



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER

## 6<sup>th</sup> Training Report Powering Belt & Road – Lithium-Ion Batteries

BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center with support of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) organised the 6<sup>th</sup> joint Training Program on Powering Belt and Road - Lithium-ion batteries on September 28, 2022. The training workshop brought together industrial experts, representatives of industrial corporations, policymakers and enterprises to understand and learn from China's expertise and capabilities about viable options for creating a strong lithium-ion manufacturing based in the ECO region, show case best practices, success stories, and barriers on implementation of policies and programmes promoting low carbon development, and match the potential cooperation among BRI counties in Lithium-ion Battery production.

This training program sought to understand and learnt from China's expertise and capabilities about viable options for creating a strong lithium-ion manufacturing based in the B&R region, show cased best practices, success stories, and barriers on implementation of policies and programmes promoting low carbon development, and match the potential cooperation among BRI counties in Lithium-ion Battery production.

Mr. Liu Minhua, in his welcome remarks emphasized that transformative powers of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) will be at the heart of industrial decarbonization in the Belt and Road region. Prof. Minhua paid her gratitude to the expert trainers from China and Pakistan for delivering important and resourceful training for the audience.



Prof. Minhua concluded that the successful transition towards low carbon development would heavily depend on fostering public-private partnerships that can accelerate deployment of technologies, promoting research and development, and human resource skills development. Hence the critical challenge for us is to enable delivery of our national development visions and goals – through low-carbon, climate-resilient or climate-compatible development plans and strategies, whereby the role of science and technology is overarching and gigantic.



Mr. Khalil Raza presented the snapshot of Lithium-ion battery market in the ECO region. He emphasized that there is a tremendous growth potential of Lithium-ion batteries market in the ECO region due to growing traction of both electric vehicles and renewable energy market. To achieve substantial penetration of electric vehicles and accelerate the transition to clean energy, the role of lithium-batteries is critical. Mr. Raza highlighted that currently, the role of ECO countries is limited in terms of local production of primary cells in the ECO Member States. Hence, most of the ECO Member Countries rely on import of batteries from China, Japan, and Korea, which translates into high import costs. The high volume of imports of Lithium-ion batteries in the region turns into high transaction and service costs for e-mobility and energy storage businesses. Thus, this high cost is unsustainable and results into low traction of e-mobility in the region.

Prof. Seyed Komail Tayabi extended his deep appreciation to the leadership of Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) and especially Dr. Di Yuna, Director, BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center for their partnership and continuous support through this Center to promote the low carbon development in the Belt and Road countries, including ECO Member States.



President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi highlighted the fact that the China has now been the world's largest lithium battery consumer market for five consecutive years. Hence, realizing the importance of this topic, ECOSF would strive to bring China's extensive expertise and best practices to help guide investments to develop a regional lithium-ion battery manufacturing value chain that creates equitable clean-energy manufacturing jobs in the ECO Member Countries while mitigating climate change impacts, he underlined.

He was confident that this training on Lithium-ion batteries would be extremely valuable for the participants, and it will strengthen the exchange and cooperation between the Chinese green enterprises and participating BRI countries to explore investment and business expansion opportunities in the areas of renewable energy development, cleaner mobility solutions and smart and resilient power grid operations.

At the end Prof. Tayebi assured the partners that ECOSF will continue the cooperation and collaboration in the field of Science, Engineering, Technology, and Innovation for pursuing our common goals along the Belt and Road.

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**Introductory Meeting between President ECOSF and Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan**

President of ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi along with the Immediate Past President and Advisor Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro made a courtesy introductory call upon the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan H.E. Mehmet Paçacı at the Embassy in Islamabad on 6 September 2022.



President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi informed the Ambassador H.E. Paçacı about his recent joining as the new President of ECOSF. President Tayebi gave a brief outline of ECOSF’s core functions and ongoing programs and highlighted the mandate of the Foundation, which is to promote Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and economic cooperation amongst the 10 Member Countries of the ECO. During the meeting, Prof. Soomro also outlined some of the key STI milestones that the Foundation was able to achieve during his tenure as the Founder President.

Prof. Tayebi underlined the significant role of Türkiye in Science and Technological space, and he emphasized on expanding and strengthening collaboration and cooperation with Turkish Institutions, Researchers and Scholars for mutual benefit of the ECO region. Prof. Tayebi also requested the Ambassador for his crucial support in pursuing Turkish Authorities for the ratification of the ECOSF Charter.



Appreciating and thanking President Tayebi, H.E. Mehmet Paçaci expressed his optimism and confidence on the significant role of the ECOSF in building the technical capacity of ECO Member Countries in the areas of STI and promoting human capital and economic cooperation in the region. The Ambassador congratulated Prof. Tayebi upon his joining as the President which will further strengthen the ECO Science Foundation. He emphasized that STI is very important for socio-economic development of the ECO region. Attributing to the fact that the Türkiye is the Founder Member of ECO, H.E. Mehmet Paçaciat assured his full support to the Foundation and help resolve the pending matters with the Government of the Republic of Türkiye.

