



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



High Level Forum on IBSE held at HEC, Islamabad - Pakistan

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan in collaboration with French partner- "La main à la pâte" Paris and the Embassy of France in Pakistan organized a High Level Forum on IBSE in Islamabad on 11th May, 2017. The objective of holding this forum was to emphasise the importance of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) and strengthening science base in schools. Dr. Ameer Muhammad, Rector FAST-NU was chief guest of the occasion.

In his welcome address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said HEC deliberated on creating base of students in the country's school system in order to bring about creative minds to the higher education level. "Though the main objective of HEC is to facilitate universities, however, following complaints from higher education institutions, it decided to contribute to improvement of quality at school level," he remarked. He shed light on the need for training of school teachers in order to produce fertile minds of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects.

In his keynote address, Prof. Pierre Lena, Cofounder of LAMAP Foundation termed science education a key element for the future of a nation. He paid tribute to the scientists who struggled to change the science education to bridge the gap between science education and technological discoveries. He revealed the importance of curiosity, observation, language, self-confidence and creativity in the field of science education. "Providing science education to every student is a key to understand the world, find a personal future, develop own creativity and talent, foster national development, and avoid atmosphere of world unsustainability," he underlined.

Dr. Manzoor Soomro, President, ECOSF said that the right decision making and understating always come from critical thinking and for developing critical thinking, Inquiry Based Approach is a strong tool, thus, it is mandatory to promote inquiry among the Children from their schools. For this purpose, it is duty of all the segments of the society (government, parents, teachers, civil society, business community, etc) to support and promote inquiry based science education among the children so that our future generation should be well equipped with power of knowledge.



May 11, 2017: Prof. Pierre Lena, Cofounder of LAMAP making his keynote speech during the Forum



May 11, 2017: (L-R) Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman HEC, H.E. Martine Dorance, French Ambassador, Prof. Dr. Arshad Ali, ED HEC, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF

Addressing the forum, French Ambassador H.E. Martine Dorance admired the role of *La main à la pâte* in promoting science across the world. She said promoting science collaboration with Pakistan is one of the top priorities of France, as France encourages wide dissemination and development of science.

The Forum was attended by more than 200 participants from all segment of life; the civil society, educationists, teachers and students from schools, colleges and



May 11, 2017: The students of PAEC Schools, IBA Sukkur, The Science School and Cantt Garrison Schools displaying their innovative projects.

universities. Some of the key representations were from Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) schools, the Science School Islamabad, Sukkur IBA Community Colleges, Federal Directorate of Education, the Planning Commission of Pakistan, Provincial Departments of Education and numerous other potential players including NGOs and Campaigners (Alif Ailaan).

The forum also included a panel discussion on how inquiry-based science education can be promoted in the educational institutions of the country. The panel discussion concluded as under:

- More such forums should be organized.
- Concept of Community Colleges be encouraged and promoted.
- IBSE methodology for teaching and learning be promoted.
- Universities, Schools/Colleges and Industry should be linked and networking.
- Developed for nurturing knowledgeable younger generations.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Forum-on-IBSE>

2nd International Conference on Role of Young Scientists in the Development of Science, Innovation and Technology held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The Council of Young Scientists of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan in Collaboration with ECOSF and International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) held a second International Conference on "Role of Young Scientists in the Development of Science, Innovation and Technologies" on May 11th-12th, 2017 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The conference brought together young scientists, researchers and heads of various Councils of Young Scientists from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Moldova, and from Pakistan. Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer participated in the conference on behalf of the ECOSF.



May 25, 2017: Prof. Dr. Saidov A.S, Vice President, Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan during his welcome address as the Chief Guest of the Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The conference was in line with the guidelines of ECOSF Board of Trustees for engagement of youth in positive activities and also served as a platform for young scientists to promote networking and offered unique opportunity for collaborative research by sharing their recent research findings, future plans and their research interests. The conference included thematic lectures by young scientists followed by presentations and round-table meetings. ECOSF Sponsored the participation of young scientists from other ECO member states in this conference.

The Conference was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Saidov A.S, Vice President, Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan. In his opening remarks, Dr. Saidov welcomed all the participants and young scientists from the region. He emphasized that the young scientists can play a big role in addressing the challenges in the region and their contribution to new scientific research and discoveries will be important for this developing region. Dr. Menoo Mammadova, the Chairperson of Council of Young Scientists of the Academy Sciences, Tajikistan in her opening remarks, highlighted the significance of this event and as well as elucidated the aims and objectives of holding this conference. Dr. Mamadovo was highly appreciative of the financial and organizational support extended by ECOSF and ISTC to Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan in organizing this conference.

