

Dec 16-18, 19

Messages



Mr Wasim Sajjad, Acting President of Pakistan

ould like to extend warm welcome to Ministers, of delegations and participants to the Eighth al Assembly Meeting of COMSTECH.

OIC member countries represent widely difscenarios in terms of available human and capsources. The road to national self-reliance is hich they all wish to embark upon but, by and they lack appropriately qualified human ces even though some OIC countries have the resources. Frontier scientific discoveries are re-runners of all technological development eed inputs of highly qualified scientists. The ing industrial growth can dramatically transthese nations showering them with vast eco-

elopment is a multifaceted process, comprising ber of key components which must be put into to stimulate economic growth. Firstly, minimum evel of literacy and education for the entire popis required because without an educated work

(Continued on page V)



Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Prime Minister of Pakistan

I am pleased to know that the Eighth Meeting of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COM-STECH) 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.

(Continued on page V)



Sveda Abida Hussain, Minister for Science and Technology

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 (Continued on page V)



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

I would like to welcome the participants to the Eighth General Assembly Meeting of the COM-STECH. The world is being transformed in a multitude of ways, largely due to the explosive growth in the total quantum of human knowledge, particularly in the fields of Science and Technology during the last few decades, with every facet of our lives. The Muslim World comprises about a quarter of the world's population. In order to progress, we must firstly have excellent universities and R&D institutions with highly qualified manpower and internationally compatible facilities so that we become capable of interacting and supporting indigenous industry in a meaningful manner. Our needs in terms of import substitution or export potential must be clearly identified. Mechanisms must then

(Continued on page V)

Dawn COMSTECH se and past and pre

By Mohammed Ali Mahesar, Executive Secretary, COMSTECH

rganization Islamic Conference (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technolog-ical 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 (COM-STECH) 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 its accompanying impact on almost 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-

its

ber states. To create an effective institu tional network for planning, research and gearing development of sci ence 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 COM-STECH is composed of the ministers in charge of science and technology of the following fifty-four member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference:

ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

2. AZERBAIJAN

- DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
- BRUNEI DARUSSALAM PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
 - BANGLADESH
- 7. STATE OF BAHRAIN BENIN
- 9. **BURKINA FASO**
- 10. COMOROS 11. CAMEROON
- 12. CHAD
- 13. DJIBOUTI
 - ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
- REPUBLIC OF GUINEA 16. GUINEA BISSAU

(Continued on page V)