



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## ECO Science Foundation co-organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Beijing in collaboration with China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC)

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) actively participated as a co-organizer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (IC-CCDRR), held on October 19–20, 2025, in Beijing, China. The conference was jointly organized by the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), UNESCO, Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and Quaid-i-Azam University, along with other partners. The two-day event brought together more than 400 scientists, policymakers, and experts from across China, the ECO region, and international organizations.



Over 400 experts and scholars from research institutions, universities, government agencies, and international organizations participated, discussing the impacts of climate change on natural disasters, mechanisms of hazard formation, and risk management strategies. The event aimed to enhance global understanding of climate–disaster interactions and to strengthen resilience against extreme events.

The conference also marked the launch of the UNESCO Chair on Mountain Disaster Risk Reduction, led by Academician Prof. Cui Peng, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Prof. Yang Saini, Beijing Normal University. This is the first UNESCO Chair hosted by CAS, focusing on mountain disaster prevention, resilience building, and regional collaboration across Asia.

**ECOSF hosted and led a session: “Leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience”**

ECOSF co-organized and led a dedicated session titled **“Leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience.”**

The session, chaired by Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF, and co-moderated by Mr. Khalil Raza, Programme Manager (Energy & Climate), featured 10 speakers from China, Türkiye, Iran, and Pakistan.



Prof. Tayebi extended his gratitude to CPJRC for the partnership and welcomed participants on behalf of ECOSF. He underlined the Foundation’s commitment to fostering science, technology, and innovation (STI) to enhance resilience and sustainable growth across the ECO Member Countries.

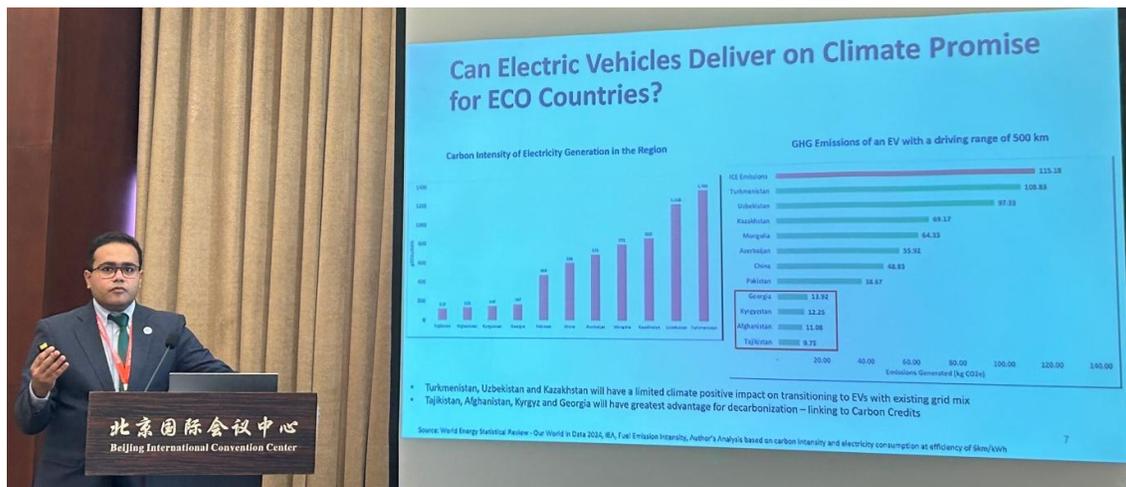
The session continued with welcome remarks by Prof. Hong Tianhua, Executive Director of the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), who emphasized the importance of collaborative scientific action and regional partnerships for addressing the growing challenges of climate-induced disasters.



The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director and Representative to the UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia (Beijing), on *“Leveraging Open Science and Open Data for Water Security.”* Prof. Khan highlighted the transformative role of open science and data-sharing frameworks in improving water resource management and policy integration. He underscored how accessible data can foster collaboration among nations and stakeholders, enabling evidence-based decision-making and early warning systems for droughts and floods. Prof. Khan also called for strengthened regional partnerships to harness technology and innovation for sustainable water governance, particularly in addressing the shared challenges posed by climate change.

