



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## The 2018 Pujiang Innovation Forum held in Shanghai, China, President ECOSF joined as an Invited Speaker

The Pujiang Innovation Forum 2018 under the theme of “Innovation-Driven Development and Supply-Side Structural Reform in a New Age” was organized by Ministry of Science and Technology and Shanghai Municipal People’s Government in Shanghai, China on 30-31 October, 2018. The Forum provided a platform and a great opportunity for the exchange of ideas on innovation and the guiding role of science and technology for the sustainable development.

The Forum’s opening was chaired by **Mr. XU Guanhua**, the President of Pujiang Innovation Forum and opened by **H.E Mr. LI Qiang**, Secretary of Shanghai Municipal Committee of the CPC. While the Chief Guest was **H.E Mr. WANG Zhigang**, the Minister of Science of Technology of Peoples Republic of China and Secretary of CPC Leading Group.

The Forum was a great success as it discussed various means and ways to implement the strategy of innovation-driven development, promote the application of new technologies and facilitate industrial transformation. It is pertinent to mention that in Pujiang Innovation Forum 2018, Portugal was the Country of Honor and South China’s Guangdong Province was the Province of Honor. The Forum attracted over 3000 participants and around 150 renowned foreign figures, top experts and scholars in the fields of science and technology, finance and industries who delivered their speeches in various sessions.

**President ECOSF Prof Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro** participated in the event as an invited speaker in the Sub-forum entitled; “The Belt and Road Innovation Community: Theory and Practice”. In his presentation entitled; “**ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)- Unleashing the Opportunities and Advantages under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to boost Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in ECO Region and beyond**”. Prof. Soomro shared the ECOSF experiences and proposed how to effectively utilize the ECOSF platform to synergize strengths of China and ECO Countries who are also part of BRI. This synergy will ensure rapid growth and achieve the Belt and Road development goals, he added. Prof. Soomro underlined that ECO region with its 10



Member Countries, holds great potential and significance as an important gateway to connect China with the Middle East, South West Asia and Europe and beyond.

Prof. Soomro enlightened the significance and connectivity of Belt and Road in ECO Region. Due to belt and road initiatives, there is a tremendous potential to develop Scientific and Technological cooperation with countries along the Belt & Road, in various key fields such as Agriculture, ICT, Environmental protection, Sustainable policies for ST development, and Innovation management.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Pujiang-Innovation-Forum>

**Government of Sindh keen to improve the Content and Quality of Education in Schools with collaboration of ECOSF and PAMS**

The Secretary to Government of Sindh Province, Pakistan for “School Education and Literacy Department” Mr. Qazi Shahid Pervez, in a meeting on October 15, 2018 with the President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and CEO Pak Alliance for Math and Science (PAMS) Mr. Salman Naveed Khan showed keenness to improve the content and quality of school education in Sindh Province. The Secretary welcomed the visiting officials in the meeting and emphasized on the need for quality STEM education in Government Schools of Sindh using the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methodology. In this respect, the Secretary sought assistance of Pak Alliance for Math and Science (PAMS) and ECOSF.



On the occasion, the CEO PAMS made a presentation on the legacy of PAMS and its initiator Alif-Ailaan campaign for quality education especially Math and Science. Mr. Salman Khan informed the Secretary about a number of Science Fairs and Competitions among school students of Sindh held recently and proposed a project for expanding and popularizing the activity on behalf and support of Government of Sindh.



President ECOSF Prof. Soomro elaborated on the methodology of IBSE for STEM education and emphasized on the importance of S&T based economic development and the role played by School Teachers. He also stressed upon the need for grooming the teacher trainers through Provincial Institute of Teacher Education (PITE). He further said that the ECOSF in 2016 had trained 3 instructors from PITE Sindh in a workshop on IBSE in Islamabad that was led by the French Trainers and would be appreciated if the PITE Sindh in collaboration with ECOSF and PAMS organizes an exclusive workshop for teacher trainers of Sindh as well as for Head Teachers of Sindh.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Content-and-Quality-of-Education>

**The Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Mehdi Honardoost assures maximum possible support to ECOSF**

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro made a courtesy call upon the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Mehdi Honardoost on 12 October 2018 at the Iranian Embassy in Islamabad.



The Ambassador warmly welcomed the President ECOSF. The President ECOSF presented Annual Report – 2017 of the Foundation to the Ambassador and updated him about the activities of the Foundation for promotion of science, technology and innovation in ECO region. He also appreciated support and cooperation of Iran. The participation/contribution of Iranian scientists, experts, engineers, teachers and students in various programmes of the Foundation is highly appreciable, said Prof. Soomro. President ECOSF shared that the joining of an Iranian experts from University of Isfahan as an Executive Director which is the second highest position in the Foundation is under process and hopefully, very soon, he will be part of ECOSF team.

