

**Report Third Meeting of the D-8 Network of pioneer for Research and Innovation (D-8
NPRI)
25-26 November 2024 in University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria**

The Third Meeting of the D-8 NPRI was hosted by the University of Ilorin, from 25-26 November 2024 at University of Ilorin, Nigeria

Participants: Representatives from D-8 NPRI Universities in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Pakistan, along with a Councilor Officer from the Embassy of Indonesia in Abuja, Nigeria. (List of participants attached as **Annex I**).

Agenda Item 1: Opening Session

1. Briefing by H.E. Secretary General of D-8

- **Presenter:** Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director-I
Representing His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary General of the D-8, Mr. Ahmar Ismail delivered a statement on his behalf.
*(Statement attached as **Annex II**).*

2. Briefing by Chair of D-8 NPRI (Rector CUI)

- **Presenter:** Dr. Tahir Naeem

Dr. Naeem provided an overview of the history and objectives of the D-8 NPRI Network. He formally welcomed the University of Ilorin and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) as new members, emphasizing their role in invigorating the network.

He also handed over the chair of the meeting to **Professor Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin.

*(Statement attached as **Annex III**).*

3. Welcome Remarks by the University of Ilorin

- **Presenter:** Professor Wahab, Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed all participants to the meeting and provided an introduction to the University of Ilorin's activities and achievements.

*(Statement attached as **Annex IV**).*

Agenda Item 2: Progress Report on D-8 NPRI Activities

- **Professor Mamun Ahmed** (University of Dhaka) emphasized strengthening cooperation among D-8 NPRI members.
- **Representative of the Indonesian Embassy** commended the University of Ilorin for hosting the meeting and stressed the importance of fostering collaboration within the network.
- **Representative from UTM, Malaysia** praised ongoing cooperation under D-8 NPRI.
- **Representative from Usma Dan Fodio University (UDUS), Nigeria** highlighted the need for joint research projects to deepen collaboration.
- **Intervention by the Secretary General of D-8:** Congratulated the University of Ilorin and Professor Wahab for hosting the meeting.
- **Presentation by COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan:**

COMSATS University Islamabad provided a detailed presentation on the progress achieved under the D-8 NPRI. The presentation highlighted various activities and initiatives undertaken to strengthen collaboration within the network. [Presentation by Dr. Hammad Omer (*T.I.*), Head International Office, COMSATS University Islamabad]

*(Details of the presentation are attached as **Annex V.**)*

Agenda Item 3: Review and Approval of the Draft D-8 NPRI Charter

The meeting reviewed the draft charter proposed by COMSATS University and incorporated feedback and amendments suggested by the members, finalizing the text. It was further agreed that the revised charter would be circulated to D-8 NPRI members via their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs for final comments and approval.

- **Deadline for feedback:** Two weeks from circulation.
- If no comments are received, the draft charter will be deemed adopted.

*(Final charter text attached as **Annex VI.**)*

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Plan of Action

COMSATS University presented a draft plan of Action, which was discussed and unanimously adopted with minor amendments.

*(Adopted Plan of Action attached as **Annex VII.**)*

Agenda Item 5: Adoption of the Calendar of Events

The draft calendar of activities was reviewed and adopted. It was agreed that the event dates would be coordinated with the proposed hosts for confirmation.

(Adopted Calendar attached as Annex VIII.)

Agenda Item 6: Proposals for Future Collaboration

- **Proposal by Associate Professor Noorsidi Aizuddin Mat Noor (UTM):** Associate Professor Noorsidi Aizuddin Mat Noor proposed integrating international research collaborations, innovations initiatives, and publications into the network's agenda. He also emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for collaboration to enhance the quality of international research, innovation and publications, benefiting stakeholders, particularly students and communities. This, in turn would elevate the global reputation and rankings of D-8 NPRI member institutions, especially in QS and THE rankings. By incorporating these priorities into the network's agenda, he suggested that strategic initiatives and an enabling ecosystem could be established to achieve these goals.

The meeting welcomed his proposal and unanimously agreed upon it.

Agenda Item 7: Next Meeting of the D-8 NPRI

- **Proposal by Associate Professor Noorsidi Aizuddin Mat Noor (UTM):**
 - **Fourth Meeting:** Tentatively scheduled for October 2025 (exact dates and venue to be conformed subject to the approval of Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia).
 - **Virtual Meeting:** To be organized in January 2025 by the D-8 NPRI Chair to discuss charter implementation and establish key governance bodies (University Association, Governing Board, and Research, Development, and Innovation Council).
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Conclusion

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks and appreciation to the University of Ilorin for its hospitality offered to all the participants as well as for providing excellent meeting arrangements. All the participants reaffirmed their commitment to fostering academic and research collaborations among D-8 member countries.

