



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## CIIT with the support of ECOSF, MoST, COMSTECH, IDB and INSTP organized a three-day International Workshop on Techno-Parks: Opportunity to seize a lever of competitiveness

COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) Islamabad- Pakistan in collaboration with ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of Pakistan; COMSTECH; Islamic Development Bank and Inter-Islamic Network on Science Technology Parks (INSTP), Iran organized a three-day International Workshop on Techno-Parks: Opportunity to seize a lever of competitiveness, at CIIT Islamabad from January 30 – February 01, 2018. The inaugural ceremony of the International Workshop was opened by Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector CIIT. He welcomed the participants, and highlighted the progress and standing of CIIT and its ranking as university.



H.E. Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Science and Technology was the Chief Guest in the event. H.E Rana Tanveer Hussain said that developing quality human resource will be important to change the future of our country. He underscored that S&T sector is an engine of growth and Government of Pakistan is putting all its effort uplift S&T sector as its one of top priority. Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan Coordinator General COMSTECH also spoke during the event. The workshop was attended by over 25 participants including 8 international participants from 6 different countries. The main focus of this workshop was to exchange and sharing of good practices for the development and management of Science and Technology Parks (STPs) and Incubators in the Islamic World.

Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector CIIT opened the international workshop and welcomed the participants. Prof. Qamar said academic institutions must put in their efforts to create knowledge that is directly applicable to the society because only those nations would achieve sustainable development who invest in STI sector and create knowledge. He said we need to provide a

platform through Techno-Parks and bring entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and academia to boost economic development in the region.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro in his keynote address emphasized over importance of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Parks and called for developing effective linkages and collaboration for development of STI parks to achieve socio-economic development and inclusive growth in the region. Prof. Dr. Soomro appreciated the efforts of of partnering organizations for organizing this international workshop to disseminate and share the most recent innovations, trends, practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the field of STI Parks management and development. Prof. Soomro also shared that initiatives undertaken by ECOSF to promote STI Capacity Building through establishing effective linkages and collaborations with leading STI parks in the ECO region and beyond. There is a significant potential for promotion of innovative ecosystem, development and management of S&T Parks in the ECO region, he said.

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Read More: <http://eco4science.org/three-day-International-Workshop-on-Techno-Parks>

### ECOSF brings Iranian Mathematicians in the 2nd Annual Two-Day “Lahore Science Mela” at Lahore-Pakistan

A two-day Lahore Science Mela (Festival) organized by the Khwarizmi Science Society in collaboration with the Ali Institute of Education, ECOSF and with the support of the great Philanthropist Syed Babar Ali was held in Lahore on January 27-28, 2018. Thousands of students, science enthusiasts and scientists participated in the Lahore Science Mela (Science Fair). It was attended by students from government and private educational institutions, over 70 exhibits including science models made by students were showcased during the festival. The Science Mela aimed to encourage children and adults to explore and celebrate scientific discoveries and milestones in Pakistan.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro participated in the Science Mela, where he visited various exhibits and interacted with science enthusiasts and participating teams from all across the country. It is pertinent to mention here that the Science Mela is a brain child of Dr. Sabieh Anwar of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and Dr. M. Hamid Zaman from Boston USA, welcomed by Dr. Saadat Anwar Siddiqi the President of Khwarizmi Science Society Lahore, all of whom also participated in the event. During the Mela President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro also interacted with Syed Babar Ali and other science enthusiasts.



