



C-Global

17th Edition Fall 2022 *Newsletter*



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& Campus Focal Persons of IO

Message from Chief Editor



From the Chief Editor's Desk

It is with immense pleasure that I present to you the new edition of our Office's biannual publication C-Global (17th Edition, Fall 2022). We are delighted to hear that our 16th Edition was well-received by our readers. We put in herculean effort to ensure that the presentation of the newsletter matches the quality of the content produced and caliber of our readers.

Inside, we are showcasing the most significant and prominent international events and research highlights from January-June, 2022 with a special emphasize on Research and Development. Our new segment "IN FOCUS" covers the Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials, at CUI: Developing Sustainable International Translational R&D Linkages.

Through this biannual publication, we endeavor at imparting a vibrant, positive and impactful image of CUI to our national and international readers and thus achieving our core objective of internationalization of CUI. We acknowledge with much gratitude, the unabated efforts of all those who have contributed to the compilation of this newsletter and look forward to their continued support. Please provide us with your valuable feedback for betterment of our upcoming volumes.

Happy Reading!

Ali Tawab Baloch, Head, International Office

CUI's Rankings & Reputation

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking

Moreover, CUI was ranked in 16 SDG's out of 17. These are given as under:

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 601-800	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 601-800	5 GENDER EQUALITY 601+	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 201-300	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 101-200
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 101-200 (of 1 in Pakistan)	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 401-600	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 401-600	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 401-600	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 301-400
13 CLIMATE ACTION 101-200	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 201-300	15 LIFE ON LAND 101-200 (of 1 in Pakistan)	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 401-600	17 PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS 401-600

AD Scientific Index (Alper-Doger Scientific H-index fic Index) 2023

CUI position in THE World University Rankings by Subject:

Year	Life Science	Engineering & Technology	Computer Science	Physical Sciences	Business & Economics
THE 2022	601-800	401-500	401-500	501-600	251-300

What's Ahead



CUI-Turkish University to Cooperate in Education



City Tour for International Students



Visit of Ms. Sabine Vermillard, Scientific and Higher Education Attache', Embassy of France at COMSATS University Islamabad



Inauguration of International Center at COMSATS University Islamabad



IN FOCUS: Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials, CUI: Developing Sustainable International Translational R&D Linkages



Research Highlights from Medical Image Processing Research Group (MIPRG)

Spotlight News

CUI-Turkish University to Cooperate in Education

The 3rd International Staff week (June 5-10, 2022) was planned under Erasmus+ Program at the USAK University, Turkey, whereby academic leaders from 15 international universities took part in various lectures and activities promoting International cooperation among universities in the post covid-19 context.



COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) inked an inter-institutional agreement with USAK University, Turkey at the campus of the later in a graceful ceremony

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, Rector COMSATS University Islamabad and Prof. Dr. Ekrem Savas, Rector, USAK University signed the agreement on behalf of their institutions to expand cooperation in academic and applied research as well as to formalize students and staff exchange.

While speaking at the ceremony, Prof. Afzal informed the participants of the International Staff Week about the active engagements of COMSATS University with the Turkish universities and research centres.

Rector COMSATS University Islamabad attended Iftar Dinner hosted by COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH Secretariat Islamabad hosted an iftar-cum-dinner on April 7, 2022 in the honor of the members of COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE). Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, Rector COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) accompanied by Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head International Office attended the occasion. The Vice Chancellors/ Rectors/ Heads of Institute of Space Technology (IST), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad (QAU), International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology (PAF IAST), Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital and Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) had also attended iftar-cum-dinner.



Prof. Choudhary gave a detailed presentation to the distinguished guests about key programs of COMSTECH. He acknowledged member universities of CCoE for their support and extending their role in participating in the COMSTECH programs. The host highlighted various fellowships particularly for Yemeni, Lebanese and Palestinian citizens coupled with salient programs and future initiatives under the umbrella of CCoE. The objectives of key programs like OIC-COMSTECH technology development, research project support, COMSTECH Africa, OIC-COMSTECH Technology and Innovation Portal and programs under CCoE were also enlightened by the Coordinator General COMSTECH.

The Rector CUI, speaking on the occasion, assured the Coordinator General for COMSATS University's continued support for COMSTECH and CoE. Taking the opportunity, Prof. Afzal briefed the host about various engagements of CUI with



COMSTECH particularly the offer of scholarships for students of OIC member states, engaging CUI top researchers for OIC members for the promotion of research activities, priority areas of cooperation, which CUI offers to the institutions of OIC and proposed plan.

