



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



STEM Education through IBSE in ECO Region: ECO Science Foundation and Sukkur IBA University sign MoU for Cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU) at the Sukkur IBA University, Sukkur- Pakistan on January 20, 2020 for capacity building and promotion of STEM education through Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methodology in Pakistan, other ECO member countries and beyond.

MoU was signed by the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro and Vice Chancellor of SIBAU Prof. Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui. MoU signing was witnessed by the Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan - Dr. Tariq Banuri and officials from the Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC) of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST)- another international collaborator of ECOSF.



Under the MoU, both the organizations will collaborate for joint activities on IBSE, support the pilot programmes in Pakistan under the framework of Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC) and organize national professional development sessions for teachers and educators in ECO region including Pakistan. Follow-up the dissemination in each country involved, especially the professional developments activities organised by trained educators for the benefit of teachers and schools and pursue the aim of mobilising the Academies of Science in ECO countries. Other salient aspects of the MoU are to grant permission to educational authorities and their staff to use and adapt the materials produced by ECOSF and SIBAU as well as other related methodological and pedagogical documents, freely available on the websites of both the organizations.



The MoU was signed during the opening of 5-day Capacity Building Workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in Pakistan under the framework of BRISECC. The workshop was jointly organized by ECOSF, Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU) and Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC) of CAST – China.

ECOSF organized a 5-day Capacity Building Workshop on IBSE under the framework of Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC)

A 5-days Capacity Building Workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in Pakistan under the framework of Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC) was organized on 20-24 January 2020 at Sukkur Pakistan jointly by ECOSF and Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU) supported by Children and Youth Science Centre (CYSC) of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST).



The workshop was opened by Chairman Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Dr. Tariq Banuri. In his opening remarks, Dr. Banuri said that quality higher education plays an important role for the development of any nation and this is not possible without good quality education at school and college levels. He appreciated ECOSF and SIBAU for organizing such workshops to build capacity of teachers for providing science education through hands on which helps students to understand easily and better. He emphasised on the engagement of university faculty/scientists in the STEM education at schools and colleges. He further said that ECO region has a tremendous potential to grow economically and socially. He also thanked the team from CYSC China for their partnership with ECOSF and SIBAU in Pakistan for promotion of science education.



Earlier, Vice Chancellor SIBAU Prof. Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui welcomed the distinguished guests from China and all over Pakistan. He emphasized that IBSE programme in schools of SIBAU was initiated in 2016 with the support of ECOSF. Since then, it is being successfully implemented in schools/colleges managed by SIBAU. He further said that steps are being taken to train more teachers on IBSE and the classes are being equipped with necessary materials.

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro in his remarks said that the nations who invest in science, technology and innovation, would lead the rest of the world on technical and economical fronts. To achieve such a development potential, STEM education will be a key. Keeping in view the importance of STEM education, an IBSE programme in ECO region was launched in 2015 from Kazakhstan to build the capacity of teachers on STEM through IBSE approach of La main a la pate (LAMAP) - France. Later, the programme was expanded in Pakistan and Iran. The programme is being successfully run in Pakistan at the community colleges and schools of Sukkur IBA University, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and the Cantonment and Garrison Schools. The programme has also achieved a great success in Iran since its launch in January 2017.



This workshop was organized under the framework of Belt and Road International Coordinating Committee (BRISECC) formed in 2018 at Beijing. The BRISECC is a committee to oversee the programme and activities for promotion and implementation of science education among the countries along the belt and road. The secretariat of BRISECC is situated at offices of Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC) of CAST. Prof. Manzoor Soomro President ECOSF is the founding Vice President of the Committee for Capacity Building of Science Instructors/Teachers. A programme officer of CYSC Ms. Yang Feng also attended the workshop and gave a presentation on the objectives and plans of the BRISECC. Among the future plans of the Committee, developing a virtual science museum, capacity building of science teachers on IBSE and a dynamic website are the main projects, she shared.

Purpose of the workshop was to review the IBSE activities carried out by the teachers of various schools trained during previous two workshops held in 2016 (Islamabad) and 2017 (SIBAU). In addition, enhancement of the capacity to address STEM education issues, strategies for innovation in educational practices and strategies for generalisation into educational systems was also one of the purposes. The workshop also focused especially on the continuous professional development of teachers as Master Trainers with reference to IBSE approach of LAMAP in their schools at primary and secondary level. There were 40 participants from the schools and colleges of SIBAU, PAEC Education System, Cantt-Garrison, Dawood Public School Karachi and Government School Mithi, Tharparkar.

