



# C-Global Newsletter



Fourteenth Edition Spring 2021

## Message from Chief Editor



It is indeed my pleasure to share the 14th Edition of C-Global (Spring 2021) with all of you. It covers wide ranging globally focused news, events, and activities that took place at CUI between July-December 2020 contributing to a global academic arena.

Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic and in spite of constant challenges, CUI has continued to thrive and kept up with its academic and research activities through online mode. Behind this continuous endeavor lies the strength of passion, dedication and quality of CUI management, faculty, students and staff.

Before leaving you to explore this edition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped to make our events and initiatives a success.

Wish you a pleasant read!

*Ali Tawab Baloch*

## CUI's Rankings & Reputation



ARWU/ Shanghai  
Rankings 2019



Times Higher Education  
World University  
Rankings 2021



QS Top Universities  
Rankings 2021



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Team & Campus  
Focal Persons of IO

## What's Ahead



P 12 Pak-UK Education Gateway



P 7 Call on visit of Coordination Gen with Group Photo



P 11 Coop between Japan and Pakistan Rector, ED & Counselor



P 14 COVID-19 spaces between Us

Clarivate Web of Science

Muhammad Shahid

Associate Professor - Environmental Science, COMSATS University Islamabad, Vehari Campus

Publications	124	Total Times Cited	4,423	H-Index	36	Researcher ID	42
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**Congratulations**

Dr. Shahid, Associate Professor  
CUI Vehari Campus

**ACHIEVEMENT**

Dr. Muhammad Shahid has been listed in the "Highly Cited Researchers 2020" by Clarivate, Web of Science.

The list includes only 0.1% (6300) researchers of the world.

COMSATS News Network-CNN

P 4 Remarkable achievement of Dr. M. Shahid

## Spotlight News

### Agreement Signed for 300KW Solar Power-Plant

An agreement to setup a 300KW solar power plant at the Sahiwal Campus of COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) was signed by Prof. Dr. Saleem Farooq Shaukat, Director, Sahiwal Campus, CUI and Mr. Azeem Arif, Assistant General Manager, DCH Solar Giga Pvt. Ltd. Senior Officials of COMSATS University Islamabad also witnessed the ceremony.



The project is part of the green initiatives undertaken in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, whereby clean renewable energy will be produced on the various campuses of COMSATS University Islamabad. The Solar power plant will take 26 weeks to commission and will generate around 8.8 million units of electricity during the course of the project. The project will save around 5266 tons equivalent of carbon dioxide emissions, which would have been generated ordinarily for producing the same amount of electricity through fossil fuels. Regarding the carbon footprint, it was also informed that the impact of the power plant is equivalent to planting 11,000 fully grown trees.

Dr. Tahir Naeem, Director, P&D and HRD, CUI, informed in the meeting that the project is a shining example for the public sector for deploying affordable, clean, renewable energy generation at zero cost to the public exchequer. He also said that the project envisaged shifting of around 30 percent load of electricity at the Sahiwal Campus initially onto solar power, which will yield commercial benefit to both parties. He further said that CUI will similarly attract private enterprises to undertake joint projects in renewable energy on similar lines at other campuses, which is also an expression of CUI's commitment towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals.

Rector CUI, Prf. Dr. Muhammad T Afzal while speaking at the occasion agreed that renewable energy is a subject of intensive research around the world. Prof. Afzal also stressed that diffusion of renewable energy for high-tech applications in furnaces and industry is the need of the hour. Pakistan has been naturally endowed with ample sunlight around the year which needs to be adequately harnessed at the commercial and household levels, he added.

### CUI Professor Wins ANSO Collaborative Research Project



Prof. Dr. Habib Bukhari, a lead researcher at Department of Biosciences CUI and now the Vice Chancellor Kohsar University Murree, has won 150,000 USD funding from Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO) based in China. Dr. Bukhari will be doing a collaborative research project together with researchers from China, Turkey and Thailand on, "Mosquitome of Flying Syringes-Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus & their Fitness vis a vis their Competency to Transmit Infection With Changing Climate." Duration of this project is three years.



Ar. Uzma Kabir, Assistant Professor coordinated the thesis along with her team comprising of Ar. Sannah Ejaz, Assistant Professor and Ar. Ryha Abidi, Visiting Faculty Member. Eminent architects from the field were invited as jurors.



The overall performance of students was appreciated by the jurors. Half of the class passed with honors while four received distinctions.

### Diagnostic Tool for Brain Tumor Detection

Brain tumor is one of the deadliest cancers with very poor prognosis. It is normally diagnosed by radiologists through medical image modalities such as MRI. Automation of tumor detection has remained a tricky task given the lack of required hardware resources and HR trained, in the relevant technologies.

Lately, big advancements have been made in both the hardware and software aspects of technology. As part of the government's plan to build the necessary infrastructure and technical HR in AI a center of intelligence namely National Center of Artificial Intelligence (NCAI) was launched which is a consortium of six universities namely, NUST, UET Lahore, Punjab University, NED UET, UET Peshawar, and COMSATS University Islamabad. There are a total of nine labs working in different domains with a common thread of using AI to solving local problems. CUI Islamabad Campus, hosts the Medical Imaging and Diagnostics (MID) Lab working on identification of different diseases through different medical imaging modalities such as MRI, CT-Scan, and X-rays. Its main focus areas are brain tumor detection, breast cancer detection, and tuberculosis identification.

Recently a team from the MID Lab participated in the prestigious MICCAI BraTS challenge 2020 hosted by Perelman School of Medicine at University of Pennsylvania in the USA. Teams from all around the world participated in the challenge and submitted their algorithms for brain tumor segmentation, overall survival prediction, and uncertainty. This year teams from prestigious institutions such as Harvard Medical School, USA, DKFZ, Germany, and Chinese Academy of Sciences also participated. It is a matter of great pride and honor for the MID Lab, NCAI, CUI and Pakistan that the team from the lab had their algorithm ranked at third position. The lab is now vying to develop a prototype to be commercialized based on that. This would reduce the cost of diagnosis by almost a quarter and can also reduce the lead time thus contributing to the early diagnosis and saving lives.