It is important to mention here that ECOSF sponsored participation of two Mathematicians from Isfahan Mathematics House, Iran who displayed interactive Maths games and puzzles that children enjoyed and learnt the principles of Mathematics as a fun activity. It is hoped this first interaction of Iranian colleagues will lead to collaboration in the area.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Lahore-Science-Mela-18>

**ECOSF facilitates Panel Discussion on Concept of “House of Mathematics” for Education and Community Awareness at LUMS School of Science and Engineering during Lahore Science Mela 2018**

After the Lahore Science Mela 2018, the Iranian Mathematics Teachers and President ECOSF were invited by the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) School of Education in a panel discussion along with two Pakistan Math teachers held at the LUMS School of Science and engineering on 30 January 2018. Around 200 teachers and educationists, managers from numerous educational institutions including universities and school systems were invited to learn from the Iranian colleagues and discuss ways and means for better methods of teaching mathematics to young students. It is expected that this initial interaction of experts from Isfahan Mathematics House, Isfahan- Iran arranged by ECOSF will lead to a stronger cooperation in future. It is pertinent to mention that there is a network of Houses of Mathematics, Biology and Physics across Iran for non-formal way of education children and communities in the key science themes.



**Community Colleges in Pakistan – A Conference on the Concept at IBA Sukkur University**

**President ECOSF participated in the Round Table Discussion**

Sukkur IBA University in partnership with Johnson County Community College, Kansas USA organized a conference on the concept of Community Colleges on January 09, 2018. The prime objectives of the conference were to, understand the US model of Community Colleges; discuss and propose community colleges model for Pakistan; understand role of Community Colleges in skilled workforce development and quality basic education and to strengthen industry-academia relationship. The conference provided a platform to officials from academia and industry, both from Pakistan and USA to come together and discuss about the model of Community Colleges that fits Pakistan workforce development needs in alignment of HEC Vision 2025. Speakers included Vice Chancellors of notable universities across Pakistan, Executive Director HEC Dr. Arshad Ali, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President of Johnson County Community College, Kansas USA and many others from academia and industry. It is worth mentioning that Sukkur IBA initiated Community Colleges in 1990s, which is considered as a successful initiative. HEC under its 2025 vision is considering expanding Community Colleges under the patronage of universities. HEC plans to open up to 150 Community Colleges, to address the needs of community with a particular reference to education, technical and vocational trainings and skill development.

Honorable Minister for Education & Literacy Government of Sindh Mr. Jam Mehtab Hussain Dahar was the Chief Guest in the conference. In his talk he highlighted the importance and role of Community Colleges specially for Pakistan. Earlier Vice Chancellor Sukkur IBA University Prof. Nisar Ahmad Siddiqui opened the conference with his welcome note and shared the reasons why they began the Community Colleges. Johnson County Community College, Kansas USA Prof. Dr. Joseph M. Sopcich made a power point presentation on the “US Community Colleges Model, its role in workforce development and higher education. Subsequently Vice Chancellors of various Universities and ED HEC spoke on the models of Community Colleges and their plans.



President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited to speak in a Round Table discussion during the conference, with a particular reference to inquiry based learning in formal and non-formal settings. The panel discussion included academia, industry and civil society representatives. Dr. Soomro in his intervention emphasized on the concept and importance of inquiry for learning and shared his experience of training school teachers and pupils as well as the members of the community that he had been engaged under the FAO-UN programme of Farmer Field School (FFS) approach for capacity building of even illiterate farmers.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/A-Conference-on-the-Concept-at-IBA-Sukkur>

**Public Policy Forum and Launch of Oxfam Report “Reward Work, Not Wealth” in Pakistan at PMAS Arid Agriculture University**

A Public Policy Forum emphasizing inequality crisis around the globe with a particular reference to Pakistan was organized by Oxfam Pakistan and Indus Consortium for Humanitarian, Environmental and Development initiatives at PMAS University of Arid Agriculture Rawalpindi on January 22, 2018. Purpose of the one day public policy forum was to highlight the inequalities in the society and how to reduce them in line with UN-SDG No. 10.



The Oxfam Global Report entitled, “Reward Work, Not Wealth”- an Oxfam briefing paper published in January 2018 was also launched on the occasion, as a part of series of papers to inform public on development and humanitarian public issues

worldwide. The Report highlights the situation of inequality between the poor and the rich, income growth, tax evasion, gender inequalities etc. (more details on [www.oxfaminternational.org](http://www.oxfaminternational.org)).

