

EIGHTH MEETING OF COMSTECH

Dec 16-18, 1997

Messages



Mr. Wasim Sajjad,
Acting President of Pakistan



Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif,
Prime Minister of Pakistan



Syeda Abida Hussain,
Minister for Science and
Technology



Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman,
H.I.S.T.I., Coordinator
General, COMSTECH

The Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan is organising the Eighth Meeting of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), in Islamabad from December 16-18, 1997.

In the Islamic countries, much has been said and planned in various fields of S&T, but it is a matter of common observation that no significant change has taken place in our over-all science scenarios. Other nations of the world are rapidly progressing in all spheres of Science and Technology. The recent advances made in the field of communication and robotics, among many others, have been truly amazing and could benefit the Islamic world considerably, if properly absorbed and implemented.

On the platform of COMSTECH, concerted efforts have been made
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I am pleased to know that the Eighth Meeting of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) is being held in Islamabad from December 16-18, 1997.

It is indeed gratifying that COMSTECH has elicited valuable cooperation from the participating countries, relevant OIC institutions and international organisations. I am confident that this high-level participation by the member states will steer and guide the deliberations of this meeting to a successful conclusion.

The Muslim Ummah has been passing through one of its most difficult periods in its history. It is beset with enormous challenges of eradicating hunger, disease and ignorance from the Muslim society. A resolution of all these problems requires an extensive and sustained use of science and technology for the enhancement of our agricultural production and boosting of our industrial production.

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COMSTECH past and present

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Sci. and
Tech.*

By Mohammed Ali Mahesar,
Executive Secretary,
COMSTECH

Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) is a specialised committee established by the Third Islamic Summit held at Makkah-tul-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in January 1981.

The President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan was requested by the Summit participants to Chair the Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) on account of Pakistan's relatively better developed scientific establishment and experience with high Tech. research. This ministerial Committee carries out its functions through the COMSTECH Secretariat located in Islamabad and the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) at Jeddah.

Objectives

The prime purpose of the committee on scientific and technological development is to undertake follow-up action and implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Islamic Conference and to study means of strengthening cooperation among OIC member states. The committee is also charged with the responsibility of formulating programmes and submitting proposals designed to increase the science and technology capability of



Mr. Mohammed Ali Mahesar

the OIC member states. Broad objectives for establishing COMSTECH are as follows:

- * To assess the human and material resources of the member states and to determine their science and technology needs.
- * To develop through cooperation and mutual assistance the indigenous capability within the member states in the field of science and technology.
- * To promote scientific and technological cooperation and coordination amongst the member states by way of collaborative scientific research in common problems of the OIC region.
- * To help accomplish collective strength in science and technology by identifying shared goals and interlinking scientific establishments of the mem-

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ber states.

To create an effective institutional network for planning, research and gearing development of science and technology activities in high technology.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Working under the overall control, supervision and guidance of its Chairman, the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan COMSTECH has its organisational structure as follows:

(i) General Assembly

The General Assembly, the main decision-making body of COMSTECH is composed of the ministers in charge of science and technology of the following fifty-four member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference:

1. ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN
2. REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
3. AZERBAIJAN
4. DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
5. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
6. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
7. STATE OF BAHRAIN
8. BENIN
9. BURKINA FASO
10. COMOROS
11. CAMEROON
12. CHAD
13. DJIBOUTI
14. ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
15. REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
16. GUINEA BISSAU

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