Subsequent presentations reflected the diversity of scientific perspectives and solutions from across the ECO region:

- **Prof. Ismail Koyuncu** (TÜBA, Türkiye) presented on *“STI for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in Türkiye,”* showcasing innovative water treatment and sustainability initiatives in Türkiye’.
- **Prof. Xu Chong** (National Institute of Natural Hazards, China) shared insights on *“Geological Hazards: Data, Mechanisms, Technologies, and Applications,”* emphasizing the role of big data and hazard modeling.
- **Mr. Khalil Raza** (ECOSF, Pakistan) spoke on *“Electric Mobility for the ECO Region: Driving Climate Mitigation and Greener Urban Futures,”* highlighting e-mobility as a strategic pathway for transport decarbonization.
- **Mr. BI Shuli (Alex)** (World Green Design Organization, China) presented on *“Application of Green Design in Emergency Disaster Prevention,”* demonstrating how sustainable design principles can enhance disaster preparedness and recovery systems.
- **Prof. Yang Wentao** (Beijing Forestry University, China) spoke on *“Leveraging AI & RS for Disaster Risk Reduction: Landslide, Typhoon & Flood,”* demonstrating how artificial intelligence and remote sensing technologies can improve disaster prediction and rapid response.
- **Dr. Mehdi Abedi** (Tarbiat Modares University, Iran) presented on *“Seven Hazards, One Region: Toward a Unified Climate Response in ECO Countries,”* emphasizing the need for regional coordination and policy harmonization to address cross-border climate risks.
- **Prof. Xiwei Xu** (China University of Geosciences, China) discussed *“Response Differentiation and Risk Reconstruction of Extreme Precipitation,”* analyzing how extreme weather events evolve under shifting climatic conditions and the importance of adaptive risk management.



In his closing remarks, Prof. Tayebi, President of ECOSF, expressed sincere appreciation to all speakers and participants for their valuable contributions. He reiterated ECOSF’s commitment to fostering science, technology, and innovation for climate resilience, and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation among ECO Member States and Chinese institutions for building a sustainable and disaster-resilient future.



**ECOSF Contributed to the Roundtable on the International Program on Resilience for Emerging Disaster Risks (REDR)**



ECOSF also played an active role in the Roundtable on the Proposal for the International Program on Resilience for Emerging Disaster Risks (REDR) held on October 19, during the sidelines of the IC-CCDRR.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director, UNESCO Beijing Office, opened the session by emphasizing the importance of understanding the evolving nature of disasters and the need for adaptive and collaborative approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Prof. Hong Tianhua, Executive Director, China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences; Secretary to UNESCO Chair for Mountain Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience introduced all the participants. Prof. Hong emphasised that the REDR aims to strengthen global and regional collaboration in addressing emerging climate and disaster risk challenges. The initiative seeks to foster adaptive and collaborative approaches to disaster risk reduction (DRR) by enhancing the sharing of scientific knowledge, data, and best practices among member countries.



Prof. Yang Saini, Co-holder, UNESCO Chair for Mountain Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, presented a detailed proposal titled **“International Program on Resilience for Emerging Disaster Risks (REDR)”**, aimed at strengthening global and regional cooperation to address evolving disaster challenges.

President Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi contributed to the high-level dialogue, emphasizing the need for regional cooperation and STI-based resilience frameworks under the ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Prof. Tayebi emphasized the regional cooperation is crucial in DRR as it allows for shared resources, knowledge, and strategies. ECO countries can work together to develop early warning systems, share best practices, and coordinate response efforts. Mr. Khalil Raza additionally served as the technical rapporteur for the roundtable, compiling key insights and recommendations for future regional collaboration.

The roundtable concluded with an open discussion emphasizing stronger regional networks, data-driven decision-making, and inclusive strategies to strengthen community-level resilience and sustainability.

