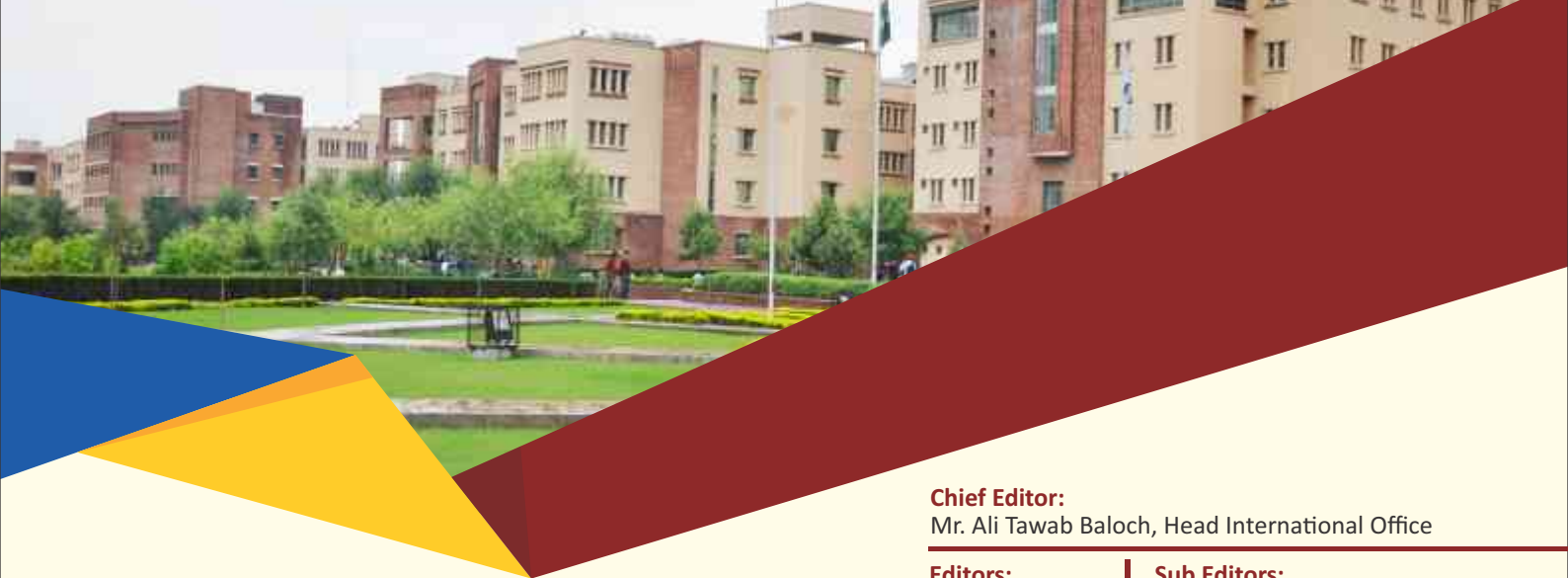


C-Global

16th Edition Spring 2021

Newsletter



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International Office Team
& Campus Focal Persons of IO

Message from Chief Editor



Once again, with much joy and pride, I welcome our wide and valuable readership to the brand new edition of International Office's primary newsletter, C-Global (Spring 2021). We have tried to encapsulate in this issue, the rich and wide-ranging internationalization efforts of our ambitious faculty members, staff and students across all CUI campuses from July- December 2021.

COMSATS University consistently endeavors to maintain & establish value based and quality global linkages through hosting and participation in international visits, conferences, competitions, events & research activities.


Before leaving you to explore and relive the memoirs, I want to express my sincere thanks to all the regular contributors and the focal persons for their generous support in successful launching of the current issue. We greatly appreciate and welcome input, suggestions and continuous patronage from all our readers to take this news periodical one step ahead.

Wish you a pleasant read!


Ali Tawab Baloch

CUI's Rankings & Reputation


COMSATS University Islamabad - International Rankings 2022




WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS



1001-1200
in world



137
in Asia




16
Programmes
among
top unis


Top **250** in
Engineering and Technology

Top **351** in
Natural Sciences


Top **451-500** in
Social Sciences and Management



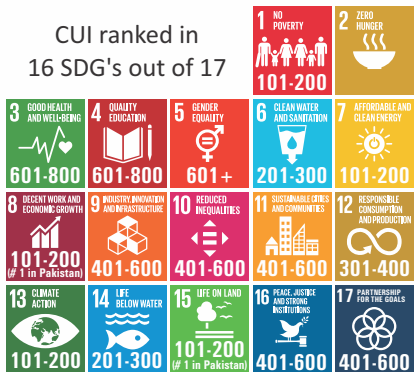
2022 Young
251-300



1 in
4 SDGs



CUI ranked in
16 SDG's out of 17



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



The 18th International Conference on “Frontiers of Information Technology (FIT).”