In the end, Prof. Tayebi presented ECOSF's Five Years of Journey report to the Turkish Ambassador. During the meeting, Past President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF were also present. The meeting was concluded cordially with an affirmation that both sides would continue to cooperate to make a meaningful impact in the areas of STI for the socio-economic development of the ECO region.

### A MoC signed between Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture and ECOSF

In order to develop the mutually beneficial cooperation between Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and ECOSF, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed on 1st October 2022. The MoU was signed by President of ICCIMA Mr. Masoud Golshirazi and President of ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi during a grand signing ceremony held at ICCIMA Headquarters in Isfahan, Iran. The ceremony was attended by large number of members of ICCIMA and ECOSF officials. It was arranged in hybrid mode.



The purpose of the MOC was s to establish a practical framework for the development of the relationship between the two parties, and to set forth the procedures of cooperation towards the implementation of mutual interests.

According to the MoC, both the Parties will encourage, promote and facilitate the extension of scientific exchanges among their communities to the common interest of both sides. The participation in the

conferences, meetings, workshops, forums and other scientific activities will be encourages/facilitated. The cooperation for the improvement of training, educational and research activities will also be enhanced. The assistance will be provided to each other in any scientific cooperation and collaboration between the two sides.



According to the MoC, both the Parties present research opportunities with relevant applications in business, science, technology and innovation. The Economic Research Center of ICCIMA will facilitate required services regarding research opportunities with relevant applications in business, science, technology and innovation upon the request by the other side. In addition, Isfahan Agriculture and Water Strategic Research Center (IAWSRC), as a focal point to the ICCIMA, will be engaged with joint research and other issues (education, training, research, etc) in the areas of agriculture, water and climate change.

## The Meeting between the Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies



A Consultation Meeting of the ECO Specialized Agencies was virtually held on 17 October 2022. Presidents of all three Specialized Agencies, i.e., ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) Mr. Murodjon Buriboev and ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) Prof. M. Akif Kireççi attended the meeting. Deputy Secretary General of ECO for the International Relations Section Dr. Hüseyin Avni Biçaklı also participated in the meeting on behalf of the ECO Secretariate.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Biçaklı Deputy Secretary General of ECO. He welcomed the participants and appreciated the initiative of holding joint meeting. He also said that Specialized Agencies have a strong role to implement goals and objectives enshrined in ECO's Treaty of Izmir and contribute significantly to socio-economic development of the region.

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, in his remarks, said that all three agencies are important organs of ECO tasked to promote and support activities in the fields of education, science and culture in the member countries. He further shared that ECOSF pursues the goal of promoting research and technological development for sustainable development and economic growth in the ECO region through development of Human Resource capacity for science, technology and innovation as well as science education, strengthening Institutional Capacity, Scientific, Technological and Research Collaboration and Cooperation among its member states and the developed world and exchange/dissemination of Information on S&T Research and Development through workshops, conferences and meetings etc.

All three heads of Specialized Agencies assured their commitment to work very closely together to promote regional cooperation in education, science and culture to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with the ECO Vision 2025. During the meeting, various programmes and initiative of respective agencies were discussed and were agreed upon with consensus.

### President ECOSF called upon the Deputy Minister of Science Research & Technology, Iran

President, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi called upon Dr. Haddadi, the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Science, Research & Technology (MSRT) of Iran and Dr. Mohammad Reza Mohammadzadeh Attar Deputy Head of International Scientific Cooperation Center on September 18th, 2022. MSRT officials warmly received the President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi.

Purpose of the meeting was to review the progress and updates on various budgetary matters and mandatory budgetary contribution to the ECOSF by the Islamic Republic of Iran and to further strengthen the understanding and cooperation between the ECOSF and MSRT. It was also informed that the budget contribution to ECOSF is at the advanced stages of approval by the Iranian authorities and should soon be released.

Prof. Tayebi appreciated the efforts taken by the MSRT and the Government of Iran for their support to ECOSF in various matters. He also acknowledged that the role of Iran will be critical in contributing towards the objectives of ECOSF. And, with strong support of MSRT, ECOSF can strongly pursue its aims and goals. Prof. Tayebi assured his full support in scaling up the cooperation between Iran with other ECO member countries in the areas of Science and Technology.

**President ECOSF held a Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education in Tehran.**

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi called upon the Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Latifi on September 18, 2022. During the meeting, Prof. Tayebi presented a short presentation of the ECOSF to highlight the key ongoing programmes, future aspirations and strengths of the Foundation. Dr. Latifi warmly welcomed Dr. Tayebi and highly appreciated the contributions of ECOSF towards promotion of Science Education in the ECO region.