City Tour for International Students

The International Office arranged a city tour for newly joined international students on March 12, 2022. International Students from different nationalities ie Afghanistan, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and Yemen visited famous areas of capital city including Pakistan Monument, Shakarparian Park, Faisal Mosque, Fatima Jinnah Park, Blue Area and Centaurus Mall

Most of students were dressed up in their national dress. Students enjoyed delicious local cuisine in a local restaurant in Blue Area (of Islamabad). The tour enabled the students to get familiar with major places (parks and markets) as well as provide an occasion to get conversant with each other



Friendly Cricket Match between International students and local students of CUI-Islamabad campus



The International office, under the able guidance of the honorable Rector, CUI organized a friendly cricket match between the International students and local students of CUI Islamabad campus on March, 17, 2022.

The purpose was to provide a platform for the International students to demonstrate their skills along with local students and to facilitate socialization among them. A huge crowd gathered to cheer their respective team and to enjoy the match.

The International students were very excited as it was the first ever extracurricular activity which was organized particularly for them.



Visit of Ms. Sabine Vermillard Scientific and Higher Education Attache' and Ms. Hannah Bieber, French Embassy in Pakistan



Ms. Sabine Vermillard, Scientific and Higher Education Attachée and Ms. Hannah Bieber, French Education Manager, French Embassy in Islamabad visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) twice, on March 18, 2022 and May, 2022. The purpose of the visits was to strengthen CUI's linkages with France and strengthen engagements with French Embassy in Islamabad.

They were welcomed by Mr Ali Tawab Baloch, Head International Office CUI and his team. They was shown campus and its facilities. Both diplomats expressed praises for the lush green campus of CUI. They also visited International Center established under the project funded by Erasmus +. The partners of the project are Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom; Ecole Centrale De Nantes, France; University of Bologna, Italy; University of Salamanca, Spain; COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan; National Universities of Science and Technology, Pakistan; Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan; and Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Pakistan.



During the meeting, mutual areas of interest and possibilities of collaboration and partnership were discussed. It was resolved that COMSATS University Islamabad looks forward to further foster academic and research ties with French universities and research centers as well as French Embassy in Islamabad.

Visit of H.E. Mr Tamerlan Khalilov, Deputy Head of Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Mr Tamerlan Khalilov, Deputy Head of Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on May 16, 2022 and had a meeting with Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head, International Office. The purpose of the visit was to explore academic and research opportunities between CUI and Azerbaijan.

H.E. Mr Tamerlan Khalilov appreciated the efforts and the achievements of CUI in different areas in such a short span. He also assured of his full support to further strengthening the academic relation between Azerbaijan and CUI. It was proposed to initiate academic and research collaborative activities between CUI and universities of Azerbaijan.



Visit of Prof. Ismail Simbwa Gyagenda, Rector, Islamic University in Uganda to COMSATS University Islamabad



Prof. Ismail Simbwa Gyagenda, Rector, Islamic University in Uganda visited COMSATS University Islamabad on February 17, 2022 during his two-day visit to Pakistan. While in CUI, he met with Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal, Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad. He was briefed about the university, its academics and research activities. Prof. Ismail Simbwa also briefed about the salient achievements of Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU). IUIU was established under a bilateral agreement between the Government of Uganda and the OIC. It has four campuses. It has over 600 fulltime faculty members from 8 countries. It offers 91 academic programmes in 7 Faculties and has a student body of 10,000 students from 21 different countries. The University has alumni body of 27,000 graduates.

The Rectors of both universities showed keen interest in having bilateral relations and explored and identified the potential areas of collaboration between the two universities. Both sides enthusiastically agreed to engage in academic and research activities on bilateral basis and to develop stronger academic ties between students, faculty and researchers of both universities.



Research Highlights

COMSATS University Islamabad initiates Research Collaboration with Dalhousie University, Canada.

The officials of COMSATS University Islamabad and Dalhousie University Canada met virtually on January 17, 2022 to collaborate and initiate academic and research activities between two universities.

Dr Sajjad Madani, Registrar; Dr Majid Iqbal, Head, Department of Computer Science; Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head, International Office and Ms Sadia Haider, Senior Program Officer, International Office attended the meeting from COMSATS University. Dr. Balakrishnan Prithviraj, Associate Vice President (Global Relations), Dr. Megan Chipp, Coordinator, International Strategic Initiatives, Dr. Khurram Aziz, Director Pathway Programs attended the meeting from Dalhousie University Canada.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify areas of mutual cooperation and discuss action plan for the future coordination between two universities.

