



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



23rd Meeting of ECO Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dushanbe

The 23rd Meeting of the council of [Foreign] Ministers (ECO COM) was held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. The meeting was participated by the Ministers/Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of all the ECO member States as well as representatives of Observers and Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies including ECO Science Foundation.



The previous Chair of ECO COM the Islamic Republic of Pakistan led by Mr. Sartaj Aziz opened the meeting by welcoming the Chief Guest of the meeting- Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan H.E. SAID Davlatoli and all the delegates and highlighting the major achievements of ECO during year of chairpersonship of Pakistan including the approval of ECO Vision 2025. The chair then invited the Secretary General ECO H.E. Halil Ibrahim Akca to present his report. Afterwards, the Deputy Prime Minister was invited to make a speech. The Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the delegates to Dushanbe and assured of utmost efforts to lead the ECO mission during the next one year.

Subsequently, the host country Republic of Tajikistan was elected as the next chair of the council and invited the Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Sirodjidin Aslov to take over the chair. Afterwards, the new chair conducted rest of the meeting. Prior to ECO COM meeting, senior officials meeting (SOM) was held which prepared for the COM meeting.

On behalf of ECOSF, its president Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro led the delegation. In his statement before the council of ministers, appreciated the governments of Pakistan and Iran for continued financial support and urged other members to ratify the charter of ECOSF and make mandatory budgetary contributions at their earliest. Dr. Soomro highlighted the role of science, technology and Innovation as well as Science Education in economic development of the region. He also shared the stronger international collaboration of the foundation. The Council while reviewing the progress of ECOSF lauded the activities of foundation and endorsed its progress with appreciation.



President Soomro took the opportunity to have brief meeting with the minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran H.E. Javad Zareef along with President ECO Environmental Sciences and Technology (ECO-IEST) Dr. Asghar M. Fazel. While thanking the Foreign Minister of Iran for continued support highlighted the difficulties in transfer of funds to ECOSF from Iranian side. To which Mr. Zareef assured of all possible support and cooperation.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/23rd-Meeting-of-ECO-COM>

International Forum on Science Education at Islamabad

The International Forum on Science Education was held in Islamabad on 9 April 2018 in conjunction with the 2018 meeting of the Global Council of the InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) and a workshop on “Fusion of OBOR Civilizations School Curriculum Design” on 9-10 April 2018. The three events were mainly hosted by the ECOSF in strong partnership with Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Alif Ailaan (Pakistan). The International Forum was themed; “Quality Science Education at Schools- A Must for Quality Higher Education and Economic Development”. The Forum attracted more than 200 speakers including 20 international participants from 12 countries as well as some diplomats from Pakistan based Embassies of various countries. The International Forum engendered animated and constructive deliberations, culminating in the recommendations and outcomes in an “Islamabad Declaration”.



The Forum included a series of panel discussions on a number of thematic areas of science education and explored the ideas around the challenges, implementation of effective science teaching and policy measures by expert panellists on science education around the globe. The International Forum deliberated in depth the interaction of the digital & development revolution, non formal science education, science museums, women in science, role of media in promoting science education and linkages between science & sustainable development and the STEM education following IBSE methods at various levels from preschool through primary, secondary and tertiary/higher education education to lifelong learning. The International Forum concluded that stakeholders need to put in more efforts and beef up the Science, Technology and Innovation infrastructure and through their expert use of social media and mobile communication, IBSE/STEM savvy children and youth can be the agents of change to lead humanity towards sustainability.

Inaugural Session of the International Forum on Science Education



(L-R): Dato Lee Yee Cheong, Chair Global Council IAP SEP, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC and Prof. Dr. Qasim Jan, President PAS during the Inaugural Session of the Forum

Dato Lee Yee Cheong, Chair Global Council InterAcademic Partnership on Science Education Programme from Malaysia was the Keynote Speaker. He delivered his keynote speech on “Digital Revolution, Development Revolution, Science Education and Science Literacy”. Dato Lee highlighted the significance and the emerging role of digital technology in shaping the ongoing digital revolution around the globe and particularly in the developing world. He stressed for adopting the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects for children to ensure the sustained availability of human resources necessary for the digital revolution and the development revolution as well as equip the world with a rational and discerning citizenry to ensure global peace, harmony and prosperity. Dato Lee said that the world today is in the throes of the 4th Industrial Revolution which is caused by the nexus of billions of people connected by mobile devices, with unprecedented processing power, storage capacity, and access to knowledge; and technology breakthroughs. Dato Lee underlined that One Belt and One Road (OBOR) is the visionary initiative of China that will transform economic and social and sustainable development along the Belt and Road. He also emphasized to promote Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the region to prepare younger generations to be well equipped to respond to the global challenges in the Future.

The Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed in his address, said that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are critical inputs for sustainable economic development and poverty alleviation. He underlined that the effective science education at school level is the fundamental and building block to produce quality higher education, which is critical to achieve sustainable economic development in Pakistan and the developing world. He signified the role of Higher Education Commission in promoting STEM education in Pakistan. Prof. Mukhtar Ahmed urged the participants and stakeholders to use this Forum as a platform to discuss and synergize strengths to ensure and promote quality science education at school levels, which would be critical input to quality higher education in Pakistan. The Chairman HEC thanked the ECOSF and IAP SEP for organising the Forum at HEC campus and providing an opportunity for university teachers to understand the importance of Quality STEM Education at schools for a quality education at the universities. He also appreciated that Industry was invited to join in the forum.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF introduced the International Forum to the audience. In his address, Prof. Soomro thanked all organizing partners for their contribution towards the successful co-organization of this Forum. He said this Forum is an ideal space to generate the debate on science education in Pakistan, sharing of global experiences and the understanding of new paths for improvement of human life, sustainable economic growth and policy making by employing effective science education approach such as the IBSE at all levels. He particularly emphasized on adopting the IBSE program in schools to provide quality input for Higher Education Sector in Pakistan and other ECO member states. Quality higher education can lead to promote Science, Technology and Innovation and Sustainable Economic Development in the ECO region, he added. “We can achieve global competitiveness only if we promote and produce qualified human resources and a STEM workforce to the global challenges of water, climate change, energy and food security for future generations”, he added.

Earlier, **President Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Qasim Jan** opened the Forum and welcomed all the international guests, delegates and local participants. He also spoke about the role of Pakistan Academy of Sciences for promotion science education in the national development of the country and endorsed the initiative of ECOSF for promotion of science education in Pakistan and neighbouring countries. He also appreciated the IAP SEP for promoting Science Education in Pakistan.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/International-Forum-on-Science-Education-April-9-2018>

2018 Meeting of the Global Council of InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) held in Islamabad- Pakistan

ECOSF with cooperation of Pakistan Academy of Sciences hosted the Global Council (GC) of InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) on 10 April 2018 at Marriott Hotel Islamabad-Pakistan. The main focus of IAP SEP is on the promotion of inquiry-based science education (IBSE) and also the improvement of science literacy among the general population through national academies of sciences. The meeting was chaired by Senior Academician Dato Dr. Ir. Lee Yee Cheong of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)- the Chair of Global Council of IAP SEP who welcomed all the participants. The meeting was attended by GC Members viz., Mustafa El-Tayeb (Sudan), Manzoor H. Soomro (Pakistan), Indarjani (Indonesia), Aphiya Hathayatham (Thailand), He Zhu (China), Nurhanani Zainuddin (ASM Malaysia representing Hazami Habib), Ex-officio Members (Mooha Lee (AASA- South Korea), Jacqueline Olang Kado (NASAC- Kenya) and Invited Guests (Abdul Rashid of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Tasneem Anwar (Fusion of OBOR Civilizations School Curriculum Design - Pakistan).

During the meeting, various administrative and strategic decisions including adoption of the minutes of last meeting, the progress of the programmes, and future plans were made. Prof. Mustafa El-Tayeb of Sudan was elected as new Chair of the GC



for three years as tenure of the current chair (Dato Lee) will be completed this year (2018). The Chairman gave an overview of the programmes undertaken since the last GC meeting, including Zika Disease Curriculum Design project undertaken by the Smithsonian Science Education Center, with funding support from Moore Foundation and the Smithsonian Institute. The Chair (Dato Lee) thanked ECOSF for hosting the meeting and providing wonderful arrangements and facilitation.

IAP SEP, ECOSF in collaboration with PAS and HEC organized the Workshop on “Fusion of OBOR Civilizations School Curriculum Design” in Islamabad

The InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) and ECO Science Foundation in collaboration with Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) organized the Workshop on “Fusion of OBOR Civilizations School Curriculum Design” in Islamabad on 9 -10 April 2018.

The idea of development of such a curriculum for school kids is to inculcate peace and harmony through evidence based science education for children in the light of the current conflict and increase in violence in societies, and terrorism resulting in atrocities and displaced persons.

The first session and Proof of Concept of Forum on “Fusion of Civilizations” was held in Khartoum Sudan on 6-7 Feb 2017. Subsequently, an International Forum on Science Education was held in Beijing, China on 3-4 July 2017 that was jointly organized by the China Association for Children’s Science Instructors (CACSI), Children and Youth Science Center of CAST (CYSCC) under the auspices of China Association of Science and Technology (CAST), Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology (CSHST), Inter Academy Partnership – Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and the ECOSF. The forum in Beijing focused on the theme of “The history of science education along the Belt and Road”. Subsequently, the working party met in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 11-15 Dec 2017 and developed a framework focusing on two themes of Water and Land. During this Workshop in Islamabad, the working party presented and proposed a curriculum based on the framework while highlighting the different aspects of scientific discoveries along the OBOR countries as represented by the working party.



5th International Multitopic Conference on IC&T at MUET Jamshoro-Pakistan

Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro in collaboration with the Institution of Electrical & Electronics Engineers Inc. USA (IEEE), HEC and ECOSF organized 5th International Multi-Topic IC&T Conference on April 25- 27, 2018. The conference with a theme of “Technologies for Future Generations” brought together a wide spectrum of international experts to facilitate a creative environment for the promotion of research collaboration and knowledge transfer. In particular, it facilitated a dialogue between major industry players, entrepreneurs and academia for creating a road map to mutually solve scientific problems through effective use of ICTs. The conference was an opportunity to establish a link between academia and industry on a single platform for learning, discussion and addressing the challenges. The Conference was opened by Professor M. Aslam

Uqaili the Vice Chancellor of MUET and closed by Prof Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, ECOSF as the chief guests at the Opening and Concluding Ceremonies.

Prof Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili the Vice Chancellor Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) in his address said that International Multi-Topic IC&T Conference 2018 was an opportunity to raise awareness of state of the art research and technological development in ICT sector at national and international. The conference provided a platform to scientists, researchers and technologists to express and share their ideas, research work and developing professional connections with the international experts working in their respective areas. He also added that IMTIC'18 helped in developing the capacity students, teachers and scientists working in the domain of ICT by exposing them to quality standards, best practice, training & development and also provided the opportunity to publish their research work in IEEE Xplore. He congratulated all the IMTIC'18 team, the researchers and organizers and expressed his gratitude for making it a successful event.

President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro congratulated the Vice Chancellor and IMTIC'18 management of Mehran University of Engineering & Technology for arranging such ingenious and successful conference in collaboration with numerous national and International Organizations. "This great seat of collaboration, learning and innovation for promoting synergies for pursuing common global goals in line with the UN Agenda-2030 for the wellbeing of people at large, is in itself a great achievement by the MUET", he said. The IMTIC'18, the 5th conference in a row by MUET is heartening and bound to bring together diverse expertise and entrepreneurs for promotion of cooperation and collaborations. "ECOSF is really proud to work with MUET and congratulated its dynamic team led by Professor M. Aslam Uqaili and the IMTIC Champion Prof. B.S. Chowdhry for continuing the great tradition", he added.



Dr. Soomro further added that this is "the Development Revolution" of the developing world! Pakistan has a potential to be a gateway to magnificent infrastructure under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while the role of ICTs is overarching and of utmost importance. IMTIC'18 is therefore very timely and should lead to newer collaborations for the global good based on the Digital Revolution of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

In the end, Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest Dr Soomro and eminent scientists and technologists from around the globe and presented the souvenir to Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and other speakers of the conference. Later Dr. Soomro presented the certificates to Poster Award Winners.



