



## ECOSF joins the 2nd Forum of Economic Think-Tanks of ECO Member States and the Roundtable Discussion on Industry, Modeling and Research & Development at Baku, Azerbaijan

The President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro participated in the 2nd Forum of Representatives of Economic Think Tanks of ECO Member States, the Roundtable discussion on Industry, Modeling and Research & Development and the 2nd international Conference on Energy, Regional Integration and Socio-Economic Development held on in Baku, Azerbaijan from October 1-3, 2014. The event was jointly organized by the Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms, Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ECO Secretariat and the EcoMod (world's leading research, advisory and educational not-for-profit network). The Meeting was also attended by delegations



from I.R of Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan (host), Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and the ECO Secretariat. The event was also participated by experts from Australia, Republic of Belarus, Hungary, Russia, the EcoMod Network and the Islamic Development Bank.



The forum was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Shahin MUSTAFAYEV, Minister of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He appreciated the organizers for holding the event linked with 50 years golden jubilee celebration of the Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms of Azerbaijan. He hoped that the event will be institutionalized as an annual activity and provide an opportunity for sharing of economic development strategies by various nations. The Secretary General of ECO, President of EcoMod Network, the Director of Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms (ISRER) and senior experts from the ECO Region also spoke on the occasion. Earlier, the Director ISRER welcomed the participating delegates and thanked them for attending this Meeting. He talked on the

importance of the 2nd Forum of the ECO Economic Think Tanks and elaborated the objectives of organizing this regional Forum. Referring to the potentialities and resources of the region, he spoke on the outcomes of

such regional Forum for sharing of experience and knowledge among economic research institutions of the region.

During the meeting, the progress of the ECO Economic Think Tanks focusing on main areas of cooperation in economic research were reviewed and implementation of research projects in the framework of the ECO Joint Economic Research Programme, implementation of capacity building programme and conducting regional trainings, new publications of the Organization in the area of economic research and follow up of activities related to implementation of the ECO Plan of Action on Economic Research were among the main topics.

Dr. Manzoor Soomro, President of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) made two presentations; "ECO Science Foundation for S&T based Socio-economic Development in the ECO region" and "Innovative Strategies for Development: Role of Science and Technology". The President ECOSF proposed that all the ECO plans and programmes related to Science & Technology should be implemented in collaboration with ECOSF. He further offered cooperation and support to the ECO Research Center/Institute for Scientific Research in Economic Reforms, Baku for preparation of its future plans. The President ECOSF was also interviewed by Azerbaijan national TV channels for preparing the documentary of the event.



At the end, the Forum welcomed an offer from delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan for considering possibility of hosting the 3rd Forum of the ECO Economic Think Tanks in 2015 in Kazakhstan, preferably in the framework of the 8th Astana Economic Forum - 2015, upon consultation with the Government of Kazakhstan.

## ECO Science Foundation and Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore Co-organized an International Conference on: **Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development**

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in collaboration with Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore, organized an International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development" from October 9-11, 2014 in Lahore. The conference was co-sponsored by the European Commission-EU, COMSTECH, Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Crop Life- Pakistan.

Main Objective of the conference was to facilitate life scientists from ECO member countries for sharing their experiences and for promotion of collaboration as well as networking within the ECO Region and with the International Scientific Community.

The conference was formally opened by the veteran renowned Educationist, Industrialist and Anthropologist, H.E. Syed Baber Ali, Chancellor of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). In his remarks, he appreciated the initiative of ECOSF and FC College to bring the international



scientists/experts to Lahore for providing a great opportunity to interact with national and international experts and science students. He hoped that the conference will open new avenues for the young scientists and students.

Earlier, Dr. Kauser A. Malik Dean of Postgraduate Studies at FC College welcomed all the distinguished guests, scientists/experts from 15 countries of the world including ECO countries viz., Republic of Azerbaijan, I.R of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, I.R of Pakistan (host), Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey and Republic of Uzbekistan. The Deputy Secretary General of ECO H.E. Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu, Dr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel- President of ECO Institute of Environmental Sciences (ECO-IEST), and Prof. Dr. Selahattin Turan President ECO Educational Institute, Dr. Marie-Francoise SARON- a Bio-safety expert of European Union were also among the distinguished guests.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, in his remarks, thanked all the national and international participants for joining the 3-day conference. The President ECOSF also thanked European Union, COMSTECH, Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), ICLS and others for co-sponsoring the conference. Prof. Soomro conveyed special thanks to the Management of FC College and the Team of Biologists led by Dr. Kauser A. Malik for hosting the conference. Prof. Soomro briefly introduced ECO Science Foundation, its achievements, aims and objectives, on-going and future plans. He also hoped that the conference will be a catalyst in nurturing collaboration among Bioscientists from the ECO Member States and scientific community from the developed



world for a better tomorrow with particular reference to capacities and capabilities of scientists and institutions so that in collaboration, the peace and collective future could be safeguarded for sustainable development.

On second day of the conference (10 October 2014), an exclusive meeting with participants from ECO countries, the Deputy Secretary General ECO and Presidents of ECO Educational Institute and ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST) and the European Union was held under the umbrella of ECOSF. The participants discussed at length the issues pertaining to biosafety and biosecurity and future actions; following decisions/conclusions were arrived at:



- To use regional training center in Dushanbe-Tajikistan for training of participants from ECO member countries.
- To have a list of potential participants to participate in next meeting of Biosafety Association of Central Asia and Caucasus (BACAC) for consideration of DEVCO support.
- There is a need to organize brainstorming workshops on bio-safety for assessing Pakistan's needs, define strategy and tools including public outreach and journalists' awareness.
- Preferably, organize a training workshop on Science Diplomacy for bio-risk mitigation; also to support Iranian specialists.
- Make efforts to support attendees to the Iran Tehran Conference on Biotechnology/BSS 2015.
- ECOSF may keep liaison with ISTC Astana- Kazakhstan.
- ECO BioSA (ECO Bio Safety Association) may be formulated under the aegis of ECOSF for collaboration among the Bio-Safety stakeholders and other relevant associations of ECO region.
- ECOSF, ECO-IEST and ECO Educational Institute may work together on capacity building, awareness on various relevant matters.