In Focus

Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM), CUI: Developing Sustainable International Translational R&D Linkages

Economies today strive to become innovation fueled knowledge-based economies. In our effort to do so in Pakistan, it is essential we understand our strengths and weaknesses and make efforts to connect with developed and relatable innovation ecosystems. The aforementioned can be achieved through sustainable translational research and development linkages. This article introduces the pioneering Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM) at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Lahore Campus to the readers. CUI has recently been awarded a developmental grant by the Ministry of Science and Technology (knowledge economy initiative) through which CUI is upgrading IRCBM into one of the world's largest biomaterials-centric facility by developing translational R&D, proof of concept and product development laboratories and other aspects. This article highlights key international mobilities undertaken as a part of this groundbreaking project. The aforementioned information is presented to the audience with key references to three 3 mature R&D and innovation nurturing ecosystems as covered by the Global Innovation Index Report 2021. Furthermore, the article also covers the Pakistani progress in this regard and its mettle.

The IRCBM: IRCBM was established at CUI Lahore Campus in 2008. Since then, it has pioneered translational research and development in the fields of biomedical materials, tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, and sensors & biosensors in Pakistan. With 39 awarded/filed international and national patents, more than 700 peer-reviewed international publications and more than 250 national and international post-graduate student supervisions, IRCBM has laid a strong and pioneering foundation of translational R&D linked to biomedical materials. Advanced biomedical materials such as wound dressings, synthetic skin, bone fillers and toxin detectors etc. are not available in Pakistan. If available, these are in the form of very rare and exuberantly priced biomedical devices which are unaffordable by the common man. CUI has licensed three main technologies (wound dressings, skin alternatives, food toxin detectors) of IRCBM to national and international companies, respectively. Through these licenses, these companies are working towards commercialization in addition to providing support to CUI in the form of focused RnD case awards and much needed industrial grooming. With a strong translational R&D portfolio, IRCBM undertook key visits as part of the Joint Research and Training Program of a Ministry of Science and Technology (knowledge economy initiative) developmental grant awarded to CUI.

Pakistan Needs to Develop Strong Innovator based Sustainable Linkages:

With a strong R&D portfolio, productive international and national clinical/industrial/academic linkages and riding the impetus provided by the recent Ministry of Science and Technology funding, IRCBM undertook several visits to UK, Turkey and Germany. UK and Germany have mature innovation ecosystem whereas Turkey represents a relatable innovation ecosystem which is growing and expanding exponentially. The key aims of the visits were to identify knowledge gaps, understand mechanisms of research and IP translation and exploitation, undertake technical trainings and gain exposure to advanced equipment and technologies linked to biomedical materials and to lay the foundation for sustainable future partnerships. Through experience of now over a decade, IRCBM firmly believes that innovation is not a grand challenge in Pakistan anymore. Though few, several R&D units in the country are already functioning at par, if not ahead, of their global counterparts in terms of innovating, creating knowledge and

developing potentially exploitable intellectual property. However, innovation exploitation is still a major challenge which requires major focus – a challenge for many other developing countries as well in addition to Pakistan. Therefore, identifying knowledge gaps, skill/interest mapping and developing scientist-to-scientist linkages with progressive translational universities, technoparks and centers is of utmost interest.

The Global Innovation Index: The global innovation index (GII) ever since its inception in 2007, has become a widely referenced innovation metric. Under knowledge and technology outputs section, Pakistan ranks 49th overall for scientific and technical articles/billion PPP\$ GDP and 50th in Citable documents H-index. [Reference: WIPO (2021). Global Innovation Index 2021: Tracking Innovation through the COVID-19 Crisis. Geneva: World Intellectual Property Organization]

This clearly suggests that Pakistan's interest and investment in R&D and relevant HR over the last 2 decades are having an impact. There is now a critical need to ring-fence and nurture these developments further towards ensuring true societal and economic impact. In Pakistan's efforts towards becoming a knowledge economy, this suggests we are on the right-track, and we now need thought, finance, and HR investment in translational frameworks to protect our IP and exploit it for national benefit.

IRCBM in Germany: Under the joint research and training program of the PC-1 Establishment of a Centre of Advanced Technologies in Biomedical Materials awarded to CUI and being executed by the IRCBM, five faculty members undertook a visit to Berlin, Germany. The visit was hosted by the Chair of Advanced Ceramics, Technical University Berlin (Prof. Aleksander Gurlo). The rationale behind this visit was to gain access to specialized equipment, tap into new sources of funding, attract international partners for locally funded projects, identify future projects and technologies needed for IRCBM and share ideas for the mutual benefits of CUI and TU Berlin.