During the inaugural session, Engr. Khalil in his opening remarks emphasized that no any nation in this world can move forward and address its challenges without engaging its youth and its young professionals, including their scientists. The ECOSF and its leadership has undertaken various initiatives to engage the bright and dynamic youth of this region and we always look forward to working with young scientists and promote research activities in the ECO region, he added. Later during the technical session, Mr. Khalil made his presentation on "**Role of ECOSF in Promotion of Youth Engagement in Scientific and Technological Activities in the ECO region**". He introduced to the participants the role of ECOSF and its flagship programs to promote youth engagement in the region. Engr. Khalil presented an overview of various programs undertaken by the ECOSF to promote youth and especially the young scientists.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Role-of-Young-Scientists-1>

ECOSF is co organizing an International Forum on Science Education in Beijing, China

ECO Science Foundation, Children's Science Instructors (CACSI), Children and Youth Science Center of CAST (CYSCC), Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology (CSHST) and Inter Academy Partnership – Science Education Programme (IAP -SEP) are jointly organizing the **2017 International Forum on Science Education** in Beijing, China on July 2-5, 2017. This forum will focus on the theme of "**The history of science education along the Belt and Road**".

The design of the "Fusion of Civilizations" school curriculum focuses on the Islamic S&T in the Golden Age and how by its ethos of knowledge acquisition and sharing, sparked the European Renaissance and lay the foundation of our present-day civilization. Whilst in the East, it interchanged science, technology and culture through Central Asia with India and China. The concept of this Forum was initially discussed in Khartoum Sudan on 6-7 February 2017. Whereas, this Forum in Beijing will be a follow up on the discussions held in Khartoum. ECOSF is sponsoring the participation of renowned experts on Curriculum Design and Historians of Science and Technology from the ECO Member States in the Forum.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Science-Education-12>

14th ASIALICS Conference in Tehran, Iran being organized by IRAMOT Iran and ECOSF

IRAMOT in support of ECOSF and other national and international organizations have managed to organize ASIALICS conference 2017 in Tehran and it will be held along with the IRAMOT annual conference. This is the first time that ASIALICS conference will be held in west Asia. ASIALICS aim to explore and develop the concept of learning, innovation and competence building as an analytical framework. The idea is to bring together interesting issues about what is going on in Asian countries and companies and to share experiences regarding methodology, analytical results and policies.

Now we are pleased to release the call for papers for **the 14th ASIALICS Conference in Tehran, Iran (29th—31th of August, 2017)**. The main theme of the conference for this year is: "**Technological learning, innovation and catching-up in the context of international collaborations**".

<http://eco4science.org/14th-ASIALICS-Conference>



Science Summer Camp 2017

In the continuity of promotion of critical thinking and IBSE, ECOSF and PSC have been organizing a Science Summer Camp for the students, in Karachi. The activity will remain for two months (June-July 2017). **STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Math)** summer camp provides an amazing opportunity for **IBSE** experience with an insight to explore the logic behind scientific phenomenon that have been taught in schools. Following are some glimpses of hands-on activities performed by the students in first month (June 2017). Students in groups making scale model of a given thing. The activity was beneficial to understand the scaling, measurement, cutting and joining methods of various objects and as well as to develop basic hands-on skills. There are a lot of amazing scientific activities will be performed by the students in the camp throughout June-July 2017.

<http://eco4science.org/Science-Summer-Camp>



School kids while performing Hands on activities during Science Summer Camp

The 10th ISTIC Governing Board Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia

10th Governing Board Meeting of International Science Technology and Innovation Center (ISTIC) was held in Kuala Lumpur on 15 May 2017. The meeting was chaired by the new Chairman of the Governing Board (GB) Dato Dr. Samsudin Tugiman. This was his first Board meeting since he took over from Dato Ir Dr. Lee, Yee Cheong. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro as member of ISTIC GB participated in the meeting and contributed to decision making. The meeting was attended by the members from all continents.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/ISTIC-Governing-Board-3>



May 10, 2017: Board Members during the 10th ISTIC Governing Board Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

3rd Biennial International Conference on Women in Science Technology and Innovation (STI): “Innovative Solutions by Women for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2016 - 2030”

In the sidelines of 10th ISTIC Governing Board meeting, 3rd Biennial International Conference on Women in Science Technology and Innovation (STI) was held on May 15-16, 2017 in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. The conference focused on practical solutions by women in STI for the SDGs. The conference was organized by ISTIC and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MoSTI) Malaysia. The major themes of the conference were to highlight the role of women in education, science, culture, health, engineering and technology and entrepreneurship.

The objectives of holding this conference was to show-case successful innovations in STI by women in solving or minimising problems faced by women; to exchange and share experiences on how to achieve SDG No.5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” by 2030. UNESCO Director General H.E Ms. Irina Bokova in her opening remarks stressed for the effective mobilization of the human resources including women, as half the human population are women; they have all the potential, compassion and they can put all their efforts together to achieve the SDGs by 2030. This is why there is now the global political will in SDG No.5 to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” by 2030. “World needs Science and Science needs Women”, she added.

