

Comstech News

January - February 2026

Rajab — Ramadan
1447 Hijri

www.comstech.org

@OIC.Comstech

@OIC.Comstech

@comstech-oic



OIC MINISTERIAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

Kazakhstan Minister of S&T and Higher Education Visits COMSTECH

The Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Mirza Sayasat Nurbek, visited the Secretariat of the OIC-COMSTECH to explore expanded cooperation in science, technology, and higher education among OIC member states and Pakistan on Feb. 3. He was accompanied by presidents

and rectors of leading Kazakh universities.

The delegation was received by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, H. E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary Science and Technology, Mr. Shahid Iqbal Baloch, and → ON PAGE 3



From Coordinator General's Desk



New Year Greetings from the COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary
Mustafa (pbuh) Prize Laureate
H.L. S.I., T.I.

Muslim world is confronted with numerous challenges, ranging from food and water insecurity, climate change, youth unemployment, poverty, systemic discrimination against women, violent extremism, unjust wars and genocides, to name a few. In the midst of these challenges, our greatest hope is our youth, bold, bright, and beautiful. The OIC world has approximately over one billion of them below the age of 30 years. They are undeniable asset of the Muslim world, and we must invest in unleashing their creative potential, and harnessing their positive vigor so they can play central role in national development. It is heartening to note that many OIC member states have launched major initiatives towards human resource development, including strengthening higher education institutions, launching large scale skill development program, investing into R&D, and applications of emerging technologies, and most importantly developing world class research centers in the areas of national needs. In this collective mission of youth empowerment, the OICOMSTECH is playing an important role. The COMSTECH has launched major youth-centered programs, including facilitating large scale mobility of young students for higher education, engaging scientists and researchers in meaningful collaborative projects, providing → ON PAGE 3

COMSTECH Strengthens Cooperation with IAEA

The Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary had important and productive meetings at the Headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria on 1st March. Prof. Choudhary met with Ms. Najat Mokhtar, Deputy Director General, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, and

Mr. Jean-Pierre Cayol, Department Programme Coordinator. H.E. Mr. Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, Ambassador of Pakistan → ON PAGE 3



COMSTECH and Republic of Chad Sign MoU

OIC-COMSTECH and the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Vocational Training of the Republic of Chad have signed

a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral cooperation in science and technology. The agreement → ON PAGE 3



7th Steering Committee Reviews OIC STI Agenda 2026

The 7th Steering Committee Meeting for the Implementation of the OIC Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Agenda 2026 was held at OIC-COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad on Feb. 11-12. The meeting brought together senior officials from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) General Sec-

retariat and representatives of key OIC institutions to assess progress and define the way forward as the Agenda approaches its final phase. In his welcome address, Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary highlighted the evolution of the Steering Committee process since 2019 and underscored → ON PAGE 3



OIC-COMSTECH Announces 70 Fellowships for Yemen

The Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, along with H.E. Mohammed Motahar Alashabi, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen, and H.E Mr. Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddig, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Pakistan, launched Phase III of the COMSTECH-CCoE Yemen Program at the COMSTECH

Secretariat in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Islamabad and CCoE member institutions on Feb. 24. Prof. Choudhary announced 70 fellowships for Yemeni scholars, reaffirming COMSTECH's commitment to strengthening scientific capacity and promoting academic collaboration across the OIC region. He highlighted that the initiative → ON PAGE 3



Inside



COMSTECH-NUTECH Train Sudanese Engineers

PAGE 2

OIC-COMSTECH Announces Awards Winners

PAGE 4

OIC-15 Technical Committee Meets

PAGE 4

Yildiz Technical University Delegation Visits COMSTECH

PAGE 4

4th Meeting of the OIC Vaccine Manufacturers Group

The 4th Meeting of the OIC Vaccine Manufacturers Group (VMG) was held on Feb. 9 at the COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad.