IRCBM in Turkey: A delegation of IRCBM's faculty was hosted by Prof. Dr. Cem Bulent Ustundag and Asst. Prof. Dr. Hakan Yilmazer, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Yildiz Technical University, Turkey. The group visited several universities and its allied departments across Turkey namely Yildiz Technical University, Yildiz TEKNOPARK, Marmara University and Kirikkale University. During these visits access to specialized facilities, joint project funding opportunities, identification of core areas for virtual labs and technology translation road maps were kept under focus. A workshop was also organized which focused on research areas match making, development of potential projects of translational nature for upcoming international funding calls were finalized. Apart from these academic visits special emphasis was given to visiting Turkish Biomedical Device Industries namely Bilimplant, Istanbul (Dental Implant Manufacturer), Iskefe Holding, Istanbul

(Biopolymers manufacturer), Distrak Biomedical Device Company, Konya (Orthopedic & maxillofacial implants) and 3DM, Ankara (Spinal implant manufacturer). Scientists at several of these institutes and IRCBM are already engaged in collaborative research and projects. IRCBM is currently executing three Pakistan Science Foundation – TUBITAK funded research projects in collaboration with researchers in three universities of Turkey, respectively. There was also significant interest in developing start-ups and efforts shall now focus on developing relevant frameworks.



The third delegation comprising of faculty and officers also undertook a visit to Turkey. The team visited and interacted with the Istanbul Technopark where it showcased IRCBM's intellectual property and its potential for attracting seed capital funding. The delegation also visited Acibadem University, Bilgi University, Bogazici University, Eskisehir Osmanghazi University (ESOGU), Hacettepe University Hospital Ankara, BIOMATEN at Middle East Technical University (METU) and Nevsehir Haci Bektas Veli University. Detailed interactions were held with Bugamed Bioteknoloji Technical College and Technology Transfer and International Offices of Eskisehir Osmanghazi University. These visits were comprised of meetings, talks, equipment/facility orientations and seminars. Key carry forwards from the visit included strong Turkish interest in Pakistani IP (IRCBM's biomedical materials and sensors based technologies), strong interest in joint research projects, addressing local and global health challenges through joint research and development and



faculty/student exchange. The visiting delegation was able to identify key personnel in the innovation ecosystem and R&D gurus for follow-up and long-term engagement.

IRCBM in UK: The 4th delegation of faculty and officers visited the UK. Due to rapid Internationalisation and disintegration of value chains, it is imperative for firms to reorganize and re-structure innovation activities on a global scale. Internationalisation in R&D brings wide range of benefits, such as enhanced research related networking, and exposure to different expertise and facilities. Thus, the rationale behind the visit to world renowned UK universities including Queen Mary University of London, Imperial College London, University College London (UCL), Southbank University London, Manchester University and Lancaster University, Lancaster UK to gain access to specialized equipment, tap into new global sources of funding, attract international partners, identify technologies needed in Pakistan and share ideas for mutual growth. Activities included trainings on advanced equipment such as Raman and FTIR Spectroscopy with enhanced features and accessories. Other activities included a customized professional development workshop, lab tours, equipment orientations and demos, presentations and interactions with a range of R&D personnel.



The Way Forward: The fields of Biomedical Materials, Tissue Engineering, Regenerative Medicine, Dental Materials and Sensors & Biosensors are directly linked to healthcare. Translational research and development in these areas has matured significantly and it feeds successfully into the global industry. The global biomaterials market is projected to reach 47.5 billion USD by the year 2025 (Biomaterials Market by Type of Materials - Global Forecast to 2025, marketandmarket.com). This has been brought about mainly by translational research which is nurtured in innovation-centric and exploitation tuned ecosystems. IRCBM has strong scientific and research centric collaborations globally and especially in the UK, Germany and Turkey. With the impetus provided by these visits, IRCBM now intends to expand this focus to develop joint IP protection and exploitation frameworks with international partners.

COMSATS University Islamabad as a leading research centric university of Pakistan has a strong R&D base and a rapidly growing intellectual property portfolio with functional scientific and industrial linkages. With strong indicators regarding R&D output as covered by the GII report 2021, Pakistan stands well-poised to truly benefit from its rapidly growing pool of exploitable intellectual property.

Research Highlights from Medical Image Processing Research Group (MIPRG)



The Medical Image Processing Research Group (MIPRG) in Department of Electrical Engineering, Islamabad Campus was initiated in January 2014 with an objective of promoting communication, research, development, applications, and the availability of information on magnetic resonance imaging as well as to devise new strategies for facilitating the accessibility of MRI facilities in the country.

The scope of MIPRG at CUI is to perform cutting edge research in the field of MRI and to help the world in finding solutions to the latest challenges in MRI. MIPRG researchers build optimized algorithms and software methods for all applications of MRI, including brain imaging, cardiac MRI, lung imaging, perfusion imaging and MR angiography, through efficient implementation on Central Processing Unit (CPU), Graphical Processing Unit (GPU) and Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA). For more information, please visit www.miprg.com

Here are some Achievements of the research group;

- (1) Four researchers from Medical Image Processing Research Group (MIPRG), ECE Department, CUI Islamabad Campus won the highly competitive 'ISMRM E. K. Zavoisky Stipend' at the Joint Annual Meeting of International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM), May 7-12, 2022, London, England. The award included Free Conference Registration of USD 475 + USD 1500 Cash Award for every 'Winner of the Award'. Congratulations to Ms. Madiha Arshad (PhD Scholar), Ms. Yumna Bilal (PhD Scholar), Rafia Ahsan (UG Researcher) and Fatima Sattar (UG Researcher) on this great achievement. Nine papers at this conference; out of which four papers have been written by the UG Researchers (8th semester) presenting their FYP research; CUI is among the very few universities in the world whose UG scholars were invited to present their research works in this highly prestigious international forum of MRI community; a testimonial to the excellent quality of our research even at UG Level.

