

COMMENTS / VIEWS

H.Es The Ambassadors / High Commissioners/ Representatives of The Member Countries of COMSATS

In the concluding session, distinguished guests and the representatives of the COMSATS member states also expressed their valuable comments on the deliberations of the COMSATS 1st Meeting on Water Resources in the South and the status of water-related issues from national and regional point of view.

Speaking on the occasion, *H.E.* T.Y. Opatola, the Deputy High Commissioner for Nigeria said that there were no problems of water-resources in Nigeria; rather it has managerial problems. He was of the opinion that the participants of the COMSATS 1st Meeting on Water Resources have put forth excellent recommendations to resolve the water-resource related issues by formulating and managing comprehensive resource- plans. He was also of the view that these recommendations are useful for Nigeria as well, and that he will forward these suggestions to the Nigerian government.

H.E. Badi Khattab, the Charge'd Affairs of Syria also addressed the gathering. He was of the view that that the water-resources problems in Syria are more or less similar to those in Pakistan and there is dire need to conserve water. He stated that today we are using much more water than we did in the past; the water consumption has multiplied due to up-gradation of the standards of living and as we need more water for dish cleaning,

car washing, and for frequent bathing and watering of gardens and lawns, etc. Water is divine. Mr. Badi expressed his concern and further asserted, "Even the ministries of defense in most of the developed and under-developed countries are apprehensive of the water-resource scenario. The water resources have attained special geo-strategic importance as the enemies tend to control the water resources and the water-flow channels. The water reserves are being continuously depleted due to the fact that drought cycle follows every 3-4 years of rainy seasons. It necessitates to make people aware of the growing water crises and to pay special attention to educate the community through academic institutions. COMSATS, is a good platform to address this core issue of agricultural and economic concern". *H.E.* Badi Khattab appreciated the efforts of COMSATS in organizing the meeting on water-resources in a highly professional manner and assured that Syria will strengthen its ties with COMSATS to learn from the experiences of Pakistan in water resource management.