3rd Invention to Innovation Summit 2018 held at University of Balochistan

University of Balochistan (UoB) and Institute of Research Promotion (IRP) in collaboration with ECOSF, PSF, SATHA and other organizations, organized 3rd Invention to Innovation Summit on 24th and 25th April 2018, at University of Balochistan, Quetta.

The Summit aim was to stress upon the importance of technology in local economy and provided an opportunity to Academia, Industry and Government for the establishment of Corporate Linkages in the field of technology. The objectives of the summit were to promote, disseminate, expand and advance the viable research technologies. The Innovation summit included Presentation of Viable Technologies through Technical Sessions, Exhibition of Academic & Industrial Innovative Products/Models, and Exhibition of innovative product/technology/idea by university students, Workshops on Research Commercialization, Business Plan Competition and Annual Innovation Awards. A large number of Institutions participated in innovation summit to showcase their projects.



The Summit was opened by the Speaker of Balochistan Assembly H.E. Ms. Raheela Hameed Durrani as the Chief Guest. She being the alumna of the UoB, expressed her pleasure to see such a mega event happening at the university and congratulated the University's Vice Chancellor and other partners including IRP and ECOSF. She appreciated the efforts of partners to bring together Academia, Industry, Policy Makers but above all a large number of students of all levels including schools and universities. She also applauded the establishment of a grand Expo Centre at the University and the display of around 1000 students projects on the occasion, which she inaugurated subsequently.

UoB Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Javeid Iqbal addressed the audience and said that UOB marked another historical day for Balochistan with the 3rd Innovation Summit, which has grown to be the largest R & D event of the province. It has been providing opportunity to researchers, academia, government and industry to come closer and establish collaboration for better service to the society. He also indicated that the Summit was an awe-inspiring opportunity to encourages young students to come forward with their innovative ideas and present in the exhibition in front of other stakeholder, experts and fellow students. He added that this innovation summit is our step towards journey of making Balochistan as Innovative Province.



President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro congratulated the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Javeid Iqbal and appreciated the efforts of organizing the 3rd Invention to Innovation Summit 2018 in University of Balochistan successfully. He praised the Coalition made to bring out the best from students and for creating the bridge between students and industry at local level. These summits are one of the most important happening in bringing various stakeholders to come together and cooperate & collaborate, he added. Dr. Soomro Appreciated the participation/contribution of international institutions as well as national.

Prof. Dr. Soomro briefly introduced the Foundation's Programs and its consortiums with the UNESCO International STI Centre- ISTIC in Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia, KISTEP South Korea and numerous other Asia Pacific Institutions have established the "Asian Innovation Forum" since 2015. Dr. Soomro Said that for good quality higher education, innovation and economic development, the quality education especially the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education is a must, and best if the method of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) is followed. He further added that ECOSF launched IBSE programme for school teachers from Kazakhstan in 2015 and in 2016 & 2017, the Foundation organized various capacity building workshops on IBSE in Islamabad-Pakistan and Isfahan-Iran to train the teachers. Prof. Soomro shared that in collaboration with HEC and other international partners ECOSF organized an International

Forum on Science education at HEC Islamabad to establish the link and the need for higher education sector to nurture good quality school education.

Read more: <http://www.eco4science.org/3rd-IIS-2018>

President ECOSF calls upon the President of the Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tajikistan

While in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, during the meeting of ECO COM, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro on 16 April called upon the President of Academy of Sciences of Republic of Tajikistan (ASRT) Prof. Farhod Rahimi. It is pertinent to mention that Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan is the focal organization for ECOSF.

The two Presidents discussed the ongoing activities of ECOSF as a whole and in Tajikistan in particular. It was mutually agreed that a capacity building workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) will jointly be organized by the two institutions by second half of 2018. It was also agreed that next meeting/workshop on standardization of Engineering Qualification and Accreditation will be held in Dushanbe with the collaboration of Tajik Institutions, UNESCO and Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP).



Engineering Qualification Standardization in Tajikistan discussed by President ECOSF and Rector Tajik Technical University, at Dushanbe

A meeting was held between Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF and Prof. Odinzoda Haydar Odina Rector Tajik Technical University on 17 April 2018 at the office of the Rector Tajik Technical University, Dushanbe. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress/status regarding Engineering Qualification Standardization as per the standards of Federation of Engineering Institutes of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) introduced last year (March 2017) during a two-day workshop/meeting held in Dushanbe.

