



COMSATS Newsletter

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

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Group photo of participants along with Executive Director COMSATS, Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, at the opening ceremony of the International School on Advances in Theoretical High Energy Physics (ATHEP 2026). Read more on page 02.

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Patron:
Ambassador Dr. M. Nafees Zakaria
Executive Director COMSATS

Editor:
Mr. Farhan Ansari

Compiled, Designed & Developed by:
Mr. Imran Chaudhry

From the Executive Director's Desk

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) remain the most powerful instruments available to developing nations for addressing the interconnected challenges of our time, including climate change, healthcare access, digital transformation, and industrial modernization. For the Global South, the task is not merely to keep pace with technological change but to harness it strategically in ways that promote inclusive growth, strengthen resilience, and expand economic opportunity. It is this conviction that continues to guide COMSATS' efforts to facilitate scientific cooperation and foster technology partnerships in support of its Member States.

As COMSATS presents this combined issue of its Newsletter for 2026, it is pertinent to reflect that the opening months of 2026 were marked by a series of engagements that reflect the breadth of COMSATS' mandate. I had the privilege of attending the opening ceremony of the International School on Advances in Theoretical High Energy Physics (ATHEP 2026) held in Islamabad as the Keynote Speaker. Speaking on the occasion, I underscored that the pursuit of knowledge in high-energy physics is not merely academic but also foundational to technological breakthroughs that redefine modern societies. I also paid tribute to Nobel Laureate Professor Dr. Abdus Salam, the visionary behind both NCP and COMSATS, and reaffirmed our commitment to building scientific capacity across the COMSATS Network of 25 International Centres of Excellence. The school brought together leading physicists from CERN, DESY, and premier universities across several countries, offering early-career researchers a rare platform for dialogue and mentorship in frontier physics.

Efforts to strengthen COMSATS' strategic partnerships also continued during the reporting period. I met with

the President of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) to advance cooperation in ocean governance, coastal resilience, and climate-informed maritime policymaking. I also received Dr. Fuad Pashayev, UNESCO Representative in Pakistan, for discussions on deepening our longstanding partnership, with a particular focus on indigenous electric vehicle technologies, the COMSATS Telehealth Network, and the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS).

In February, the High Commissioner of Kenya to Pakistan, H.E. Ambassador Lt. Gen. (R) Peter M. Njiru, MGH, visited the COMSATS Secretariat. During the meeting, the High Commissioner expressed keen interest in COMSATS' programmes and explored opportunities for enhanced cooperation, including matters relating to COMSATS' membership. Similarly, the Government of Libya engaged with COMSATS to explore avenues for cooperation and expressed interest in its programmes and membership.

We also initiated discussions with Oxford Policy Management (OPM), Pakistan, to explore collaboration in education, health, climate change, and capacity building. The exchange reflected our shared commitment to developing evidence-based partnerships that contribute to sustainable development in our common partner countries.

During the reporting period, I participated in the 12th Meeting of the ANSO Governing Board, an intergovernmental platform with which COMSATS has collaborated actively since 2022, sharing 14 member countries and a common agenda for innovation-driven sustainable development.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM COMSATS SECRETARIAT

COMSATS Participates at ATHEP 2026

Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director COMSATS, participated at the opening ceremony of the International School on Advances in Theoretical High Energy Physics (ATHEP 2026) as the Chief Guest. The five-day event was organized by the National Centre for Physics (NCP), Pakistan, with the support of COMSATS and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), in Islamabad from 26–30 January 2026.

In his remarks, Amb. Zakaria highlighted the significance and applications of High Energy Physics and called for adequate investment in fundamental sciences. The Executive Director congratulated NCP's leadership for organizing this prestigious scientific school, and warmly welcomed the foreign and Pakistani subject experts who participated to contribute to this learning forum.

Amb. Zakaria observed that the pursuit of knowledge in high-energy physics is not merely academic but is foundational to technological breakthroughs that redefine societies, from healthcare to communication systems. Noting Pakistan's contribution to this field, Amb. Zakaria paid tribute to Nobel Laureate Professor Dr. Abdus Salam, who put forward the idea of establishing NCP as well as COMSATS. He



appreciated NCP's role in connecting Pakistani scientists with the leading international institutions of Physics and facilitating collaboration with CERN. He stated that COMSATS values its enduring partnership with NCP. Amb. Zakaria highlighted COMSATS' commitment to building scientific capacity of its 27 Member States utilizing the expertise available at its Network of 25 International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence.

The ATHEP 2026 school featured talks of leading physicists from institutions including CERN, DESY, and key universities in Germany, Spain, the USA, China, Canada, and Russia. The programme explored advanced themes such as the Standard Model, Quantum Chromodynamics, Cosmology, and Physics beyond the Standard Model.

The school was attended by a diverse cohort of students, early-career

researchers, and faculty members, offering a unique platform for dialogue, mentorship, and academic exchange in frontier areas of theoretical physics.

COMSATS participates in 12th Meeting of ANSO's Governing Board

The 12th Meeting of the Governing Board (GB) of the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO) was held online on 5 February 2026. The Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, participated in the meeting in his capacity as a Member of the ANSO Governing Board.