### Grant won by IRCBM, CUI Lahore and Sheffield University UK for Development of Advanced Pro-Angiogenic Wound Dressing

A consortium led by Dr. Muhammad Yar of Interdisciplinary Research Center in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM) CUI Lahore Campus and Dr. Sheila MacNeil of Sheffield University UK, has recently won a grant from the British Council and HEC Innovative and Collaborative Research Partnership Grants Scheme under the Pakistan-UK Education Gateway; for the development of advanced Pro-Angiogenic Wound Dressings for patients in Pakistan with diabetic ulcers and injuries. Six projects were awarded out of 263 submissions.




### CS Department CUI Vehari Campus Certified as Huawei ICT Academy Partner


It is worth sharing that the Department of Computer Science, CUI Vehari Campus has been certified as a Huawei ICT Academy partner. The type of partnership is Talent Alliance under Membership No. CPM-20201126-00004 with Start date: 2020-11-26 and End date: 2023-11-26.


As per recent MoU signed with KICS-UET Lahore regarding HAINA-COMSATS (Vehari Campus) establishment; The Phase-1 about TTT (Training the Trainer) started from 30th November 2020 to Friday 4th December 2020 in which six trainers from CUI participated as Huawei Authorized ICT Instructors.

### Remarkable Achievement of Dr. Muhammad Shahid

COMSATS University Islamabad takes pride in announcing that Dr. Muhammad Shahid, Associate Professor at the Environmental Sciences Department of CUI Vehari Campus has been listed in the "Highly Cited Researchers 2020" by Clarivate Web of Science. The list includes only 0.1% researchers of the world. Congratulations to Dr. Shahid on this remarkable achievement!








**Muhammad Shahid**  
highly cited

Associate Professor - Environmental Science, COMSATS U	envy Islamabad, Vehari Campus
PUBLICATIONS: 124	TOTAL TIMES CITED: 4,423
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COMSATS News Network-CNN

## Nine CUI Researchers Nominated in the Top 2% World Scientists

It is a Great honour for CUI that our nine of our researchers have been nominated in the top 2% World Scientists. Dr. Sabir Ali Shehzad, Assistant Professor, Mathematics Department at CUI Sahiwal Campus is one of them. He has published 300 research papers in the past six years.

The US-based Stanford University has recently released a list that represents the top 2 per cent of the most-cited scientists in various disciplines. The exhaustive list has 1,59,683 persons out of which, 81 are from Pakistan and luckily, 9 are from COMSATS University Islamabad.



## Highlights of COMSATS Secretariat

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COMSATS Consultative Committee

The fourth Meeting of COMSATS Consultative Committee chaired by Mr. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Chairperson COMSATS Consultative Committee and the then Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, was held virtually on November 11, 2020.

The Meeting was attended by 30 country delegates from 19 countries: Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. The meeting also had the participation from international organizations, including the South Centre, Switzerland; International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Italy; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Thailand; The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Italy; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pakistan.

COMSATS Centers of Excellence in China, Colombia, Egypt, Gambia, Iran, Indonesia, Jordan, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Turkey, as well as diplomatic missions of Jordan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Yemen in Islamabad also attended the meeting virtually.



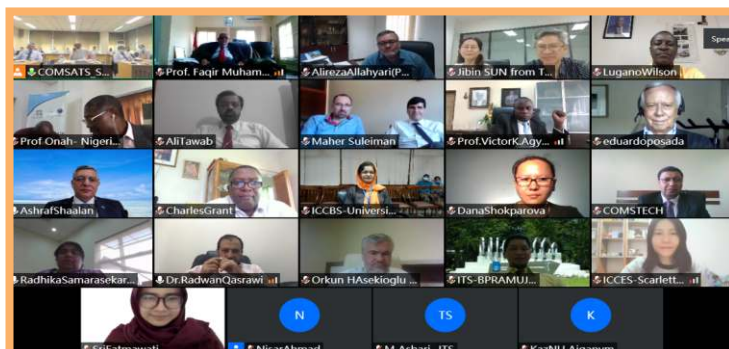
The meeting resulted in revitalized commitment from the focal ministries of COMSATS' Member States for supporting COMSATS. The delegates called for and agreed on having stronger ties among scientists and researchers for solving common development problems; effective cooperation and initiatives at highest levels for emergent situations, such as COVID-19 pandemic; scientific and academic exchanges; as well as developing strategies for addressing issues such as food security and climate change.

The areas identified for cooperation and mutual support included: multilateral research, refugee management, Science Diplomacy training, data science, climate sciences, energy, post-pandemic preparedness, agriculture, biotechnology, food security and nutrition, capacity building, knowledge economy, and SDGs.

### The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council

The twenty-third meeting of COMSATS Coordinating Council was held virtually on 14th of July 2020. The meeting was attended by the Council members or their representatives from 19 Centers of Excellence of COMSATS, including BCSIR (Bangladesh), ICCES (China), TIB (China), CIF (Colombia), NRC (Egypt), UTG (Gambia), CSIR (Ghana), ITS (Indonesia), IROST (Iran), ICENS (Jamaica), KazNU (Kazakhstan), NMC (Nigeria), ICCBS (Pakistan), CUI (Pakistan), AQU (Palestine), ITI (Sri Lanka), HIAST (Syria), TIRDO (Tanzania), and TUBITAK (Turkey). In addition to the Council members, the meeting was attended by the officials of COMSATS Secretariat from Islamabad.

