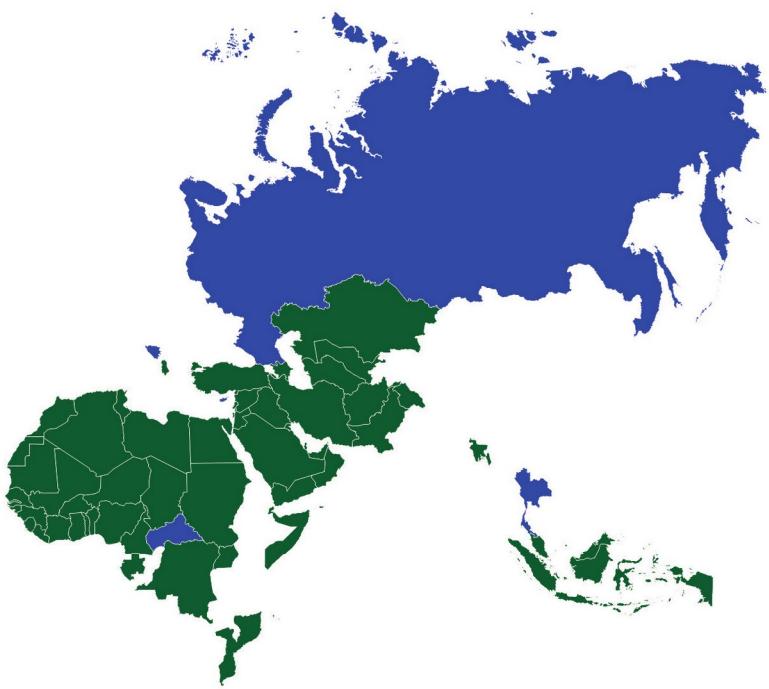




# COMSTECH YEAR BOOK 2024



OIC Member States

OIC Observer States



**Brief description of cover photographs (top down)**

1. H. E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH meeting with H. E. Mr. Hissein Barahim Taha, Secretary General OIC at OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
2. H. E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH and H. E. Mr. Chang Hua, Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Saudi Arabia and Special Representative to the OIC, after meeting in Jeddah.
3. Group photograph of the participants with H. E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH, at the occasion of the announcement of 5,000 scholarships for the students of the State of Palestine.
4. Launching ceremony of COMSTECH and Indonesia fellowships in virology & vaccine technologies held at Ministry of Health, Jakarta, Indonesia.

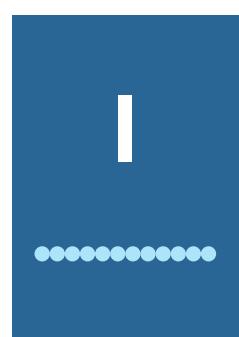
# COMSTECH Year Book 2024

**Edited and Designed by**  
Ikram Abbasi  
Senior Program manager  
COMSTECH



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## Foreword

Year 2024 is marked in human history as a year of blatant violation of human rights and international laws. Conflicts and genocides have affected the lives of millions of people, especially in besieged Ghaza enclave. Along with these, the world continues to face challenges of poverty, youth unemployment, illiteracy, insecurity, water and energy crises, and impact of fast deteriorating global climate. Unfortunately, the global responses to these emerging and enduring challenges have been far less than adequate.

Working for common global good, peace and justice, and sustainable development is the need of the hour. The OIC-COMSTECH (OIC Ministerial Standing Committee for Science and Technological Cooperation) is striving to build S&T capacity of member states through innovative approaches and partnerships, towards socio-economic development.

COMSTECH's programs and initiatives during 2024 have played a key role in developing interdependence and connectivity between the member institutions, and scientists of several member states. We expanded several existing programs, both in terms of outreach and magnitude, such as S&T capacity building through educational and research scholarships, institution-strengthening, and health Africa programs.

Along with these, several new programs were launched including COMSTECH Expert Service, and Science in Exile programs. The OIC-COMSTECH has implemented these initiatives in collaboration of our esteemed partners, both from OIC system, and beyond. We were able to benefit a large number of institutions in countries like Niger, Uganda, Somalia, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Yemen, Kazakhstan, and Russia. COMSTECH's 5,000 fellowships program for Palestinian in 5 years is aimed to rebuild the educational and STI capacity of the State of Palestine. Through "Health Africa program", the COMSTECH is trying to fulfill the immediate and long term healthcare needs of African LDC OIC states.