**President ECOSF Serves as Panelist in Thematic Forum on Emerging Climate Risks during the conference.**

President Prof. Tayebi was also invited as a panelist in the Thematic Forum on **Emerging Risk Challenge and Response under Climate Change**, where he shared the stage with globally leading experts on Climate Change and Disaster Risks. Prof. Tayebi underlined the growing vulnerability of the ECO region to complex, cross-border climate risks such as glacial lake outbursts, flash floods, and droughts.

In his remarks, he stressed the need for:

- a) Strengthening science-policy interfaces for early warning and resilience planning,
- b) Promoting climate education and public awareness through the IBSE pedagogy,
- c) Investing in regional STI ecosystems that foster innovation, open science, and digital transformation in risk management,
- d) Regional cooperation and shared innovation to strengthen the regional DRR framework through STI partnership, joint research and capacity programs.



Prof. Tayebi reaffirmed ECOSF’s commitment to advancing science-driven collaboration across the ECO Member States, particularly in areas of disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, and sustainability transitions.

At the closing ceremony of the Conference, President Tayebi conveyed his sincere gratitude to Prof. Hong Tianhua, Executive Director of CPJRC, and the entire organizing team for their exemplary collaboration and hospitality. President Tayebi also expressed his commitment to further enhancing cooperation and expanding this initiative throughout the broader ECO region.

### President ECOSF Calls on Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Pakistan

Islamabad, October 22, 2025: President of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, called on H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, at his office in Islamabad on 22nd October 2025.



The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and focused on strengthening cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) among ECO Member Countries, as well as the organization of the 6th Meeting of the ECOSF Board of Trustees (BoT) to be hosted in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Prof. Tayebi briefed the Honorable Minister on ECOSF's ongoing programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting STI and STEM education within the ECO region. He emphasized the ECOSF's focus on the region's challenges, particularly climate change, renewable energy, and regional development, by launching webinars, forums, and collaborations with other relevant organizations. Prof. Tayebi also shared the preparatory progress and proposed agenda of the forthcoming BoT meeting.

Minister Khalid Hussain Magsi appreciated ECOSF's continued efforts to enhance regional collaboration in STI and reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's full support for the successful convening of the 6th ECOSF BoT Meeting. He emphasized Pakistan's strong commitment to advancing the objectives of ECOSF and promoting regional cooperation in science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development.

The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding to strengthen the partnership between MoST and ECOSF, ensuring enhanced participation of ECO Member States in upcoming ECOSF initiatives.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar, Manager (Administration) of ECOSF.

### Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan Visits ECOSF to Strengthen STI Collaboration and Institutional Linkages

H.E. Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan visited the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and held a meeting with the ECOSF Leadership including by Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, ECOSF and Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, Executive Director, ECOSF on October 7, 2025. The visit aimed to explore avenues for deepening cooperation between ECOSF and Uzbek institutions, with a focus on advancing science, technology and innovation (STI) as a driver of regional development.



Welcoming the Ambassador, Prof. Tayebi highlighted that Uzbekistan is a key member of ECOSF and emphasized the importance of building robust, structured collaboration in STI—particularly through joint programmes that empower youth, strengthen scientific capacity, and promote innovation ecosystems across the ECO region. During the meeting, Dr. Memon outlined priority areas where ECOSF seeks facilitation and support from the Embassy and relevant authorities in Tashkent, including stronger institutional participation in ECOSF initiatives and enhanced coordination for upcoming regional activities.

During the meeting, Mr. Khalil Raza, Programs Manager ECOSF provided a briefing on ECOSF’s mandate, current programmes, and strategic roadmaps, highlighting how ECOSF’s interventions can support STI promotion in Uzbekistan in line with regional priorities. Prof. Tayebi specially requested the Embassy’s support in arranging high-level engagements with Uzbekistan’s key institutions—particularly the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation to expand partnerships and identify concrete collaboration pathways.



Ambassador Tukhtaev appreciated ECOSF’s ongoing efforts and initiatives for Uzbekistan and the wider ECO region, and—recognizing the importance of STI and youth empowerment—assured the Embassy’s full support in facilitating coordination with Uzbekistan’s relevant institutions and authorities.



