



# COMSTECH News

January-2010

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION

## From Coordinator General's Desk

### Looming Water Scarcity in the OIC Region



Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, FRS  
N.I., H.I., S.I., T.I.

Scarcity of freshwater resources is expected to be the second most formidable challenge to the world in general and Islamic countries in particular in the 21st century, as a result of climate change and emission of greenhouse

gases. Defective water management systems as well as a poor water quality, population growth, pollution, natural drought and the dissipation of resources contribute to this growing problem.

The role of water as a vital and precious substance, as a stimulating force in socio-economic development and as key factor in water ecosystem conservation is obvious. This importance is particularly prominent and tangible in the Islamic countries, which are located in the arid and semi-arid regions of the world and are suffering from intensive water shortage.

It is estimated that 80 % of diseases in the world are attributed to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation. Water, a precious gift of nature, is still not recognised as inherent precursor to sustainable public health and development. Our development plans lack water management, in spite of the fact that it is deeply connected with food production, disease prevention, industrial and agricultural growth.

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## COMSTECH Executive Committee Meeting in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Twenty-seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Ministerial Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) is taking place from 22-23 February, 2010 in Riyadh, the capital city of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting is being hosted by H.E. Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Suwaiyel, President of the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology, on behalf of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, an important member of the COMSTECH Executive Committee.

H. E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanogulu, Secretary General of the OIC shall address the participants whereas opening remarks shall be made by the Coordinator General of COMSTECH, H.E. Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman in his capacity as Chairman COMSTECH Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will review COMSTECH activities implemented since Thirteenth General Assembly held in Islamabad, the federal metropolis of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It shall review implementation status of the OIC Ten-year Program of Action which among other areas outlines actions for scientific and technological advancement in the OIC region.

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## COMSTECH Organising Two Week Training Course on Foresight

OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) is organising a fortnight training course for the scientists, researchers and policy-makers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) member states, from 22nd February to 5th March, 2010 at the COMSTECH building in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Science and technology managers, policy planners and policy researchers from both public and private sectors are participating in it.

The course will be conducted by experts from The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, The University of Manchester, UK; The Graduate Institute of Future Studies, Tamkang University, Tamsui, Taiwan; and the COMSTECH Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research and Training Centre.

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**TWOWS Prizes for Young Women Scientists in Developing Countries**

**Morocco Hopes to Shine in Mega Solar Project**







# Publications and Profiles

# COMSTech

COMSTech Directory of Active Scientists in OIC Member States and their Recent Scientific Publications:

Vol. I, Vol. II, Vol. III, Vol. IV, Vol. V (Part A, B, C), Vol. VI (Part A, B), Vol. VII (Part A, B, C), Vol. VIII (Part A, B), Vol. IX (Part A, B), Vol. X, Vol. XI.

COMSTech Inter-Library Resource Network Service:

Vol. I, Vol. II, Vol. III, Vol. IV.

- **Mineral Profile of the Muslim World** US\$40.00
- **Health and Medical Profile of the Muslim World** US\$40.00
- **Food and Agricultural Profile of the Muslim World** US\$40.00
- **Industrial Profile of the Muslim World** US\$40.00
- **COMSTech Model Biosafety Guidelines** US\$25.00
- **Islamic Biomedical Ethics: Issues and Resources** US\$25.00
- **World Trade Organization and OIC Member States** US\$35.00
- **Science and Technology Policy for Industrialization** US\$50.00
- **Leading Scientists and Engineers of OIC Member States** US\$70.00

COMSTech News is a monthly newsletter of OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTech) and is brought out in English, French and Arabic

## Comments?

We'd love to hear from you. Feedback may be sent to the editorial team.



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**Printed at**  
Islamabad, Pakistan