The meeting was attended by representatives of eight GB member organizations, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China, the National Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal (ANSTS), Senegal, the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Serbia, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), Mongolia, the National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), the University of Chile, and the University of Donja Gorica (UDG), Montenegro.

The Governing Board is ANSO's





key statutory forum, which provides strategic direction and oversight. It serves to review ongoing projects, assess progress, and undertake decision-making and planning for future initiatives.

COMSATS has been a member of ANSO since 2022 and is an active collaborator. The Executive Director COMSATS is a member of ANSO Governing Board since 2023 and has been re-elected for another term in 2025. COMSATS and ANSO share common objectives and have 14 member countries in common, providing a strong foundation for collaboration in scientific research, capacity building, and innovation-driven sustainable development across the Global South.

COMSATS Commemorates the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026

COMSATS marked the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS) 2026 on 11 February, reaffirming its longstanding commitment to fostering gender equity, scientific excellence, and inclusive leadership across its Member States. Aligned with this year's global theme, "From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap," the observance underscored the imperative of expanding opportunities for women and girls to participate meaningfully in science, technology, and innovation. This focus reflects COMSATS' broader mandate to enhance sustainable development through collaborative research, capacity building, and

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A defining feature of this edition is the commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, observed under the theme "From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap." We were privileged to feature the voices and achievements of distinguished women scientists, policymakers, and institutional leaders from across our network, including Bangladesh and Pakistan, as well as Jamaica, Sudan, Iran, Ghana, Jordan, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria. Their contributions reaffirmed that inclusive innovation ecosystems are not aspirational ideals but indispensable conditions for sustainable development. COMSATS remains steadfast in promoting gender-responsive policies and expanding opportunities for women in STEM.

As part of COMSATS' ongoing digital transformation efforts, we also organized a capacity-building workshop on the strategic application of Artificial Intelligence in the workplace. The initiative strengthened institutional capacity for the responsible and effective use of AI in communication, research, and productivity.

Further advancing COMSATS' commitment to strengthening scientific and technological capacity across its Member States, the COMSATS ISO 9001 certified Nano Tech Lab launched its first online international training course on "Failure Analysis of Engineering Materials & Structures". The programme brought together 49 professionals and researchers from COMSATS Member States – Ghana, Jordan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Tunisia – reinforcing regional capacity building and knowledge exchange.

COMSATS further strengthened its partnerships through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with its technology partners for collaboration in Electric Vehicles, Telehealth, Secure Communications, Fintech, and Cybersecurity. The agreements exemplify our broader strategy of forging practical partnerships that bridge the technology and knowledge gap between the Global North and the Global South, creating tangible opportunities for innovation and industrial capacity building across the Global South.

The activities featured in this combined edition reaffirm our conviction that science and technology are powerful enablers of human development, economic opportunity, and social progress. As we move forward, COMSATS will continue to strengthen partnerships, champion inclusive scientific ecosystems, and facilitate collaborative solutions to our shared challenges.

I welcome the feedback and suggestions of our readers as we work to expand the impact of COMSATS' programmes in service of our Member States.

strengthened scientific ecosystems throughout the Global South. The commemoration centered on recognizing distinguished women scientists, policy leaders, and senior academics from COMSATS' network whose achievements exemplify excellence in research, leadership in science governance, and enduring contributions to national and regional development.

To mark the occasion, COMSATS was honoured to feature recorded messages and profiles from distinguished women scientists, institutional leaders, and partners from across its network of Centres of Excellence, Focal Points, Technical Advisory Committee, and collaborating organizations. Their work represents excellence in research, leadership in science governance, and dedication to strengthening the role of women in science and technology and contributing to the COMSATS objectives in tier attainment.



At the heart of COMSATS network are its Centres of Excellence, where women lead groundbreaking work. In Bangladesh, Dr. Samina Ahmed, Chairperson of BCSIR, exemplifies visionary leadership. A distinguished biomaterial scientist, she directs the nation's apex research organization, steering advancements in industrial chemistry and sustainable practices. From Pakistan, Dr. Hina Siddiqui, a Professor at the ICCBS, is a powerhouse in medicinal chemistry, designing new anti-infectious agents and mentoring the next generation of researchers with over 60 publications to her credit.

In Jamaica, Ms. Leslie Hoo Fung of the ICENS applies over 25 years of experience to the critical fields of food safety and authenticity, ensuring environmental health and security. Her expertise extends to shaping national and international standards, from mercury waste thresholds to food products. In Sudan's IRCC, Director General Dr. Itmad Awad Elhassan harnesses the power of natural products, isolating secondary metabolites from medicinal plants and characterizing essential oils to unlock their potential for health and industry. In Iran, Dr. Maliheh Safavi, Director

of the Biotechnology Department at IROST, stands at the forefront of anticancer drug discovery and marine biotechnology, her prolific research earning her recognition as a Top 2% scientist worldwide.