- (2) Dr. Irfan Ullah, Assistant Professor from Medical Image Processing Research Group (MIPRG), ECE Department, CUI Islamabad Campus won a highly competitive Post Doctoral position at Department of Radiology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA. He has already started his Post Doctoral research at University of Iowa in March 2022 under the supervision of Prof. Merry Mani. His post-doctoral research involves extensive experimentation on 3T GE



MRI scanner and the development of High-Performance Computing Artificial Intelligence (AI) based applications of MRI for clinical use.

- (3) The Medical Image Processing Research Group, ECE Deptt., CUI Islamabad Campus won NVIDIA Academic Hardware Grant of worth PKR 460,000 approx. (i.e. 2400 USD) for project entitled 'Reducing MRI Scan Time by designing a Parallel Framework' in April 2022. As part of this grant, 400 hours will be provided on V100 GPU instances via NVIDIA's partner, SaturnCloud. The SaturnCloud instance includes pre-built container images allowing us to execute our Artificial Intelligence Based MR image reconstruction methods without obstacles caused by hardware & software compatibility or other dependencies. Further, V100 GPUs in the cloud will provide the necessary GPU memory to train complex models and large datasets without the need for any on-premise infrastructure. This grant will be a great way forward for CUI's young researchers towards learning new aspects of data science cloud environment and using it for applications in Magnetic Resonance Image Reconstruction.

- (4) Dr. Iram Shahzadi, a researcher from Medical Image Processing Research Group (MIPRG), ECE Deptt., CUI Islamabad, has won a highly competitive position of 'clinical machine learning engineer' at Siemens Healthineers, Germany in May 2022. She will be working on MR and CT image quality improvement/reconstruction/diagnosis and a variety of other tasks using machine learning for real-time application on scanners.



CUI Islamabad won the first position in the subcategory of software projects in COMPPECC 2022 held at EME College, NUST, Islamabad, Pakistan on 24th May 2022. Ms. Rameesha Khawaja and Ms. Amna Ammar, both Undergraduate researchers of Medical Image Processing Research Group, ECE Deptt. The students received a shield and cash prize of PKR 40,000/- each. The title of their winning research project was 'Deep Learning based Cardiac MR Image Reconstruction', which is a highly innovative research idea! The research project was jointly supervised by Dr. Hammad Omer, Dr. Faisal Najeeb and Dr. Madiha Arshad.

Highlights of COMSATS Secretariat

A. Events under COMSATS-UNESCO South-South Regional (Asia-Pacific) Technical Cooperation Programme (Biennium 2020-21)

Under an MoU for execution of COMSATS-UNESCO joint project titled 'COMSATS-UNESCO South-South Regional (Asia-Pacific) Technical Cooperation Programme (Biennium 2020-21) signed between COMSATS and the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU) signed in November 2021, following events were organized between January to June 2022.

- i. **International Conference on 'Industry 4.0 in the Developing World: Challenges, Gaps and Opportunities' (16th – 17th March 2022)**
COMSATS partnered with its Centre of Excellence in Sri Lanka, Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), to organize

'International Conference on 'Industry 4.0 in the Developing World: Challenges, Gaps and Opportunities'', on March 16-17, 2022. The event was last of the four activities planned under the said Programme.

- ii. **International Seminar on 'Sustainable Technologies in Modern Energy: A Roadmap Towards Green Economy' (March 7-8, 2022)**

A two-day International Seminar on 'Sustainable Technologies in Modern Energy: A Roadmap Towards Green Economy' on March 7-8, 2022. The event was aimed to provide interdisciplinary forum to academicians, scientists and early career researchers to deliberate on the importance of energy efficiency, sustainable and renewable energy resources, technologies and applications.

The two-day event was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, on 7th March 2022, in a ceremony hosted at the premises of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), Islamabad. The talks of the event covered a number of issues pertinent to the theme of the event, including: digital engineering; Lithium-ion Batteries as Energy Storage Device etc...