President ECOSF in his remarks highlighted the inequalities in Pakistan's family and cultural system, the quality of education for the poor i.e, in public schools and the rich in elite private schools is leading to promotion of two classes' viz., the ruling class and the ruled citizens. Similarly the policies and plans including the tax system remained pro-rich. As a solution he said, that a single action to address would be to ensure same good quality education for all, starting from primary school, whereby the children of rich and poor, the haves and have-nots, the politicians, bureaucrats and workers go to same schools which may reduce the inequalities caused by the humans.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Reward-Work-Not-Wealth>

**ECOSF Conceives a Plan to Recognize Centres of Excellence in various Fields of Specialization in the ECO Member States, starting with Medical and Health Sciences**

ECOSF plans to initiate a programme of recognizing Centres of Excellence in different disciplines in the ECO Member Countries, which are engaged in cutting edge scientific and technological research and capacity building. ECOSF has initiated the process of conducting an initial review and assessment of various institutions in ECO member states to ascertain the potential benefit of designating such institutions as Centres of Excellence.

In this connection, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF visited Pir Abdul Qadir Shah Jilani Institute of Medical Sciences (PAQSJIMS) Gambat in Sindh province of Pakistan on January 13-14, 2018 and met Director of the Institute Dr. Rahim Bux Bhatti for the process of assessment and review of PAQSJIMS for possibly designating it as one of the ECOSF Centers of Excellence in Medical Sciences.



The objective of designating such centers is to establish effective collaboration and research linkages among the research and higher education institutes and organizations of the ECO member states for boosting scientific and technological exchange and research. This programme would serve as a platform for complimenting unique scientific and technological strengths of each designated center and link them with similar research and capacity building institutes of other ECO member states with an end goal of uplifting socio-economic standing and achieving inclusive growth in the region. ECOSF plans to present this concept in the forthcoming meeting of ECOSF Board of Trustees and other forums for consideration and approval.

Visit of the PAQSJIMS revealed that it is a state of the art, fully equipped medical facility with the status of degree awarding institution, mainly serving rural population. It is built on the international standards and houses the latest available technological facilities and equipment, along with fully equipped classrooms and research laboratories. It is the only hospital that provides exceptional health care services like Open Heart Surgery, Angiography, Angioplasty, Kidney and Liver Transplant in rural Pakistan. The Hospital is well developed modern facility with innovative and advanced laboratories, OTs, CCUs, dialysis Centre, neonatal care Centre, trauma center, burns unit and other patient care services. PAQSJIMS started functioning as Rural Health Center around three decades ago and now it has been upgraded to a tertiary care Medical Education and Research Center providing undergraduate and post graduate programs of medical and public health sciences.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Medical-and-Health-Sciences>

### ECOSF Plans to Recognize Centres of Excellence in Biological and Chemical Sciences in ECO Member States – ICCBS, University of Karachi, Pakistan

ECOSF plans to initiate a programme of recognizing Centres of Excellence in different disciplines in the ECO Member Countries, which are engaged in cutting edge scientific and technological research and capacity building. ECOSF has initiated the process of conducting a review and assessment of various institutions in ECO member states to designate such institutions as Centres of Excellence. In this connection, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF visited International Center for Biological and Chemical Sciences (ICCBS) in Karachi on January 17, 2018 and met some members of the team designated as the Director Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Chaudhary was on mission abroad. ECOSF official was met by Dr. Reaz Uddin, Assistant Professor to facilitate preliminary assessment and review of ICCBS for designating as one of the ECOSF Centers of Excellence. Engr. Khalil Raza briefly outlined the objectives of this programme of designating centers of excellences in various scientific disciplines. Dr. Reaz Uddin introduced the various programmes, unique strengths and success stories of ICCBS with a potential to develop strong scientific and research linkages for the benefit of entire ECO region.

