

# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## ECO Secretary General Visits ECOSF to Strengthen Regional STI Cooperation

H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), visited the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) on April 8, 2026. The Secretary General met with Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi (President, ECOSF) and Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon (Executive Director, ECOSF) to discuss strengthening science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation across the ECO region. The meeting focused on better leveraging ECOSF as ECO's specialized STI platform to advance high-impact regional initiatives in priority areas such as capacity building, applied research, and innovation-led development.



In his remarks, Prof. Tayebi welcomed the Secretary General and reaffirmed ECOSF's commitment to serving as a practical bridge between ECO Member Countries—linking institutions, experts, and programs to deliver measurable STI outcomes for the region. Prof. Tayebi stated that ECOSF expects ECO member nations, particularly Türkiye and Central Asian countries, to contribute more to ECOSF programs, despite the fact that ECOSF has served all members equally in its scientific endeavors.

The Secretary General discussed opportunities to strengthen scientific and technological collaboration across the ECO region and emphasized the importance of robust cooperation among ECO Member Countries, particularly timely budgetary contributions to ECOSF and progress on ratification and institutional commitments that enable the Foundation to implement its mandate effectively. Prof. Tayebi also conveyed appreciation for the ECO Secretariat's continued support and guidance, while Dr. Memon reiterates ECOSF's readiness to work closely with the ECO Secretariat and Member States to translate shared priorities into implementable programs.



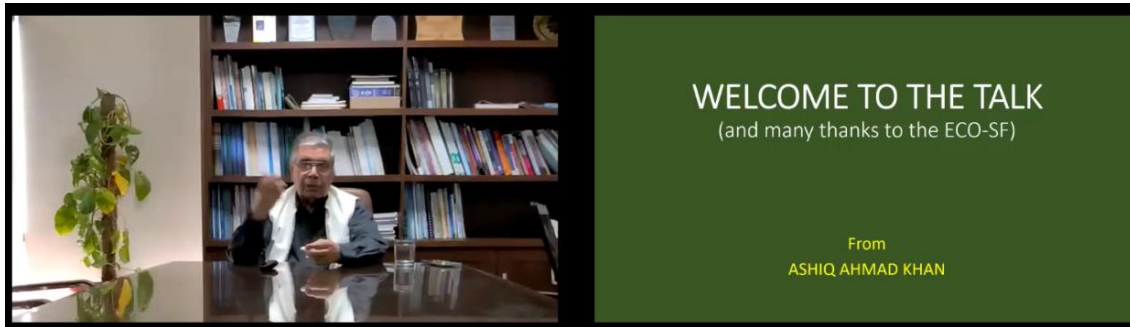
ECOSF hosted Science Chronicles Webinar on Protected Areas and Regional Collaboration in the ECO Region in partnership with NAYS.



The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), in partnership with the National Academy of Young Scientists (NAYS), successfully organized a session of the Science Chronicles Webinar Series on **“The Potential Role of Protected Areas in the Promotion of Collaboration, Scientific Research and Innovation in Management among the ECO Member Countries”** on 16 April 2026. The webinar featured Mr. Ashiq Ahmad Khan, Advisor, Inter-University Consortium on Climate Change and Biodiversity; Chairman, Board of Directors – Fund for Protected Areas; and Recipient of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Kenton Miller Global Conservation Award, as the keynote speaker. The webinar was moderated by Mr. Khalil Raza, Programme Manager, ECOSF.

In his presentation, Mr. Khan highlighted the critical role of protected areas in biodiversity conservation and environmental protection across the ECO region, drawing on examples from Pakistan. He outlined the different categories and management systems of protected areas in the country, while also identifying key challenges, including limited community benefits, weak implementation of management plans, and insufficient scientific research. He emphasized that although Pakistan has enough

protected areas, stronger management and more meaningful community engagement are essential for improving outcomes, citing the successful community-led management of Khunjerab National Park as an important example.