The inauguration session was graced by H.E. Mr. Syed Mustafa Kamal, Federal Minister of Health

as chief guest, along with H.E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Assistant Secretary-General of OIC for Science & Technology, and H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH. Dr. M. Salman, → ON PAGE 3



COMSTECH-ICGEB Award Research Grants to OIC Scientists

OIC-COMSTECH in collaboration with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), has awarded ten research grants of one-year duration to researchers from OIC states.

The grants have been awarded to scientists from Cameroon,

Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Libya, and Tunisia. COMSTECH-ICGEB cooperation Program, aims at strengthening research capacity and promoting collaboration in biotechnology and genetic engineering across OIC countries. ♦

COMSTECH-ICGEB Announce Grants for Women Scientists

OIC-COMSTECH in collaboration with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), calls applications from the young women

scientists for research projects. Browse following link to apply: <https://www.icgeb.org/grants/icgeb-comstech-research-grants-2026-crp-collaborative-research-programme/>. ♦



COMSTECH-WUACD Organize Workshop on Natural Products in Nigeria

A three-day international workshop on natural products for community education and sustainable capacity building in Africa was organized in collaboration between OIC-COMSTECH, the World University Association for Community Development (WUACD), Universitas Airlangga in Indonesia, and Bayero University, Kano, from February 9 to 11, at Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. Technical sessions were delivered by a panel of COMSTECH distinguished scholars and experts from Universitas Airlangga, including Prof. Ni Nyoman Tri Puspaningsih, Prof. Nanik Siti Aminah, Prof. Alfinda Novi Kristanti, Dr. Yuni Sari Amalia and Dr. Salma Zulqaida. The training was delivered in contemporary research methodologies and practical

approaches to harnessing natural resources more effectively. The inaugural session featured remarks by Prof. Haruna Musa, Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, and Prof Muhammad Madyan, Rector of Universitas Airlangga. Dr. AbdulKabir Oladele Oladimeji, honorary young academic and scientific representative of OIC-COMSTECH in Nigeria, also addressed the gathering, along with representatives of the Indonesian embassy in Nigeria, including Minister-Counsellor for Economic Affairs Haryansah Khairul. They stressed the importance of building robust scientific and research capacity across Africa to advance sustainable development goals. ♦



COMSTECH-CITADEL International Conference on AI & Future of Work

OIC-COMSTECH and Pathfinder CITADEL, a leading technology organisation, organized an International Conference titled "AI & Future of Work: Digital Nations in the Next Decade" at the OIC-COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad on January 9. The conference was held under the COMSTECH Centre for Training in AI & Emerging Technologies and the CITADEL Program. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, Senator Dr. Afnan Khan, Member, Senate Standing Committee on IT, Mr. Ikram Sehgal, Co-Chairman, Pathfinder Group, Air Vice Marshal (R) Asad Ikram, President, Pathfinder CITADEL, Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmud,

Senior Advisor, OIC-COMSTECH, and Dr. Sohail Munir, Chairman, Pakistan Digital Authority addressed the conference. They emphasized that AI and emerging technologies are crucial for reshaping economies, governance, and national competitiveness. Key discussions focused on fostering inclusive growth through strategic partnerships, robust public policies, and initiatives like the OIC-wide AI Vision. The inauguration ceremony ended with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between OIC-COMSTECH and Pathfinder CITADEL. ♦



OIC-COMSTECH and SMIIC Partner to Launch Global Halal Testing Fellowship Program

OIC-COMSTECH and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch the SMIIC-COMSTECH Halal Testing Laboratory Fellowship Program. The agreement was signed by H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, and H.E. Mr. İhsan Övüt, Secretary-General of SMIIC. This

strategic partnership is dedicated to strengthening the technical and scientific infrastructure of Halal product testing and standards across the OIC Member/Observer States. The program focuses primarily on providing intensive hands-on practical training in halal testing and sciences to equipping scientists and laboratory analysts with direct experience in advanced testing methodologies. ♦