The objective of designating such centers is to establish effective collaboration and research linkages among the research and higher education institutes and organizations of the ECO member states for boosting scientific and technological exchange and research. This programme is expected to serve as a platform for complimenting unique scientific and technological strengths of each designated center and link them with similar research and capacity building institutes of other ECO member states with an end goal of uplifting socio-economic standing and achieving inclusive growth in the region.



The ICCBS is one of premier research organization in the developing world. Its reputation for scientific research and training extends far beyond the country's borders. ICCBS emerged from generous support of private sector, and sustained by the governments grants. In the last 51 years, it has earned major recognition from Pakistan, apart from training thousands of young researchers from home and abroad in frontiers areas of science and technology.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Centres-of-Excellence-in-Medical-and-Health-Sciences>

### STI Policy of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan discussed at the Newport Institute of Communication and Economics

Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF held a meeting with Vice Person of the Newports Institute of Communication and Economics, Karachi- Pakistan, Ms. Huma Bukhari and Former Secretary to the Ministry of Science and Technology and Founder Vice Chancellor of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) of Pakistan, Dr. S. M. Qureshi on January 18, 2018 at the Institute in Karachi. The meeting was held to discuss various domains of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in the ECO region with special reference to STI policy of Iran and Turkey and useful lessons for Pakistan for STI policy implementation. It is important to mention here Ms. Huma Bukhari is pursuing her PhD research project on "STI Policy Review of Iran and Turkey: Implications and Lessons for Pakistan" under the overall guidance of Professor S.M. Qureshi.

This research project is being carried out at MUET Institute of Science, Technology and Development (MUISTD) and being supervised by Dr. Arbella Bhutta and Co-supervised by Dr. S.M. Qureshi. Dr. S.M. Qureshi underscored various policy development and implementation challenges in Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Government of Iran and Turkey who have done tremendously well in STI Policy and there seems to be certain valuable lessons that Pakistan can learn from these two countries of the ECO region. Dr. S.M. Qureshi sought help of ECOSF in assisting his team in getting relevant data on STI indicators and stakeholder mapping for achieving desired outcomes of this research, which may prove to be beneficial for ECOSF as well for drawing conclusive lessons for policy decision.



Read More: <http://eco4science.org/STI-Policy-of-Iran-Turkey-and-Pakistan>

### 1st International Conference on Green University

“1st International Conference on Green University” is being organized by Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran in collaboration with ECOSF at Ferdowsi University from 6-7 February 2018 to promote environmentally friendly campuses. This his two-day conference, held on the 6th and 7th of February 2018 will feature speakers and panelists from over 10 countries and 25 academic institutions. Guests will join to share their experience and best practices in addition to presenting their achievements in the field of sustainable development with a focus on green campuses emphasizing the following topics:

1. National and International Practice (Best Practices)
2. Renewable Energy
3. Water and Waste Water Management
4. Waste Management
5. Energy Consumption Management
6. Green Transportation
7. Green IT
8. Sustainable Campus Planning and Design



### President Soomro visited Thar Coal Power and Mining Site during the New Year Celebrations hosted by Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company

Power Gen Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) organized a civil society visit to expose the participants to Thar Coal mining site. The participants were briefed about the process of mining (open pit mining) and the corporate social response activities undertaken by SECMC including health, education and saline agriculture.