The conference brought together key stakeholders, where they presented success stories of STI projects and innovative initiatives by women and discussed the strategic measures to address issues facing women in the developing countries. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro appreciated the continuity of this initiative.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/ISTIC-Governing-Board-3>

Dato Prof. Lee Yee Cheong and Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF called on Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (MFPT)

Academician Dato Lee, Yee Cheong - the Hon. Chairman of Governing Board of International Science, Technology and Innovation for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, the Chairman of Inter Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF called on Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (MFPT) - Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman. The objective of holding this meeting was to apprise the Minister Baligh Ur Rehman about the idea of “Fusion of Civilization” (FOC), which is a unique curriculum



May 15, 2017: Academician Dato Lee, Yee Cheong among other panelists during the International Conference on Women in STI in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



May 18, 2017: (L-R) Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF, Dato Prof. Lee, Yee Cheong - the Hon. Chairman of Governing Board ISTIC met with Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training

design concept which engages two sets of experts; the curriculum design experts and experts on History of Science and Technology. These experts would work together to develop a curriculum for young children to reflect our old civilizations to enable our young children to deeply understand who we actually are and how we as a human civilization have evolved.

Dato Prof. Lee said that this kind of curriculum should help teachers to promote learning by doing, which will be critical to engineering and technology education, especially in the context of future expansion and infrastructure development under the One Belt – One Road and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In order to materialize this, Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST), IAP SEP and ECOSF along with other partners are organizing an International Science Education Forum in Beijing, China in July 2-5, 2017, Dato Lee Informed.

Minister Baligh Ur Rehman greatly appreciated and fully endorsed the idea of Fusion of Civilization and he showed his willingness that this can be taken up as a project at the MoFEPT. Minister Baligh Ur Rehman also requested Prof. Dr. Soomro to come forward to contribute to the development of national curriculum development by supporting and including Inquiry Based Science Education teaching methodology.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF informed the Minister that ECOSF has launched Inquiry Based Science Education program in the ECO region. Prof. Soomro highlighted that IBSE methodology is a key to improve the quality of students entering into tertiary education system in Pakistan and that will ultimately help the HEC and MoFPT.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Meeting-MFPT>

"The Great Steppe" 2nd Social Sciences Forum Organized by International Turkic Academy (TWESCO) at Astana- Kazakhstan



May 26, 2017: President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro made a Speech on "Historical Contributions of Ottomans and Safavids to S&T during a Technical Session at the 2nd Social Science Forum in Astana, Kazakhkstan

The 2nd Social Sciences Forum "The Great Steppe" was organized by Turkic World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization (TWESCO), also known as "International Turkic Academy" in Astana, Kazakhstan on May 26, 2017. The Forum brought together renowned scholars of Turkic history and culture, prominent statesmen, ambassadors and diplomats, as well as the executives of International organizations, to discuss the significance of cultural values of Eurasian and Turkic nations in the development of human civilization.

The Secretary of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ms. Gulshara Abdykalykova was the Chief Guest and opened the forum. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro was specially invited to attend the Forum and he was amongst the main speakers of the event. The President of TWESCO, Dr. Darkhan Kydryrali welcomed the guests and speakers from around the Turkic World. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, in his protocol speech welcomed all the guests and congratulated TWESCO for organizing this forum on very important theme focusing on Turkic History and Culture.

Later during the Technical Session "Cult of Science: Scientific Integration and Common Values", Prof. Soomro made his Speech on "**Historical Contributions of Ottomans and Safavids to Science and Technology**". Prof. Soomro highlighted how



Ms. Gulshara Abdykalykova, Secretary of State making her speech

Prof. Soomro presenting a souvenir to Dr. Darkhan Kydryrali, President of TWESCO

remarkable were the contributions made by Ottomans and Safavids in bringing new innovations and developments in the field of military, water resource management and infrastructure development. Prof. Soomro said that contribution by Ottomans to Science and Technology serves as the foundation for a number of modern engineering and technological applications. Prof. Soomro also touched upon the scientific culture that had developed during the Golden Age of Islam and Ottoman period. In conclusion, Prof. Soomro encouraged all the historians to reflect on what must have changed or what must have been decisive factors that led to discontinuity or slowdown of scientific activity in the Muslim world.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/The-Great-Steppe-1>

ECOSF arranged lecture of renowned scientist of France Prof. Lena at GC University Lahore and FCC-Lahore

A lecture of Professor Pierre Lena who is one of the three co-founders of *La main à la pâte* Foundation (LAMAP), France was arranged at Government College University (GCU) Lahore on 12 May 2017 was arranged by ECOSF in collaboration with French Embassy in Islamabad and GC University.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor of the University welcomed Prof. Lena, Prof. Manzoor Soomro, President ECOSF, André de BUSSY, Counsellor for Development And Cultural Cooperation at French Embassy in Islamabad and other distinguished guests at his office in the University before the lecture. Prof. Shah introduced his university to the guests and said that the University is a leading educational institution in the Indo-Pak Subcontinent, where excellence is nurtured, pursued and celebrated since it's inception in 1864. In 2002, the Government College, Lahore was raised to the status of a University and renamed as the GC University Lahore.