COMSTECH-NUTECH Train Sudanese Engineers



OIC-COMSTECH in collaboration with the National University of Technology (NUTECH) and the Prime Institute of Health Sciences (PIHS) offered two months training from 25 November 2025 – 24 January 2026. Under this program, 20 engineers from Sudan participated in a specialized CAD/CAM/CNC Operations & Machine Building Course conducted by NUTECH. The participants were provided an extensive practical exposure to modern manufacturing technologies, including computer-aided design (CAD), computer-aided manufacturing (CAM), CNC machine operations, and machine building techniques. They received hands-on experience with advanced industrial equipment such as CNC wood routers, drilling and tapping machines, welding equipment, aluminum cutting machines, tool

grinders, and shaper machines, under the guidance of faculty and technical experts of NUTECH. The Prime Institute of Health Sciences collaborated in the program by facilitating the stay, welfare, and related support arrangements for the Sudanese engineers in Islamabad, ensuring a comfortable and conducive environment throughout the training period. The certificate distribution ceremony was held on 13th January 2026 at the NUTECH. It was attended by Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, as the chief dignitary, along with Lt. Gen. Moazzam Ejaz, HI(M), Retd., Rector NUTECH, H.E. Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddiq, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Pakistan, and senior officials, academicians, and representatives of partner institutions. ♦



COMSTECH Holds Workshop on Medicinal Plants

OIC-COMSTECH organized a virtual workshop on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources: Case of Medicinal Plants on February 25, 2026. Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary highlighted the growing threats to medicinal plant resources and reaffirmed COMSTECH's commitment to research collaboration, regulatory harmonization, and capacity building, in his opening remarks. The workshop featured expert presentations focusing on sustainable

cultivation, conservation challenges, and the responsible use of medicinal plants in traditional and modern medicine. Around 100 participants from OIC member states, including researchers, academics, and policymakers, actively engaged in the discussions. The workshop recommendations include promoting sustainable cultivation practices, enhancing regulatory systems, and fostering regional collaboration for the safe and effective use of medicinal plant resources. ♦

Free Medical Camp in Chachro, Tharparkar



OIC-COMSTECH in collaboration with the University of Modern Sciences (UMS), Tando Muhammad Khan, organized a two-day Free Medical Camp in Chachro, Tharparkar, providing comprehensive healthcare services and humanitarian assistance to the local population in this remote region of Sindh. The medical camp witnessed an overwhelming public response, with 2,162 patients treated on the first day and 3,550 patients on the second day, the total number of 5,712 got benefit from the camp. A team of specialist doctors from multiple disciplines, including ophthalmology (eye), ENT, dermatology (skin), cardiology, gastroenterology, gynecology, general surgery, and general medicine, provided free medical consultation and treatment. Patients also benefited from on-the-spot diagnostic facilities, ensuring timely diagnosis and effective care. During the camp, two successful deliveries were conducted. Alongside medical services, the organizers distributed mineral

water, juices, clothes, shoes, and other essential items among patients and attendants, offering additional relief to underserved families. COMSTECH officials handed over medicines to the Medical Superintendent of Civil Hospital, Chachro-Tharparkar, to support local healthcare facilities. The medical camp was organized by OIC-COMSTECH and the University of Modern Sciences, in collaboration with Gourmet Foods, the District Administration Tharparkar, and the District Health Department, Government of Sindh. The initiative was undertaken under the visionary leadership of the Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, who identified Chachro, Tharparkar, as a priority area to provide basic healthcare services and promote health awareness in one of the most underserved parts of Sindh. Local community members and district officials appreciated the initiative, describing it as a vital step toward reducing healthcare disparities in remote areas. ♦



COMSTECH and UNI Launch Online Digital Courses



OIC-COMSTECH in collaboration with UNI and leading Chinese technical institutions, launched a series of Online Digital Courses aimed at strengthening skills development, digital literacy, and human capital across OIC Member States. The launching ceremony was held virtually and brought together senior academic leaders, policymakers, and industry representatives from across the OIC region and partner countries. The distinguished participants included Mr. Cheng Shuqiang, President of Shaanxi Technical College of Finance & Economics; Mr. Kang Kun, Vice President of Henan Institute of Economics and Trade; Mr. Wu Jiaoyu, President of Guangzhou Songtian Polytechnic College; and Mr. Wang Peng, Managing Director of ITMC Technology Co. Ltd.