The celebration also drew attention of the leadership from within COMSATS' Member States. Madam Suweibatu Adam, Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology in Ghana, embodies the intersection of science governance and public policy. With nearly three decades of public service, she has led Ghana's



Jordan, is one glaring example by virtue of her immense contribution to promoting STEM. Her landmark achievements are not just promotional efforts for science but her initiatives have opened up doors for opportunities in science for women and girls. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of COMSATS, Professor Wejdan Abu Elhaija of Jordan, a TAC member, is a transformative leader in engineering and higher education. As President of Princess Sumaya University for Technology and the first female Dean of Engineering in Jordan, her contributions to electrical engineering, academic quality, and her place in the US State Department's Women in Science Hall of Fame embody the excellence COMSATS seeks to promote. Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan of the University of Dhaka and member of the COMSATS Technical Advisory Committee called

biodiversity governance agenda, chaired the Governing Board of the Nuclear Power Institute, and served as Deputy Head of Delegation to the UN Climate Conference, championing women's participation in science and environmental sustainability throughout her career. Ghana is the current Chair of the Commission.

Among COMSATS' International Partner Organizations, the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in Kazakhstan was represented by two dedicated



professionals. Ms. Anar Karpbayeva, a programme manager and British Council Women in STEM Scholar, applies food systems expertise and STEM-informed approaches to advance food security and capacity building across OIC member states. Ms. Makpal Bulatova, project manager, IOFS, leads multi-country programmes on climate-resilient agriculture and gender-responsive agrifood systems, with a particular focus on empowering rural women across Central Asia, West Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The strategic direction of COMSATS is itself strengthened by the insight of women. Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Binte Hassan, President of COMSATS Centre of Excellence in

for dismantling societal stereotypes that frame STEM as a male domain, envisioning a future where any girl, supported by inclusive policies and collaborative networks, can confidently pursue research, engineering, or fieldwork. Prof. Dr. Bolanle Ojokoh of the Federal University of Technology Akure, Nigeria, also a TAC member, reinforced that women's participation in science is not merely aspirational but a necessity, urging women to advocate for one another while calling on institutions to create meaningful leadership spaces that enable women to inspire and empower across the scientific community.

The occasion also brought forward a rich chorus of reflections from women



scientists and leaders across COMSATS' broader network. Prof. Ilmi G. N. Hewajulige, Director General & CEO of the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), COMSATS Centre of Excellence in Sri Lanka, underscored how scientific leadership, institutional capacity, and gender inclusion are mutually reinforcing, stressing that empowering women with the right skills and fostering their leadership is fundamental to creating equitable environments where women scientists can thrive. From COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Sadia Manzoor,



Department of Physics reflected on the transformative power of mentorship and supportive academic environments, emphasizing that with encouragement and institutional backing, emerging women scientists can surmount structural barriers and contribute to frontier research with confidence. Her colleague, Prof. Dr. Sana Sabahat, Tenured Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Chemistry at





CUI, showcased the impact of women chemists in materials science and analytical innovation, underscoring the centrality of representation, leadership, and mentorship in inspiring future generations.

Voices from COMSATS' partner organizations further enriched the commemoration. H.E. Mrs. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Director General of SESRIC, framed women's inclusion not merely as a matter of equality but as a



strategic investment in thriving societies and resilient economies, noting that when dedication meets opportunity, the impact extends far beyond classrooms and laboratories. Mrs. Yuefen Li, Senior Adviser on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance, The South Centre, Switzerland, echoed this economic imperative, highlighting that investing in women scientists is intrinsically linked to sustainable development, knowledge equity,



and the strengthening of scientific capacities across the Global South. Dr. Serena Zacchigna, Group Leader of the Cardiovascular Biology Laboratory at ICGEB, Italy, spoke candidly of the challenges women face in reaching leadership positions, emphasizing the importance of passing a passion for science to the next generation and the enabling role of mentorship and institutional support. Dr. Sally Mabrouk, Director of Cabinet and Director of Strategic Planning & Excellence at



ICESCO, affirmed that innovation is ultimately about empowering people. When women and girls are supported through strategic, educational, and cultural frameworks, the solutions they create become inherently more inclusive and far-reaching for communities worldwide.

In his special message, Ambassador Dr. Muhammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, reaffirmed



the organization's commitment to advancing gender-responsive policies and enabling environments across its 27 Member States and 25 International Centres of Excellence. He emphasized that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires women and men to contribute as equal partners in research, innovation, and decision-making. Ambassador Zakaria also commended the exceptional work of women scientists and leaders within the COMSATS fraternity whose research outputs and institutional leadership continue to shape national priorities and drive technological advances across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

The recorded messages were disseminated through COMSATS' official social media platforms to maximize global outreach, and will be permanently archived on a dedicated webpage currently under development. This digital repository will serve as a long-term institutional asset, documenting and celebrating the contributions of women across COMSATS' scientific community. By spotlighting the accomplishments of women scientists and strengthening platforms for their visibility, COMSATS seeks to accelerate progress toward a more inclusive global scientific landscape. The 2026 IDWGS observance thus reinforces COMSATS' broader vision: catalyzing scientific excellence through diversity, equity, and empowered participation, ensuring



that innovation ecosystems across the Global South are enriched by the full spectrum of talent and leadership.

COMSATS Engages with NIMA to Enhance Institutional Cooperation

The President of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Pakistan, Rear Admiral Javaid Iqbal HI (M), paid a visit to the COMSATS Secretariat and held a meeting with the Executive Director of COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, on January 15, 2026. The meeting was attended by senior officials from both entities and focused on strengthening institutional cooperation in areas intersecting maritime affairs, environmental systems research, and science-informed climate governance.