(Attachments: Annexes I–VIII.)

Delegates Attending the 3rd Meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) to be held in the University of Ilorin, Kwara, Nigeria from 24-27 November 2024:

	Name and Designation	Contact Details	Arrival	Departure
1.	Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka, Dhaka	Phone: +8801313355390 Email: provc.acad@du.ac.bd	23 rd 11, in Lago, 16:10 24 th Nov. Ilorin 7:35	Ilorin (not stated) 27 Nov. Lagos 13:35
2.	Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury , Treasurer University of Dhaka, Dhaka	Phone: +8801979256715 Email: mjac@du.ac.bd	22 nd Nov. Lagos 20:35 24 th Nov. Ilorin 7:35	Ilorin (Not stated) 01 Dec. Abuja 21: 55
3.	Dr. Saif Ullah Munshi Professor, Department of Virology Ban abandhu Sheikh Mu •ib Medical Universi Dhaka	Phone: +8801711376343 Email: saifmunshi@yahoo.com	Fri, 22 Nov 24, 20:10 Abuja 23 Nov Ilorin 10:55	27 Nov. Ilorin 08:25 Fri, 29 Nov 24 21:55
4.	Mr Raul Yanvierino Head of Consular Affairs, Indonesia		24 th Nov. Ilorin 16:30	27 Nov. Ilorin 08:35
5.	H.E. Mr. Masudur Rahman , High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Nigeria		25 th Nov. Ilorin 10: 55	27 ov. Ilorin 08:25
6	Professor Bashir Garba Vice chancellor, Usma Dan Fodio University (UDUS) (represented by Prof. Aminu Muhammad Bayaw, Director R&D)	E-mail: bgarba2002@gmail.com vchancellor@udusok.edu.n g Phone : 0803 678 3215 08030537838	Sun 24 Nov. Ilorin, 15:30	
7.	Associate Professor Ts. Sr Dr. Noorsidi Aizuddin Bin Mat Noor Head of Mass Appraisal, Housing and Planning Research Group,	noorsidi@utm.my +60123250405	24 Nov. 9:15 Lagos 25 Nov. Ilorin 08:05	27 Nov. 09:55 27 Nov. Lagos 19:00

	Department of Real Estate, Centre for Real Estate Studies (UTM CRES) Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, MALAYSIA			
8.	Mr Ahmar Ismail	Secretariat +905334823482 SECRETARIAT@DEVELOPING8.ORG	Fri 22 Nov Abuja 20:10 24 Nov. Ilorin 16:30	27 Nov. Ilorin 08:35 29 Nov. Abuja 21:55
9.	Muhammad Bilal Khan	Secretariat +90 531 583 93 07 Bilal.Khan@developing8.org	Fri 22 Nov Abuja 20:10 24 Nov. Ilorin 16:30	27 Nov. Ilorin 08:35 29 Nov. Abuja 21:55
10.	Prof Wahab Olasupo Egbewole Vice chancellor, University of Ilorin	vc@unilorin.edu.ng	The Chief Host	The Chief Host

Plus 2 Assistants from Bangladesh and Indonesian Embassies for accommodation

Statement by His Excellency, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, at the Third D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) Meeting, University of Ilorin, Nigeria, 25-26 November 2024

Professor Dr. Sajid Qamar,

Rector of COMSATS University Islamabad and Chairperson of D-8 NPRI,

Professor Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN,

Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin,

Honourable Rectors, Vice Chancellors, Professors, Academicians,

Respected Members of the Academic Community,

Distinguished Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Asalamu Alaikum and a Very Good Morning to You All,

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the entire community of the University of Ilorin, under the exemplary leadership of Professor Wahab Egbewole (SAN), for hosting this prestigious event. Your tireless efforts and warm hospitality—both

in Ilorin and at the airports in Lagos and Abuja—deserve immense recognition.

I also express my gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for their unwavering support and facilitation, which has been pivotal in making this gathering a success.

Equally, I acknowledge the invaluable contributions of COMSATS University Islamabad, the current Chair of D-8 NPRI, for its dedication to the preparations for this significant meeting.

I am thrilled to welcome two new members to our network: the University of Ilorin and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). The D-8 NPRI now boast of 28 member universities.

