

# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



**President ECOSF held a Meeting with the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan. The Ambassador appreciated the Role of ECOSF for Promotion of STI in ECO Region**



President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro called upon the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Syed Muhammad Ali Husseini at the Embassy on July 7, 2022. The Ambassador warmly welcomed Prof. Soomro.

Prof. Soomro briefed the Ambassador on the role of Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) in economic development, saying that SETI is very critical for social-economic development of any nation or region. He said; the countries who invest more in SETI, enjoy significant developments. Realizing the importance of SETI and as envisaged in the Charter of ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization), ECOSF was established in December 2011; however, the Foundation began its formal functioning in June 2013. Since then, the Foundation has undertaken variety of scientific activities in member countries in the fields of Science, Technology, Innovation, Engineering, Science Education, Science Diplomacy, etc. Iran is the most important and a founder member and beneficiary of ECOSF activities after Pakistan- the host country, President ECOSF added. The transfer of budgetary funds from Iran has been facing hick-ups, also came under discussion.



Prof. Soomro also informed the Ambassador that Prof. Syed Komail Tayebi from University of Isfahan has been appointed as the new President of ECOSF. After completing the codal formalities, Prof. Tayebi is to join ECOSF soon.

H.E. Syed Hussein highly appreciated the role of ECOSF in promoting SETI activities in ECO region. The Ambassador said that Iran is the founding and key member of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) who also hosts the headquarters of ECO, thus, ECO and its allied organizations and institutes are very much supported/cooperated by Iran. He also assured his maximum possible support to ECOSF, especially to resolve the issue of transfer of funds from Iran; which is mainly due to international embargo on Iran. Syed Hussein also welcomed the joining of new President ECOSF from Iran.

At the end, Prof. Soomro presented five-year report of ECOSF to the Ambassador and invited him to visit ECOSF Headquarters. The invitation was happily accepted by the Ambassador.

### 5-Day Islamabad Hands-On Science Camp successfully held

5-Day "Islamabad Hands Science Camp" was successfully held from 25-29 July 2022. The Camp was jointly organized by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan Science Club (PSC) and National Skills University (NSU). More than 100 students aged 8-16 years from Islamabad, Rawalpindi and surrounding areas participated. During the camp, 16 science sessions were organized, and each session engaged over 30 students.



A concluding ceremony was also arranged on final day of the Camp i.e. 29 July 2022. The concluding ceremony was attended and addressed by the President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro; Vice Chancellor of NSU Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and other officials from ECOSF, NSU and PSC. Parents of the students were specially invited to attend final day including closing ceremony.

During the concluding Ceremony, President ECOSF in his speech said that inquiry based learning is key to understand scientific concepts and enhance critical thing among the students; thus, ECOSF always supports and promotes such kind of activities so that more students can opt to be the scientists in future for sustainable development. He emphasized on learning in mother/local languages because every human naturally thinks in his/her mother tongue, thus, they can think and create big ideas easily. He also shared that he belonged to a humble family background but hard work coupled with life planning earned him the opportunity to lead premier scientific organizations.



Mr. Abdul Rauf, CEO and Master Trainer of PSC also spoke during the ceremony and introduced about PSC and his solo journey, how he started and achieved the aim of establishing PSC from hard times. All he achieved with dedication, commitment and passion, added Mr. Rauf. He also shared details about the Camp.



Mr. Ghulam Abbas, Assistant Director of ECOSF made a presentation about ECOSF and shared about its establishment, objectives, activities and future programmes especially related to science education and inquiry based learning/IBSE. The students were also updated about Teenager Makers Camps which have been held annually by Children and Youth Science Center of China in collaboration with ECOSF. The students were invited to attend upcoming teenager maker camp.



Technical support for the Camp was provided by Mr. Abdul Rauf of PSC as master trainer along with his other three colleagues. ECOSF provided all financial, administrative and logistic support under the supervision of Mr. Ghulam Abbas, ECOSF, whereas NSU provided the venue.