Following sessions were conducted during the workshop:

1. Climate Change Education

With a population of over 210 million, Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change in the world. The country is expected to face severe extreme climate events, such as increased variability of monsoons, receding glacial caps, heat waves, floods and droughts. To address this mammoth challenge, there is an urgent need for the adaptive capacity of communities through adequate climate science education and enabling citizens to make informed decisions in the context of climate change.

However, currently like many countries, Pakistan does not employ curriculum at school levels that highlights or focuses on science behind the changing climate and its impacts. To fill this gap, ECOSF partnered with Children Youth Science Center (CYSC) of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) to introduce a devoted training module for science teachers on climate science in Pakistan. In this regard, Dr. Ye Zhaoning, Expert Trainer and Science Education Researcher at South-East University at Nanjing, Jiangsu, China, supported by Engr. Khalil Raza of ECOSF, conducted a training session on scientific phenomenon behind changing climate.



The basic premise of this training was to engage participants to analyze the weather data and temperature profiles of various cities using Microsoft Excel. Participants were divided in several groups, which were required to compare the weather data of different geographic locations with respect to variations in the temperature profiles and form their own conclusions and discuss their results with their peers. Participants also took active part in the hands-on activity of developing the Green House to understand the impact of climate change. The idea of building Green House was to provide school teachers and subsequently the children, an opportunity to understand the broad concept of Green House effect and its importance in the global phenomenon of climate change.

2. Piloting of Fusion of Civilization Education Curriculum in Pakistan

ECOSF has been contributing towards the development of “Fusion of One Belt One Road (OBOR) Civilizations Curriculum Design (FoCED), which is curriculum to promote science education as well as to inculcate social and moral values among young students. This programme was launched by the Inter-Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) in collaboration with ECOSF, ISTIC Malaysia, the China Association of Children’s Science Instructors (CACSI), Children and Youth Science Center of China Association of Science and Technology- CAST (CYSCC) under the mega initiative of China - One Belt One Road (OBOR).

The unique curriculum highlights different aspects of ancient scientific discoveries along the Belt and Road countries, and projects the historic Golden Age of Islam and S&T heritage of the ECO Region. The core objective of development of this curriculum is to foster peace right at the beginning of young children by employing Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach among the countries that share a common heritage of the ancient Silk Road.



Under this initiative, ECOSF has collaborated with partners to develop curriculum modules with concentration on water resources, land silk road, maritime silk road and architecture. To test this curriculum module at a pilot scale and highlight the central importance of water in human lives, a hands-on activity to develop a water tower/water storage tank was demonstrated by the students of IBA Public School Sukkur of the Sukkur IBA University.

The interactive and inquiry-based learning session was conducted by Ms. Saba Chachar, Science Teacher at IBA Public School Sukkur, who supervised the development of water storage tank by students while employing the IBSE methodology. The methodology focused on engaging students by inquiring fundamental concepts, common themes, forming questions and discussion around the need and development process of water storage tank. During the demonstration, it was quite visible that all students were enthralled and fascinated by the learning process, which is an essence of IBSE methodology.

Students were provided with some low-cost materials to create a working prototype of water tower or storage tank. The prototypes were tested by putting on them some weight to determine the effectiveness of these developed models. It is important to mention here that this IBSE based activity of FoCED Curriculum was witnessed by all the participants of the IBSE Capacity Building Workshop. In the end, President ECOSF Prof Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Vice Chancellor SIBAU Prof. Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui appreciated the students and their teacher for their enthusiasm and encouraged them to continue to critically understand and acquire natural science rather than relying on rote learning.



3. Life Sciences

The topic of the session was to evaluate the information about power bracelet and energy drinks available in local market. The session was conducted by Mr. Zahid Hussain Mirani, Assistant Professor of SIBAU Community College – Dadu.

