



Minister for Science and Technology, Govt. of Pakistan visits ECOSF

His Excellency Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister for Science and Technology (MoST), Government of Pakistan along with the Secretary MoST Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi visited the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) on 9 January 2014. The Minister is also the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

The Minister and the Secretary were warmly welcomed by the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. The President ECOSF briefed the Honourable visitors on the background and establishment of the Foundation as well as its functions. He further highlighted the progress made so far by the Foundation with particular reference

to ratification of ECOSF charter by the member states, the budgetary contributions and the activities done, the collaborations being negotiated and the future plans.

The Minister S&T/Chairman ECOSF BoT appreciated the efforts made by the Foundation so far and expected that the Organization would play its due role in the field of scientific development in ECO region. The options for provision of office accommodation to ECOSF on long term basis were discussed in the meeting. Meanwhile the Minister and the Secretary advised President ECOSF to continue operating from PSF building till the new building of the Ministry is completed. The Minister and Secretary also assured the continuation of full support of Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Science and Technology to ECOSF.



President ECOSF Participated in National Proficiency Testing (PT) Scheme

President ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the launching ceremony of the National Proficiency Testing (PT) Scheme in Pakistan held in Islamabad on Thursday, January 16, 2014 under the European Union-funded Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA-II) Programme, implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in collaboration with International Trade Centre (ITC), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the National Physical and Standards Laboratory (NPSL), Pakistan. Dr. Sania Nishtar, well known scholar and former Minister of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan was the Chief Guest. It may be mentioned that the project has a great implication on trade and the President ECOSF is trying to the main players for support.



Visit of Director UNESCO Pakistan to ECOSF

Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Country Director UNESCO Pakistan called upon the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro at ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) to discuss mutual interests especially the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) and the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) programmes in the ECO region including Pakistan. Prof. Soomro gave Dr. Nagata a brief introduction of ECOSF and its aims objectives.

Both the leaders discussed the areas of mutual Interest in the light of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for scientific cooperation signed between Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and UNESCO in 1995. The two agreed in principle for future cooperation in the field of scientific research, education and development under the aegis of ECO Science Foundation with the technical support of UNESCO institutions and programmes.

The two leaders also discussed the possibility of working on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves between Pakistan and the Bordering ECO Member States as well as any



other cross border scientific, educational and cultural activity.

President ECOSF presides over the 3rd International Conference of Pakistan Phytopathological Society

An International Conference of Pakistan Phytopathological Society was held at the University of Karachi, Karachi-Pakistan from 23-25 Jan 2014. The theme of the conference was "Climate Change and Plant Diseases; Challenges and Opportunities". The conference was presided over by the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro who is also the President of Pakistan Society of Nematologists; whereas, the special guest and speaker was the President of International Society for Plant Pathology, Dr. Greg Johnson from Australia. In all, 260 papers were presented in the conference; attended by over 200 delegates/plant pathologists from within Pakistan, 11 scientists from other countries including Australia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nigeria participated in the conference. The conference held exclusive sessions on Climate Change & Plant Diseases, Pre & Post Harvest Crop Diseases, and Nematology.

President ECOSF in his presidential address spoke about the importance of research in general and influence of climate change on plant and animal diseases in the context of biodiversity and ecosystem services. He also spoke about the newly established intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem Foundation as an observer member/stakeholder of IPBES. Dr. Soomro elaborated on the working of ECO Science Foundation as well as IPBES and invited the participating experts to contribute towards achieving the objectives of

IPBES through the ECO Science Foundation, keeping in view the fact that ECOSF is an observer member/stakeholder of the panel.

As an invited speaker in the technical session, Prof. Soomro made a presentation on "Innovative Strategies for Development, Role of S & T – Pakistan Scenario". His presentation focused on the prerequisites for innovation and S&T based Economic Development, and shared the reasons of failures of innovative strategies as well as some successful stories. He also highlighted the Government of Pakistan's recent "Science, Technology and Innovation Policy"; which put emphasis on innovation.



He discussed the mechanism of ORICs (Offices of Research, Innovation and Commercialization) established by Higher Education Commission (HEC) in all the Universities in Pakistan and R & D Industry Programme of Pakistan Science Foundation. Finally, he presented a model for Economic Development based on Science, Technology and Innovation, thereby, linking the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE), R&D Organizations, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Industry/Private Sector.

