

COMSATS FOUNDATION-STONE LAYING AND UNIVERSITY STATUS FOR CIIT



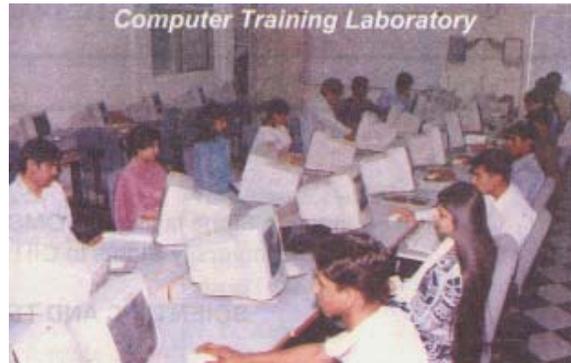
PRESIDENT LAYS FOUNDATION-STONE OF COMSATS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

H.E. Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan laid the foundation stone of COMSATS Headquarters Building in Islamabad, on Tuesday April 18, 2000. Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman, Federal Minister of Science and Technology, was also present on the occasion. Dr. Hameed Ahmed Khan, Executive Director COMSATS, along with other officials, welcomed the distinguished guests on their arrival at the building site in Sector G-5/2, opposite Radio Pakistan. H.E. The President unveiled the Foundation Plaque of COMSATS Headquarters, in the presence of dignitaries and diplomats of the Foreign missions residing in Islamabad. All those present prayed for the success of the project. The chief guest was then given a brief presentation by NESPAK, consultants of COMSATS, on the structure and design of the construction project.

After the ceremony at the site, the guests were escorted to the Auditorium of Pakistan Academy of Sciences on Constitution Avenue, for the proceedings. Dr. Hameed Ahmed Khan, Executive Director of COMSATS, in his welcome address, gave a brief review of COMSATS' activities. He thanked the President and Federal Minister for gracing the occasion.

The Federal Minister for Science and Technology, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the importance of south-south cooperation, and stressed that the developing countries need to develop their own resources in the field of science and technology.

H.E. President of Pakistan in his speech commended the efforts put in by the Commission to establish itself firmly during the short period of five years. He said that it was essential to house the organization in its own premises, so that it can operate from a firm base and play its part effectively, to carry out the mission of highlighting the centrality of science and technology in the process of development, and to ensure proper liaison among the scientific and technological establishments of its 21 member states.



DEGREE-AWARDING STATUS FOR COMSATS INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Federal Cabinet of Government of Pakistan has approved the charter of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), a project of Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS). The approval of the charter of CIIT is a step forward, by the government, in fulfilling the commitment of granting university-status to maximum IT institutes in Pakistan and also in appreciation of the role of COMSATS and CIIT in the promotion of IT education in Pakistan.

Dr. Hameed Ahmed Khan, Executive Director of COMSATS, congratulated the members and students of CIIT on this occasion. He, in his message, observed that it was all by the grace of Allah, Almighty, that the cabinet has found this institute of the level that it can be entrusted with such a big responsibility. This has now increased the responsibility of the staff members and students to make this institute a success.

Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi, Director of the Institute, also congratulated the CIIT family. CIIT, which was established just a couple of years ago with introduction of professional courses, has now been accepted as a leading institute in Information-Technology in Pakistan. It is all because of the blessings of Allah and efforts of the employees, which have contributed in bringing this institute this far. He reaffirmed the resolve to make this institute not only a leading education institute in this area, but showed confidence that this institute will soon emerge as one of the leading software-development institutes in the country.