



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



The Secretary General of ECO H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour paid a maiden visit to ECOSF Secretariat and praised the activities

The Secretary General of ECO H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour paid a maiden visit to the Secretariat of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) on 15 March 2019. He was cordially welcomed by the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro and his team. The Secretary General was on his three day (13-15 March 2019) first visit to Pakistan. Director (ECO) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Ms. Naila Israr accompanied him.

President ECOSF briefed the Secretary General of ECO about the emergence and development of the Foundation since 2011. He shared the core initiatives of the Foundation for the promotion and implementation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the ECO region. Prof. Soomro also apprised the Secretary General about the challenges faced by the Foundation. The two leaders agreed to hold the next meeting of the ECOSF Board of Trustees as soon as possible.



H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour expressed great pleasure in visiting ECOSF. He said that ECOSF is an important specialized agency of ECO based in Islamabad and the specialized agencies/institutes of ECO are the strengths of the ECO. He also said that ECO region has been a peaceful region unlike other regions of the world who have big rivalries and fighting with each other. ECO region is also rich in natural resources and all the Member Countries can benefit from each other's specialized fields and for this purpose ECOSF can help for scientific collaboration.

The Secretary General assured full support of ECO Secretariat for the Foundation to pursue its goals. At

the end, President ECOSF presented Insignia of ECOSF to H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour.

During the stay in Pakistan, the Secretary General had met with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the President of the Islamic Republic, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Planning and Finance about the ECO's initiatives and activities as well as his reform agenda to revitalise the ECO as a regional economic organisation.

International Forum on Digital Silk Road and Industries-Education Integration

An “International Forum on Digital Silk Road & Industries-Education Integration” was held on 27-28 March at Lenovo Headquarter, China in Beijing. The Forum focused on the developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Analytics and Big Data in China and promotion of these key technologies among the Belt & Road countries. It is a public private partnership activity wherein the program is managed by the IT industry and supported by the Ministry of Education of China. Under the program a consortium of 100 Chinese universities has been constituted wherein 30 AI/Big Data Centres have been setup by the Industry. Now the project is being expanded to another 100 universities in the Belt and Road countries in collaboration with the Chinese 100 universities.



It is in this context that ECO Science Foundation and Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW) have partnered with the program. ECOSF is pursuing the program in ECO member countries. So far 12 universities from Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Tajikistan have joined the project while Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan are being pursued to join and benefit. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro joined the forum and made presentation; “**The Integration of Industry and Education in New Technologies for Sustainable Development of the B&R Region**”. AETDEW President Dato Lee Yee Cheong, former FEIAP President Dato Ir. Dr. Hein T Chuah, Vice President of Lenovo Group Ms. Janet Tang, and the Director of the School Planning, Construction and Development Center of Ministry of Education Mr. Chen Feng also spoke in the Forum, participated by around 200 Chinese experts and managers from various universities and IT Industries.



Prof. Soomro in his presentation highlighted the critical role of emerging technologies on the future of youth across the globe. He underscored the need for promotion of new and emerging technologies for the work force along with the need for education framework to adopt the 21st Century skills to better serve the industrial needs and integration between the education and

industry. Emphasizing on the essential cognitive skills, Prof. Soomro highlighted that the 1st revolution had a little impact on Cognitive Labor, and instead had rather significant impact on physical labor but as the world moved from 1st to 3rd industrial revolution, there has been an increasing level of impact on the human cognitive labor. Whereas, the 4th Industrial Revolution will have equal impact on labor and as well as cognitive abilities of human species. Prof. Soomro also shared the progress of “Double Hundred University Cooperation Program DHUCP” undertaken by the Foundation.



Action Plan for Capacity Building of Science Instructors and Teachers discussed by the President ECOSF with BRISECC Leadership in Beijing

Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF visited the Secretariat of Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC) on 26 March 2019 in Beijing, China. He was warmly welcomed by the Deputy Director General of Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC) of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) Mr. Zhang Zhenwei, the Deputy Secretary General of BRISECC Ms. Zhu He, and staff of the secretariat. and a meeting was held to discuss the action plan of BRISECC. It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Manzoor is a founding Vice President of BRISECC.



Various aspects of BRISECC were discussed and agreed upon for implementation of the plans of the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Zhang highly appreciated the contribution of ECOSF for establishing BRISECC and chalking out a comprehensive plan for training of science instructors and teachers in the Belt & Road countries.