Dr. Soomro concluded that "linking public sector capability with private sector marketability is the way to Public-Private- Partnership (PPP) and commercialization of technology". He considered the "development of human minds and behaviors" leading to just, rational, knowledgeable, innovative and enterprising society as the key interventions; which in turn can happen if the children, at very early stage, are groomed as rational and positive human beings.

On the occasion of closing of the conference, the renowned and celebrated Mycologist/Botanist and former Chief Editor of Pakistan Journal of Botany and Pakistan Journal of Nematology, Senior Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences- Professor Dr. Abdul Ghaffar was honoured with a "Life time Achievement Award". The award was jointly presented to Dr. Ghaffar by Prof. Manzoor Soomro and Prof. Greg Johnson.



Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF participates in the Intel Grand National Science Fair



Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF and Honorary Fair Director participated in the Intel Grand National Fair on 29 January 2014. Every year, the Intel Pakistan organizes Science and Engineering fairs/competitions at Provincial and National levels in Pakistan for secondary school children. The Grand Winners of National Fair are then sent to participate in the International Intel Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) organized by Intel every year in USA. The Federal Secretary Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi was the Chief Guest on the occasion and he along with the Intel Country Manager, Mr. Naveed Siraj gave away the prizes to the winner students.

It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Manzoor Soomro, as a Chairperson, Pakistan Science Foundation had entered in the formal Memorandum of Understanding with Intel Pakistan for holding Science Fairs around the country including the Grand National Fair. He continues to patronize the school scientific research activity.

The Winners of Intel Grand National Fair will now be participating in the International Science Education Fair (ISEF) to be held at Los Angeles-USA in May 2014.

Presidents of ECO Science Foundation and EvK2CNR agree to collaborate in Mountain Research

EvK2CNR Foundation President Mr. Agostino Da Polenza, their Scientific Adviser Dr. Ashiq Ahmad Khan along with their team, called upon the President of ECO Science Foundation on 31 Jan to discuss collaboration between the two organizations, in continuation of an earlier meeting of Mr. Khan with Prof. Soomro. The President ECOSF, Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro warmly welcomed the EvK2CNR team and shared the aims and objectives of ECOSF and about member states of ECO. He also shared with the visitors that ECOSF is working closely with some important institutions including; IPBES Bonn-Germany, ISTIC-UNESCO Malaysia, the ECO Educational Institute Ankara-Turkey as well as ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST) in Tehran-Iran.



The Ev-K2-CNR Committee is an autonomous, non-profit association, which promotes scientific and technological research in mountain areas. The visiting team led by President of EvK2CNR Mr. Agostino proposed to collaborate with ECO Science Foundation in high mountain areas of the ECO region.

After thorough discussion, the two sides agreed in principle to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in scientific research, promotion of Trans-boundary collaboration for conservation, sustainable development and generation of knowledge, education and awareness, using Inquiry based learning approaches, capacity building of stakeholders on subjects related to management of ecologically important sites with focus on National Parks and Biosphere Reserves with particular reference to deliverables of "Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), of which the ECOSF is an observer member/stakeholder [www.ipbes.net].

European Union Deputy Ambassador meets the President ECOSF



The EU Deputy Ambassador H.E. Mr. Pierre Mayaudon called upon the President of Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and discussed areas of mutual interest. Prof. Soomro warmly welcomed the distinguished guest and explained the aims and objectives of ECOSF. He desired interaction with EU HQs in Brussels for seeking their cooperation and support to the newly established Regional Science Foundation for promotion of science, technology and education in the region.

Mr. Mayaudon assured Prof. Soomro to facilitate communication between the EU Headquarters and ECOSF and hoped for positive outcomes. He also shared information on EU's HORIZON-2020 programme for research cooperation and encouraged ECOSF to study the programme and take advantage for scientific collaboration.

It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF is working in partnership with the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia, a UNESCO Category-II Center, the *La main a la pate* Foundation, France, the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) in Ankara, and the "Science Education Programme (SEP)" of the Inter Academy Panel (IAP) on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) at school levels. IAP is a world forum of Academies of Sciences with numerous Nobel Laureates as members.