After the meeting, the guests were guided to the lecture hall. Before the key note speech by Prof. Lena, Prof. Soomro introduced him and described him a senior scientist /astronomist and fellow of Academy of Sciences of France. After retiring from the job, he joined hands with Prof. Georges CHARPAK (nobel laureate) and Professor Yves Quéré and founded LAMAP for promotion of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in schools in 1995. After successful promotion and implementation of IBSE in France, LAMAP introduced it in other countries of the world to educate and train more and more students of the world.

Prof. Lena, in his speech, exclaimed happiness being in Pakistan for the first time and thanked to ECOSF and French Embassy for arranging his visit. The title of his speech was "*Children and Science : 20 years of pilot projects in science education worldwide*". He said that Critical Thinking is the ability to analyze the way you think and present evidence for your ideas, rather than simply accepting your personal reasoning as sufficient proof. You can gain numerous benefits from mastering *critical thinking* skills, such as better control of your own learning and empathy for other points of view. For enhancing critical thinking, the education of science is the key tool which provides direction. He further said that we all should think that how can we prepare our children in best way for future challenges. He emphasized that students should be encouraged to take interest in S&T studies so that their skills about curiosity, observation, language, self confidence, creativity, reasoning, etc be developed. He proposed that teachers learning drive for IBSE can change the situation and all the segments of life like, government, educational institutes, society, etc have to play their due part in this regard

After lecture at GC University, Prof. Lena also delivered a lecture at Forman Christian College – a chartered university, Lahore. The title of the lecture was "Climate change and Education in science: an urgency". During his lecture, he highlighted the importance of the climate change and emphasized on science education with reference to the climate change so that the challenges of climate change can be tackled.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/GCU-FCC>



May 12, 2017: Prof. Pierre Lena during his lecture at GCU

Mr. Sameh Hussain of the Islamic Development Bank called upon the President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro

Mr. Sameh Hussain of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) called upon the President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro on May 31st, 2017. The meeting was held to discuss and review progress of various ongoing joint programs being undertaken by the ECOSF and IDB to promote science, technology and innovation in the region. Mr. Hussain highly appreciated the active role of ECOSF in promotion of scientific and technological activities in the ECO member states. It is important to mention here that both the organizations are collaborating with each other on a number of projects including the promotion of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) and IDB's Reverse Linkage Programs to build the capacity of partnering ECO member states through transfer of technology and sharing of the best practices or experiences. Prof. Soomro and Mr. Sameh, both agreed on strengthening the collaboration between the two organization to further promote the mutual beneficial partnership between the ECOSF and IDB.



May 31, 2017: Mr. Sameh Hussain of the IDB called upon the President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Mr-Sameh-Hussain-visits-ECOSF>

National Consultative Conference on HEC Vision 2025 organized by The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan

The Higher Education Commission, Pakistan organized the National Consultative Conference on HEC Vision 2025 on May 29, 2017 to deliberate future plans for higher education sector and discuss further improvement in the reform process in line with the Government of Pakistan's Vision 2025.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The event brought together Vice Chancellors, deans and senior faculty, research scholars as well as representatives of different federal and provincial departments, industry and other stakeholders participated in the conference. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the conference.

HEC Vision 2025 is a comprehensive document, which has been prepared after extensive deliberation and consultation with eminent academicians, policy makers, business and industry leaders. The Vision aims to consolidate HEC's achievements during the last 15 years and carry on the reform process in a more ambitious and strategic manner while focusing on intellectual capital which is the way forward to build a knowledge economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal revealed how quality higher education can play a vital role in turning the country into a knowledge-based economy. He observed that the world has entered into the fourth industrial revolution wherein big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and robotics have evolved great significance. Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Chairman HEC shared the role of HEC in promoting ICT embedded education and enhancing the quality of higher education and research. While, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai presented a resolution on behalf of Vice Chancellors and Rectors of Universities during the conference.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/HEC-Vision-2025>