**President ECOSF Engages with MSRT Iran to Mobilise STI Agenda for ECO Region**



On 29 October 2025, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) of Iran in Tehran. He met with Prof. Farhad Yazdandoost, Acting Minister for International Affairs and Head of International Scientific Cooperation Center at the MSRT, and briefed him on ECOSF’s major initiatives from October 2024 to October 2025, especially those involving Iran, while extending a formal invitation for MSRT’s participation in the upcoming 6th BoT Meeting in Pakistan. The discussion also centred on Iran’s timely fulfilment of its mandatory budgetary contributions to ECOSF. Prof. Yazdandoost recognized the Foundation’s value and affirmed support for addressing the financial matter for the ECOSF. Both leaders also explored avenues for

deepening bilateral cooperation in science and technology, with a particular emphasis on fostering joint research projects and academic exchange programmes. Prof. Tayebi expressed optimism that Iran’s active engagement would further bolster regional scientific collaboration and contribute to the shared goals of the ECO Member States.

Later Prof. Tayebi also met with Mr. Mirmohammad Saleh Rahemi, Head of the Budget, Organisation & Administrative Transformation Office at Iran’s MSRT. Prof. Tayebi introduced ECOSF’s role as the ECO-region’s specialised agency for science, technology and innovation (STI) and emphasised Iran as a priority partner for upcoming regional events and programmes. Both sides reviewed Iran’s past budgetary contributions since 2013, commended the channel recently opened for partial payments covering 2023–24, and urged the ministry to finalise outstanding arrears and confirm 2025 membership. Mr. Rahemi responded positively, applauding ECOSF’s work and assuring Iran’s continued support for its mission on promoting Science, Technology and Innovation in the ECO region. Dr. Ali Ghannadi, Senior Expert of International Relations at the International Scientific Cooperation Center, MSRT, accompanied President ECOSF, Prof. Tayebi, to this meeting.



**President ECOSF Visits MFA, Iran to Advance Regional STI Collaboration**

On 28 October 2025, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran officials at the ECO Office earlier in the day. During the visit, President Tayebi was welcomed by Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Senior Adviser to Iran’s Permanent Representative to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), where they reviewed recent ECOSF projects and discussed preparations for ECOSF’s Sixth Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting to be held in Pakistan. The meeting also addressed key administrative and budgetary matters essential for facilitating participation and coordination across ECO Member States.

**President ECOSF visited the Culture House (Khaneh Farhang) of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rawalpindi**

Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, the President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), visited the Culture House (Khaneh Farhang) of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rawalpindi and met with Dr. Mehdi Taheri, the Head of the Culture House on October 23 2025.

During the meeting they discussed the relationship between science and culture, science education and the role of culture in science and innovation as well as joint collaboration.



Following this visit, Prof. Tayebi attended the meeting of scholarship applicants in Iranian universities as a special guest. While welcoming the students, he shared his experiences of higher education and research in Iran. He emphasized that, in addition to focusing on education, they should become acquainted with Iranian culture and civilization in order to have a more meaningful and inspiring experience in Iran.

