



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



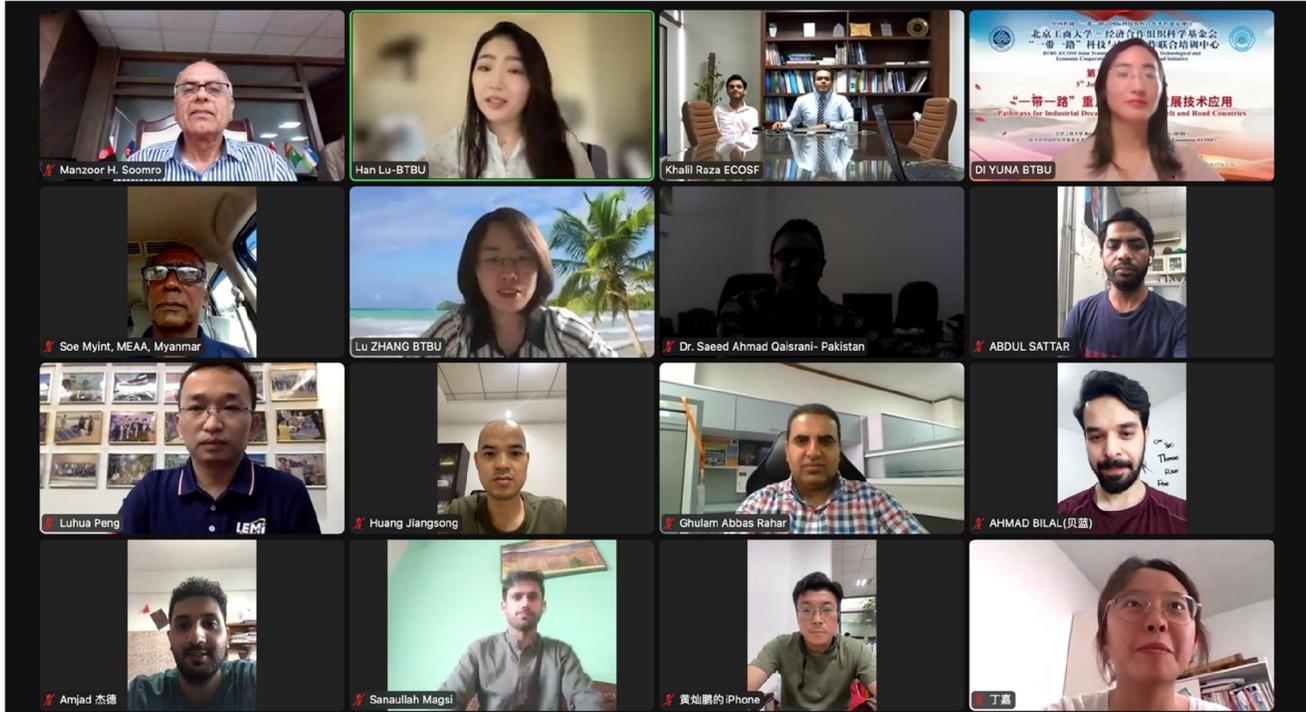
## BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> Training Program- Pathways for Industrial Decarbonization in the Belt and Road Countries

BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center with support of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) organized the 5<sup>th</sup> joint Training Program on Pathways for Industrial Decarbonization in the Belt and Road Countries on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The training workshop brought together industrial experts, representatives of industrial corporations, policymakers and supporting organizations to develop and share energy efficiency and low carbon best practices in the industries. The purpose of this training program was to accelerate to low-carbon and climate-resilient development with special focus on key industrial sectors, including cement, steel, chemicals, coal, and transportation.

The virtual training attracted participation of over 200 participants from about 15 countries, particularly from the ECO Member Countries. It is important to note that this was the second training session dedicated to low carbon development for BRI, previously the Joint Training Center held the similar training session on low carbon development last year in June 2021. This training workshop was moderated by Dr. Di Yuna, head of the BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center and Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer – ECOSF.

**Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF** in his welcome remarks emphasized that Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) play a critical role in providing policy instruments that are essential to develop strong base of countries in addressing the climate change impacts and boosting socio-economic growth and sustainable development. Prof. Soomro underscored that clean energy is critical for achieving sustainable development and is at the forefront of the global agenda. Technology plays a key role in promoting



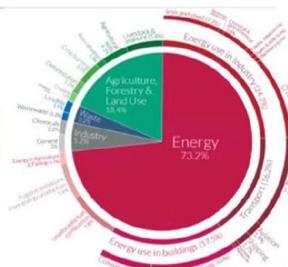


sustainability in many areas, including energy and sustainable industrial development. But the countries of the South, especially in our region, face a range of challenges in obtaining, adapting and effectively using industrial technologies, not to mention in building productive capacity. President ECOSF further emphasized that the current developmental path that nations have chosen primarily relies on fossil fuels, consumes substantial energy resources while producing abundant materials and benefiting the mankind. However, it also has massive negative footprint on the natural environment, and these devastating impacts of climate change are intensifying. Hence, this training would be a key learning opportunity to understand and implement actions to balance between carbon intensive processes and the environment is therefore the greatest challenge facing mankind today.

Renowned experts and market leaders in low carbon development technologies participated as resource persons. The intended outcome of this training was to support policy development facilitating south-south cooperation, creating relevant knowledge and building capacities in the BRI countries. During the workshops, experts shared insights on common industrial heat and decarbonization challenges and relevant solutions, and discussed the state of play regarding current carbon capture and utilization solutions, as well as less mature solutions still being developed and tested. Experts demonstrated several strategies that being undertaken by the industrial corporations to facilitate increased widespread implementation of decarbonization measures and provide energy end-user perspectives for the development of transformative policies and programmes. Experts also highlighted the foundations of the main concepts and provided a learning opportunity to participants to enhance understanding on the key energy decarbonization problems and challenges faced by industrial corporates.

### Decarbonizing the road transport is the key to achieve Net Zero Plan

#### Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport



On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer also presented the case study on Decarbonizing the road transport sector in the Belt and Road Countries. Mr. Khalil Raza presented a policy framework to scale up electric mobility in Pakistan. Mr. Raza established that in order for Pakistan to achieve its intended EV penetration targets, relevant stakeholders need to strengthen its policy intervention in four key areas; (a) robust strategy (b) financial incentives (c) plan for reducing the cost of lithium-ion batteries and (d) adequate supply of reliable charging network.



At the end, **Prof. Liu Minhua, Vice President, Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU)** presented his concluding remarks. Prof. Liu in his message highlighted that Chinese government has incorporated the “Dual Carbon Target”, which aims to actively pursue measures to decarbonize the industrial sector. Prof. Liu further shared that China attaches great importance towards addressing climate change issues to achieve the carbon neutrality goal. Hence, China is taking serious actions on improving governance system, developing policy instruments and innovative technologies to meet the carbon neutrality

goals. China has built a robust capacity to help other Belt and Road countries for win-win cooperation to address the climate change. Prof. Liu appreciated the extensive cooperation of ECOSF and paid his gratitude to the expert for the valuable contributions towards the two-day training program.

The complete coverage and recording of the training session is available at ECOSF’s YouTube channel which can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxcOuJr8EW2mV9Z20fAF2vg>

**7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture: Innovation and Adaptation held at University of Poonch Rawalakot, Azad Jammu & Kashmir. President, ECOSF participated as a Keynote Speaker**

The 7th International Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture: Innovation and Adaptation was organized by the University of Poonch at Rawalakot, Azad Jammu and Kashmir from 15 to 17 June 2022. The objective of the conference was to bring academics, scientists and researchers together to exchange and share their experiences and research finding about climate smart agriculture and discuss the practical challenges encountered and suggestion towards the solutions, innovations and their adaptation. The participants comprising of scientists, researchers, academia and students from agriculture sciences and its related fields attended the conference. Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF participated in the conference as a Keynote Speaker.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zakria Zaker, Vice Chancellor of University of Poonch Rawalakot welcomed the distinguished speakers and guests. In his address, he said that every year 700 deaths happen due to global warming. Cancer disease of different nature is also increasing due to global warming, while the sea life is not safe. He added that the situation is moving fast towards destruction and the devastation, which would have a terrible effect on agriculture and food. He further said that this conference is expected to make a good start for making agriculture safe from those dangers in AJ&K as well as in Pakistan.



Prof. Dr. Rattan Lal a globally known soil and environmental scientist from the Ohio State University, USA delivered his lecture virtually. Other main key note speakers were; Prof. Dr. Syed Dilnawaz Ahmed Gardezi, Vice Chancellor of Kotli University, Dr. Abid Mahmood, Chief Executive of Punjab Agriculture Research Board (PARB) Lahore, Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig, Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation, and Prof. Dr. Abu Hassan Ahmad from Malaysia, who shared their research and wisdom.

Prof. Manzoor Soomro, President, ECO Science Foundation in his keynote talk in the opening session, spoke on Climate Smart Agriculture for Resilient Plant Protection with emphasis on education of stakeholders. He said that agriculture, climate change, food security and

poverty reduction are inextricably linked. He shared that as the world population grows to a projected 9 billion by 2050, agricultural production must also increase by an estimated 70 percent according to Food and Agriculture Organization (FOA) of United Nations. He added that climate volatility, more frequent extreme weather events and temperature changes increasingly threaten the viability of agriculture and forestry sectors and rural infrastructure throughout the world. He further added that there is a growing evidence of climate change and its impacts on agriculture in the ECO Region including Pakistan. Unprecedented effects on the region’s water resources, agricultural productivity, and farm incomes have been noted. He shared that given the region’s wide topographic and climatic diversity, ECO region is prone to various natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, avalanches, mudflows, landslides, and extreme weather events and the effects of these are likely to become more severe with climate change.

He further shared that concept of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) was originally developed by FAO but was based on many previous years of work. CSA approach is to develop technical, policy and investment conditions to achieve sustainable agricultural development for food security under climate change, President ECOSF added. At the end, Prof. Soomro also presented his co-authored book entitled, “Textbook of Plant Nematology” to the Vice Chancellor of University of Poonch Rawalakot.



The participants were very happy for arranging such a nice conference which provided them a lot of material and opportunity to learn latest techniques about smart farming. At the end, the shields / certificates were distributed among the speakers and guests.

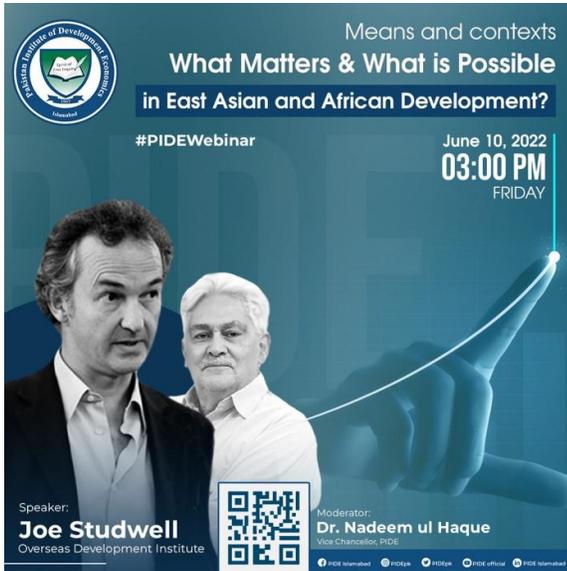
**17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of AAET held virtually President, ECOSF participated as the Fellow Member**

17th Annual General Meeting of the ASEAN Association of Engineering and Technology (AAET) was held virtually on 11 June 2022. The meeting was presided over by President of AAET Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dato’ Ir. Dr. Chuah Hean Teik of Malaysia and attended by Dato Ir. Lee Yee Cheong, Honorary Life President, Datuk Ir. Hong Lee Pee, Immediate Past President, Dr Sein Myint Vice President and Fellow Members from across the region. Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF attended the Meeting as a Foreign Fellow of AAET. Prof. Soomro became the Fellow of AAET in 2021 in recognition of his promoting Engineering and Technology in the ASEAN and ECO regions; since then, he has been participating various meeting of the Academy.



During the meeting, the minutes of the previous AGM were approved. The financial matters of AAET also came under discussion. The progress of on-going programmes, such as; Promoting the importance of STEM among the young generation, AAET Green Award 2021 (AGA2021), Collaboration with National Academy of Engineering and Technology (NAEK), Collaboration with other Organizations or Institutions, etc. was also reviewed. The meeting was apprised about signing of MOU between AAET, University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Malaysia, AETDEW, MSPC and CNAP. More MoUs/collaboration with Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE), Guangxi Association for Science and Technology (GXAST) and Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) were also proposed.

**President ECOSF attended PIDE Webinar on “Means & Contexts: What Matters & what is Possible in East Asia & African**



Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted a Webinar on “Means & Contexts: What Matters & What is Possible in East Asia & African Development” on June 10, 2022. Mr. Joe Studwell Visiting Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute was the guest speaker, who is the prominent scholar with his focus on Asian Economies. The session was moderated by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque – the Vice-Chancellor of PIDE. On behalf of ECOSF, President Manzoor Soomro participated in the webinar. Mr. Joe Studwell gave a detailed talk on what works in the Asian continent especially in the context of economic development in the region. Prof. Joe emphasized the agricultural land reforms programmes instituted and supported by the Northeast Asian countries, including Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and China were instrumental in bringing successful economic revolution in the region. This agricultural development created the demand for developing the basic materials and goods which gradually scaled up to feed in the manufacturing sector.

**ECOSF participated in the work meeting on China Pakistan Education Cooperation Program**



On June 28, 2022, the ECOSF in collaboration of Pakistan Embassy in Beijing participated in a meeting jointly hosted by Beijing Technology and Business University and Children Youth and Science Center (CYSC) of China. Meeting was called on the request Pakistan Embassy in China represented by Education Attaché Ms. Afifa Shajia Awais. The objective of this meeting was to strengthen existing the joint programmes and as well as to explore new avenues for cooperation to help promote the education exchange and joint programmes between China and Pakistan. On behalf of BTBU, Director BTBUC-ECOSF Joint Training Center Dr. Di Yuna opened the meeting while highlighting the areas for collaboration and the ongoing measures by the BTBU. While Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer, and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar, Assistant Director (Admin and Programmes) participated in the meeting as representatives of ECOSF. During the meeting, Engr. Khalil Raza gave a presentation outlining the various programmes being undertaken by the Foundation and suggested the way forward to further strengthen and promote science education especially in close partnership with Chinese institutions. Ms. Yang Feng represented CYSC and provided the snapshot of

programmes aimed at promoting science education by CYSC. Ms. Afifa Awais, appreciated the efforts of partner organizations, including ECOSF, BTBU and CYSC for their admirable partnership to achieve the meaningful impact on education sector through extensive cooperation between Pakistani and Chinese institutions. Ms. Afifa assured her full support on behalf of the Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing in realizing the goals to support the Pakistani educational institutes and professionals.

**Institute for Global Health and Development, Aga Khan University Launched a new project Supporting Training & Development for Early-Career Women Scientists**

Institute for Global Health and Development at the Aga Khan University Launched a new project Supporting Training & Development for Early-Career Women Scientists. In this connection, a live webinar was hosted to feature global experts on June 21, 2022, who shared their learnings about the nexus of gender equality and scientific leadership, and how the new programme will contribute in curtailing gender biases in scholarship.

