



**Commission on Science and Technology for
Sustainable Development in the South
(COMSATS)**

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Executive Director

Islamabad, 15th May 2025

Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar

Rector

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI)

Islamabad, Pakistan

**Subject: Invitation to Participate and Nominate Delegates – Online
Training Workshop on University-Business and R&D-SME
Collaboration, 27th May 2025**

Dear Honourable Rector,

Innovation is increasingly recognized as a cornerstone of sustainable economic growth, the imperative to build strong and effective linkages between universities, research institutions, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) has never been as important as it is today. This need is especially critical for the Global South, where research centres and Centres of Excellence (CoEs) seek global expertise to enhance institutional capacity, promote entrepreneurial thinking, and develop impactful partnerships with the private sector.

In this context, COMSATS is convening a **high-level online training workshop titled “Enhancing University-Business and R&D-SME Collaboration for Innovation and Growth”**, scheduled to be held via Zoom platform on **Tuesday, 27th May 2025**, from **14:00 to 17:00 PST** (09:00–12:00 GMT | 11:00–14:00 CEST).

This initiative also stems from the keen interest expressed by member institutions of COMSATS’ Network of Centres of Excellence during the 25th Meeting of the COMSATS Coordinating Council, held in China in September 2024. It aims to equip researchers and scientists from COMSATS’ Member States and its international Network of S&T Centres of Excellence with the knowledge and competencies necessary to enhance their capacity for fostering synergistic engagement with industry and MSMEs, thereby advancing innovation-led economic growth and sustainable development.

The workshop will bring together eminent experts from the **International Network for Small and Medium Enterprises (INSME)**, the **South Centre, Pardis Technology Park (Iran)**, and the **Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA)**, **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**, who will provide insights and practical guidance on key thematic areas including:

- Strategies for effective R&D-SME collaboration
- Green and sustainable innovation ecosystems
- Mechanisms for technology transfer and commercialization
- Entrepreneurial capacity development
- Policy and governance frameworks for innovation partnerships


In the spirit of inclusivity and broad engagement, it would be appreciated if your esteemed institution may nominate **8 to 10 suitably qualified individuals**—such as faculty members, researchers, programme managers, or academic staff—to attend the forthcoming training session virtually and derive benefit from its content. The nominations may please be shared by **Wednesday, 21st May 2025**, via email to mehwish.durani@comsats.org, with a copy to huma@comsats.org.

Participants attending the full session will receive e-certificates. A **comprehensive concept note** and **programme** is enclosed herewith. The Participation details will be shared with the nominated officials via email.

For any queries or further information, the aforementioned officials of COMSATS may be contacted via email.

I look forward to receiving nominations. We remain committed to strengthening South-South cooperation and sustainable innovation linkages.

Please accept, Honorable Rector, the assurances of my esteem.


(Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria)