



# ECOSF

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# ECOSF

**ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)** was established on 20 December 2011 in Islamabad- Pakistan as a Specialized Agency of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The 10 Member States of ECOSF include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. The mandate of ECOSF is to promote scientific, technological, environmental and biodiversity research collaboration and other relevant activities among the member states, leading to socioeconomic development in the region. The Foundation has thus established its Science and Technology Fund (S&T Fund) for financing collaborative research projects on competitive basis.



In addition, to strengthen the science base of future generations and the region's economy, the Foundation aims to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education at school level, using the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach- La main a la pate. Furthermore, mobilizing and promoting youth engagement in science, technology and education for economic development and peace within the ECO region and beyond, is and remains the priority of ECOSF. Integrating gender perspective in policies, plans and actions directed towards the improvement of life and development of youth in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be pursued.



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## **Funding of Collaborative S&T Research Projects in ECO Region**

Funding of applied nature research projects aimed at economic development, jointly submitted by the scientists and technologists of ECO Member States is a principal programme of ECO Science Foundation. The joint and collaborative projects are funded through the S&T Fund of ECOSF following a systematic evaluation and funding mechanism as shown in the flow chart. This mechanism/modalities for utilization of S&T Fund has been approved by the Council of Ministers (COM) of ECO.



### **IBSE – The Inquiry Based Science Education**

Science Education through Inquiry in; Schools, Science Museums & Natural History Museums, and other Informal & Non-formal learning settings.

### **ECO Science Foundation has initiated IBSE in ECO region and aims to:**

- Get more students studying science and mathematics (STEM) at the primary and secondary school levels;
- Prepare students to engage with science ideas and be knowledgeable about the way science and scientists work;
- Raise awareness of opportunities in science and technology-related careers;
- Increase the number of students choosing science and engineering careers to address the shortage of science and engineering graduates;
- Improve the quality of science classroom teaching practice;
- Improve science literacy and understanding in the communities;
- Link primary, secondary and tertiary (higher) education, scientific research and Industry, building on the strengths of each sector leading ultimately to knowledge based economic development in the ECO Region.

### Biodiversity Activities of ECOSF

- ECO Experts Meeting on "Climate Change and Biodiversity" (Nov 2013) in Islamabad. Recommendations of the meeting:
- Promotion of Network of Biodiversity & Climate Change Experts in ECO Region;
- Development of a Mechanism for Coordination;
- Active & Responsive Focal Persons;
- Funding provision- International joint projects;
- EU's HORIZON 2020, US-AID, TIKa, TUBITAK;
- Joint Research Projects funded by ECOSF S&T Fund;
- Inquiry based science education (IBSE) using Biodiversity, Climate Change; and Environment as examples/modules, with ISTIC Malaysia & LAMAP Foundation France.
- International Forum on Environmental Ethics (6 Sept 2014) in Tehran- Iran



### ECOSF Initiatives/Achievements

- International Congress of Zoology (April 2013) in Islamabad
- ECOSF-COMSATS Seminar on "Science Communication and Journalism" (Sept 2014) in Islamabad
- International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development" (Oct 2014) in Lahore.
- World Science Day for Peace and Development– 2014: Seminar on "Quality Science Education for Securing a Sustainable Future for All" (12 Nov 2014 in Islamabad).
- National Dialogue and International Meeting on "Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization" Preparing Future Engineers for Sustainable Development (9-10 Jan 2015 in Islamabad)
- Conference on Water and Sustainable Development – Role of Youth (27 March 2015 in Islamabad)
- Contribution of ECOSF in Scientific Forums, Meetings, Seminars and Workshops at National and International Level including UN Agencies
- Nominations of Researchers/Scientists from ECO Region at International Forums viz., IPBES, ISTIC, LAMAP, etc.





## Future Plans

- Training Programme on UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme- Processes, Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development (June - Aug 2015) at Kabul- Afghanistan and Islamabad & Ziarat- Pakistan (August 2015)
- Capacity Building Workshop on IBSE for whole ECO region at Astana-Kazakhstan (22-25 June 2015)
- Regional ECOSF Workshop on Applications of Agro-Biotechnology in collaboration with national institutions (2016- TBC)
- International Conference on "Protected Areas and Biosphere Reserves and their Ecosystem Services in the ECO Region" in collaboration with EvK2CNR Foundation of Italy (2016- TBC)
- Workshop on "Alignment of National ST&I Policies of ECO Member states for Achieving the Regional Economic Development Goals" [to be done in collaboration with ISTIC-UNESCO Kuala Lumpur, UNESCO and other internationals]

## Strategic Partnership of ECOSF

- MoU with EvK2CNR Foundation- Italy for research and conservation cooperation in high mountains of ECO region
- MoU with ISTIC Kuala Lumpur Malaysia under the auspices of UNESCO for cooperation in promotion of and Capacity Building of ECO Region in STI and IBSE
- ECOSF Elected as an Observer-Stakeholder of IPBES
- President ECOSF Prof. Soomro appointed as Member of the Governing Board of ISTIC Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia
- President ECOSF Prof. Soomro appointed as Member of Global Council of Science Education Program of IAP (Inter-Academy Partnership)- a network of 107 National Academies of Sciences around the globe



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