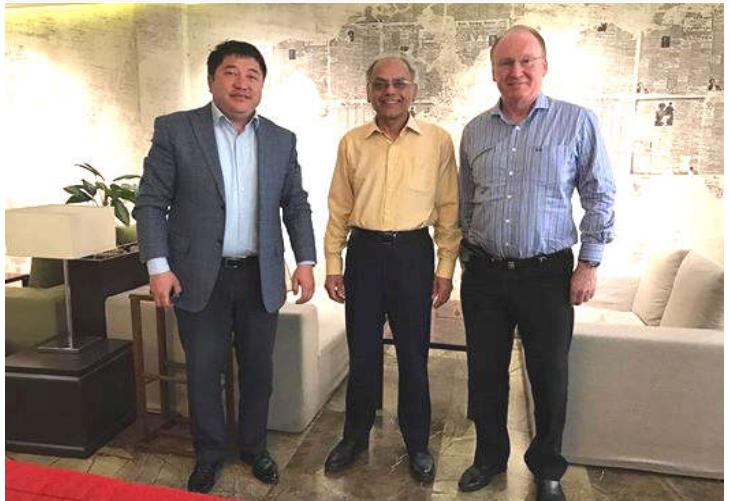


May 29, 2017: Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform delivering his remarks as the Chief Guest

President ECOSF meets with Executive Director of International Science and Technology Center in Astana-Kazakhstan

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro held a meeting with the Executive Director of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), Mr. David Cleave and the Deputy Executive Director ISTC, Mr. Aidyn Turebayev in Astana, Kazakhstan on May 27th, 2017. The meeting was held to discuss various means and areas of possible cooperation between ECOSF and ISTC. It is important to mention here that ISTC is an Intergovernmental Organization which facilitates international science projects and assists the global scientific and business community to engage with each other to develop excellence in scientific research and commercialization. Thus it was agreed on both sides that the two organizations have numerous common member states and can work together on projects of mutual interests; thus both parties agreed in principle to join hands and sign MoU for jointly organizing various activities in future mainly for capacity building in bio-safety and bio-security, and also for joint research funding for either organization. The meeting ended with vote of thanks from each side with the assurance of cooperation in future.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/ISTC-Meeting>



May 27, 2017: President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro met with Executive Director ISTC, Mr. David Cleave and the Deputy Executive Director ISTC, Mr. Aidyn Turebayev in Astana, Kazakhstan

Inaugural meeting of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of Developing World (AETDEW) held in KL Malaysia under the auspices of ISTC

The Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World (AETDEW) has officially been established and registered in Malaysia, with an aim to build capacity of engineers and technologists of the developing world. The establishment of AETDEW is aimed at promoting solidarity among the community of engineers, technologists, scientists and allied professionals in academia, research, government service and the engineering and technology industry. AETDEW will work towards advancing the infrastructure development in the developing countries to achieve necessary economic growth. The first inaugural General Meeting of AETDEW was held in Kuala Lumpur during the ISTC Governing Board meeting on May 16, 2017. Dato Lee Yee Cheong was elected as the Founding President by the founding fellows. A 7 member Council was also established that includes four members from Malaysia and three other International members; including Professor Wu Qidi from China, Professor El Tayeb Mustafa President of Future University Khartoum and Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF from Pakistan. It is



May 16, 2017: Group Photo of the participants during Inaugural meeting of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of Developing World (AETDEW) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

a matter of pride and honor to share that Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro is the "Founding Fellow" of AETDEW, which is a recognition of his efforts in establishment process of AETDEW and promotion of Engineering in the ECO Region.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/AETDEW-1>

President ECOSF visits National Agrarian Scientific- Educational Center of Kazakhstan

During the holding of the 2nd Social Sciences Forum in Astana Kazakhstan, President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro took an opportunity to visit the National Agrarian Scientific-Educational Center of Kazakhstan on May 25, 2017. The center is a non-profit joint-stock company that was established on August 22, 2015.

Academician Professor Kaliyev the head of National Agrarian Scientific- Educational Center of Kazakhstan and his team including Mr. Askar Nametov warmly welcomed Prof. Soomro and showed him around the centre. Both the heads discussed the possibilities of cooperation and collaboration on agriculture sciences, research and education in ECO Region.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Agrarian-Scientific-Educational-Center>



May 25, 2017: President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro visits National Agrarian Scientific Educational Center in Astana, Kazakhstan

Seminar on "International Biodiversity Day" at International Islamic University, Islamabad

An "International Biodiversity Day" was celebrated at the International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad, on 4th May, 2017. The event focused on various aspects and importance of conservation of biodiversity, whereas its main theme was "Threats to Biodiversity". President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited as Chief Guest at the event. Prof. Soomro in his remarks, congratulated the faculty members and the students of IIU for highlighting and arranging seminar on such an important issue of biodiversity, which is extremely relevant to the climatic and environmental conditions of Pakistan. He encouraged and appreciated the active participation of students, especially the girls, as over 50% of the global population are women and same is the case in Pakistan. Thus they have a very important role to play in the society. "If women in the society will not play their active role, half of the talent would be wasted", he added.