Addressing the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, underscored the transformative role of digital education in addressing contemporary socio-economic and technological challenges faced by the Muslim world. The participants from 15 countries: Somalia, Kenya, Nigeria, Mauritania, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Gambia, Yemen, Indonesia, Chad, Malaysia, China, the United Arab Emirates, and Gabon got enrolled in the training. ♦

COMSTECH-PABIC-ICCBS Winter Internship Program concludes



The four-week COMSTECH-PABIC-ICCBS Winter Internship Program for Youth 2025 concluded on January 15, 2026 after providing hands-on laboratory training to undergraduate and postgraduate students. The program was initiated by the Pakistan Biotechnology Information Centre (PABIC) under the project titled Dissemination of Information, Raising Awareness and Capacity Building about the Application of Modern Biotechnology in OIC Member and Observer States", funded by OIC-COMSTECH. A total of 34 BS/MS students participated in the program and received training in various laboratories of the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS). The participating students belonged to the University of Karachi, Jinnah University for Women (Karachi), University of Turbat (Balochistan), University of Peshawar, Dow University of Health Sciences, University of Sindh (Jamshoro), and NED University of Engineering and Technology. ♦



From Coordinator General's Desk

FROM PAGE 1

research grants to young women researchers, research fellowships for scientists and students displaced due to conflicts (Yemen, Palestine, Sudan, and Afghanistan), and hundreds of other STEM capacity building and industrial training initiatives. Along with this, COMSTech is leading several health initiatives in OIC Africa including trainings of healthcare workers, including midwives and biomedical technicians. COMSTech working at the policy level, has engaged sister OIC institutions for the effective implementation of STI agenda 2026, Water Vision, and AI Vision for OIC. COMSTech's mega science projects include support for researchers to benefit from SESAME synchrotron source in Jordan. A similar program is being launched with our observer state the Republic of Russia.

In all what we were able to achieve in last quarter 2026 made possible only through the support and patronage of distinguished member universities of CCoE (UoL, NUST, LUMS, NUTECH, UoS, KFUEIT, ICCBS, UMT, NIU, Prime Institute, University of Faisalabad, University of Sialkot, GCU Faisalabad, AUST, Superior University, Chennab University, Ibadat International University, UoL Sargodha Campus, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, ISP, Multan, and BNU, Pakistan, University of Sarawak, UiTM, Kazan Federal University Russia, IUT and NSU Bangladesh, HUCM and Ningbo University China, etc.), AP-SUP member universities, industrial partners (Gourmet, Revive Technology, Network of industries in Sialkot led by the University of Sialkot), international partners (ICGEB, UNESCO, IsDB, RAEE), COMSTech Distinguished Scholars, and dedicated efforts of COMSTech's outstanding team.

In brief, this is through coordinated efforts to empower youth, particularly young women, that we can stand firmly in the comity of nations, and contribute meaningfully in solving enduring problems which humanity faces today. ♦

OIC-COMSTech Announces 70 Fellowships for Yemen

FROM PAGE 1

serves as a platform for scientific diplomacy, enabling Yemeni researchers to benefit from advanced training and institutional partnerships.

H.E. Ambassador Alashabi expressed heartfelt appreciation to COMSTech and the participating universities for their generous support, stating that the fellowships will significantly contribute to enhancing the professional capabilities of Yemeni scholars and supporting higher education sector of Yemen.

The ceremony was attended by heads and representatives of leading institutions including the University of Lahore; University of Management and Technology; Nur International University; Khawaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology; International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences; Kohsar University Murree; National University of Sciences and Technology; Riphah International University; Fatima Jinnah Women University; University of Swat; Bahria University; National University of Technology; Ibadat International University; COMSATS University Islamabad; Iqra University; PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi; and Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology.