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

This gathering holds a special place in my heart, as Ilorin is my hometown. It is, therefore, a personal joy to welcome you all. Before I proceed, permit me to express unreserved apology for my inability to attend this meeting, in person. This is due to the exigency of work, at the Secretariat, with the ongoing preparation for the 11th D8 Summit, which is scheduled to hold soon, in Cairo, Egypt.

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The **D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI)** is one of the successful initiatives of the D-8 Organization, even though it is relatively young. The Network was established in 2020, to foster collaboration among researchers, institutes, and industries in the D-8 Member States.

The primary objectives of the NPRI are:

- Identify research and development capabilities and exchange the research results with industries in the Member States;
- Extend laboratory facilities, to the Member States' researchers and students;
- Conduct joint research projects on industrial areas;
- Institute research fellow exchange program, among universities in the D-8 Member States, and the D-8 International University.

The Network is currently made up of twenty-eight universities, from six D-8 member states. Since its establishment in 2020, the Network has made modest progress including:

- The convening of two meetings of the NPRI, by the host of NPRI, COMSTAS University.
- COMSATS has offered scholarships, at graduate and postgraduate levels, to students from member states.

- Conduct joint transnational research projects, between Pakistan and Türkiye, funded through the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) Pakistan and TUBITAK of Türkiye.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Today's meeting is particularly significant, as we aim to finalize the Charter of D-8 NPRI. An operational Charter will enable us to set up, an online portal, similar to successful models, like the University Research Association, thus enhancing accessibility and collaboration. Once adopted, this Charter, will guide the establishment of key bodies, including, **Governing Board of the D8 NPRI, The D-8 NPRI Universities Association, and the D-8 Research and Development Council.**

Also, at today's meeting, we will discuss, and hopefully, finalize and adopt an Action Plan, and Calendar of Events, for 2025-2026. Members will also be expected to make presentations, to share

knowledge and best practices, in research and innovations, across the D8 countries.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Despite the modest progress made since the establishment of the NPRI, delegates, here, will agree with me that the NPRI has many prospects, which need to be tapped. In this regard, permit me, Honorable Chair, to suggest four recommendations, for the advancement of the NPRI, for consideration of this August gathering:

- **Establishment of E-Research Portal**

It is imperative that the D-8 NPRI stay on the course, by establishing an **E-Research Portal**. This initiative would connect relevant governmental and private research institutions, streamline collaborations and expand memberships. Therefore, I urge participants to deliberate on this proposal.

- **D-8 NPRI Collaborative Innovation Hubs**

Second is the establishment of a **D-8 NPRI Collaborative Innovation Hub**, in selected universities, to foster collaboration in research and innovation. These hubs can focus on priority sectors such as biotechnology, green energy, smart agriculture, and advanced manufacturing. Each hub could specialize in an area aligned with the strength of its host country, while serving as a platform for multi-stakeholders' collaboration among academia, industry, and governments, across D-8 member states.

Third, is the D-8 Innovation Challenge and Fellowship Program. To poach young researchers and graduate students from member states, NPRI can also establish and institutionalize the D-8-wide, annual innovation challenge and fellowship program. This initiative would promote talent exchange, cross-border

collaborations, and practical problem-solving, tailored to D-8 socio-economic needs.

My fourth and final recommendation is in the area of **spending on R&D**. As highlighted by UNESCO, global spending on research and development has reached a record level of \$1.7 trillion; yet only ten countries account for 80% of this expenditure. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals calls for a significant increase in R&D investment, as well as the number of researchers, by 2030ⁱ. Therefore, NPRI may wish to call on member states to commit at least 2% of national budget of their respective countries, to R& D.

On a final note, **Honorable Chair and Distinguished Participants**, I am confident that the D-8 NPRI will serve as a transformative platform, if only we can use it to encourage

researchers to collaborate with companies in member states, to translate research into innovative products. This will go a long way in developing D-8 technologies, collectively, to bring tangible improvements to the lives of our citizens.

I urge all participants to actively contribute to the discussion. Also, I enjoin the leadership of D-8 NPRI to seek collaboration with other D-8 affiliate bodies, such as, the **D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network** – based in Iran, the **D-8 International University** – Located in Bu Ali Sina University, Hamadan, Iran, **D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security**, in Pakistan and the **D-8 Health and Social Protection Program**– based in Abuja. Such collaborations are important to translate research into innovation.

Once again, I extend my gratitude to the University of Ilorin, for hosting us. My appreciation also goes to the Government of Nigeria for its support, and to COMSATS University Islamabad, for its guidance and leadership.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you a successful deliberation.