I am extremely grateful to the President of Pakistan (Chairman COMSTECH), and the Minister of Science and Technology of host country, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for a firm and sustained support for OIC-COMSTECH, the only intergovernmental organization

haired by Pakistan. We are also grateful to our member states, particularly the one who contributed financially and in kind towards COMSTECH programs. The patronage of OIC-GS, and our partner OIC institutions (SESRIC-Turkey, SMEHC-Turkey, IOFS-Kazakhstan, UAN-Saudi Arabia, IsDB-Saudi Arabia) is duly acknowledged. The support of international partners (International Foundation for Science-Sweden, International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology-Italy, SESAME-Jordan, IASS-Italy, NTD-UK), members of the Association of Private Universities of Pakistan (APSUP), COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE) universities in Pakistan, Indonesia, Russia, Malaysia, Iran, Bangladesh, etc), Chinese institutions (Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, Ningbo University, and Huawei Technologies), and OIC Universities (Niger, Chad, Uganda, Bangladesh, and Malaysia) has played a key role towards our shared mission.

I greatly appreciate the COMSTECH staff, technical and non-technical, for always giving their best in their respective assignments, enabling the COMSTECH to fulfill its mandate with excellence and style and contributing to serving the members states, and communities both in terms of outreach and magnitude, for science based socio-economic development. I also wish to thank all of you, dear readers, for your interest in, and support to COMSTECH programs.



**Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary**

Coordinator General, COMSTECH  
Mustafa (PBUH) Prize Laureate  
Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz  
Distinguished National Professor  
D.Sc., Ph.D., C. Chem.

Islamabad, 2024

## COMSTECH in Brief

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

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

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

The core mandate of COMSTECH is to strengthen cooperation among OIC member

states in science and technology (S&T), and enhance their capabilities through training

emerging areas, undertake follow-up action operation) was established by the Third Islamic

Summit of OIC held at Makkah- tul-Mukarramah; and to draw up programs and submit pro-

posals designed to increase the capability of the

Muslim countries in science and technology.

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

and rapid industrialization.



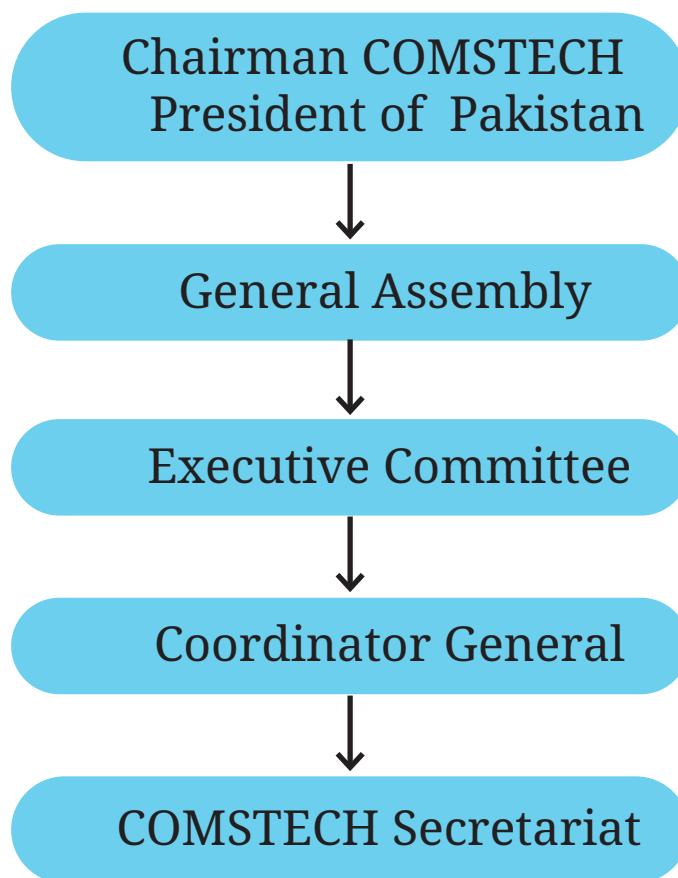
## COMSTECH Vision

To achieve the ultimate sustainable socio-economic development of the Ummah through the application of science, technology and innovation, and nurturing the mutual cooperation among the OIC member states.

## COMSTECH Mission

To contribute towards strengthening the individual and collective capacity of OIC member states in science and technology through mutual cooperation, collaboration and networking of resources. Also, to enable the OIC member states to use S&T as a major contributor to socio-economic development and rapid industrialization.

## Organizational Structure



## COMSTECH General Assembly

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

## Coordinator General COMSTECH

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary is the Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH.

He is a Distinguished Professor, Vice President of TWAS for South and Central Asia, and Se-

nior Advisor ICCBS. He is a world renowned Medicinal and Natural Product Chemist.

Prof. Choudhary has published over 1,200 re-

search papers in international journals with 3,600 impact factor, 94 books and 40 chapters

in books published by major US and European presses. He has secured 64 US patents as well

Dr. Choudhary's work has been cited by the re-

searchers from around the world by 45,800 times

and his h-index is 89. By now over 100 national

and international scholars have completed their

Ph. D. degrees under his supervision.

Dr. Choudhary is D. Sc., Ph. D., and C. Chem.

