



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



Corona Virus - COVID 19: Situation in Numbers for the ECO Member Countries

Country	Total confirmed cases due to COVID-19	Total confirmed deaths due to COVID-19
Afghanistan	15,205	257
Azerbaijan	5,494	63
Iran	151,466	7,797
Kazakhstan	11,308	41
Kyrgyzstan	1,817	16
Pakistan	72,460	1,543
Tajikistan	3,807	47
Turkey	163,942	4,540
Uzbekistan	3,662	15

Date Stamp: June 1, 2020

Source: <https://ourworldindata.org>

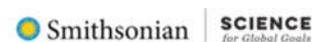
Note: So far, no case has been reported for COVID 19 in Turkmenistan.

COVID-19 – Module/Guide “How can I protect myself and others”

It is our pleasure to share that ECOSF’s collaborator; Smithsonian Science Education Centre (SSEC), USA in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Inter-Academy Science Education Programme (IAP SEP- another partner of ECOSF) has released the SSEC-IAP free guide / module for youth called, “**COVID-19! How can I protect myself and others?**” The goal of this 7-lesson module is to help youth engage directly in hands-on activities that they can do at home with simple materials to help them understand the underlying science (and social science) of COVID-19.

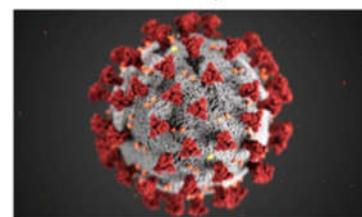
To view the guide, please click the link below:

<http://ecosf.org/uploads/files/Module-Guide%20on%20COVID-19.pdf>



COVID-19!

How Can I Protect Myself and Others?



SUSTAINABLE GOALS



ECOSF collaborated with the Mustafa Science and Technology Network to co-organize the 7th Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP)

ECOSF collaborated with the Mustafa Science and Technology Network to co-organize the virtual summit entitled “Scientific and Technological Collaboration Facing Coronavirus Challenges” during the 7th Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) on May 18 and May 28, 2020. The virtual summit underscored the importance of sharing valuable knowledge, experiences, and achievements during this critical time, and to provide the best possible platform the Coronavirus research and scientific resource during the 7th STEP.

The virtual summit provided an opportunity to the scientists and medical professionals from across the Islamic World to exchange and share the experiences, the achievements and discoveries, technological innovations as well as strategies to address the global challenge of the COVID-19 with effective cooperation and synergy.

During the Summit, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the senior official round table session entitled, “Post-Coronavirus: Policies and Strategies for the second wave of Coronavirus”. In his speech, Prof. Soomro stressed that there is a danger of 2nd wave of COVID-19 as it has happened in the Harbin area of North China and Singapore. If the 2nd wave happens in winter when we usually have flu all around, it can aggravate the situation beyond control of some countries. Prof. Soomro further proposed a two-pronged strategy to avoid and tackle any such situation with immediate focus on development of vaccines and therapeutics, and production and supply of PPEs, and secondly through enhanced Public Education and awareness and strictly following the precautionary SOPs.

Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF also participated in a panel discussion on “Scientific & Technological Networking in Facing the COVID-19 Challenges in the Islamic World”. Mr. Raza underscored that the International collaborations across scientists and experts are a powerful way of bringing evidence and scientific consensus to the attention of policymakers to make informed decisions grounded on evidence-based research. Thus, COVID-19 is really a call for reinforced Scientific Collaboration. At the end, Mr. Raza presented his recommendation with appreciation to MSTN and request to Member Countries to fund and scale up research for medical treatment and vaccine development for COVID-19.