During the interaction, Ambassador Zakaria outlined COMSATS' intergovernmental mandate, its role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation, and the function of its Network of International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence in addressing development-oriented scientific challenges. He highlighted COMSATS' ongoing engagement in global climate and sustainability processes, including its participation and side-event engagements in last Conferences of the Parties (COPs) under the UNFCCC framework, with a focus on

science-informed policy dialogue and capacity development for developing countries.

Rear Admiral Javaid Iqbal briefed the COMSATS officials on NIMA's mandate as a national think tank on maritime affairs, emphasizing its work on maritime security, ocean governance, blue economy, and climate-related risks in the maritime domain. He noted the growing relevance of maritime dimensions in global climate negotiations and expressed interest in structured collaboration with COMSATS in areas where scientific research and policy analysis converge.

Both sides reviewed the scope of cooperation envisaged under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between COMSATS and NIMA in June 2025 and discussed practical avenues for operationalizing the partnership. These included joint analytical work, applied research, capacity-building initiatives, and the development of policy-relevant proposals on coastal resilience, marine ecosystems, climate-induced risks, and data-driven maritime decision-making. The discussion also considered opportunities for coordinated engagement in forthcoming international climate processes, including potential collaboration around COP31, particularly in relation to ocean-climate linkages, resilience of coastal and small island contexts,

and the representation of Global South perspectives in technical and policy forums. The meeting concluded with a shared understanding to move beyond conceptual alignment and to identify specific, implementable activities that reflect the respective institutional strengths of COMSATS and NIMA, while contributing constructively to national, regional, and international sustainability objectives.

UNESCO Representative in Pakistan Calls on ED COMSATS to Strengthen Programmatic Collaboration

On 27 January 2026, the UNESCO Representative in Pakistan, Dr. Fuad Pashayev, paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director COMSATS, at the COMSATS Secretariat. The meeting focused on reinforcing institutional cooperation between COMSATS and the UNESCO Office in Pakistan, with emphasis on practical collaboration aligned with the mandates and thematic priorities of both organizations. Discussions highlighted the role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in supporting sustainable development in Pakistan, as the host country, and across COMSATS Member States. The two organizations maintain an established partnership formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding signed at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in 2015.

Ambassador Dr. Zakaria briefed the UNESCO Representative on COMSATS' mandate, programmatic focus, and key initiatives. He highlighted ongoing work in indigenous Electric Vehicle (EV) technologies, the COMSATS Telehealth (CTH) network, and the COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS). He also outlined COMSATS' continued efforts in capacity building, technical training, and institutional partnerships aimed at strengthening



national STI systems in Member States.

Emphasizing COMSATS' role as a platform for technology cooperation and knowledge exchange, the Executive Director underscored opportunities for jointly developed initiatives tailored to the needs of Member States. He noted the potential for pilot interventions applying science, engineering, and digital solutions to priority areas such as healthcare access, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

The discussion included the COMSATS Telehealth (CTH) programme, particularly its contribution to improving access to healthcare services in remote and underserved areas. Dr. Pashayev acknowledged the value of such scalable digital health models and encouraged consideration of their broader regional relevance.

Dr. Pashayev appreciated COMSATS' sustained engagement in advancing STI-driven development in the Global South. He also shared perspectives on development challenges faced by Member States, as well as operational pressures affecting multilateral institutions.

The meeting also covered the UN80 initiative, focusing on efforts within the UN system to improve effectiveness, coordination, and delivery. In the context of Pakistan's high climate vulnerability, Dr. Pashayev emphasized the importance of regional and

international partnerships. The Executive Director highlighted CCCS' role in climate-related capacity building, technical support, and engagement at national, regional, and global levels. The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding to pursue more structured and results-oriented cooperation between COMSATS and UNESCO through practical initiatives aligned with shared sustainable development priorities.

COMSATS' Engagement with Kenyan High Commission

On 4th February 2026, the High Commissioner of Kenya to Pakistan, H.E. Ambassador Lt. Gen. (R) Peter M. Njiru, MGH, visited the COMSATS Secretariat. He was received by the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria. The meeting focused on exploring pathways

for cooperation in the areas of mutual interest.

The Executive Director highlighted COMSATS' recent initiatives including Electric Vehicles, TeleHealth Clinics, Nano Tech Lab, etc. He offered Postgraduate Scholarships to Kenyan students at COMSATS' Centre of Excellence in Pakistan, the COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI). He further offered tailor-made skills development programs for Kenya in areas relevant to job creation and economic growth. The High Commissioner took keen interest in COMSATS' offers and various activities.

As a follow-up of this meeting, a Kenyan delegation comprising the Head of Chancery, the Second Secretary, and the Commercial Attaché visited COMSATS Secretariat on 4th March 2026. They were given comprehensive briefing by the Additional Director (Programs), Mr.





Farhan Ansari, on COMSATS' mandate, its 27 Member States, Network of 25 International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence, and linkages with IGOs and international organizations. The briefing also highlighted benefits of COMSATS' membership, including access to externally funded projects, scholarships and technology-enabled solutions.