International conference of Microbes for sustainable Agriculture held in Lahore - Pakistan

International conference on Microbes for Sustainable Agriculture organized by School of Life Sciences of FC College University (FCCU) was held on 25-28 March 2019 at FCCU, Lahore, Pakistan. Prof. Dr. James Tebbe the Rector of FCCU and Dr. Kauser Malik, Dean of Post Graduate Studies welcomed the participants from across Pakistan and highlighted the importance of Sustainable Agriculture in Pakistan. Dr. Samina Mahnaz the Chairperson of Biological Sciences Deptt. as Secretary of the conference, introduced the conference. This international event attracted large number of local participant and as well as international experts from six countries. Prof. M. Aslam Baig the Secretary General of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Dr. Hesse from the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation of Germany, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF and Prof. Raza Bhatti Member HEC were the guests of honor and spoke in the inaugural session.



FCCU Rector Dr. James Tebbe, who recently was awarded with Sitara-e-Imtiaz, applauded the efforts of organizing committee for making participation possible from different countries saying science should be beyond borders and inter-culture and interfaith linkages should be developed through such conferences. During this event, separate poster sessions were also hosted for to encourage junior researchers in the field of sustainable agriculture.



Prof. Soomro while speaking in the inaugural ceremony, congratulated the Department of Biological Sciences and its leadership viz., Prof. Dr. Kauser A. Malik and Dr. Samina Mehnaz for organizing yet another international conference. He said that the theme of the conference was close to his heart as he had worked on the wonders of microbial world. Prof. Soomro further said that the different aspects of microorganisms and their function in the ecosystem including their role as bio pesticides and bio fertilizers need to be explored. He suggested that the soil nematodes should also be made part of research that the group at FCC plans to do in future. Finally he proposed FCC to be a stakeholder/observer of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) for a long-term connectivity with the scientific community around the globe and benefit from the work of IPBES.

President ECOSF speaks at Pak-Turk Maarif School G-10 Islamabad Graduation Ceremony

The 2018-19 Graduation Ceremony of Pak-Turk Maarif School, G-10/3 Islamabad was held on March 2, 2019 at Chak Shehzad Islamabad campus of the school system. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro and a known Pakistani poet and writer Prof. Masood Jaffery were the guests of honour on the occasion.



The event is held annually to award the medals and certificates to the grade-5 graduating students for the successful completion of their courses. The Principal of the School Ms. Shazia Farooq welcomed all the distinguished guests, parents and students. She admired the dedication of the faculty and of the school specially the cooperation of the parents of the students for the completion of the annual academic activities. Afterwards, Mr. Selahattin, the Country Director of the Pak Turk Maarif Schools in Pakistan addressed the audience.

Then the talented students of different classes of the school attired in colourful clothing, presented tableaux, dances and performances based on history, culture, environment and climate change etc. with great confidence. Every act contained some positive message.

President EOCSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro in his remarks congratulated the management and teachers of Pak-Turk Maarif School G-10/3 (Junior Campus) for organizing yet another beautiful annual event. He also congratulated all the graduating students. He further said that he had association of over 20 years with the schools as he had been visiting the science projects of children. Prof. Soomro further mentioned that with Maarif Foundation and his friend and Prof. Birol Akgun as its President, patronizing the school now, he expected and hoped that the schools would touch new heights in quality of education and innovation. It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Manzoor Soomro has been patronizing and encouraging the science education including science projects by the pupils of the school system.

Prof. Maqsood Jaffri, the guest of honour, also shared his remarks and appreciated hard work of management and faculty and students. Finally the graduating students of grade-5 were awarded the certificates and prizes by the main guests. Teachers and staff of the school were also acknowledged and awarded shields for their hard work in grooming and preparing the children.



Innovations in China: Capacity for Technology Transfer to Kazakhstan

Courtesy of Eurasian Research Institute (ERI) Kazakhstan

China as an emerging superpower intensifies its Research & Development (R&D) capabilities day by day. The country's progress in innovations has become possible through the efficient implementation of the Reforms and Opening Up policy over the last 40 years. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the Science & Engineering (S&E) development policy. R&D is really vital for Beijing: the recent economic slowdown of China has shown that the current economic model does not adequately respond to global market and competitiveness demands. Encouraging innovation appears to be the only way to reestablish growth and return to the path of sustainable development. Therefore, innovative development as part of a new stage of modernization is one of the challenges faced by the Chinese economy.