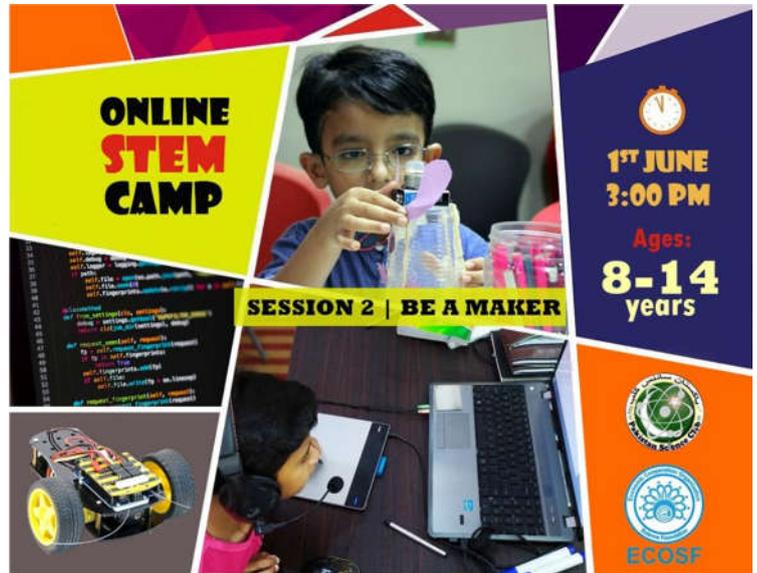
2nd Session of Online STEM Camp

After the overwhelming response by the students/families during 1st Session of Online STEM Camp/Online Family Science Camp held in April 2020, 2nd Session of Online STEM Camp will be held from 1 June 2020. The Camp is jointly organized by ECOSF and Pakistan Science Club (PSC). The Theme of 2nd Session is “Be a Maker”. During this session, students/families will be assigned to make following projects:

- Telescope
- Motor propeller car
- Worm Robot
- Hovercraft
- Air Cooler
- Water pump
- USB table fan

The session will be live on youtube
<https://youtu.be/1p7AcQoJFJw>

For communication and Q&A Google Meeting
[https://meet.google.com/\(forregisterdmembersonly\)](https://meet.google.com/(forregisterdmembersonly)) will be used.



ECOSF in collaboration with IRP organized a webinar on “COVID-19: Impact on Energy and Environment in Pakistan”

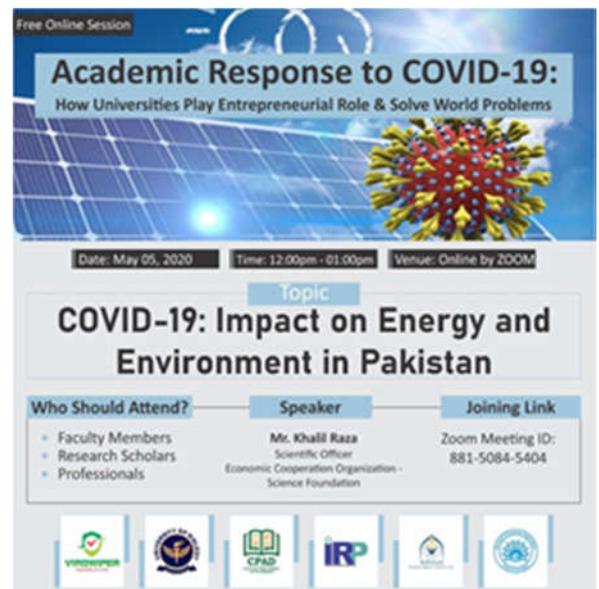
ECOSF in collaboration with Institute of Research Promotion (IRP), University of Sialkot and Riphah Institute of Public Policy and other partners co-hosted a webinar on the “COVID-19: Impact on Energy and Environment in Pakistan” on May 5, 2020. Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF an expert on sustainable energy participated as a speaker on behalf of the Foundation.

Mr. Raza in his talk said that COVID-19 has disrupted the global energy supply and demand. The global pandemic has generated shockwaves with an unprecedented impact on the oil markets and pushed the price to negative region, never seen in the history of the oil market. This is causing extreme turbulence in the market where major oil exporting countries will see devastating impacts. However, the lower oil prices could be beneficial for the net importing economies including Pakistan, he added.