Full day was dedicated to field visit to green park on 31 Dec, 2018, which has been established nearby the mines. President ECOSF along with other visitors planted trees and



subsequently a power point presentation and briefing was given by the CSR department and CEO of the company Engr. Shams Sheikh. The briefing session was followed by Q&A session. Afterwards a visit to mine opening session was undertaken wherein 195 meters soil over the coal reserve in being dugged out and removed for mining out the coal. Besides a coal power plant is being constructed about 3 KM away from the mining site. The power plant is expected to run for 60 years.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Thar-Coal-Power-and-Mining-Site>

### ECOSF Supports ICCBS to strengthen the Interactive Science Gallery at Maritime Museum in Karachi- Pakistan

ECOSF is supporting the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) to strengthen the Foundation for Diffusion of Scientific Knowledge (FDSK) Interactive Science Gallery at the Maritime Museum in Karachi, Pakistan. In this connection, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF visited the Interactive Science Gallery and met Director General of Museum and his team on January 17, 2018. The Interactive Gallery exhibits Science and Technology models to educate & inspire the children and youth to appreciate and undertake scientific inquiry and research. It is source of motivation for parents and entrepreneurs to invest in scientific and technological education and research, paving the way for a brighter and a more prosperous future. It is important to mention here that ECOSF has approved a project for support to the ICCBS to include more biological exhibits such as; A DNA model to understand Molecular Biology of Life; Lungs experiment with or without smoking; A pumping heart model; Compound microscope with LED display to show microbial life in action etc.



### 33<sup>rd</sup> China Adolescents Science and Technology Innovation Contest (CASTIC)

“33rd China Adolescents Science and Technology Innovation Contest (CASTIC)” is jointly being organized by China Association for Science & Technology (CAST), Children & Youth Science Center (CYSC) of CAST, Ministry of Education along with a number of scientific organizations of P.R. of China such as Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Environmental Protection, National Sports Administration, National Natural Science Foundation, Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Youth League, All-China Women’s Federation, State Intellectual Property Office and Chongqing Municipal Peoples Government of China while supported by InterAcademy Partnership on Science Education Program (IAP SEP) and ECOSF from 14-20 August 2018 in Chongqing, China. It is pertinent to mention that CYSC is one of the Strategic Partners of ECOSF and this contest will be supported by ECOSF under its MoU with CYSC for promotion of science education and communication in the ECO Region under “Belt and Road” initiative of China.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/33rd-CASTIC>

### The Belt and Road Teenager Science Summer Camp

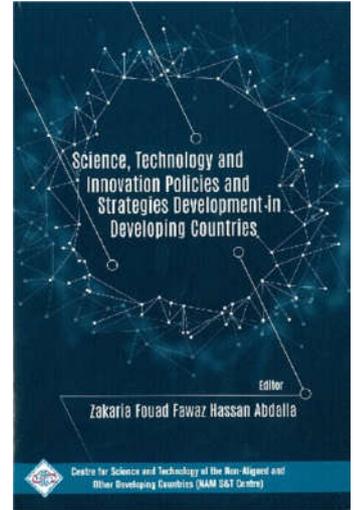
“The Belt and Road Teenager Science Summer Camp” is being hosted by China Association for Science & Technology (CAST), organized by Children & Youth Science Center (CYSC) of CAST, while supported by ECOSF alongside the 33rd China Adolescents Science and Technology Innovation Contest (CASTIC) from 14-20 August 2018 in Chongqing, China. It is pertinent to mention that CYSC is one of the Strategic Partners of ECOSF and this contest will be supported by ECOSF under its MoU with CYSC for promotion of science education and communication in the ECO Region under Belt and Road program of China. The Camp is aimed to strengthen communication and cooperation between China and countries along the belt and road and also inspire innovation in young generation in this region.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/The-Belt-and-Road-Teenager-Science-Summer-Camp>

**President ECOSF contributed to a book entitled: “Science, Technology and Innovation Policies and Strategies Development in Developing Countries” published by NAM S&T Centre**

A book titled “Science, Technology and Innovation Policies and Strategies Development in Developing Countries” has been published by Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre).

The book comprises of 13 papers from the researches and professionals of 12 countries. The book is expected to be of great value to the researchers, policy makers and government officials of the developing countries who are engaged in international science and technology cooperation and deal with diplomatic negotiations on S&T affairs. The book carries the “Foreword” written by Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF.