ⁱ <https://uis.unesco.org/apps/visualisations/research-and-development-spending/>

Nov. 25, 2024

Welcome Remarks

Excellency Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

Prof. Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, Vice
Chancellor, UNILORIN

Prof. Lateef Onireti Ibraheem;

Representatives of the Member and Prospective
Member Universities of D8 Network of Pioneers for
Research and Innovation (NPRI)

Officers of D 8 Sectt., Uo Ilorin, Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Tahir Naeem. I serve as Director,
Planning, Development & Human Resource
Development at COMSATS University Islamabad and

as Executive Director, Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology, which is a similar inter-state network of Islamic States working under auspices of COMSTECH and through it the OIC. I will be representing Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad, the Chair of D 8 NPRI who is in travel to attend convocations of University's two campuses in the South of the country - whose dates incidentally coincided with this meeting. He may though join, as he finds time.

It is my proud privilege to welcome you at the 3rd D 8 NPRI Meeting being hosted by the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. It is a 2-Day Meeting, and building on the two meetings earlier held one each in Dec. 2020 and in Mar. 2023, both hosted by COMSATS

University Islamabad, has important agenda to deliberate upon.

Dignitaries, the very idea of establishing the Network of Pioneers in Research and Innovation under auspices of D 8 Organization of Economic Cooperation is to bring together different stakeholders to the innovation together. These stakeholders include **individuals** as researchers, entrepreneurs, and organizations and institutions like universities, R&D organizations, S&T organizations setting out standards, accreditation, and services like quality assurance and quality control, testing and measurements, and a host of other services needed for carrying out research and translation of research into products, services and

enterprises. The ultimate aim is for sure, to promote economic co-operation and through it further the developmental pursuits of the respective Member States.

I hereby welcome the University of Ilorin Nigeria and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) as members of D 8 NPRI.

Briefly, the agenda for the 2-Day Meeting is fairly comprehensive and engaging. In it, the, we will take up

Agenda Item 1: Progress Report on D8 NPRI's Past Activities and comments by the D8 NPRI members & Guests (1-2 minute each)

Agenda Item 2: Feedback & Discussion on circulated D8 NPRI draft Charter

Agenda Item 3: Approving and activating the D8 Charter

Agenda Item 4: Finalization and Adoption of Plan of Action

Agenda Item 5: Calendar of Events

Agenda item 6: Any other Business

Agenda Item 7: Next meeting of the D8 NPRI

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that by the time we would cover the agenda items set-forth, the D 8 NPRI will be ready to take off with engagements taking place and taking shape to

deliver the very good for which the D 8 NPRI is intended for.

I will like to place on record my sincere thanks to the D 8 Secy General/Sectt for providing the necessary support and advice. My sincere thanks go to the Foreign Offices in D 8 Member States for providing the necessary support and assistance which was required to convene a meeting of this stature. My sincere thanks go to the D 8 NPRI Member Universities and the respected delegates attending this meeting for sparing time for their valuable participation. Last but not the least, my sincere thanks go to the University of Ilorin and the Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the event.

I wish the delegates productive and fruitful discussions and engagements. I wish safe and pleasant stay for the delegates visiting Ilorin and attending the meetings in person and wish them a safe travel back to their places.

Long live D 8 Organization of Economic Cooperation and Long live D 8 NPRI.



D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation

3RD MEETING OF THE D-8 NPRI

25-26 NOVEMBER 2024

AT UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, NIGERIA



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Agenda

1. Progress Report on D-8 NPRI's Past Activities and comments by the D-8 NPRI members & Guests
2. Feedback & Discussion on circulated [D-8 NPRI Draft Charter](#)
3. Approving and activating the D-8 Charter
4. Finalization and Adoption of Plan of Action
5. Calendar of Events
6. Any other Business
7. Next meeting of the D-8 NPRI



Background & Summary

D-8 NPRI Inaugural Meeting
21st December 2020

- Hosted by CUI
- Chairman – Rector CUI
- Islamabad Declaration
- Concept Paper

- 19th Meeting of the Council
- Approval to the D-8 NPRI
- 8th April 2021





Background & Summary (Cont..)

Online Meeting with
HE Secy. General D-8

- 25th January 2022
- NPRI Review & Recommendations

Meeting in Turkey

- 12th June 2022
- Rector CUI & Secy. General D-8





Background & Summary (Cont..)

CUI – D-8 Secretariat Online Meeting

- 23rd August 2022
- Discussions – Sustainability
- Charter Development, 2nd NPRI meeting

D-8 NPRI 2nd Meeting 8th March 2023

- Hosted by CUI
- Chairman – Rector CUI
& Sec. General D8 Secretariat
- Joint Resolution





Background & Summary (Cont..)