He has been awarded by different governments

of Pakistan with *Hilal-e-Imtiaz*, *Sitara-e-Imtiaz*,

and *Tamgha-e-Imtiaz*.

He has also received prestigious Mustafa (pbu) Prize (2021), ECO Award (2005), Khawarzimi Award(2006), COMSTECH Award(2011), TWAS Young Scientist Award (1994), Prof. Abdus Salam Prize (1989), China International Friendship Award (2022), and Sheikh Zayed International Prize (2024).

Prof. Choudhary has been honored with the title of Honorary "Professor" by Eurasian Na-

tional University and Kazakh Al-Farabi Na-

tional University of Kazakhstan, whereas the Hunan University of Medicine, China, named

research center after his name.

He is a fellow of world renowned science academies: Academy of Sciences for the Develop-

ing World, Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Pa-

kistan Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of

Chemistry, and Chemical Society of Pakistan.

Prof. Choudhary, since appointment as the Co-

ordinator General in 2020, has started a num-

ber of programs for the STI capacity building and

socio-economic development of OIC member

states.



# COMSTECH Scientific Advisory Council

COMSTECH aims to strengthen cooperation among the OIC Member States in science, technology and innovation (STI), and enhance their individual and collective capacities in STI as well as cultivate a culture of science appreciation in all echelons of the OIC societies. In short, COMSTECH essentially works to harness the power of STI for socioeconomic progress, and economic well-being.

The COMSTECH Scientific Advisory Council (COMSTECH-SAC) 2020, was formed with the following guidelines.

## Vision

COMSTECH-SAC's aims to become a forum for STI policy advisors and STI practitioners to undertake reviews and consultations on share experience, build capacities, and primarily develop approaches to the use of scientific evidence in informing policy at all levels of government, primarily in OIC countries.

## Mission

The COMSTECH-SAC shall be an advisory group of leading experts, nominated and invited from around the world.

ed by the Coordinator General COMSTECH. It would:

- Upon the request of OIC member states, and the directive of the Coordinator General COMSTECH, assist OIC member countries to build up their science advisory capacity and develop appropriate science advisory mechanisms to complement their own national needs.
- Propose a model STI advisory mechanism that COMSTECH can develop and promote and can be adapted by the OIC member countries.

Upon the request of OIC member countries, and the directive of the Coordinator General COMSTECH, offer advice and evidence-based counsel to member states of the OIC and OIC organizations on STI policies and activities.

Undertake reviews and consultations on national STI policies and strategies in OIC member countries.

Organize outreach meetings to share experiences and best practices in the domain of science advice to governments, policy-makers and other stakeholders, in cooperation

**COMSTECH-SAC MEMBERS**



From top left to right: H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, H.E. Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, H.E. Dr. Hayat Sulaiman Sindi, H.E. Tan Sri Dr. Zakri bin Abdul Hamid, H.E. Prof. Dr. Ousmane KANE, H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Sakr, H.E. Prof. Abdelkader DJEFLAT, H.E. Dr. Jauad El-Kharraz, H.E. Prof. Dr. Samia Satti Osman Mohamed Nour, H.E. Dr. Moneef R. Zou'bi, H.E. Prof. Dr. Galym Mutanov, H.E. Prof. Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Alnaimi, H.E. Prof. Mouïn Hamzé, H.E. Prof. Dr. Hasan MANDAL, and H.E. Dr. Fahad M. Alturki

# COMSTECH Team

## TECHNICAL TEAM

### **Senior Advisor (International Coordinators)**

Ambassador Shahid Kamal

### **Consultants**

Dr. Muhammad Ali Mahesar

Dr. Abdur Rashid

Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid

### **Focal Person**

#### (COMSTECH Awards & Programs Africa)

Mr. Abdul Haleem Asghar

### **Focal Person**

#### (Coordinator CCoE/ Outreach/ Media)

Mr. Muhammad Murtaza Noor

### **Senior Program Manager**

Mr. Ikram-ul-Haq Abbasi

### **Program Managers**

Ms. Khazima Muazim

Mr. Haris Akram

### **Program Officers**

Mr. Haseeb Ahmad

Ms. Aimen Malik

Mr. Umer Ali

### **Media Coordinator**

Mr. Shabbir Hussain

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

### **Senior Director HR & Administration**

Mr. Syed Aftab Hussain Zaidi

### **Assistant Director IT**

Mr. Usman Malik

### **Executive Secretary**

Mr. Ameen Kalroo

### **General Manager Hospitality**

Mr. Naveed Aamer

### **Admin Officer**

Mr. Rizwan Raza

### **HR Officer**

Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Khan

# COMSTECH Programs



## COMSTECH-ICGEB Cooperation Program

COMSTECH signed a memorandum of understanding with ICGEB in April 2022, to establish a general framework for cooperation in science, education, and technology.

