



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



Pakistan Alliance for Maths and Science (PAMS) Meeting with Prime Minister of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at Prime Minister Secretariat

Pakistan Alliance for Maths and Science, an Alif Ailaan project organized a meeting with the Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on March 1, 2018 at Prime Minister Secretariat. Pakistan Alliance for Maths and Science (PAMS) is a consortium of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations engaged in maths and science learning for the sake the country's future. The meeting was organized to present a set of recommendations to the Prime Minister stressing on the government to help improve the state of learning in maths and science at school level. The panel members stressed that every child must receive quality education as per the Article 25- A of the Constitution of Pakistan.



The group of experts which included practitioners, scientists, and advocates from all over Pakistan comprised of Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Dr. Nelofer Halai from the Institute of Education (IED) of the Agha Khan University Karachi, Dr. Faisal Khan from the CECOS University Peshawar, Mr. Abdul Rauf the CEO of Pakistan Science Club, Ms. Lalah Rukh CEO of Science Fuse, Ms. Nida Athar CEO of Pakistan Innovation Foundation, Ms. Saima Zaidi from Habib University Karachi, Mr. Pratab Shivani CEO of Thar Education Alliance, Mr. Junaid Dahar CEO of Sindh Education Alliance and Mr. Mosharraf Zaidi, Ms. Nimra Tariq and Mr. Salman Naveed Khan from Alif Ailaan.

The recommendations presented to the Prime Minister included; appointment of a Chief Scientist/Science Advisor to Prime Minister at his Secretariat, the placement of the issue of maths and science learning on the agenda of the Council for Common Interests (CCI), appointing "Science & Technology Ambassadors" who would act as stewards of Pakistan's aspirations in areas

such as Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Climate Change, Biotechnology and Genetics, the strengthening of the Pakistan Science Foundation, and the establishment of Maths and Science Centers at all public libraries within the domain of the Federal Government.

The Prime Minister was very receptive and said that, “Math and Science are integral to the country’s future, and our current education system is not adequately delivering the skills our children need”. The Prime Minister assured the PAMS members that the recommendations of the Alliance would be considered despite the short duration of the existing government’s remaining tenure.

4th Meeting of ECOSF Executive Committee (EC) held in Islamabad-Pakistan

The 4th Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of ECOSF was held in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 15th March, 2018. The Meeting was chaired by President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and attended by the Representatives of the Member States of the ECO namely; the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Tajikistan. The ECO Secretariat was represented by the Assistant Director (International Relations).



The EC held in-depth discussions and made recommendations, inter-alia, on the, Status of Ratification of ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol, Mandatory Budgetary Contributions, Contribution to the S&T Fund, Approval of ECOSF Accounts 2016 & 2017, Budget Estimates 2018 and Budgetary Estimates for 2019, Adoption of ECOSF Annual Report 2016 & 2017 and Draft Work Plan [2018 & 2019 (tentative)]. The EC finalized and adopted the report of the meeting.

President ECOSF Honoured as “Celebrity of Nation” by the IT Industry of Pakistan

The Ideal Autonetics (Pvt) Ltd in collaboration with Higher Education Commission held a workshop and an award ceremony on March 14, 2018 at Movenpick Hotel Karachi named “Modern Infrastructure in Academia”. The purpose of this event was to create and strengthen the linkages between Academia and industry in the field of Information Technology and honoring the leading Academicians and IT Professionals to Ideal Excellence Awards.

H.E. Mr. Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, Senior Minister for Food and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Sindh Province was the Chief Guest. A large number of academicians and industry people including CEOs, Vice Chancellors, Deans, Directors and Students from Engineering and Information Technology Department of different Universities of Pakistan took part in the event.



The Panel members among others selected Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF for the “Celebrity of Nation” category in Ideal Excellence Awards. This award was given to Dr. Soomro on his contribution and accomplishments in the field of Science and Education. The award was presented by Senior Minister Ms. Nisar Ahmad Khuhro to Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. Dr. Soomro thanked the organizers for recognizing his contributions and appreciated their efforts.