Dr. Latifi also appreciated the efforts of ECOSF in supporting and collaborating with Iranian scientific community. In addition, the promotion of S&T among young scientists and Inquiry based Science Education (IBSE) also came under discussion. Dr. Latifi invited Prof. Tayebi to further strengthen the ties among ECOSF and S&T based institutions in Iran. Prof. Tayebi warmly welcomed the proposal and suggestion to establish collaboration among ECOSF and Iranian institutions of S&T especially through IBSE for S&T promotion in the ECO Region. At the end, Dr. Hassan Hazarkhani was appointed as the contact person to coordinate future collaboration between two institutions.



**President ECOSF Meets with head of Iran Chamber of Commerce in Tehran**

President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Mr. Gholam-Hossein Shafei to discuss promotion of trade and investment amongst Iran and the other ECO Member Countries on September 19, 2022

In the meeting, Mr. Shafei pointed to the low economic exchanges among the ECO member states and reiterated that ECO member states should identify their capacities and potentials and undertake actions on joint investments.

He added that today the most important economic problem in the country is scientific poverty in the economy, adding that of course some ECO members once had the same problem, but they have passed this stage. He added that when the Central Asian countries became independent, the economic condition was quite challenging, but they are now experiencing a rapid economic progression.



Prof. Dr. Tayebi gave a brief background to the Foundation and highlighted that the ECOSF is an inter-governmental foundation which is located on Islamabad, and it can strengthen connection of the scientific communities of ECO member states and called for creating the pro-active role and supporting grounds for it.

President ECOSF endorsed the stance and said that there is a tremendous trade potential in the ECO region, however, the trade exchange among the ECO member states hardly reaches 10%. He further expressed that investments in Science and Technology are the key to improve economic competitiveness and suggested that ECO member states should use their technological capabilities to strengthen economic cooperation.

Prof. Tayebi also emphasized that role of economic freezones is significant where there could be many opportunities cooperation, for example, the opportunity for cooperation between knowledge-based or exporting technical and engineering services.

He reiterated that this foundation is one of the specialized agencies of ECO that it can pursue the route of knowledge transfer through management knowledge. He noted that the foundation in this regard can use the models of other blocs like the ASEAN through cooperation.

In the end, both sides expressed their assurance for strengthening cooperation in the science, technology and innovation to achieve socio-economic development.



**President ECOSF paid a visit to the Pardis Technology Park in Tehran**

Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) paid a visit to Pardis Technology Park, Tehran on September 20, 2022. After the visit Prof. Tayebi had an exclusive meeting with the President of Pardis Technology Park Engr. Mehdi Safarinia with the word of appreciation of the ongoing cooperation from both sides. Engr. Safarinia highly appreciated the efforts of ECOSF for supporting Mustafa (pbuh) Prize and young scientists and desired continuation of support.

Prof. Tayebi extended his full support to further strengthen the collaboration between both the organizations specially in the area of youth engagement and providing





opportunities for startups and knowledge-based companies. Prof. Tayebi said that technology parks play a crucial role towards the knowledge-based economy and thus, ECOSF would look forward to working together with Pardis Technology Park for the socio-economic benefits of the ECO

**President ECOSF met with Supreme Council of Freezones Iran to boost commerce, trade, and economic development.**

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with Dr. Ahmad Jamali, the Head of Office of Supreme Council of Freezones Iran on September 19, 2022. President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi discussed the ways to leverage the Supreme Council on Freezones to accelerate the development of free zones and help improve the regional economic integration through trade and commerce.





Prof. Tayebi also proposed an idea to establish the ECO Scientific, Technology and Innovation Free Zones (ECOSTIFZ). Dr. Ahmad Jamali congratulated Prof. Tayebi on joining the ECOSF as the President. He warmly welcomed the proposal by Prof. Tayebi to work along this line to help support the ECO Member Countries to improve regional economic trade in the ECO region and provide opportunities for mobility scholars from the respective areas. Both sides also agreed to hold capacity building programmes and join conference on strengthening the role of freezones.

Dr. Jamali underlined that the free zones are ideally suited to build the capacity of Member Countries and provide opportunity to boost production, increase exports and create jobs, and the proximity of these areas to neighbouring countries can be used for exports.

Prof. Tayeb concluded the meeting that freezone play an important role in achieving effective economic growth using digital economy, cross-border communications to help prosper the regional industries. region.

### President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi called upon the President University of Tehran

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi called upon the President University of Tehran Dr. Seyed Mohammad Moghimi on September 21, 2022. Prof. Tayebi was warmly received and he briefly shared the ongoing programmes, vision and objectives of the Foundation and invited Prof. Moghimi to help establish stronger linkages between the two organizations.