SANSO signs MoU with COMSATS for Technology Collaboration

On February 23, 2026, COMSATS and SANSO Group of Industries/SANSO Technologies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) combined with Mutual Nondisclosure Agreement for knowledge and technology sharing, as well as equipment and solution providing. The MoU shall pave way for collaboration in EV, TeleHealth, Secure Communication, Fintech, Cybersecurity,

etc. COMSATS' technology partner, AGECO (Pvt) Ltd. is part of the MoU in EV and Battery Technology.

COMSATS is a prestigious organization with the high-level Commission on Science and Technology, a platform of 27 member countries of the South, committed to advancing scientific research, innovations, and technologies for sustainable development. SANSO is a multinational technology and manufacturing organization of Germany, having offices in Japan, the UAE, Latvia, Switzerland, with its footprint in many other countries, providing R&D and Manufacturing/ Production & Assembly across the globe.

The MoU was signed by Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director COMSATS, and Mr. Haroon S Khan, Chairman of SANSO Group of Companies. The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of Ambassadors

of Morocco, Somalia, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. Mr. Aslam Azad, CEO of AGECO, as well as senior officers of COMSATS Secretariat, COMSATS Internet Services (CIS), SANSO and AGECO attended the ceremony.

Ambassador Zakaria described the MoU as a milestone in COMSATS' efforts to bridge the technology and knowledge gap between countries of the North and the South. He stated that the agreement will facilitate the sharing of cutting-edge technologies that would facilitate the COMSATS Member States in achieving self-reliance. Ambassador Zakaria emphasized on COMSATS' unwavering commitment to providing its Member States with opportunities to harness contemporary technologies for sustainable development.

Mr. Haroon S Khan expressed SANSO's keen interest to benefit COMSATS Member States with its technological





expertise, knowledge and products. He highlighted the need for strengthening linkages among Government, Academia and Private Sector in the developing countries in order to create a conducive environment for innovation.

This collaboration is expected to open new avenues for cooperation in emerging technologies, ultimately benefiting researchers, innovators, and communities across the Global South.

COMSATS Holds Workplace AI Training Workshop

In pursuit of modernizing organizational processes and professional workflows, COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) convened a two-day capacity-building Workshop “Workplace AI: Communications & Productivity” on 12–13 January 2026 at the COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad. The initiative was designed to advance organizational readiness for the strategic adoption of artificial intelligence across core administrative,

and Chief Executive Officer, Slay Communications (Pakistan), who delivered an in-depth, practice-oriented engagement that translated emerging AI capabilities into actionable institutional applications. The training moved beyond introductory exposure to tools, instead situating AI within a broader framework of organizational intelligence, workflow optimization, and decision-support systems relevant to complex, multi-stakeholder institutions.

Participants from diverse operational units of COMSATS Secretariat and COMSATS Internet Services (CIS) were systematically introduced to an integrated AI ecosystem encompassing advanced generative and analytical platforms, including AI-assisted design and visualization tools, intelligent search and research interfaces, and multi-modal productivity environments. Through structured demonstrations and applied exercises, the programme illustrated how these systems can be strategically deployed to enhance policy

communication, research, and operational functions.

The training was conducted by Mr. Arslan Akbar, Communications and Digital Strategist

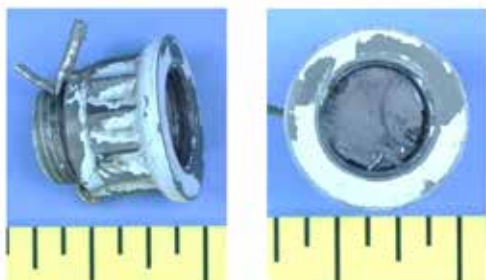
communication, technical reporting, research synthesis, data interpretation, social media outreach, and institutional knowledge management.

A defining feature of the training was its emphasis on strategic use rather than tool dependency. Sessions foregrounded critical themes such as prompt architecture for institutional contexts, AI-assisted content validation, responsible automation, data confidentiality, and the preservation of human judgment in high-stakes decision processes. This approach reinforced COMSATS’ commitment to ethical, transparent, and accountable adoption of digital technologies aligned with public-sector and intergovernmental norms.

The workshop concluded with a forward-looking dialogue on mainstreaming AI-enabled workflows within COMSATS’ operational architecture, identifying pathways for phased integration, internal capacity consolidation, and cross-departmental coordination. Participants acknowledged the Workshop’s immediate operational relevance and its longer-term value in positioning COMSATS as a digitally agile, knowledge-driven organization.

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- Remaining portion of the bolt was well preserved inside the Nut.



COMSATS Nano Tech Lab Organized Short Course on Failure Analysis of Engineering Materials & Structures

The COMSATS Nano Tech Lab (NTL), an ISO-9001 certified facility, successfully conducted its first online training course on "Failure Analysis of Engineering Material & Structure."

The four-day course, held from March 30 to April 02 2026, was a landmark initiative to build critical technical capacity within the COMSATS Member States. 49 professionals and researchers from Ghana, Jordan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Tunisia attended and benefitted from the course.