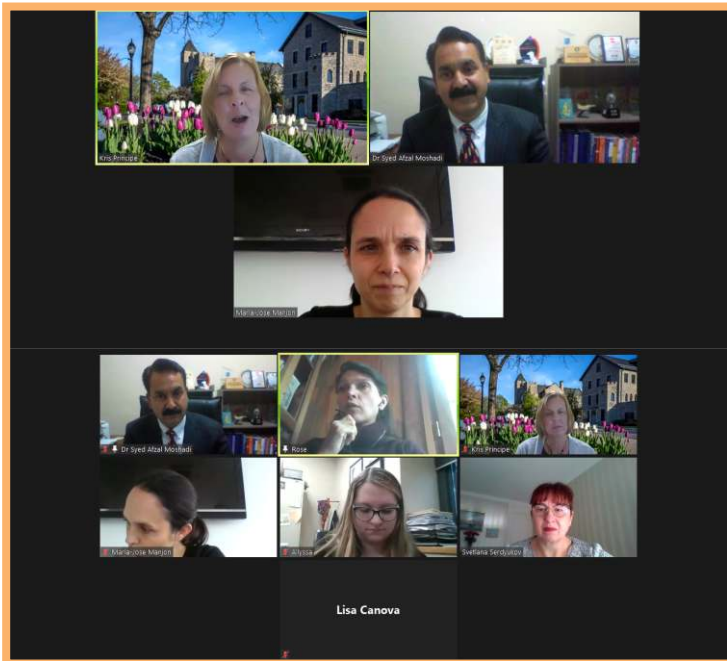
After holding the 23rd Coordinating Council meeting, COMSATS Secretariat continued interactions among the network members by holding virtual sessions wherein Centres of Excellence shared their programmes and activities held since the last Coordinating Council Meeting. These sessions helped to facilitate interaction among Centres in order to initiate joint programmes for the benefit of the Member States, despite limitations with respect to physical interaction due to COVID-19. During these presentation sessions, Centres shared their mandates; research and other academic and development activities; activities and achievements during last one year, as well as future prospects, aspirations with regard to various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); as well as collaboration among the Network and with other international counterparts and organizations. Work on COVID-19 pandemic also remained a prominent theme of these exchanges.



# Going Global

## 27th Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference (IVBEC)

Dr. Syed Afzal Moshadi Shah, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Sciences CUI Abbottabad Campus presented his research and served as a Session Chair in 27th Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference (IVBEC) held on Oct 22-24, 2020 hosted by Niagra University's College of Business Administration, USA.



## Successful Visit of Dr. Munam Ali Shah to UK

Dr. Munam Ali Shah, an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science, CUI Islamabad Campus, attended a talk on "Tackling Big Challenges in Science, Society and Economy." This international event was organized by The Alan Turing Institute, British Library, London, UK. The main objective of this event was to create awareness in all the stake holders of the modern society about the new challenges raised as a result of the recent trends in the digital world.



During his visit, Dr. Shah also met with Professor Carsten Maple of the WMG, University of Warwick (UoW), UK. Several opportunities for joint ventures between the WoU and the CUI were explored such as research collaboration, hosting an international level conference and organizing a special issue in a research journal. As a result of this meeting, they successfully formed up a team of editors and are currently hosting a special issue in Cyber Security in MDPI Electronics which is a Q1, research journal.



# Our Worldwide Visitors

## Coordinator General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC) Visits COMSATS University Islamabad

The Coordinator General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on July 16, 2020. Prof. Choudhary was warmly welcomed by the then Rector CUI Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar. The formal meeting was attended by the senior management of CUI including the Rector, Registrar, Dean Sciences, Eminent Professors, Director CUI Lahore Campus/ Executive Director Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT) who joined through video link and the Head International Office.

The Rector shared details of different CUI activities, its engagements with OIC member countries, scholarships and research fellowships given to OIC member countries and long list of activities of INIT. In addition, he mentioned about different research initiatives taken by CUI for Covid testing and supply of ventilators during the pandemic. The Dean sciences, Prof. Dr. Arshad Bhatti gave details of his research work especially with Philips. The Registrar gave details of different researches,



patents filed/ awarded and their commercialization. The Executive Director INIT/ Director CUI Lahore Campus gave details of different activities of INIT.

The Coordinator General COMSTEC appreciated CUI's efforts for offering different scholarships/ fellowships, research & development activities for combatting Covid-19; and activities of INIT. He briefed about the future areas and priorities of COMSTEC to work jointly with CUI. Various possibilities to enhance Science and Technology cooperation were mutually discussed. Prof. Choudhary proposed further cooperation with CUI focused on African countries, women in science and Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries.

The Coordinator General COMSTEC also suggested establishing a COMSTEC funded consortium of excellence

which will offer Research Fellowships of 6-12-month duration, opportunities of mobility for distinguished scholars to travel among OIC world for structured research & development activities and to offer technical trainings on scientific equipment(s) among the member countries.

The Coordinator General informed that INIT is one of the most active networks of COMSTECH. It was agreed to further mobilize INIT to initiate work on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data. It was discussed that INIT should hold multiple events in year 2021, at least one each in the geographical areas of African, Arabian, and Central Asian countries.

It was also agreed to sign collaboration between the two entities to further strengthen collaborative activities as well as work jointly for the betterment of Muslim Ummah.

### Call on Visit of Coordinator General COMSTECH to COMSATS University Islamabad

The Coordinator General of COMSTECH Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on August 21, 2020 to call on the Rector for discussing possibilities of cooperation between COMSTECH and CUI. Prof. Iqbal Choudhry had a formal meeting with Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassam Afzal. Registrar CUI, Eminent Professors/Researchers, Director P, D & HRD/ Executive Director Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT) and Head International Office & Incharge China Study Center were also present in the meeting.

Prof. Choudhary briefed about recent initiatives of COMSTECH for enhancing Scientific and Technological cooperation between the OIC member states. He formally invited CUI to work together on new initiatives of COMSTECH. Rector CUI gave an overview of CUI to Prof. Iqbal Choudhary. Prof. Choudhry appreciated the phenomenal growth, expansion and development of CUI. Various options of cooperation between the two organizations were also discussed.

The Rector welcomed the suggestions of cooperation proposed by the Coordinator General and agreed to work together with COMSTECH. He assured the Coordinator General of university's full cooperation and support.



## Events, Seminars, Workshops & Talks

### CPS Webinar Panel Discussion on "Policy Making in a Post-Covid 19 World"



The Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) organized a webinar panel discussion on "Policy Making in a Post-Covid 19 World" on 10 July 2020. Varying discussions were carried out on general public policy, the psychological aspects, the environmental aspects and aspects of foresight.

Dr. Imran Syed, Head CPS, covered complexity and policy, Dr. Mumtaz Fatimah Jafri Head, Faculty Development Academy, gave a talk on "Covid 19 and Psychological Well-being", Mr. Hassaan Fayyaz Khan Sipra, Scientific Officer, CCRD on "Environmental Aspects of Covid 19", and Mr. Umar Sheraz, Senior Research Officer, CPS, gave a presentation on "Foresight for Policymaking".

### CPS Online Roundtable on 25th Anniversary of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan

The Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) at COMSATS University Islamabad organized an online roundtable dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan on October 27, 2020. This roundtable was organized in collaboration with Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and Institute of

Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Islamabad.