Dr. Moghimi, President Tehran of University, pointed out the wide scientific, educational and research capacities and potentials of Tehran University, which could be utilized in the ECO region. He further stated that the development of scientific relations between ECO Member Countries lays the foundation for cordial relations, which contributes to the economic development and cultural relations and scientific diplomacy of the region.



Dr. Moghimi underscored that the University of Tehran is ready to cooperate with the universities and scientific centers of ECO member countries in various fields of exchange of professors and students, providing educational and research opportunities, research and technology exchanges. He emphasized that the position of Persian language should be expanded with the help of developing scientific relations.



Prof. Tayebi, the president of the ECO Science Foundation highlighted existing capacities, scientific and technological needs, and the ECO countries such as Iran, Turkey and Pakistan could further contribute the science and technology in the region. He pointed out that ECO Science Foundation is an intergovernmental institution of ECO Countries and serves a

facilitator that is capable of networking between Member countries' universities and scientific centers.

**The Chairman of Jamili Foundation of Iran hosted President ECOSF and discussed the ongoing collaboration between both the organizations**



President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with the YSF Head of Policy-making Council, Mr. Ebrahim Jamili on September 21, 2022. During the meeting, the President of ECOSF emphasized the significance of a productive organization, human resources capacity development as well as networking among ECO member countries and the role of the ECOSF as a facilitator to establish linkages amongst the ECO Member Countries.

Mr. Ebrahim Jamili highlighted the basic sciences as the primary focus of the Young Scientists Festival. He further mentioned that meeting the international standards regarding the internationalization process of the festival has enormous importance to Jamili Science & Technology Foundation and that cannot be disregarded.

Dr. Shadi Jamili - Director of YSF Permanent Secretariat - stated some points regarding the 5th Festival of Young Scientists and appreciated the contribution of ECOSF in the form of participation of former President ECOSF and currently the ECOSF Honorary Advisor - at the last festival.

At the end of the meeting, Prof. Tayebi affirmed his intention to a long-term cooperation between ECOSF and YSF. YSF side also desired the participation of keynote speakers during the ceremony of 6th Young Scientists Festival which could include the keynote speeches of the Presidents of ECO Specialized Agencies (Science, Cultural and Education), ambassadors of ECO member countries along with the continuation of joint ECO-YSF meetings.



**President ECOSF held a meeting with Board of Directors of Prof. Jafari Tourism Foundation, at Piroozi Hotel, Isfahan.**

President ECOSF held a meeting with members of the Board of Directors of Prof. Jafari Tourism Foundation on September 29, 2022, at Piroozy Hotel, Isfahan. During the meeting Prof. Tayebi highlighted that ECO region offers a great potential for tourism industry. Hence, it is imperative that both sides should work together to promote and exchange knowledge related to tourism industry to establish a robust platform.



The board also discussed the means of support to award badges and provide extensive publications and training programs to improve the productivity of tourism industry in the region. Prof. Tayebi also expressed his support on behalf of the ECOSF to the Congress of Persian-speaking world tourism experts. During the meeting President ECOSF met Dr. Ali Asghar Shalbafian, Iran's Deputy Minister of Tourism who attended the meeting.

**President ECOSF held a meeting with Chairman of Iranian e- Tourism Association**

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with Dr. Hassan Taghizadeh Ansari, the Chairman of Iranian e-Tourism Association and Head of Directors Board of Professor Jafari Tourism Foundation. During the meeting Prof. Tayebi urged that ECO region offers a great potential for tourism industry. Hence, it is imperative that both sides should work together to promote and exchange knowledge related to tourism industry to establish a robust platform.

Prof. Tayebi also expressed his affirmation to work together with relevant stakeholders to conduct a scientific action plan on tourism expansion and promotion in the ECO region. This would enable an ecosystem whereby to exchange and mobility of scholars and students could be achieved. Both sides assured to work together to achieve the mutual and intended goals in the region.



**President ECOSF paid a visit to Isfahan Science Technology Town (ISTT)**



President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi paid a visit to Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) on October 02, 2022, and met Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, Director of the Iran Regional Center for Technology Incubators and Science Parks under the auspices of UNESCO (IRIS), and Ms. Mozghan Yazdianpour, Director at International & Scientific Cooperation Dept., Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT). During the meeting, Prof. Tayebi was briefed about the ISTT, which is the one of the oldest, premier, and biggest technology parks of Iran. The park provides a number of support services that are essential for promoting the ecosystem of startups including, tax rebates and technical and financial mentorships during various stages of pre-incubation, incubation and full-scale business facilities. During the meeting, both parties discussed their future cooperation on the basis of the previously signed MOU.