Gender diversity and equality are the cornerstones of innovation and scientific leadership. They are components of high-functioning research teams which facilitate greater perspective, creativity, and knowledge for new discoveries. Despite that, there is overwhelming evidence that research in health capacity development and health service delivery receives low priority in most low- and middle-income countries. There are substantial gender differentials and biases in such research capacity and scholarly output.



The webinar was moderated by Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Distinguished University Professor & Founding Director, Institute for Global Health and Development and welcomed remarks presented by Dr. Amina Abubakar, Professor & Director, Institute for Human Development, Aga Khan University, East Africa. Other speakers included, Dr Stephen Kennedy, Head of the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health and co-Director, Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute, Dr Anjum Halai, Professor, Vice Provost & Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Aga Khan University Dr Jai Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health & Assistant Director, Institute for Global Health and Development. On behalf of ECOSF, President Manzoor Soomro participated and contributed in the webinar.

## ECOSF participated in the Launching Ceremony of COMSTECH Forum on Environment Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER) on World Environment Day and International Seminar on “Land Degradation”

COMSTECH Launched Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration and organized International Seminar on Land Degradation, and commemorated World Environment Day on June 6, at COMSTECH Secretariat. The event was hybrid which was attended by in-person and online participants. The participants comprising of experts, environmentalists, faculty, students and social workers attended the Forum. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was also amongst the attendees.



The Coordinator General of COMSTECH Prof. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed all the distinguished speakers and guests. In his address, the Coordinator General said that based on the central importance of the fast emerging environmental and ecosystem challenges and their impact on the livelihood of people in OIC region, it has been decided to launch a permanent forum to deliberate upon collective actions to meet these ecological challenges. In the Muslim lands, urban expansion continues, whereas desertification, soil erosion, low vegetation covers, and depletion of fresh water bodies has created an alarming situation which demands urgent and collective actions to avoid fast approaching major human tragedies, added Prof Choudhary. He shared said that the COMSTECH Forum of Environment and Ecosystem Restoration would be working in the Framework of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2023, as well as the UN Framework on UN 2030 SDG Agenda. Prof. Choudhary hoped that COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration would strengthen the work of the OIC in these areas.

During the ceremony, the message of the Secretary General of OIC, H. E. Hissein Brahim Taha, was also read. In his message, Mr. Taha said that the world environment day is an important international day for world environment. He said that this year’s theme “Only one Earth” with the focus on “living sustainably in harmony with nature” gives us opportunity to protect our earth and adopt green technologies. He further said the developed countries must encourage and support developing countries to develop green technologies. He said the OIC attaches high importance to the concerns related to environment, climate change and biodiversity. He urged the integrated measures to reduce effects of climate change and natural disasters. He stressed the need of incorporating environmental concerns in the international strategies for sustainable development. He suggested that the international and regional cooperation needs to be strengthened in areas of climate change in order to protecting the nature for wellbeing of our future generations.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Dr. Dechen Tsering, regional director and representative for Asia and the Pacific, UN environment programme, Bangkok, Dr. Barron Joseph Orr, Lead scientist at United Nations convention to combat desertification, Bonn, and Dr. Djime Adoum, representative of the Sahel coalition, and Dr. Paul Ouedraogo, Deputy executive secretary, CILSS-permanent interstate committee for drought control in the Sahel.

Eight international experts participated in the international seminar on land degradation and delivered talks on land degradation, food systems, crop modelling, and the activities performed in Tanzania, Tunisia and The Gambia to address this phenomenon.