During the conference, over 70 scientific presentations were made on food safety & security, sustainable development, biosafety & biosecurity, health care and nutrition. A full session was dedicated to the important areas of biosafety and biosecurity. It was proposed to develop a Centre of Excellence in Biosafety at FCC to be supported by relevant institutions and organizations. In addition, a national network on structural biology was proposed; comprising of HEJ/ICCBS (Karachi), NIBGE (Faisalabad) and FC College (Lahore). This may be sponsored by Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and prepare the scientific community for synchrotron facilities, already established at CERN and to be established in Jordan, for which Pakistan is one of the founding members.

The conference also focused on human genetic disorders and a recommendation was made to initiate a collaborative project with Japan on autism. The entire conference was available to the globe via **Live Stream**, links to which were shared on social media platforms. The progress of conference was also shared via **Twitter** throughout the conference.

On the last day, a detailed presentation was made by the President ECO-IEST Dr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel on environmental issues faced by the ECO region and rest of the World. Subsequently, a panel discussion was held on biodiversity management & conservation and ecosystem services, wherein the DSG ECO, President ECO Educational Institute, Vice President of UNESCO-MAB Programme for Asia Pacific Region, Dr. Roman Jashecko and Dr. Efrem Ferrari from EvK2CNR Italy also joined and agreed to initiate a programme for ECO Region.

The conference was concluded on the hope that the experiences and expertise shared by the speakers and networking created during the conference will open new avenues for the young scientists and that the future would be safe and secure for the coming generations. The interest of audience was remarkable throughout all three days. At the end, President ECOSF presented a Memento of conference to the management of FC College in recognition for hosting a beautiful and memorable conference at FC College Lahore.

## President ECOSF Calls upon the Vice Minister of Education and Science of Kazakhstan in Astana

The President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro called upon the Vice Minister of Education and Science Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Takir Balykbayev at his office in Astana, Kazakhstan on October 14, 2014. He was flanked by the Chairman and Deputy Chair of the Science Committee- Mr. Sansyzbai Zholdasbayev and Dr. (Ms.) Lazzat Kussainova respectively. The Vice Minister welcomed the President ECOSF for his visit to Kazakhstan and to the Ministry of Education and Science.

Prof. Soomro thanked the Vice Minister for sparing his precious time from his hectic schedule and briefed him about the ECOSF and its aims and objectives. He further elaborated that main activity of the ECOSF is funding of applied nature S&T research projects linked with economic

development, supported through the "S&T Fund" of the Foundation. The President ECOSF also said that to strengthen the science base for future generations and the region's economy, the Foundation aims to promote science education at school level using the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach - *La main a la pate* in collaboration with its sister institution- the ECO Educational Institute (ECOIE) Ankara- Turkey and the collaborators; *La main a la pate* Foundation France and the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) Malaysia. Furthermore, Prof. Soomro added that the mobilization and promotion of youth



engagement in science, technology and education for economic development and peace within the ECO region and beyond is and remains the priority of ECOSF and integrating gender perspective in policies, plans and actions directed towards the improvement of life and development of youth of the ECO region.

During the meeting, various aspects pertaining to the Republic of Kazakhstan i.e., scientific and technical cooperation between the ECOSF and the Ministry of Education and Science; an early completion of the process of Ratification of the Charter and Additional Protocol of the Foundation, the nomination of an expert for ECOSF Executive Committee and Focal Point and financial contribution to the "S&T Fund" of ECOSF came under discussion.

The Vice Minister of Education and Science (MoES) of Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. T. Balykbayev appreciated the scientific efforts of the Foundation being made for the whole ECO region; which he opined, will not only strengthen the cooperation among member states, but will lead to economic development. The Vice Minister assured full cooperation and support of Kazakhstan for realization of aims and objectives of ECOSF. During the meeting, the Vice Minister agreed to:

1. Resume cooperation in the field of S&T with the ECOSF based in Pakistan and benefit from its programmes
2. Accelerate work on the ratification of the Charter of the ECOSF by the Republic of Kazakhstan.
3. As a result of ratification of the Charter of the ECOSF in the Kazakhstan, present the candidature of the MoES to liaise with ECOSF and to create the representation of the ECOSF in the Republic of Kazakhstan.
4. According to paragraph 6.1 of the Protocol of the 7th session of the Kazakh-Pakistan joint intergovernmental commission on trade-economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation, bilateral cooperation between the two countries be pursued.

## President ECOSF Meets Chairman of "Science Fund" Kazakhstan in Astana

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro held a meeting with the Acting Chair of the "Science Fund" of the Science Committee under the Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Kazakhstan, Prof. Dr. (Ms.) Yerkin TAZABEKOVA on 15 October 2014. Prof. Soomro was accompanied by the Deputy Chair of Kazakhstan's Science Committee Dr. Ms. Lazzat Kussainova; while Dr. TAZABEKOVA was assisted by the Managing Director of the Fund- Ms. Zhanna TUYENBAYEVA. Science Fund is a subsidiary limited stock company of the Science Committee.



After a formal welcome by Dr. Ms. Tazabekova, she gave a presentation of the Science Fund and explained that it was established in 2006 and has so far 22 projects of various nature, with focus on the projects where risk is involved so as to facilitate the young researchers and nurture a culture of scientific research in the country. The Fund also promotes science popularization at school and youth level.

Prof. Soomro, on his part highlighted the aims and objectives as well as plans of ECO Science Foundation and indicated a possibility of closer cooperation between the two institutions through the good offices of Science Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which is playing a key role in promotion of scientific research and development. The Deputy Chair of Kazakh Science Committee Ms. Kussainova endorsed the possibility of collaboration and cooperation of Kazakhstan side with ECOSF.