ISTT is also category-II Centre of UNESCO for Science Parks under the name of “Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Business Incubators & Science Parks Development under the auspices of UNESCO, Iran (IRIS)”. It is pertinent to mention that 44 Science Parks have been established in Iran. Ongoing collaboration between ECOSF and ISTT/IRIS also came under discussion. President ECOSF appreciated the efforts of ISTT for promotion of science, technology, and innovation (STI) and offered the maximum possible support to ISTT/IRIS for the scientific activities in ECO region.

#### **President ECOSF paid a visit to Isfahan Oil Refinery and meeting with Directory Board**

President ECOSF paid a visit to Isfahan Oil Refinery and held a meeting with Board of Directors of the refinery on October 03, 2022. During the occasion, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi presented a snapshot of ECOSF and provided the background, vision, mission and the ongoing programmes of the Foundation to the officials of Isfahan Oil Refinery. Prof. Tayebi extended his cooperation and invitation to Isfahan Oil Refinery for possible cooperation in joint workshops, seminars on petrochemical products, technical and engineering services.

#### **President ECOSF called upon the Advisor to the Vice President Law of Iran.**

President ECOSF called upon Dr. Mehdi Piri, Advisor to the Vice President Law (Legal Assistance) of Iran and Dr. Mohammad Reza Mohammadzadeh Attar, Deputy Head of International Scientific Cooperation Center, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology.

Purpose of the meeting was to review the progress and seek the support of Vice Presidency (Legal Assistance) of Iran on various budgetary matters and mandatory budgetary contribution to the ECOSF by the Islamic Republic of Iran and to further strengthen the understanding and cooperation between the ECOSF and Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT). It was also informed that the budget contribution to ECOSF is at the advanced stages of approval by the Iranian authorities and should soon be released.



Prof. Tayebi appreciated the efforts taken by the MSRT and the Government of Iran for their support to ECOSF in various matters. He also acknowledged that the role of Iran will be critical in contributing towards the objectives of ECOSF. And, with strong support of MSRT, ECOSF can strongly pursue its aims and goals. Prof. Tayebi assured his full support in scaling up the cooperation between Iran with other ECO member countries in the areas of Science and Technology.

Dr. Piri appreciated the role of ECOSF that has been quite productive and he urged the ECOSF to pay and continue its crucial role in STI not only in the ECO region but also worldwide. He addressed the importance of international and regional organization, like ECOSF, in promoting and supporting STI activities among countries worldwide.

#### **ECOSF Outgoing Founding President Prof. Soomro visits Iranian Institutions for Promotion of Youth Engagement, Scientific Research Collaboration, Science Literacy and S&T based Business Development**

Science education across the levels, engagement of youth, research collaboration, public literacy of science and STI based business development are the key areas for an overall socioeconomic development and cultural integration in the ECO Region. The ECO Science Foundation through its diverse programmes has been pursuing above concepts and goals. It is in this context that the outgoing and Founder President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro who completed his tenure on 10 August 2022, was encouraged

by the incoming President of ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi to meet up an earlier commitment and visit some Iranian collaborating institutions.

The visit to different institutions and interaction of Prof. Soomro in Iran during the mission are briefly highlighted below.

### 1. Meeting with the Jamili Charity Foundation and the Young Scientists Festival Organizers (27 August 2022)

Facilitated by the International Office of the University of Tehran and collaborating scientists from the University, Prof. Masoumeh Malek and Prof. Alireza Sari, organized a visit to the headquarters of the Jamili Charity Foundation of Iran in Tehran. The CEO of the Foundation Mr. Ibrahim Jamili and his team warmly welcomed Prof. Soomro. They briefed and updated the guest about their activities especially the last five Young Scientists Festivals (YSF), that have become a hallmark of the Jamili Foundation. The Director of YSF Dr. Shadi Jamili, shared the mechanism of organizing the festivals and the plan for 6th YSF ahead. She informed Prof. Soomro that the participants of the Festivals, and the competitors of various contests are fresh and young Ph.D. scientists and scholars and the mentors and Committee leaders are the senior and mid career scientists from various universities and institutions from across Iran but most from University of Tehran because of its forthcoming approach.



Prof. Soomro, appreciated their efforts and congratulated the CEO Mr. Jamili for supporting the YSF activities through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds from their Jamili group of companies. He then shared the aims and objectives as well as the ongoing activities of ECO Science Foundation especially the youth, IBSE and teenager maker camps programmes in collaboration with the Belt and Road International Science Education Consortium (BRISEC), of which Prof. Soomro is a Vice President. Dr. Soomro, also suggested to the YSF to become member of the BRISEC with the assurance that he will support the membership application of YSF Iran.