Mr. Khalil Raza also shared that COVID-19 has suppressed the electricity demand by roughly 25-30% in Pakistan during the lockdown. Although, this is a temporary effect and might see increase in demand if lockdown is lifted and increasing cooling load in the summer season in the country, he said.

Mr. Khalil also provided insight on improved air quality due to lower vehicular and industrial emission during the lockdown. This is again a temporary effect and will be back to normal if lockdown is lifted in the country. He called for policy measures to reduce the impact of emissions to address the environmental and climate change issues. Later Mr. Kamil Qudus an energy expert also joined the webinar and he presented his analysis on the subject. At the end, participants were given an opportunity for Q&A and discussion.

The webinar can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/irpresearch/videos/266955797768321/>



President ECOSF participated as an invited speaker in the webinar “Science to Enable and Empower Asia Pacific for COVID-19 response” organized by the UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific



Science to Enable and Empower Asia Pacific for COVID 19 response, a special webinar was held by UNESCO Jakarta Office supported by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) and Malaysia Funds-in-Trust (MFIT) on Tuesday, 19 May 2020, via video conferencing, in order to take stock of the impact of the pandemic on UNESCO’s regional science networks, and to discuss on how to respond to the challenges. Registered participants were 1,627 from across 24 countries.

The webinar was officiated by Prof. Yasuto Tachikawa, representing Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, Mr. Mohammad Sanusi Abdul Karim, Secretary-General of Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO and Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Office in Jakarta and Regional Bureau for Science. On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated as an invited speaker in the webinar.

In his remarks, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro underscored that the COVID-19 has exposed the fragile limits of healthcare facilities and infrastructures around the world. Prof. Soomro shared the status of healthcare and ICT infrastructure in the 10 ECO Member Countries and their response during this pandemic. He further underlined that the COVID-19 pandemic requires decisive and swift actions to respond to this overwhelming challenge. He urged the Member Countries to increase the budget allocations for the health and science sectors and make significant investments in Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation and Science Education in order to build the human and institutional capacities.

The discussion was held around Youth in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Innovation (SETI) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); Open Science, Technopreneurship and Science Communication; Water and Environmental Sciences and UNESCO’s site-based networks. Colleagues from 11 UNESCO Offices and HQ SC sector also presented their views and future directions in response to the ideas shared by stakeholders.

The main output of the webinar is the “Asia Pacific Statement of Action” by the UNESCO Science Family in Asia and the Pacific in Response to COVID-19 Challenges. These set of recommendations reaffirm that UNESCO alongwith its partners including the ECOSF and its science networks will work collaboratively to mobilize scientific research and innovation across Asia and the Pacific.

The webinar can be accessed at https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1585510561649754&ref=watch_permalink

ECOSF joined the Webinar entitled, “COVID-19 Epidemiology, Evidence Based Policy and Prospects for Vaccine” arranged by COMSTECH-ICCBS

A webinar entitled, “COVID-19 Epidemiology, Evidence Based Policy and Prospects for Vaccine” was arranged by the COMSTECH on May 6, 2020. A large number of doctors, scientists, educationists, health personnel and senior managers attended the online seminar. Prof. Manzoor Soomro President ECOSF was also among the participants and contributed in the discussions.

Prof. Iqbal Chaudhry, Coordinator General of COMSECH and Director ICCBS of the University of Karachi Pakistan opened the webinar and welcomed all the online participants. He also thanked the sole speaker of the webinar Dr. Saad Omer of Yale Institute of Global Health, Yale-USA for a presentation on the topic. Prof. Chaudhry hoped that the presentation would benefit the Muslim Ummah and humanity at large.