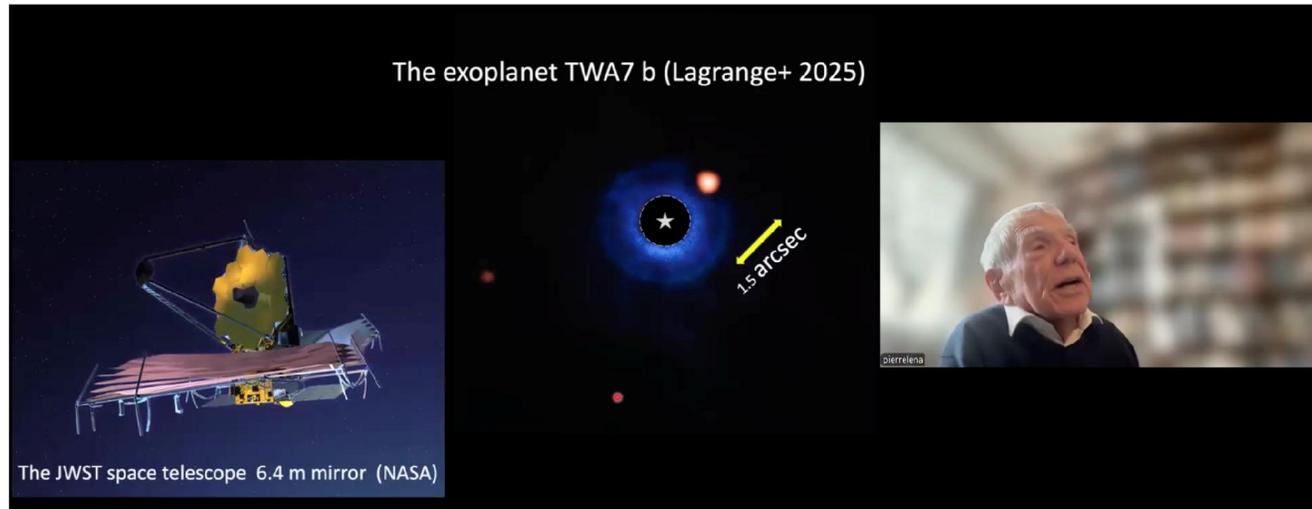
Prof. Tayebi also explained the role of the ECOSF, which collaborates with Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, and seven other Asian countries to strengthen regional scientific and research cooperation.

Dr. Mehdi Taheri, the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s House of Culture (Iran Khaneh Farhang) in Rawalpindi, also stated that the House of Culture of Iran is always willing to serve as a foundation for scientific and cultural exchange between Iran and Pakistan. Prof. Tayebi also praised Dr. Taheri’s initiative and efforts in organizing this meeting, viewing it as a positive step toward improving scientific and cultural relations between the two countries.



### Science Chronicles Webinar Explores “The Long Quest of Astronomy for Sharp Images”

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in collaboration with the Imran Parvez Khan Institute (IPKI), hosted another insightful session of its *Science Chronicles Webinar Series* on October 8, 2025. The webinar featured a distinguished talk by Prof. Pierre Léna, *Emeritus Professor at the Paris Observatory and Université Paris-Cité, and Member of the French Académie des sciences*. The session was moderated by Mr. Khalil Raza, Programs Manager at ECOSF.



In his lecture titled “*The Long Quest of Astronomy for Sharp Images*,” Prof. Léna traced the remarkable evolution of astronomical instruments and imaging technologies that have transformed our understanding of the universe. He explained how limitations of the human eyes inspired the invention of telescopes, and described the challenges posed by atmospheric turbulence in early observations. He highlighted the pioneering work of astronomers such as George Airy and Edwin Hubble, whose discoveries laid the foundation for modern adaptive optics — a technology that corrects atmospheric distortions to produce sharper images of celestial objects.

Prof. Léna elaborated on two revolutionary techniques in astronomical imaging — adaptive optics and optical interferometry. He discussed their development and applications, from observing exoplanets and solar structures to constructing advanced facilities like the European Very Large Telescope and the forthcoming 39-meter telescope in Chile. He also reflected on the future of European astronomy, outlining two possible directions: the construction of even larger ground-based telescopes or the development of space-based interferometers requiring international cooperation.

The session concluded with closing remarks from Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of ECOSF, who expressed deep appreciation for Prof. Léna’s valuable contribution and reaffirmed ECOSF’s commitment to promoting scientific knowledge and education across the ECO region.

### ECOSF hosted a Webinar to Explore Health Tourism Opportunities in the ECO Region

ECOSF in collaboration with the Smart University of Medical Science (SMUMS), Iran hosted a webinar, “Unlocking Health Tourism: Potential in the ECO Region”, was held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. The webinar focused on global trends in health tourism, highlighting the unique competitive advantages of ECO Member Countries.

Renowned keynote speaker Dr. Ali Mohammad Mosadeghrad, Professor of Health Policy and Management at Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), delivered a comprehensive presentation. He addressed critical topics such as the creation of a unified regional health tourism brand, enhancement of infrastructure and service standards, expansion of cross-border cooperation, and the integration of innovative technologies including telemedicine and blockchain. Dr. Mosadeghrad also emphasized the importance of establishing regional accreditation systems and integrated management for health tourism.