The Rector warmly welcomed the President ECOSF at the University and thanked him for the support of ECOSF and its partners for the cause. During the meeting, the Rector said that they are committed to the cause, accordingly, things are moving in a right direction but there is a shortage of experts in Tajikistan for preparing accreditation documents where they need help from the ECOSF and FEIAP.



President ECOSF thanked the Rector for a warm gesture and arrangement of the meeting on a short notice. Prof. Soomro on his question was informed that Tajikistan is so far following the standards of Europe such as EURO-ACE. Regarding the shortage of the experts for accreditation documentation, Prof. Soomro said that it was agreed during the meeting held in Jakarta-Indonesia (Dec 2017) that Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) will provide the technical support on behalf of ECOSF and FEIAP. It was also agreed that the ECOSF and UNESCO may also hold a meeting with the Ministry of Economy and Development, once the University takes the Ministry on board for ownership of the initiative.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Tajik-Technical-University>

President ECOSF calls upon the Speaker of Balochistan Provisional Assembly

During the 3rd Invention to Innovation Summit – Balochistan 2018, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro called upon the Speaker, Balochistan Provisional Assembly H.E. Ms. Raheela Hameed Durrani at University of Balochistan.



The two eminent personalities discussed the overall situation of Education and Science in Quetta and rest of Balochistan province. In the meeting President Soomro shared the activities and functions of ECOSF and informed the Speaker that ECOSF is promoting Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in schools in ECO region and some teachers from PITE were also trained as master trainers. Prof. Soomro assured the Speaker that ECOSF is always there to support Balochistan in the field of science education.

Ms. Durrani praised the contribution of ECOSF delivering for the region and thanked for taking special interest to promote science culture in Balochistan. It was agreed that ECOSF would provide more training facilities to teachers of Balochistan at school and college Level.

Vice Chancellor of University of Balochistan and President ECOSF discussed the collaboration between both the organizations

Quetta 24 April 2018: During 3rd Invention to Innovation Summit – Balochistan 2018, President ECOSF and Vice Chancellor of University of Balochistan, Quetta Prof Dr. Javeid Iqbal held a sideline meeting at the University.



The Vice Chancellor shared the situation and conditions of University of Balochistan and the progress made under his leadership despite the financial and developmental constraints.

President ECOSF gave a brief introduction of the activities of the Foundation and informed the Vice Chancellor that ECOSF has been promoting Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) – a la main a la pate - France methodology for teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in ECO region including Pakistan and a numerous number of teachers from all over Pakistan which includes Provincial Institute of Teachers Education (PITE) Quetta has been trained. He proposed that a collaboration of University of Balochistan with PITE Quetta may be established under the aegis of ECOSF to promote IBSE in Balochistan which will uplift the science culture in the society.

Director UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific meets the President ECOSF

Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific met the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro in his office on April 30, 2018. Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro welcomed Prof. Khan and appreciated his efforts for continuous cooperation & support to the ECOSF extended by UNESCO Regional Science Bureau in implementation of various science and engineering programmes in the ECO Region and beyond. Prof. Soomro especially highlighted the issues and progress made on “Engineering Qualification Standardization, Accreditation and Professional System (EQSAPS)”. It is important to mention here that ECOSF in partnership with UNESCO, the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) initiated the EQSAPS project to assist the ECO economies, particularly those which lack a national accreditation body, to improve and develop the standards of engineering qualifications in those member states, particularly in Central Asia, with a launch of event in Tajikistan in March 2017. Prof. Shahbaz Khan also proposed to develop a UNESCO-ECOSF joint project on “Science, Engineering, Technology & Innovation (SETI) for ASEAN-ECO region to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. Prof. Soomro appreciated and endorsed the proposal to work together with UNESCO on this initiative to help build the capacity regional economies of ECO and ASEAN. The meeting concluded on a positive note that both parties would continue to work together to promote SETI in the region and beyond.