Seminar on “Role of Geographic Information System (GIS) for Climate Change”



Talk on 'Cultural Connect and European Union Development Policy for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan' by Deputy Head of Mission, Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan



Pakistan Water Week (December 6-9, 2021)

Spotlight News

18th International Conference on “Frontiers of Information Technology (FIT)”

The 18th International Conference on 'Frontiers of Information Technology' (FIT-2021) was organized by COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on Monday, December 13, 2021 at COMSTech Secretariat, Islamabad on the theme of “Digital Pakistan”.



The Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Shibli Faraz inaugurated the CUI's 18th International Conference on Frontiers of Information Technology. Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. T. Afzal presented the shield to Minister of Science & Technology on opening Ceremony.

Speakers from France, Netherlands, China, Ireland, Portugal, UK, USA and Pakistan participated in the two-day conference organized by COMSATS University Islamabad in COMSTech Secretariat, Islamabad.



Welcoming Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal presented a souvenir to him at the occasion of closing ceremony of 18th Frontiers of Information Technology conference (FIT 2021).



Seminar on “Role of Geographic Information System (GIS) for Climate Change”

A seminar on Role of Geographic Information System (GIS) for Climate Change was organized by the Department of Meteorology, COMSATS University Islamabad at the Islamabad Campus on Wednesday 1st December 2021. The Chief Guest, Zartaj Gul, Minister of State for Climate Change participated in the seminar and exchanged views with experts led by Rector of CUI, Prof. Dr. Tabassum Afzal, at the seminar. The Minister stressed to deploy GIS to help better understand climate change and to cope with the environmental and climatic issues of smog, extreme weather events, such as hill torrents, droughts, urban flooding, and glacier melting and their solutions.



Further, she expressed the government's resolve to seek smart tools to help in eliminating the usage of polythene bags as well as facilitating an informed implementation of the plastics ban. She said that GIS applications can be used for identification of sites for small dams for water storage as well to meet irrigation and other requirements required in the far-flung areas of the country, such as Koh-e-Suleman and Thar region.

Prof. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal suggested to raise public awareness of the importance of geospatial technologies as well as to sensitize the stakeholders towards advocating the role of GIS in climate related issues.

It was agreed to bring together researchers, non-governmental organizations, policy makers and various public institutions to share ideas and propose research priorities in climate change, agriculture, wildlife conservation and allied fields.



The Minister lauded the efforts of researchers and faculty of the Department of Meteorology at CUI in raising awareness on climate related issues.

Talk on 'Cultural Connect and European Union Development Policy for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan' by Deputy Head of Mission, Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan



Mr. Thomas Seiler, Deputy Head of Mission, Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan visited COMSATS University Islamabad on December 29, 2021. Mr. Thomas Seiler is an inspiring personality with an important portfolio at European Union Office in Pakistan. He is fond of observing cultures and possess diverse knowledge of post crisis governance policies

in the socio, political & economic environment.

Mr. Seiler was invited by the Department of Architecture and Design, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) to deliver a talk to the faculty members and students of CUI on 'Cultural Connect and European Union Development Policy for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan'.

His presentation on Pakistan-EU relations with respect to financial assistance of the EU gave insight details for the faculty members and students of CUI.

The talk was attended by the Head of Department of Architecture & Design, Head of International Office and faculty & students of the Department of Architecture and Design.

After the talk, the Head International Office gave brief presentation about CUI. Different options of exploring partnerships were discussed to engage faculty members and students in activities of EU mission to Pakistan. The Head of Department of Architecture and Design presented shield to the respected guest.



Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization Visited COMSATS University Islamabad

Ms. Deemah AlYahya, Secretary General, Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) visited COMSATS University Islamabad during her three-day visit to Pakistan. She was leading four-member delegation from DCO accompanied by senior officials of Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Islamabad. Ms. AlYahya is a renowned digital economy expert and advocate of digital literacy, empowerment and training in communities traditionally marginalized by the 'digital divide'.