## President ECOSF Visits the National Center for Biotechnology and the "Republican Collection of Microorganisms" of Kazakhstan in Astana

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro visited the National Center for Biotechnology of Kazakhstan in Astana and held a meeting with the Director General and Deputy Director General of the Center. He was received by the DG Dr. Erlan M. RAMANCULOV and Deputy DG Dr. Kasym K. MUKANOV. The Deputy Chair of Kazakhstan's Science Committee under the Ministry of Education and Science Dr. Ms. Lazzat Kussainova was also present on the occasion. The Director General of "Republican Collection of Microorganisms" of Kazakhstan housed in the same building also joined in the meeting. After a formal words of welcome, the DG of the Biotechnology Center



made a presentation on the background and activities of the Center. The National Center for Biotechnology of Kazakhstan is engaged in Agriculture, Veterinary/Animals and Health Biotechnology sectors and have brought numerous products in the market at commercial level as well. They are also producing animal vaccines. Thus there seemed good possibility of involving this Center for cooperation in Biotechnology among the ECO member states. The Center is a subordinate institution of the Science Committee of the Kazakhstan.

Afterwards, President ECOSF Prof. Soomro, briefed the hosts about the aims and objectives, and plans of ECO Science Foundation. He said that he saw a great potential of this Center to collaborate with counterpart institutions in other ECO member countries such as Pakistan, Iran and Turkey as well as Uzbekistan. To which the hosts institution and Deputy Chairman of the Science Committee agreed in principle, however, any formal proposal would have to be considered by the Science Committee and the Ministry of Education and Science, they said.

Subsequently Prof. Dr. Kayirtai ALMAGAMBETOV the Director General of the "Republican Collection of Microorganisms"- an over 60 years old laboratory, made a power point presentation and showed that they have a huge collection of indigenous microorganisms being well maintained and used for production of medicines, vaccines and industrial enzymes etc. The Biosafety and biosecurity aspects were also discussed and it seemed that all the international protocols and standard procedures were being followed to ensure biosafety. The Collection had huge repositories too and the cultures are being well maintained. The President ECOSF then visited the laboratories and facilities of the complex and thanked the host institutions for their warm welcome and willingness to collaborate with other ECO member states.

## Pakistan Ambassador to Kazakhstan hosts Lunch for President ECOSF and Deputy Chair of Science Committee, Kazakh Ministry of Education & Science

During the visit of the President ECOSF to Astana Kazakhstan, he met with the Ambassador of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Shaukat Ali Mukadam, who then hosted a lunch in the honor of Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECOSF; Dr. (Ms) Lazzat A. Kussainova- the Deputy Chairman of Science Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science, Government of Kazakhstan and Dr. Assanbay Jumabekov- the President of National Center of Science and Technology Evaluation (NCSTE) Kazakhstan. Some faculty members from the Schools of Science and Engineering from Nazarbayev University Astana were also invited in the lunch.



On the occasion, the Ambassador thanked the President ECOSF and host government (Kazakhstan) for initiating cooperation in the field of Science & Technology and hoped that more Pakistani Institutions will be brought in the loop for stronger cooperation. On the occasion, an initial discussion on collaboration between the School of Science and Technology of Nazerbayev University Astana and the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) Islamabad also took place.



### ISTIC-NCSTE Workshop

## “Preparing R&D Proposal and Technopreneurship for CIS Countries” Astana, Kazakhstan (October 13-17, 2014)

An international workshop on "Preparing R&D Proposal and Technopreneurship for CIS Countries" was jointly organized by International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation Under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), National Center of Science and Technology Evaluation (NCSTE) of Republic of Kazakhstan and Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Astana, Kazakhstan on October 13-17, 2014. President ECOSF Prof. Nominees by ECOSF were also considered and Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro participated in the inauguration of the workshop.



The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. (Ms) Lazzat A. Kussainova, the Deputy Chairman of Science Committee, Ministry of Education & Science, Government of Kazakhstan. The inaugural session was also attended by the Ambassadors of Pakistan (H.E. Mr. Shaukat Ali Mukadam), Malaysia and Russia. The workshop participants were from CIS countries and ECO member states as well as from some other countries including Egypt, Kuwait, etc. The Chief Guest, Dr. Kussainova in her speech appreciated joint efforts of NCSTE Astana, ISTIC and ISESCO for organizing the workshop and assured of her government's support to the activity and hoped that ECO Science Foundation will also participate more actively in such future events in the ECO region. President of National Center of Science and Technology Evaluation (NCSTE) Kazakhstan Dr. Assanbay Jumabekov, Director ISTIC Dato Dr. Samsudin and Deputy Director ISESCO Dr. Muhammad Ismail also spoke on the occasion.



It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF has recently signed a MoU with ISTIC for cooperation in promoting Science and Technology in the region. The workshop, wherein participants from ECO member states were nominated by the ECOSF, provided opportunity for strengthening the networking for future joint activities by ECOSF and ISTIC.

During the first technical session, the President ECOSF made a presentation on aims and objectives, plans and programs of the Foundation. The purpose of the presentation was to introduce ECOSF and its programs to the participants in order to muster support from the

Kazakhstan's S&T Institutions as well as those from other ECO member states.

On the occasion, ECOSF President and Deputy Director ISESCO had a short sideline meeting and agreed in principle to pursue collaboration between two intergovernmental organizations of Islamic World.



### Possible Collaboration between Nazarbayev University, Astana and COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Islamabad

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro visited the School of Science and Technology of Nazarbayev University of Astana on 17th October 2014 and held a discussion with its Acting Head of Computational Science Department Dr. Michael Lewis and faculty member Dr. Mona Ali Rizvi. During the visit possibility of collaboration between the Department of Computer Sciences Nazarbayev University Astana and CIIT was discussed and agreed in principal to further discuss the matter with high authorities of two institutions under the aegis of ECOSF. During the visit Dr. Soomro was taken around the facilities of the School of Science and Technology and School of Engineering of the University.



