COMSTECH-IUCr Collaboration to Enhance Capacity Building in Emerging Sciences Related to X-ray Crystallography

**M. Iqbal Choudharya,b and Sammer Yousufb**

aCOMSTECH Sectaries Islamabad, Pakistan

bInternational Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences

(H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research) University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan;
E-mail: iqbal.choudhary@iccs.edu

OIC, The Organization of the Islamic Conference is comprised of 57 Muslim nations and representing the second largest international organization after the United Nations. Including several oil- and gas-producing nations of Middle East, the OIC nations also include some of the world’s poorest countries as well as large middle-income countries with regions of great poverty along with highest infection rates and endemicity of the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) including leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis, ascariasis, trichuriasis, hookworm, trachoma, chagas, malaria, HIV, etc.

COMSTECH (<http://www.comstech.org/>) is a Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that was brought into existence by the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah al Mukarramah/Taif in January 1981. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is its Chairman. The Committee is entrusted with the follow up of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit in the fields of science and technology, examining all possible means of strengthening cooperation among the OIC member states in those areas of science and technology that are crucial for the scientific development of the OIC region, and putting forward programs and proposals likely to improve the scientific and technological capabilities of the OIC member states.

Given that the charter of the both COMSTECH and IUCr includes scientific cooperation, and capacity building, the cooperation of both networks to build capacity of developing world in the emerging areas of science.

Following COMSTECH- NTD network joint activities will be conducted for capacity building of researchers / scientists of Muslim world to address the growing issue of leishmaniasis from the plate form of COMSTECH.

1. Workshops for Capacity Building
2. Virtual lecture series on basic and advanced techniques to use for research related to X-ray crystallography