Focal Persons of D-8 Member Universities

- Online – hosted by CUI/Chair
- 29th April 2024
- 7 Universities (Pak, Nigeria, Bangladesh & Türkiye)





Islamabad Declaration

21st December 2020

D-8 Universities Assoc.

- Enhanced Communication
- Coordination
- Member state universities and research institutes

D-8 R&D Council

- To promote collaboration
- R&D Joint Ventures
- Collective benefits

Others (selected)

- Dialogue & Collaboration
- Providing support SMEs and industry
- Promote D-8 NPRI
- 2nd Meeting in Pakistan

Islamabad Declaration



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



Islamabad Declaration

21st December 2020

Aims (immediate focus)

- Trailblazers (existing IP)
- Exploitation (through affiliates)

Governing Board

- President (Chairperson NPRI)
- 1 nominee/D8 member
- Rotational

D-8 Universities Assoc.

- General body
- Membership/subscription

D-8 R&D Council

- Chair (Nominee of NPRI Chair)
- Focal persons (all members)

Secretariat

- Rotational

Funds

- Collective responsibility
- Host, member states
- Annual subscriptions, periodic contributions



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



Islamabad Declaration (Objectives)

21st December 2020

- Identifying research and development capabilities of the D-8 Member States
- Strengthening the linkages among universities, research institutions, industry-related organizations and training institutes to develop collaborative research on common challenges and devise strategic discourse
- Helping industries and SMEs in D-8 Member States by providing research results and technology to overcome the challenges and problems
- Initiating Research Fellow Exchange Programme among universities in D-8 Member States



Agenda of 2nd Meeting of D-8 NPRI

8th March 2023

1. Discussion on proposed D-8 NPRI Charter and Structure for the D-8 NPRI
2. Discussion on ensuring financial, operational and long-term sustainability of the D-8 NPRI
3. Discussion on key next steps in the D-8 NPRI evolution and proposals for networking events between the innovators and scientists in the D-8 member states
4. Discussion on national statutory allocations to research and development by member states
5. Any other agenda item with the permission of the Chair

2nd Meeting of D-8 NPRI

8th March 2023



Draft Charter of D-8 NPRI

- Feedback Incorporation
- Recirculated
- Further feedback in 3 months from Member universities
- Financial Sustainability of D-8 NPRI

Others (selected)

- Dialogue & Collaboration
- National R&D Allocation
- Next Meeting in July 2023

Joint Resolution of 2nd D-8 NPRI



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

2nd Meeting of D-8 NPRI (Objectives)

8th March 2023



- Interest mapping and networking activities - Researcher-Researcher and Institution-Institution within D-8 Member States
- Focal Persons Nominations from all members Universities
- Develop D-8 NPRI Website in phased manner linking all the members of the D-8 NPRI
- Need for national statutory allocation to R&D
- Innovation Commercialization Framework





Agenda of 3rd D-8 NPRI Meeting

1. Progress Report on D-8 NPRI's Past Activities and comments by the D-8 NPRI members & Guests
2. Feedback & Discussion on circulated [D-8 NPRI Draft Charter](#)
3. Approving and activating the D-8 Charter
4. Finalization and Adoption of Plan of Action
5. Calendar of Events
6. Any other Business
7. Next meeting of the D-8 NPRI



CUI Engagements

D-8 Centric Activities (Education, Research and Development)



- **D-8 Project Support Fund** (1 Project Completed and 3 Submitted)
 - 1-Project completed titled “*Feasibility Study for the Provision of Safe Drinking Water through Water Conservation*”, 3 submitted)
- **Currently Enrolled D-8 Member State Students @ CUI** (Egypt-1, Nigeria-3)
- **MS & PhD Scholarships for D-8 Member States**
- **D-8 International University** – MoU Signed on 27 Feb 2024
- **Middle East Technical University** (IIA - Erasmus+ and Mevlana Protocol)
- **Funding Mobilities to/from Member States** – Iran, Nigeria, Turkey



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

CUI Engagements (Cont..)

