

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

COMSATS NEWS

WORKSHOP ON USE OF SPECTROSCOPIC TECHNIQUES IN STRUCTURAL ORGANIC CHEMISTRY, HELD AT HEJ RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY, KARACHI

The workshop on this subject was held on February 14-21, 2000. During the workshop, it was emphasized that one of the most important milestones in modern science was the development of spectroscopic techniques. Spectroscopy is a tool, which can unravel the inner contents of any sample regardless of its origin. It, therefore, acts as the eyes and ears of modern science. The uses of spectroscopy in biology, medical diagnosis, industrial analysis, environmental probing and other fields are already widespread. From pollution-monitoring to forensic investigations and from structure-determination of natural molecules to assessing the quality of industrial raw materials, spectroscopy provides the most efficient and cost-effective means of analysis.

The main objective of the "HEJ-COMSATS Workshop on the Use of Spectroscopic Techniques in Structural Organic Chemistry" was to provide an opportunity to young and upcoming chemists to learn the effective use and operation of modern spectroscopic instruments. During this workshop, attempts were also made to develop special skills in the interpretation of spectroscopic results and their utilization in quantitative and qualitative analytical work.

The programme of the Workshop included lectures, practical training, interpretation exercises and problem-solving sessions. Participants of 14 countries representing Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Palestine, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda and USA, benefitted from the workshop.

COMSATS DELEGATION VISIT TO TWAS, ITALY, FROM MAY 23-31, 2000

A delegation, comprising the Executive Director and Director Planning, visited TWAS, Italy, from May 23 to 31, 2000, in a bid for promotion of science and technology applications in common member states. COMSATS has made a big stride in the field of Science and Technology striving its object of

motivating the COMSATS member countries towards the centrality of Science and Technology in development of overall economic and social uplift. TWAS & COMSATS have agreed to reinforce the cooperation between them for enhancing the pace of Science and Technology development in COMSATS countries, through a Memorandum of Understanding, the first of its kind in the scientific history of the country. Dr. Hameed Ahmed Khan, Executive Director signed on behalf of COMSATS and Prof. M.H.A Hassan, Executive Director, TWAS inked the agreement at Trieste, Italy, on May 26, 2000.

TWAS would extend all help to the member states involved to induce adequate resource-allocation for research and development, as well as to integrate Science and Technology in national and regional developments.

COMSATS would establish a Coordinating office at its Headquarters in Islamabad and would represent TWAS in the member countries for smooth implementation of the provisions of the memorandum. The two international science organizations have also resolved to set up an information centre in member states as well as the co-organization of joint activities to effectively work under this historic memorandum of understanding.

The salient features of the memorandum comprise emphasis on consultation and cooperation among the two organizations in order to reinforce development activities in research work undertaken by scientists and science organizations of member states. It aims at mutual exchange of information for securing long-term financial support from international donor agencies, as well as provision of publications on scientific topics of common interest.

The Memorandum highlights the use of the premises of COMSATS & TWAS to ensure effective dissemination / transmission of information on each others development projects, for the benefit of member states, and to help exchange and sustain scientific research in various scientific institutions of the member states.

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COMSATS DELEGATION VISITED IPC IN VIENNA

The COMSATS delegation, comprising Executive Director and Director Planning, visited Vienna, Austria, in connection with formal signing of MOU on science and technology cooperation between (IPC) UNIDO, based in Vienna, and COMSATS. The proposed agreement would be broad-based, to facilitate the concerned parties to come closer to sort out different details including terms and conditions,

etc, as well as the scope of cooperation. The proposed MOU would be based on terms to be decided on case-to-case basis, covering activities such as joint ventures, organization of show cases/exhibitions, collaboration in environmental information and management, the possibility of publishing joint publications, initiative of IPC(UNIDO) to promote contacts with COMSATS, jointly funded research projects etc.

THE R&D ENGINEER CAN NEVER WIN

The R&D Engineer's work is finally to be witnessed and vouched by all. If he makes a mistake, he cannot

Like the doctor, bury it, or

Like the architect, obscure it by trees or ivy,

LIKE THE LAWYER, BLAME IT ON THE JUDGE OR JURY,

Like the politician, blame his constituents,

Like the Minister, change the name of it and hope that the voters will forget,

LIKE THE PLANNERS, ATTRIBUTE IT "TO CHANGE OF PLANS" BY EXECUTIVES,

Like the Executives, Label it "the resources-constraint" and

Like the clergyman, cannot blame the devil.

(Contributed by Engr. Rafiq Hussain, Pakistan. Telecom Authority)