In the Q&A session followed by lecture, participants raised thoughtful questions on biodiversity promotion, ethical considerations in research, community participation, and funding opportunities for scientific studies.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF, underlined the importance of protected areas as public goods and stressed the need for closer cooperation among governments, the private sector, and local communities. He also expressed interest in continuing similar knowledge-sharing webinars in the future. Prof. Tayebi appreciated Mr. Khan for his insightful presentation, as well as NAYS and ECOSF teams for organizing the webinar.

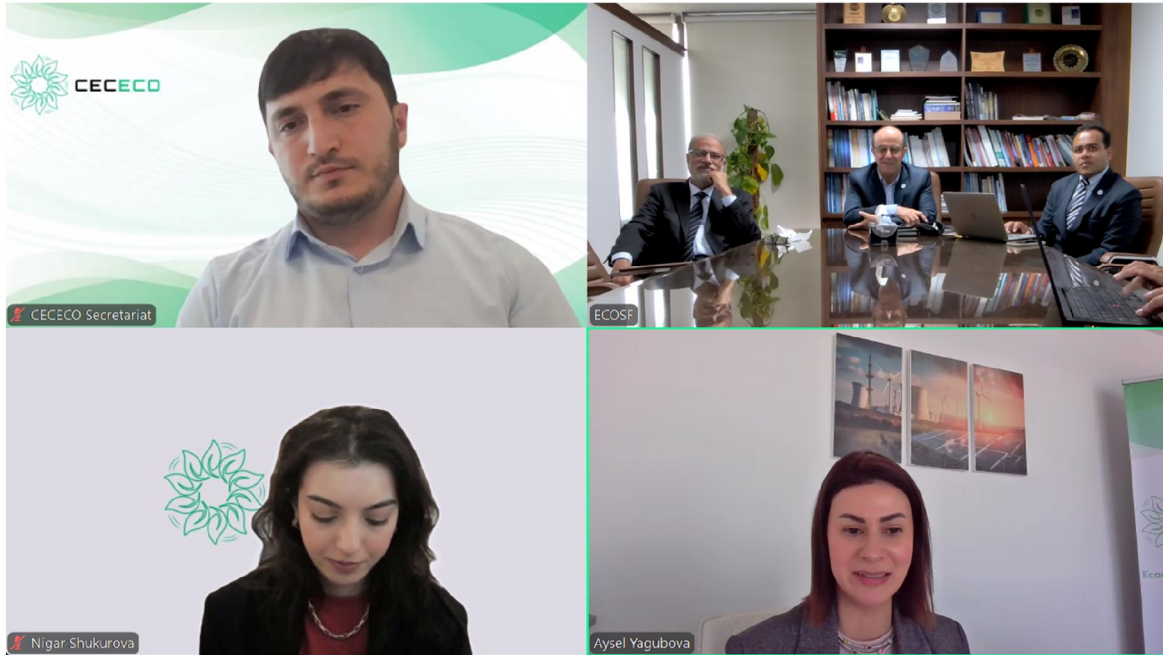
Following the webinar, Mr. Ashiq Ahmad Khan held a dedicated meeting with Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi - President ECOSF, to advise on potential areas and practical pathways for future collaboration in the field of protected areas, biodiversity conservation, and related scientific cooperation across the ECO region.



**ECOSF–CECECO Consultation on Clean Energy and Sustainability Transition**

**April 16, 2021:** A virtual meeting was held between the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and the Clean Energy Centre for the ECO Region (CECECO) to explore potential areas of cooperation in clean energy, sustainability transition, and related regional initiatives.

The CECECO was represented by Ms. Aysel Yagubova, Executive Director, Ms. Nigar Shukurova, Project Coordinator and Mr. Asif Mammadzada, Communications Manager. The ECOSF side was represented by Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, Executive Director and Mr. Khalil Raza, Program Manager.



During the meeting, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi appreciated the opportunity for engagement of ECOSF in energy discussion and underlined that energy and clean energy transition remain among the high-priority areas of ECOSF. Ms. Aysel Yagubova welcomed the interaction and noted the strong alignment between ECOSF and CECECO, emphasizing the potential for meaningful cooperation. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon also highlighted the importance of working on energy-related themes and reaffirmed ECOSF’s interest in supporting regional efforts in this domain.

