



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



Announcement: International Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI): Catalysts for Regional Connectivity and Sustainable Development in the ECO Region (ECONEX 2025)





International Conference on Science, Technology & Innovation (STI): Catalysts for Regional Connectivity and Sustainable Development in the ECO Region (ECONEX) 2025

April 17-18, 2025 | Higher Education Commission – H-9 Islamabad, Pakistan











ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in partnership with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and several other esteemed partners, is hosting an International Conference on **“Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI): Catalysts for Regional Connectivity and Sustainable Development in the ECO Region (ECONEX 2025)”** on April 17–18, 2025, at the Higher Education Commission (HEC), H-9, Islamabad, Pakistan.

This high-level ECONEX 2025 will serve as a premier platform for thought leaders, policymakers, academic and research institutions, and stakeholders from ECO Member States and beyond to deliberate on the pivotal role of STI in advancing regional integration, economic growth, and sustainable development.

The two-day event will feature plenary sessions, focused on areas such as STI ecosystem, energy transition, regional trade and connectivity, healthcare innovation, human capital development, and climate resilience.

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President ECOSF attended 35th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) held at ECO Secretariat


The 35th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) was held from February 24-27, 2025 in hybrid mode at ECO Secretariat, Tehran. During the meeting, various sessions of sectoral committees were held to discuss and consider the specific programmes for the year 2025. The Committees made their recommendations to the RPC to implement the plans. The plans were focussed on trade, investment, energy, minerals, environment, human resource, transport and communications, tourism and sustainability.

The RPC serves as the main technical planning body within ECO, responsible for preparing programs of action to realize the organization's objectives and assessing previous programs. It also proposes the establishment of regional institutions and ad-hoc committees in priority areas of cooperation to the Council of Ministers.

This pivotal assembly brought together high-ranking delegations from the relevant ministries and agencies of ECO member countries, ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutes and Affiliated Bodies, as well as the Turkish Cypriot State as an ECO observer. President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi attended the meeting physically whereas, other Members from ECOSF participated virtually to discuss and approve the organization's annual work program for 2025.

The ECO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan welcomed the participants and highlighted ECO's key achievements over the past year and provided updates on major flagship initiatives, programs, and projects slated for 2025, marking the conclusion of ECO's Vision 2025. He also emphasized the organization's commitment to regional economic cooperation amid evolving global political and economic challenges.

Ambassador Ontalap Onalbayev of Kazakhstan, presiding over the opening session, acknowledged the progress made under Iran's leadership and reiterated Kazakhstan's dedication to strengthening regional economic ties. He identified trade, connectivity, green energy, and climate change as focal points during Kazakhstan's tenure as ECO Chair. The meeting also set the stage for several significant ministerial gatherings throughout the year, culminating in the 17th ECO Summit scheduled for July 3-4, 2025, in Azerbaijan.

During the opening session, the President of ECOSF, Prof. Tayebi, delivered a statement. He highlighted that despite financial and budgetary constraints, ECOSF has continued its strong efforts to enhance Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in the ECO region. He also provided updates on ECOSF's collaboration with international organizations and regional scientific institutions to promote STI across the region.

Prof. Tayebi urged the ratifying member states, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, to fulfil their mandatory contributions to further strengthen the Foundation. Additionally, he called on member states that have not yet ratified the ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol to do so promptly in order to benefit from the Foundation's programs and enable it to operate at full capacity. While reaffirming ECOSF's commitment to promoting science, technology, innovation, and education through international partnerships, he encouraged member states to support these initiatives for enhanced regional connectivity and knowledge-based socio-economic development. In his final remarks, Prof. Tayebi expressed his sincere appreciation to the ECO Secretariat for their efforts in successfully organizing the 35th RPC Meeting.

During the meeting, a session on Specialized Agencies were also held. The session was Chaired by Türkiye and attended by Iran, Pakistan, Türkiye and the other member states. The delegations of all three agencies led by their Presidents attended. Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi President ECOSF joined the session in person whereas, other team members of ECOSF attended virtually. During the session, the annual progress reports of the agencies were presented and discussed. The Annual Plans for year 2025 were also presented.