### President ECOSF held a Meeting with Federal Secretary for Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro on 27 June 2022 held a meeting with the Federal Secretary for Science and Technology H. E. Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon at the Ministry and discussed the programmes and matters pertaining to ECOSF. Prof. Soomro also presented his book titled "Text Book of Plant Nematology" to the Secretary. President ECOSF apprised the Secretary on various activities and programmes being run by the Foundation to promote science education and provide policy support in critical areas of the Member States, particularly in Pakistan. Mr. Memon appreciated the programmes of the Foundation and assured of full cooperation and support on behalf of the MoST, Government of Pakistan to help achieve extensive cooperation between Pakistan and other ECO Member Countries.



### Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

#### Hands-on Science Camp – 2022

ECO Science Foundation is collaborating with Pakistan Science Club and National Skills University, Islamabad to organize a physical hands-on science camp in Islamabad from 25 - 29 July 2022. During this camp, students will be enabled to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) by understanding the core concepts and ideas, experiential learning through systematic science projects, and hands-on practical application.

Focus of the camp: Renewable Energy, STEM Family Challenge. Please note that on the last day of camp, children with their parents would participate in a thrilling and thought-provoking STEM family challenge. For Registration and more details visit <https://paksc.org/camp/istem/>

**Contact:** 021-35052989 | 03453002870 | 03345467306 | Email: info@paksc.org

A green poster for the "ISLAMABAD HANDS-ON SCIENCE CAMP". It features logos for PSC, NSU, and ECOSF at the top. The main text reads "ISLAMABAD HANDS-ON SCIENCE CAMP". Below this, it lists: "Camp Duration: July 25 to July 29", "Timings: Multiple Time Slots", "Age Group: 8 to 13", and "Venue: National Skills University". A photograph of a young girl building a tower with sticks is on the left. At the bottom, it says "For Registration paksc.org/camp/istem" and provides the phone number "0213-5052989" and website "paksc.org". Social media icons for Facebook and Instagram are also present.

#### DHEI Summer School

Daneshpajooan Pishro Higher Education Institute (DHEI) (<https://www.daneshpajooan.ac.ir/en>) is presenting an International Summer Schools "Urban Imaginaries: Esfahan and Intercultural Structure" and "Iranian Handicrafts Training". These two Summer Schools are two-weeks study and cultural learning program with delightful social programs. The events will take place from 15- 27 August 2022.

All students from different fields of study are welcomed to participate in this program. The registrations are open and will end in July 20, 2022.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/DHEI-Summer-School>

#### Learning at NPU- Global Summer Open Courses

Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) is organizing a Global Summer Open Courses from July 11th to August 15th, 2022. The courses are designed for both undergraduates and postgraduates.

No program fee is required. However, the participants themselves shall make sure a stable network environment. The participants will receive a Credit Certificate after they successfully pass the corresponding course. The application deadline is July 8th.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/Learning-at-NPU>

### Distinguished Visitors to the ECOSF

**June 20, 2022:** Mr. Tianhua Hong, Project Director, Pakistan China Joint Research Center in Earth Sciences. The Center has been established by the HEC-Pakistan and funded by the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at Quaid-i-Azam University-Islamabad. He made a Courtesy call upon President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Husain Soomro at his office on June 20, 2022 and discussed the issues of mutual interest.



**24 June 2022:** Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Sakrand (SBBUVAS) Prof. Dr. Muhammad Farooque Hassan visited ECOSF Secretariat and held a meeting with President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. The matters of mutual interests especially the organisation of next International Conference on One Health was discussed. Prof. Soomro advised the VC to make the One Health an annual feature.



**June 6, 2022:** Mr. Shah Faisal Kakar, DG (ECO & CARs) along with Mr. Imranullah, Director (ECO & CARs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan visited ECOSF Secretariat and called upon the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro. Prof. Soomro warmly welcomed Mr. Kakar for his maiden visit to ECOSF on 6 June 2022. During the meeting, President ECOSF briefed the delegation about the establishment of Foundation and its key programmes and ongoing activities.

The delegation appreciated the efforts of ECOSF for promotion of STI in ECO region and assured their possible support to address the issues of the Foundation. President ECOSF also presented five year report of ECOSF to Mr. Kakar.