ECOSF, UNESCO and PEC held a review meeting on Engineering Accreditation in the Central Asia

A meeting was held to assess and review the progress made on “Engineering Qualification Standardization, Accreditation and Professional System (EQSAPS)” at the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) on April 28, 2018. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. ECOSF was represented by Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar Assistant Director (Admin and Programmes). Dr. Nasir Khan Registrar Accreditation represented the PEC in the meeting. The meeting discussed various issues pertaining to the progress and implementation of EQSAPS project in the Central Asia. Prof. Shahbaz Khan stressed over the need for effective engineering accreditation in the Central Asia for developing the capacity and institutionalizing the efforts to bring meaningful and positive developments in the region and beyond. Engr. Khalil Raza shared the progress and current status of EQSAPS with the



stakeholders. Prof. Shahbaz Khan appreciated the efforts made by the partnering organizations and meeting concluded with a positive note that partners would continue to work together to bring this project to a meaningful conclusion.

National Action Plan for Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) endorsed and adopted by the Government of Pakistan.

Sustainable development is not possible without sustainable energy. The Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative is a multi-stakeholder partnership between governments, the private sector, and civil society. Launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2011, it has three interlinked objectives to be achieved by 2030:

1. Ensure universal access to modern energy services
2. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.
3. Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

The Third Steering Committee on SE4ALL was organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (MoPDR) to review and endorse the National Action Plan for Sustainable Energy. The event was facilitated by UNDP Pakistan, being the global partner for SE4ALL initiative. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary to the MoPDR, Member (Energy) Planning Commission, Country Director UNDP, representatives of Petroleum Division and Power Division of Ministry of Energy, representatives of provincial and regional energy departments from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh as well as from the private sector. Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer participated in the meeting on behalf of ECOSF. It is important to note that Engr. Raza is one of the co-authors of this National Action Plan on SE4ALL.



The Secretary Planning Commission Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui in his remarks appreciated the efforts and stated that development of National Action Plan (NAP) in energy sector under the ambit of SDGs is one of the strategic achievements of the present government. He endorsed and adopted that the NAP which has been through a rigorous consultative session among all the relevant stakeholders.

Tajikistan and Pakistan agree to enhance strategic and bilateral cooperation for regional peace and stability

Tajikistan and Pakistan agree to enhance strategic and bilateral cooperation for regional peace and stability. This was committed during a meeting held between H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov, Foreign Minister of Republic of Tajikistan and H.E. Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif and, Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Ministers met on sidelines of the meeting of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on 24 April 2018 in Beijing. Wide range of cooperation between Tajikistan and Pakistan in bilateral and multilateral relations was also discussed.



Foreign Ministers of Tajikistan and Pakistan have once again confirmed the commitments of two parties for the implementation of signed agreements on the construction of the transmission lines of electricity power, highway and rail connectivity between our countries, including the implementation of the CASA-1000 project, which will provide to Pakistan and Afghanistan clean energy. Sirodiddin Aslov and Khawaja Muhammad Asif have also exchanged views on the situation in the region and the world.

Science Education for the Future: Five Recommendations a Policy Brief for Policy Makers

Prof. Dr. Nilofer Halai of the Aga Khan University, Institute for Educational Development is playing a key role in a key role in fostering a research culture in science and STEM education in Pakistan. She has developed a policy brief for science policy makers with five key recommendations. Please see link below:

<http://eco4science.org/uploads/files/Science%20Education%20for%20the%20Future.pdf>

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF Website and Facebook Page

COMSTECH-PARC-ECOSF Workshop on Plant Genetic Resources and Genebank Operations Management System May 8-11, 2018.

A four-day workshop is being organized by COMSTECH, ECOSF and PARC from 8-11 May 2018 at COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad-Pakistan for participants from OIC member states including ECO countries to engage them in the preservation and management of plant genetic resources. This training would be crucial for conservation of plant genetics resources in various countries currently facing threats from climatic change and genetic erosion to vital crops. The Workshop, to be conducted by experts in this field, would provide hands-on training to participants in handling plant genetic resources and aims to initiate work in the setting up and management of Plant Genebanks.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Genebank>

Noor School Competition and Knowledge Application and Notion for Society (KANS) Scientific Competition

Mustafa (pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) of Iran who is partner of ECOSF has launched following two scientific competitions in school and university scale.

