FOREWORD

From the pure beauty of general relativity to modern high technology, Physics is a fascinating and worthy subject, leading to both new applications and in-depth observations about the universe. The influence of physics in the enhancement of old technologies and the development of new ones is enormous. Both the methods and the subject-matter of physics are vital to technological development, leading to increased productivity in the economy.

The year 2005 was declared the International Year of Physics (IYP) by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization. IYP 2005 was a worldwide celebration for physics and its importance. The year 2005 also marked the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's three important papers describing ideas that have since influenced all of modern physics. The IYP-2005 provided an opportunity to celebrate Einstein's great ideas, and their influence on our lives in the 21st century.

The celebrations were arranged all over the world. The scientific community of Pakistan, particularly the physicists, took special interest in celebrating the IYP-2005. Academia, researchers, scholars, young science-students and media participated in several activities arranged for this purpose.

COMSATS has played an active role in the celebrations related to the IYP-2005, it arranged and co-sponsored several seminars, symposia, meetings, etc. The present seminar, "Physics in Developing Countries: Past, Present and Future" was a part of these activities.

It is appropriate that the outcome of such an important seminar should be widely disseminated for the benefit of large section of our society. The proceedings of the event will adequately serve this purpose. The seminar, comprising 18 papers on diverse aspects of the title, presented by renowned experts in the respective fields, gives a thought-provoking opportunity to the physicists and policy-makers for devising necessary strategies for a better future of Physics. The areas covered in the proceedings represent, physics education, research in physics, development and technology and, quite appropriately, some historic perspectives. The message emerging from the seminar is clear: that quality of physics teaching and research can be appreciably enhanced by encouragement from the governments, policy-makers and other informed sections of the society. At the world level, the prospects of a better physics would brighten with enhanced international cooperation and through free exchange of knowledge.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise the efforts of Dr. Hameed Ahmed Khan H.I., S.I., and his team who organized this event to enlighten the researchers, businesses and the public about the importance of investment in physics, which can ultimately lead to economic development and an enhanced quality of life.

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