ECOSF contributed to the 6th Plenary of the IPBES in Medellín, Colombia

The sixth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) convened on March 18, 2018 in Medellín, Colombia. The session deliberated and negotiated the summaries for policy makers of four regional assessments and an assessment evaluating the state of land degradation and impacts on biodiversity, as well as measures to restore degraded land. ECOSF is stakeholder/observer of IPBES since 2013. ECOSF nominated the expert on land degradation Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed to participate in the plenary and contribute to the four regional assessments on behalf of the Foundation. The outcomes of this IPBES plenary session are linked below:

<https://www.ipbes.net/outcomes>



PCRWR and ECOSF along with their supporting partners celebrated the World Water Day – 2018 with the theme “Nature for Water”

The World Water Day – 2018 with the theme “Nature for Water” was celebrated at Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) on 20 March 2018. The event was organized by PCRWR and ECOSF along with its other supporting partners i.e., ICIMOD, ECOSF, CCRD, UNESCO and Riphah International University. The event provided a platform for exchange of experiences and initiated a dialogue to address water related challenges, issues and its significance on our lives.



A panel discussion of the experts was also conducted who sensitized the importance of water through a healthy debate. Engr. Khalil Raza, Science Officer of ECOSF also took part in the panel discussion on behalf of ECOSF. Mr. Khalil emphasized the importance of science education, especially the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) and its applications to address one of the most complex global challenges, including water crisis. The 21st century challenges, such as climate change, water crisis, energy and food security all are scientific in nature. If the general public is not equipped well enough to deal with scientific ideas and the underlying scientific principles, it will be nearly impossible to respond to these challenges, he added. He underscored that ECOSF is committed to promote science education at the grass root level through its different programmes to educate the children about the seriousness of the matter and take remedial measures to mitigate the possible threat of water scarcity in the future.

During the event, a poster competition related to the theme was also arranged among the students to create awareness among the youth about the water, whereby, the winning teams were awarded with 1st, 2nd and 3rd shields.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/World-Water-Day-2018>

7th Invention to Innovation Summit 2018 at University of the Punjab, Lahore

Punjab University’s Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) in collaboration with Pakistan Science Foundation and Institute of Research Promotion and with the support of various organizations including ECOSF organized 7th Invention to Innovation Summit from March 7 - 8, 2018.

This summit provided a great opportunity to promote research and innovation in Pakistan. The summit was a Research and Development networking event to Academia, Industry and Public Sector for technology identification, exchange and commercialization. The 7th Invention to Innovation summit included various thematic sessions, invited lectures and technology workshops organized by various institutions. The summit also included Exhibition of Products/Technology,



Poster Display, Technology Sessions, Business Plan Competition, Policy workshop, Networking Dinner. Around 100 institutions from all over Pakistan participated to demonstrate their innovative projects at the venue.

The inaugural ceremony was held on March 7, 2018 at Faisal Auditorium, University of Punjab. Prof. Dr. Zakria Zakar, Vice Chancellor, Punjab University opened the summit. While the Vice Chancellor of Government College University Faisalabad Prof Dr Muhammad Ali, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Chief Executive Officer IRP Abid Sherwani and many other representatives of industries, scientific organizations and a large number of students were present and spoke on the occasion.



Punjab University's Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zakria Zakar addressed the audience, called upon the need to strengthen linkages among academia, industry and society. He said that universities are producers and societies are consumers of the knowledge and the gap among the trio would increase our socio-economic problems. He said that Punjab University would play its role for establishing strong link between industry and society. He said that all such research work would be useless and would not contribute to the society for human development if there is no practical use of this research. He said that there is a need to popularize and harness scientific knowledge in our country and innovative ideas must be fertilized at campuses.