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

Under this joint program, 11 Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) have been funded in 2022-23, worth 200,000 euro. Out of these 11 grants, 5 received 20,000 euro each, while 5 granted 17,000 euro each, and 1 project got 15,000 euro. Some of these projects have been successfully completed and others, which are in

progress will complete by August 2025. These grants were received by the researchers from Algeria (1), Egypt(1), Iran(1), Jordan(1), Malaysia(2), Pakistan(2), Tunisia(1), Turkey(1). The gender balance was given particular attention and 45% (5 projects) of grants have been won by women scientists.

The second segment of this program was fellowships. This segment was divided into two parts - one short-term fellowships under which fellows joined ICGEB component laboratories to do their research work and, second ones to benefit from south-south mobility scheme.

In the short-term fellowships at ICGEB, 8 fellowships were awarded to the researchers from Cameroon(2), Egypt(1), Iran(1), Jordan(1), Nigeria(2), Pakistan(1). Five out of eight fellowships were granted to women scientists. Due to personal reasons, 3 fellows renounced the opportunity. Remaining 5 are in progress and will complete by August 2025.

In the second tier of fellowships offer - SMART Fellowships (south-south mobility), six fellowships were offered. Researchers from Cameroon, Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tunisia

secured these fellowships to join institutions for research work in Hungary, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Zimbabwe, and Turkey. Due to unforeseen reasons one fellow renounced the opportunity. Two female scientists won fellowships out of these six.

In the fellowships segment, a total 14 fellowships were awarded out of which 4 fellows renounced the opportunity, and 10 are in progress, out of which some have completed and the remaining will complete by August 2025.

The third segment of this joint program was to organize workshops in emerging technologies for the capacity building of OIC states. Three workshops were planned to be organized in Malaysia, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Two events (to be held in Nigeria, and Malaysia) have been organized successfully in February and August 2024 respectively, and the third event could not be organized.

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is based in Trieste, Italy. Durban (South Africa), and New Delhi (India). COMSTECH is an OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation based in Islamabad, Pakistan. COMSTECH has six working groups, which are in progress.



## COMSTECH-CCoE Yemen Program

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

In the first phase COMSTECH offered 50 fellowships for Yemeni nationals. These fellowships were offered by International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) (University of Karachi), The University of Lahore, Lahore, and Health Services Academy (HSA) Islamabad - member institutions of COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE). In the first phase, 17 scholars have successfully completed their fellowships in the respective institutions, and returned back to Yemen to serve the nation.



Out of these 17 fellowships, 11 were done at the University of Lahore and 3 fellowships were done at ICCBS and HSA each.

In the second phase COMSTECH has offered 80 more fellowships and two on-site training events in Yemen in the fields of health, agriculture and climate with the support of the University of Lahore, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Health Services Academy, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, National Agricultural Research Center, University of Management and Technology, University of Sargodha and Super University.

## COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowships Program for Displaced and Refugee Scholars & Scientists

The COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowship Program aims to support displaced and refugee scientists to stay up-to-date in their field, maintain meaningful careers, and be in a position to help rebuild their countries, once conditions allow. Until then, these professionals can be valuable assets for the countries in which they arrive.

The program aims to provide displaced and refugee scholars and scientists who have not yet found a safe and long-term host country an opportunity to pursue their studies/research, at institutions/universities of the COMSTECH



Consortium of Excellence (CCoE). In this program, 10 Research Fellowships and 10 Postdoctoral Research Fellowships are to be offered for the year 2024.

## Research Fellowships for scholarships and LDCs in OIC Fellowships for Palestine Nationals

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

The purpose of these fellowships is to enhance the research and development capacity of promising researchers and engineers, and helping them to foster linkages for further collaboration in their fields, especially those who are at the beginning of their research career. A small subset of this fellowship is for Women Scientists in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in OIC, as COMSTECH works to promote women's participation in the science

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

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

These scholarships and research fellowships are provided to undergraduate, graduate students from least developed OIC member states and research fellows. Workshop participation is being facilitated for the students, scientists, engineers and technicians of the State of Palestine.

Several Palestinian students are currently completing their 4 years' degree program under the scholarship at high ranking universities of Pakistan: University of Lahore, Superior University, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), University of Sialkot, Kohsar University, and University of Faisalabad.

COMSTECH has committed 500 of such fellowships for Palestinian brothers and sisters.



# Fellowships for Virology Research Fellowship and Vaccine Technology Program for Muslim Minorities in Non-OIC Countries

In 2021, COMSTECH in collaboration with key centers of excellence in OIC countries announced the training scholarship in the field of virology and vaccine technology. This is indeed an attempt to prepare next generation of scientists of OIC nations to meet the challenge of current and future pandemics/epidemics. Objective of this program is to provide training to Muslim minorities in the non OIC Member States in the various themes of virology including Epidemiology of viral diseases, Bio risks assessment, Development of diagnostics and therapeutics against viral outbreaks, Dealing with higher education and human resource development of fellow Muslims. Therefore, In the first and second cycle of this program, Ministry of Health, Indonesia, Bio-Farma, Universitas Padjadjaran (UNPAD) and Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR) collaborated with COMSTECH and hosted fellows from several OIC countries including Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uganda, Iran, Jordan and Kazakhstan.