At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council expressed gratitude to the ECO Secretary General and his team for their efforts in organizing the 35th RPC meeting and preparing the necessary documents. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair for overseeing the proceedings in a proactive, smooth, and efficient manner. Additionally, the Council recognized and appreciated the Chairmen of various Sectoral Committees for successfully carrying out their responsibilities.

ECOSF arranged science activities for the students and children during MLLF-2025

The Sindh Provincial STEAM Festival 2025 was successfully organized on February 27th, 2025, at the Expo Center, Karachi jointly by Thar Education Alliance (TEA) and the School Education and Literacy Department (SELD), Government of Sindh, Pakistan and supported by ECOSF and other prominent organizations. This festival marked a significant milestone in the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education, bringing together students, educators, professionals, and industry leaders from across Sindh.



The Education of Minister of Sindh H.E. Syed Sardar Ali Shah was the Chief Guest of the Opening Ceremony. The Minister stated that the children of Sindh possess exceptional skills in understanding problems of the province and finding scientific solutions. Minister appreciated contribution of partners like ECOSF, Science Fuse, Pakistan Science Foundation in supporting this valuable initiative.

The Provincial STEAM Festival 2025 was organized in six regions of Sindh i.e., Mripurkhans, Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, Benazirabad and Karachi and it was a landmark event, not just in terms of participation but also in impact. It reinforced the power of collaboration, community engagement, and experiential learning, creating a thriving environment for young innovators. By blending education with entertainment, the festival inspired curiosity, encouraged teamwork, and provided students with the skills and vision to excel in an ever-evolving world.

The event provided a dynamic and interactive space where students displayed their science projects, artistic creations, engineering models, art works, live musical performances, theater work, speeches, and technological innovations. From “Producing Electricity via Sewing Machine” to “Live Violin Musical Performance” and environmental sustainability models, students demonstrated creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. The festival was enriched with hands-on workshops, live demonstrations, panel discussions, and expert-led sessions, transforming traditional learning into an engaging and practical experience.

ECOSF jointly with National Academy of Young Scientists of Pakistan (NAYS) organized scientific activities for students/kids and families during the Mother Languages Literature Festival (MLLF) on 22-23 February 2025 at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad, Pakistan.



Following scientific activities i.e., **DNA Extraction, Digital Microscopy, Germ Kit Experiment, AgriGel Demonstration, Microbiology Experiments, Science and Technology Exhibits** and **Water Testing** were demonstrated.

A good number of students, children, and their parents from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and nearby areas actively participated in the activities. The children's engagement in the events was remarkable, and the feedback was highly positive. Parents, in particular, expressed a strong interest in organizing more such activities to inspire children and students to pursue science as a career.

Earlier, on February 21, 2025, the opening ceremony of MLLF-2025 was held at PNCA to commemorate the International Day of Mother Languages. Organized by the Indus Cultural Forum (ICF) in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), the festival gathered over 120 writers, poets, artists, language activists, and researchers representing more than 20 languages spoken across Pakistan. The event highlighted the importance of linguistic diversity and academia's role in preserving indigenous languages.

Following the opening session, various discussions on mother languages took place over the next two days. Several books of prose and poetry in local languages were launched, and performances by local language musicians added to the cultural vibrancy. Additionally, books for children, provided by various foundations, were displayed and distributed.

Some glimpses of the hand-on science activities:



ECOSF Participated to the ICELET 2025 and held the Virtual Panel Session: Technology-Enhanced Learning in the ECO Region

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in collaboration with the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEl) and the E-learning Association of Iran (YADA), successfully organized a virtual panel session on “Technology-Enhanced Learning: Experiences of ECO Member Countries.” The session took place on February 26, 2025, as part of the 18th National and 12th International Conference on e-Learning and e-Teaching (ICELeT 2025) in Kerman, Iran.

The ECOSF Virtual Session brought together experts from around the ECO Member Countries to share their insights and experiences on the latest developments in technology-enhanced learning in their respective Member Countries.

In this session, moderated by Mr. Khalil Raza, Programme Manager, ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Tayebi, President ECOSF, delivered his welcome note and experience of E-Learning in the ECO Region. He added TEL refers to the use of digital tools and innovative methodologies to enhance teaching and learning experiences. Hence, the Significance of Technology Enhanced Learning is to address educational accessibility and quality, bridge the digital divide in emerging economies and enable lifelong learning and skill development.