Secretary General DCO visited various digital facilities in COMSATS University Islamabad and was briefed about CUI Data Center, Digitalization of Library, Video Conferencing Facility, Medical Image Processing Research Group (MIPRG) and Medical Imaging and Diagnostics Lab (MIDL). A meeting with senior officials at CUI including Prof. Dr. Shahid A Khan, Head, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization; Prof. Dr. Sajjad A. Madani, Registrar; Prof. Dr. Shahzad A. Malik, Dean, Faculty of Engineering; Prof. Dr. Aftab Khan, Dean, Faculty of Sciences; Dr. Sohail Asghar, Professor, Department of Computer Science; Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head, International Office; Dr. Majid Iqbal Khan, Head, Department of Computer Science conducted the campus visit. The Secretary General showed special interest in COMSATS University's Center for Policy Studies and Business Incubation Center and offered COMSATS University to become an observer institution of DCO. She also invited faculty members of the university to be part of the DCO's accelerator program. Both sides agreed on enhancing cooperation among universities of DCO member countries.



Pakistan Water Week (December 6-9, 2021)

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), along with International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan and Water Land and Ecosystem (WLE) flagship program organized Pakistan Water Week from December 6-9, 2021. CCRD, CUI has been one of the potential partners and actively participated in the different activities. The basic theme of the water week was to highlight Needs for Sustainable Water Management in a Climate Crisis for Indus Basin in Islamabad.



Pakistan Water Week started with the International conference titled ***“Needs for Sustainable Water Management in a Climate Crisis for the Indus Basin”*** from December 6-7, 2021 at Marriott Hotel Islamabad in which national and international speakers delivered very informative and thoughtful lectures interlinked with water problems and mitigation. Dr. Toqeer Ahmed participated in the conference and represented CCRD.

Poster and debate competitions sponsored by CCRD under the D-8 funded project were also held. Many awareness raising activities took place like display of banners at the key locations of Islamabad regarding water conservation and distribution of brochures among the visitors at the stall of CCRD during the exhibition organized by PCRWR and collaborators. Dr. Toqeer Ahmed and his team including Ms. Saima Naz, GIS expert, Mr. Muhammad Zahir, Research Associate and Mr. Raheel and Ms. Alishbah Iftikhar (Interns) supported the D-8 funded project activities.

International Student “Conference on Environment and Sustainability (ISCES) Global Environment Solutions Competition”

An International Student Conference on “Environment and Sustainability (ISCES) Global Environment Solutions Competition” was held online on June 6, 2021 and nearly 300 students from over 100 universities from 33 countries participated in teams and competed under the theme “Ecosystem Restoration” and four sub-tracks, namely Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Change, Ecosystem Restoration and Human Health, Ecosystem Restoration and Circular Economy, Ecosystem Restoration and Green Cities.

Mr. Muhammad Zahir, Research Associate and PhD Scholar at Fujian Normal University, China secured third position in the competition. The title proposed by Mr. Zahir was 'Ecosystem Restoration & Green City, from Fujian Normal University'.



Over 1000 student observers watched and voted online. The judging committee consisted of experts from UN agencies, international NGOs, research institutions and private sectors. This competition was jointly hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme and Tongji University, China with the support of the Agricultural Bank of China.



A Pre-Departure Briefing Session Organized for Selected Exchange Students Proceeding to METU, Turkey

A pre-departure briefing session was organized on 22nd of September, 2021 by the International Office to guide the newly selected exchange students of Architecture Department proceeding to Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey in Fall 2021. Ms. Ariba Shabbir, a former alumna of the program was invited to share her experiences and knowledge and brief and guide the students about Turkey's life, culture, educational environment at METU etc..She also answered questions asked by the students. Ms. Areeba briefly shared her experience when she got opportunity for semester exchange at METU she decided to attend METU for several reasons. One of these was that METU was among the best University of Architecture in Turkey. Further, she saw the gain of being able to study with students coming from different cultures and backgrounds. She shared her experience of staying at METU and expressed that METU offers a support system to achieve these goals. She also mentioned that Turkish education system emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach, research focus and greater independence. These tools will help the student to succeed.



Research Highlights

Projects:

- (a) Submitted Projects: Total 65 research projects worth Rs 380.00Million were submitted to different Funding Agencies and approved.
 (b) Approved Projects from July 2021 to December 2021