Ms. Yagubova briefed the participants on CECECO’s programs and priorities and identified several areas where both institutions could work together. She particularly referred to CECECO’s ongoing and upcoming activities, including monthly engagements and upcoming conferences/workshops. She also shared CECECO’s plans for the Clean Energy Academy as a platform for future capacity-building programs.

On behalf of ECOSF, Mr. Khalil Raza, proposed collaboration areas, including the preparation of joint policy briefs and country briefs on clean energy and sustainability transition. He also proposed the development of a CECECO–ECOSF Capacity-Building Program and highlighted the importance of jointly pursuing funded projects in areas of shared interest. Both sides expressed interest in maintaining close coordination and in identifying the next practical steps to translate the discussion into concrete collaborative activities.

At the end, Prof. Tayebi praised CECECO and ECOSF’s proposed partnership and stressed the importance of developing a roadmap for cooperation between these two sister organizations.

#### **ECOSF Hosts Dr. Sayad Parastar, Chairman of Henan Pallas Biotechnology Co. Ltd, China**

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) hosted Dr. Sayad Parastar, renowned Iranian agricultural scientist and Chairman of Henan Pallas Biotechnology Co. Ltd China on April 8, 2026, for a meeting with ECOSF leadership: Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, ECOSF and Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, Executive Director, ECOSF. The meeting focused on exploring potential cooperation to boost agricultural productivity across ECO Member Countries—particularly in climate-stressed and degraded regions.

During the meeting, Dr. Parastar shared insights and delivered a presentation on cutting-edge agronomic techniques and bio-fertilizers aimed at improving crop yields and soil performance. He was accompanied by Mr. Sarmad Hussain, Communications Manager, Finanzgruppe Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband (DSGV) Germany. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Aftab Ahmad,



President of the National Academy of Sciences of Young Scientists (NAYS) and Dr. Kubra Mehmood, Founder and CEO Planet Bio Labs. President Tayebi appreciated Dr. Parastar’s work and emphasized ECOSF’s interest in supporting the piloting, promotion, and knowledge-sharing of such solutions across the ECO region.

H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), also briefly joined the meeting and underlined the importance of innovation-led approaches for strengthening regional food security and agricultural resilience.



**CPJRC Delegation Visits ECOSF to Advance Cooperation on Early Warning Symposium and ICCDRR 2027**

**Islamabad, April 27, 2026** — Prof. Hong Tianhua, Executive Director of the China–Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), visited the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) along with Dr. Su Fenghuan and Ms. Li Wanhong. The CPJRC delegation met with Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi - President, ECOSF, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon - Executive Director, ECOSF, and Mr. Khalil Raza Programs Manager – Energy & Climate, ECOSF. Prof. Hong commended ECOSF’s proactive role in advancing regional cooperation on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.

The meeting focused on joint preparations for the 2nd China–Pakistan Symposium on Early Warning for Hydrological and Geological Disasters, scheduled for May 18-19, 2026, where ECOSF will contribute as a co-organizer. President Tayebi appreciated the opportunity to collaborate and reaffirmed ECOSF’s commitment to supporting science-driven early warning systems and regional capacity building.



The delegation also discussed continued ECOSF–CPJRC collaboration on the proposed International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (ICCCDRR 2027) in Uzbekistan, reviewing prospective next steps and coordination modalities with relevant partners. Both sides underlined their shared commitment to strengthening regional scientific partnerships to enhance resilience against climate-induced risks.

**President of ECO Cultural Institute Visited the Secretariat of ECOSF and held meeting with President ECOSF**

**On April 28, 2026**, Ambassador Dr. Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), visited the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) for a meeting with Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of ECOSF. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, Executive Director of ECOSF, and Mr. Adnan Ali Abbasi, Manager Accounts and Finance, ECOSF.