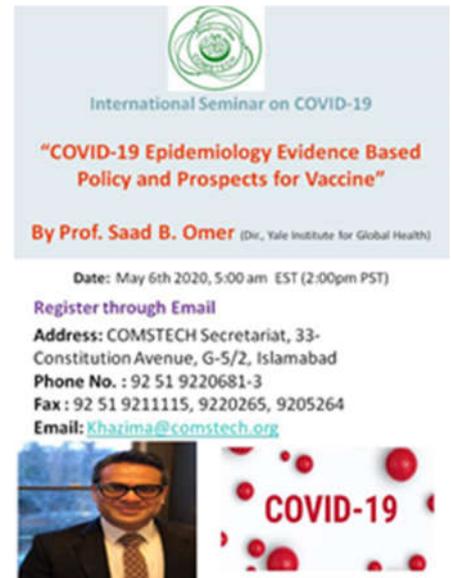
Dr. Saad Omer in his presentation shared that the novel corona virus is not first pandemic which the world is facing currently but in the past more deadly pandemics have been faced by the world, such as Plague, Spanish Flu, Measles, SARS, etc. He further said that after the outbreak of SARS COV-2 (COVID-19) in China in Dec 2019, currently USA has become the epicenter of the virus, followed by Europe. More than 3.5 million people have been affected world over which tells us how much the world system is fragile.

He also shared that the rate for infectious from primary cases to secondary is about 2 to 3 persons in COVID-19 whereas Measles had the rate of 15 persons, means more deadly and dangerous than COVID-19.

In his presentation, Dr. Omer also said that we continue to learn from the virus every day and every week. If we have a gap to assimilate the ability to emerging information and policy making, we make bad decisions and if we empower the scientists to devise the policy and make decisions, we can lessen the gap and take better decisions, said Dr. Omer. There should not be false assurance and a clear policy should be followed. The spread of scientific and public misinformation is common in the era of pandemics so we have to safeguard and minimize the misinformation, so that we can reduce the risks. He also opined that dealing with any pandemic, needs to be pre-emptive; otherwise the damages become uncontrolled.

Dr. Omer further said that for dealing COVID-19, extensive testing should be done, house hold transmission should be reduced, social distancing be maintained and additional treatment options be utilized to enhance the immunity of people.

Dr. Saad also defined the vaccine and its development processes in detail and said that it has various stages such as; pathogen identification & isolation, candidate design, animal testing, approval of the vaccine by drug regulators and then trials of vaccine on humans. The whole process is complex and needs extensive care otherwise the results can be inversed.



UN-DESA Webinar- “Strengthening Science and Technology and Addressing Inequalities in the COVID-19 era”, ECOSF also participated

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) organized a webinar on “Strengthening Science and Technology and Addressing Inequalities in the COVID-19 era” on May 06, 2020. The webinar discussed as to how effective scientific partnerships and collaborations could be catalysed and scaled up in the COVID-19 era to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar was moderated from New York- USA and participated by a number of scientists, researchers, government officials, private sector and development practitioners across the world.

The wide range of speakers and experts laid out new and innovative partnership opportunities to curb the pandemic, safeguard business, and accelerate global research and innovation. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Scientific Officer Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the webinar.

Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA made her welcoming remarks. H.E. Ms. Spatolisano called for practical joint efforts by international development partners and the governments around the world to deliver on the ground solutions to suppress COVID-19 transmission and save lives. Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano was later joined by Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the United Nations 75th Anniversary. Mr. Hochschild-Drummond emphasized over the need to increase the internet and broadband connectivity in the marginalized communities during the pandemic.



Later, Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee, Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA, and Mr. Deniz Susar, Governance and Public Administration Officer, Digital Government Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA delivered their talks. The webinar presented a set of recommendations, drawing upon the emerging response to the pandemic. Each of these recommendations is critical to recovery from the pandemic, as also strengthening the contributions of science towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The recommendations are listed below:

1. Strengthen national capacities for science-based decision making across all countries
2. Enhance public trust in science
3. Share knowledge and data to promote collaborative research
4. Ensure universal access to solutions
5. Act with greater urgency on global scientific assessments