President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro congratulated the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zakria Zakar and appreciated the efforts of organizing the 7th Invention to Innovation Summit 2018 successfully. He admired the consortium made to facilitate and by engaging the academia, researchers and industry on national level. On the importance of organizing summit he expressed his views that there is an immense need of organizing this kind of summit to bring out the talent of youth he said that Pakistan has enthusiastic young, active and motivated human resource with innovative ideas and have an aim to serve the country which could be utilized for the development of Pakistan.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/7th-Invention-to-Innovation-Summit-2018>

International Forum on Science Education, Islamabad-Pakistan

The Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, the InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Program (IAP SEP) and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) with the support of Alif Ailan (Pakistan) and Pakistan Alliance of Maths and Science (PAMS) have joined together to organize an International Forum on



Science Education to debate what efforts should be invested to make science advance in response to the expectations of society and to address the challenges posed to human and social development. The Forum will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 9 April, 2018 and would provide an opportunity for the global scientific community interested in the multifaceted world of science education for developing adequate skilled workforce to respond to future challenges and sustainable economic development.

Working Group on Fusion of OBOR Civilizations School Curriculum Design meets in Islamabad-Pakistan

ECOSF and InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) with the support of Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) are organizing the next session of a working group on “Fusion of Civilization Curriculum Design” in Islamabad on 9 -10 April 2018 alongside the International Forum on Science Education.

The idea of development of such a curriculum for school kids is a brain child of Chairman IAP SEP targeted to inculcate peace and harmony through evidence based science education for children in the light of the current conflict and increase in violence in societies, and terrorism resulting in atrocities and displaces persons.

The first session and proof of Concept of Forum on “Fusion of Civilizations” was held in Khartoum Sudan on 6-7 Feb 2017. Subsequently, an International Forum on Science Education was held in Beijing, China on 3-4 July 2017 that was jointly organized by the China Association for Children’s Science Instructors (CACSI), Children and Youth Science Center of CAST (CYSCC) under the auspices of China Association of Science and Technology (CAST), Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology (CSHST), Inter Academy Partnership – Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and ECOSF. The forum in Beijing focused on the theme of “The history of science education along the Belt and Road”. Subsequently, the working party met in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 11-15 Dec 2017 and developed a framework focusing on two themes of Water and Land.

Annual Meeting (2018) of Global Council of InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) in Islamabad- Pakistan

ECOSF, InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Program (IAP SEP) and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) in collaboration with Higher Education Commission are organizing the Annual Meeting (2018) of Global Council of IAP SEP on 10 April 2018 in Islamabad. The meeting of Global Council of IAP SEP is held every year to review the progress and status of implementation of its Science Education programme and to discuss plans for the next year.

A Turkish delegation called upon President ECOSF

A Turkish delegation comprising of Prof. Munir OZTURK Professor of Plant Sciences at Ege University, Ismir Turkey and Prof. Mustafa ERGUN Executive Director of Inter-Islamic S&T Network on Oceanography (INOC) under COMSTECH along with President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Advisor Science COMSTECH Prof. Qasim Jan met President ECOSF in his office and discussed various projects being supported/collaborated by ECOSF in ECO Region. The delegation discussed the strengthening research and development capacity amongst the common member states of COMSTECH and ECOSF. The delegation also looked at some of the modalities of upcoming International Conference on “Understanding of the Problems of the Inland Waters: Special Case of the Caspian Region”. This conference is being supported by COMSTECH and ECOSF, and it is scheduled to take place on May 12-14, 2018 in Baku Azerbaijan.



President ECOSF Elected as the Member of Biosafety Association for Central Asia and the Caucasus (BACAC)

ECOSF is pleased to share that its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro has been elected as the member of Biosafety Association for Central Asia and the Caucasus (BACAC) Committee. It is important to mention here that President ECOSF is also amongst the nominated candidates for the President BACAC Committee for 2018-2020. BACAC was established in 2008 to promote biosecurity and biosafety in the region and provide a forum for sharing of best practices taking into account that biosafety as a global problem. Cooperation between different countries in terms of biosafety/biosecurity, both in individual countries and globally is of utmost importance. BACAC members include more than 100 biosafety and biosecurity experts and specialists from various countries of the region and outside the region, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

Engro Foundation hosted the “I Am The Change” award distribution ceremony in Islamabad

Engro Foundation hosted the “I Am The Change (IATC)” awards ceremony for 2017 recipients in Islamabad on March 6, 2018. IATC looks to empower organizations to make a large and sustainable impact in the social sector of Pakistan by aiding institutions that have joined forces in a relentless pursuit of shaping a better tomorrow, as they strive for change through long-term investments in the two areas of Social Development and Social Enterprise. The recipients in each category were awarded PKR 2 million after jurors’ decision. Event was attended by various development specialists, multilateral organizations, corporate executives and the senior management of the Engro group. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar Assistant Director attended the ceremony.