The keynote speakers were: Mr. Begench Myatliev, Vice Rector for Scientific Affairs of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan; Ms. Farhat Asif, President of Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies; Ambassador Chynar Rustemova, Senior lecturer of Social Sciences Department of IIR MFA Turkmenistan and Dr. Imran Syed, Head, Centre for Policy Studies, COMSATS University Islamabad.

The roundtable was well attended by CUI faculty and students while strictly following COVID-19 SOPs.



## Sustainable Water Governance in the Global South under Changing Climate'

Dr. Toqeer Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Center for Climate Research and Development (CCRD) participated as a resource person in a webinar on 'Sustainable Water Governance in the Global South under Changing Climate'. The event was co-hosted by COMSATS Center of Climate Sustainability (CCCS) & Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan, on Thursday, 8th October 2020. The webinar covered SDG 6 of SDGs 2030 Global Agenda and was the 5th webinar of webinar series hosted by CCCS on 7 focused SDGs of CCCS. The webinar was inaugurated by Ambassador Shahid Kamal, Head/Founder of CCCS.

Dr. Emmanuel O. Bekoe, Senior Research Scientist, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana; Dr. Jauad El Kharraz, Head of Research, Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDRC), Oman; Dr. Maha Al-Zu'bi, Researcher – Agriculture Water Solutions, International Water Management Institute (IMWI); Dr. Toqeer Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Centre for Climate Research and Development (CCRD), COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan and Dr. Mehmet Dilaver, Research Officer, TUBITAK, Marmara Research Center, Turkey were the speakers. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Almoayied Assayed, Manager, Climate Change Studies, RSS, Jordan. The purpose of the webinar was to bring together experts from the Global South to present evidence-based solutions for challenges in ensuring water security and addressed the role of stakeholders (businessmen, government, academia and civil society) in overcoming the obstacles for implementing water governance.



## IRCBM Hosted The Inaugural Meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI)

Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM), CUI Lahore, hosted the inaugural meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) on 21st December, 2020. The meeting was attended by Rectors /Chancellors/Vice Chancellors and representatives of the D-8 NPRI Universities, nominated by the member states, officials of the D-8 secretariat and representatives of the D-8 affiliated institutions. The meeting was also attended by the partners of the D-8 organization, including D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN), D-8 Health and Social Protection Program (D-8 HSP), Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC), Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI), Islamic World Science Citation Center and Islamic Development Bank (ISDB). In order to develop collaborative research relationship

and encourage dialogue and facilitate sharing of experience among all affiliated bodies of the D-8 organizations, the meeting agreed on strengthening the linkages among universities, research institutions and industry-related organizations. To promote collaboration and joint ventures among the research institutions of the D-8 member states, the heads of the D-8 NPRI universities and research institutions also agreed on the establishment of the D-8 Research and Development Council.



## Online Invited Talks

1. Dr. Rizwan Raza delivered an invited talk at the "2020 Silk Road International Conference on the Cooperation and Integration of Industry, Education Research and Application, Xian, China from 11-13 December 2020". The conference was organized by the Ministry of Education, China. The title of Dr. Raza's talk was "Composite Energy Materials: A sustainable Pathway"



2. Dr. Rizwan Raza delivered a lecture on "How to Write a Good Scientific Article and Review Article- A Pathway for Beginners" organized by Riphah International University - Lahore Campus, Pakistan, 11-13 December 2020.

## Identifying Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices in Gilgit-Baltistan

A one-day consultative session on "Identifying Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices in HKH regions" was organized at Riveria Hotel, Gilgit on September 9, 2020 jointly by COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) and Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit. The activity was part of a regional project on climate smart agriculture funded by Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN-GCR). The project leader Dr. Muhammad Abid briefed the participants about the project objectives and activities in three valleys of Gilgit





including Bagrot, Naltar, and Juglot. Dr. Farhad Zulfiqar and Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad briefed the objectives and dynamics of the consultative meeting. Various stakeholders from KIU, Agriculture Department, Gilgit, Mountain Agriculture Research Center, Juglot, Environmental Protection Agency, University of Baltistan, Livestock Department, and farmers' representatives from the three study areas participated in the session and discussed existing issues and challenges being faced by local agricultural systems and identified potential options to make agriculture resilient to climate change and other extreme events. At the end, Deputy Director Livestock Dr. Ali Murad Khan as guest of honor appreciated the project team in gathering important stakeholders to identify solutions for sustainable agriculture and to improve the wellbeing of farming communities in Gilgit Baltistan. Dr. Qamar Abbas, KIU, concluded the session with a vote of thanks.

## COVID-19 and Environmental Stability

Dr. Anjum Rasheed, Assistant Professor, Center for Climate Research Development (CCRD) gave a talk on 'COVID-19 and Environmental Sustainability' during a webinar on Climate Change Risks and Impacts on Vulnerable Communities Post COVID-19 on July 08, 2020. The webinar was organized by Centre of Excellence for Research and Applied Studies on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (C3SD-NRC), Egypt. She mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge. She highlighted the impact of resources exploitation on spread of communicable diseases. Increase in human exploitation of wildlife has led to transmission of virus from animals to humans. Destruction of forests increases animal-human contact and thus increases the chances that the virus would be transmitted from animals to humans.

## Inauguration of China Book Corner at CUI

The China Study Center, COMSATS University Islamabad Campus (CUI) in collaboration with Power China in Pakistan inaugurated China Book Corner on Tuesday December 15, 2020 at Junaid Zaidi Library, CUI Islamabad campus. Mr. Yang Jiandu, Chief Representative of Power China, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch the then Incharge China Study Center/ Head Internal Office CUI, inaugurated the China Book Corner.



Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, in his welcome speech thanked the representatives of Power China and Embassy of Peoples Republic of China in Islamabad for choosing CUI for establishing China Book Corner in Junaid Zaidi Library and gave a brief introduction about CUI and areas of cooperation and mutual exchanges.

Mr. Yang Jiandu, Chief Representative of Power China while introducing about Power China said it is a global leader in the field of clean and low-carbon energy, water resources and environmental construction. Power China is a backbone force

in global infrastructure interconnections and is also a leading enterprise serving construction for the Belt and Road Initiative. He stressed that Chinese and Pakistanis are working as one team on all major fronts and this event will be a good start for Chinese Companies and academia especially COMSATS University Islamabad for further cultural cooperations.