The university leadership assured their full cooperation in the effective implementation of Phase III of the program, reiterating their commitment to facilitating Yemeni scholars. ♦

COMSTech International Webinar on Impact of Sudan Conflict on Vector-Borne & NTDs

OIC-COMSTech organized an international webinar on the Impact of the Sudan Conflict on Vector-Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases and Pathways Forward. The event convened leading scientists, public health experts, policymakers, and international stakeholders to deliberate on the growing health challenges resulting from the ongoing conflict in Sudan and to explore practical pathways for recovery.

The webinar attracted more than 150 participants from 30 countries, reflecting strong international engagement on the urgent public health situation in Sudan.

The program of the webinar was structured into four thematic sessions including a high-level panel discussion followed by an interactive question and answer session.

Discussions focused on the resurgence of malaria and other vector-borne diseases, neglected tropical diseases, disruption of disease

surveillance systems, and the broader impact of conflict on Sudan's health infrastructure.

Distinguished speakers included Dr. Sara Azhari Hassan and Dr. Hamoda Toto from the Federal Ministry of Health, Sudan; Prof. Dr. Ahmed Fahal, Founder and Director of the WHO Mycetoma Centre; Dr. Rasha Siddiq Azrag Ahmed of the Faculty of Science, University of Khartoum, Sudan, Prof. Dr. Heather M. Ferguson, University of Glasgow, UK, and Prof. Dr. Maowia M. Mukhtar of the Bioscience Research Institute, Sudan, and EDCTP Senior Fellow. The session was moderated by Mr. Md. Rakibul Hasan of COMSTech.

H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTech reaffirmed COMSTech's commitment to mobilizing scientific expertise, strengthening research collaboration, and supporting capacity building across OIC member states. ♦

COMSTech, Chad Sign MoU

FROM PAGE 1

was signed by H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTech, and H.E. Pr. Reounodji Frederic, General Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Training of Chad. This agreement establishes a framework for technical assistance and capacity building aimed at supporting Chad's re-

search institutions and industrial development.

The collaboration includes research fellowships, technical training for laboratory staff, and industrial internships to support professional development. The agreement also covers the exchange of medical expertise and the provision of technical services to help modernize local research facilities. ♦

7th Steering Committee Reviews OIC STI Agenda 2026

FROM PAGE 1

the importance of this session in evaluating achievements and identifying gaps. He noted progress in capacity building, research collaboration, innovation support, and institutional strengthening while also acknowledging continuing disparities in implementation capacities among Member States.

Assistant Secretary-General for Science and Technology, Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, stressed the urgency of preparing a comprehensive implementation report ahead of the 52nd session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers to be held in Baghdad on April 11-12, 2026. He called for clarity on the scope, methodology, and timeline of the report, and encouraged members to consider extending the STI framework beyond 2026 under a more focused and results-oriented model.

Brief presentations were delivered by institutions including the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRI), Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), briefed on ongoing initiatives aligned with the priority areas of the Agenda.

On the second day, a statistical review was presented by COMSTech indicated a 27% increase in

international patents, a fourfold rise in research publications, and improved global university rankings among OIC Member States. However, participants cautioned against widening technological gaps, particularly in emerging domains such as artificial intelligence.

During the deliberations, the Steering Committee informed that the OIC General Secretariat will seek formal feedback from Member States on the implementation status of the STI Agenda 2026. It was also decided that COMSTech and SESRIC will jointly prepare a comprehensive, data-driven evaluation report to ensure an evidence-based assessment.

Importantly, members agreed in principle on the need for a new ten-year framework, tentatively titled "OIC STI Agenda 2036". The forthcoming framework will be prepared through a consultative process aligned with the OIC Program of Action (2026-2035) and will adopt a more focused, project-based and measurable approach. The Committee further decided that an 8th Steering Committee Meeting will be convened to finalize the draft implementation report for submission to the appropriate OIC forum.