UNESCO-PAS Webinar on “COVID-19 and OPEN Science” joined by ECOSF

A webinar on “COVID-19 and Open Science” was jointly organized by the UNESCO Pakistan and Pakistan Academy of Sciences on May 11, 2020. The webinar provided a platform to exchange ideas and experiences on potential benefits of open science that could help global community to provide evidence-based decision-making and how Pakistan can take benefit from the Open Science. Prof. Zabta Khan Shinwari the UNESCO Vice Chair for World Commission on Ethics of Science and Technology (COMEST) and member of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) moderated the webinar discussion. On behalf of the ECOSF, the President along with his team members; Mr. Khalil Raza and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar participated in the webinar.

WEBINAR ON COVID 19 AND OPEN SCIENCE

Monday, 11 May 2020 at 10.00 am (Pakistan Standard Time)

The webinar will provide a platform for dialogue and share experiences and lessons learnt on how science has informed evidence-based decision-making and how Pakistan can take benefit from open science

PANELISTS

- Patricia McPhillips
Representative Director
UNESCO Islamabad
- Prof Qasim Jan
President
Pakistan Academy of
Sciences
- Prof Tariq Banuri
Chairman
Higher Education
Commission
- Dr Shahbaz Khan
Director
UNESCO Jakarta,
Regional Science Bureau
for Asia and the Pacific
- Maj Gen Aamer Iqbal
Executive Director
National Institute of
Health, President
Biological Safety
Association
- Prof Zubia Shinoori
Vice Chair
World Commission on
Ethics of Science
Knowledge and
Technology
- Prof Saeed Khan
Focal Person
COVID-19,
Dow University of
Health Sciences

Ms. Patricia McPhillips Director UNESCO Islamabad in her opening remarks assured that UNESCO remains an active player in promoting science as a public good and the foundation to fight against the current pandemic. Ms. McPhillips also shared that UNESCO held its 40th session of UNESCO’s General Conference with participation of 193 Members States for the development of an international standard-setting instrument on Open Science. This instrument on Open Science relies on an inclusive, transparent and consultative process involving all countries and all stakeholders, she said.

Prof. Qasim Jan President PAS in his remarks underscored the significance of Open Science to fight against the COVID-19. Prof. Jan shared that the PAS can play its role as central platform for open science to Pakistani scientific community, and he welcomed recommendations to solidify this initiative. He further called for global collaboration and sharing of scientific data for evidence-based decision-making during the pandemic.

Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in his remarks underlined that access to knowledge and science with international collaboration is critical for the sustainable development. He further shared that HEC being a publicly funded organization provides an open access to knowledge, research and data. He concluded that open access is an important to achieve an inclusive society and efforts must be undertaken to reduce the digital divide in the country.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan Director UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia Pacific in Jakarta underscored that concrete measures on Open Access and Open Data to bring citizens closer to science. Prof. Khan shared a number of initiatives undertaken by the UNESCO towards proposing innovative solutions and contributions towards addressing the COVID-19. He acknowledged the contribution of ECOSF and its President Prof. Soomro towards common objectives of UNESCO and ECOSF.

Maj. Gen. Dr. Aamer Iqbal the Executive Director of National Institute of Health (NIH- Pakistan) shared that Government of Pakistan has prepared the National Action Plan to fight COVID-19. This document is an open document and accessible to all. He concluded that open science is vital for scientific collaborations, especially towards the vaccine or drug development for the corona virus.

Prof. Saeed Khan Focal Person, COVID-19, DOW University of Health Sciences Karachi, highlighted the significance of open science and how it has benefited Pakistan during the initial outbreak of this pandemic. The genomic sequence of this virus led to development of indigenous diagnostic kits in Pakistan. Prof. Khan called for integrated training and resource mobilization to help the young scientists, researcher and health professionals in combating the COVID-19.

At the end, participants were given an opportunity for Q&A and further discussion; wherein ECOSF also contributed.