### President ECOSF visits International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) Astana, Kazakhstan

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro during his stay in Astana, Kazakhstan (13-18 Oct 2014) visited the ISTC and held meeting with the Chief Admin Officer Mr. James K. Jubilee. Mr. Jubilee gave Prof. Soomro a presentation about the background, mandate and scope of the ISTC which is basically based in Moscow however, being shifted to Astana at the campus of Nazarbayev University Astana. The ISTC has mainly been active in the former Soviet Union States with reference to Chemical, Biological, Radiologic and Nuclear (CBRN) risk reduction and mitigation. The centre has also been funding projects for establishment and strengthening of laboratories and capacity building of scientific community in the region; which includes some ECO Member States. Thus the possibility of expanding the support of ISTC to other ECO Member States was also discussed.



It is pertinent to mention that the ECOSF in collaboration with FC College, Lahore- Pakistan and with the support of EU through DEVCO organized an International Conference on "Emerging Trends in life Sciences for Sustainable Development" from 9-11 October 2014 at Lahore Pakistan (highlighted in this newsletter). One of the major themes of conference was Biosafety and Biosecurity in the ECO region. These developments/discussions will be shared with DEVCO/UNICRI during the 2nd meeting of Focal Points for CBRN being held at UNICRI Turin on 19-20 November 2014.

## Global Network of Science Academies- IAP to support ECO Science Foundation for implementation of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the ECO Region

The Science Education Programme (SEP) of the Inter-Academy Panel (IAP), a global network of 107 Academies of Sciences has pledged to support ECO Science Foundation for implementation of inquiry based science education (IBSE) at schools in the ECO region. This was agreed by the IAP SEP 2014 Biennial International Conference on IBSE and Science Literacy and SEP Global Council meeting held in Beijing China on 28-30 October 2014. The conference was hosted by the Commission on Education for Children of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), the China National Commission for UNESCO, the Children and Youth Education Centre of CAST, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The International Conference attracted more than 130 speakers and participants from 19 countries.

President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro as a member of the SEP-IAP Global Council, participated in the conference and made presentation on "Status and Future Prospects of IBSE in the ECO Region".

Under the main theme 'Challenges and Opportunities of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE)/Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education', the four sessions devoted to 'IBSE and Technology Education', 'Student Outcomes Assessment', 'IBSE and National Development' and 'Science Outreach and Society' engendered animated and constructive deliberation, culminating in the recommendations and outcomes in the form of Beijing Declaration and same was adopted by the IAP SEP Global Council in its meeting on 30 October in Beijing.



This Beijing Declaration reaffirmed that, after nearly 25 years of experience throughout the world, it has been proven that IBSE/STEM education - from preschool upwards - enhances the curiosity and creativity of children,

and improves their language and numerical literacy. That IBSE/STEM education enables children and youths to think critically and to doubt certain cultural, social and consumption fashions unless they have been proven by evidence to be beneficial. That IBSE/STEM education not only assures the human resource pipeline required for the green and clean scientific, engineering and technology devices and systems needed to combat the challenges of global poverty and global climate change, but also provides the world with a rational and discerning citizenry that will help ensure peace and security of the world.

The Beijing Declaration:

- Called on all IAP member academies of sciences to redouble their commitment to IBSE/STEM education, including reaching out to their national ministries of education, their national UNESCO commissions and their national missions in UNESCO.
- Called on industry to assist national academies of science and their national governments to enhance IBSE/STEM education policies and initiatives to ensure the formation of the creative and innovative human capital that will enable their own enterprises to remain competitive in the increasingly fast-paced science and technology development environment.
- Called on foundations and donors to sponsor the roll-out of IBSE/STEM practices, especially in developing countries.
- Called on China, the host nation of the Beijing Conference, and other nations with rich experience in IBSE/STEM and science outreach activities to share their experiences with the world and to assist in capacity building efforts in other countries, especially developing countries, wishing to implement IBSE/STEM.
- Called on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to include IBSE/STEM in the programme of the UNESCO World Education Forum in Incheon, Korea, in May 2015, and to incorporate IBSE/STEM for quality education and lifelong learning into the United Nations post-2015 development agenda.

For the realization of the importance of IBSE, ECO Science Foundation plans to launch the IBSE in whole ECO region and initially a Capacity Building Workshop of Coordinators/Focal Persons from ECO countries including Pakistan will be held in Summer 2015 in collaboration with the *La main a la pate* Foundation (LAMAP) France; Embassies of France in member states; International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia; ECO Educational Institute, Ankara-Turkey; Islamic Development Bank (IDB), UNESCO and Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). The workshop is expected to be hosted either by the National Academy of Sciences- Azerbaijan or by the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan.

### President ECOSF meets with the Director General (Bureau of International Cooperation) of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NNSFC)

During the participation in the Biennial Conference of Science Education Program - Inter Academy Panel on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) held in Beijing, China from 28-30 October 2014, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro met the Director General (Bureau of International Cooperation) of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NNSFC) Prof. Feng Fengalong with Director of Division Prof. Zhang Yongtaoto discuss the possible collaboration between the two science foundations. It was mutually agreed in principal



that they seemed a possibility of collaborations as the NNSFC is already collaborating in number of similar bodies around the world.

It is pertinent to note that Prof. Soomro as Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) had established stronger collaboration of PSF and NNSFC and launch a collaborative research project.

## Vice Chancellor of Riphah International University calls upon President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

Prof. Anis Ahmad, Vice Chancellor of Riphah International University Islamabad called upon the President of ECO Science Foundation in his office on November 5, 2014 and discussed areas of mutual interest. Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro welcomed the distinguished guest, and briefed him on the establishment of the Foundation as well as its aims & objectives. He further highlighted the activities undertaken so far by the Foundation. Both leaders discussed the areas of mutual interest with particular reference to the Education of youth. The two agreed in principle for future cooperation in the field of Education and Science. The President ECOSF discussed the Economic Development based on Science, Technology and Innovation, linking the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) to R&D organizations, Higher Education Institutions and Industry.

Prof. Anis Ahmad briefed about the Riphah International Universities' programmes, curriculum changes they made for promotion of problem based medical education by their medical colleges. He also presented a book "Roza aur Humari Zindagi" to Prof. Soomro.