### 2. Meetings in the MSRT and University of Tehran

An attempt was made to call upon the Vice Minister for International Affairs in the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) of Iran; however, since the Vice Minister Dr. Haddadi was not available during the stay of Prof. Soomro in Tehran, a meeting with the International Office of the University of Tehran (UoT) was held with Prof. Masoumeh Malek and her team. The issue of financial contributions from MSRT Iran to ECOSF through the International Office of Tehran that had been agreed in principle by the two organizations, was discussed. It was informed by the UoT that MSRT has not moved in the agreed upon modus operandi mainly because there was change of guard in the wake of last general elections in the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was thus agreed that the matter would have to be looked into afresh by the new ECOSF leadership in consultation with MSRT and perhaps the MFA of Iran.

### 3. ECOSF Presentation at and Interaction with the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Mining and Agriculture at Isfahan, Sept 1, 2022

The Chamber of Commerce, Mining and Agriculture Isfahan had requested ECOSF for possible cooperation and had requested for a presentation on sustainable development with particular reference to technological development and water use efficiency. It was in this context that Prof. Soomro after participation the Congress of Biology at Sharekord, visited the nearby Isfahan on

1st Sept and upon the invitation of the Chamber and coordination by the Director for R&D Dr. Zahra Zamani, made a presentation to members of the Chamber, business persons and research scholars from the universities including; the University of Isfahan, Isfahan University of Technology and the University of Medical Sciences. The session/seminar was chaired and moderated by the esteemed Chamber Board Member and Representative for Agriculture- Mr. Mohamad Sadeghi and assisted by Dr. Zahra Zamani.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/S-T-based-Business-Development>

### 30 Years of Pakistan - Kyrgyzstan Relations: Progress and Perspectives Incumbent and Former Presidents of ECOSF joined in

A seminar on; "30 Years of Pakistan - Kyrgyzstan Relations: Progress and Perspectives" was organized by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS), the Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Pakistan and the Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP) of the Riphah International University Islamabad at the RIPP campus. A good number of scholars, researchers, policy experts, students and diplomats attended the seminar.



President ECOSF Professor Seyed Komail Tayebi and the Advisor and Immediate Past President ECOSF Professor Manzoor H. Soomro joined the seminar on behalf of the Foundation. Prof. Soomro was one of the keynote speakers in the seminar.

The President of IPDS Ms. Farhat Asif opened the seminar by welcoming the participants and highlighting the importance of diplomatic and trade relationship between the two brotherly countries- Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. She appreciated the efforts of Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic in Pakistan, the Founder President ECOSF Prof. Soomro and Dr. Rashid Aftab the Director of RIPP for their cooperation. She specially welcomed the new President of ECOSF Prof. Tayebi for joining the seminar.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/30-Years-of-Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan-Relations>

### Iranian Biology Congress- 2022 at Shahrekord University, Sharekord 31 Aug – 1 Sept

The 22<sup>nd</sup> National and the 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Biology of Iran with the theme; "Biology for Healthy Living and Sustainable Development" was held from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 at Shahrekord University, Iran. This event included four sub-sets of conferences, namely; Plant Biology, Animal Biology, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Environmental Biology & Conservation.

The aim of this congress was to present researchers' latest scientific research achievements in the country and abroad in various fields of biology. In addition, to encourage research and technology cooperation with national and international organizations. Venue of the congress- the city of Shahrkord is called the Roof of Iran, as a comprehensive and designated university of Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari Province.



Read More: <http://ecosf.org/Iranian-Biology-Congress-2022>

**New President ECOSF visit ECO Section of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan**



New President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi made an introductory visit to ECO & CARs Section of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. He was cordially received by Director General of ECO & CARs Mr. Shah Faisal Kakar. Mr. Shah congratulated Prof. Tayebi for assuming the charge as new President ECOSF. The DG also said that the ECOSF is an important organization of ECO and hosting it in Pakistan is a great opportunity to develop relations with Member Countries in the field of Science and Technology.

Prof. Tayebi introduced himself and said that he is a professor of international economics at the University of Isfahan, Iran, having the diverse experiences of more than 25 years in research, teaching as well as administration. He further said it is an honor for him to lead a very important organization of ten countries working rigorously for promotion of science, technology and innovation based economic development in the ECO region. Prof. Tayebi further said that he would try to resolve the issues of the Foundation and would materialize his experience and the connections to develop collaboration with more national, regional and international organizations to contribute in STI fields. At the end, he invited Mr. Shah to visit ECOSF Offices which was happily accepted.