ECOSF participated in a webinar on “Aid, Development and the Lessons of History: Urban Reconstruction under Ayub Khan”

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) organized a webinar on “Aid, Development and the Lessons of History: Urban Reconstruction under Ayub Khan” on May 7, 2020. Dr. Markus Daechsel, Reader of History at Royal Holloway College, University of London was the main speaker in the webinar, which was moderated by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor PIDE. President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro also participated in the webinar.

The webinar discussion mainly centered around the way Pakistan became so dependent on foreign consultants and that the trend seems to be growing upwards in the developing world. Dr. Daechsel drew some pertinent conclusions about the inevitability of international development and the value of aid and explained which lessons should not be taken from the development history.



During the Q&A session, President ECOSF Prof. Soomro raised a question to the speaker as to how important is the inclusion of History including development history in the curricula of schools and universities especially in Science and Technology or Engineering, for sustainable development and societies? Dr. Daechsel responded that it is very important to teach history but one needs to be cautious to avoid miscommunication or misunderstanding by the scientific community for they may over-push their theories.

Webinar can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lhkj7Cw-mM&feature=youtu.be>

Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN) meets virtually- Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro relinquishes the responsibilities of President PSN

The newly elected Executive Council of Pakistan Society of Nematology (PSN) met online on 16 May 2020.

The elections of PSN were held in March 2020 but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the newly elected officers could not have formal meeting; therefore, an online meeting was organized and chaired by the newly elected President of PSN Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar and moderated by the newly elected Secretary General Dr. A. Mubeen Lodhi.

At the outset condolence prayers (Dua-e-Maghfirat) were offered for the departed soul of former Secretary General PSN, Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz who passed away earlier during the year.

Afterwards the out-going President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited for opening remarks. Prof Soomro congratulated the newly elected body of PSN and acknowledged the historical contributions of Dr. Shahina Fayyaz in the field of Nematology in Pakistan, who had been the Director of National Nematological Research Center at University of Karachi and the Managing Editor of Pakistan Journal of Nematology (PJM).

Subsequently the meeting agenda was taken up and following decisions were made with consensus.

- Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was requested to be the Patron -in-Chief of PSN and Editor -in-Chief of Pakistan Journal of Nematology as well as the Counsellor of International Federation of Nematological Societies (IFNS).
- Prof. Dr. Saleem Shahzad of the University of Karachi will replace Dr. Shahina Fayyaz as the Managing Editor of PJM.
- A PSN Endorsement/Trust Fund would be established with voluntary funds from PSN members, well-wishers and philanthropists for promotion of the Science of Nematology in Pakistan. To start with the participants of meeting pledged one-time contribution of at least Rs.10,000. Prof. Soomro pledged Rs.100,000 for the PSN Fund.
- A Gold Medal in the name of Dr. Shahina Fayyaz along with certificate and cash to be awarded every year to the best young Nematologist of up to the 40 years of age.

UNESCO and U-INSPIRE Alliance Shared Practical Experience of Asia and the Pacific Youth and Young Professionals activities on COVID-19

A webinar on Youth and Young Professionals engagement on COVID-19 was organized on May 15, 2020 which brought together 186 participants to learn of practical experience and good practices of 12 Youth and Young Professionals in Asia and the Pacific in addressing the global disaster of COVID-19. The Regional Science Bureau for Asia and The Pacific, UNESCO Office Jakarta, jointly with the U-INSPIRE Alliance organized the webinar.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan Director and Representatives UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Jakarta made welcome remarks and highlighted the need to nurture a culture of innovation. The ongoing activities and science-based solutions explored and implemented by youth and young Professionals and participants from diverse SETI backgrounds during this pandemic should represent the lessons learnt and show how we can work together under difficult situations.

Mrs. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director General of Natural Sciences Remarks, UNESCO underscored that the youth are crucial to the mandate of UNESCO to bring education, science, culture and communication to all people of the world. She stressed on the need to reflect on measuring how we can be better prepared using science, technology and innovation for better data collection and gathering, information sharing, identify the risk and develop risk scenarios, and make plan and implement the plan to cope against the risk of pandemic in the future.