## World Science Day for Peace and Development - 2014 A Seminar on "Quality Science Education for Securing a Sustainable Future for All"

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and COMSATS (Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South) in association with UNESCO- Pakistan, commemorated the World Science Day 2014 and organized a seminar on this year's theme; 'Quality Science: Securing a Sustainable Future for all'. The seminar was held in a local hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan on 12 November 2014. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad N.I., H.I., S.I., the renowned physicist and former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Science & Technology, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



Country Director UNESCO- Pakistan Ms. Vibeke Jensen participated as a special guest. The event had a mixed gathering of over 100 participants, including science students, representatives of scientific institutions,

academicians, senior scientists and Fellows of Pakistan Academy of Science, as well as, policy makers and members of the diplomatic community in Islamabad.

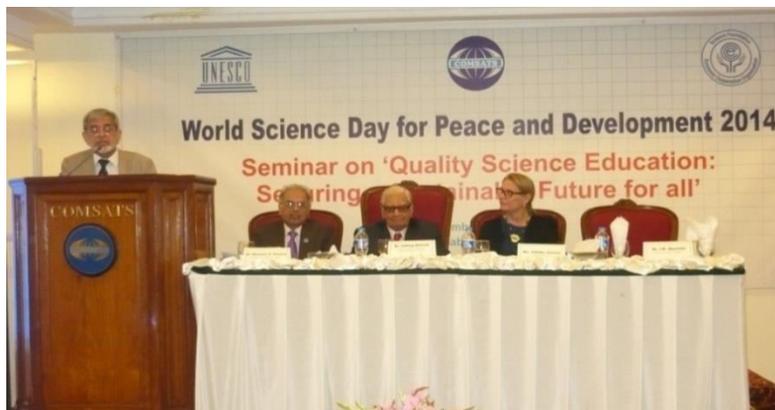
The seminar was conducted in two sessions; Inaugural and Technical. The seminar was opened by the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. In his opening remarks he welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted the importance of Science and the World Science Day for Peace and Development and the role of science in daily life. He highlighted the history of World Science Day and said that established by UNESCO in 2001, the Day is celebrated worldwide on 10 November every year by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific research institutions, professional associations, universities, municipalities, the media, science teachers, schools. Dr. Soomro emphasized on the importance of inquiry based science education (IBSE) at schools as the most important basis for development of nations and the science for sustainable development for all. Prof. Soomro, who is also the member of the Global Council of the Science Education Programme (SEP) of the Inter-Academy Panel (IAP)- a worldwide network of 107 Science Academies further said that SEP IAP are promoting inquiry based science education and the curricula around the world are being updated and revised to be in line with the scientific developments; however, in Pakistan, we are still stuck up with non issues and outdated concepts. He said ECOSF is striving for promotion of IBSE in 10 ECO member countries in collaboration with Academies of Sciences and Ministries of Science and Education.

Ms. Vibeke Jensen the new UNESCO Director in Pakistan noted that quality science education for all, is an essential requisite for sustainable development. She urged that we must encourage young women and men to take interest in science; as well as, invest in educational materials and equipment, teachers' training in



sciences and inquiry-based learning. She was of the opinion that encouraging critical thinking and creativity in students at all levels can enable them to contribute to environmental, economic and social development in areas ranging from climate change, disaster risk reduction, water management, energy, food security and medicine, to poverty reduction, better health and sustainable consumption. She announced that UNESCO has launched its 'World Library of Science' (WLoS), a free online resource for learning about sciences through text, pictures, illustrations and videos to make scientific concepts easy to understand.

Dr. I.E. Qureshi, in his remarks, introduced COMSATS and said that it was dedicated to promoting scientific collaboration using the effective mechanism of South-South cooperation. He recognized scientific cooperation as the key to achieving sustainable development for the developing world. Touching upon the initiative taken by COMSATS for the promotion of quality education in the country, he noted that COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) was launched as a small project in 1998, which now is well recognized university with seven campuses and over 35,000 enrolled students. Dr. Qureshi noted that COMSATS has cooperation with UNESCO on multiple levels that resulted in establishing UNESCO Chair for Integrated Water Resources Management at CIIT, Wah campus. He also thanked ECOSF for collaborating with COMSATS.



In his address, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, the Chief Guest, recalled the efforts made by him to designate the World Science Day in the list of International Days observed by UN to highlight the significance of science for the betterment of society. He noted that while Pakistan, an agrarian economy, is confronted with huge water shortage, science and technology can provide means for addressing the vulnerability due to water scarcity as well as the challenges posed by global climate change. He also called for reducing gender disparity, particularly in tertiary education, to curb the menace of over population, which is among the significant problems facing the national economy.



During the technical session of the seminar, talks were given by (from left in picture) Dr. Tariq Mahmood, Advisor, Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan; Dr. Faisal F. Khan, Director, Institute of Integrative Biology, CECOS University, Peshawar; Dr. Fayyaz A. Faize, Assistant Professor CIIT, Islamabad; and Mr. Salman Naveed Khan, Campaign Manager (Political Advocacy) of NGO- Alif Ailaan.



These talks, in general, deliberated upon the role of HEC in improving the standard of education and research in the country; new trends in life sciences; interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial nature of modern science education; ensuring ethical disposition; quality teaching; as well as, challenges of providing quality science education in schools of Pakistan. Speakers expressed their concern for a high number of 'out-of-school' children and pressed the government and the civil society to play a greater role in this regard. An important highlight of the event was a poster exhibition and competition. Over 40 posters, prepared by science students of universities & colleges and young researchers were presented, explicating the role of science for a progressive society. Themes were; agriculture, health, biosciences, nanotechnology and computational sciences. At the end, awards and cash prizes for the 'Best Posters' were given to the winner students from CIIT and NUST Islamabad, Forman Christian College- Lahore, and the University of Lahore (Islamabad campus).



