



Capital University of Science and Technology

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14th Meeting

of the ORIC Steering Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on June 30th, 2025

- The 14th meeting of the ORIC Steering Committee was held in hybrid mode on Monday, June 30th, 2025, at 11:00 am in the Workshop Room, B-Block, CUST.
- Dr. Nayyer Masood, Dean ORIC, presided over the meeting in the absence of Chairperson of the ORIC Steering Committee.
- The following members were present in the meeting physically:

• Dr. Muzaffar Abbas	Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy	Member
• Dr. Majid Ali	HOD, CE	Member
• Dr. Sahar Fazal	Dean, FHLS	By Invitation
• Dr. Ahsan M. Ahmed	Assistant Professor, MS	Member
• Dr. Sohail Ahmed Jan	Associate Professor, BI&BS	Member
• Ms. Sumaira Ambreen	Assistant Manager, ORIC	Secretary
- The following members attended the meeting online:

• Mr. Tahir Mahmood Ch.	CEO, Falcon Engineering	Member
• Mr. Raseeq Naqvi	SEO, Electronic Interconnect Engineering (EIE)	Member
• Mr. Bilal Farooq	Founder, Consulting 360	Member
- The following could not attend the meeting due to other prior commitments:

• Dr. M. Mansoor Ahmed	Vice Chancellor	Chairperson
• Dr. Amir Qayyum	Professor, CS	Member
• Mr. Abdul Qadeer	Director, Berkeley	Member
• Dr. Nadeem Anjum	HoD, SE	Member
• Mr. Jaffar Safdar	CEO, AQL Tech Solutions	Member
• Mr. Farrukh Mehmood	CEO, 11 Values	Member
• Mr. Mahmood A. Warraich	Director, Pre-Cast Products	Member
- The following attended the meeting by invitation:

• Mr. Muhammad Umair	Assistant Manager Research, ORIC	
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- The Dean ORIC welcomed all the members of the ORIC Steering Committee to its 14th meeting.

- Subsequently, the Committee deliberated upon the following agenda items at length and took the following decisions:

Item #1 Confirmation of the Previous Meeting Minutes

- 1.1 It was informed that no other observation on the decisions taken in 13th meeting of the ORIC- Steering Committee held on June 3rd, 2025, already circulated amongst the members of the Committee was received. Therefore, the ORIC-Steering Committee confirmed the minutes of its 13th meeting.

Item #2 Draft for the proposal of Bio-Lab

- 2.1 The Dean ORIC requested Dr. Sahar Fazal, Dean, FHLS, to present his Bio-Lab proposal before the house.
- 2.2 Dr. Sahar Fazal presented the proposal for establishing a commercial laboratory named "Agro-Phyto Analytics" under the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST). The lab aims to address the growing demand in Pakistan's agricultural, food, and traditional medicine sectors by providing reliable testing services aligned with national and international standards. The presentation highlighted the university's commitment to provide high quality academic and R&D facilities to students, to enhance industry collaboration through commercial testing services and support regulatory bodies. Key service areas include phytochemical analysis, agro-analytical testing, essential oil extraction, and food safety profiling, targeting pharmaceutical companies, agriculture and food industries, government agencies, research institutions, and NGOs.
- 2.3 Dr. Sahar emphasized the unique market advantage of CUST's lab, which combines academic credibility with cost-effectiveness, comprehensive testing solutions not currently available through other commercial or government labs in Pakistan. The lab would fill a critical gap as no dedicated agro-phytochemistry commercial labs exist in the region, despite the presence of advanced instrumentation in university labs. The proposal also outlined the scope covering agrochemicals, traditional medicine, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, and environmental testing. The presentation concluded with a call to leverage CUST's facilities and faculty expertise to establish a one-stop, affordable testing hub that supports Pakistan's growing industries and research communities.

In response to Dr. Sahar Fazal's presentation, several suggestions were made by internal and external member. Dr. Majid Ali recommended establishing a Center of Excellence to enhance the lab's capabilities and reputation. Dr. Muzaffar

Abbas proposed that instead of charging fees per sample, the university could consider providing financial support to the lab to ensure sustainability. It was also suggested to include NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) equipment to benefit pharmacy and engineering disciplines. Additionally, the importance of hiring a dedicated technician for each major equipment was emphasized to ensure proper operation and maintenance. Mr. Tahir Mahmood Ch. appreciated Dr. Sahar's initiative and recommended aligning the lab's activities with relevant academic courses and research groups to maximize impact and integration within the university's ecosystem. These suggestions aim to strengthen the lab's infrastructure, financial model, and academic collaboration.

Item #3 ORIC Activities Brief (May – June, 2025)

3.1 Dean ORIC briefed the house about ORIC Activities from the efforts made in the Industrial Outreach and Linkages domain including the following:

- Dr. Nayyer Masood provided a comprehensive overview of ORIC's activities from May to June 2025, highlighting significant progress in industrial outreach and student engagement. Several industrial visits were conducted, including trips to Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT), Ministry of Petroleum under UIOC, Ibrahim Fibres Ltd., and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Internship opportunities were successfully coordinated with multiple organizations such as HIT, OGDCL, NCP, and NECOP, benefiting students from various departments including Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Bio, Accounting & Finance, and Electrical Engineering. Additionally, the Startup League conducted by InnoVista engaged final year project students from EE, SE, and CS, complemented by a seminar for NECOP's training team.
- Dean ORIC also covered ongoing initiatives at the CUST Incubation Center, including the collection of applications for the COHORT 5 FYP Funding Program, preparation of the Takhleeq@CUST webpage layout, and monitoring of COHORT 4 activities. Capacity building efforts were underscored by participation in the HEC Best Research Awards ceremony, a hands-on training session by the Mechanical Engineering department, and successful completion of machine learning training for NADRA employees. Dr. Masood also reported on the 13th meeting of the ORIC Steering Committee and the 8th meeting of the Institutional Ethical Review Board, reflecting active governance and oversight.
- Furthermore, Dr. Nayyer detailed ORIC's proactive role in intellectual property awareness through presentations to various departments and the circulation of multiple calls for internships, awards, and research



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funding opportunities, including programs from SECP, Bank of Khyber, King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award, and EasyPaisa. The approval of the HEC-DELSI program application was noted as a key achievement. Regular ORIC activities such as updating faculty profiles, research honorariums, database management, and website maintenance were also reported, ensuring continuous support for research and innovation at CUST.

Respecting time constraints, the meeting was adjourned with sincere appreciation expressed to all participants for their valuable contributions and active engagement.

Prepared by:

Sumaira Ambreen

Secretary ORIC Steering Committee

Endorsed by:

Dr. Nayyer Masood

Dean ORIC

Approved by:

Dr. Muhammad Mansoor Ahmed

Vice Chancellor CUST

Chairperson ORIC Steering Committee