President ECOSF further said that since its establishment, ECOSF has developed strong working collaborations with international and regional organizations and development partners, such as UNESCO, Islamic Development Bank, International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), Malaysia, La main la pate Foundation of France, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and its Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC), Korea Institute of Science & Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), Turkic World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization (TWESCO), Astana, Federation of Engineering Institutes of Asia and the Pacific (FIEAP) Malaysia, IRIS at the Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) and many other international organizations. This provides the opportunity to the Foundation to nominate and help participation of scientist community and other relevant experts, engineers from its Member States to a variety of important events organized by those organizations.

H.E. Mr. Honardoost highly appreciated the activities of ECOSF and said that ECOSF is bridging gaps in ECO region and provides the platform to the scientist community of the region to interact vibrantly and develop collaboration among institutions/organizations. He also assured greater interaction of his Embassy with the Foundation and advised his team accordingly.

**H.E. Mr. Yurdakul, the Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan appreciates the initiatives of ECO Science Foundation**

The Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul appreciated the role of ECOSF for promoting Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) in ECO region. He also applauded ECOSF for providing the platform to the scientific community of the region for sharing knowledge and for developing collaboration. He made these remarks during a Courtesy Call upon him by President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro on 22 October 2018 at Embassy of Turkey in Islamabad. Earlier, the Ambassador warmly welcomed President ECOSF at his office and shared special bounds with Pakistan.



Prof. Soomro gave an introduction of specialized agencies of ECO and the process of establishment of ECOSF in Islamabad in December 2011. He further mentioned that the ECOSF is a sister

organization of ECO Educational Institute based in Ankara, Turkey. President ECOSF shared with Ambassador the programmes and activities of the Foundation for promotion STI in the region including the research project funding, Travel Grants for researchers and implementation of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in ECO region of la main a la pate Foundation (LAMAP), ISTIC Malaysia and IAP SEP.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Ambassador-of-Turkey-to-Pakistan>

### President ECOSF made a courtesy Call on the Ambassador of Turkmenistan



The Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov acknowledged ECOSF efforts for providing the platform to the scientific community of the ECO region for sharing knowledge and development in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). He made these remarks during a meeting between him and the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro on 26 October 2018 at Embassy of Turkmenistan in Islamabad. Earlier, the Ambassador warmly welcomed President ECOSF at his office.

Prof. Soomro while briefing and updating the Ambassador shared the programmes and activities of the Foundation for promotion of STI in the region including the research project funding, Travel Grants for researchers and implementation of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in ECO region with the support of the Foundation's partners La main a la pate Foundation (LAMAP) of France, ISTIC Malaysia and IAP SEP. He also briefed the Ambassador about Digital @ B&R

Double Hundred Universities Cooperation Program of AETDEW & DCHUP and requested him to support in identifying two ICT universities from Turkmenistan.

President ECOSF also informed the Ambassador that the Foundation has developed strong collaboration with international and regional organizations and development partners, such as UNESCO, Islamic Development Bank, International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), Malaysia, La main a la pate Foundation of France, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and its Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC), Korea Institute of Science & Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), Turkic World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization (TWESCO), Astana and many other organizations.

During the meeting, the payment of Annual Mandatory Contribution as main agenda item came under discussion. President ECOSF requested the Ambassador to support and pursue the matters pertaining to ECOSF with authorities in Turkmenistan.

The Ambassador assured his support to pursue the concerned authorities in Ashgabat to resolve the matters pertaining to Annual Mandatory Contribution to ECOSF by Turkmenistan, fresh Nomination of Eminent Scientist / focal points and identifying two universities for Digital @ B&R Double Hundred Universities Cooperation Program . H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov thanked the President for visiting the Embassy and updating him on recent activities of the Foundation.

### Entrepreneurs' Show 2018 held at the COMSATS University Islamabad Pakistan, President ECOSF was a Keynote Speaker

CODE International's Pakistan Chapter CODE-ENC Pvt Ltd in collaboration with Students Startup Business Center (SSBC) of COMSATS University Islamabad organized an International Techno-Entrepreneurship event entitled "Entrepreneurs' Show 2018" at COMSATS University Islamabad on 10th October 2018. A number of student teams participated in this show where they presented their tech-entrepreneurial ideas and business plans. This event was part of Karafarin Shows which are being organized

in Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and it is a growing network of Techno-Entrepreneurs to promote Technopreneurship in the ECO region. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was especially invited as a Keynote Speaker in the inaugural session of the show.



Mr. M. M. Zamani, the first Counselor of Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad was the Guest of Honour of the Event. Mr. Zamani congratulated the COMSATS University and CODE International for organizing this important show. He emphasized over the need to impart practical skills and business techniques to young students. Mr. Zamani said that Iran and Pakistan have tremendous potential and events like these should be encouraged to strengthen cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. Youth is our biggest asset and we need to provide them the right kind opportunities so that they can contribute to the economy of this region, he added.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro delivered his keynote address and stressed over young students to translate technology into innovative businesses and become job creators, as opposed to job seekers. Prof. Soomro stressed over the need for educated and skilled workers to generate new innovative businesses in the ECO region. There is a very important role for young technopreneurs to spark economic development for starting new businesses, creating jobs, and contributing to the goals such as sustainable development and inclusive growth, he added.