- iii. **15th International Symposium on Natural Product Chemistry (ISNPC-15) (Feb 21 – 24, 2022)**

COMSATS collaborated with the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Karachi; Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTECH), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to organize the 15th International Symposium on Natural Product Chemistry (ISNPC-15). The four-day long event opened on February 21, 2022 in a formal ceremony hosted by and at ICCBS. The event was joined physically and virtually by individuals from 21 countries, including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, and USA.

B. Workshops held from the Platform of COMSATS Joint Centre for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB)

- i. **Workshop on 'Bioenergy: A Road to Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality' (June 14, 2022)**

The COMSATS Joint Centre for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB) organized an online workshop on 'Bioenergy: A Road to Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality' under its Joint R&D Group on Bioenergy. Held on June 14, 2022, the workshop was aimed at encouraging meaningful dialogue between scientists and exploring potential cooperation for joint R&D to meet industrial needs.

Over a 100 scientists and researchers from China, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Tanzania, Thailand, and Türkiye participated in the Workshop. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Jibin Sun, Director of CCIB, and Deputy Director-General of the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), China. Prof. Sun considered bioenergy an important renewable energy resource having the potential to address challenges of resource scarcity and environmental degradation.

- ii. **Workshop on 'Crop Microbiome and Sustainable Agriculture' (April 13, 2022)**

COMSATS in collaboration with its Centre of Excellence in China – the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), organized a workshop titled "Crop Microbiome and Sustainable Agriculture" from the platform of COMSATS

Joint Centre for Industrial Biotechnology (CCIB), on April 13, 2022.

Speakers from Bangladesh, China, Iran, and Kazakhstan delivered lectures to 80 scientists/ researchers from Bangladesh, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey. The participation was through both virtual and physical means.

C. ANSO-BIDI School on 'Innovation, Sustainable Development and Leadership Enhancement'

COMSATS collaborated with the Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO), and the Centre for Environmental Economics of the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CEE-UCAS), China, to organize the second and fourth term of ANSO-BIDI School on 'Innovation, Sustainable Development, and Leadership Enhancement' under the Belt and Road International Innovation Development Institute Network (ANSO-BIDI Institute Network). COMSATS has been collaborating with CEE-UCAS to promote capacity-building of developing countries in the fields of science and technology under a Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2020.

The two phases which ran from November 2021 to January 2022, and May 2022 to July 2022, were aimed to provide a platform to the participants of developing countries to learn about advance concepts related to sustainable development and leadership enhancement

D. COMSATS-ICESCO Webinar on COP26

On February 15, 2022, COMSATS co-organized a webinar 'Adaptation and Mitigation: Joining Efforts to Activate Climate Action'. Organized in collaboration with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Morocco, the event aimed to deliberate on the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the pledges made by the Islamic world and African continent.

The hybrid event also had support of UNESCO Office for the Maghreb, Morocco; the Climate Change Competence Center (4C Maroc), Morocco; the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), Egypt; and the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG), Morocco.

Going Global

The Officials of COMSATS University Islamabad Participated in International Staff Training Program Organized in METU, Turkey



A five-member delegation from the COMSATS University Islamabad, Wah and Vehari campuses participated in the International Staff Training program organized by Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey. It was organized from May 30-June 3, 2022. The title of the training was "Blended Workshop and Training for University International Officers &

Administrators". It was jointly organized by Middle East Technical University (METU) and China National Academy of Education Administration (NAEA) and was sponsored by the Erasmus+ Program of European Union.

The purpose of the training was to exchange experiences, making assessments of the partnership, sharing best practices and to learn from the participants from 15 different countries. Erasmus+ KA107 (Non-European Countries) Staff Mobility for Training (STT) is a mobility activity that supports the professional development of administrative staff in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in the form of training events abroad and job shadowing/observation periods/training at a partner HEI, or at another relevant organization in the program countries.

This extensive training has provided a good opportunity for the participants to learn from another institution's experience and also to improve required talents for their current assignments. Additionally, social activities gave them a chance to get to know about cities of Turkey.

The training ended with lots of learning experiences and memories!



International Conferences

Webinar on "Feasibility Study of Provision of Safe Drinking Water through Water Conservation" under D-8 Funded Project

The Centre for Climate Research and Development (CCRD) organized a webinar on "Feasibility Study for Provision of Safe Drinking Water through Water Conservation" on March 30, 2022 in collaboration with COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) at COMSATS Headquarter, Islamabad. About fifty three (53) online and more than twenty (20) participants were physically attended the webinar. International participants from developing countries like Nigeria, Malaysia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Turkey etc. participated in the said event. The webinar aimed to share the outcomes of the ongoing project titled 'Feasibility Study for Provision of Safe Drinking Water through Water Conservation (SDWC)' being run in three D-8 member countries, i.e., Egypt, Nigeria and Pakistan with the financial support of D-8 Secretariat, Turkey.