D-8 Centric Activities (Education, Research and Development)



- **Joint Grants** – IRCBM & Physics – 4 PSF-TUBITAK (**Turkey**) projects - focussing on biomaterials, tissue engineering and their use in improving quality of human life
- **Joint Grants** - Four PSF-MSRT (**Iran**) Projects
- **Faculty Exchange** - IRCBM - Hosted Marmara University (**Turkey**) Faculty and PhD student for two months at IRCBM through Erasmus+
- **Students Exchange** – Semester Exchange Program - METU



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

D-8 IU Engagements

D-8 Centric Activities (Education, Research and Development)



- **Approved International Joint Project (Iran- Malaysia)**
Titled “Water for humanity: D-8 project for global prosperity”
- **Organized 06 Webinars / Seminar** on various topics
- **Offers Scholarships** for 25 students from Member Estates



METU Engagements

D-8 Centric Activities (Education, Research and Development)



- **Currently Enrolled D-8 Member State Students @ METU** (Pak 305, Malaysia 3, Indonesia 24, Iran 210 and Bangladesh 26)
- **Approved International Bilateral Joint Project**
Pakistan 3 (TUBITAK- PSF) and Iran 9 (TUBITAK-MSRT)
- **Under Mevlana and Erasmus+** (Pakistan 12, Bangladesh 2, Malaysia 18 and Iran 16)
- **Under Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA)**
(60 Students and 1 faculty hosted by METU)



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Agenda Item # 4

Plan of Action : 2024-2025

Post Adoption of D-8 NPRI Charter

Tentative Agenda of the First Meeting of General Body

- 1 Meeting of various Bodies of D-8 NPRI (D-8 Universities Association, D-8 R&D Council and Governing Board)
- 2 Member Universities focus on collaborative research activities and identify the Priority areas of Research and Sustainable Solutions as delineated in the Concept Note on D8-NPRI; or as agreed by the members of D8-NPRI
- 3 Exploiting IPs and innovations from member states
- 4 Policy and Protocols Harmonization (Agriculture, Education, Energy, Trade, etc.)
- 5 Adherence with Multi & Bilateral Protocols (UN SDGs etc.)

Agenda Item # 5

Calendar of Activities

(Prospective)



#	Activity	Date
1	<u>Innovator's Moot</u> – CUI	Jan-Mar 2025
2	Research Focal Person Moot CUI and UTM	
3	Development of Satellite Edu- Lab UTM	
4	Real Estate and Community Development UTM	
5	Virtual Training Courses, Seminar, Webinar – D-8 IU	
6	PhD Bridge Initiative – D-8 IU	
7	Establishment of new fields of study as per member State Universities - D-8 IU	



Calendar of Activities

(Prospective)



#	Activity
8	IIAs between Turkish Universities & member universities under Erasmus+ KA171 Program– METU
9	Bilateral Cooperation & Visiting Scientist under TUBITAK – METU
10	Student Exchange with METU – METU





Thank You



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Charter of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI)

Having regard to the 1st Meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation ('D-8 NPRI' or the 'Network' used interchangeably) held on 21st December 2020 and the establishment of D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation through the 10th D-8 Summit held on 8th April 2021 and in order to comply with the desires of the member states of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation for developing strong emphasis on research and innovation policies and collaboration among the universities in the D-8 member states, as the most promising way to strengthen innovation in the economy:

Whereas

In this Charter unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:

- i. **“Chair”** means Chairperson of the D-8 NPRI
- ii. **“CUI”** means COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan
- iii. **“D-8”** means D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation
- iv. **“Governing Board”** means Governing Board of D-8 NPRI
- v. **“Islamabad Declaration”** means the declaration at the end of the 1st meeting of the D-8 NPRI held in Islamabad, Pakistan in December 2020
- vi. **“Member States”** means Member States of the D-8 NPRI
- vii. **“MoFA”** means Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- viii. **“Network”** see NPRI
- ix. **“D-8 NPRI”** means D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation
- x. **“President”** means the President of the Governing Board of D-8 NPRI
- xi. **“R&D Council”** means Research and Development Council
- xii. **“Secretariat”** means Headquarters of the NPRI
- xiii. **“SMEs”** means Small and Medium Enterprises
- xiv. **University** means conventional universities and independent research institutions
- xv. **“Year”** means July 1 to June 30

and Adopts the Following:

ARTICLE (1) Name

The name would be the '**D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI)**'.

ARTICLE (2) Status

The D-8 NPRI shall be an Inter-State, Non-political and Non-profitable agency. It shall be an independent, autonomous and self-governing organization affiliated with the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. The operations of the D-8 NPRI and any of the office(s) of the D-8 NPRI shall be governed under the laws applicable in each of the respective countries in which such offices are located.

ARTICLE (3) Secretariat

The headquarters of the D-8 NPRI shall be initially situated at the COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan and will be called the 'Secretariat'.