4. Codez 1,2,3

This session was conducted by Dr. Ajmal Sawand Professor of Computer Sciences of SIBAU facilitated by Mr. Ghulam Abbas of ECOSF. During this session, the Codez 1,2,3... programme designed by LAMAP France was introduced. The programme has been designed for learning of robotics through simple methods. The unplugged activities were performed through computers.

5. Physical Sciences Component

It was carried out by the trainers of PAEC Schools led by Mr. Habibullah Mehtab, Associate Professor. In this session, the transmission of light was observed by the participants through hands-on activities and found various paths of traveling lights.

6. Chemical Sciences

In this session, Dr. Tassadaque Shah of SIBAU shared the importance of Chemistry in daily life and developed curiosity among the participants through chemical activities. Activities performed were based on “invisible ink”, “reaction between baking soda and vinegar”, and “making toothpaste”.

Here under are some glimpses of the hands-on activities during the workshop



On the final day (24 Jan 2020), a small concluding ceremony was organized wherein; the Vice Chancellor of SIBAU distributed the certificates and shields among the participants and trainers. In his closing remarks, he said that it was pleasure to host all the guests and hoped that this kind of activities would be continued in future with ECOSF, not only in Pakistan but in other ECO countries. Mr. Ghulam Abbas of ECOSF thanked the Vice Chancellor and other SIBAU colleagues for supporting ECOSF and organizing the workshop successfully.

ECOSF initiates Cooperation between The Dawood Foundation (TDF) and the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST)

ECOSF has been promoting and popularizing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) through its core programme as well as by developing cooperation between organizations and the Not for Profit Organizations within the ECO Region and with international organizations. In this respect, cooperation between a strong partner of ECOSF- CAST China has been engaged to support the under construction Science Center of TDF in Karachi. To discuss the cooperation in person, President ECOSF Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and a two member team from CAST- China visited the existing interactive Science Centre of TDF on January 22, 2020. The team comprising of Ms. Yang Feng from the International Cooperation division of Children and Youth Science Center of



CAST (CYSCC) and Dr. Ye Zhaoning, a science curriculum developer and STI trainer, visited the TDF science center which has around 70 exhibits. The visitors were given a round of the interactive exhibits followed by discussion on possible cooperation.

It was agreed in principle that TDF will formally write to the China Museum of Science and Technology of CAST in Beijing with copy to ECOSF and CAST colleagues requesting for the technical support. The ECOSF will then follow-up and coordinate with CAST for the possible technical support.

ECOSF facilitates interaction of PSSEC with China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) for promotion of Space Science and Technology among the Youth

While in Karachi the President ECOSF Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro arranged a meeting between the CEO of Pakistan Space Science Education Center (PSSEC), Ms. Zartaj Waseem and the visiting Chinese partners of ECOSF- China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) on 22 January 2020. President ECOSF introduced the two teams who then briefed each other about their activities.



Ms. Waseem warmly welcomed the visitors and requested for cooperation and support of ECOSF and CAST in popularization of Space Science and Robots, as well as for the introduction of PSSEC in international Robotics competitions organized by the Chinese institutions including CAST. The Chinese colleagues agreed in principle to explore the ongoing programmes under CAST and share the information with PSSEC while keeping ECOSF in the loop. Finally, the CEO PSSEC thanked the President ECOSF and invited him to their forthcoming event “2020 International Day of Science” in Karachi in February 2020.

Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan holds a meeting with Vice Chancellors and Heads of National R&D Organizations

A meeting of Vice Chancellors and Heads of R&D organizations with the Minister for Science and Technology (Most) Mr. Fawad Hussain Chaudhry was held on 13 January 2020. It was organized and coordinated by the Advisor to Minister Mr. Hassan Syed. The objective of this meeting was to discuss a plan of S&T Innovation and wealth generation through STI Parks and start-ups at universities by developing a National S&T Parks System.



On behalf of the ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro attended the meeting. Dr. Soomro shared his experiences in ECO Region on IBSE implementation and the development of Science Parks networks in Iran and Turkey.

Vice Chancellors and officials shared their perceptions, wisdom and impediments in the development of entrepreneurial programmes in the meeting. They emphasized on the importance of such an initiative for Pakistan to stay ahead in knowledge age through the development and acceleration of knowledge economy. Many Vice Chancellors from the smaller cities stressed the need for investing in smaller cities and focusing on universities that do not have heavy investment in research and development but have strong industrial and agriculture base around them.