Prof. Mehmet Akif Kirecci President ECO Educational Institute, Türkiye, presented a topic on Regional Perspectives on Technology-Driven Education. He Discussed regional trends and challenges in adopting technology-driven education, shared examples of successful TEL initiatives in Türkiye and the ECO region and emphasized the role of regional cooperation in scaling TEL.

Mr. Hasnain Zafar Baloch, Senior Manager, e-Learning with International Medical University, Malaysia, talked about “Transforming Education Through Immersive Design”. He explored the role of immersive technologies (e.g., VR, AR) in transforming education. He also shared examples of immersive learning experiences in Malaysia and discussed the potential of immersive design to enhance engagement and learning outcomes.

Dr. Ali Durdu, Postdoctoral Researcher in Computer Science at the University of Warwick UK. and the Head of the Management Information Systems Department, Social Sciences University of Ankara (ASBU), presented his talk on a case study on ASBU’s digital transformation journey. He highlighted strategies for building a sustainable e-learning ecosystem, discussed lessons learned and raised recommendations for other ECO Member Countries.

Prof. Ali Akbar Safavi, Professor of Systems and Control Engineering and IT Expert, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Shiraz University, Iran, delivered a presentation on "Technology Enhanced Learning: Perspective of Iran." He shared Iran's experience with TEL and e-learning adoption, and discussed challenges, opportunities, and future directions for TEL in Iran. He highlighted innovative practices or policies that could inspire other ECO countries.

The session provided valuable insights into the status of TEL in the ECO region and fostered meaningful discussions on how to address existing challenges. The recommendations from this panel can contribute to shaping future policies and frameworks, ensuring a more inclusive and effective implementation of TEL in the region. Continued collaboration among stakeholders will be essential for advancing TEL and enhancing educational opportunities across ECO Member Countries.

ECOSF contributed to a panel discussion on Regional Collaboration to Drive EV Transition in Central Asia

The Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (E COSF) contributed to a panel discussion on "Regional Collaboration to Drive EV Transition in Central Asia," hosted by the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute on March 26, 2025. The policy dialogue brought together key stakeholders, including national policymakers, researchers, and industry experts, to explore the challenges and opportunities in advancing electric mobility across the CAREC member countries.

Mr. Khalil Raza, Programs Manager ECOSF, who also served as the visiting fellow in 2024 at the CAREC Institute, represented ECOSF by delivering a presentation that emphasized the need for strategic policy interventions to accelerate the electric vehicle (EV) transition. He advocated for implementing tax incentives, subsidies, and Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) models to enhance the development of charging networks and local EV manufacturing. Additionally, he highlighted the significance of integrating renewable energy sources to mitigate the high electricity costs observed in countries like Pakistan and Mongolia, thereby improving EV affordability.



The discussion underscored the disparities in EV infrastructure among CAREC nations, with China leading in EV exports and charging infrastructure, while other member states lag behind with insufficient public charging facilities. Mr. Lu Shiliang, Research Specialist at the CAREC Institute, stressed the need for standardized EV definitions and data collection to support effective policymaking.

Insights from Kazakhstan were also shared by Dr. Vladislav Zavadskiy, who demonstrated how stable electricity pricing has made EVs significantly more cost-effective compared to traditional fuel-based vehicles. He proposed the adoption of off-peak electricity tariffs to further encourage EV adoption. Moreover, Mr. Deng Han from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy China presented China's success in deploying green fleets and zero-emission freight corridors, which have notably reduced CO₂ emissions while increasing profitability.

In concluding remarks, CAREC Institute's Deputy Director Two, Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, identified the key areas for regional policy cooperation, including freight electrification pilots, leveraging mineral resources for battery supply chains, and ensuring equitable access to used EV markets.

Director of the CAREC Institute, Mr. Charymuhammet Shallyyev, also reinforced the importance of regional collaboration in addressing EV transition challenges. He emphasized that knowledge sharing and policy harmonization are crucial for enabling the CAREC region to achieve its decarbonization objectives and build resilience against evolving global mobility trends.