In the closing remarks, Ambassador Khokher and Prof. Choudhary thanked participants for their constructive engagement and reaffirmed the collective resolve to strengthen science, technology, and innovation cooperation across the OIC region. ♦

4th Meeting of the OIC Vaccine Manufacturers Group

FROM PAGE 1

Chief Executive Officer, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Pakistan, senior representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, WHO, Islamic Development Bank, SESRIC, SMIIC, vaccine manufacturers, regulators, development partners, and experts from OIC Member States participated in the meeting.

Welcoming the distinguished participants, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary stated that hosting the fourth meeting of the VMG at a critical global juncture reflects the strong commitment of OIC Member States to advancing collective health security. He emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global supply disruptions clearly demonstrated that vaccine self-reliance is no longer an option but a strategic necessity, particularly for OIC countries facing high disease burdens and rapidly growing populations.

Highlighting the evolution of the OIC Vaccine Manufacturers Group since its establishment in 2014, Prof. Dr. Choudhary noted that the Group has laid strong foundations through cooperation agreements, joint training programs, and the establishment of the OIC Centre of Excellence on Vaccines and Biotechnology Products in Indonesia.

Addressing the inaugural session, H.E. Mr. Syed Mustafa Kamal, Federal Minister of Health, appreciated the pivotal role of OIC-COMSTech in promoting scientific cooperation and public health initiatives across the Islamic world. He informed participants that Pakistan is currently using 13 imported vaccines, and shared that the country aims to develop indigenous vac-

cine production capacity by 2030, in collaboration with OIC Member States. He proposed the establishment of a Vaccine Alliance among OIC countries to collectively address the health challenges of nearly 1.9 billion people living in the Islamic world.

In his remarks, H.E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Assistant Secretary-General of OIC for Science & Technology reaffirmed the strong support of the OIC General Secretariat for the Vaccine Manufacturers Group. He emphasized that strengthening vaccine manufacturing capabilities within OIC Member States is central to the Organization's broader science, technology, and development agenda. He highlighted the importance of regulatory convergence, standardization, and enhanced intra-OIC collaboration, and commended COMSTech for its catalytic role in convening stakeholders and translating political commitment into tangible and sustainable outcomes.

The meeting was attended by leading vaccine manufacturers and research institutions from across the OIC region, including PT Bio Farma (Indonesia), the Pasteur Institute of Iran, the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, VaxSen-Pasteur Institute of Senegal, the Pharmania-ga Research Centre (Malaysia), and manufacturers from Pakistan and other Member States. The National regulatory authorities, including the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), along with international partners such as WHO, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), SESRIC, SMIIC, and GAVI also participated in the meeting. ♦

COMSTech Strengthens Cooperation with IAEA

FROM PAGE 1

to Australia, and Dr. Riaz, Technical Lead from the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission were also present in the meeting.

Under the existing MoU between OIC and IAEA, it was agreed that the OIC-COMSTech and IAEA will collaborate in three African countries: Senegal, Nigeria, and Uganda.

The cooperation will focus on strengthening radiation therapy and diagnostic services in nuclear medicine by utilizing the expertise of leading Pakistani institutions, including NURI, and post-harvest treatment using nuclear radiation technology to reduce post-harvest losses in the targeted African countries. ♦

Kazakhstan Minister of S&T and Higher Education Visits COMSTech

FROM PAGE 1

the senior officials of COMSTech Secretariat.

Prof. Choudhary said Kazakhstan is playing a central role in the science and technology landscape of the OIC region. He said COMSTech has launched a number of joint initiatives through close coordination with Kazakhstan's diplomatic mission.

Mr. Magsi described Kazakhstan as an active and valued partner of COMSTech and recalled that cooperation dated back to 1996 with the establishment of the Pakistan-Kazakhstan Revolving Fund. He said countries such as Pakistan and Kazakhstan must allocate greater resources to research and innovation. Minister Nurbek appreciated the

leadership of Prof. Choudhary and acknowledged the role of COMSTech in strengthening research capacity and academic linkages across the Muslim world. He expressed Kazakhstan's readiness to further expand cooperation with COMSTech in higher education, research partnerships, innovation, and academic exchange. He thanked the Government of Pakistan and COMSTech for the warm hospitality extended to his delegation.