Talking further about the strengths of ECOSF, Dr. Soomro said that the Regional Foundation has acquired the status of an observer member/stakeholder of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IPBES is a new UN Scientific Organization with its secretariat in Bonn Germany, meant for assessment of scientific facts and policies regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services around the globe and by the virtue of being Stakeholder/Observer Member, ECOSF is nominating experts from the ECO Region for various IPBES tasks/deliverables planned for next five years 2014-2018.

President ECOSF meets the DG UNESCO in Islamabad

The President of ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro had an opportunity to meet with DG UNESCO H.E. Ms. Irina Bokova in the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan at Islamabad. The DG UNESCO was visiting Pakistan as a State Guest from 5-7 February 2014. On 6th February, she held a formal meeting with the Science and Technology Institution Heads in Islamabad under the leadership of Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan and current Chairperson of ECO Science Foundation's Board of Trustees (BoT) H.E Mr. Zahid Hamid. President ECOSF was especially invited in the meeting because of his long scientific and educational interaction with UNESCO. Ms. Bokova was warmly welcomed by the Minister flanked by H.E. Mr. Baligh-ur-Rehman Pakistan's Minister of State for Education, Training and Standards in Higher Education, Prof. Soomro and numerous heads of other organizations. The Minister of S&T/Chairperson ECOSF's BoT briefed the DG UNESCO on the working of the Ministry of S&T, its departments and other Science and Technology institutions based in Pakistan including the ECOSF. There was an honorable mention of ECOSF in the briefing by the Minister with particular reference to the collaborations and contributions developed by Prof. Soomro as Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) during the past almost 4 years. Prof. Soomro especially talked to her about the ECOSF, its aims and objectives and collaborations with ISTIC-UNESCO Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia and *La main a la pate* Foundation, France for implementation of Inquiry Based School Education (IBSE) in the ECO Region.

The Minister particularly highlighted revival of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme in Pakistan as well as UNESCO's support in disaster management, rehabilitation and development of early warning system in Pakistan.

It is pertinent to mention that Dr. Soomro was the team leader and very instrumental in reviving the MAB programme in Pakistan during 2012 which resulted in bringing Pakistan back on the map of world biosphere reserves network with declaration of Ziarat Juniper Forests of Balochistan as biosphere reserves in 2013 by UNESCO and bringing the South and Central Asia MABs Network (SACAM) chair to Pakistan in 2013.

The DG UNESCO on her part thanked the Minister and Government of Pakistan for welcoming her and assured of continuous technical support in the sectors of science, education and culture. Subsequently, the DG called upon the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan where she was conferred upon Pakistan's highest civil award for any



Pakistan's Minister for Science and Technology H.E. Mr. Zahid Hamid briefing the visiting Director General UNESCO H.E. Ms. Irina Bokova, 6 Feb 2014, Islamabad



DG UNESCO, H.E. Ms. Irina Bokova (middle) flanked by Prof. Manzoor Soomro on her right and Director UNESCO-Pakistan Dr. K. K. Nagata on her left, listening to Pakistan's Minister for Science and Technology, H.E. Mr. Zahid Hamid

foreign national, or the "Hilal-e-Pakistan" for her contribution and support to the country.

Later on, she participated and spoke in Youth Forum at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) on a forum on girl's education. Earlier during the day the DG UNESCO signed a MOU with the State Minister of Education for implementation of the "Malala Education Fund" established in UNESCO with the contribution of US\$10 million from the Government of Pakistan; and US\$ 7 million will be spent on girl's education in Pakistan.

Director P & D, PAK-TURK International CAG Educational Foundation calls upon the President ECOSF and proposes collaborative activities



Mr. Turgut Puyan, Director P & D, PAK-TURK International CAG Educational Foundation (Pakistan) called upon Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) on [date]?? and discussed areas of mutual interest and possible collaborative activities between the two institutions:

President ECOSF briefed him about the establishment and programmes of ECOSF, and considering the domain of PAK-TURK institution, he explained in detail the plan for launching of IBSE in ECO Region in collaboration with ECO Education Institute Ankara-Turkey, *La main a la pate* Foundation, Paris- France, International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia, and the Science Education Program of Inter Academy Panel (IAP/SEP).