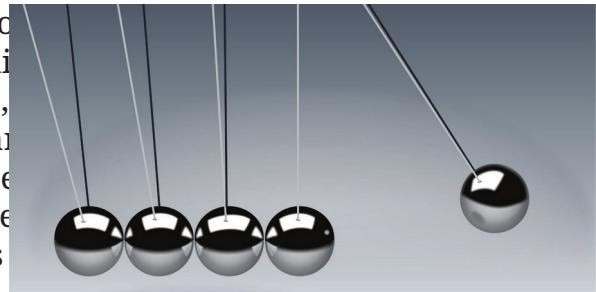
Through this initiative, COMSTECH wishes to promote economic, technological and social change, and build capacity of the Muslim minorities. COMSTECH in collaboration with CCoE institutions have launched this program to offer research fellowships to Muslim researchers in non-OIC countries, to enhance their R&D capacity.

Until now, researchers from Srilanka, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Madagascar, Tanzania and Kenya have benefited from this program. The Pasteur Institute of Iran, a renowned research and public health center, and agreed to development and implementation of joint educational programs, research, technology, and innovation initiatives, as well as the organization of local and international events such as conferences, workshops, exhibitions, and courses, exchange of students, experts, and academic staff members for professional development and exchange scientific activities.



## Basic Sciences Program

COMSTECH has initiated a new program to incorporate the most recent developments in the area of basic sciences. Under this program COMSTECH aims to promote capacity building in the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and their interdisciplinary applications. Under the program online lectures are being arranged to address the fundamental concepts in basic fields of science. The program was launched in September 2021.



## The OIC Technology and Innovation Portal

The OIC Technology and Innovation Portal is a digital information platform to showcase the prowess of scientists, innovators, and product developers from the OIC world. The portal is in line with the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Agenda 2026, approved at the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology, 2017. COMSTECH is developing this as a technology innovation platform to enable key actors for showcasing their innovative solutions and technologies that help in socio-economic development in the OIC world, and to tackle problems faced by them.

The portal enables the innovation ecosystem, including innovators, startups, SMEs, academics, governments and NGOs, to benefit from this tailored digital database. It provides an ecosystem to foster a culture of science and innovation amongst the Muslim nations. There are over 260 companies presently registered on the portal. As such this portal has the potential to bring meaningful change to the lives of millions of people across the OIC Member Countries, by giving researchers, technologists, innovators and entrepreneurs the opportunity to exchange information about emerging technologies, and their applications for enhanced industrial growth, employability, export potential etc.



# COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence

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

The strategic goals of the CCoE are:

- Create S&T interdependence among OIC states.
  - Build capacity in key areas of S&T through exchange programs and institutional linkages.
  - Provide enabling environment to increase investment, and trade through technology-based projects within OIC member countries.
  - Build an ecosystem of collaboration and enable knowledge-based economic growth in the OIC Region.
- Below is the list of CCoE member institutions:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, Pakistan        | 30. Foresight Institute of Research and Translation, Avenue Gikondo, Kigali, Rwanda |
| 2. National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan                    | 31. NETKENT University Turkey   |
| 3. Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences & Technology, Pakistan | 32. TUBITAK, Turkey   |
| 4. Quaid-e-Azam University, Pakistan  | 33. Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey                                 |
| 5. Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan                         | 34. Gebze Technical University, Gebze/Kocaeli, Turkey                               |
| 6. National Institute of Health (NIH), Pakistan                               | 35. Istanbul Nişantaşı University, Istanbul, Turkey                                 |
| 7. Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology, Pakistan             | 36. Islamic University in Uganda  |
| 8. Government Collage University, Lahore                                      | 37. The University of Chenab, Gujrat, Pakistan                                      |
| 9. University of Karachi, Pakistan  | 38. Green International University, Lahore, Pakistan                                |
| 10. University of the Punjab Lahore, Pakistan                                 | 39. Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, Pakistan                                |
| 11. COMSATS, Pakistan   | 40. Jinnah University for Women, Karachi Pakistan                                   |
| 12. University of Peshawar, Pakistan  | 41. Kohsar University Murree, Pakistan  |
| 13. University of Lahore, Pakistan  | 42. The University of Faisalabad, Pakistan  |
| 14. NED UET, Pakistan   | 43. Ibadat International University, Islamabad, Pakistan                            |
| 15. Islamia University Bahawalpur, Pakistan                                   | 44. KFUEIT, Pakistan  |
| 16. BZU, Pakistan   | 45. Superior University, Lahore, Pakistan   |
| 17. Baluchistan UET, Pakistan   | 46. University of Sialkot, Pakistan   |
| 18. BUIEMS, Pakistan  | 47. International Institute of Science, Art and Technology (IISAT), Pakistan        |
| 19. Al Shifa Trust, Pakistan  | 48. King Faisal University, Chad  |
| 20. PCSIR, Pakistan   | 49. University of Ndjamenya, Chad   |
| 21. PCRWR, Pakistan   | 50. Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria  |
| 22. IST, Pakistan   | 51. Somali National University, Somalia   |
| 23. Health Services Academy, Pakistan   | 52. Benadir University, Somalia   |
| 24. Agha Khan University, Pakistan  |   |
| 25. International Islamic University (IIUI), Pakistan                         |   |
| 26. The University of Haripur, Pakistan                                       |   |