**MoU Signed between Union of Iranian Mathematics Societies (UIMS) and ECOSF**

ECO Science Foundation had been interacting with the Isfahan Mathematics House (IMH) for promotion of learning mathematics through non formal methods because many a people in numerous countries feel mathematics to be a difficult rather a dry subject. However, Iran ever since antient times has been very good at mathematics. Iran has also established a network of Math Houses around the country. ECOSF had also invited IMH experts to Pakistan in a science fair, and planned to utilize the expertise of Iran in mathematics to help other ECO member countries. The IMH then discussed the matter with the greater forum of Union of Iranian Mathematics Societies (UIMS), of which IMH is a member, and the UIMS showed its willingness to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ECOSF to expand the concept and non-formal methods of teaching mathematics in ECO member countries.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/MoU-Signed-between-UIMS-and-ECOSF>



**Prof. Manzoor Soomro appointed as Honorary Professor at Beijing Technology and Business University**

Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Advisor/Immediate Past President of ECOSF was appointed as the first Honorary Professor at the BTBU- Beijing Technology and Business University, Beijing P. R. China on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

A grand ceremony was held at BTBU to read the citation of the contributions of Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and the appointment letter was handed over by the Vice President of the University Prof. Liu to the Director of BTBU International Office as Dr. Soomro joined the ceremony virtually. Dr. Liu thanked Prof. Soomro for accepting the appointment. The ceremony was followed by the first lecture by Dr. Soomro to the fresh students of the University and the BTBU faculty. Title of his hourlong lecture was: "Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals". Lecture was followed by a Q&A session.

It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Soomro has led Pakistan Science Foundation and ECO Science Foundation as Chairman and President respectively and developed strong collaboration with Chinese institutions. As an acknowledgment of his contribution he was awarded the "2020 Chinese Government Friendship Award" and appointed as the Distinguished Overseas S&T Expert of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). Prof. Soomro also serves as the Vice President of Belt and Road International Science Education Consortium since it's establishment in 2018.





This is indeed an exclusive honour for Pakistan and Prof. Soomro. Under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Soomro, ECO Science Foundation together with BTBU had established a Joint Training Center at BTBU in Sept 2020, which has so far organised 6 online training workshops on topics like Special Economic Zones, Electric vehicles, Decarbonisation of Industries, Digital transportation etc since 2020.

**ECOSF participated in the Youth Forum on Biotechnology hosted by COMSTECH**



COMSTECH hosted a Youth Forum in collaboration with Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, Turkiye and Islamic Organization for Food Security, Kazakhstan on September 14, 2022. A three-day "Youth Forum on Biotechnology" hosted a large number of national and international participants highlighting the importance of biotechnology to achieve success in all spheres of life. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the meeting.

President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, inaugurated the inaugural session of the forum while Ambassadors/Diplomats of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Somalia, Qatar, Iraq, and Uzbekistan attended the event.

President Alvi highlighted the importance of biotechnology to achieve exponential advancement in the agriculture and food security, and he said that the green revolution could not be possible without biotechnology.

President Alvi urged that those OIC states who are ahead in this technological space must come forward and provide leadership for changing attitude towards the adaptation of new technologies to achieve success in all spheres of life.

The speakers urged young scientists to work hard and develop novel and innovative ethical and moral solutions for humanity and quick adoption of new technologies for the rapid growth of the developing world. They emphasized that COMSTECH should take the lead in the prompt adaptation of emerging technologies in the OIC region.

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Dr Iqbal Choudhary, said that this forum is significant to address the challenge of food security. He urged the need for introducing and using new technologies and better management to tackle the issue of food security faced by OIC states.

**President ECOSF paid a visit to NUST and held a meeting with Pro-Rector NUST**

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi paid a visit to National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and met with Dr. Osman Hasan, Pro Rector NUST on October 28, 2022. Prof. Dr. Osman Hasan congratulated Prof. Tayebi on his leadership role as the President ECOSF. Prof. Tayebi was accompanied by his colleagues; Engr. Khalil Raza and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar. Dr. Hasan and his team briefly shared the background of the NUST as Pakistan's one of the most leading universities in research and academics especially in the engineering, computing, and natural sciences. Today, NUST stands as a benchmark with an integrated ecosystem of quality education, and cutting-edge research and innovation in the country, Dr. Hasan said that there is a tremendous potential for collaboration in academic exchange and research with ECO Member Countries, and thus, NUST would be grateful to ECOSF for providing the linkages with leading Scientific and Engineering Institutions in the region.



Prof. Tayebi appreciated Dr. Osman Hasan for his invitation to the NUST and applauded their efforts for great achievements that the NUST has been able to achieve over the course of three decades. Prof. Tayebi underscored that it is high time for the developing countries especially the ECO Member States to invest in knowledge economy and commercialize research into marketable products to achieve sustainable economic growth in the region. Prof. Tayebi endorsed the ideas and initiatives of Dr. Hasan on research collaboration on materials sciences between Iran and Pakistan, possibility of exploring the scholarship regime for the ECO region, exchange of students and scholars from the ECO region and their potential placement at NUST.