On behalf of SMUMS, webinar was moderated by Dr. Seyed Ahmad Ahmadi, Vice Chancellor for International Affairs, SMUMS. Prof. Ahmadi facilitated the exchange of expertise and meaningful dialogue among scholars and participants. Mr. Khalil Raza, Programs Manager at ECOSF, underscored the significant potential for health tourism in the ECO Region, noting that the webinar provided crucial insights for knowledge sharing and future opportunities.

### Lecture objectives

□ **By the end of this lecture, you will:**

- ❖ Have a **shared vision** of the **health tourism potential** within the ECO region
- ❖ Identify **common challenges** and brainstorm **initial solutions**.
- ❖ Gain a **practical framework** built on four key pillars for development
- ❖ Define **one actionable step** you will take to advance this goal

Dr. Mosadeghrad. All rights reserved.



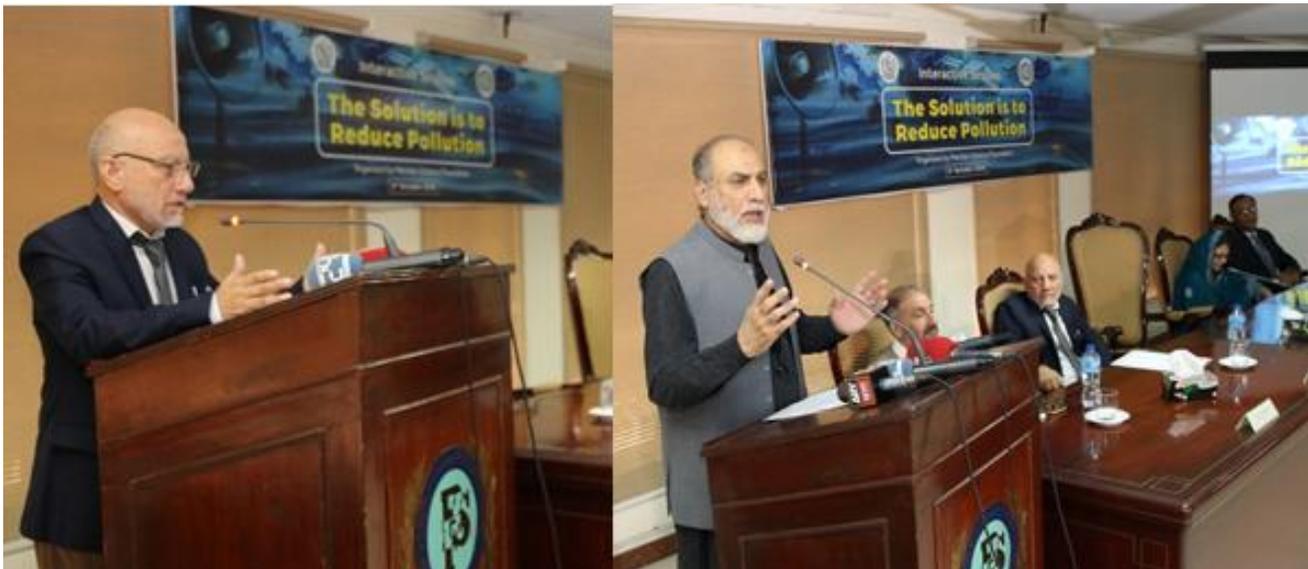
Dr. Mosadeghrad

This event aligned with the ongoing regional synergy efforts, serving as a catalyst for the development of a shared roadmap to position the ECO region as a global hub for health tourism. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants affirmed the event’s success and its role in advancing academic and regional collaboration.

**An Interactive Session on “The Solution is to Reduce Pollution” held at PSF**

An Interactive Session on “The Solution is to Reduce Pollution” was held on 2nd October 2025 by Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Minister for Science & Technology, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He stressed on policy measures, strict enforcement of environmental regulations, and community participation for achieving long-term impact.

The session commenced with a welcome address by Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akmal, who highlighted the Foundation’s continued efforts in promoting environmental awareness, science popularization, and youth engagement in tackling pressing issues like pollution.