## Prof. Manzoor Soomro patronizes Children's Science Fairs activity- Participates in the Intel Science Fair (provincial) Islamabad

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF has been directing and patronizing science competitions and fairs for school children and youth in Pakistan. He continues to do so and participated in the Intel Provincial Science Fair for Islamabad area on 13 Nov 2014 at the Pak-Turk International School (Girls Campus) in H-8 Islamabad. He made a motivational speech and shared his experiences with the participating children before the results of competition were announced. Each year, approximately 7 million high school students around the globe develop original research projects and present their work at local science competitions with the hope of making it to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, a program of Society for Science & the Public USA. Only the best and brightest, nearly 1800 winners of local, regional, state, and national competitions are invited to participate in this week-long celebration of science, technology, engineering, and math in USA. At the event, these young innovators share ideas, showcase cutting-edge research, and compete for more than USD5 million in awards and scholarships. As a process to select the best of the best students, Provincial and National Science and Engineering Fairs are conducted by Intel- Pakistan.



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This event was a part of that where Intel Pakistan concluded the second of the two Punjab Science Fairs in the run-up to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, one of the world's largest pre-college science competitions, to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May 2015. During the Science Fair, students presented research-based projects in the categories of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Physics.

More than 190 students and 57 teachers from Punjab registered in the fair with a total of 151 projects registered. Present at the occasion as Guests of Honor were Dr. N.M. Butt, Chairman, Preston Institute of Nano Science Technology (PINSAT), Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Mr. Muhammad Ijaz, Joint Secretary, Federal Ministry of Science and



Technology, Mr. Amjad Hussain, Joint Scientific Advisor (International Liaison) of Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. Dr. Naushaba Nadeem represented Pakistan Science Foundation.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro in his speech emphasized the need for appreciation and motivation of young students in the form of awards to encourage them. He has always been promoting and patronizing children and youth science forums and competitions and has been an honorary National Science Fair Director for Intel-Pakistan. Prof. Soomro shared that it was delightful to be with the young and future potential great scientists and also to speak to them on the occasion.

## ECOSF and *La main a la pate* Foundation France agree to Collaborate for Initiation of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in ECO Region

ECO Science Foundation and the La main a la pate (LAMAP) Foundation- France have agreed in principle to initiate the implementation of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the 10 countries of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). This was agreed in a meeting in Paris on **17 November 2014** between the President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Chairman of LAMAP Foundation France, Prof. Dr. Pierre Lena. Prof. Lena was also joined by Prof. Dr. Yves Quevre (one of the original three co-founders of LAMAP in 1996) and Ms. Laurence Constantini, the person responsible for international cooperation of the Foundation. Dr. Soomro paid a visit to LAMAP Foundation headquarters in Paris through the courtesy of Embassy of France in Islamabad.



It was also agreed in the meeting that programme will begin with a Workshop for Capacity Building in IBSE for National Focal Points in 10 ECO member countries to be organized in summer 2015, possibly during the last week of June. It will be in collaboration with Science Education Programme (SEP) of Inter-Academy Panel (IAP), ISTIC Malaysia and possibly the host government of either Kazakhstan or Azerbaijan.

It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Soomro has a long association with La main a la pate programme of France and had implemented it in Pakistan as a pilot project in 2010. It was so successful the Government of France bestowed upon Dr. Soomro their national award, "Order of Academic Palms" and designated him "Officer" in 2013 in recognition of his

contributions. The award was originally instituted by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1808 A.D. for high performing academicians.

## President ECOSF calls upon the Assistant Director General UNESCO in Paris

Director General (Natural Sciences) UNESCO Dr. Flavia Schlegel in her office at UNESCO Headquarters Paris on 18 November, 2014 and introduced the ECOSF. Dr. Soomro informed the ADG UNESCO that the Foundation and its mandate is pursuing promotion of Applied S&T Research, Science Education and Science Literacy in the ECO Region. He further said that as a member the Global Council of Science Education Programme (SEP) of the Inter Academy Panel (IAP), he is pursuing Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) at school level in the ECO region. The IBSE programme is planned to be launched in collaboration with SEP-IAP, *La main a la pate* (LAMAP) Foundation, ISTIC Malaysia and possibly government of Kazakhstan through its Science Committee. In this regard, ECOSF already has had consultations with all the partners. The other aspect emphasized by Dr. Soomro was promotion of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) with



some Trans-boundary Biospheres Reserves. He also emphasized on the need of training workshops on science diplomacy and communication particularly for the Central Asian Member Countries of ECO.

He also shared with ADG UNESCO that ECO and UNESCO had signed an MOU for cooperation, way back in 1995 and ECOSF would like to initiate joint activities under the framework of already signed MOU.

Dr. Flavia Schlegel, ADG UNESCO on her part thanked Prof. Soomro and appreciated for his

taking time to meet her and assured him of all possible support and cooperation from all the programmes of Natural Sciences Division of UNESCO including the MAB Programme, IBSE and activities on Science Diplomacy.

Subsequently, Dr. Soomro had a luncheon meeting with Dr. Qunli Han, the Director Science/Secretary, the UNESCO MAB Programme and discussed possibility of promoting trans-boundary biospheres in the ECO Region. Dr. Han strongly supported the idea and showed willingness to assist the ECOSF.



## President ECOSF participates in the 2nd CBRN Centre of Excellence (CoE) National Focal Points Round-Table Meeting for Central Asia in Turin-Italy

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro along with Dean, Post Graduate Studies, Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) Lahore Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik participated in the CBRN Centres of Excellent (CoE) "2nd National Focal Points Round Table Meeting for Central Asia" held at the headquarters of United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) Turin-Italy on 19-20 Nov 2014.

The Round Table meeting brought together representatives from four Partner Countries in the Region, namely: Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The representatives and experts from the



European Union Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation (DG-DEVCO), the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), and UNICRI also participated in the meeting. The meeting was exclusively organized to review the implementation of EU supported CBRN Risk Mitigation and Capacity Building Projects in Central Asia. The event was an opportunity for the participants to discuss regional priorities and implementation of projects, as well as the Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) and the CBRN

National Action Plan (NAP)- two key aspects of the initiative to identify target areas for action. Furthermore, the meeting created a platform for discussion on future projects within the region and further possibilities for the CBRN risk mitigation network. In order to promote such dialogue, Representatives from partner countries of the South-East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine region, namely Georgia, Moldova and Serbia, were also invited to share the experience of their countries in relation to the Needs Assessment process and the creation of National Action Plans.