Later, Prof Tayebi was given a tour of the National Science and Technology Park (NSTP) which has been set recently to promote linkages amongst the academia, research, and industry to help promote the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Prof. Tayebi interacted with many founders of the start-ups located in the park. Prof Tayebi shared that Iran has great capabilities on management and development of Science and Technology Park and he assured that ECOSF would continue to provide resourceful support to NSTP to further enhance the productivity of the NSTP and other S&T parks in Pakistan. Towards the end of the meeting, Prof. Tayebi and Prof. Hasan exchanged souvenirs.

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

#### World Science Day for Peace and Development 2022

We all do recognize that science is the cornerstone of development of the nations. While the applications of basic sciences are vital for advances in medicine, economic development, industry, agriculture, water resources, energy planning, environment, communications, and culture.

The World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated every year in November to highlight the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. This year the theme of World Science Day for Peace and Development is Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development.



In this context, ECOSF is pleased to partner with UNESCO, COMSTECH, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and COMSATS to host the World Science Day for Peace and Development 2022 to celebrate and appreciate the crucial role of science in our society and lives.

### Call for Participation in the Sheikh Bahai Technopreneurship Festival (SHTF) 15-17 November, 2022

Sheikh Bahai Technopreneurship Festival (SHTF) is an annual event hosted by Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT), the founder of technology parks in Iran. The event which co-organized by the UNESCO Center, IRIS, aims at fostering the culture of creativity, innovation and technopreneurship, as well as praising technopreneurs as an essential factor in Knowledge-based economy. SHTF, as the first and leading technology and innovation event in Iran, tries to enhance cooperation among technopreneurs and k-based companies to encourage them find solutions to the technological challenges through providing support and introducing successful technopreneurs to investors. SHTF has held 16 successive festivals since 2003. Apart from the competition sections of the event, the festival, in its 17th edition, includes a variety of programs.

- An exhibition introducing the latest achievements of technology companies and technopreneurs,
- B2B sessions,
- training workshops
- Experience transfer sessions.

In the competition section of the festival, startups and technology companies will be identified and evaluated in various fields. Afterwards, the superior technopreneurs and business planners will be introduced to the audience and investors while receiving a cash prize to develop their market.

<http://ecosf.org/SHTF>

### 6<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop

“6<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop” is being organized in September – November 2022 in virtual mode by Children & Youth Science Center (CYSC) of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People’s Republic of China (MOST) and CAST and supported by ECOSF, InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Program (IAP SEP), and Network of African Science Academies (NASAC).

The Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp is an annual event aiming to strengthen cross-cultural exchange, promote international understanding, inspire innovation in young generation and also for all scientists and science teachers to promote mutual learning and fulfill their responsibilities in science education career. The event gives students the opportunity to cooperate with the best of their age at international level, to share ideas and study cutting-edge knowledge in science labs of top schools in China through hands-on experience and teamwork under guidance of experienced teachers. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Camps are held virtually.

<http://ecosf.org/6th-Belt-and-Road-Teenager-Camp>



### Invitation to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> KANS Scientific Competition 2022

Mustafa (pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) which is our strategic partners of the ECOSF - is planning to host 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the KANS Scientific Competition 2022.

The KANS is a scientific competition among university students, scholars, inventors, and instructors (under 45 years of age) throughout Islamic countries. The objective of this competition is aimed at finding the best scientific solutions to spot and tackle the challenges of society. The competition will be held in 6 main areas as listed below:

- a) Energy, Water & Environment
- b) Health & Med-tech
- c) ICT & AI
- d) Electronics, and Robotics
- e) Agriculture and Food Industries
- f) Mining and Mineral Industries

<http://ecosf.org/3rd-KANS-Scientific-Competition>

### Invitation for participation in 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Research in Special Education

The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Research in Special Education 2022 (ICORSE-2022) on November 17-18, 2022. This conference aims to bring together leading researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences about all aspects of Special Education. It also provides the premier interdisciplinary forum for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, concerns, and practical challenges and the solutions adopted in the fields of Special Education.

ECO Science Foundation would highly encourage to participate and contribute to the Conference through the submission of their research abstracts and papers. Also, high-quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work in all areas of Special Education are cordially invited for presentation at the conference.

<http://ecosf.org/Research-in-Special-Education>

### Distinguished Visitors to the ECOSF

**October 19, 2022:** Vice Chancellor Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Sakrand, Sindh-Pakistan Prof. Syed Farooq Hassan along with the Dean of Faculty Prof. Zahid Iqbal Rajpoot called upon President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi. During the meeting, the VC introduced his university and its history, programs. He further said that it is the first university in veterinary sciences in Sindh and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Pakistan.

President ECOSF appreciated the achievements and programs of the University. He also made an introduction of ECOSF and its objectives and programs. He further shared that the ECOSF is working in STI in whole ECO region in the field of STI. ECOSF facilitates and helps various organizations of member countries to develop collaboration in scientific areas. Both the leaders agreed to interact frequently to collaborate in different fields.