Sharing his thoughts at the opening session of the training course, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director COMSATS appreciated the interest shown by the member states he expressed gratitude



to the course trainers, Professor Fahim Hashmi and Engineer Abid Hussain Qureshi, both of whom possess a high level of expertise in the specialized field of nanotechnology and its applications. The Executive Director noted that the trainers had meticulously designed the course and its contents for the benefit of the participants. He expressed satisfaction on the establishment of Nanotech Laboratory at the COMSATS Secretariat for a noble cause to share knowledge and create a hands-on research facility for PhD students, academics, and researchers. He wished the participants a beneficial training and a great learning experience.

The training course was designed to provide a practical understanding of failure analysis, bridging conceptual knowledge of structural design and engineering materials with real-world industrial applications.

The curriculum covered a comprehensive range of topics, including the fundamentals of engineering materials, preservation and preparation of samples, mechanical aspects and macroscopic fracture features, fracture modes and micro-fractographic features, and structural design philosophies. Participants also gained insights from live lab demonstrations, including the use of Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), and benefited from detailed case studies.

The contents covered during the course have applications in Oil & Gas, Power & Energy, Aerospace & Aviation, Automotive, Manufacturing, Marine & Offshore, Construction & Infrastructure and Defense sectors.

COMSATS and Oxford Policy Management Explore Strategic Collaboration

On 30 April 2026, COMSATS held a meeting with representatives of Oxford Policy Management (OPM), Pakistan, to explore potential avenues for collaboration in addressing shared development challenges in common member countries, particularly Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS; Mr. Abdur Rauf Khan, Country Director, OPM Pakistan; Mr. Azfar Ansari, Policy Engagement Officer, OPM Pakistan; and Dr. Mehwish Durani, Director, International Partner Organizations and Head, COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS).

Discussions focused on identifying areas of mutual interest, including education, health, climate change, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange. Both sides recognized the importance of integrated and evidence-based approaches to addressing increasingly

complex development challenges, exacerbated by climate change, socio-economic disparities, and global uncertainties.

The meeting reflected the shared commitment of COMSATS and OPM to advancing sustainable development through strategic partnerships, research-driven interventions, and policy engagement. It concluded with a mutual understanding to explore formal collaboration, including the possible development of a Memorandum of Understanding to define specific areas of cooperation.



SOME ACTIVITIES OF COMSATS' CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Rector CUI Participates in SARCHÉ 2026 and Advances Pakistan–Bangladesh Academic Collaboration

Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, T.I., Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), as part of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan's delegation of Vice Chancellors, participated in SARCHÉ 2026 — the South Asian Regional Conference on Higher Education, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 13–15 January 2026.

On the sidelines of the conference, Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar held separate meetings with Prof. Md. Shahinul Alam, Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Medical University (BMU), and Prof. Dr. Saleh-Hasan-Naqib, Vice Chancellor, University of Rajshahi. The meetings focused on enhancing regional collaboration in research, strengthening academic partnerships, and promoting faculty and student exchanges between leading institutions of Pakistan and Bangladesh. During these interactions, Prof. Qamar



extended COMSATS University Islamabad's standing offer of ten postgraduate scholarships per university for faculty members of both Bangladesh Medical University and the University of Rajshahi.

CUI Welcomes Delegation from Robert Gordon University, Scotland

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) hosted a distinguished delegation from Robert Gordon University (RGU),

Scotland, led by Professor Steve Olivier, Principal & Vice-Chancellor on 2 February 2026. The visit featured a campus tour and detailed discussions with Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector; Dr. Fahim Ashraf Qureshi, Registrar; Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, In-Charge Islamabad Campus; Prof. Dr. Sajjad A. Madani, Controller of Examinations; Deans of various Faculties; and Ms. Muniba Nasir, Head International Office, along with her team. The RGU delegation also included Professor Kilbride.



During the meeting, the Rector highlighted the achievements of the Interdisciplinary Research Center for Biomedical Materials (IRCBM), including three products successfully commercialized internationally, and acknowledged CUI's prior engagement with RGU.

He identified Architecture, Art & Design, Engineering, and Computer Science as priority areas for structured collaboration, particularly student semester exchange programs, faculty-to-faculty engagement, and research group partnerships. Ms. Muniba Nasir presented CUI's academic journey and milestones from 2000 to 2026.

Professor Olivier commended CUI's interdisciplinary research strengths, while Professor Kilbride emphasized mobility in Architecture and Engineering, faculty exchange, joint research, and Business School collaboration.

CUI Hosts Delegation from Chad and Uganda under OIC-COMSTECH Initiative

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) welcomed a high-level delegation from the Republic of Chad and the Islamic University in Uganda on February 12, 2026, under the auspices of OIC-COMSTECH. The delegation was

received by Ms. Muniba Nasir, Head International Office, along with her team. The visit commenced with a tour of the Junaid Zaidi Library, where the guests were briefed on CUI's state-of-the-art academic, research, and digital infrastructure supporting innovation and learning.

The delegation comprised H.E. Mr. Reounodji Frederic, Secretary General/ Vice Minister, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Chad; Prof. Dr. Abdul Kazaiba Mpaata, Vice Rector, Islamic University in Uganda; Mr. Murtaza Noor, Coordinator, Pakistan-Africa Education Forum, OIC-COMSTECH; and Mrs. Fatchima Hassane PARAISO, Program Assistant, OIC-COMSTECH.