Prof. (Rtd.) Dr. Hizbullah Khan, a faculty member from University of Peshawar, delivered his presentation on “Breaking the Silence: Understanding Noise Pollution, Its Sources, Impacts, and Control”.

Dr. Sofia Khalid, Chairperson, Department of Environmental Sciences, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, gave a presentation “From Rivers to Oceans: Unmasking the Hidden Dangers of Water Pollution”.

Mr. Muhammad Saleem Sheikh, Head of Communication & Advocacy, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad, gave presentation “Public Sensitisation and Awareness on Pollution Control: Protecting Public Health & Environment”.

The session was attended by environmentalist, climate change advocates, academia, young students. President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar, Manager ECOSF also attended. President ECOSF while attending the session put important questions and suggested that the youth and students should be educated to tackle the issue of pollution which was well appreciated. During the tea break session, President ECOSF also met with the Minister S&T H.E. Mr. Magsi and discussed upcoming meeting of ECOSF BoT. The Minister invited President ECOSF to his office to discuss the matter in details. The session was concluded with vote of thanks by Chairman PSF.

#### Prof. Soomro on the cover page of renowned Chinese Magazine 国际人才交流 (International Talent)

Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Founding President and Advisor of ECOSF, former Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation, and the winner of 2020 Chinese Government Friendship Award, recently visited China to attend 18th Pujiang Innovation Forum in Shanghai China. During his Chinese visit, renowned Chinese Magazine 国际人才交流 (International Talent) interviewed him in detail and has published an article as a cover story with his picture on the cover page. In the interview, he talked about his personal life, education, career, achievements and contributions in the field of science and technology. He also talked about his role to connect the scientific community of ECO region and China.

Read more: <https://ecosf.org/chinese-magazine/>



Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

**Webinar Announcement | Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems in the ECO Region**

The **ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)**, in collaboration with the **Smart University of Medical Sciences (SUMS)** and **Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS)**, is pleased to host this webinar focusing on **“Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems in the ECO Region.”**

This webinar will bring together policymakers, experts, and researchers from ECO Member States to discuss strategies for strengthening the **climate resilience of health systems** against the increasing impacts of climate change.

**Key topics include:**

- National health adaptation programs
- Climate risk management and resilient infrastructure
- Regional cooperation to address environmental crises
- Utilization of emerging technologies for climate-smart healthcare

Join us to exchange experiences, strengthen regional cooperation, and shape a roadmap toward **sustainable and climate-resilient health systems** in the ECO region.

Zoom Credentials are:

**Topic: Building Climate Resilience: Health Systems in the ECO Region**

**Time:** Nov 12, 2025 11:30 AM (GMT+5)

**Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87987428572?pwd=ocWciAgb9VpbFH7j22rGllxjBRrV74.1>

**Meeting ID:** 879 8742 8572

**Passcode:** 194451

**SMART UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
**TEHRAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
**ECOSF**

**Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems in the ECO Region**

Nov. 12, 2025 10:00 am-12:00 pm IRST | 6:30am- 8:30 am GMT

This specialized webinar is organized with the aim of empowering policymakers, managers, experts, and researchers from the member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to explore strategies for strengthening the climate resilience of health systems against the growing impacts of climate change through an analytical, forward-looking, and region-oriented approach.

In this webinar, key concepts of climate resilience will be introduced, global trends reviewed, and the vulnerabilities, capacities, and shared challenges of the health systems in ECO member countries analyzed.

The main themes include the design of national health adaptation programs, development of resilient infrastructure, enhancement of healthcare facility preparedness, climate risk management, utilization of emerging technologies, and strengthening of regional cooperation to address environmental crises.

This event provides a platform for experience exchange, scientific synergy, and the development of a joint roadmap toward building sustainable and climate-resilient health systems across the ECO region.

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87987428572?pwd=ocWciAgb9VpbFH7j22rGllxjBRrV74.1>  
 •Meeting ID: 879 8742 8572 •Passcode: 194451

**Dr. Seyed Ahmad Ahmadi**  
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