Within the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) – Clean Water and Sanitation – the project was launched with the facilitation of COMSATS Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan.



Events, Seminars, Workshops & Talks

Capacity Building in Higher Education: Two-Day Training Under Erasmus + Program held in Pakistan



A delegation from Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom, Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France, and University of Salamanca, Spain visited Pakistan from June 21-23, 2022. The purpose of the visit was to conduct training programme entitled, "Academic Recognition and Recognition of Staff" under B-international project. It was three days training program which was simultaneously conducted in COMSATS University Islamabad and at National University of Science and technology Islamabad.

B-International is a capacity-building project in higher education and is financed by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The consortium partners of the project are a) Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK; b) Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France; c) University of Bologna, Italy; d) University of Salamanca, Spain; e) COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan; f) Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan; g) National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan; and h) Pakistan Institute of Fashion Sciences, Pakistan.



The lunch was hosted by the Rector CUI, Professor Muhammad T. Afzal in the honor of the delegation and participants of B-International training.

A training of representatives of partner universities was held from June 21-22, 2022 and ended with the commitment to strengthen the academic collaboration with the partner universities as this project being the first step of such initiative for internationalization collaboration and there is a long way to go!

A Dissemination event was held on June 23, 2022 for propagating about the project and its achievements. The event ended with happy note and thanks to all the representatives of the partner universities of the B International Project.

Training on "Academia Industry Linkages: Challenges & Opportunities for Fresh Graduates in Job Market"

The International office, COMSATS University Islamabad campus organized a training session titled "Academia Industry Linkages: Challenges & Opportunities for Fresh Graduates in Job Market". The purpose of the training was to bridge the gap between academic and industrial practices and the challenges a fresh graduate faced at their workplace.



Mr. Arshad Mahmood Akif CEO of ASK Development, a professional trainer & HR consultant was invited as a guest speaker. He explained the students about the challenges they might face as a new grad and mentioned tips to overcome them. This interactive session provided the students an effective solutions and remedial actions which will contribute to their success as a professional.

Ms. Robeela Bangash, CEO Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) who was also the co-host of the event shared her thought and experiences with the students. She said that getting the first job after university is an exciting but also terrifying prospect for newly graduates. Lack of work experience



is a problem a lot of recent graduates are facing where they requiring work experience in order to get a job, but unable to acquire that experience without first landing one. She extended her offer of doing internship for CUI students at HRDN.

Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head International office specially thanked the chief guest for taking out the time from his busy schedule and for sharing such a wonderful talk which was very informative and at the same time very motivational for the students. He further added that International office of CUI is always endeavor to organize such kind of activity to polish the skills of our students apart from their academic activities. Event ended with a group photo.

Y. Not. U Training and Development Session



The International Office, CUI organized a training session entitled "Know yourself" on its premises on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. The purpose of the session of the two-hour session was to inculcate feelings of empathy and compassion in the students as well as to help them in believing in themselves. The major topics covered included: self-discovery, self-actualization, individuality, living with integrity, standing up for our values and giving back.

Mr. Babbar Abbas and Ms. Taieed Zehra, from the Y.NOT.U organization were the lead trainers for the event. The students took keen interest in the various activities which taught them about discipline, team work, sequencing and listening. The concepts of "lean unlearn relearn", "comfort zone", "Iceberg Illusion" and "Personal branding" were introduced through facilitative talks.



Internationalization at CUI

'B-International' A Capacity Building in Higher Education Project Funded by Erasmus+

A capacity building project named 'B International' got approved from Erasmus +. The partners are Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom; Ecole Centrale De Nantes, France; University of Bologna, Italy; University of Salamanca, Spain; COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan; National Universities

of Science and Technology, Pakistan; Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan; and Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Pakistan. The British Council Pakistan is associate partner. It is an Erasmus + funded project. The duration of the project is three years. The aim of the project is to enhance capacity of the partner universities to implement international strategies that support its wider aims as well as enhance knowledge and practical tools to implement international activities.

The objective of the project is to build capacity of Pakistani universities with tools that will enable them engaged internationally. In addition, the project will address challenges faced by the university and its systems, quality, accessibility, relevance, modernization, delivery, and management & governance.

The CUI has successfully convened three virtual meetings in the month of March and April to discuss and finalize the project details. A Center for Internationalization has been established for students, faculty and staff members which is equipped with technology to enable them to become virtual learning hubs.