At the meeting with the country's best scientists and researchers at the National Congress of the China Association for Science and Technology (S&T) in 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that China should become one of the most innovative countries by 2020 and the leading innovator by 2030. The purpose is to make China a major power in S&T by 2050. The Chinese government gradually launches scientific development programs, such as the National Medium and Long Term Plan (2006) and Made in China 2025 (2015). R&D aims and scope are also widely addressed in the 13th Five-Year Plan for 2016-2020 and in the documents of the 2017 Two Sessions (the two meetings of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference). Moreover, the successful implementation of R&D is critical for the viability of the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation concept introduced by President Xi in 2013. The state support measures aim to enhance such areas as green energy, data analytics, the Arctic Science Observatory, national cyber security, interplanetary space exploration, genetic research, quantum communications, and artificial intelligence.

Year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, and this date is a significant occasion to showcase Chinese achievements in innovations. For instance, China achieved much progress in the development of digital economy. According to McKinsey, China is a leading nation in e-commerce and digital payments (more than 70% coverage of the population), and home to one-third of the world's most effective start-ups valued at over \$1 billion. Baidu, Alibaba, and Tencent, or BAT as they are informally known, are giant global access Internet companies generating a multifaceted, multi-industry digital environment that penetrates every aspect of lives of Chinese consumers. China's innovations are not limited to e-commerce and public services, as the most internationally competitive and recognized elements of Chinese innovations are supercomputers and the country's space program.

Read more: <https://eurasian-research.org/web/publications/Weekly-e-bulletin-28-012019-03-02-2019-No-196.pdf?1553008293>

ECOSF contributes to the Charter for Science: Opportunities for Women and Girls in Pakistan

UNESCO, UN Women, Pakistan Alliance for Maths and Science and ECOSF collaborated to organise a two-day dialogue to celebrate the International Day for Women and Girls in Science on Feb 11-12, 2019 at the Lahore College of Women University. The purpose of this dialogue was to engage with representatives from various audience groups to generate on a meaningful discussion on the *Role of Women in Science and Technology*. As a result of this discussion, a charter for science was developed and which was signed by a number of major stakeholders envisioned to boost the opportunities for women and girls in Pakistan. The snapshot of the charter is shared below.

**CHARTER FOR SCIENCE:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN PAKISTAN**

On the International Day for Women and Girls in Science 2019, UNESCO, UNWomen, Pak Alliance for Maths and Science, and ambassadors and champions of the cause, put forth the following expectations from Pakistan's federal and provincial governments, corporate sector, civil society and the media. The expectations are based on input from scientists, science communicators, organisations promoting the cause of science in Pakistan, and champions from among the politicians, bureaucracy and the media. An event to celebrate the Day was organized at the Lahore College for Women University where this Charter for Science was finalized.

Federal Government

- i. Announce a Women in Science Ambassador Program and recognize contributions of Pakistani women every year. This program should be nested within the Prime Minister's Youth Program to establish ownership of the initiative at the highest executive level;
- ii. Establish a Gender Unit in the Pakistan Science Foundation to organize specific interventions and activities to actively promote girls' involvement in the fields of science, technology, engineering and management;
- iii. Create an enabling environment for women scientists to pursue entrepreneurial options in the fields of technology and innovation by establishing a dedicated unit at the Board of Investment;
- iv. Commence a 'Pakistani Women in Science' stamp series by the Pakistan Postal Corporation to celebrate the International Day for Women and Girls in Science every year;
- v. Provide preferential registration and taxation treatment to women-led organisations operating in the field of science, technology and engineering through the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and the Federal Board of Revenue
- vi. Activate a 'Women in Science' unit in the Foreign Office's Science Diplomacy Division;
- vii. Provide space for a Science Corner to women-led science organisations in all public libraries managed by the Federal government ministries;
- viii. Establish 'Women in STEM' annual research awards to be managed by the Higher Education Commission;
- ix. Initiate 'Women in Science' media award for print, digital and electronic media stories to encourage coverage and mainstreaming of this important narrative; and
- x. Ensure 50% inclusion of women in science in all taskforces and committees established for furthering the agenda of the government.