ARTICLE (4) Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the D-8 NPRI include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Expanding the level of innovation in D-8 Member States;
- Identifying research and development capabilities of the D-8 Member States;
- Conducting research and study projects;
- Conducting research projects in areas that can facilitate the development of D-8 Member States;
- Strengthening the linkages among universities, industry- related organizations and training institutes to develop collaborative research on common challenges and devise strategic discourse;
- Helping industries and SMEs in D-8 Member States by providing research results and technology to overcome the challenges and problems being faced by D-8 Member States;
- Developing innovative technologies for the industries and SMEs in D-8 Member States;

- Promoting collaboration and establishment of Joint Ventures (JVs) with leading companies associated with the D-8 Member States and its affiliate bodies on technical and other matters;
- Promoting new technologies among SMEs in D-8 Member States by providing research materials and inventions to overcome the challenges and problems being face in the D-8 Member States; and
- Initiating Research Fellow Exchange Programme among universities in D-8 Member States.
- Establishing research endowment fund for giving research grants to researchers from member universities of member countries.
- Establishing incubators for promoting startups and entrepreneurship;

ARTICLE (5) Organs of D-8 NPRI

The following shall be the organs of the D-8 NPRI:

- i) Governing Board;
- ii) D-8 NPRI Universities Association; and
- iii) Research, Development and Innovation Council

i) Governing Board

- a) The Governing Board shall be headed by Chairperson of the D-8 NPRI as its President. He shall ensure smooth operations of the Network in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the Network.
- b) Chair of the D-8 NPRI as elected in the Islamabad Declaration 2020 shall be referred to as the Founding Chair of the D-8 NPRI.
- c) The Chairpersonship of the D-8 NPRI shall rotate among the Member States after every two years based on alphabetical order. The Secretariat of the D-8 NPRI shall also rotate along accordingly.
- d) The following shall be the composition of the Governing Board:
 - i. President (Chairman D-8 NPRI)
 - ii. Members: One each per member states from the D-8 NPRI Universities, excluding that of the President recommended to the D-8 NPRI through the relevant Ministries involved of the Member States.

- iii. Where there are more than one university in a member state, the membership of the Governing Board shall be rotated alphabetically two-year term basis.
- e) All powers shall vest with the Governing Board.
- f) Meeting of the Governing Board shall be convened by the President.
- g) The President shall call session of the D-8 NPRI Universities Association if so, requested by two third of the Governing Board members.
- h) Simple majority of the Governing Board shall form the quorum.
- i) The Governing Board shall meet once in two years.
- j) The Governing Board shall submit its annual report to the D-8 Organization

ii) D-8 NPRI Universities Association

- a) The D-8 NPRI Universities Association shall act as the General Body of the D-8 NPRI.
- b) The main objective of the D-8 NPRI Universities Association shall be to facilitate joint research projects, technology exchanges and partnership to address the shared challenges among D-8 Member States Universities.
- c) The D-8 NPRI Universities Association shall meet at least once a year, referred to as the Annual Meeting of the D-8 NPRI led by the Governing Board.
- d) Universities which joined the Network prior to the Islamabad Declaration will be referred to as Founding Members of D-8 NPRI Universities Association.
- e) Other universities from member states may join the Network by joining the D-8 NPRI Universities Association upon expression of interest, communicated in writing to the Secretariat office and upon payment of the subscription fee prescribed for the purpose.
- f) The yearly renewal of the D-8 NPRI Universities Association membership by the member universities will be subject to receipt of prescribed subscription fee at the Secretariat office by each year during the July-September quarter.

iii) Research, Development and Innovation Council (RDIC)

- a) The Head of the Research, Development and Innovation Council (RDIC) shall be a nominee of the President, duly endorsed by the Governing

Board.

- b) The RDIC shall be responsible for assisting the Governing Board in reviewing and assessing the research and development programs.
- c) Each member of the D-8 NPRI Universities Association shall nominate its focal person who shall be a member of the RDIC through the approval of the Governing Board.
- d) The RDIC shall identify and report to the Governing Board on significant emerging science and technology issues and shall make recommendations in this regard.
- e) RDIC shall submit its annual report to the Governing Board.
- f) The RDIC may, in addition, perform such other functions as are consistent with its purpose or as may be requested by the Governing Board and in line with the D-8 NPRI charter, by-laws, each as in effect from time to time.
- g) The RDIC shall submit its annual report to the Governing Board

ARTICLE (6) Finances

- a) Member States of the D-8 NPRI shall made voluntary contribution for the running of D-8 NPRI.
- b) Subject to the approval from the Governing Board, additional funds may be sought from:
 - i. The host country of the D-8 NPRI;
 - ii. Annual subscription and periodic contribution by the Member Universities;
 - iii. International agencies;
 - iv. Private donations;
 - v. Income from services; and
 - vi. Eligible private donors complying with international and domestic laws.
 - vii. Any other source.
- c) The operational expenses of the D-8 NPRI shall be borne either from the contribution of the host Government or from the funds generated through activities of the D-8 NPRI.
- d) No recourse shall be made for the same to the subscription of the member states.