In the category of Social Development, the award was given to Digital Rights Foundation which focuses on making online spaces more secure and inclusive while at the same time supporting humans rights and improving digital governance. The recipient in the category of Social Enterprise was Daachi Foundation which gives artisans an opportunity to interact with urban customers while at the same time preserving Pakistani art and crafts. The runners up of IATC 2017 were Poverty Eradication Initiative and Health and Rural Development Balochistan for Social Development and Rizq and Tech Valley Abbotabad for Social Enterprise. The organizations were selected by a respected independent jury of social development and business leaders.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/I-Am-The-Change>

Call for Research Papers: Journal of Science and Technology Policy and Management (JSTPM) 2018

The Journal of Science and Technology Policy Management (JSTPM) offers an intense debate on science and technology issues in the hope of influencing the wider community of policy makers and academics. JSTPM provides readers with timely insights on the latest developments and trends in science and technology around the world, especially in emerging economies. With this aim, the journal publishes high quality theoretical and empirical papers that provide a better understanding of the role played by science and technology in the economic growth and well- being of citizens. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro as the Regional Editor of Central and Southwest Asia of JSTPM invites the research papers, calls for submission of papers.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/JSTPM-2018>

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page**5th International Multinational Conference on IC&T at Jamshoro-Pakistan**

Following the success of IMTIC series, 5th International Multi-Topic ICT Conference 2018 (IMTIC'18) will continue its tradition in the Education Hub of Pakistan - Jamshoro. IMTIC'18 is jointly being organized by Mehran University of Engineering & Technology (MUET), Jamshoro, Pakistan, Erasmus Mundus LEADERS and Erasmus+ CAPRIO on April 25-27, 2018. The conference is supported by ECOSF.

IMTIC is an international forum for researchers to exchange the information regarding novel aspects of technology, applications and the development of value added services in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.

IMTIC'18 aims to bring together a wide spectrum of international experts to facilitate a creative environment for the promotion of research collaboration and knowledge transfer. In particular, it will facilitate a dialogue between major industry players, entrepreneurs and academia for creating a road map to mutually solve scientific problems.

The conference program will consist of keynote speakers from both academia and industry, panel discussions and a multi-track technical program. There will be opportunities to attend interactive, high quality, peer reviewed sessions which will provide detailed insights from forward thinkers working on the themes of the conference.

The proceedings of IMTIC'18 conference will be published in IEEE ComSoc - IEEE Explorer (pending approval). Additionally, extended version of selected papers will be published in a special issue of an ISI-indexed and Scopus-indexed journals planned shortly after the conference.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/5th-IMTIC-18>

COMSTECH-PARC-ECOSF Workshop on Plant Genetic Resources and Genebank Operations Management System

A four-day workshop is being organized by COMSGTECH, ECOSF and PARC from 8-11 May 2018 at COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad-Pakistan for participants from OIC member states including ECO countries to engage them in the preservation and management of plant genetic resources. This training would be crucial for conservation of plant genetics resources in various countries currently facing threats from climatic change and genetic erosion to vital crops. The Workshop, to be conducted by experts in this field, would provide hands-on training to participants in handling plant genetic resources and aims to initiate work in the setting up and management of Plant Genebanks.

The workshop is aimed to achieve two main objectives;

1. Raise the capacity of the existing PGRFA conservation and utilization facilities in OIC countries with particular focus on;
 - Current status of plant diversity: its use & preservation
 - Main achievements at the global, regional and national level
 - Key technical and scientific advances
 - Major gaps and needs that require urgent attention
2. Development of projects in consultation with the experts for setting up Gene Banks in the OIC member states.