The meeting concluded with resolve to enhance institutional linkages, capacity-building programs, and joint research initiatives to address shared challenges in science, technology, and higher education. ♦

Scan to watch COMSTech Podcasts





CG COMSTech Prof. Choudhary Meets Online with CHRI, Nigeria

Cephas Health Research Initiative (CHRI) Inc., is a non-profit health-research organization based in Nigeria. Senior officials from both sides participated in the meeting, which focused on comprehensive discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in the fields of health research and capacity building. Key areas of collaboration discussed were fellowships,

joint workshops, training & exchange programs, and capacity building. Prof. Kanmodi the Executive Director of CHRI, appreciated the role of COMSTech in promoting science and health cooperation among developing countries and welcomed the initiatives proposed by Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTech. ♦

Delegation of YTU, Istanbul Visits COMSTech

A high-level delegation from Yıldız Technical University (YTU), Istanbul, Türkiye, led by Prof. Dr. Eyüp Debik, Rector YTU, visited the Headquarters of the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OIC-COMSTech) in

Islamabad on February 13. During the meeting, both sides discussed avenues for strengthening cooperation in science and technology, higher education, scholarships and fellowships, research collaboration, and faculty and student exchange programs. ♦



Prof. Choudhary, CG COMSTech Inaugurates the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at UoL

The Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTech, H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary inaugurated the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (CIR) at The University of Lahore (UoL) on Feb. 13. He congratulated the management of UoL for establishing this state-of-the-art research facility and appreciated their continued commitment to advancing collaborative research in the OIC region. UoL, one of Pakistan's leading higher education institutions, is an active member of the COMSTech Consortium of Excellence. ♦



Thai Envoy Visits COMSTech

H.E. Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Pakistan, along with a high-level delegation, visited the OIC-COMSTech Secretariat on Feb. 13. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the progress of ongoing joint programs and identified new strategic areas for future cooperation between COMSTech and the Kingdom of Thailand. By working closely with Thailand's scientific leadership, COMSTech aims to promote sustainable development through innovative solutions and shared knowledge. ♦



Virtual Seminar on Cancer Awareness

OIC-COMSTech organized an online seminar on Promoting Cancer Awareness & Advocacy for Radiation Therapy Technologies and Medical Physics in OIC countries. It was held in observance of World Cancer Day on 14th February. H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTech said that cancer care requires not only technological advancement but also sustained investment in human resource development and regional collaboration. The technical presentations were delivered by Dr. Nadeem Abbasi from Aga Khan University Hospital, and Dr. Asghar H. Asghar. The establishment of a dedicated professional networking platform titled "OIC-COMSTech Cancer Advisory Forum" was announced. Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid, Consultant SciComm. and Diplomacy, COMSTech, moderated the session. ♦

COMSTech Announces Awards Winners

Recognizing outstanding contributions to research and innovation within the OIC member states COMSTech conferred Awards in the following categories. COMSTech Life-Time Contributions Award in Chemistry is conferred upon Dr. Abdolreza Arash Simchi, Iran, and in Biology Prof. Mehboob-ur-Rahman, Pakistan. COMSTech Young Researcher Award is received by Dr. Abdur Rauf, Pakistan, and Dr. Zafar Said, UAE (shared). COMSTech Best Patent Award is given to Prof. Lim Hong Ngee,

Malaysia & Prof. İshak Afşin Kariper, Turkey (shared). COMSTech Best Research Paper Award in Biology won by Dr. Lobat Taghavi, Iran, in Chemistry by Prof. Dr. Zia ur Rehman, Pakistan & Dr. Adel Ali Ismail, Egypt (shared), in Mathematics by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sharif, Pakistan, and in Physics by Dr. Bobomurat Ahmedov, Uzbekistan. Each recipient will receive a certificate signed by H.E. the President of Pakistan (Chairman COMSTech), a shield of honor, and a cash prize ranging USD 2,500 to USD 8,000 corresponding to the respective award category. ♦