ECOSF remains committed to supporting research-driven solutions and fostering collaboration among CAREC member states to advance sustainable transportation in the region.

ECOSF, UISMS and IPKI organized a joint webinar on "The Moving Sofa Problem"

The ECO Science Foundation in collaboration with the Imran Pervez Khan Institute, and Union of Iranian Societies of Mathematics and Sciences organized an engaging and enlightening webinar titled "The Moving Sofa Problem" on March 13, 2025.

The webinar was conducted by Dr. Abdullah Naeem Malik where he explored one of mathematics most interesting unsolved problems. Dr. Malik is a mathematician specializing in data-driven modeling, deep learning, and graph data science. He earned his PhD in Mathematics from Florida State University.

Dr. Malik delivered an insightful and engaging talk on the Moving Sofa Problem, shedding light on both its theoretical beauty and practical significance. The discussion reinforced the problem's open-ended nature and the continuous quest for new solutions through mathematical ingenuity and computational advances. Participants gained a deeper appreciation for the complexity and real-world relevance of geometric optimization problems.

Recorded webinar is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ERjPCRxxhM>

ECOSF and SMUMS joint a webinar on Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open and Distance Learning (ODL)

On February 16, 2025, the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in collaboration with Iran Smart University of Medical Sciences (SMUMS), organized a webinar on Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open and Distance Learning (ODL). The session featured Hasnain Zafar Baloch as the keynote speaker and was moderated by Dr. Ahmed Ahmedi, Vice President for International Affairs, SMUMS.

The webinar explored the role of OER in expanding educational access, fostering innovation, and supporting lifelong learning. Discussions included best practices, global case studies, and challenges in integrating OER into education systems, particularly in distance learning settings.



Mr. Baloch elaborated the followings during his presentation:

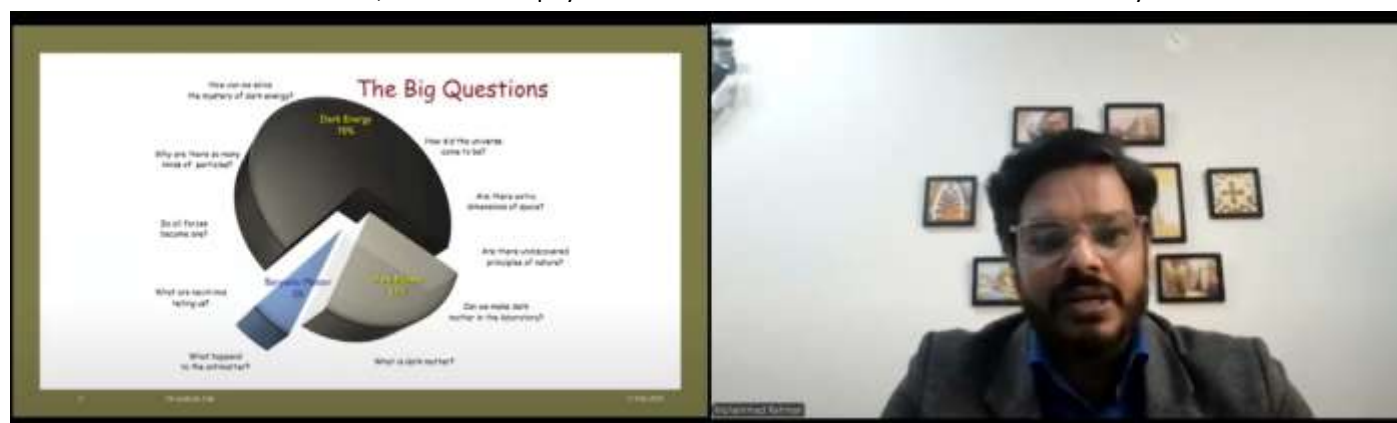
- AI-powered personalized learning platforms that cater to individual student needs.
- The integration of VR/AR to enhance immersive learning experiences.
- Expansion of cloud-based LMS for flexible and remote learning access.
- Increased use of data analytics in education to track student progress and improve teaching methods.
- Growth in Open Educational Resources (OER) and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to provide free access to quality education.

