

# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## Meeting between President ECOSF and Chairman HEC Pakistan held in cordial environment

A meeting was held between the President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi, and the Chairman Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed at his office on March 30, 2026. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, Executive Director ECOSF and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar, Manager (Administration) were also accompanied the President ECOSF.



At the outset, Prof. Dr. Tayebi congratulated Prof. Niaz Ahmed on assuming his new responsibilities as the Chairman and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure. The Chairman thanked him for the gesture and appreciated ECOSF's role in promoting regional cooperation in science and technology among ECO member countries.

During the meeting, both sides discussed avenues for strengthening collaboration between ECOSF and HEC, particularly in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI). Emphasis was placed on enhancing joint initiatives, academic linkages, and capacity-building programs.

A key proposal deliberated during the meeting was the organization of a Forum of Vice Chancellors of Top Universities in the ECO region. The initiative is envisioned to foster academic cooperation, promote collaborative research, and facilitate exchange of knowledge and expertise across the ECO region. The Chairman HEC welcomed the proposal and expressed his support.

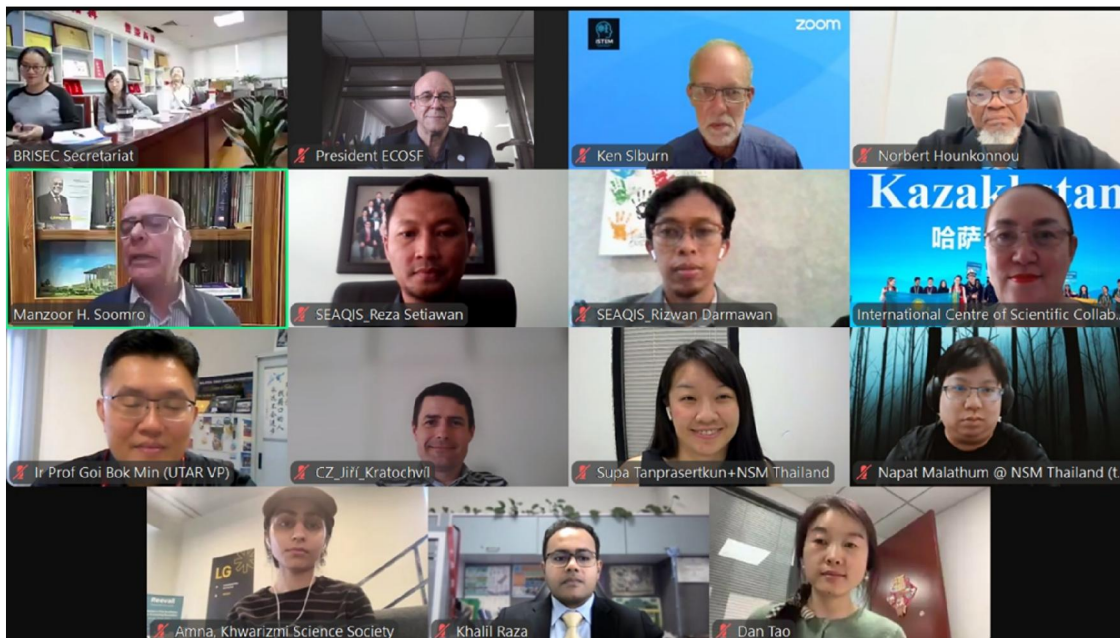
The Chairman HEC assured his maximum possible support for joint activities and future collaborations between HEC and ECOSF. Both sides agreed to maintain close coordination to achieve shared objectives in higher education and scientific advancement.



During the meeting, the President ECOSF extended an invitation to the Chairman HEC to visit the ECOSF Secretariat, which was graciously accepted. The meeting concluded on a positive and forward-looking note, with a mutual commitment to strengthening institutional cooperation.

**ECOSF participates in the 2026 First Quarter Exchange Meeting of the BRISEC**

**Thursday March 12, 2026** - Prof. Tayebi, President ECOSF along with his team attended the meeting the 2026 First Quarter Exchange Meeting of the BRISEC, with theme of **Artificial Intelligence Education**. The online meeting was moderated by Professor Manzoor Soomro, BRISEC Vice-president, and other BRISEC members from China, Indonesia, Romania, Pakistan, Malaysia, Thailand, Czech Republic, Benin, etc., attended the meeting.



In this thematic meeting, Dr. Ken Silburn, the Vice President of the Metropolitan Southwest Science Teachers Association, presented a topic titled “The Evolution of the Professional Educator.” Furthermore, Prof. HAN Liqun, Professor and Former Dean of the School of Information Engineering of Beijing Technology and Business University; Former Executive Vice President of the Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence, introduced the Constitution of Consortium on AI Education for the Global South.

The speakers emphasized that as artificial intelligence continues to reshape teaching and learning worldwide, this exchange meeting aims to provide a platform for dialogue on innovative practices, professional development, and future collaboration in AI-enabled education across BRISEC member countries.



**President ECOSF attended the webinar on “Mathematics and Hope” for the International Day of Mathematics 2026**

**Friday, 13 March 2026** - UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, organized a webinar on “**Mathematics and Hope**” for the **International Day of Mathematics 2026**. Prof. Tayebi, President ECOSF, attended the event virtually.