Mr. Puyan appreciated the initiatives of ECOSF and proposed to work together with ECOSF, not only in Pakistan but also in Turkey and other ECO member states for Science Education at school level with emphasis on inquiry based science education (IBSE) and the Science Olympiads.

The two agreed to join hands in Pak-Turk Program of Inter-School Mathematics Olympiad (ISMO) in the next year and to expand the Inter School Olympiad to other science subjects and to other ECO member states so that the competition could be held at the ECO regional level however, the expansion will be step wise.

President ECOSF Emphasizes on Stronger Linkages among Stakeholders for Sustainable Economic Development in HEC National Conference

The President ECOSF Prof. Soomro emphasized on stronger cooperation and collaboration among the higher education institutions, researchers and development organizations, industry and NGOs/civil society for economic development. He was speaking as a panelist in a national conference on University Advancement entitled "Paradigm Shifts towards Financial Sustainability-Fundraising in HEIs" organized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan at its auditorium on 20th February 2014.

Other speakers included the Chairman HEC, Executive Director HEC, Director IBA Karachi and formal governor State Bank of Pakistan Mr. Ishrat Hussain and a number of chief executives of industries and NGOs.

A large number of VCs / Rectors and representatives of academia, industry and NGOs from across Pakistan were present in the audience. Purpose of the conference was to highlight the role of Higher Education in Economic/Industrial Development and building relationships with the society and generating support for Universities' academic & research programmes as well as infrastructure building. The conference emphasized on engaging stakeholders particularly the industrial sector as well as philanthropists for supporting Higher Education in Pakistan.

President ECOSF on his part stressed upon linking primary education with higher education, R&D organizations and industry for not only sustainable economic development but also for nurturing positive and productive minds for future of the country. He also shared with the audience as to how the ECO Science Foundation is moving to address the matter. Prof Soomro also announced two Scholarships for the talented needy students of Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, which is his "Alma mater".



Secretary General ECO pleased with the Progress of ECO Science Foundation

The President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro called upon the ECO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Shamil Aleskerov in his office on 23 February, 2014 during the ECO's 24th Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting held at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran– Islamic Republic of Iran.

The President ECOSF briefed the Secretary General about ECOSF's ongoing and planned activities and various issues related to the functioning of the Foundation. The Secretary General was also briefed about ECOSF cooperation with ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) and ECO Institute of Environmental Science & Technology (ECO-IEST).



During the meeting, Prof. Soomro mentioned that ECOSF have developed contacts with international science and technology institutions and donors i.e. UNESCO, ISTIC Malaysia, European Union and the La main a la pate Foundation of France for support. He further highlighted the strong commitment and cooperation of ISTIC and La main a la pate Foundation for organization of a capacity building workshop in Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in Turkey in May 2014, wherein the Embassies of France in Islamabad and Ankara have indicated their support.

The Secretary General showed happiness for ECOSF's joint meeting of experts on climate change and biodiversity held in

November 2013 at Islamabad–Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts of Prof. Soomro and said that ECOSF is on the right track. He was of the view that ECOSF should have some flexible programs whereby scientists from member states can spend 1-2 months in other member states under exchange program. The Secretary General also expressed satisfaction over the working together in harmony by ECOSF and ECOEI and for nurturing collaboration with other international institutions / organizations.

The Secretary General advised the President ECOSF to travel to the ECO member countries particularly the Central Asian member states and meet the respective high officials in the Ministers of Science & Technology, Foreign Affairs and Academies of Science to muster support for various actions including ratification of ECOSF Charter, budgetary contributions and scientific cooperation/ collaboration.

At the end, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro presented the Foundation's Plaque and Annual Report–2013 to the Secretary General- Dr. Shamil Aleskerov. In a reciprocal gesture, the Secretary General ECO, presented the ECO Insignia to H.E. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, the President of ECOSF.



ECOSF President visits the ECO Cultural Institute, Tehran

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, the President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) made a visit to ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), at Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 23 February 2014. He was warmly welcomed by the President ECI Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Arif, a renowned writer and intellectual from Pakistan.