While highlighting the importance of Biodiversity, Prof. Soomro asserted that plants, animals and human beings all are interdependent. Therefore, we must recognize this very important concept that humans are interlinked with animals, plants and environment, we cannot survive without their survival. We have to address the challenges and threats posed to the biodiversity, as biodiversity is directly linked to the food security and environment. Prof. Soomro also highlighted the role of



May 4, 2017: Right: President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro making his Key Note Speech as the Chief Guest and Left: Group Photo of Seminar Participants at IIUI Islamabad

the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) that is the Intergovernmental Body, which assesses the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to our society. It is important to mention here that ECOSF is the major stakeholder and partner of IPBES.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/International-Biodiversity-Day>

Fifth-ICLS-KIBGE Conference on “Responsible Conduct of Science: Ethical Concerns in Medical and Pharmaceutical Practice and Research”, was held at University of Karachi

Fifth International Council for the Life Sciences (ICLS) Conference on “Responsible Conduct of Science: Ethical Concerns in Medical and Pharmaceutical Practice and Research” was held on May 20-22, 2017 at the University of Karachi. The conference was organized by Dr. A. Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (KIBGE) University of Karachi in collaboration with the US-based ICLS.

The conference aimed at providing an opportunity to scientists, medical practitioners, researchers and students to update scientific knowledge with ethical issues. It also provided a platform to the participants to interact with the experts related to the medical and pharmaceutical sciences. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the conference along with other distinguished scientists across the globe. During the conference, Prof. Dr. Soomro also chaired a session relevant to the management and ethical issues and matters hidden in the medical curriculum.

Mr. Terence Thomas Taylor President ICLS in his welcome address, stressed over the importance of training in responsible and ethical conduct of research, as it is considered essential in the grooming of scientists and medical practitioners. “The responsibility with regard to research integrity, ethical conduct and safety measures ensures prevention of the misuse of science to harm humanity”, he added.

Dr. Anwar Nasim, President ICLS-Pakistan chapter in his address said that, “Responsible and ethical conduct of research is a global issue and this is why it is important to have international linkages to attend to these concerns”.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/ICLS>



May 20-22, 2017: Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro participated in the Conference on “Responsible Conduct of Science: Ethical Concerns in Medical and Pharmaceutical Practice and Research” in Karachi

Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan Celebrated

Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) in collaboration with Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Islamabad and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan celebrated 25th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan on May 22nd. The event attracted a number of people, including academicians, foreign diplomats, government officials, students and media persons etc. Mr. Zafarullah Khan Special Assistant to Prime Minister was the Chief Guest of the event. Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF and Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer participated in the event on behalf of ECOSF. Ms. Farhat Asif President IPDS opened the event and welcomed all the participants. The event mainly focused on the need to explore the vast untapped potential of cooperation in the area of economic and trade between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

Mr. Zafarullah Khan appreciated the role of Government of Kazakhstan in facilitating the approval of Pakistan as a member of

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Mr. Khan insisted that both countries should play their roles to further boost economic and trade volume between the two countries and encouraged business community to establish people-to-people contact. The Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev, in his remarks said that Pakistan was one of the major partners in the region. The Ambassador affirmed that Pakistan and Kazakhstan have huge potential for growth and development.



May 22, 2017: Group Photo of the Delegates during 25th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Twenty-Fifth-Anniversary>

Academician Dato Ir. Lee Yee Cheong from Malaysia and Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF met with Dr. Athar Osama Member S&T and Dr. Asma Hyder Member Social Sector of the Planning Commission and the Project Director of China Pakistan Economic Corridor

Academician Dato Lee, Yee Cheong - the Hon. Chairman of Governing Board of International Science, Technology and innovation for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, the Chairman of Inter Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and Founding President of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW) along with his host Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF held separate meetings with Dr. Athar Osama, Member Science & Technology, Dr. Asma Hyder, Member Social Sector and Mr. Hassan Daud, Project Director of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at the Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan on May 19th 2017. Dato Lee emphasized on developing adequate human resource capacity in Pakistan with regards to achieve sustainable development in the country under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Maintenance of infrastructure would be extremely important to achieve sustainability in these projects, Dato Lee added. Thus ISTIC can help build the capacity and technical or vocational skills of Pakistani labor force to cope up with this issue. Dato Lee affirmed that CPEC is the most comprehensive plan anywhere in the world under the OBOR initiative, as there are huge projects of transportation, infrastructure and energy. With this scale of development, Pakistan can be a perfect hub for the maintenance of infrastructure and that would not just bring benefits to Pakistan but also for the most developing countries.