The event was designed for faculty members, researchers, and students interested in gaining valuable insights into OER and ODL, as well as earning empowerment credits while staying informed on the latest developments in the field.

The recorded lecture can be viewed at: https://youtu.be/jiAK2Uh_mUc

ECOSF and IPKI hosted a webinar on Dark Matter

Islamabad, February 17, 2025 – The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in collaboration with the Institute of Physics and Knowledge Integration (IPKI) organized a thought-provoking webinar titled "Dark Matter: A Hidden World in Our Universe." The session featured Dr. Muhammad Rehman, an esteemed physicist and Assistant Professor at COMSATS University Islamabad.



With a Ph.D. from the University of Cantabria, Spain, and eight years of teaching and research experience in particle physics phenomenology, Dr. Rehman specializes in supersymmetric models and high-energy physics. His research focuses on Higgs decays, dark matter interactions, and lepton flavor violations. Apart from his academic contributions, he is an active science communicator, striving to make complex physics concepts accessible to the public through social media.

Dr. Rehman discussed one of modern physics' greatest enigmas—dark matter—which constitutes nearly 85% of the universe's matter yet remains undetectable through direct observation. His talk explored the gravitational effects of dark matter on galaxies, cutting-edge experiments aimed at uncovering its identity, and theoretical models like Supersymmetry (SUSY) that may provide answers. He also discussed the challenges that scientists are faced with studying an invisible entity and its profound implications for fundamental physics.

The webinar attracted students, researchers, and science enthusiasts, sparking engaging discussions on the mysteries of the cosmos.

Recorded webinar is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaLb5s2Sgpk>

President ECOSF attended International Conference on 'The Role of Neutrality in Strengthening International Peace' Marking the 30th Anniversary of Turkmenistan's Neutrality

In his welcoming address, Ambassador of Turkmenistan Mr. Atadjan Movlamov spoke about the 30-year history of the Neutrality of Turkmenistan. He emphasized that the Neutrality of Turkmenistan was twice recognized by the UN by relevant resolutions, unprecedented in world diplomacy and international relations. This was another recognition of the peacekeeping potential and the important role of Neutrality in ensuring security and stability and in the peaceful development of international relations in general. He also spoke about the Concept of Turkmenistan's activities and priorities within the framework of the International Year of Peace and Trust 2025, as an initiative that is a call for all states to start working together, including political, ideological, and practical aspects of implementing the idea of peace and trust as a fundamental principle of the world order.



The conference was addressed by the Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs of Pakistan Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Mohamed Yahya, the President of IPDS Ms. Farhat Asif, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkmenistan Tariq Osman Haidar, the Head of the Department of International Relations of the National Defense University of Pakistan Kurram Iqbal and the Head of the Department of Social Sciences of the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) Tarak Wahid.

Speakers at the conference particularly noted that over the past 30 years, the evolution of Turkmenistan's neutrality has proven its compliance with the basic values and goals of the UN and has been recognized as a common asset of the world community. They emphasized that the enormous potential of neutrality and its principles should be used much more widely by the international community in the name of peace, good neighborliness and prosperity, and should also become an effective platform for resolving emerging contradictions by peaceful means, at the negotiating table. In particular, it was noted that it is advisable to study and adopt the experience of Neutral Turkmenistan in building mutually beneficial relations with many countries of the world, as well as in strengthening and developing international relations.

The event was attended by Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, heads and staff of diplomatic missions and UN agencies and international organizations, the ECO Science Foundation accredited in Pakistan, representatives of think tanks, prominent representatives of Pakistan's business community, as well as local media. The conference shields were presented to the speakers as well as the President ECOSF, as the representative of the ECO.



ECOSF President Visited COMSATS Secretariat to Strengthen Collaboration.

Islamabad, March 12, 2024 – In a significant step towards fostering regional collaboration in science, technology, and innovation (STI), Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), visited the COMSATS Secretariat. He was warmly received by Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, alongside Dr. Mehwish Qayyum Durani, Additional Director (Coordinator for International Organizations) and Head of COMSATS Centre for Climate & Sustainability (CCCS).