Within the framework of EU CBRN CoE, activities have been taking place in the region since 2011, and between 2013 and 2014 significant work has been carried out to strengthen regional cooperation and lay the basis for the opening of a Regional Secretariat for Central Asia.



The EU CBRN CoE Initiative is funded by the European Commission and implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC). The European External Action Service is also involved in the follow-up of the initiative. The initiative is developed with the technical support of relevant international and regional organizations, the EU Member States and other stakeholders, through coherent and effective cooperation at the national, regional and international level. The initiative involves 48 countries in 8 regions of the world. Participants were apprised of the programme as a whole followed by projects reports by participating countries and workshop on methodology of project preparation and need assessments.

On part of Pakistan Delegation, Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik made a power point presentation about the status of expertise/capacities and facilities as well as the activities of Pakistan Biosafety Association. Dr. Soomro proposed to the EU/DEVCO and UNICRI to keep the ECOSF on board and cooperate especially in the Biosafety and Biosecurity activities in the ECO Region. He also assured the meeting of the cooperation of the Foundation. He reported back that ECOSF in collaboration with FC College Lahore with the financial support of European Commission had organized a three day International Conference on “Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development” in Lahore-Pakistan from 9-11 October 2014 wherein over 130 participants joined in including those from ECO Member States. The video documentary/report for the Lahore conference was also presented to DEVCO and UNICRI officials.

## President ECOSF and Director UNESCO-Pakistan meet to discuss mutual areas of Cooperation & Collaboration

President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Director UNESCO Pakistan Ms. Vibeke Jensen met at UNESCO office to discuss mutual cooperation and collaboration in the fields of science and education in Pakistan. Prof. Soomro on his part, welcomed Ms. Jensen upon her appointment as Country Director/ Representative UNESCO in Pakistan. He then briefly introduced to her the ECOSF and its aims & objectives, and activities so far. Both the leaders discussed the areas of mutual Interest especially under the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for scientific cooperation signed between Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and UNESCO in 1995. Dr. Soomro also shared a copy of the signed MoU with Director UNESCO.

Prof. Soomro especially talked to Director UNESCO about the collaborations of ECOSF 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. He also informed her about the collaboration of ECOSF with Italian institution active in mountainous regions of Pakistan and Nepal- the EvK2CNR Foundation- a not for profit

association. ECOSF and EvK2CNR signed MoU earlier this year for collaboration in Mountain Protected Areas including the Biosphere Reserves.

The two agreed in principle for future cooperation in the fields of scientific research, education & development and other UNESCO institutions and programmes.

The two leaders also discussed the possibility of working on Transboundary Biosphere Research between Pakistan and the bordering ECO Member States as well as any other cross border scientific, educational and cultural activity. Prof. Soomro emphasized on the promotion of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) with some Transboundary Biosphere Reserves. UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) promotes conservation research through its various activities including Young Scientists Awards. Priority is for projects carried out in the world's biosphere reserves in support of research on ecosystems, natural resources, and biodiversity.

They also discussed the objectives of the upcoming International Conference "Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization" – Preparing Future Engineers for Sustainable Development on January 10, 2014 in Islamabad which is being jointly organized by UNESCO in collaboration with ECOSF and Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Pakistan. Three participants from other ECO member countries; viz., Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are also joining the meeting.

Prof. Soomro explained that the meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss and identify the gaps in engineering qualifications standardization and develop a roadmap towards qualified and internationally recognized engineers in the country as well in the region.



### International Meeting on

## **“Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization: Preparing Future Engineers for Sustainable Development”**

**Deputy Director, UNESCO Jakarta- Indonesia calls upon the President ECOSF**

UNESCO Regional Office for Asia & Pacific-Jakarta, ECOSF, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Federation of Engineering Institutions in Asia and the Pacific region (FEIAP) and the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) Malaysia are organizing an International Meeting on “Engineering Qualification Standardization: Preparing Future Engineers for Sustainable Development” on January 9-10, 2014 at PEC Headquarters Islamabad. The meeting will provide an opportunity to the stakeholders to discuss and identify the gaps in engineering qualification standardization and develop a roadmap towards qualified and internationally recognized engineers.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to the stakeholders to discuss and identify gaps in engineering qualifications standardization and develop a roadmap towards qualified and internationally recognized engineers in the country as well as in the ECO and the Asia-Pacific regions. Engineering experts from ECO region are also expected to participate in the meeting.



To review the arrangements of the meeting, Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Deputy Director, UNESCO Jakarta-Indonesia called upon the President ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014

## President ECOSF speaks to the International Scientific – Practical Conference “Russia and the Countries of the East: Vectors of Interaction and Cooperation” at Ufa- Russia

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro on sponsored invitation by the organizers participated in the International Scientific – Practical Conference; “Russia and the Countries of the East: Vectors of Interaction and Cooperation” dedicated to 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soviet Diplomat and political figure, a native of the Republic of Bashkortostan Mr. Karim Abdraufovitch Khakimov on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at Ufa, Bashkortostan, the Russian Federation. The conference was mainly organized by the Bashkir Academy of Public Administration and Management and the State University Ufa.

The main topics of the conference were: the East in Social Thought and Culture: Past and Present; Diplomacy in the service of public policy of coordination and cooperation with the countries of East; Economic cooperation between Russia and the East; as well as the Role of Islamic factor in the historical process and in the modern world.



At the inaugural of the International conference, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Bashkortostan Mr. Evgeniy Mavrin read the message from the President of the Republic of Bashkortostan, H.E. Rustem Z. Khamitov. The Rector of Bashkir Academy of Public Administration & Management and the State University Ufa spoke subsequently, in the Plenary Session.