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

**Symposium on “STEM Education in Pakistan” during the 15<sup>th</sup> HONET-ICT International Conference at SECS-NUST, Islamabad- Pakistan**

A symposium on “STEM Education in Pakistan” was organized on 9 Oct 2018 during the 15<sup>th</sup> HONET-ICT International Conference entitled; “Symposium on ICT in Education”, 8-9 October 2018 by the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (SECS) of National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Islamabad.

Ms. Nishat Riaz, Director Education British Council Pakistan delivered her keynote address, wherein she emphasized on the significance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in schools and universities for sustainable development in Pakistan. She also highlighted the importance of STEM education for women especially in Pakistan for inclusive growth. Other speakers included; Ms. Nida Athar CEO of STEM School and Pakistan Innovation Foundation, Mr. Shamy Bin Mansoor the CTO Learn-o-Bots and Ms. Manzil-e-Maqsood, Assistant Professor SECS; who spoke about their contributions and experiences of non-formal STEM education of Pakistani youth.



President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the conference and shared the significance of STEM education for economic development in Pakistan and beyond. Prof. Soomro stressed over the importance of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methodologies in STEM education.

A large number of participants including academicians, teacher trainers and students attended the symposium which generated a lengthy discussion on various aspects of learning STEM.

### Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

October 19, 2018: Vice Chancellor Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU) Prof. Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui and Meritorious Professor & Dear of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro Dr. Bhawani Shankar Choudhary visited ECOSF and held meeting with the President ECOSF. It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF has been supporting Inquiry Based Science Education in Schools/Colleges of SIBAU which was greatly appreciated by the VC.



11 October 2018: Dr. Mohammad Irfan Maqsood CEO Code International, Dr. Monireh Bahrami Director ScienceTech+ from Iran and Dr. Zarrin Rizvi Director ORIC GC Women University Sialkot called on President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and discussed promotion of Technopreneurship in the region



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

#### Persian Gulf University winter school 2019

The international program titled "winter school for students and fresh graduates of process and petroleum engineering" on 4-13 February 2019 in Persian Gulf University (PGU). The objectives of this program include, but not limited to getting introduced to novel techniques and technologies in process and petroleum engineering, potentials, activities, capabilities and scientific achievements in PGU, visiting selected giant gas and petrochemical plants in Iran, as well as cultural tours to historic cities of

Bushehr and Shiraz. This program is planned for international students and fresh graduates of chemical, process, and petroleum engineering. The cost of program is 500 Euros paid by cash upon arrival in Bushehr and includes registration, accommodation, food, course materials, central laboratory, Shiraz and Bushehr city tours, entrance tickets for historic and cultural places, and transport inside Iran (Bushehr, Assaluyeh, Jam, and Shiraz). However, it does not include the visa and flight costs. For more information, please see the enclosed poster.

<http://eco4science.org/PGU-winter-school-2019>

#### **Call for nominations of experts – assessment of invasive alien species**

ECOSF is an accredited Observer/Stakeholder of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) which entitles to nominate experts for various IPBES programmes. IPBES is a UN Scientific Organization with its secretariat in Bonn Germany meant for assessment of scientific facts & policies regarding biodiversity and ecosystem service.

The Plenary, at its sixth session held from 18 to 24 March 2018 in Medellin, Colombia, approved in decision IPBES-6/1 the undertaking of a thematic assessment of invasive alien species. The assessment will commence following IPBES 7 and will be considered by the Plenary at IPBES 10.

In line with the agreed procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel would like to formally invite Governments and stakeholders to nominate experts for the assessment of invasive alien species.

All Governments and relevant organizations or institutions are encouraged to submit nominations. Nominations may also be submitted by organizations or institutions, regardless of whether they are admitted to the Plenary of IPBES as an observer.

<http://eco4science.org/assessment-of-invasive-alien-species>

#### **The Yidan Prize Announces Laureates 2018**

The Yidan Prize, the world's largest prize in education, announces its 2018 laureates. Larry V. HEDGES has been awarded the Yidan Prize for Education Research for his ground-breaking statistical methods for meta-analysis, while Anant AGARWAL has been granted the Yidan Prize for Education Development for making education more accessible to people around the world via the innovative edX open-source online platform. In recognition and support of their groundbreaking work, each of the laureates will receive HK\$30 million (approximately US\$3.87 million), representing a combined award of HK\$60 million (approximately US\$7.74 million).

It was founded in 2016 by Dr Charles CHEN Yidan, the Yidan Prize has a mission to create a better world through education. Through a series of initiatives – research, events and multimedia content – alongside the annual award, the prize serves to establish a platform that allows the global community to engage in conversation around education and to play a role in education philanthropy.

<http://eco4science.org/Yidan-Prize-1>