On the first day, the participants were briefed about the Camp and guidelines were shared to follow throughout whole week. The projects such as Wind Mill, Solar Powered Car, Water Rocket Challenge, Telescope and 15 Seconds Machine. The material for making the projects were provided by the organizers. The parents were also engaged on final day to complete the challenge along with their children as a family. The feedback of the students and their parents was very encouraging. The parents and students showed their strong desire to arrange more such activities frequently. At the end of the Camp, the certificates were awarded to the participants.

Following are some Glimpses of the Camp Activities:



**President ECOSF joined the Roundtable on the 30 Years of Pakistan and Uzbekistan Diplomatic Relations, and the Chairmanship of Uzbekistan in SCO**



Pakistan and Uzbekistan have diversified ties, making a tangible contribution toward regional peace and stability over the past 30 years. Both countries have grown deeper and stronger relationship in trade and economics, agriculture, health, security, and information technology.

The mutually beneficial cooperation between the two is further evolving with time. Consequently, investments from each other's sides have increased and the people-to-people ties have become diversified. There is ever deeper and closer cooperation in political, economic, and security fields. These were the remarks by H.E. Mr. Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan while speaking at the Roundtable on; "30 Years of Pakistan and Uzbekistan Diplomatic relations and Chairmanship of Uzbekistan in SCO" hosted by the Centre for Central Asia and Eurasian Studies of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies in collaboration with the Embassy of Uzbekistan to Pakistan and Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University on 21 July 2022.

The students, faculty members, scholars, senators, businesspersons, and representatives from local media attended the roundtable. On behalf of ECOSF, President Manzoor Soomro participated in the roundtable and shared his thoughts.

Dr. Farhat Asif, the President of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS), in her opening remarks, highlighted the significance of thirty years of Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations and about chairmanship of Uzbekistan in SCO, where the country has made substantial contributions by hosting scores of events of diversified nature.

Professor Soomro, the President of ECO Science Foundation, highlighted the significance of cooperation in science and technology and emphasized upon human development while discussing cooperation especially for youth engagement more effectively. He



also shared the ongoing collaboration of ECOSF with the Chinese institutions especially the Teenager Maker Camps wherein the children from Uzbekistan have also been participating along with teenagers from other ECO member countries.

Speaking from Tashkent, Dr. Kabuljon Sabirov, the Director of SCO Centre for Public Diplomacy in Uzbekistan, highlighted how strong people-to-people ties are building between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, especially at the level of SCO.



Dr. Amna Mehmood, Professor Department of Politics and IR at International Islamic University, said that there is a need for Pakistan and Uzbekistan to work together to promote peace in Afghanistan. Through enhanced security and political cooperation, countries can resolve common challenges.

Dr. Ms. Mukhlisa Shayakhmetova, Head of the department of Urdu Language, Literature, History, and Culture of Pakistan at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, joined virtually and spoke in Urdu about the deep-rooted fraternal Pak-Uzbek ties. Finally, Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director of Riphah Institute of Public Policy, thanked all speakers and participants for their contribution to the roundtable.

**President ECOSF participated in the 2nd Governing Board Meeting of the International Research and Training Center for Science and Technology Strategy (CISTRAT) of CASTED China.**

The International Research and Training Center for Science and Technology Strategy (CISTRAT) under the auspices of UNESCO held its 2nd Governing Board Meeting on July 26, 2022. The Centre is a UNESCO Category-2 Centre. The meeting was attended by leading Science and Technology experts and members of the CISTRAT Governing Board including; H.E. Mr. Li Meng, Vice Minister of Science and Technology (MOST) of China, Prof. Cui Ying, Deputy Secretary-General of Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, and Prof. Shehbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office, and others. President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the meeting as the new Member of the CISTRAT Board. The CISTRAT apprised the Governing Board of its report for 2021 and the on-going scientific research and international collaboration programmes to strengthen cooperation concerning science and technology innovation policy and tools.