1. Noor School Competition
2. Knowledge Application and Notion for Society (KANS) Scientific Competition

The 3rd round of Noor School Student Competition and 1st round of KANS are currently in progress. KANS scientific competition has been staged with the aim of bouncing ideas around in academic community to address the problems of the society. Students, researchers, and professors from universities and scientific centers (below the age of 45) of Islamic world can submit their scientific-technological ideas and achievements in form of video clips or scientific papers. This competition is held in order to find the best scientific solutions to solve the problems of the Islamic countries in areas of water and environment, energy, health, information technology, and economics. The goals to be considered for this event can be generalized to:

1. Using capabilities possessed by expert community;
2. Enhancing motivation and creativity among young elites;
3. Preparing the ground for exploring and exchanging scientific and technological ideas;
4. Having researchers continue their interaction in the created network through cyberspace.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/-651>

3rd International Conference on Biosciences (ICBS-2018) From 9-11 May 2018 at GC University Lahore

3rd International Conference on Biosciences (ICBS-2018) is being organized by Government College (GC) University, Lahore-Pakistan from 9-11 May 2018 at GC University Lahore. The purpose of the conference is to bring platform to leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about various aspects of biological sciences. It will also provide an interdisciplinary forum for researchers and educators to represent and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, concerns and practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the fields of Botany, Biotechnology, Environmental Sciences, Microbiology and Zoology.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/ICBS-2018>

International conference on Understanding the Problems of Inland Waters: Case Study for Caspian Basin Baku, Azerbaijan

An International Conference as titled "International Conference - Understanding the Problems of Inland Waters: Case Study for the Caspian Basin" will take place in Baku during 12-14 May 2018.

The main purpose of this conference is to increase the exchange of the international scientific cooperation on studies of the Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, and Urmia and Van lakes (additional information about conference: <http://www.upcm2018.org>).

This conference is organised by Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC) and Institute of Geography of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IGAZ) and supported by ECOSF and other international organizations such as COMSTech, British Petroleum, etc.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Understanding-the-Problems-of-Inland-Waters>

Second external review for the IPBES Global Assessment (EM/2018/09)

The start of the external review for the first order draft of the summary for policymakers (SPM) and the second order drafts of the chapters of the IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services is announced. Deadlines for submission of comments are 29 June for the chapters and 9 July for the SPM, respectively.

Please note that the drafts of the summary for policymakers and chapter 1 will be uploaded on 14 May 2018.

This second external review is addressed to governments and interested and qualified experts, including scientists, decision makers, practitioners and other knowledge holders. To ensure the highest scientific quality and policy relevance of the global assessment we are seeking the widest-possible participation from experts from many different disciplines and backgrounds. It would be important, to ensure consistency and continuity with the first external review, that those who participated in the first review also contribute to this second one.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/IPBES-Global-Assessment>

International Workshop on "Antimicrobial Resistance and Strategies for Its Mitigation", Ludhiana (Punjab), India 10-13 July 2018

Antimicrobial resistance and emerging infectious diseases globally pose a serious threat to human and animal health and economy. The systematic misuse and overuse of these drugs in human and veterinary medicine and food production have put every nation at risk. Effective antimicrobial drugs are essential for protecting patients from potentially fatal diseases and

ensuring that surgery and chemotherapy can be provided at low risk. Some replacement products in this regard are in the pipeline, but without harmonised and immediate action on a global scale, the world could head towards a post-antibiotic era in which common infections could get revived and devastate human and animal populations worldwide. Although the advanced nations have started taking steps in the right direction, most of the developing countries have yet to take its cognisance.

With the above in view, the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) in partnership with the Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana (Punjab), India announces the organisation of an International Workshop on ‘Antimicrobial Resistance and Strategies for its Mitigation’ in Ludhiana (Punjab), India during 10-13 July 2018.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Antimicrobial-Resistance-and-Strategies-for-Its-Mitigation>

Distinguished Visitors to the ECOSF

April 13, 2018: ECOSF Executive Director (Designate) Prof. Komail Tayebi calling upon the President ECOSF to brief him about his joining and discussing the programmes of ECOSF.



April 12, 2018: Dr. R. Indarjani Deputy Director for SEAMEO QITEP in Science, Indonesia, paying a visit to ECOSF secretariat. She shared the programmes of SEAMEO and shown interest to collaborate with ECOSF for joint activities.

