♦

Coordinator General COMSTech, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary underscored the need for collective action and cross-border cooperation to address genetic health challenges in OIC countries.

Prof. Dr. Salman Kirmani, Director, Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University, Karachi, was the guest of honour. He stressed the need for equitable access to genetic services and affordable therapies in low- and middle-income countries. ♦

CG of COMSTech Visits MoFA, Thailand

FROM PAGE 1

Provision of 100 fully funded scholarships for Thai students in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence, cyber security, big data, and disruptive technologies. Launch of a student and researcher mobility program, enabling scholars from Africa to conduct training and research in Thailand. These fellowships will be jointly supported by OIC-COMSTech and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, in partnership with Thailand's top universities.

Both sides agreed on the importance of formalizing these initiatives through dedicated Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Thai universities. All activities and academic exchanges will be coordinated through the Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad.

This visit marks a significant step in strengthening Thailand-OIC scientific and educational cooperation and advancing COMSTech's vision of shared progress through science and innovation. ♦

Workshop on Bioinformatics, Infectious & Genetic Diseases in Mauritania

A training workshop on Bioinformatics for Genomic Data Analysis and Infectious and Genetic Diseases was organized at the University of Nouakchott, in Mauritania. The workshop was jointly organized by COMSTech in collaboration with the University of Nouakchott.

In the opening remarks, H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTech, emphasized that genomic data analysis remains a major challenge in many OIC member states due to the lack of specialized training. He noted that this initiative aims to bridge that gap by enhancing the skills of professionals. The President of the University of Nouakchott, Prof. Ali Mohamed Salem Bukhari, expressed

appreciation to COMSTech for its valuable and ongoing support in building scientific capacity in Mauritania. He said that this collaboration reflects a shared commitment to strengthening research capacities.

Two experts from Pakistan, Dr. Waseem Haider, PhD from the University of Illinois, USA, currently serving as an Associate Professor of Bioinformatics at the Department of Biosciences, COMSATS University, Islamabad, and Dr. Zaira Rehman, a specialist in bioinformatics with expertise in genomics and computational biology delivered this workshop.

The three-day workshop was attended by 30 researchers from the University of Nouakchott and other national institutions. ♦



OIC-COMSTech Webinar

Explores the Skills of the Future

OIC-COMSTech organized a webinar on "Future Skills in Frontier Technologies: Trends & Challenges," bringing together international experts and young professionals from across OIC Member States, on 25 September 2025.

The webinar aimed to raise aware-

ness and prepare OIC youth for future skills. Discussions highlighted three key priorities: anticipating the jobs of tomorrow, integrating digital and transversal skills into education policies, and building dynamic networks of young innovators. ♦



International Workshop on Quality Assurance and University Rankings

COMSTech organized an International Workshop on Quality Assurance and University Ranking at its headquarters in Islamabad on July 2.

The opening session featured welcome remarks by Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTech, who extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, including renowned education experts, vice chancellors, directors of Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs), and stakeholders from various OIC member states. In his address, Prof. Choudhary emphasized the critical role of quality assurance in strengthening institutional integrity, academic development, and global competitiveness.

He said that the diverse participation in this workshop reflects a col-

lective commitment to enhancing the quality, relevance, and global standing of higher education in the OIC region. Prof. Choudhary said that the quality assurance is not merely a procedural requirement, it is the foundation of sustainable academic excellence and a vital enabler for achieving SDG-4 on quality education.

The thematic sessions of the workshop were chaired by experts such as Dr. Syeda Zia Batool and Dr. Jennifer Cole-Wright, who discussed the integration of QA frameworks with university ranking systems and shared international experiences, including the University of Leicester case study. The hybrid workshop was attended by more 500 participants from 27 countries and more than 300 institutions. ♦



International Workshop on Genome Data Analysis in Mali

International training workshop on “Bioinformatics Training on Genome Data Analysis of Genetic and Infectious Diseases”, jointly organized by COMSTech, the African Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Data Science (ACE-B), and MD-BIONET, in Bamako, Mali, on July 23-25. The workshop attracted more than 100 participants from various West African countries benefited from hands-on sessions focused on genomic data analysis, public health applications, and infectious disease research. The participants included researchers, clinicians, students, and professionals from across the region. Special sessions during the workshop featured impactful presentations by senior officials from OIC-COMSTech. Dr. Akim Socohou, Senior Program Manager, provided an overview of COMSTech’s mission, scientific initiatives, and scholarship opportunities. Additionally, Dr. Ismaila Diallo, Regional Advisor for OIC-Africa, emphasized the importance of advancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) in OIC member states, particularly within the Africa. ♦



Dr. Marthe Fotsing Discusses South Africa Cooperation with COMSTech



Dr. Marthe Fotsing from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, paid a visit to COMSTech on 1st July, and had a meeting with Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General. The visit aimed to explore avenues of scientific collaboration between South African institutions and COMSTech member states. ♦

International Webinar on Technology Transfer Policies & Commercialization of Products & Services