The visit was a part of the preparations for ECOSF's International Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation: Catalysts for Regional Connectivity and Sustainable Development in the ECO Region (ECONEX), scheduled for April 17–18, 2025, in Islamabad. COMSATS has already pledged its full support for this initiative.

ECONEX 2025 aims to convene Ministers of Science and Technology from ECO member states, policymakers, industry leaders, scholars, and researchers to explore strategies for strengthening the STI ecosystem, with a focus on regional connectivity and sustainable development.



Ambassador Zakaria commended ECOSF's leadership in advancing STI cooperation and reaffirmed COMSATS' commitment to actively participate in ECONEX 2025. He also emphasized the need for deeper collaboration between the two organizations through frequent joint initiatives in science, technology, and capacity-building programs.

COMSATS and ECOSF have been closely working together under a cooperation agreement signed in July 2024, focusing on mobilizing academia, S&T institutions, and R&D organizations for innovation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange. This partnership has already yielded impactful collaborations, including joint activities on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The upcoming ECONEX 2025 will mark another milestone in COMSATS-ECOSF cooperation, reinforcing their shared vision of leveraging science, technology, and innovation to drive sustainable development across the ECO region and beyond.

ECOSF co-organized 6th International Mobile Health Congress in Shiraz.

The 6th International Mobile Health Congress, held from February 18 to 20 in Shiraz, Iran, brought together global experts to explore emerging technologies in healthcare. The Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) played a prominent role as a co-organizer of the event.



Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of ECOSF, delivered a keynote address titled “Digitalization of Health Economics: An Opportunity to Improve Lifestyle, Evidence from the ECO Region.” In his speech, Prof. Tayebi emphasized the critical role of digital transformation in the health sector, particularly in enhancing quality of life, reducing healthcare costs, and promoting preventive care over therapeutic models.

He underlined that the integration of advanced technologies such as AI, IoT, big data, and robotics—characteristics of Industry 4.0 and 5.0—is reshaping health economics. Stress management, mental well-being, and equitable access to digital health services were central themes of his address, backed by evidence from ECO member countries.



Another distinguished speaker, Prof. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of Health Services Academy in Islamabad, Pakistan, discussed the role of artificial intelligence in lifestyle research. He highlighted the importance of behavior-related factors—diet, physical activity, sleep, and stress—in public health, and the increasing role of AI in tackling these challenges.

Mr. Adnan Siddiquie, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of EZShifa in Pakistan, presented a compelling case study on how technology can drive universal healthcare in developing nations. He introduced the EZShifa model, showcasing how scalable tech-driven solutions are addressing gaps in healthcare access and affordability for underserved populations.

The congress covered a range of forward-thinking topics, including AI and the metaverse in medicine, telemedicine advancements, digital nutrition strategies, and mobile health solutions for vulnerable populations. The event marked a significant step forward in aligning technological innovation with global health equity and sustainability goals.

ECOSF President Strengthens Bilateral Ties and Promotes Regional Collaboration During Iran Visit

Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), concluded a productive visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran from February 16 to March 1, 2025. During his stay, Prof. Tayebi held a series of high-level meetings with academic and scientific institutions, focusing on fostering regional collaboration in science, technology, and innovation (STI), as well as advancing digital healthcare and education.

Strengthening Collaboration with SMUMS

At Smart University of Medical Sciences (SMUMS), Prof. Tayebi met with Prof. Hassan Bakhtiari, President, and Prof. Ahmad Ahmadi, Vice-President for International Affairs. Discussions centered on expanding bilateral cooperation in virtual education and the application of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Prof. Tayebi introduced the upcoming International Conference on Digital Health to be held in Islamabad in April 2025, inviting SMUMS to participate. Both parties agreed on reinforcing joint efforts to enhance global collaboration in digital education and health services.



Visit to Nikan Salam Institute, Isfahan

In Isfahan, Prof. Tayebi visited the Nikan Salam Institute, where he presented ECOSF's objectives and ongoing initiatives. The meeting explored potential partnerships in science, technology, and innovation. Nikan, a public health-focused institute, shared its vision of establishing Iran's first smart hospital—an area where collaboration with ECOSF could yield transformative results.