Mr. Hassan Syed, Advisor to the Minister, briefed the Vice Chancellors on recent initiatives of the Ministry of Science & Technology on the topic of knowledge economy and its acceleration. The advisor presented a proposed model for promotion of S&T based knowledge economy and start-ups linking it with a programme of Prime Minister of Pakistan for youth, called; “Kamyab Jawan Programme”. Mr. Syed pointed out that Pakistan has all the ingredients to develop strong knowledge-based economy and have invested reasonably in the research and development capacity. It is time to move research from labs to industry through a demand driven model in which innovative solutions can be offered to solve indigenous problems, using new and emerging technologies, at a fast pace.

Mr. Fawad Hussain Chaudhry, Federal Minister on Science and Technology of Pakistan, pointed out that Sir Syed Ahmed Khan gave us a vision for science based Muslim society that can guide us even today in the knowledge age. He agreed that future investment decisions shall focus on building capacity nationwide with an inclusive, sustainable and scalable approach. We would also initiate STEM schools with the collaboration of universities soon, he added

Great-grandson of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan Syed Ahmed Masood , Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui Vice Chancellor Sukkur IBA University, Prof. Dr. Uzma Qureshi Vice Chancellor Women University Multan, Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana Vice Chancellor SBB Women University Peshawar, Prof. Dr Akhtar Ali Malik Vice Chancellor NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology Multan, Brig. Tariq Javed (R) Advisor on Innovation PEC, Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Kausar Vice Chancellor GC Women University Sialkot, Muhammad Raza Khan Director ORIC Comsats University Islamabad, Dr. Vali Uddin Vice Chancellor of Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology Karachi, Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq Vice Chancellor GC Women University Faisalabad, Dr. Muhammad Ali Vice Chancellor Quaid I Azam University Islamabad, DR. Shahid Mansoor Director NIBGE Faisalabad and a number of other senior officials attended the meeting and shared their views on emerging technologies and challenges regarding innovation ecosystem.



ECOSF participated in the International Workshop on Sustainable Cities: Issues and Challenges of Rapid Urbanization organized by COMSTECH

COMSTECH organized Two-day International Workshop on "Sustainable Cities: Issues and Challenges of Rapid Urbanization" on January 28-29 to deliberate upon the challenges due to increasing urban population and highlighting best practices of transforming toward smarter cities. The workshop included a large number of local and foreign experts from academia and industry, company executives, and developers from OIC Countries to discuss how policies, technology, and best practices can trigger transformations towards smarter cities. Experts from Turkey, Malaysia, Oman, Jordan, Afghanistan and Egypt participated besides a large number of participants from local public and private organizations. On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the event.



During the inaugural of the workshop, Prime Minister's Adviser on Institutional Reforms and Austerity, Dr. Ishrat Husain emphasized that haphazard urbanization in developing countries is a result of the policies that left cities to grow organically resulting in huge slums, tangled traffic, large greenhouse emissions and sprawling suburbs. Dr. Ishrat Husain said once the required investments and partnerships are in place, sustainable cities have to be equipped to perform the five major functions to meet the challenges of the future including economic development, social development, urban governance and environmental management, he said.



Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Acting Coordinator General of COMSTECH Dr. Tariq Banuri traced the history of the idea of sustainable development and the challenges the world now faces not only from finite resources but global warming. He pointed out that increasing urbanization was now an inevitable phenomenon of growth but there are various models to address the incumbent challenges.

Currently half of the world's population is living in cities and urban areas and the number is projected to increase to seventy percent by the middle of the 21st century. With the climate change and natural disasters posing new challenges, there is a growing market for smart, sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure planning and development. Information and communication technology can play a key role to facilitate city administrations for improvements in such areas as transportation, clean drinking water, water use, safe cities, location of social services, energy efficiency, green buildings and waste management.

Earlier, Dr. Khurshid Hasnain, Adviser COMSTECH welcomed the participants and appraised the audience of COMSTECH's efforts for capacity building and network formation between scientists and technologists of OIC member States. Dr. Kaiser Bengali a notable economist also spoke during thematic a session during the conference.

President ECOSF attended the 20th Convocation of Pir Mehar Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi.