S.No.	Title of Research Proposal	Principal Investigator	Department	Funding Agency
1	Fabrication of electrochemical nanobiosensor	Dr. Sana Sabahat	Chemistry	Pakistan Science Foundation
2	Biodegradation of electronic waste pollutants in Pakistan soils	Dr. Muhammad Zaffar Hashmi	Meteorology	Pakistan Science Foundation
3	Fabrication of RNA nanoparticles for the regression of MYCN/TERT overexpressing human cancers	Dr. Hafiza Fakhera Ikram	IRCBM	Pakistan Science Foundation
4	Impact of Global Climatic Changes and Human Perturbations on Resilience of Nitrogen Cycling Ecosystem Functioning in Lower Himalayas	Dr. Farhan Hafeez	Environmental Science	HEC
5	Bioremediation and detoxification of textile wastewater by using microbial based bioreactor	Dr. Syed Tatheer Alam Naqvi	Biotechnology	HEC
6	Novel Intragrated intelligent computing paradigms for nonlinear epidemic models with future generation diseases control	Dr. Muhammad Shoab	Mathematics	HEC
7	Association between high salt exposure and genetic integrity in salt mine workers	Dr Zertashia AKram	Biosciences	HEC

S.No.	Title of Research Proposal	Principal Investigator	Department	Funding Agency
9	A New Therapeutic Approach for Osteoarthritis: Use of 3D Printed Bioscaffolds from Decellularized Umbilical Cord for Cartilage Regeneration	Dr. Hafiza Fakhera Ikram	IRCBM	HEC
10	Development of Halal Uni & Bi functional Bioactive Scaffolds for Advanced Hard Tissue Repair	Dr. Aqif Anwar Chaudhry	Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM)	HEC
11	Emerging Treatment Modality for Rheumatoid Arthritis: From Designing Topical Nano-Sponge gel to in vivo Efficacy Studies	Dr. Yasser Shahzad	Pharmacy	HEC
12	Engineering portable nano-sensors for biofilm identification and pathogen monitoring: A step toward on-site diagnosis of infectious diseases	Dr. Naeem Akhtar	IRCBM	HEC
13	Gelatin sources authentication in commercial products for halal certification	Dr. Muhammad Javid Iqbal	CHEMISTRY	HEC
14	Task-specific Deep Eutectic Solvents Based Pervaporation Process for Production of Fuel-grade Bioethanol	Dr. Muhammad Yasin	Chemical Engineering	HEC
15	Integrated bioremediation technology for the co-contaminated soil with heavy metals and pesticides to enhance productivity and quality of Wheat	Dr. Muhammad Farhan Saeed	Environmental Sciences	HEC
16	Nutrients Impact/Risk Assessment for Rice Fortification to Combat Malnutrition	Dr. Muhammad Nadeem	Environmental Sciences	HEC
17	Assessing the potential of quinoa as a climate proof crop; implications for food security in changing climate	Dr. Ghulam Abbas	Environmental Sciences	HEC
18	Development of Intelligent Counter-Unmanned Air Vehicles System for Security-Sensitive Institutions	Dr. Zeeshan Kaleem	Electrical and Computer Engineering	HEC
19	High damping rubber composites (HDRCs) for vibration dampers	Dr. Zulfiqar Ali	Chemical Engineering	NESCOM Islamabad
20	High stretchable conductive elastomers (HSCEs) for stretchable electronics	Dr. Zulfiqar Ali	Chemical Engineering	NESCOM Islamabad
21	Potential severity of antimicrobial resistance on health approach in Benin and Pakistan	Dr. Rashid Nazir	Environmental Science	TWAS (The World Academy of Sciences Italy)
22	Innovative biodegradable zinc based materials and implants for pediatric orthopedic applications	Dr. Farasat Iqbal	IRCBM	PSF-TUBITAK (Turkey)
23	Better bones regeneration development of osteogenic bioceramics reinforces tri layer electrospun fibers	Dr. Hamad Khalid	IRCBM	PSF-TUBITAK (Turkey)
24	Translating smart design v patch for vesicovaginal fistula repair bench top to clinical application	Dr. Muhammad Yar	IRCBM	PSF-TUBITAK (Turkey)

Patents:

Patents Filed: 03

Patents Granted: 06

All in Pakistan.

COMSATS University Islamabad Wins Grant From D-8 Secretariat

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) has been awarded a joint research project entitled, "Feasibility Study for the Provision of Safe Drinking Water through Water Conservation (SDWC)" under the D-8 Project Support Fund by the D-8 Secretariat (also known as Developing-8), which is an organization for development cooperation among the countries including: Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. Two other partners/collaborators for this project are from National Research Center (NRC), EAGYPT and Imo State University, Nigeria. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan and COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad facilitated CUI in winning this grant.



Highlights of COMSATS Secretariat

Partnership with UNESCO for Capacity-Building

A joint project titled “COMSATS-UNESCO South-South Regional (Asia-Pacific) technical cooperation programme (Biennium 2020-21)” under the UNESCO participation programme was signed by The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) with Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU) on November 8, 2021. The project was approved by UNESCO in May 2021 for grant of US \$ 35,000 under the regional category of UNESCO participation programme for 2020-21.