OIC-COMSTech organized an international webinar on “Technology Transfer Policies and Commercialization of Research-based Products and Services”, on Aug. 22. The webinar attracted 96 participants, including 60 online attendees from 12 countries: Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan, Benin, Togo, Niger, Gabon, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Iran, and Morocco. The session featured insightful presentations and interactive discussions with distinguished experts, providing a valuable platform for sharing experiences on technology commercialization, DeepTech financing, and space technology transfer. H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary (Coordinator General, COMSTech) appreciated the speakers and reaffirmed COMSTech’s commitment to the capacity building through organizing such impactful trainings. Dr. Ismaila Diallo, Regional Advisor for OIC-Africa and Head of STIC, delivered the opening remarks and contributed valuable technical insights. The event was moderated by Engr. Renaud Blanchard Makaka, who ensured productive and engaging discussions. Dr. Engr. Muhammad Shakeel from Malaysia, Senior Lecturer at University of Malaya, Expert in Technology Commercialization & Entrepreneurship, Prof. Dr. Isidore Bikoko from Cameroon, President of Intellium GP, and Expert in DeepTech, and Dr. Said Riffi Tamsamani from Morocco, Expert in Governance and Technology Transfer were the speakers of the webinar. ♦



COMSTech MoUs

MoU with Tang Chinese Education & Technology Ltd.



MoU with DRAP



MoU with SZABIST



MoU with Riphah International University



MoU with Islamia College Peshawar



Workshops in Cameroon & Gabon on Project Development

COMSTech organized workshops on R&D project development in Yaounde, Cameroon on Aug. 26-29, in collaboration with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation of Cameroon, and in Libreville, Gabon on Sept. 2-5. The events attracted researchers from across the countries. The workshops were designed to enhance the ability of scientific teams to design competitive, fundable projects and strengthen the national innovation ecosystem. In his opening remarks, Prof. Fabrice Eli Abiame, Permanent Secretary of the CNDT, expressed gratitude to COMSTech and its Coordinator General H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, for their strong commitment to supporting member countries in building human capacity in STI. He further acknowledged the contribution of Dr. Ismaila Diallo, OIC-Africa/COMSTech Regional Advisor, whose facilitation made the training possible. Prof. Abiame underlined the importance of equipping researchers with the skills to develop bankable projects that can compete internationally. ♦

Dr. Ismaila Diallo praised the Ministry of Research and Innovation’s leadership in promoting STI under COMSTech’s framework. He said that this workshop demonstrates the commitment of COMSTech to foster excellence in STI across Africa and assured that participants will leave the program prepared to develop internationally competitive projects. Prof. Rebecca Madeleine Ebelle Etame, Secretary General of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, welcomed COMSTech’s continuous support to Cameroon and other African member states. She commended the organization’s efforts in providing not only scholarships and training opportunities but also expert technical assistance for capacity building. Prof. Ebelle Etame reaffirmed that all necessary measures would be taken to sustain the activities of COMSTech whose long-term impact will benefit the research landscape for years. She also urged Cameroonian researchers to apply the knowledge gained to strengthen the country’s scientific competitiveness. ♦



COMSTech Launches Research Grants Program for Young Women Researchers

OIC-COMSTech launched “Research Grants Program for Young Women Researchers”. The program is dedicated to supporting young women scientists engaged in indigenous research within OIC Member States. It aims to promote scientific excellence, strengthen research capacity, and help curb the brain-drain of talented researchers from the region. Early career women researchers, under 45, from OIC Member States working in the fields of Applied Biology, Chemistry, Agriculture, Physics, and other S&T disciplines can apply for grants in this program. Under this program the projects of one year duration are funded. So far 10 projects of researchers from Malaysia, Benin, Mauritania, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Egypt, and Iran have been funded. ♦

COMSTech-HealthRAB Workshop on Clinical Research

OIC-COMSTech, in collaboration with the Health Research Advisory Board (HealthRAB) and Institute of Innovation Leadership in Medicine & Management organized an international workshop on Clinical Research in Resource-Constrained Environments at COMSTech in Islamabad on Sept. 30. The workshop aimed to train healthcare professionals and researchers in conducting clinical research in low-resource settings, identifying training needs, and establishing clinical research centers within their institutions. Coordinator General COMSTech Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed participants and stressed the importance of collaboration. He said that healthcare providers and researchers in many OIC member states face limited infrastructure, funding shortages, and a lack of trained personnel. Prof. Dr. Abdul Basit, Chairman HealthRAB, in his address underlined the pressing need for institutional capacity in clinical research. He said that even in resource constrained environments, we can build centers of excellence through collaboration, commitment, and innovation. ♦

COMSTech-Funded Events

In the 3rd quarter of 2025, COMSTech supported:

1. International Conference on Applied Zoology, Oct. 13-14, 2025.
2. 1st International Congress on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Aug. 18-20, 2025.
3. International Cotton Conference, Oct. 7-8, 2025.
4. International Conference on Zoology, Nov. 19-20, 2025. ♦

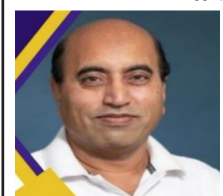
Webinars

Webinar on “Public Health Career: Scope and Opportunities”



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aziz Rahman, Professor of Public Health and Research Adviser at the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, Federation University, Australia.

Webinar on “Regulatory Innovation in Clinical Trials”



Dr. Shamsher Ali, Clinical/Regulatory Affairs Specialist at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, USA.