The 20th Convocation of Pir Mehar Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) was held on 30th January, 2020 at the Jinnah Convention Center Islamabad. The Secretary General of the Network of Academies of Sciences of Islamic Countries (NASIC) & former Vice Chancellor of PMAS-AAUR and former Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation- Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan was the chief guest. On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the convocation.



Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, while addressing the convocation said that agriculture sector is facing the daunting challenge of ensuring food security for ever growing population of Pakistan, which is projected to increase from the current 208 million to more than 400 million by 2050 under the business as usual scenario. He said that agriculture and livestock sectors had to produce additional food to feed fast expanding population in the face of shrinking land and water resources per capita available for agriculture and looming impacts of climate changes on agriculture and livestock sector. He appreciated the pace of the multidimensional development of PMAS-AAUR and stressed the need of applied research in agriculture sector, especially in

relevance to the arid areas. He congratulated the graduates and also distributed medals and gave away degrees to the graduates.

Earlier, Prof. Dr. Qamar Zaman Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, in his welcome address, congratulated the graduates and said that University is making special efforts to expand its networking with both international and national universities, research organizations of repute through development and adoption of joint strategies to accelerate the pace of education, research, infrastructure and administrative development. Vice Chancellor said that applied research had been strengthening to find out solutions to pressing farmers' problems, develop innovative technologies and generate predictable outcomes.



PMAS-AAUR has also launched digital agriculture initiative to promote automation in farming operations and post-harvest handling processes. He hoped that these initiatives would be helpful to increase agricultural productivity and farmers' profitability through ensuring efficient use of agricultural resources and minimizing post-harvest losses, among others. He also informed the gathering that PMAS-AAUR was promoting hydroponic agriculture, application of biotechnology and genomic research to enhance productivity of quality plant & animal-based products of both domestic & international market.

2020 Edition of the Night of Ideas with the theme: "Being alive" organized by the Embassy of France at Islamabad – President ECOSF attended

The Embassy of France organized the 2020 edition of the Night of Ideas (*La Nuit des idées*) at COMSATS University-Islamabad on 30 January 2020. Intellectuals, researchers and artists debated and exchanged on the theme 'being alive in the age of climate change' with a large gathering of around 100 peoples from all walks, On behalf of the ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro attended the event.

French Ambassador Dr. Marc Baréty welcomed all the distinguished guests and gave a brief on the French-Pakistani cooperation in the field of climate change, through Agence Française de Développement (climate co-benefits target of 70% for any project) and the Cultural and Cooperation Section of the Embassy of France in Pakistan (master's scholarships in the fields of climate change and environmental sciences). The event was meant to celebrate the stream of ideas between countries, cultures, topics and generations. Every year, the Night of Ideas gives the opportunity to discover the latest discoveries in knowledge and arts, listen to the ones who contribute to bring more ideas to their field, and take part in the discussion about the main issues of the times.

At the heart of '*La Nuit des Idées*' 2020 is the question of ecological balance and humanity's relationship with the world and other species. The phrase can be understood as a command, a call to awareness, action and commitment. What is being alive? What is our place in the living world? How does "Being Alive" impose us to take action? What is our present made of? How to face what our present requires? In a time of multiple emergencies, what memory and what future?



Among panelists were; Mr. Shahid Kamal of the Center for Climate Research & Development of COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Dr. Fatima Khushnud of the Independent Power Producers Association, Dr. Fauzia Saeed of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts, Dr. Zeba Sathar of the Population Council, Dr. Jabir Hussein Syed of the CUI Department of Meteorology, and artist and fashion designer Mr. Yousef Bashir Qureshi.

Mr. Ali Tauqueer Sheikh, a development sector expert and former head of the Lead-Pakistan moderated the event and created a passionate debate among panellists and with the audiences.

Contribution of art to the understanding of present times, creativity in arts and science, supporting research and knowledge, prompting awareness and discourse, power of social media to educate and empower the younger generation, change of behaviours and daily habits of ordinary citizens, the need of collective thinking and acting, were some of the many themes discussed by the panellists.