Prof Dr. Muhammad Abid, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, CUI gave concluding remarks and thanked the participants, Power China and Chinese Embassy in Islamabad for establishing China Book Corner in Junaid Zaidi Library. He also shared his vast working experience and relationship with Chinese partners. He appreciated the efforts of China Study Center and Power China for convening the event in short time. He welcomed Power China for utilizing the professional potential and human resource of CUI.



## 2 Day Webinar on Publishing in Top Tier Journals

A webinar titled "Publishing in Top Tier Journals" was conducted at the CUI in two sessions i.e. on August 31, 2020 and September 8, 2020. The webinar is part of activities, organized under the program "Information Seminars for Higher Studies Abroad". Dr. Muhammad Shakil Ahmad from the Department of Management Sciences, Attock Campus conducted the webinar.



In the first session, the speaker shared information on different categories of Thomson Reuters Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4 impact factor journals and discussed on how impact factor is calculated. He also discussed strategies for publishing in the impact factor journals. The speaker deliberated at length on searching and selecting research topics for the research paper on the Web of Science as it improves the chance of being accepted in impact factor journals. Later he discussed on how to write an effective abstract in a research paper.

In the second session the speaker discussed the importance of the research title and elaborated on the structure of the research paper. He also discussed formats for writing the introduction and literature review sections. He strongly advised the use of "Harzing Publish or Perish" program and Emerald search engine/database for reviewing articles that are highly rated and to cite them in the literature review section.

The sessions were interactive and the participants acknowledged the usefulness of the information provided by the learned presenter. The webinar was organized by the Directorate of Planning, Development and Human Resource Development.

## International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Dr. Anjum Rasheed, Assistant Professor, CCRD moderated the webinar on 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies' on September 07, 2020. The webinar was organized by COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS), COMSATS Secretariat. The webinar emphasized the need for science based solutions for tackling air pollution, robust coordination and integration mechanisms in reducing air pollution, linking air pollution in the context of climate change, promoting effective air monitoring and forecasting systems and building partnerships at the regional and international levels.



The panelists included Ms. Maria Katherina Patdu, Coordinator, Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership, UNEP; Dr. Eric Zusman, Senior Policy Researcher, Institution for Global Environmental Studies (IGES), Japan; Prof. WU Chenglai, Associate Prof. of ICCES, Institute of Atmosphere, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing; Ms. Madina Tursumbayeva, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Meteorology and Hydrology, Al-Farabi Kazak National University; Mr. Zia Ul Islam, National Program Manager, National Ozone Unit, Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan and Ms. Jacqueline Godfrey Mwendwa, Research Officer, Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO).

## Meeting with Cultural Affairs Office, US Embassy, Islamabad

A virtual meeting was held between Cultural Affairs Office, US Embassy, Islamabad and officials of COMSATS University Islamabad on Tuesday July 21, 2020. Ms. Lisa Swenarski, Country Cultural Attaché and Mr. Sharif Sabir, Cultural Affairs Specialist were representatives from US Embassy. Dr. Fahim Qureshi, the then Registrar CUI and Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head International Office attended the meeting from COMSATS University Islamabad. Subsequently, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassam Afzal, Rector CUI also joined the



During the meeting Dr. Qureshi briefed about ongoing academic collaborations and partnerships with various US universities. He also informed about US alumni working in different campuses of CUI. The US alumni represent scholars &

researchers who availed prestigious scholarships under various scholarship programs. Moreover, the US counterparts were informed about academic and research excellence with US, inward mobility from US and various programs which were jointly organized between CUI and US Embassy.

Ms. Lisa Swenarski acknowledged CUI academic activities with the US institutions. She briefed the participants about different programs of US Embassy for the students, faculty and researchers of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassam Afzal, Rector CUI urged to explore more opportunities for academic cooperation, research collaboration and opportunities of short term semester mobility for CUI students and faculty members to US universities/ institutions with the cooperation of US embassy.

It was decided to work jointly and in close collaboration.

## Observance of United Nations International Youth Day 2020 at COMSATS University Islamabad

COMSATS Headquarters and COMSATS University Islamabad jointly organized an International Online Seminar on "Youth Engagement for Global Action" while observing the International Youth Day (IYD) 2020 on August 12, 2020 at CUI Islamabad Campus. The objective of the seminar was to celebrate our youth and shed light on how to make their engagement more inclusive for the purpose of strengthening their capacity to achieve global action.



Chairman Kashmir Committee & State Minister for SAFRON and Narcotics Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi was the chief guest of the event. The event was attended by audience from all walks of life including diplomats, parliamentarians, international speakers, COMSATS officials, CUI faculty and enthusiastic students of CUI. More than 100 people joined the event though zoom and other social media platforms.

In his welcome address, the Rector COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Muhammad Tabassam Afzal welcomed the honorable guests and speakers and said that youth are the most important partners in our global efforts and there is an urgent need for their input to promote intergenerational understanding in our biosphere. Various expert speakers on global youth engagement joined the event online from Azerbaijan, China and USA. The keynote speaker of the event was Malala's father Mr. Ziauddin Yousafzai who joined virtually and spoke on the importance of right of safe education and

equal opportunities of growth for female youth especially of Pakistan.

State Minister Mr. Shehryar Afridi while addressing the audience appealed to the international bodies to make serious efforts for implementing equality and justice for these are the basic human rights and unless it is addressed we cannot look forward to a hopeful world for our youth.



The then Executive Director COMSATS Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi in his remarks thanked the chief guest, MNA Prof. Dr. Ghazala Khalid and the guest speakers for joining and gracing the event with their presence and insightful thoughts for addressing and mobilizing the most powerful segment of the society. He said that our youth has always been in the forefront whenever there has been a time of need and crisis. He said now is the time for our youth to train itself with best IT expansions in order to survive in the Post COVID World.

## 9th Webinar from ERC Webinar Series



The Energy Research Center CUI Lahore has organized a series of webinars by engaging international researchers on topics related to various energy issues.

Recently, the 9th Webinar of this series was held on 12th of October 2020. The theme was Smart Energy Systems Laboratory - A RT-HILL Framework for Research and Education. The speaker of the event was Dr. Florin Lov who is an Associate Professor at the Department of Energy Technology at Aalborg University Denmark.