Prof. Lee informed that they have just established a new Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World and they can mobilize this platform to tackle this issue. Prof. Cheong also touched upon various measures to achieve SDGs and how



May 22, 2017: Academician Dato Lee, Yee Cheong and President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro met with Dr. Asma Hyder, Member Social Sector of the Planning Commission of Pakistan



May 22, 2017: Academician Dato Lee, Yee Cheong and President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro met with Dr. Athar Osama, Member S&T Planning Commission and Mr. Hassan Daud, Project Director CPEC

these were different from the MDGs. He also emphasized on promotion of Inquiry Based Science Education to prepare our young generation for the unknown jobs to meet the future challenges as global citizens. Prof. Dato Lee proposed further strengthening the collaboration between the Chinese Academy of Engineers and Pakistan Engineering Council to set up a cell to monitor the progress of CPEC projects. Dr. Athar Osama and Mr. Hassan Daud appreciated the proposed ideas and initiatives by Dato Lee and requested him to provide a proposal as to how to materialize these ideas.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Member-Social-Sector-of-Planning-Commission>

European Union's GSP+ Stakeholder Outreach Workshop held in Islamabad

European Union (EU) in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan organized a Stakeholder Outreach Workshop on EU's Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Islamabad on May 16th, 2017. EU's GSP+ is preferential tariff system which grants eligible developing countries full or partial tariff reductions for specific exports to the EU Market. The workshop focused on the economic, social, human rights and environmental impact of the EU's GSP+ arrangement in Pakistan. Mr. Jean-Fracois Cautain, the Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan was the Chief Guest of the event.



May 16, 2017: Mr. Jean-Fracois Cautain, the Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan making his speech as the Chief Guest of the event

The workshop brought together stakeholders from the international and national businesses and trade organizations, government representatives and NGOs. The event offered the stakeholders the opportunity to learn more about the GSP+ and to discuss the possible means to further strengthen the cooperation between EU and Pakistani trade markets. ECOSF was specially invited to participate and Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer participated on behalf of the Foundation.

H.E. Mr. Jean-Fracois Cautain, the Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan, during his opening remarks affirmed that EU's GSP arrangement has played a positive role between EU and Pakistan and it has resulted in improved economic activity and increased exports to the EU.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/EU-GSP>

AppIdea2R First Phase successfully completed!!

The first phase of AppIdea2Reality (i.e. App Idea Generation) has been successfully completed. In this phase, a number of brilliant ideas were submitted and these were evaluated by our expert judges. Top 34 ideas have been recommended for the next stage i.e. App Development Phase. The registration for **App Development Phase will begin form July 07, 2017**. In this phase, registered teams of students will work on those ideas and translate them into an "Applications".

Read More: <http://www.appidea2r.com/>



Dato Prof. Lee Yee Cheong and Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF visited Pakistan Academy of Sciences

Dato Prof. Lee Yee Cheong - The Chairman of Global Council of the Inter Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF, member of IAP SEP Global Council visited Pakistan Academy of Sciences and held a meeting with Secretary General Pakistan Academy of Sciences Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari for promotion of Inquiry Based Science Education in Pakistan and the ECO region with particular reference to The Belt and Road initiative of China. Dr. Shinwari appreciated the efforts of IAP SEP and Dr. Soomro and endorsed on behalf of the Academy.



May 18, 2017: Prof. Dato Lee Yee Cheong and President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro met with Secretary General Pakistan Academy of Sciences Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari

Alif Ailan hosted luncheon in the honour of 'Dato Prof. Lee Yee Cheong'

Mr. Mosharaff Zaidi, Campaign Manager Alif Ailan hosted lunch in the honour of 'Dato Prof. Lee Yee Cheong - The Chairman Inter Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and discussed the programs of IAP SEP and ECOSF for promotion of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE). Dato Prof. Lee Yee Cheong was accompanied by Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF. Alif Ailan has done a very good job highlighting the status of Maths and Science at Pakistani schools and subsequently doing excellent political advocacy. Mr. Zaidi highlighted the initiatives undertaken by Alif Ailan to improve maths and science education in Pakistan. He stressed that Maths and Science education is critical to achieve transformational change in the developing countries. Maths and Science education will help make a sound foundation for young students to contribute to development challenges in the developing world.



May 18, 2017: Prof. Dato Lee Yee Cheong and President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro during the luncheon hosted by Mr. Mosharaff Zaidi of Alif Ailan

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF associated Regional Editor of the Journal of Science and Technology Policy Management.