The main goal of the proposed programme is to strengthen the scientific and technical capacities of COMSATS and UNESCO common member countries in the Asia-Pacific region by leveraging knowledge from COMSATS' Network of S&T Centres of Excellence, as well as other partnering institutions.

UN's webinar titled “South-South Cooperation: Creating headways for post-pandemic Inclusive Recovery”

A webinar titled “South-South Cooperation: Creating headways for post-pandemic Inclusive Recovery” was commemorated by the South-South Cooperation, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) in connection with the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. The webinar was joined by notable speakers from international organizations sharing COMSATS mandate, including United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), New York; South Centre, Geneva; Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO), Beijing; InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), Trieste; Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), Nairobi; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok; and Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Rabat.

The talks and discussions during the event touched upon various aspects of the theme of the Day, including: role of South-South cooperation for inclusive peace; means and mechanisms to strengthen science advisory; role of digital platforms in enhancing South-South cooperation; effectiveness of South-South cooperation as compared to Triangular cooperation; and budgeting for disaster risk reduction and crisis management.



Dr. Toqeer Ahmed, Assistant Professor, CCRD (Centre for Climate Research and Development), CUI is the Principal Investigator of this one-year project. As a model, this project aims to carry out feasibility study for provision of non-stop (24/7) municipal drinking water supply to the residents of Pakistan's Federal Area I-8 Sector.

The subject feasibility study will digitize the existing water supply distribution network of the I-8 sector using GIS technology, cost-benefit analysis for implementation of water metering and pricing in addition to the provision of safe drinking water as a model in the study area. In addition to this study, awareness sessions on water conservation for local community will be arranged in schools, mosques, and community.

The partner countries Egypt and Nigeria will be benefiting by implementation of the same project / study in their countries to conserve water by using available recourses.

Going Global

7th International conference “mtp-2021”: Modern Trends in Physics



The 7th International Conference “Mtp-2021”: Modern Trends in Physics was held from December 15-17, 2021, at Baku State University, Baku, Azerbaijan. Dr Yasir Ali and Dr Uzma Tabassam, both Assistant Professors from Physics department, CUI were invited as a speaker at the Professor Dr Sajid Qamar (Dean Faculty of Sciences) and Zain ul Abidin (PhD Student – Dr Uzma Tabassam) also participated and gave online presentations.

A total about 200 people participated the conference including 21 invited speakers from notable Universities and Institutes around the world and 179 general participants from the universities and colleges.



Orientation Session for International Students of Harbin Engineering University China

An orientation session was arranged for 12 International Students of Harbin Engineering University (HEU) joining CUI Wah Campus as exchange students under the signed MoU between CUI and HEU on September 22, 2021 at CUI Wah Campus. The purpose of the session was to acknowledge the efforts and cooperation of both sides as well as to get the students introduced with CUI Wah Campus, facilitation and processes.

Dr. Niaz Ahmed representing HEU at CUI Wah Campus hosted the meeting. He welcomed and introduced the participants from both sides



including:

1. Prof. ZHAO Yu-xin, Vice President of HEU
2. Prof. FAN Zhaobing, Director of International Office, HEU
3. Prof. QIAO Gang, Dean of College of Underwater Acoustics Engineering, HEU
4. Dr. DING Xin, Vice-Director of International Office, HEU
5. Dr. DING Xuezhong, Vice Dean of College of International Cooperative Education.
6. Prof. ZHANG Hai-gang, Vice Dean of College of Underwater Acoustics Engineering
7. Prof. LIU Songzuo, Assistant Dean of College of Underwater Acoustics Engineering
8. Ms. YIN Hua, Project Officer, International Office, HEU

Participants of COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Wah Campus were as below:

1. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Director Campus/HoD, Mechanical Engineering
2. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saeed, HoD Civil Engineering
3. Dr. Muhammad Wasif, Associate Professor/ HoD Computer Science
4. Dr. Abdul Qayyum, Associate Professor/HoD Management Sciences
5. Dr. Muhammad Naeem, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
6. Dr. Muhammad Altaf, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
7. Dr. Shabieh Farwah, Assistant Professor/HoD Mathematics
8. Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Naseem, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
9. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
10. Dr. Muhammad Barkat Ullah, Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering
11. Dr. Jawwad Ahmad, Additional Registrar, CUI Wah Campus

The Director CUI Wah Campus, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid welcomed the students of HEU and assured them all possible facilitations regarding research and other activities at CUI Wah Campus. He further thanked Vice President of HEU, Prof. ZHAO Yu-Xin and accompanied professors for gracing this occasion. Prof. Abid also thanked Rector CUI for all facilitation

and guidance and Mr. Ali Tawab, Head International Office CUI for all his efforts and facilitation in getting the MoU signed between CUI and HEU.