Prof. Soomro gave the presentation in the main Plenary Session chaired by the Rector of Bashkir Academy of Public Administration and Management (under the President of Republic of Bashkortostan) on the “Role of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in S&T Innovation for Economic Development and Regional Cooperation”. Dr. Soomro introduced the ECO Science Foundation and emphasized on the role of IBSE and S&T cooperation for not only economic development but also as a tool for diplomacy and international cooperation. The presentation was very well taken and generated good discussion. Dr. Soomro also highlighted the activities of the Science Education Programme (SEP) of Inter Academy Panel (IAP) in promoting IBSE around the world. He shared the SEP-IAP highlights as a member of Global Council of SEP.



He also spoke on the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Russia especially the development during the last few months. Full text of Prof. Soomro's paper is available on ECOSF website.

The conference brought together representatives from various countries namely: Afghanistan, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Poland, Turkey, Uzbekistan with the representatives of different areas of Russia.

## President ECOSF emphasizes on the greater involvement of Industry in University research at the 3rd Meeting of ORIC Advisory Board of Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) Advisory Board of the Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014. He strongly advocated a greater engagement and involvement of the Industrial Sector in the scientific and technological research by the universities. He suggested that the Industry should be involved with



University research right from the planning stage so that any research planned has an end user and be utilized after a project is completed. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Uqaili. Other participants of the Advisory Board included Academics, a Senior Civil Servant (Secretary) from Government of Sindh and one representative of Industry.

The aims and objectives of ORIC are to support the university's strategic research directions and policies, increase and diversify the external research funding, provide the guidelines to faculty, officials and students of the university for acquiring various grants, effective use of infrastructure, equipment and human resources, promote entrepreneurship, technology-transfer and commercialization activities that energize and support the local and national economy as well as the enhancement in the university endowment fund.

After the formal agenda, the meeting resolved to include representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Hyderabad and Karachi and the Associations of Industrialists from Kotri and Karachi (SITE).

## ECOSF Initiates Dialogue between Scientists and USA Based Entrepreneurs for Commercialization of Research Results

### Plan for ECOSF-ICCBS International Conference on Agro-Biotechnology

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) is striving to promote S&T based economic development through promotion and commercialization of S&T scientific research in the Member States. With reference to ECOSF objectives and joint research by Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and the industrial patents obtained there from, M/S Flozyme Corporation, Inc. Dallas – Texas, USA sent their representative, Dr. Farooq-e-Azam for exploitation of industrial patents on bio-pesticides. Dr. Azam visited the National

Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi on 29 Dec 2014 and held a day long interaction with the patent holders and the team of researchers.

It was mutually agreed that the nematodes based bio-pesticides developed by the NNRC team as a great potential for control of agricultural as well as urban pests. For furtherance of the interaction, Chief Executive of M/S Flozyme will visit Pakistan during March 2015 and finalize the modalities of the cooperation.

Subsequently, a meeting with International Centre for Chemical Biological Sciences (ICCBS), HEJ Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi, Karachi represented by Dr. (Ms) Samar Yousuf was also held on 29 Dec 2014 at Karachi University wherein it was agreed that the International Conference on “Agro-biotechnology in ECO Region – Research and Applications” will tentatively be organized on 17-18 March 2015 by ECOSF and ICCBS in Karachi.

In this regard, a proposal along with budget will be prepared by Dr. Samar Yousuf within a week.



## ECOSF Website and Social Media Aspects

The ECOSF has a dynamic website and a face book page. Various relevant information items such as conferences, training workshops and scientific developments are uploaded and shared with the website visitors. Few of the main postings on the ECOSF website and Facebook page are highlighted below. Full listing is available on ECOSF website: [www.eco4science.org](http://www.eco4science.org)

### Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2015

The Irish Research Council has opened the 2015 call for the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme. The Terms and Conditions for the scheme are available on the website below: <http://www.research.ie/scheme/government-ireland-postdoctoral-fellowship-2015>

### LIYSF Latest News - Applications for 2015 Open

ECO Science Foundation shares valuable information about forthcoming “London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF)” from 22nd July to 5th August 2015 which is open now. All interested students from ECO region can apply for the Programme and share the information with other concerned. LIYSF is a two week residential event held at Imperial College London, with lectures and demonstrations from leading scientists, visits to industrial sites, research centres, scientific institutions and organisations, including world class laboratories and universities. LIYSF attracts over 400 of the world's leading young scientists aged 17-21 years old from more than 60 participating countries. There is an active social calendar with events designed to enable those from around the world to learn about different cultures. The scope of LIYSF extends further than broadening scientific understanding to engage students in education on other cultures and develop lasting, international friendships. For further information visit on following website:

[[http://www.liysf.org.uk/?utm\\_campaign=LIYSF+Video+Launch&utm\\_source=emailCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=](http://www.liysf.org.uk/?utm_campaign=LIYSF+Video+Launch&utm_source=emailCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=)]

## Sixth International Conference of Cognitive Science (ICCS 2015)

On behalf of the Institute for Cognitive Science Study (ICSS) Tehran, ECOSF would like to share the following information:

The Sixth International Conference of Cognitive Science (ICCS 2015) is an international gathering of cognitive scientists from Iran and other countries that is organized by the Institute for Cognitive Science Studies (ICSS) and will be held from April 27 to 29, 2015, in Tehran, Iran. The main topics of the 6th conference include, Cognitive Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology, Cognitive Education, Cognitive Linguistics, Philosophy of Mind Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Modeling

**Abstracts should be submitted by 31 January, 2015.**

For further information <http://iccs.ircss.org/Congress/UIPanel/Index>

## International Climate Protection Fellowships - Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

With the International Climate Protection Fellowships the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation enables prospective leaders to conduct a research-based project in the field of climate protection and climate-related resource conservation during a one-year stay in Germany. Application requirements (amongst others):

1. First university degree (Bachelor's or equivalent), completed less than 12 years prior to the start of the fellowship (1 March 2016)
2. Extensive professional experience in a leadership role (at least 48 months at the time of application) in the field of climate protection or climate-related resource conservation or a further academic or professional qualification.
3. Initial practical experience (at least 12 months at the time of application) through involvement in projects related to climate protection and climate-related resource conservation (possibly already during studies). **Application deadline is 15 March 2015.**

Full announcement and application requirements at: <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/icf.html>

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