Provincial Governments

- i. Announce an annual Science Achievement Award for girls representing all districts and showing exemplary academic performance in the matriculation and intermediate examinations;
- ii. Provide additional middle and high-school stipend amount to girls opting for the science track;
- iii. Celebrate the contribution of women in science by posthumously naming at least one main road in the five most populous cities of the province after them; and

**CHARTER FOR SCIENCE:
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- iv. Provide space for a Science Corner to women-led science organisations in all public libraries managed by the provincial and district governments.

Corporate sector

- i. Announce and execute Women In Science Employer Awards to promote hiring and development of young Pakistani women in science
- ii. As a part of the Corporate Social Responsibility function, organisations should allocate resources for promotion of girls in science
- iii. Patronage of national Women & Girls in Science competitions and Pakistani girls' participation in international events

Community-based and Non-profit organisations

- i. In the design and delivery of education programs, privilege girls' science education projects
- ii. Regularly engage women scientists (natural, physical and social sciences) as Program Ambassadors and Advisors

Media

- i. Dedicate programming and column-inch space for science, particularly highlighting the challenges in, and promotion of girls and women in science

The below-mentioned organisations and individuals are signatories of this Charter. In addition to the audience-specific asks, the government(s), the private and the development sectors, and the management of media houses should ensure that the workplace environment is conducive to working women, and all applicable legal and regulatory systems are in place to promote gender equality.



The Chief Executive Officer of Pak Alliance for Maths and Science (PAMS) called upon the President ECOSF to discuss the activities for 2019 and beyond

The Chief Executive Officer of Pak Alliance for Maths and Science (PAMS) Mr. Salman Naveed Khan called upon the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro at his office on March 18, 2019. Mr. Khan briefed the President ECOSF about ongoing activities of PAMS for promotion of Maths and Science in the schools across Pakistan.

Prof. Soomro appreciated the efforts of PAMS and said that the strong base of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is the symbol of prosperity and development. China, Korea and Malaysia are the real example of STI who have become the Asian tigers. Thus, ECO region including Pakistan needs to work on STI on priority basis so that the fruits of long lasting



development and prosperity can be tested by the masses of ECO region.

ECOSF and PAMS have been collaborating for promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in Pakistan and the meeting was held to discuss the activities for the year 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Science & Innovation Fair 2019

National Science & Innovation Fair is jointly organised by ECOSF in collaboration with Pakistan Science Club and Maths Science Pakistan on July 10, 2019. Participants from Pakistan are invited to present and compete their research on various fields of science and technology. The Winners will get a chance to participate in Asia's biggest international Science Contest CASTIC with more than 60 countries participating from all over the world.

Criteria:

- Age between 12 to 20 Years.
- Project idea must be innovative and genuine.

Important Dates:

- Registration Opening Date: March 7, 2019
- Registration Closing Date: March 31, 2019

Registration Link: <https://paksc.org/nsif/>

HOW TO BE AN INVENTOR

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:
In this 2:30 hours session we will help to you

- Understand (creativity)
- An Insight of Problem solving approach
- Get a tool box and strategy to enhance your efficiency
- Learn to invent/innovate

FACILITATOR
Abdul Rauf - Founder & CEO
PAKISTAN SCIENCE CLUB

REGISTER
www.paksc/nsif

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Student of age 12 to 20 year

DAY & DATE
(Different date)

VENUE:
Different location

CHARGES:
Free for those who want to be an inventor / scientist otherwise 200 Rs per person.

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ECOSF
ECO School Foundation

PAKSCIENCECLUB

3rd Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop

“3rd Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop” will be held from 24-30 September 2019 at Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. The Camp is being hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People’s Republic of China (MOST), China Association for Science & Technology (CAST) and the People’s Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, organized by Children & Youth Science Center (CYSC) of CAST, the People’s Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Guangxi Association for Science and Technology (GAST) while supported by InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Program (IAP SEP), ECOSF and Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). It is aimed to strengthen cross-cultural exchange, promote international understanding and inspire innovation in young generation.

Each participating team comprises upto five junior high-school science students (aged 13-15) and upto two teachers from each Member State. The event will be an excellent opportunity for participating teams to expose them to various scientific activities, such as science shows, thematic discussions, orientations and project executions.

Brief Introduction of the event can be downloaded here <https://bit.ly/2FQ2Fss>