Inauguration of International Center at COMSATS University Islamabad



The COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) formally inaugurated the International Center on June 22, 2022. The Rector CUI Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal inaugurated it. It was witnessed by the Registrar Prof. Dr. Sajjad A. Madani, Head International Office Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head International office, Head ORIC Prof. Dr. Shahid A Khan, Dean Faculty of Engineering Prof. Dr. Shahzad Malik, Dean Sciences Prof. Dr Sajid Qamar, Head CU Department Prof. Dr. Majid Iqbal, Professor of Computer Science Prof. Dr. Manzoor Tamimi and other senior colleagues. In addition, Ms. Anna Dukes, Head of Global Outreach and Operations, Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom; Ms Caroline Cécile Kerello, European Project Manager, Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France; Prof. Dr. Juan Luis García Alonso, Professor, University of Salamanca, Spain; Zainab Masood, Manager, Global Engagement, Lahore University of Management Sciences; Mr Waasay Ahmad Khan, Assistant Director (International Collaboration); National University of Science and Technology;

and Ms Khadija Hassan, Assistant Professor, Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design were also present in the inauguration.

The Center is established under a capacity Building project entitled 'B-International'. B-International is a capacity-building project in higher education and is financed by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The project is jointly implemented by partners from a) Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK; b) Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France; c) University of Bologna, Italy; d) University of Salamanca, Spain; e) COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan; f) Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan; g) National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan; and h) Pakistan Institute of Fashion Sciences, Pakistan.

This Center will promote internationalization activities in CUI and will transform into truly international university with wide range of inter culture. The Center will provide students, faculty, officers and staff with a framework to implement international strategies that support wider aims of CUI as well as provide knowledge and practical tools to implement international activities with partner universities.



Activating the Internationalization Strategy of CUI

Internationalization strategy plays a pivotal role in coordinating and gathering institutional efforts to undertake holistic internationalization of an organization.

CUI earlier this year had formulated its internationalization strategy document which was approved by the syndicate in June 2022. Just lately, CUI has constituted an Internationalization committee headed by the Rector and composed of five senior officials to steer this strategy forward.

Surely in coming times good rewards and bound to accrue from CUI's internationalization strategy once it is put into action.

From COMSATS Art Gallery (CAG)

Art Exhibition: "Reflection"

An art exhibition titled "Reflection" was showcased on April 7, 2022 at COMSATS Art Gallery, COMSATS University Islamabad. The exhibition displayed artwork produced by students and Faculty of Department of Art and Design including paintings, miniatures, sculptures, prints and selected thesis work.

The show was inaugurated by Worthy Rector COMSATS University Professor Dr. Tabassum Afzal. The worthy Rector was amused by the quality of work produced by students of Department of Art and Design. He said "It gives me immense



pleasure to see work of our students and faculty on display today. It's heartening to see expressions of students in form of painting, miniature, sculpture and prints. We are still in recovery phase after COVID-19 which has yet again given us time to reflect upon ourselves and rediscover the bonds of humanity between us all."

Speaking at the occasion Ms. Farrah Mahmood (In Charge COMSATS Art Gallery/ Chairperson Department of Art and Design) congratulated students on commencement of their exhibition. The exhibition was attended by students, faculty, officers, media persons and other people from all walks of life and was liked by all.

Art Exhibition "Reward of Traditional Art"



An Art Exhibition "Reward of Traditional Art" opened at COMSATS Art Gallery on Thursday 16th June 2022. The show was a solo show of miniature and calligraphy by renowned artist Shabana Nazir. The show was inaugurated by Worthy Rector COMSATS University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, the very famous and eminent Miniature Artist Ustaad Bashir Ahmed, Mr. Jamal Shah ex Executive Director Pakistan National Council of the Arts and Mustafa Haider Syed (Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute).



CUI International Students (News scoop)

- Two (2) scholars under CUI-TWAS fellowship program joined CUI for the Postdoctoral and PhD (sandwich program).
- Eight (08) Students joined CUI in different scholarship programs.
- Four hundred and ninety-two (492) international students from nine (25) different countries are enrolled in various degree programs in Fall-2021 semester.
- One (1) scholar of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) from Kenya joined CUI Abbottabad campus under Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships Program.

Let's hear from our Sri Lankan Student;



"My experience as a master student at COMSATS University Islamabad is propitious. I enjoy my learning procedure in a serene environment in a leading university of Pakistan. The chirping birds, the smiling flowers, and the green seats add extra color to my day. The greenish beauty of COMSATS is gorgeous. COMSATS made me consider her as my second mom. The well-equipped library and the laboratories are special highlights of COMSATS University. The hospitality and civility of our Pakistani friends are fathomless. The friendly lecturers, supportive board members, and amicable colleagues hardly make us remember our homes. I am really having a great time at COMSATS and also, I am proud to be a Comsatian. COMSATS provides a quality education, along with love and care, for international students all around the world. When I enter the university grounds, I am ecstatic and elated because it transports me to a completely different world. I'm over the moon to say that I'm blessed to be a master student of COMSATS."

Azmica Kaleel Rahuman
MS BIOCHEMISTRY
AND
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
SRI LANKA



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