ARTICLE (7) Byelaws

The financial, administrative and legal procedures shall be prepared by the Secretariat office and approved by the Governing Board.

ARTICLE (8) Language

English shall be the official language of the Network in all meetings, documents and correspondence.

ARTICLE (9) Amendments to the Charter

Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by Member States in accordance with the procedures laid down below:

- a) The Charter of the Network may be amended by the Governing Board through three fourth (3/4th) majority vote of the members presents and voting, provided that; at such a session of the Governing Board, at least two-third (2/3rd) majority of the total membership of the Governing Board is present.
- b) At-least ninety (90) days' notice of such amendments has been received by the Secretariat office before the date of commencement of the Governing Board meeting.
- c) The proposed amendment to the Charter has been communicated to all members at least sixty (60) days before the date of commencement of the Governing Board meeting.
- d) The **member university** will be allowed to cast their votes through proxy.

ARTICLE (10) Withdrawal of Membership

- a) Any member may withdraw from the D-8 NPRI Universities Association and hence the Network, by submitting a written notification to the Secretariat office.
- b) The Member States fulfilling the above provision shall be permitted to withdraw their membership after the expiry of a period of one (1) year from the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretariat office. However, it shall be liable to discharge all obligations of the membership until the period of such one (1) year is over.

ARTICLE (11) Audience of the Charter

This Decision is addressed to the D-8 Member States and D-8 NPRI Founding Members.

Approved at the Third Meeting of the D-8 NPRI, held in University of Ilorin,

Federal Republic of Nigeria – 25 November 2024

Chair, D-8 NPRI

For and on behalf of the D-8 NPRI.

* * *

Plan of Action : 2024-2025

Post Adoption of D8 NPRI Charter

Tentative Agenda of the First Meeting of General Body	
1	Meeting of various Bodies of D-8 NPRI (D-8 Universities Association, D-8 R&D Council and Governing Board)
2	Member Universities focus on collaborative research activities and identify the Priority areas of Research and Sustainable Solutions as delineated in the Concept Note on D8-NPRI; or as agreed by the members of D8-NPRI
3	Exploiting IPs and innovations from member states
4	Policy and Protocols Harmonization (Agriculture, Education, Energy, Trade, etc.)
5	Adherence with Multi & Bilateral Protocols (UN SDGs etc.)



Calendar of Activities

(Prospective)

#	Activity	Date
1	<u>Innovator's Moot</u> – CUI	Jan-Mar 2025
2	Research Focal Person Moot CUI and UTM	
3	Development of Satellite Edu- Lab UTM	
4	Real Estate and Community Development UTM	
5	Virtual Training Courses, Seminar, Webinar – D-8 IU	
6	PhD Bridge Initiative – D-8 IU	
7	Establishment of new fields of study as per member State Universities - D-8 IU	



Calendar of Activities

(Prospective)



#	Activity
8	IAs between Turkish Universities & member universities under Erasmus+ KA171 Program– METU
9	Bilateral Cooperation & Visiting Scientist under TUBITAK – METU
10	Student Exchange with METU – METU



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Universities of Member States Nominated for D-8 NPRI

Country	Name of the University
Bangladesh	Dhaka University (DU)
	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU)
	Bangladesh Agricultural University
Egypt	
Indonesia	
Iran	Bu-Ali Sina University
	Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST)
	Tabriz University
	D-8 International University
	University of Sistan and Baluchestan
Malaysia	University Malaya (UM)
	University Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM)
	University Putra Malaysia (UPM)
	University of Technology MARA
	National University of Malaysia
	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)
Nigeria	Ahmadu Bello University (ABU)
	Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU)
	University of Nigeria, NSUKKA (UNN)
	Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS)
	University of Maiduguri (UNIMAD)
	University of Ilorin (Unilorin)
Pakistan	National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad
	University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
	COMSATS University, Islamabad
	Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro
Türkiye	Boğaziçi University (BU)
	Middle East Technical University (METU)
	Gebze Technical University