It is important to mention that CISTRAT was established in 2012 as the seventh UNESCO Category II Centre in China and the first UNESCO Category II Centre to focus on Science and Technology Policy and Strategy. The key focus of CISTRAT has been on conducting joint research on science and technology innovation strategies with countries of the Belt and Road Initiative and participated in international academic exchanges.

During the meeting, CISTRAT also shared the work programme on developing the cooperation network among STI think tanks in countries of the Belt and Road Initiative, foster cooperation and exchanges with relevant think tanks in the field of science and technology policies, and explore long-term cooperation mechanism in terms of personnel exchanges.

The Governing Board appreciated the programmes offered by CISTRAT towards improving training programs on S&T, joint research and partnership building with developing countries, especially those of the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance capacity in the activities of UNESCO. The future work-plan for the year 2022 was also adopted by the members which would enable CISTRAT to carry out trainings on science and technology strategies and policies for developing countries, especially for countries of the Belt and Road Initiative.

**Smithsonian Science Education Center Convened Experts and Educators around the Word for the Smithsonian K-12 Science Education Planning Institute**

The Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC) hosted its third annual K–12 Science Education Action Planning Institute and brought together educators around the world to explore how innovation, inclusion and sustainability are shaping STEM education in 2022 and beyond. This virtual institute was held on July 25–27 and brought together subject-matter experts, formal and non-formal educators, school administrators and educational researchers to explore timely issues within K–12 STEM education. President ECOSF was invited to join and participated in the virtual event.



Participants in the three-day institute engaged in more than 18 sessions focusing on innovation, sustainability and DEAI (diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion) in K–12 STEM education. Sessions also featured data equity with experts from John Hopkins University, discussed diversity in STEM with researchers from the Pew Research Center, explore justice and sustainability in Smithsonian Science for Global Goals guides with Smithsonian Science Education Center curriculum developers, put the “A” in STEAM by making STEM accessible to all with policy and cultural experts from the Education Commission of the States and the Smithsonian, and more.

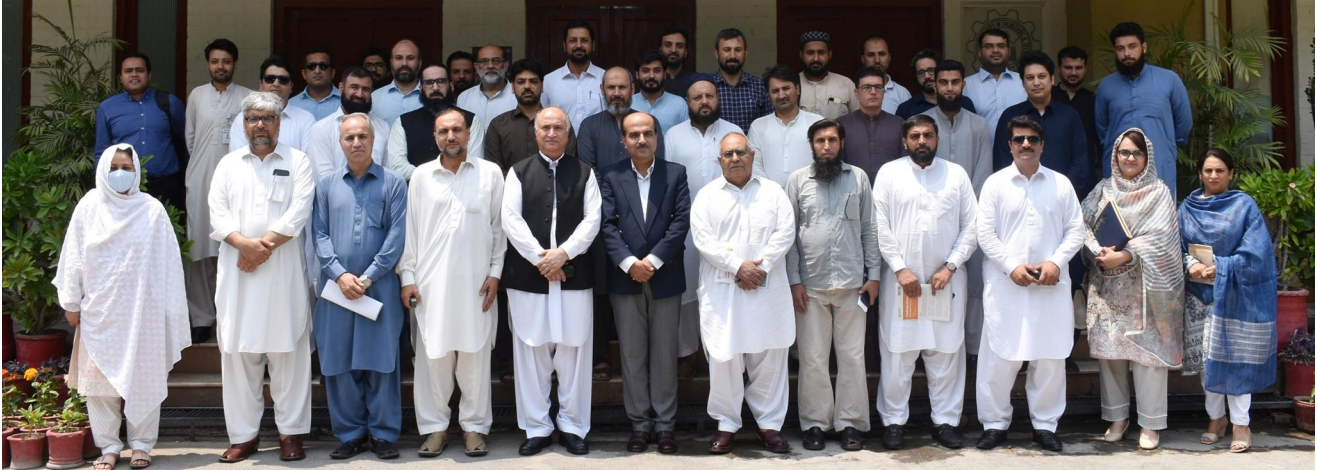
Dr. Ms. Carol O’Donnell, Director of the Smithsonian Science Education Center (who has been working together with Prof. Soomro on some global forums), said that by working with subject-matter experts, researchers and educators from around the world to explore how innovation, inclusion and sustainability influence the K–12 STEM education landscape, SSEC can develop strategies to meet the needs of all students.