# STI Profiles of OIC Member States

COMSTECH has ventured on the ambitious task of preparing a summarized version of the science, technology and innovation landscape of each OIC member state. Each country profile contains the following sections:

- Country Overview
- Economic Overview
- Social and Human Development
- Key Government Organizations and Policies Related to Science, Technology and Higher Education
- Research and Development: Statistics, Centers and Key Initiatives
- Higher Education
- Research Publications Analysis
- International Cooperation in Research and S&T
- Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Technology Parks
- Combating the COVID-19 Pandemic

COMSTECH has so far completed STI profiles of the member states listed below:

1. Algeria, 2. Azerbaijan, 3. Bangladesh, 4. Bahrain, 5. Brunei, 6. Cameroon, 7. Egypt, 8. Indonesia, 9. Iran, 10. Iraq, 11. Jordan, 12. Kazakhstan, 13. Kuwait, 14. Kyrgyzstan, 15. Lebanon, 16. Malaysia, 17. Morocco, 18. Nigeria, 19. Oman, 20. Pakistan, 21. Qatar, 22. Saudi Arabia, 23. Senegal, 24. Tajikistan, 25. Tunisia, 26. Turkey, 27. Uganda and 29. Uzbekistan.

These reports have been uploaded at the COMSTECH website: <https://www.comstech.org/comstech-science-technology-innovation-sti-profiles-of-oic-member-states-2/>



## Africa Program in Health and STI

COMSTECH Africa program include:

- Research Grants for Young Scientists
- Research Fellowships Program
- Technicians Training Program
- Technical Cooperation
- Eye Camps, Training in Ophthalmology and Repair of Medical Equipment

In November 2021, COMSTECH and LR in collaboration with the IsDB organized eye camps in The Gambia and the Republic Niger and carried out cataract surgeries, maintenance of eye medical equipment, and a workshop for cataract surgery.



## Distinguished Scholars Program

In September 2020, COMSTECH started the Distinguished Scholars Program focusing on building the scientific capacity of the OIC member states in various scientific fields.

So far, 41 eminent scholars with expertise in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics have been inducted into the distinguished scholars program. This initiative will allow scholars to showcase their prowess in the field internationally, and would allow other countries to learn from trained eminent scientists and engineers.

The nominated eminent scholars are requested



## Technician Training Program

COMSTECH offers internships to technical personnel in developing OIC countries to enable them to spend 4-6 weeks at a centre of excellence/ university in the OIC member states, and learn the operations, trouble shooting related details of state-of-the-art instruments.

The purpose of these fellowships is to strengthen the capacity of technical manpower in the effective and optimal use of existing and sophisticated research equipment.

The University of Lahore (UoL), Lahore, National University of Sciences And Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, The International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCB), Karachi, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), Airlangga University, Indonesia, Kazan F

University, Russia, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia, University of Sumatra Utara, Indonesia and many others jointly offer these research fellowships to young researchers in OIC countries.

In the first cycle of this initiative, 24 candidates from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Afghanistan have been benefitted.



## COMSTECH-Ida Rieu Schools Program for Special Education Teachers

COMSTECH and Ida Rieu Schools for the Blind & Deaf have launched Special Education Teacher's Training Program. This program is offering a dedicated 3 months training to special teachers by experts in this field. Special Education Teachers from all OIC member states can benefit from this program.

The program was discussed and agreed by Ms Nadira Panjwani, HI, SI and Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, (Mustafa (PBUH) Prize Laureate H.I., S.I., T.I., Coordinator General COMSTECH is the only OIC institution hosted by the Government of Pakistan, chaired by the President of Pakistan. COMSTECH was established in 1981.

This program is open for Nationals of OIC member states and observer states with age limit of 28-40 years. Applicants holding teaching experience of at least 1-year with relevant educational background will be given preference.

The training is for a period of 3 months. COMSTECH will provide return economy class tickets to successful international applicants and will cover their visa fee. All research/learning/

practice activities will be conducted in English. Detailed process of application is available on COMSTECH website (<https://comstech.org/comstech-ida-rieu-schools/>).