On behalf of HEU, the Vice President: Prof Zhao Yu Xin addressed the ceremony where he highlighted the friendly relations of Pakistan and China and acknowledged the potential on both sides. Prof Zhao also mentioned a brief history of the series of efforts being done in order to strengthen the cooperation between HEU and CUI as well as stressed the need of creating more and more opportunities.



Selected METU (Turkey) Exchange Students Call on Turkish Counsellor for Education

The selected group of Architecture students who shall be proceeding to Middle East Technical University (Turkey) on semester exchange abroad called on Dr. Ilhami Ayranci, Counsellor for Education, at the Turkish Embassy Islamabad.

The group was led by Mr. Arif Awan, Senior Program Officer and included Mr. Sibtain Ali Shah, Ms. Shayzal Ahmed and Ms. Wajeaha Fatima.

The students on their part expressed their deep excitement at being selected for this once in a life time opportunity. Dr. Ayranci on his part advised them to make the most of their visit and see big cities like Konya and Istanbul and that too through the fast train. He further urged them to visit the Presidential library which has something like three million books. He also suggested to visit Bilkent university, which is just three kilometers away from METU in Ankara. Indulging in Turkish cuisine and learning basic Turkish will be an icing on the cake to their visit.

The visited ended with a memorable picture that registers the occasion in golden memory.



Events, Seminars, Workshops & Talks

World Disabled Day Event

The "International Day of Disabled Persons" was celebrated on December 3, 2021 by the students from COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Wah Campus under the supervision of faculty members from the Department of Management Sciences and in collaboration with Young's Muslim Inclusive Education System (YMIES), project of ILEF (ALIF) Welfare Society, Wah Cantt.



This day was celebrated to show solidarity and raise awareness amongst students regarding their responsibility towards special children. The activities started with a half kilometer walk with special children on the main GT road towards their school to show solidarity with special children.

The students placed a painting and gaming stall to make this day special for special children. The kids enjoyed face different activities such as painting and playing games. A cash amount earned from the stall was handed over to the school's principal for support and care of special children. At the end, gifts were distributed among disabled students by the CUI Wah students. The students of CUI Wah also showed their willingness to teach some academic skills to special children on a biweekly basis. Young's Muslim Inclusive system appreciated the efforts of CUI Wah Campus students.



“Celebrating UK Study Week” at CUI



The “UK Study Week” was jointly organized by the International Office CUI and British Council from 15-19 November, 2021. The Study UK Week celebrated higher education in the UK offering students an exclusive opportunity to learn about the culture, students' lifestyle and what leading universities have to offer in the UK.

The week was celebrated across Pakistan at multiple host campuses. As their valued partner, the British Council extended this invitation to COMSATS University Islamabad as well to host the Study UK Week.

The UK Study Week culminated in the video screening of UK universities. The session was full of students of various semesters from all the departments of CUI. A promotional video was played which encompassed top UK universities, subjects offered, rankings and scholarship opportunities. It is worth mentioning that the video was tailor made for Pakistani students.



The 3rd China-Pakistan Marine Information Workshop

The 3rd China-Pakistan Marine Information Workshop was jointly organized by COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) and College of Underwater Acoustic Engineering, Harbin Engineering University (HEU), China on November 16, 2021 at CUI, Wah Campus as a part of One Belt One Road initiative under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Prof. Dr. Shahid Baig, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) was the Chief Guest on this event.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T.I., Director, COMSATS University, Wah Campus welcomed the guests. In the opening address, he informed that workshop is designed to provide a dedicated platform to scientists, engineers, academicians, industry professionals and researchers from Pakistan and China to deliberate on this emerging area of Marine Science and Technology in Pakistan. He added that as a part of One Belt One Road Initiatives, the College of Underwater Acoustics Engineering, Harbin Engineering University, China has played an enormous role towards capacity building in Pakistan. Realizing the importance of Marine Engineering and Marine Science, CUI has also signed a MoU with HEU, China to carry out research in the field of Marine Informatics and Engineering and currently 12 students of HEU are doing research at CUI Wah Campus.