French Embassy in Pakistan honours its Counselor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs and bids a farewell to him

A longstanding friend of ECOSF in Islamabad Mr. Andre de BUSSY, Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of France in Pakistan completed his term and service recently. At the end of his career as diplomat, his services were acknowledged by the French Republic and he was conferred the distinction of "*Officier de l' Ordre National du Merite*" in a graceful reception on 31 January 2020 at the residence of French Ambassador.

The Ambassador Dr. Marc Barety decorated him with the award in presence of a large number of diplomats, government officials, collaborators, scientists, artists and business people as well as the representatives of international agencies. The reception was a farewell part for a dynamic French diplomat who spent served over four years in Pakistan. Dr. Barety in his speech on the occasion applauded the services, dedicated efforts and achievements of Mr. De Bussy in Pakistan and wished him

well. He also thanked the invited guests for their presence. On behalf of ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro the President joined the celebration.

Mr. Andre de BUSSY has been a career diplomat of France and performed his diplomatic duties in Pakistan since 2016. During his stay, he played a key role for bolstering the diplomatic and trade ties between Pakistan and France. He was very proponent of promotion of science education in Pakistan. He also facilitated and supported ECOSF for STEM education through Inquiry Based Science Education (a LAMAP France approach) in Pakistan. With the support of Embassy of France (Mr. de BUSSY), ECOSF organized capacity building workshops on IBSE and science education forums wherein, the experts also came from France.

The diplomatic community will always remember him for his welcoming nature and contributions towards relations between the two countries. ECOSF wishes him a great success in his new endeavours.



President ECOSF visits the Knowledge Platform in Islamabad

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro along with Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer visited the Knowledge Platform and met its CEO Mr. Mahboob Mehmood and other team members. Knowledge Platform is a digital solutions firm working in the education sector in many countries, including Pakistan. Mr. Mehmood gave a brief introduction to the Knowledge Platform, which provides holistic learning and digital solutions, such as digital content or curriculum and technological support to teachers in class rooms.



Mr. Mehboob demonstrated as to how their developed solutions are helping teachers and students to acquire better understanding and learning of science subjects through digital content and applications. He shared that their solutions are being widely adopted in many private and public-school systems in Pakistan. Mr. Mehboob said that overall feedback is positive on the use of digital applications, as these tools offer tremendous benefits not only to students but also the management and leadership of schools to monitor and evaluate the performance of students and teachers.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro appreciated the digital services being provided by Knowledge Platform. Prof. Soomro also provided a brief snapshot of the activities and programmes being run by the ECOSF, particularly, the promotion of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE). Both sides assured and looked forward to working together to promote digital technology in the education sector of Pakistan.

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

5th International Conference on Management, Engineering, Science, Social Science and Humanities

The 5th International Conference on Management, Engineering, Science, Social Science and Humanities (iCon-MESSSH'20) will take place on August 14-15, 2020. It will bring together Academicians and Experts from different parts of the world to exchange the knowledge and ideas at a common platform to strengthen the Academics and Industry.

For more information: <https://socrd.org/?p=1270>

Opportunity to apply for Obada Prize

Obada-Prize is an international award, endowed by the Natural Sciences Publishing. Initiated as a recognition of his excellence Professor Abdel-Shafy Obada. The Obada-Prize recognizes and encourages innovative and interdisciplinary research that cuts across traditional boundaries and paradigms. It aims to foster universal values of excellence, creativity, justice, democracy, and progress and to promote the scientific, technological and humanistic achievements that advance and improve our world.

For more Information and registration: <http://obadaprize.com/>

Call for abstracts: 6th International Water Conference (6th IWC 2020) on “Circle of Blue; Water for Life & Survival” from 21-23 April 2020 at Islamabad

Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University in collaboration with PIDE and PCRWR is organizing 6th International Water Conference (6th IWC 2020) on “Circle of Blue; Water for Life & Survival” from 21-23 April 2020 at Islamabad. The aim of 6th IWC-2020 is to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Water for Life & Survival and Sustainable Water Resources Management.

Any faculty member, researcher, scholars and students are welcome to submit their Abstract in accordance with the scope of the Conference.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/6th-IWC-2020>

Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

January 09, 2020: Dr. Ahsan Tayab, Principal Natural Resources Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB) called upon President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro at his office. Potential collaboration between ECOSF and ADB in ECO region was the agenda of the discussion.