Ida Rieu Schools for the Blind & Deaf are schools and colleges run by the Ida Rieu Welfare Association (IRWA). IRWA came into existence in 1922 in Karachi with the vision of imparting education and training to the blind and deaf children to make them useful citizens of the community. Their mission is to nurture the

intellectual and social skills of special children

enable them to cope with all challenges.

Nadira Panjwani, HI, SI and Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary education and training.

Choudhary, (Mustafa (PBUH) Prize Laureate H.I., S.I., T.I., Coordinator General COMSTECH is the only OIC institution hosted by the Government of Pakistan, chaired by the President of Pakistan. COMSTECH was established in 1981.

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## Reverse Linkages Program with IsDB

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

ReverseLinkageis a technicalcooperation mechanism enabled by the IsDB where countries exchange their knowledge, expertise, technology and resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions for their autonomous development.

Sixteen ResourceCenters in Pakistan are mapped by IsDB as Provider Institutions

Reverse Linkage Program with focus on Agriculture, Agro-based Industry, Pharmaceuticals, Industry, Information Communication Tech-

More than 10 Reverse Linkage projects such as vaccine development, improvement of corn

variety, SMART Agriculture, cancer therapy & food packaging have been submitted to IsDB by COMSTECH in collaboration with OFC countries including Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Malaysia & Turkey.

Under the program, a project “Consultancy for Capacity Building in Fruit Juice Production in Nigeria” has been initiated. A Nigerian delegation visited Pakistan to witness the best practices being used by Pakistani academic, research

and commercial institutions for production and marketing of best quality fruit juices and other products, and offering to facilitate them to practice these in Nigeria. A team of Pakistani experts has been selected to provide consultancy and training to Nigerian scientists and framers for capacity building and transfer of technologies to improve their system and processes.

Under the TechnicalCooperationProgram of IsDB, Al-Khwarizmi Institute of Computer Sciences (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore under a project “Supporting the Establishment of a Computer Science MS(CS) program in the university of the Gambia” has provided expertise in

the establishment of MS(CS) program at the University of Gambia, trained the faculty and staff, helped in curriculum development, and provided design consultancy for newly established Faraba campus. KICS assisted in R&D of different IT domains which include software systems, embed systems, wireless and networking technologies, information technologies, and industrial automation.

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

For this purpose:

- KICS developed customized 10 courses for MS(CS) program.

- UTG faculty members got 4-week training session at KICS.

- Experts and IT staff from KICS visited UTG for survey of IT infrastructure, de-

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

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

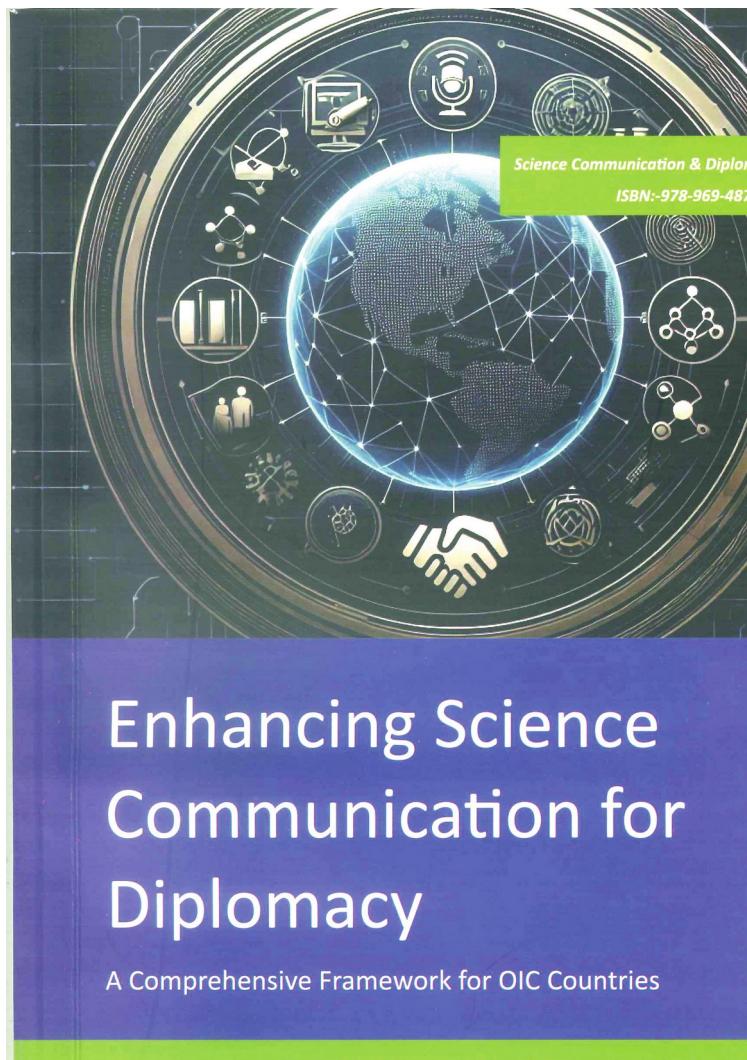


# COMSTECH SCAC Publishes 3rd Monograph on Enhancing Science Communication for Diplomacy

COMSTECH Science Communication Advisory Committee announces the publication of 3rd monograph of its monograph series. The monograph on Enhancing Science Communication for Diplomacy - A comprehensive framework for OIC countries has been written by Sayyed Paras Ali, & Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid. The monograph underscores the fundamental importance of science communication and meticulously