The webinar shared 12 presentations of youth and young professionals’ engagement in COVID-19 in the area of: Risk Communication and Community Awareness; Sharing information & empowering youth; Research and Studies; Assessment and Monitoring Tools; Creative Innovations; and Localized on the Ground Actions. On behalf of ECOSF its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and along with his team participated in the webinar.



Turkey’s Public Diplomacy Activities in Kyrgyzstan

Courtesy of Eurasian Research Institute, Kazakhstan.

Public diplomacy methods are becoming increasingly important for states to achieve their goals in line with their foreign policy agendas and strategies. Over the last 10 years, Turkey has also made considerable strides in its international relations, establishing new institutions and restructuring pre-existing ones. In this regard, Turkey’s public diplomacy activities towards becoming a regional power began in 1992 through the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA). After the establishment of Turkey’s Office of Public Diplomacy in 2010, the activities evolved within a certain method and system.

Today Turkey implements an effective public diplomacy policy towards the public opinion of other countries through various institutions such as the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation, the Directorate of Religious Affairs, the Yunus Emre Institute, the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), and Turkish Airlines. Turkey’s foreign expansion process that began in the 1990s and multilateral active foreign policy trends have revealed the need to strengthen social and cultural ties, particularly with the Balkans and the Turkic Re-publics.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Turkic Republics in Central Asia gained their independence, which allowed Turkey to initiate public diplomacy activities towards the countries in the region un-der the leadership of TIKA. This article will examine Turkey’s public diplomacy in Kyrgyzstan among the Central Asian countries where Kyrgyzstan has an appropriate infra-structure for some regional and global powers to apply soft power.

Read more:

<https://eurasian-research.org/web/publications/Weekly-e-bulletin-20-01-2020-26-01-2020-No-243.pdf?1581679679>

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page**International Webinar: Locust invasion - Challenges and the Future of Food and Agriculture on June 1, 2020**

At this time many countries are battling the challenges of locusts surveillance and control operations. The worst locust outbreak in decades has devastated the agriculture crops and pastures. The country is still recovering from drought and havoc flooding. This latest blow could lead to "major food security issues.

YPARD Pakistan and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) with the collaboration of other co-organizing partners called an online forum to discuss the current situation. This webinar was part of the series of webinars that are being conducted for the locust in curbing challenges for Food Security in the region.

<http://ecosf.org/Locust-invasion>

International Biological Diversity Day 2020

Webinar on International Biological Diversity Day 2020 "Nature for Life Solutions" organised by the PMAS Agriculture University Rawalpindi at 10:15 AM on June 3, 2020. President ECOSF Prof. Dr Manzoor Hussain Soomro joined as one of distinguished speakers in the webinar.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1337028336498729&set=a.181180128750228>

IPBES Call for Nominations: Workshop on Biodiversity and Pandemics

Considering the extraordinary situation caused by the novel Coronavirus and given the role, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has announced the Call for nominations of scientists/experts to participate in "The Workshop on Biodiversity and Pandemics" to be held from 27-31 July 2020 virtually.

The workshop will be held as a "Platform Workshop" in accordance with IPBES procedures. It will review evidence regarding the origin of infectious diseases transmitted from wild animals, the relationship between pandemics and biodiversity, in particular the drivers of pandemics and options for action related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, in the context of the current crisis and the prevention of future outbreaks.

For more details, please click on the link: <https://bit.ly/3faQHza>

Nominations for the World Academy of Science (TWAS) Awards to Scientists/Researchers

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) has announced a number of awards in various fields for the scientists / researchers of Developing Countries. Applications are still open for the following two awards:

- TWAS - Mohammad A. Hamdan Award in Mathematical Work
- TWAS-Samira Omar Innovation for Sustainability Award

For more details, please visit: <http://ecosf.org/TWAS-AWARDS-TO-SCIENTISTS-RESEARCHERS>