## 2-Day International Webinar on "Role of Genomics and Biotechnology in COVID-19"

Department of Biosciences at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Sahiwal Campus arranged a two-day international webinar. Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal gave Leadership Talk as Chief Guest during the opening ceremony of this international webinar.

The opening ceremony was attended by more than 150 participants from the globe i.e. China, Bangladesh, Turkey, India, Japan and Pakistan. The worthy Rector welcomed all participants and keynote speakers from the globe. While delivering a Leadership talk, the Chief Guest expressed that COVID-19 has transformed the life of people around the globe

and its reshaping our thinking and way of life since last 6-7 months. CUI is very much committed providing the sustainable solution and developing impactful knowledge. The Chief Guest shared that recently the Times Higher Education (THE) has ranked CUI in the band of 200-300 in impact ranking whereas, in Life Sciences CUI is in top 400-500 band that brings us a lot of responsibilities on our shoulders to contribute. He further added that CUI Sahiwal Campus has taken a lead to initiate this webinar and would contribute towards achieving the sustainable development goal number three on health and well-being. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal extended his best wishes to the Director CUI, Sahiwal Campus, Prof. Dr. Saleem Farooq Shaukat, the Chairman Department of Biosciences, Prof. Dr. Habib Bokhari, the Head Department of Biosciences, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim and Dr. Awais Ihsan, Coordinator of all committees working for this webinar.



## Cooperation between Japan and Pakistan Historically Significant, Rector COMSATS University Islamabad

Harmony in society is fundamental to peace and progress; these views were expressed by Shindo Yusuke, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Islamabad, in a talk organized in COMSATS University Islamabad.

Over 300 Students, faculty members and key officials of COMSATS University Islamabad participated from 7 campuses located in Islamabad, Attock, Abbottabad, Wah, Lahore, Vehari and Sahiwal in the talk delivered by Mr. Yusuke on "Japan: Its People, Culture and Tradition".



Speaking at the occasion, Prof. Muhammad T. Afzal, Rector CUI expressed gratitude to the Japanese people and government for their technical assistance and adding value to the lives of doctoral scholars like himself. He recalled that the

friendly relations and cooperation between Japan and Pakistan are historically significant.

Prof. Afzal also said that with his experience in Japan as a researcher he learnt the traits of respect for humanity, humility, and hard work from his peers. He also highlighted the progress of CUI as one of the leading universities of Engineering and Information Technology in the country having won several accolades in a short span of only two decades. He called for having more Japanese Alumni in the COMSATS University faculty.

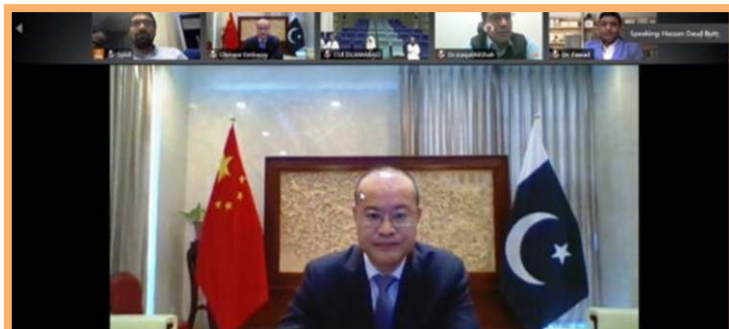
While introducing culture, tradition and history of Japan, Mr. Yusuke said that Japan is rich in tradition and history while it is also the birthplace of latest technology. Mr. Yusuke encouraged students and IT professionals from Pakistan to learn the Japanese language and consider visiting and working in Japan. He said that Japan was among the least affected nations in the Covid-19 pandemic due to hygiene and cultural practices of the people. He also highlighted various historic and cultural aspects of the Japanese Society and emphasized on peaceful coexistence, order and self-development for a harmonious society.

Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi, Founder Rector CUI, Executive Director COMSATS said that Japan is a world leader in quality education but its role in enhancing human resource development in Pakistan needs to be enhanced with exchange of faculty and students. Dr. Zaidi expressed interest in establishing academic collaboration with top ranked Japanese universities and called for exporting highly skilled human resource to Japan.

### **A Webinar on the Theme of "Adapting China's Export Led Economic Growth Model to Boost Pakistan's Economy in the Post COVID Era"**

The China Study Center (CSC), COMSATS University Islamabad convened International webinar on 'Adapting China's Export led Economic Growth Model to Boost Pakistan's Economy in the Post COVID Era' on 8 September 2020.

The webinar was part of talk / lecture series on "Learning from China". The purpose of webinar was to familiarize students of COMSATS University, Islamabad, faculty members, think tanks, government officials and audience in general with export driven economic model of China and its applicability in post COVID scenario.



Participants of the webinar included senior government officials, academicians, and industrial experts. Discussions orbited around whether or not Pakistan could replicate or adopt some features of export driven economic model of China to

boost its economy in current scenario while taking into consideration post COVID economic scenarios.

H.E. Dr. Wang Zhihua, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan was the keynote speaker. In his keynote speech, he shared that Pakistan is a country full of potential and opportunities, with rich human resources and good export location which must be used to the full potential.

### **Pak-UK Education Gateway Virtual International Conference**

British Council in Pakistan and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) organized a three-day virtual conference from 15-17th Dec 2020 under their joint program Pak-UK Education Gateway to review the future of the higher education sector in the post-pandemic world.



Pak-Education Gateway aims to enhance partnership between the Higher Education sectors of Pakistan and the UK. The conference discussed key issues facing the sector in the 'new' normal, the role of leadership in building resilient HE systems, and lessons learnt from the pandemic.

The prime focus was on UK-PK linkages and impact of the partnerships work carried out by HEC and British Council. The Honorable President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Asad Qaiser, Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mehmood, Chairman HEC Tariq Banuri, Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner, Director Education British Council Nishat Riaz, vice-chancellors, professors, researchers, and students from both the UK and Pakistan, & UK Apex bodies such as ACU, UUKI addressed and attended the conference. Various talks and panel discussions by experts in the six sessions of the conference revolved around internationalization, building sustainable partnerships, what works and does not work in distance learning, key requirements, benefits and challenges of distance learning, access to higher education, the obstacles faced, the impacts of Covid-19, the need to rethink and reshape the HE sectors and student experience sharing of mobility program.