COMSTech-UEARS Workshop on Using AI in Scientific Writing

OIC-COMSTech, in collaboration with the UEARS, hosted the specialized workshop on Academic Writing: Using AI in Scientific Writing in Egypt on January 30, 2026. The event was conducted by Prof. Dr. Khalid Khan, a COMSTech Distinguished Scholar and former Chief Editor of BJOJ, alongside Prof. Dr. Bassel Wat-

tar, Chief Editor of the Human Fertility Journal. The workshop focused on bridging the gap between traditional research methodologies and modern technological tools. The experts provided participants with high-level insights into the evolving landscape of scholarly publishing. ♦

OIC-15 Technical Committee on Food Security, Water, Environment & Climate Change Meets

The Meeting of the OIC-15 Technical Committee on Food Security, Water, Environment & Climate Change was held online on 28 January 2026 under the coordination of the OIC-COMSTech Secretariat. The meeting was attended by the senior representatives from the OIC General Secretariat, relevant research and academic institutions, and subject experts from OIC-15 Dialogue Platform countries, including Cameroon, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. Coordinator General OIC-COMSTech, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, highlighted the food security challenges in OIC Member States due to climate change, water stress, and environmental degradation. Deliberations were focused on identifying critical gaps, shared

priorities, and practical pathways to enhance cooperation in food security, and discussed priorities in food security and climate adaptation, with particular emphasis on climate-resilient crop varieties, conservation of indigenous and improved seeds, precision agriculture, digital farming tools, and the use of innovative technologies to optimize water and resource efficiency. They discussed promoting Integrated Water Resources Management approaches to ensure sustainable and equitable water governance, while enhancing the efficient and responsible use of water across agriculture, industry, urban sectors. The meeting was moderated by Prof. Dr. Mudassar Asrar, Adviser, OIC-COMSTech. ♦

COMSTech Hosts Lecture Series on Edible Oil Technologies

OIC-COMSTech organized a two-day lecture series on Recent Advances in the Industrial Extraction of Edible Oil and Processing Techniques on 3rd-4th February 2026 at its Secretariat in Islamabad, in hybrid mode. The lectures were delivered by distinguished scientists — Prof. Dr. Syed Tufail Hussain Shah, Former Director, National Centre of Excellence in Analytical Chemistry (NCEA), University of Sindh, and Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Kara, Faculty of Science,

Department of Chemistry, Selçuk University, Türkiye. The sessions highlighted modern industrial methods of edible oil extraction advanced processing techniques, quality control, and emerging research trends aimed at improving efficiency, safety, and sustainability in the edible oil industry. The event created an interactive learning environment by connecting more than 100 online and in-person participants that connected researchers, students, and professionals. ♦



Ethiopian Envoy Visits COMSTech



Coordinator General OIC-COMSTech H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, received the newly appointed Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Oumer Hussein Oba on Feb. 12 at OIC-COMSTech Secretariat. Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary warmly welcomed the Ambassador and extended his best wishes on his new assignment. During the meeting, both sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in the fields of S&T, health, and higher education. Ambassador Dr. Oumer Hussein Oba appreciated COMSTech's initiatives in the African region, and reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to promoting mutual cooperation through joint programs. ♦

Call for Applications

COMSTech invites applications for:

1. Research Grants.
2. Research Fellowships.
3. Industrial Internships.
4. Fellowships for Refugee Scientists.
5. Training Programs.
6. Scholarships.
7. Seminars and Workshops.
8. SESAME Travel Grants.

To apply, please visit: www.comstech.org

COMSTech-Funded Events

In the first two months of 2026, COMSTech supported:

1. Global Life Sciences Summit May 6-8, 2026, University of Lahore.
2. International Conference, FutureCON-2026, February 10-12, 2026, Women University Mardan. ♦



Editor Ikram Abbasi, Senior Program Manager

Your views are welcome on: ikramabbasi@comstech.org

COMSTech Secretariat, 33-Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad-44000, Pakistan, Ph: (92-51) 9220681-3, Email: comstech@comstech.org

Email Distribution IT Department