The 2026 theme of the webinar, Mathematics and Hope, reflected the idea that mathematics, like hope, is one of humanity’s most universal assets. The speakers focused on the importance of Mathematics which enables a deeper understanding of reality, supports the development of shared frameworks and definitions, and contributes to solutions that serve the common good. Mathematics equips us to navigate uncertainty, build trust in knowledge, and imagine more inclusive and sustainable futures. Beyond driving scientific and technological progress, it also contributes to social cohesion and resilience.



At the opening session, Ms Lidia Brito, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO, said that by fostering collaboration, trust and mutual benefit, mathematical thinking encourages more equitable and cooperative societies. In line with its mandate, UNESCO supports students and educators worldwide in discovering mathematics as a tool for understanding, cooperation and hope.

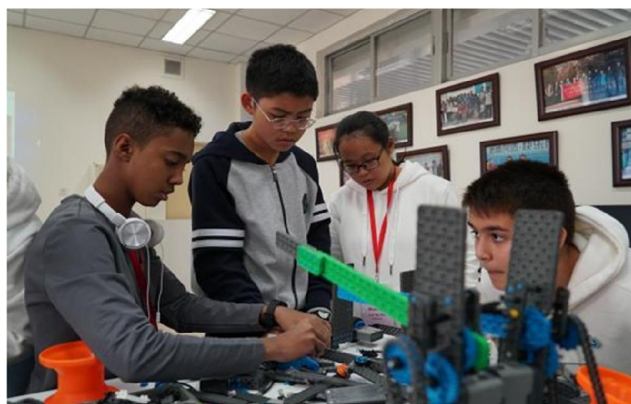
Professor Edward Frenkel, University of California, Berkeley, delivered a keynote lecture on mathematics and hope and said that mathematics unites us all, and every mathematical formula or theorem expresses a fundamental truth about nature and about

ourselves. These truths are persistent, unchangeable, eternal. Prof. Frenkel added mathematics describes our inner, mental world. It gives us an objective, scientific approach to the study of the human mind.

The panelists of the session on “**Hope and Mathematics**” discussed that since its proclamation by UNESCO in 2019, the International Day of Mathematics has been celebrated annually to raise global awareness of the essential role that mathematics and mathematics education play in science, technology, societal well-being, and the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Each year, a dedicated theme highlights a particular dimension of mathematics’ impact on society. At the closing session, Dr. Shaofeng Hu, Director of the Division of Science Policy and Basic Sciences, UNESCO, delivered a vote of thanks.

**Empowering Youth Through STEM and Innovation – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Belt & Road Teenager Maker Camps**

The Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop (referred to as the Maker Camp for short) has been held annually since 2017. Co-hosted by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST) and the people's government of the host province, it is supported by the Inter Academy Partnership (IAP) Science Education Programme, the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). This science education exchange event is targeted at high school students as well as science and technology teachers from countries and regions participating in the Belt and Road Initiative and other relevant nations. The 10th Anniversary of Maker Camp will be held in Guangxi, Xinjiang, Shaanxi, Ningxia and Yunnan, China in September, 2026.



Project Discussions, Sharing Salons, and DIY Creations

Maker Activity

**President ECOSF Reflections:**

Looking back on ECOSF’s participation in the Belt & Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop since 2017, I am reminded of a simple truth: when we invest in young people, we invest in the future of our societies. These camps are not just events—they are practical, hands-on learning spaces where students and teachers experience science as something real and useful, not only something written in textbooks. Participants learn how to ask better questions, work in teams, communicate with confidence, and use evidence to solve problems in their everyday lives.

One of the most encouraging lessons is how quickly students from the ECO region build friendships and professional networks with peers from other countries, and how mentorship from experts helps them imagine new career paths and future opportunities. The camps also introduce young learners to emerging technologies—like AI, robotics, IoT, and big data—that are reshaping the global economy and will define tomorrow’s jobs.

Going forward, my message is that we must strengthen STEM education, support science teachers, expand hands-on learning, and build stronger bridges between education, research, innovation, and industry. Thus, we should use these platforms to inspire youth-led solutions to the region’s shared challenges, especially climate change, food security, and resource challenges.

**Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi**  
President ECO Science Foundation



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ECOSF's Energy & Climate Expert, Mr. Khalil Raza Authors CAREC Transport Decarbonization Roadmap for Development Asia

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SUMMARY

Powering the Road Ahead: Decarbonizing Transport in CAREC



A driverless electric robotaxi (Apollo Go) navigating Beijing streets showcases the future of low-emission transport. Photo credit: Khalil Raza.

Mr. Khalil Raza, Program Manager for Energy & Climate at the ECOSF has been featured in **Development Asia**, the Asian Development Bank's knowledge platform, with his article "**Powering the Road Ahead: Decarbonizing Transport in CAREC.**"

The analysis examines critical pathways to reduce carbon emissions across the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation region, where transport accounts for significant greenhouse gas output. Raza outlines strategic priorities including transport electrification, modal shifts to rail and public transit, energy efficiency improvements, and digitalization of logistics systems.

The article highlights the importance of aligning national climate commitments with regional cooperation frameworks, particularly as CAREC countries work toward their 2024–2030 Climate Change Action Plan. It addresses financing mechanisms, policy gaps, and the necessity of coordinated infrastructure development to unlock climate finance. The publication supports ongoing efforts to accelerate sustainable transport transitions across Central Asia while maintaining economic growth trajectories.

Link to full article: <https://development.asia/summary/powering-road-ahead-decarbonizing-transport-carec>

**Eid and Nowruz Greetings from ECOSF team**