Pakistan and UK partners shared best practices and responses to Covid-19 and deliberated ways to promote cooperation and partnerships between both the countries through virtual student exchange. During his closing remarks, President Arif Alvi appreciated the efforts of the Federal Minister Shafqat Mahmood and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for their untiring efforts towards hybrid education and distance learning programs. He also

commended the tremendous work done by the British High Commission and the British Council Pakistan in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in building opportunities for the advancement of higher education, research and development.

## Rector Meets Chinese Alumni Working at COMSATS University Islamabad

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad chaired a meeting of Alumni of Chinese Universities currently working at COMSATS University Islamabad on faculty positions under the aegis of the CUI China Study Center.



CUI has a pool of 170 Chinese alumni working full time in CUI. In addition, more than 140 faculty members from CUI are presently pursuing PhDs in various top ranked universities of China. Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, the then Head of China Study Center informed that over 500 more scholars are expected to travel to China from COMSATS University in the next 5 years for their Masters or PhD. CUI is a pioneer in establishing a China Study Center in Islamabad, which has been instrumental in building linkages with Chinese Universities and promoting interest of Study in China among faculty members and students

said Mr. Tawab.

Faculty members from all seven campuses of CUI were connected remotely through video link and presented about the status of their own respective research.



Rector CUI, Prof. Afzal opined that China is a strategic partner of Pakistan and the support of the Chinese Government has been instrumental in meeting the human resource development needs of COMSATS University. While sharing his vision he said alumni of Chinese Universities should work in partnership with their Chinese counterparts and tap their Chinese collaborators for joint research opportunities on projects that are pertinent to the global development agenda, while addressing local needs.

Rector encouraged faculty members to develop cross cutting proposals on biomedical materials, engineering technology and architecture and help improve understanding of the Chinese culture among students. He said that COMSATS University being the largest employer of Chinese PhD graduates in Pakistan would like to be a leading think tank of the government on CPEC. Prof. Afzal also expressed satisfaction over the research productivity and teaching performance of Chinese graduates.

## International Mobility

### Erasmus+ Engagements

COMSATS University Islamabad has actively commenced work on a three-year multilateral capacity building project named B-International which is co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ program with a budget of GBP 649,246.

The project is a transnational cooperation project based on multilateral partnership of four European universities and four Pakistani universities namely Cardiff Metropolitan University (UK), Ecole Centrale de Nantes (France), University of Bologna (Italy), University of Salamanca (Spain), COMSATS University Islamabad (Pakistan), National University of Science and Technology (Pakistan), Lahore University of Management Sciences (Pakistan) and Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (Pakistan). The British Council Pakistan is an associate partner of the project.

The project aims to build capacity of partner universities to engage internationally as well as enhance capacity of all universities in Pakistan. It has six main work packages including benchmarking strategy and training, conducting training workshops for all staff, preparing an online learning



program, cultivating international campuses, establishing centers for Internationalization and preparation of a tool kit. Besides this, Project Management, Quality Assurance, Dissemination and Exploitation are other core activities involved.

Currently the project is moving at a fast pace and a number of meetings and activities have been completed in the ambit of project management and quality control. Moreover, students and staff surveys have also been conducted which has enabled the preparation of a tailor-made training program that is being imparted online to selected CUI officials responsible for internationalization.

# Student Activities and Achievements

## Proud Alumna of COMSATS University Islamabad, Vehari Campus



I am Yasir Abbas. I did my masters from Department of Environmental Sciences COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Vehari Campus. I selected CUI because it is ranked amongst the leading universities of Pakistan. My teachers (especially my mentor Dr. Muhammad Mubeen) motivated me to participate in national and international conferences during my MS which helped me to extend foreign collaborations.

I am PhD Scholar of Functional Materials Laboratory (FML), School of Materials Science and Engineering, Xi'an University

of Architecture and Technology (XAUAT), Xi'an, Shaanxi, China. XAUAT inherits and promotes the professional advantage and expertise accumulated over more than a hundred years. The university also boasts 1 national key laboratory cultivating base, 1 national research and promotion center for high technology, 21 provincial or ministerial academies, research institutes, centers, and laboratories, including 3 Grade A design and research institutes.

As far as my research achievements are concerned, I have published fourteen (14) SCI papers with 75 cumulative impact factor so far. I have had a chance to participate in a research project related to enhancement of Anaerobic Digester (AD) system through application of static magnetic field and low-cost fly ash accelerant. I participated in PhD Presentation in NanoSmat ASIA 2019. I won 3<sup>rd</sup> position Award in XAUAT "Academic three minutes" speech "competition. Being a scholar of XAUAT, I would like to motivate other scholars from not only CUI but also from all over Pakistan to get admission in this esteemed institute to pursue their PhD and post-doctoral studies.

## From COMSATS Art Gallery (CAG)

### "COVID-19, Spaces Between Us"

First ever online exhibition of COMSATS University "COVID-19, Spaces between Us" opened at COMSATS Art Gallery on Monday 7th September, 2020. The exhibition was inaugurated online by Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Tabassum Afzal. A total of 44 artists from across Pakistan as well as renowned International artists participated in the show.

Speaking at the online inauguration of the exhibition, Rector expressed his pleasure over opening of the show and praised the In Charge COMSATS Art Gallery Ms. Farrah Mahmood for understanding the need of time and taking the initiative of the digital show. He said there is a global need of shifting almost

everything to digital format and expanding the work to be seen by millions of people online. He also expressed happiness on seeing the art works of all the artists from Pakistan as well as from around the world. It is pleasing for the eye to see the pandemic time through an artist's perspective. Speaking at the occasion Ms. Farrah Mahmood said, "this being the first ever online show; it is entirely different from the previous shows that we have been organizing for so many years. The experience was challenging but unique at the same time. We have to change with the changing world and for now this is the new normal. I am glad that this show will be available for everyone around the globe. I am thankful to all the participating artists and would request everyone to have a look at the show on our website."



## Ancient Silk Road Kingdom of Kucha

A travelling photographic exhibition “Ancient Silk Road Kingdom of Kucha” opened at COMSATS Art Gallery on Friday 6th of November, 2020. The exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest for the event Worthy Rector COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal. The Guest of Honor H.E. Zhang Heqing (Director China Cultural Center Pakistan) joined the event online.

Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal in his address thanked the Cultural Counselor for choosing CUI for exhibiting their cultural civilization. He also shared his down the lane memories from his visit to the Silk Road from Beijing to Guangdong. He highlighted the highest number of Chinese Alumni are serving in different campuses of CUI. He also stressed on mutual collaborations and exchange programs in the field of art and education. He further added that this exhibition showcases the landscape of China and these exquisite photographs are breathtaking. It's always a pleasure to work in collaboration with our beloved friend China and we look forward to more of such collaborations in future.

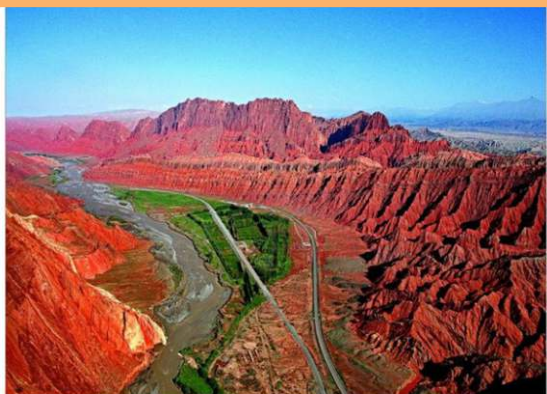
The guest of Honor H.E. Zhang Heqing, Director Cultural Center Pakistan appreciated the efforts of COMSATS Art Gallery and China Study Center for organizing this event. He enlightened the audience about the history of Xinjiang and explained that how the Silk Road had opened a new chapter in cultural exchanges and integration between East and West. He also said that China and Pakistan are close friends, trusted partners, good neighbors sharing all the weal and woe. He appreciated the efforts of CUI for having numerous cultural exchanges and cooperation for promoting cultural understanding between China and Pakistan.

Curator of the show and In Charge COMSATS Art Gallery Farrah Mahmood thanked the China Cultural Center in Pakistan for bringing this show to Pakistan which showcases the beautiful landscape of China. She said that Miniature and Calligraphy are two traditional forms of art which are common between China and Pakistan and we should collaborate to strengthen our linkages in the field of art and design. She also said that in recent COVID times when artists from both countries cannot visit for art promotion we should have online collaborative exhibitions.

The then In Charge China Study Center, Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch thanked all the participants specially the China Cultural Center in Pakistan for selecting COMSATS for this exhibition and mentioned that these kinds of activities provide opportunities to strengthen cultural cooperation between China Cultural Center and CUI as well as our long lasting friendship.

This travelling exhibition documents the charm of Xinjiang China and has been showcased in China earlier. The photographic exhibition provides a glimpse into the history, the culture, and the magical nature of Kucha. The exhibition is divided into six parts showing the ruins of The Subashi Temple; The Kizilgaha Beacon Tower; The Tainshan Grand Canyon; Yardang Landforms; Duku Highway; The Big and Small Longchi Ponds Scenic area; Apricots of Kucha; Kucha Folk Costums, and The Earthenware of Kucha.

The exhibition can be visited online at <http://ww3.comsats.edu.pk/asrk/>



新疆神秘大峡谷  
中国新疆维吾尔自治区天山神秘大峡谷  
Overlooking the Mysterious Canyon  
The Mysterious Grand Canyon of the Tianshan Mountain Ranges, Kucha City, Xinjiang Autonomous Region, China



# CUI International Students

- Mr. Amfaal Badjie, from Gambia and Mr. Muhammad Ali from Pakistan have been selected for research at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) under the COMSTECH consortium of Excellence (CCoE) fellowship/ training program.
- Two Female students from Sri- Lanka have joined department of Biosciences CUI, Pakistan, for their Masters Program under Government of Pakistan Scholarship Program (Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarships for Government of Sri-Lanka) on the auspice of Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan.
- Around 112 international students from 5 different countries joined various campuses of CUI beside hitches and constraints of CRONA Pandemic 2019
- COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) becomes part of the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence Research Fellowship and Training program.\
- CUI announced 10 scholarships to the students of Palestine as an expression of its solidarity.

## CUI/ICTP International Scholar Obtains Prestigious PhD Fellowship

Maniru Ibrahim, an international CUI scholar who graduated in Mathematics from Lahore Campus has won the award by the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Centre for Research Training in Foundations of Data Science for a fully funded PhD studentship at the University of Limerick, Ireland. This is a 20 million centre funded by SFI, Skillnet Ireland, Industry and Enterprise partners, as well as the three co-hosting universities: University of Limerick, University College Dublin, and Maynooth University. He will be attending the Ph.D. at CRT from September, 2021.



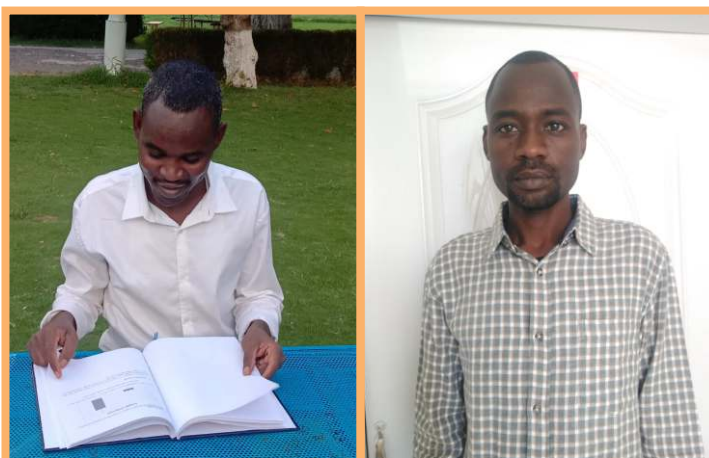
Maniru thanked and appreciated International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) for sponsoring his studies and CUI for organizing and hosting this fully funded program.

## Three International Scholars Avail CUI-TWAS Fellowship Program

Three International Scholars (02 Sudanese and 01 Cameroonian) recently joined CUI under the CUI-TWAS Fellowship Program for a duration of 6-12 months to complete their Research Work.

These scholars namely Dr. Mahjoub Yagoub Abdalla Ismail, Mr. Mohammadou Mansour and Mr. Abdalha Ezeldin Ibrahim Nogara are currently pursuing their Fellowship in the following three departments:

- Departments of Physics and Biosciences at Islamabad Campus
- Department of Environmental Sciences at Abbottabad Campus



## International Office

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