During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, In-Charge Islamabad Campus, underscored CUI's strong research culture and extended institutional support, including sharing expertise in ERP system implementation. Ms. Muniba Nasir highlighted CUI's expanding international collaborations and scholarship opportunities available to students from OIC and COMSATS member states. Ms. Samira Shah, In-Charge OIC/French Desk, proposed initiating structured online awareness sessions to enhance student outreach and engagement.

The engagement reinforced prospects

for strengthened academic cooperation and institutional collaboration within the OIC framework.

CUI and INTI International University, Malaysia, Strengthen Global Academic Partnership

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) and INTI International University, Malaysia, signed an MoU through a virtual ceremony held on April 2, 2026. The ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Mohammed Syafik Firdaus Bin Hasbullah, Deputy Head of Mission and Counsellor at the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad, alongside the senior management of CUI, led by Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector CUI. The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Goh Khang Wen, INTI's Pro Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Fahim A. Qureshi, Registrar, CUI, on behalf of their respective universities.

In his remarks, Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, T.I., Rector CUI, highlighted the successful implementation of CUI's AI-driven governance and paperless electronic filing system, which has processed more than 12,000 e-files across its seven campuses within three months. The MoU will enable cooperation in faculty, student, and staff exchanges; joint research initiatives and supervision of MS and PhD scholars; co-publications; participation in academic events; resource sharing; establishment of international centres; and cultural exchange.

IRCBM Advancing International Research and Innovation in Biomedical Sciences

The Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM), CUI-Lahore Campus, significantly strengthened its international research profile during the reporting period through multiple funded projects,



global collaborations, and high-impact publications.

Faculty secured competitive research grants under HEC-PERIDOT (France), PSF-NSFC (China), ICGEB, Humboldt Foundation (Germany), and King Khalid University (Saudi Arabia), focusing on advanced areas including regenerative medicine, biomaterials, cancer therapeutics, biosensors, and hydrogen energy.

Key international engagements included collaborations with Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica (China) and the Ulster University (UK), along with participation in Pak-China joint scientific initiatives. The Centre also expanded industry linkages through engagements with organizations, such as BYONYKS Medical Devices, Lahore, Pakistan.

In recognition of research excellence, Dr. Akhtar Hayat was ranked among the Top 2% Scientists globally (Stanford University & Elsevier). Faculty publications in leading journals further reinforced IRCBM's global standing.

These achievements position IRCBM as a leading centre of excellence contributing to international scientific advancement and healthcare innovation.

BCSIR Expands International Collaboration through MoU

The Bangladesh Council for Scientific

and Industrial Research (BCSIR) Bangladesh, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Coppin State University, USA, on 13 January 2026.

Under the MoU, both institutions will cooperate in joint research and development (R&D) activities in mutually



agreed research fields, including biology and physics; the exchange of teachers, scientists, and other research-related personnel for training, research, and higher education purposes; mutual participation in research projects; and consultancy and programme development based on educational and research activities.

The MoU was signed by Dr Samina Ahmed, Chairman of BCSIR, and Prof. Dr Jamal Uddin, Director of the Center for Nanotechnology, Coppin State University, on behalf of their respective organizations.

RSS-Jordan and CEC-Jordan Concludes Circular Cities Weeks

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS), in partnership with the Circular Economy Club – Jordan (CEC Jordan), has successfully concluded the "Jordan Circular Cities Weeks – First National and Regional Awareness Campaign," a pioneering initiative aimed at advancing circular economy principles across the Kingdom. Implemented as part of the global Circular Cities Week, the campaign brought together 17 national and regional partners spanning government, academia, industry, international organizations, and entrepreneurship. Through a series of activities held between October and

December 2025, the initiative fostered dialogue, strengthened cross-sector collaboration, and showcased practical solutions and emerging opportunities across key value chains in Jordan, positioning the circular economy as a vital tool for addressing resource scarcity, supply chain disruptions, and broader regional challenges.

The closing ceremony, held at RSS, marked the culmination of these efforts and highlighted the campaign's impact in raising awareness and building momentum toward implementation. RSS Vice President, Eng. Rafat Assi



emphasised the importance of transitioning from dialogue to action through enabling policies, private sector engagement, and increased investment in circular solutions, aligning with Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision. The event featured presentations on key outcomes and partner contributions by Eng. Omar Alsaleh, Founder of CEC Jordan and Senior Circular Economy Expert at RSS, and the ongoing national projects by Dr Almoayied Assayed, Director of Water, Environment & Climate Change Center at RSS, alongside recognition of participating entities. As the first initiative of its kind to localise a global campaign at the national level, the campaign underscored Jordan's leadership in the circular economy space and set the stage for a more coordinated, resilient, and sustainable economic future driven by innovation and collaboration.

ICCBS Internship Program Concludes

On January 22, 2026, the one-month Winter Internship Program for Youth 2025 concluded at the University of Karachi after providing hands-on laboratory training to undergraduate and postgraduate students from across the country. The program, funded by OIC-COMSTECH, aimed to promote multidisciplinary research and enhance awareness and appreciation of modern

sciences at local and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) levels.

A total of 34 BS and MS students participated in the program and received training in various laboratories of the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS). Addressing the certification ceremony, Director ICCBS, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, said that the primary objective of the internship was to motivate students and prepare them for real-world work environments by equipping them with practical skills. He described ICCBS as one of the country's largest research establishments and a leading center of excellence in chemical, biological, and biochemical sciences, serving as a hub for training scholars from various countries.

Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, in his address, urged participants to uphold ethics in both life and science. He emphasized the importance of soft skills and adaptability to remain relevant in evolving research fields, adding that excellence can only be achieved through sustained hard work and continuous learning.

Azerbaijan Research Institution Signs MoU with ICCBS

The Institute of Botany, under the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has signed

a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) to promote research and academic cooperation between the two institutions.

The MoU was signed via email to strengthen, promote, and develop academic, cultural, and research collaboration based on equality and mutual benefit.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, and Prof. Dr. Sayyara Ibadullayeva, Acting Director, on behalf of their respective institutions.

According to the MoU, both institutions will work together to promote teaching and research activities. They will collaborate on joint research proposals, exchange knowledge, and develop skills in areas of mutual interest. Both institutions will also facilitate training opportunities for young researchers, laboratory technicians, research assistants, research officers, and staff members.

UNESCO Official Visits ICCBS

The Representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Pakistan, Mr. Fuad Pashayev, visited ICCBS. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS and UNESCO Chair



holder, warmly welcomed the UNESCO official to the centre.

During the meeting, Mr. Pashayev and the ICCBS Director discussed the UNESCO Chair on Medicinal and Bio-Organic Natural Product Chemistry at ICCBS. He appreciated the opportunity to visit the institution and lauded its state-of-the-art research facilities.

Earlier, Prof. Raza Shah briefed him on the establishment, growth, and contributions of ICCBS in molecular medicine, drug research, and forensic science. He said the UNESCO Chair promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking through knowledge sharing and collaborative research.

He further noted that this Chair would help Pakistan emerge as a centre of excellence in this research area, particularly in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The visit concluded with a reaffirmation of commitment to strengthening scientific collaboration and capacity building.

ICCBS Hosts Expert Lecture on Climate Change

A German expert, during a lecture

at ICCBS, expressed concern over the lack of data on climate change-affected populations in Pakistan and noted that riverbank erosion is among the most prominent consequences of environmental change in the country. He warned that several regions, including Balochistan, coastal Sindh, and Gilgit-Baltistan, are increasingly affected by climate change. He emphasized that science can play a key role in addressing environmental challenges.

Speaking at a lecture titled "Climate Change and (Im)Mobility: The Case of Bangladesh and Implications for Pakistan," organized by the UNESCO Chair on Medicinal and Bio-Organic Natural Product Chemistry at ICCBS, Dr. Jan Freihardt, Postdoctoral Researcher at ETH Zurich, shared insights on environmental change and human mobility, with emphasis on climate-vulnerable populations. The event was attended by students and researchers.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS and UNESCO Chair holder, also delivered introductory remarks.

In his presentation, Dr. Freihardt highlighted the urgent need for data on climate-affected populations in Pakistan. He explained how environmental change influences migration, immobility, and coping strategies in the face of

hazards such as erosion, flooding, and drought, noting a strong link between environmental change and migration.

In Pakistan, climate-related issues such as drought, soil salinity, and land erosion are intensifying in Balochistan, coastal Sindh, and Gilgit-Baltistan. He stated that he combines surveys, remote sensing, and fieldwork to study climate risk. He also examines disaster risk communication and public perceptions of adaptation.

Earlier, Prof. Shah emphasized that climate change is a critical global issue affecting ecosystems worldwide and stressed human responsibility in environmental protection.

CSIR-Ghana and UNESCO Forge Stronger Ties to Boost Science and Innovation

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) hosted UNESCO for a high-level meeting aimed at strengthening cooperation in science, innovation, and research funding mechanisms.

The UNESCO delegation was led by Assistant Director-General (ADG) for the Natural Sciences Sector, Prof. Lydia Brito. CSIR was represented by Director-General Prof. Paul P. Bosu, along with senior officials including the Deputy Director-General, heads of key institutes, and representatives from national research and policy bodies.

The discussions focused on deepening cooperation in the following critical areas aligned with national priorities: Advancing science-based policy and innovation; Effective water resource management; and Optimizing research funding mechanisms. CSIR reaffirmed its commitment to international partnerships to advance scientific excellence and evidence-based national development. (www.csir.org.gh)

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.

Upcoming Events

40th Khwarizmi International Award (KIA)

The Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) proudly announces the opening of applications for the 40th Khwarizmi International Award (KIA), one of the most prestigious international scientific awards dedicated to recognizing outstanding achievements in science, research, innovation, and technology.

Application Deadline: 7 August 2026

For further details: <https://khwarizmi.ir/kia/>

Sixth International Training Course on Industrial Synthetic Biotechnology (ITC-ISB)

The COMSATS Joint Center for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB), in collaboration with the State Key Laboratory of Engineering Biology for Low-Carbon Manufacturing, China, is organizing the Sixth International Training Course on Industrial Synthetic Biotechnology (ITC-ISB). The Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), CAS, an esteemed Centre of Excellence of COMSATS will host the training, tentatively during October 2026 in Tianjin.

Deadline for submission of applications: 25 July 2026

For further details: http://english.tib.cas.cn/newsroom/upcomingevents/t_1174950.html

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