explores the multifaceted dimensions of science communication and diplomacy, providing valuable insights into how OIC member countries can enhance their science diplomacy efforts. The monograph offers a comprehensive analysis of the current landscape, identifies key challenges, and presents actionable recommendations that are both practical and forward thinking. It focuses on actionable strategies tailored specifically for OIC member states.

The monograph is available for download on <https://scac.comstech.org/downloads/>

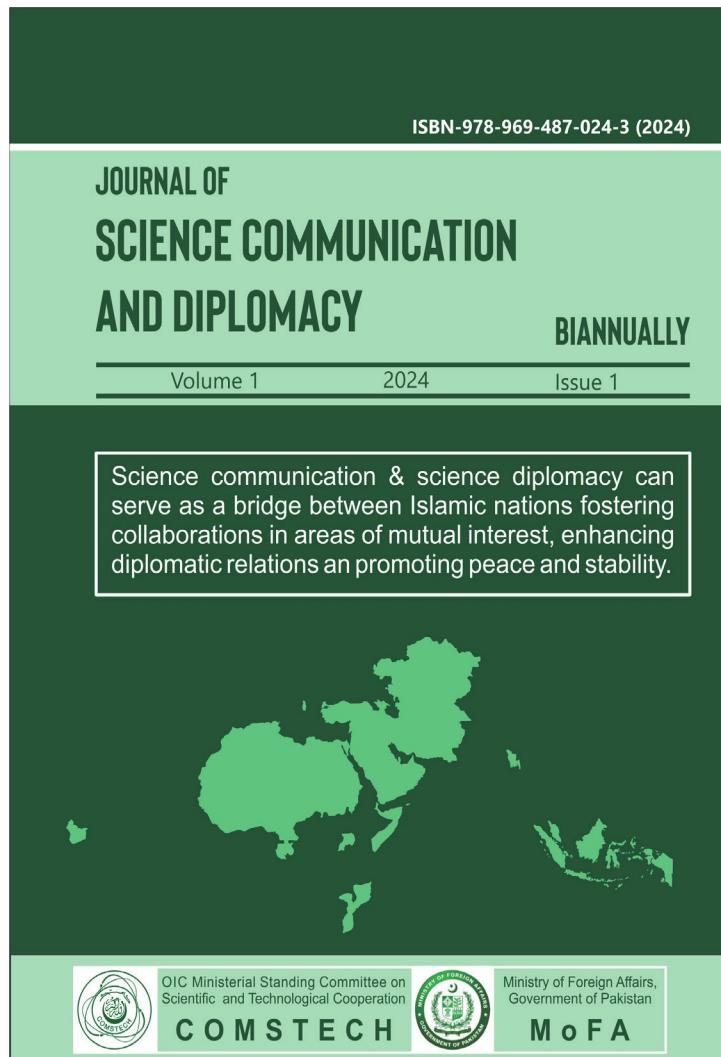


# COMSTECH and MoFA Launch Journal of Science Communication and Diplomacy

COMSTECH Science Communication Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published 1st Issue of the biannual Journal of Science Communication and Diplomacy. It is published jointly by OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan (MoFA).

Science communication and science diplomacy can serve as a bridge between Islamic nations fostering collaborations in areas of mutual interest, enhancing diplomatic relations and promoting peace and stability.

The first issue of the journal comprises upon eight papers and one op-ed article on different aspects and angles of science communication and Diplomacy. The journal is open access and available for download on <https://cjscd.comstech.org/>



# COMSTECH Launches Proceedings of Global Al-Farabi Forum

COMSTECH Launched the Proceedings of the Global Al-Farabi Forum. Abu Nasr Al-Fara (Abū Nasr Muhammād ibn Muhammād al-Fārābī) known in the West as Alpharabius; lived in the period between around 872 and 950-951AD. He was a renowned Islamic philosopher and jurist who wrote in the fields of political philosophy, metaphysics, ethics and logic. He was also a scientist, cosmologist, mathematician and music theorist. In Islamic philosophical tradition he was often called “the Second Teacher”, following Aristotle who was known as “the First Teacher”. He is credited with

preserving the original Greek texts during the Middle Ages because of his commentaries and treatises, and influencing many prominent philosophers, such as Ibn-e-Sina (Avicenna) and Maimonides. Through his works, he became well-known in the West as well as the East.



# COMSTECH



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