International Students Cultural Event

An “International Students Cultural Event” was organized on November 5, 2021 by the International Students Office, CUI, Wah Campus. The purpose of the event was to bring all the cultures together and let them show their culture to the local audience. It was a very colorful event where all the students shared their local music, dance and other cultural elements. The worthy Director in his speech emphasized on the importance of inter-cultural harmony and how different cultures can make the world a more beautiful place.



Huawei ICT Academy Instructor Training Workshop

The “HUAWEI ICT Academy Instructor Training” was organized by CS department in collaboration with HUAWEI, UET-KICS Lahore from August 9-13, 2021. The objective of this program was to expand the learning span of ICT technologies among students at University Level. Under this program, more universities will be attached with HUAWEI who are keen to become HUAWEI academy. This will be beneficial in further developing technological knowledge in the higher education sector of Pakistan.



Under this program HUAWEI will train the trainers of selected universities and provide training of Routing and Switching and Network security at associated level. At the first stage HUAWEI will provide free of cost vouchers to selected university students to become certified in HUAWEI Technologies. After successful completion of the first step / stage HUAWEI will further expand its certification program to AI, Big Data, Cloud Computing, Network Storage, and 5 G technologies.



International Mountain day

The “International Mountain Day” was organized on December 10, 2021 by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC) and the Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization (MGPO). The panelists included Lieutenant General (r) Nadeem Ahmed Former Chairperson, National Disaster Management Authority, Mr. Ahmad Kamal Chairperson, Federal Flood Commission and Dr. Ghulam Rasul from ICIMOOD.

Dr. Rasul was of the opinion that a slight rise in global temperatures could be disastrous for large segments of the population especially the most vulnerable communities living in the mountain regions. He shared that the south- and east-facing glaciers were melting at a faster rate than the ones facing north. Mr. Nadeem Ahmed underscored the importance of ensuring a harmonious human relationship with nature and ecology for ensuring sustainable growth and avoiding natural disasters. He emphasized awareness-raising about ecology and environment among mountain communities to maintain the required ecological harmony. Mr. Ahmed Kamal, said that the western disturbance weather system had become quite erratic in recent years which had also affected the monsoon pattern and precipitation in the region. He called for establishing a community to the community early warning systems for flood response. Mr. Nadeem Riyaz, President, IRS, also spoke on the occasion.

Dr. Umair Bin Nisar and Dr. Farrukh Raza Amin along with three students of Health informatics department participated in the event.

Symposium on “Centennial Goals of China; Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future”

A symposium on “Centennial goals of China - Learning from the past, Planning for the Future” was hosted by the China Study Centre, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on September 29, 2021. The Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China to Pakistan, His Excellency Nong Rong attended the event virtually and congratulated China Study Centre of CUI for this productive activity.



The first panel discussion focused on “Learning form the Past” was moderated by Ambassador (Retd.) Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi. The discussants included Ambassador (Retd.) Tariq Fatemi, Ambassador (Retd.) Riaz Muhammad Khan, Mr. Imtiaz Gul, S. M. Hali, and Dr. Talat Shabbir. The focus of discussion was how China has achieved its first centennial goal and by following the footsteps of China, how Pakistan can become a prosperous nation.. The second panel discussion focusing on “Planning for the Future” was aimed at the second centennial goal of China to become one of the strongest economies globally till 2049. The session was moderated by Major General (Retd.) Samrez Salik, HI (M). The panelists included Ambassador (Retd.) Zamir Akram, Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Brig (Retd.) Amir Yaqub, Mr. Haroon Sharif, and Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed.

The symposium ended on a good note and recommendations were provided for the government and societal wellbeing.



COMSTECH: World Science Day, 2021

The World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated by UNESCO each year on November 10 to raise awareness on the role of science for 'peaceful' and 'sustainable societies'.

The International students of COMSATS University contributed to the festivity of the “World Science Day for Peace and Development” with the theme “Creating Climate Resilient Communities”, held at COMSTECH on November 10, 2021.

The importance of science and science communication to the masses for active engagement with new technologies and innovations available was highlighted.

On this occasion, the Coordinator General COMSTECH shared that Science and Technology has played a key role in global transformation and helped humanity to act beyond the limitations.

International Scholarships and Innovative Research Universities (IRU) Australia” Student Awareness Session at CUI

A Student Awareness Session on “International Scholarships and Innovative Research Universities (IRU) Australia was organized by the International Office CUI, on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. The session was focused on sharing information regarding a range of scholarships at Australian universities.