Promoting ECONEX 2025 with Governmental Support

In Tehran, Prof. Tayebi held a meeting with Prof. Turaj Amraee, Deputy for the Development of Knowledge-based Companies, Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy Affairs. Prof. Tayebi extended an invitation to support and sponsor the **ECONEX 2025 Conference** on Science, Technology, and Innovation, set for April 17–18 in Islamabad. Prof. Amraee welcomed the initiative and pledged support.

Strategic Talks at the Iranian Organization for International Scientific Cooperation

Prof. Tayebi also met with Prof. Hossein Rouzbeh Head of the Iranian Organization for the Development of International Scientific and Technological Cooperation (ODISTC) and Ms. Zahra Sahaei, Deputy Exchange for Technology at ODISTC. He outlined ECOSF's mission in promoting STEM education and capacity building across the ECO region. The parties discussed the strategic relevance of ECONEX 2025 as a regional nexus for STI collaboration, with Prof. Rouzbeh emphasized the import role of the ECONEX Conference in promoting STI in the region affirming his organization's commitment to supporting the event.



Expanding Ties with University of Tehran

During a visit to the University of Tehran, Prof. Tayebi met with Prof. Mahmoud Reza Delavar, Prof. Ataollah Koochian, and Prof. Seyed Mostafa Razavi. Discussions focused on operationalizing the MoU between ECOSF and the university, aiming to bolster bilateral cooperation in academic and research areas.



Engagement with Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics (IBB)

Prof. Tayebi also visited the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics (IBB) at the University of Tehran, where he was received by Prof. Ali Akbar Moosavi-Movahedi. After presenting ECOSF's programs and extending an invitation to the ECONEX 2025 conference, Prof. Moosavi-Movahedi highlighted IBB's leading role in molecular science research and training, expressing appreciation for ECOSF's efforts to promote STI in the ECO region.



President of ECOSF Attended Iftar Reception Hosted by the Embassy of Uzbekistan to Celebrate International Nowruz Day

The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad hosted a vibrant Iftar reception to mark International Nowruz Day, celebrating the arrival of spring and the renewal of life through a cultural gathering that reflected Uzbekistan's deep-rooted connection to this ancient festival.

The event brought together ambassadors, diplomats, government officials, cultural experts, media representatives, and members of the Pakistani community. Representing the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), President Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi attended the festivities.



In his welcoming address, H.E. Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev emphasized the significance of Nowruz in Uzbekistan's national identity, describing it as a celebration of new beginnings and a symbol of peace, unity, and mutual understanding. Noting the unique alignment of Nowruz with the holy month of Ramadan this year, he highlighted the shared values of compassion, generosity, and reflection between the two observances.

Guests were treated to traditional Uzbek dishes, including Sumalak, a symbolic Nowruz delicacy made from sprouted wheat, and enjoyed performances of traditional music and dance by young Uzbek children, underscoring the intergenerational transmission of heritage.

As the call to prayer signaled Iftar, attendees broke their fast together in a spirit of unity and hospitality, capturing the essence of both Nowruz and Ramadan as celebrations of shared values and human connection.

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

Call for Papers for the Fifth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference in Islamabad

The CAREC Institute (CI) invites the submission of papers to be potentially featured during the fifth CAREC Institute Annual Research Conference on 29-30 May 2025 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Research Conference is a flagship knowledge event that serves as a critical platform for stakeholders across the CAREC region to deliberate on pressing issues, share insights, and foster regional collaboration. We welcome original articles, case studies, and reviews pertinent to the conference themes.

Theme

The theme of the fifth conference is "CAREC Connectivity: Promoting Trade and Trade Facilitation". The sub-themes are:

1. Regional Connectivity and Trade Facilitation
2. Green Transport and Corridor Development
3. Customs Reforms and Efficiency
4. Energy Transition and Green Investment
5. Private Sector Engagement and Regional Cooperation
6. Multimodal Logistics

Important dates:

- Submission of Abstract: 20 March 2025
- Submission of First Draft: 12 May 2025
- Presentation at Research Conference: 29-30 May 2025
- Submission of Revised Draft: 30 July 2025

Submissions:

Abstracts (500 words or less) must be submitted to emmat@carecinstitute.org no later than 20 March 2025.