**Malala Fund Organized A webinar ‘From Africa to South Asia: A multi-country reflection on progress and challenges towards SDG 4 and 5’**

During the High-Level Political Forum, Malala Fund organized a side virtual event- “From Africa to South Asia: A multi-country reflection on progress and challenges towards SDG 4 and 5” on July 5, 2022. During the event, Malala Fund’s Education Champions from countries across Africa and South Asia shared reflections on their countries’ successes and challenges towards achieving SDG 4 and 5. It will be an opportunity to share lessons learned across countries and regions with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda across these countries. Since ECOSF has supported a Malala Fund project for girls’ education in Pakistan, the ECOSF President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited to join and he participated in the event.

The side event was based on solidarity and interregional exchange. The event provided an opportunity to identify best practices of how civil society can contribute to strengthening policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on education and gender. Malala Fund Education Champions from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Pakistan presented the progress on education and genders in their respective countries. Speakers urged that leaders take the opportunity of the heads of government meeting at the UN High Level Political Forum on the linkages of SDG 4 to girls’ education and gender equality.

### ECOSF participated in the Research and Innovation Session co-organized by IGNITE and UET Peshawar.



IGNITE, Ministry of Information and Technology in collaboration with UET Peshawar conducted an informative session on Ignite's research and innovation framework to help support and strengthen linkages between industry and academia on 20 July, 2022 at Peshawar. Mr. Zain Ul Abdin Director General IGNITE, presented the Research and Innovation framework which is aimed at supporting breakthrough technologies and game-changing innovations in key enabling technologies with the potential to scale up and become market leaders. The framework is to stimulate collaborative and individual interdisciplinary research within the strategic priority areas including urban planning, energy, transportation, communication system, health care, agriculture, climate change, virtual education, and digital life etc. During the event, representative from several other universities also participated in the session and took keen interest in defined areas and R&I processes. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF participated in the event. The Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar, Prof Dr Iftikhar Hussain concluded the session with his appreciation to the Ministry of IT and IGNITE for their strategic support to emerging Start-Up eco-system in Pakistan.

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

#### 2023 GYA membership call is open until 15 September 2022 (18.00 UTC)

Applications are sought from young, independent scholars who combine the highest level of research excellence with a demonstrated passion for delivering impact.

The GYA is a global organisation that places a high value on its diversity. We encourage applications from all qualified candidates. All applicants receive consideration and will not be discriminated against with regard to race, colour, ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, marital status, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental disabilities, or other factors. We aim to avoid that any single institution is overly represented in our membership. We especially encourage women and applicants from different minority groups, and from diverse disciplines including the natural, physical and social sciences as well as the arts and humanities and people working in government, industry, and non-governmental sectors to apply.

**Read More:** <http://ecosf.org/2023-GYA-membership>

#### Take part in COP27

The TeachersCOP is an international event created by the Office for Climate Education (OCE), to highlight to global politicians and decision-makers the work of teachers, the challenges they face and the key role they play in the global climate response.

The first edition took place during the COP26 held in Glasgow and counted with the participation of more than 500 teachers from more than 35 different countries! We are renewing the experience to once again bring the voice and the great work of teachers, this time to COP27 to be held in Egypt from November 06 to 18, 2022.

Last Date for Project Submission: October 16, 2022 (11:59 p.m. French time).

**Read More** <http://ecosf.org/COP27>