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

International Conference on Climate Change Education, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

An international Conference on Climate Change Education is being organized by International Science Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the Auspices of UNESCO, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) of Malaysia and UNESCO from 7-9 May 2018 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference is supported by Ministry of Education of Malaysia, ECOSF, La main la pate Foundation of France, Academy of Sciences of Malaysia, InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and Jeffrey Sachs Center, Malaysia

The conference is organized during 10th Anniversary of ISTIC. The anchor event will be the International High-Level Conference on Climate Change Education. Other related events will include, but not limited to:

- IAP SEP/ISTIC/LAMAP Inquiry Based Science Education Training Workshop for IBSE master trainers on Climate Change Education;
- 11th ISTIC Governing Board Meeting
- ISTIC /Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development / UN Women Training Workshop on Technopreneurship for Women in STI
- Annual General Conference of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW)

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/INTERNATIONAL-CONFERENCE-ON-CLIMATE-CHANGE-1>

3rd International Conference on Biosciences (ICBS-2018) From 9-11 May 2018 at GC University Lahore

3rd International Conference on Biosciences (ICBS-2018) with support of ECOSF is being organized by Government College (GC) University, Lahore-Pakistan from 9-11 May 2018 at GC University Lahore. The purpose of the conference is to bring platform to leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about various aspects of biological sciences. It will also provide an interdisciplinary forum for researchers and educators to represent and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, concerns and practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the fields of Botany, Biotechnology, Environmental Sciences, Microbiology and Zoology.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/ICBS-2018>

International conference on Understanding the Problems of Inland Waters: Case Study for Caspian Basin Baku, Azerbaijan

An International Conference as titled "International Conference - Understanding the Problems of Inland Waters: Case Study for the Caspian Basin" will take place in Baku during 12-14 May 2018.

The main purpose of this conference is to increase the exchange of the international scientific cooperation on studies of the Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, and Urmia and Van lakes.

This conference is organised by Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC) and Institute of Geography of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IGAZ) and supported by ECOSF and other international organizations such as COMSTECH, British Petroleum, etc.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Understanding-the-Problems-of-Inland-Waters>

International Conference on “Agriculture Trade and Foreign Investments for Sustainable Regional Integration in Causasus and Central Asia”, September 6-7, 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan

Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms (ISRER) under the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in joint cooperation with the Leibniz Institute of Agriculture Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Germany is going to organize an International Conference on September 6-7, 2017, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Agriculture-Trade-Foreign-Investments>

The 20th National and 8th International Congress on Biology (August 22-24, 2018 at University of Maragheh, Iran)

The 20th National and 8th International Congress on Biology scheduled on August 22-24, 2018 at University of Maragheh with the joint efforts of Iranian Biology Society and University of Maragheh. The congress aims at bringing together scientists, researchers and students to exchange and share their experiences and research results about biological sciences and discuss practical encountered challenges and their solutions.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/International-Congress-on-Biology>

Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

28 March 2018: President of the International Council for the Life Sciences (ICLS) based USA, Mr. Terrence Taylor called upon the President ECOSF Professor Manzoor Soomro and discussed possibility of putting up a joint research and awareness proposal on Leichmenia parasite and its vector Sand-fly in Pakistan and other ECO countries. The two agreed in principle to prepare a joint proposal for international funding.



26 March 2018: Professor Dr. S. M. Qureshi the former Federal Secretary to the Ministry of Science and Technology and Education and Former Vice Chancellor of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) paid a visit to ECOSF and held a meeting with President ECOSF Prof Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro.

Purpose of the visit of Dr. Qureshi was to learn more about ECOSF and its programmes and to seek corporation of ECOSF for their comparative study on the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies of the Founder Members of ECO, viz., Iran, Turkey and Pakistan. Dr. Qureshi is supervising a Ph.D study on the STI Policies of above three countries. Dr. Soomro warmly welcomed the very senior science policy maker and Manager and assured him all possible support from ECOSF.