Ms. Sabeeh Qayyum was the resource person for the session. Ms. Sabeeh Qayyum is currently engaged as Country Director-Pakistan for Innovative Research Universities, Australia, completing 03 years with them this month. She is an Australian Alumna, as well as Australia Awards holder, having studied a Master in Counseling from Monash University, Melbourne. Innovative Research Universities (IRU) is a coalition of eight comprehensive universities committed to inclusive excellence in teaching, learning and research in Australia. Its members include Charles Darwin University, Flinders University, Griffith University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University, University of Canberra and Western Sydney University.



Topics covered in the session included introduction to IRU followed by brief introduction of each university included in IRU along with available scholarship opportunities. The session was choke full of students of various semesters from all the departments of CUI.

Internationalization at CUI

International Linkages:

Establishing foreign academic linkages has gained paramount significance over the years. Identifying and exploring the various areas of collaboration such as joint research, students and faculty exchange, joint conference, and other academic activities, has become one of the key areas of the university.

During the said period, the following three (04) international linkages were inked to establish/develop on facilitating exchange of the faculty, student's mobility, and joint research programs.

1. Technological University of Tajikistan, Tajikistan
2. Harbin Engineering University, China
3. Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka
4. Industrial Technological Institute Colombo, Sri Lanka

The linkages were developed to get benefit from a mutuality of purpose with prestigious higher education institutions, organizations and universities were conceived and signed.

From COMSATS Art Gallery (CAG)

Exhibition "Azerbaijan- History and victory"

A photography exhibition "Azerbaijan- History and Victory" opened at COMSATS Art Gallery, COMSATS University Islamabad on Friday, November 26, 2021. The exhibition was organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Azerbaijan and Pakistan Azerbaijan Alumni Association. The show was inaugurated by H.E Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The exhibition showcased 17 photographs which covered the '2020 Nagorno- Karabakh war" between Armenia and Azerbaijan.



Speaking at the occasion, the Chief Guest of the event Ambassador H.E Khazar Faradov expressed his pleasure over the commencement of the exhibition at COMSATS University. He said that the exhibition was extremely important to bring awareness as it showcased the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war (an armed conflict in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories in Azerbaijan).

Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Farrah Mahmood, In charge COMSATS Art Gallery expressed her grief over brutal killings of innocent nationals of Azerbaijan. She extended her deep condolences over the inflicted war and said that we as nation and brother country will always stand beside Azerbaijan and will continue to support our brother country. She recalled her visit to Baku and admired the Arts and Crafts of Azerbaijan; especially the rugs, wood craft and pottery. She also admired the hospitality and beauty of Azerbaijan.

Dr. Shams- ul- Qamar (In Charge Academics, COMSATS University Islamabad) expressed his gratification to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan for choosing COMSATS University Islamabad for this exhibition. He said such events boost bilateral diplomatic relations and bring countries closer. He emphasized on need of such events to bring information to masses.

A documentary on war between Armenia and Azerbaijan was also played during the event which showed the actual footages of the war scenes as well as nation celebrating its victory after war.

At the end of the event souvenirs were exchanged between Ambassador of Azerbaijan and officials of COMSATS University.



'COVID -19, Spaces Between Us'; First Ever Online Art Exhibition of COMSATS University Islamabad

The first ever online exhibition of COMSATS University 'COVID-19, Spaces between Us' opened at COMSATS Art Gallery. The exhibition was inaugurated online by Rector COMSATS University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Tabassam 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 Comsats University expressed his pleasure over opening of the show and praised In-charge Comsats University Farrah Mahmood for taking the initiative of the digital show.



Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Farrah Mahmood, In-charge COMSATS Art Gallery said that "Being the first ever online show, it is entirely different from the previous shows that we have been organising for so many years, the experience was challenging but unique at the same time."

Participants of the show were Aania S Khan, Afshan Faisal, Ahmed Habib, Aimon (Saima Salahuddin), Altaf Ahmed, Amna Walayat, Beenish Khalid, Dr. Suriyya Chaudhry, Farah Faisal, Hina Khan, Jugni Chaudhry, Khadija Amin, Kiran Shah, Komal Shahid, Kyran N. K. Ali.

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.

Admission Announcement Spring 2022 (this will be in the form of an Ad)

- 100+ Degree Programs
- 35000+ student body
- 7 campuses around the country
- Versatile culture
- State of art laboratories, labs and libraries
- International students from 25 different countries
- 492+ International Student body
- Scholarship Opportunities for Partner Organizations and countries

Organizations

COMSATS, OIC, ISESCO, COMSETCH, AARDO, ACU, TWAS

Countries:

Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Kenya, Maldives, Nepal, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka.



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

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