



Lieutenant General
Naweed Zaman, HI (M), (Retired)
Rector
National University of
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No: 0986/02/I&C/NUST
30 May 2019

Mr Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari
Darüşşafaka Caddesi Seba Center, No: 45, Kat: 3
Istinye 34460, Sarıyer-Istanbul
Turkey

Honorable Dato Shaari,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits.

I take this opportunity to offer my compliments to you on the behalf of National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Pakistan. We are indeed honoured to have been nominated for participation in the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation, which is recognition of our excellence in research and innovation. We also appreciate the vision of combined leadership of D-8 countries that has taken the initiative of establishing this platform.

As a member university, we commit ourselves to active contribution from the platform of D-8NPRI across its entire sub-programs / initiatives. Therefore, NUST would like to collaborate and offer its services through the following 5 avenues; including a total of 8 x scholarships in different disciplines (details below):

1. Research and Academics

- a. NUST is a comprehensive, research led university with a pool of 520 PhD Faculty who have together contributed more than 13,000 publications and 400 research projects during the last 5 years. NUST and D-8 members may, therefore, collaborate through joint publications and projects, researchers' mobility, joint conferences etc.
- b. NUST has more than 330 laboratories with more than 35 key labs. Through a landmark initiative undertaken by the Government of Pakistan in 2018, two National Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics & Automation have been established at NUST. These state of the art labs and COEs may be used by D-8 members for carrying out joint research.
- c. NUST established U.S. Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E) that is engaged in academics and research related to challenges

faced by the energy sector which happens to be one of the six priority areas of D-8 cooperation. We, therefore, offer the following:

- (1) This NUST centre may be considered to be given the status of D-8 Centre for Excellence in Energy.
- (2) We also offer free scholarship to two students in MS program in Energy System Engg / Thermal Energy Engg / Electrical Engg (Power). D8 Secretariat may nominate their two students from amongst its member states.

d. NUST Atta-ur-Rehman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB) has expertise in healthcare biotechnology, industrial biotechnology, food and plant biotechnology. Agriculture being one of the priority area of D-8 cooperation, we offer the following:

- (1) NUST ASAB may be given the status of D-8 Centre for Excellence in Biotechnology.
- (2) We also offer free scholarship to two students in MS program in Healthcare Biotechnology / Industrial Biotechnology / Plant Biotechnology. D8 Secretariat may nominate their two students from amongst its member states.

e. NUST Business School (NBS) is one of the premier business schools in Pakistan offering programs in Business Administration and Accounting & Finance, rated second amongst all Pakistani Business Schools in latest QS Rankings. Similarly, NUST School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H) offers programs in Social Sciences; economics, psychology, mass communication, sociology etc. We offer two scholarships in both NBS and S3H in their respective PG programs.

2. Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer. Intellectual Property (IP) is highly critical for competitive economy in the back drop of ongoing globalization. NUST is Pakistan's leading University in IP with proven track record of technology transfer to the industry. NUST can thus become the Pakistani node for D-8 network on D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (TTEN). Also relevant to highlight is that NUST recently established China Pakistan Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTC) in collaboration with China International Technology Transfer Centre, Beijing (under Chinese Min of S&T). The proposed D-8 TTEN node at NUST will thus facilitate soft-landing to companies to enter into each other's market, acting as a gateway between the industries and innovative resources, extending this facilitation to China under CPTTC.

3. Technology Incubation Services. NUST was the first university to establish Technology Incubation Centre in 2005. Till date, 48 startups have graduated while 30 startups are currently hosted. From May 2019, NUST will be launching 2nd incubator that

will enhance incubation space to host 75 startups concurrently - by far the largest in Pakistan. D-8 members may like to utilize our services to house their startups at our incubation centres to enter into Pakistani markets.

4. National Science and Technology Park (NSTP). Pakistan's first STP is scheduled to be operationalized by July 2019 at NUST. For NSTP, 08 x themes / sectors have been identified which include Agritech, Autotech, Deftech, Edutech, Energytech, Fintech, Healthtech and Smarttech. D-8 members can collaborate with NUST to establish their companies and innovation hubs at NSTP in the mentioned thematic areas to carry out advance research and innovation.

5. NUST Internship Program for International Students (NIPIS). NUST accommodates foreign students for 4 weeks' summer internship under its NIPIS. We would appreciate if D-8 member states send their students every year under this program.

I am sure that the above 5 avenues are a good starting point for NUST to collaborate under D8PRI. As we move ahead, there will definitely be more areas to extend to.

Once again, please accept my compliments over D8PRI, to which I eagerly look forward to contribute. I also take this opportunity to extend you, Excellency, my earnest invitation to visit NUST. Inauguration of NSTP (mentioned above in para 4) is likely to be held by our Prime Minister, and, therefore, may be the most appropriate time to visit us tentatively in July 2019.

Assuring you my highest considerations.

Warm regards.

Sincerely yours,