**Current Developments in Kazakhstan’ S Oil and Gas Sector**

Kazakhstan is among the world’s fastest-growing primary energy source producers and exporters. The energy industry of Kazakhstan includes oil, gas and coal production, and electricity generation. Being at the heart of Kazakhstan’s energy industry, the oil and gas sector traditionally generates a large percentage of the country’s GDP. For instance, the oil and gas sector contributed around 20% to the country’s GDP in 2017. Moreover, it is well known that over 90% of money that goes to the National Fund of Kazakhstan originate in taxes coming from oil export revenues. Taking into account the fact that these funds are allocated for both encouraging economic growth and financing budget deficits, there is a need to ensure that oil and gas are produced in a sustainable way for the decades to come.

Over the past years, the demand for the Kazakh oil around the world has been relatively stable. In 2017, Kazakhstan boosted oil production by 10.5% to 86.2 million tons, an increase of 8.2 million tons compared to 2016, which is the best result in the country’s history. Such an increase is a result of an upward trend in the oil output of the Atyrau region, where a 21.4% growth was registered in the first 11 months of 2017, mostly due to the considerable increase in oil production at the Kashagan field that reached 8.3 million tons, which is 66% higher than the original annual plan of 5 million tons.

**Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF**

29 January 2017: Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, Member Food Security and Climate Change of Planning Commission called upon President ECOSF to discuss various emerging issues of Climate Change and Food Security in Pakistan. He appreciated efforts undertaken by the Foundation to combat climate change in the ECO region.



**Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page****4th International Conference on Frontiers of Advanced Engineering Materials-2018 (FAEM-18)**

4th International Conference on "Frontiers of Advanced Engineering Materials (FAEM-18)" is being organized by ECOSF and Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) from 19-20 February 2018 in Lahore, Pakistan.

The significance of this conference is to establish dialogue & maintain longlasting, healthy technical co-operation amongst Materials Engineers & Scientists of research organizations, universities, technical institutes and industries. The conference will provide an opportunity to scientists and engineers for informal discussions and collaborations to exchange ideas about the research domains of mutual interests.

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

**"5th International Workshop for Capacity Building in Nematology" from February 12-22, 2018 at University of Karachi - Pakistan**

"5th International Workshop for Capacity Building in Nematology" jointly organized by ECOSF, Pakistan Society of Nematologists, National Nematological Research Centre and University of Karachi from February 12-22, 2018 at University of Karachi - Pakistan. ECOSF is sponsoring participation of experts and scientists from ECO region for their participation in the International Workshop.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Nematology-1>

**International Multi Topic ICT Conference, April 25-27 2018**

IMTIC'18 is jointly organized by Mehran University of Engineering & Technology (MUET), Jamshoro, Pakistan, Erasmus Mundus LEADERS and Erasmus+ CAPRIO. IMTIC is an international forum for researchers to exchange the information regarding novel aspects of technology, applications and the development of value added services in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.

IMTIC'18 aims to bring together a wide spectrum of international experts to facilitate a creative environment for the promotion of research collaboration and knowledge transfer. In particular, it will facilitate a dialogue between major industry players, entrepreneurs and academia for creating a road map to mutually solve scientific problems.

Read More: <http://imtic.muett.edu.pk/>

**International Workshop on 'Technological Innovation and Management for Sustainable Development (For Greener, Safer & Smarter World)', Gwalior, India, 27-29 March 2018**

The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development with a set of 17 Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity aimed at, among others, the eradication of poverty, providing a balanced climate, intact ecosystems, universal energy access, doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, etc. A large number of organisations and individuals across the globe are striving to achieve these.

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 ITM University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India announces the organisation of an International Workshop on 'Technological Innovation and Management for Sustainable Development (For Greener, Safer & Smarter World)' in Gwalior, India during 27-29 March 2018.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Technological-Innovation-and-Management>