During the visit, both the Presidents briefed each other about various ongoing and future plans of their organizations and shared mutual interests to collaborate for the benefits of ECO region as has also been advised by the ECO's Regional Planning Council (RPC) during its meeting held in Tehran during 24-26 Feb 2014. Both team leaders agreed to jointly organize various activities by also involving the ECO Educational Institute, Ankara-Turkey, and other Specialized Agency of the ECO.



The President ECOSF's Group Photo with the Officials of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)



The President ECOSF presented a book on Sufism to his counterpart H.E. Mr. Iftikhar Arif. Mr. Arif also presented a gift of books to Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro

ECOSF nominates Experts on IPBES Panel for Different Deliverables

In a short period of time, ECOSF has acquired the status of an observer member/stakeholder of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Membership of IPBES enabled ECOSF to nominate experts in different areas from ECO Region for scientific studies, assessment/evaluation of reports and capacity building across the world. In this context, ECOSF circulated the information and sought nominations from various Universities and relevant research institutions in Pakistan as well as other ECO Member States. After in-house scrutiny, ECOSF sent 11 nominations from Pakistan, Iran and Turkey to IPBES Secretariat in Bonn, Germany. ECO Governments had also nominated experts to IPBES.

So far, IPBES competent forum has selected the following experts from ECO Member States on different taskforce/deliverables:

Rashad Allahverdiyev	National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Zoology	Azerbaijan	Deliverable 1(a) & (b): Capacity Building
Esra Başak Dessane	Independent Consultant on Environmental Economics and Ecosystem Services	Turkey	Deliverable 3(d): Policy support tools and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people including ecosystem services based on an assessment and a guide
Mine Islar	Lund University	Turkey	Deliverable 3(d): Policy support tools and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people including ecosystem services based on an assessment and a guide
Azime Tezer	Istanbul Technical University	Turkey	Deliverable 4(c): Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies

ECO Science Foundation and British Council to work together for Scientific Research and Education in the ECO Member Countries

During his holidays in the UK, on Tuesday, 4 March 2014, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF had a meeting in London with Dr. Claire McNutly, Director of Science, Education and Society of the British Council (BC), London- UK.

Dr. Soomro was warmly welcomed by Dr. Claire McNutly and her colleagues from British Council Pakistan- Ms. Nishat Riaz and Ms. Sarah Pervaiz. Prof. Soomro briefly introduced his organization, the ECO Science Foundation (www.eco4science.org) and highlighted its aims and objectives. He shared the functioning of the organization saying that it has a



Board of Trustees comprising Ministers of Science and Technology of the member countries and an Executive Committee of eminent scientists of ten countries; UNESCO has an observer status. He also shared with BC officials, the planned activities of ECOSF especially the promotion of high quality research for industrial development related to BC's Researchers Link Programme, and implementation of the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE)- *La main a la pate* in the ECO countries in collaboration with different world players including Science Education Programme (SEP) of the Inter-Academy Panel (IAP).

Dr. Soomro sought cooperation of the British Council, which has an established credibility in promoting quality education and research around the world. Dr. Claire McNutly listed some of the common objectives of British Council and ECO, described ECOSF as an important activist for the promotion of science and technology in the region and put emphasis on strengthening the links between the two organizations through joint projects, meetings and capacity building activities and also their member states and affiliated Institutes.

After discussion, it was agreed in principle that the two organizations will work together to pursue the common goals in the 10 member countries of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), viz., Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

The programmes identified to be looked into in detail for initiating the collaboration include: Researcher Links; Capacity Building in English, Research and Education; the Fame Lab concept, and the use of ICT for the benefit of public, etc. It was also agreed that the British Council colleagues in Pakistan will prepare a document/presentation and share with the President ECOSF before putting up a formal proposal of cooperation.

Prof. Soomro also informed the meeting that the ECO Educational Institute based in Ankara- Turkey will also join in, since it being a sister organization, is already collaborating with ECOSF, and the ECO Cultural Institute based in Tehran- Iran can also be brought on board in so needed.

ECO Science Foundation emphasizes on Biosafety for Sustainable Ecosystems

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) does emphasize on the importance of Biosafety for the well being of workers and the diverse ecosystems which do great services for the humans. This was said by President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro on 12 Mar 2014 while talking to Prof. Dr. Perwaiz Iqbal, Agha Khan University Karachi, Dr. Ikram ul Haq, Government College University, Lahore and Dr. Raza Bhatti, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur. The visiting scientists are experts in biological sciences called upon Prof. Soomro.