Prof. Tayebi warmly welcomed Ambassador Dr. Hassan and expressed appreciation for the visit. Additionally, Prof. Tayebi gave President ECI a briefing on ECOSF's programs and operations, emphasizing key goals such as STEM education, capacity building, and the development of human resources in science, technology, and innovation (STI) in the ECO area. Ambassador Dr. Hassan described the ECI's cultural objectives and activities, which include poetry, languages, art, literature, and more, in his introduction to the organization.

The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between ECOSF and ECI, with both leaders recognizing the significant potential for joint initiatives that integrate cultural and scientific exchanges across the ECO region. Emphasis was placed on

fostering closer collaboration to promote shared objectives and enhance partnerships between the two institutions. As both are sister organizations, they also discussed organizing online activities such as webinars.



**ECO Science Foundation and Pakistan Science Foundation Explore Cooperation in Science Education and Capacity Building**

**April 9, 2025:** ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) held a meeting to discuss prospects for cooperation in promoting science education and strengthening scientific capacity in Pakistan. The PSF delegation was led by Dr. Akmal Khan, Chairman, PSF, accompanied by Ms. Zaiban Farooq. The ECOSF side was represented by Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, ECOSF and Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, Executive Director ECOSF.



During the meeting, both sides held an exchange on the importance of developing practical collaborative initiatives to support science learning, teacher capacity building, and youth engagement in science and technology. Chairman PSF, Dr. Akmal Khan, underlined the importance of working jointly to promote quality science education and build effective institutional partnerships for wider national impact. President ECOSF, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, highlighted ECOSF's continued commitment to supporting science education through innovative programs and emphasized the value of collaboration with PSF in advancing STEM learning, teacher training, and broader scientific capacity development.

Two immediate areas for cooperation emerged from the discussion. These included the organization of STEM Camps for students, and a dedicated training programme for school and college science teachers. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both organizations expressing keen interest in taking these ideas forward through follow-up and joint planning.

**President ECOSF participated in signing MOU between OIC-COMSTECH and Huawei Technologies Pakistan Forge Strategic Partnership**

The President ECOSF participated in the MoU signing ceremony was held on Wednesday April 15, 2026, at the OIC-COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad, where the COMSTECH-Huawei ICT Academy was also formally inaugurated.



The OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OIC-COMSTECH) and Huawei Technologies have officially signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the joint COMSTECH-Huawei ICT Academy, marking a major step toward strengthening digital capacity and youth empowerment across the 57 OIC member and 5 observer states.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, highlighted that the MoU represents a transformative step toward achieving digital self-reliance across the OIC region. He noted that by leveraging the global expertise and technological leadership of Huawei Technologies, the initiative will enable the youth of member states to acquire cutting-edge skills and actively contribute to innovation-driven socio-economic development.

The newly opened facility is equipped with advanced digital learning infrastructure, enabling virtual instruction, hands-on ICT training, and real-time collaboration for students and professionals across the OIC region.

The academy will serve as a central hub for blended learning, providing access to Huawei's global training ecosystem and supporting the delivery of high-quality courses in emerging technologies. This initiative strengthens OIC-COMSTECH's mission to expand digital education, promote scientific advancement, and accelerate technology adoption across developing member states.

**ECOSF Meets NUVEX to Explore Collaboration on STEM Education and Youth Training**

**April 14, 2026** — The ECO Science Foundation hosted Mr. Abdul Mateen, CEO & Co-Founder of NUVEX (Private) Limited, who visited ECOSF along with his colleagues Syed Shujat and Muhammad Rafay for a consultative discussion on potential collaboration in STEM education and youth skills development. During the meeting, Mr. Mateen introduced RACE Pakistan (formerly Formula Pakistan), a national-level engineering competition for students aged 14–19 focused on designing and developing miniature race cars—replicating real-world product development cycles through hands-on, project-based learning. He highlighted that the platform is developed with

a mission to bridge the gap between education and industry by cultivating applied engineering skills, creativity, and teamwork among students. Prof. Tayebi, President ECOSF appreciated the initiative and suggested exploring possible avenues for cooperation in future STEM-focused programs and training activities aligned with youth empowerment and innovation promotion.