ECOSF is pleased to share that Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro has been associated Regional Editor - Central Asia and Southwest Asia of the Journal of Science and Technology Policy Management. The Journal of Science and Technology Policy Management provides a platform for researchers, academics, professionals, practitioners, and students. It discusses the role of science and technology in the knowledge-based economy and explores how different economic agents can foster these activities. The journal is interested in attracting submissions that debate issues in the areas of science, technology, and innovation, as well as their impact on economic growth and social well-being. JSTPM has a special focus on countries with emerging economies. The journal will cover emerging areas in the field of S&T and contribute to disseminate research outcomes from ECO region's experts, researchers and academics.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/jstpm>



A paper authored by President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro published in the proceedings of First Social Science Forum “The Great Steppe”

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF participated in the 1st Social Science Forum organized by International Turkic Academy held in Astana, Kazakhstan on May 23-24 2016. Prof. Dr. Soomro was specially invited as a panellist. During the forum, he presented his paper entitled: **“ECO Science Foundation – A Catalyst for Promotion of Science, Technology, Education and Cooperation among ECO Countries and Beyond”** which has been published in the proceedings of the forum. In his paper, Prof. Soomro presented the case as to how the ECO Science Foundation is playing its role as a catalyst for promoting of Science, Technology and Innovation in the region: which are the key ingredients to boost the economic development.



Pakistan Post Issues Commemorative Postage Stamps for ECO Summit

Pakistan Post issued two “Commemorative Postage Stamps” on the eve of 13th Economic Cooperation Organization Summit held at Islamabad on 1st March, 2017. The Stamps contain official logo and message (Connectivity for Regional Prosperity) of the summit and have been issued with approval of Prime Minister of Pakistan. These Commemorative Stamps are of value of Rs. 8/- each. The Commemorative Stamps have been available at all GPOs and Philatelic Bureau w.e.f 1st March, 2017 for sale to public.



Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

10 May 2017: Prof. Pierre Lena, the Co-Founder of *La main à la pâte* Foundation (2nd right) visited ECOSF along with French Embassy Officials; Mr. Andre de BUSSY (2nd left) and Mr. Matthieu (left) visited ECOSF and President ECOSF. The distinguished guests discussed the promotion and implantation of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in ECO region.



18 May 2017: Dato Prof. Lee Yee Cheong Chairman Inter Academy Partnership Science Education Programme and Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia & the Pacific Jakarta visited ECOSF and met with President ECOSF. During the meeting, the promotion and implementation of IBSE, Engineering Qualification and other aspects related to Science Technology and Innovation in ECO region were discussed.



Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and facebook page

2nd Training Workshop on 'Industrial Biotechnology: Driving Value Addition and Beneficiation' in Harare, Zimbabwe, 22-24 August 2017

The Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) announces the organisation of the 2nd Training Workshop on 'Industrial Biotechnology: Driving Value Addition and Beneficiation' in Harare, Zimbabwe from 22nd to 24th August 2017 which will be hosted by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development through the National Biotechnology Authority (NBA) of Zimbabwe, and invites nominations of researchers, academia, technologists, industry representatives, government officials, policy makers, regulators and NGOs from the NAM and other developing countries with an interest in industrial biotechnology applications.

<http://eco4science.org/Industrial-Biotechnology>

The 1st International Exhibition & Festival on New Urban Technologies (ICS 2017)

"The 1st International Exhibition & Festival on New Urban Technologies (ICS 2017)" is being organized from August 4-6, 2017 in Isfahan, Iran by Isfahan Municipality and New Technology Centre in support of national and international organizations including ECOSF, with the attendance of dozens of developed cities from all over the world and hundreds of knowledge-based companies from Iran and abroad, with the following objectives to exhibit the most advanced technologies available for resolving the issues related to the urban management, and improving the quality of urban life.

<http://eco4science.org/Urban-Technologies>

11th EPLC Leadership Program

ECO Peace Leadership Center has launched 11th EPLC Leadership Program. The program is carried out in collaboration with Yuhan-Kimberly, aimed at finding practical solutions to local and international environmental problems by providing state of the art technology and information.

<http://eco4science.org/11th-EPLC-Leadership-Program>

IPBES – External Review for Global Assessment

Experts are invited to participate in the first external review of the chapters of the landmark IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, from 15 June until 15 August, 2017.

This assessment will be the first global snapshot of the state of the world's biodiversity in more than a decade, since the release of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The global assessment will provide decision makers with the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people, as well as the options to protect and use these natural assets more sustainably. Furthermore, the global assessment will provide vital data to assess progress against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

<http://eco4science.org/Global-assessment-1>

Science, morality and faith of our fathers

The 6th International Conference on the history and culture of the Kyrgyz and Turkic Khaganates entitled "Science, morality and faith of our fathers" will be held in Bishkek, the capital city of the Kyrgyz Republic, on 22-24 September, 2017. The conference is dedicated to the 940th anniversary of the Dictionary "The Divanü Lügati't-Türk" by Mahmud Kashgari Barskani, a prominent philosopher, Encyclopaedist, and Turkologist of the Karakhanid khaganate era.

<http://eco4science.org/Science-morality-and-faith>