Dr. Soomro discussed with them the matters pertaining to Biosafety with reference to capacity building and collaboration among the ECO member states. The professionals assured President ECOSF for their support.



ECOSF President meets Turkish Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sadik Babur Girgin

Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) President Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro and Turkish Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Sadik Babur Girgin discussed the matters pertaining to ECOSF.

The ECOSF President called on the Turkish Ambassador in the Embassy of Turkey in Islamabad. The visit was part of ECOSF President's endeavors to move forward for achieving the goals / targets of ECOSF the newly established regional organization.

The Turkish Ambassador extended a warm welcome to the President ECOSF.

The ECOSF President briefed the Ambassador about establishment process and the aims and objectives of the intergovernmental organization, and sought Turkish Government's cooperation to implement the work plan of ECOSF. Dr. Soomro also presented the Annual Progress Report of ECOSF for 2013 and shared the planned activities of the Foundation.

The Ambassador appreciated and congratulated the President on the landmark achievement of ECOSF by attaining the observer status on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Dr. Soomro also shared specific matters pertaining to ECOSF and a planned workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in Turkey in collaboration with ECO Educational Institute, Ankara.



Two days Invention to Innovation Summit 2014 addressed by Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro

Prof. Manzoor Soomro as one of the original three initiators of the tri-partite (PSF, IRP and PU) participated in the two days forum. He appreciated the three institutions for continuing the activity which has created a momentum for Academia-R&D-Industry interaction beyond the traditional monologue. While addressing the participants as Key Note Speaker during a special dinner with entrepreneurs at the University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore, Prof. Soomro congratulated the IRP, UMT and the Punjab University as well as the Industrialists to come together at one platform to discuss and understand each other's R&D problems and find solutions. He also emphasized on the need for linking inquiry based science education at school level with higher education and the industry for sustainable and knowledge based economic development. As acknowledgement of Dr. Soomro's contributions, the organizers honoured him with a plaque as well. It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro has been elected as member of the Board of Governors of the UMT Lahore.



ECO Science Foundation to organize the “ECO BioSafety Association (ECOBioSA)”



The Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) has planned to organize the ECO BioSafety Association (ECOBioSA) for the ECO region. This was decided during an initial meeting of participants from ECO member states on the sidelines of 5th Biosafety Association for Central Asia and Caucasus (BACAC) held in Tbilisi-Georgia on 26-28 March, 2014 to discuss possibility of organizing Bio-Safety Association of ECO member states. The President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Manzoor Soomro along with two eminent biologists from Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Kauser A Malik and Prof. Dr. Ikam ul Haq sponsored by one of the Organizers- EU, participated in the meeting. Other

participants of the meeting included those from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Representatives of Georgia (Prof. Lela Bakanidze) and Armenia (Mr. Sahakyan LevonValidmir) also joined in. The European Union was represented by Ms. Simonetta Riva-Project Manager, Dr. Mariana Constantinovici- Technical Project Manager and Mr. Julien Galabru, Project Manager from EU Headquarters in Brussels- Belgium.

Team leaders from ECO member states have been invited to cooperate with ECOSF in the important activity. The ECOSF in collaboration with Foreman Christian College (a

Chartered University), Lahore-Pakistan and possibly the European Union and other stakeholders has planned to organise an International Conference on "Responsible Science" during October 2014 at Lahore-Pakistan. It is hoped that the initiative will lead to capacity building of scientists and strengthening of laboratories in the ECO region as well as enhancing the networking between the scientific community of the region.

The BACAC meeting was opened by the Deputy Minister of Georgia and participated by high officials of Georgian Government as well as representatives from International institutions in USA, Canada, Russia and European Union.

Collaborators and Partners of ECOSF

- **ISTIC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** (<http://www.istic-unesco.org>)
- **La main a le pate Foundation- France** (<http://www.fondation-lamap.org>)
- **ECO Educational Institute, Ankara- Turkey**
- **ECO Cultural Institute, Tehran- Iran** (<http://www.ecieco.org>)
- **ECO-IEST** (<http://www.eco-iest.org>)