An International Conference entitled, “Understanding the Problems of Inland Waters: Case Study for the Caspian Sea” was held in Baku Azerbaijan on 12-14 May 2018. The conference was organized by the Institute of Geography, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) and Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC) and supported by ECOSF and numerous other organizations. The purpose of the conference was to understand the dynamics of the Caspian Sea Water Level Fluctuations during Holocene by the Climate Change and impact on the Ecology and Socio-Economics of the Region. The top experts from Asia and Europe participated and shared their wisdom.

President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro joined and addressed the conference as Keynote speaker in the Opening Session; title of his talk was: “Inquiry Based - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Education to Combat the Climate Change”. In the talk, he emphasised on the importance of Climate Change, its effects and need for its education especially for younger generations using the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methodology. It is pertinent to mention that IBSE is being implemented in ECO Member Countries by ECOSF in collaboration with InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Program.
(IAP SEP) and La main a la pâte (LAMAP) Foundation of France. Dr. Soomro also highlighted other programs of ECOSF in collaboration with other partners including China Association for Science & Technology (CAST) and Islamic Development Bank (IDB), etc. He also congratulated the organisers and hosts especially the Institute of Geography of the ANAS for the excellent arrangements of the conference.

**COMSTECH, ECOSF and PARC jointly organized an International Workshop- Plant Genetic Resources and Genebank Operations Management System in Islamabad**

COMSTECH, ECOSF and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) co-organized an International Workshop on Plant Genetic Resources and Genebank Operations Management System at COMSTECH headquarters in Islamabad on May 08-11, 2018. The workshop aimed at developing the technical and scientific capacity of the participants from Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) including ECO member countries. Workshop attracted over 25 International Participations from 14 different countries. It is worth mentioning that ECOSF sponsored participation of six participants and one resource person from ECO member states; Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer of ECOSF and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar Assistant Director ECOSF participated in the event.

The workshop had two main objectives; to raise the capacity of the existing plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) conservation and utilization facilities in OIC countries with particular focus on current status of plant diversity, and, to conserve agricultural biodiversity, gene, banks are used to store and conserve the plant genetic resources of major crop plants and their crop wild relatives.

Addressing to the inaugural session, the Chief Guest, H.E. Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Federal Secretary for Ministry of National Food Security & Research of the Government of Pakistan highlighted the importance of sharing knowledge among OIC member countries particularly for formulating future strategies on plant genetic resources and gene-bank management and to build regional capacities on this subject. He further said that the impacts of climate change on global agriculture and ultimately the food security are serious threats for feeding the growing population and by the end of this workshop, we will be able to have more cooperation internationally about the genetic resources for food and agriculture for their exploitation and conservation of this human heritage. The Federal Secretary to Govt. of Pakistan also appreciated the efforts of COMSTECH, ECOSF and PARC for holding consultative seminar and intellectual debate. He also welcomed the delegates from abroad.
On behalf of President ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza read out his message to the audience. In his message, Prof. Dr Soomro appreciated the efforts of partners to come together to discuss and share the most recent innovations, trends, practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the field of Plant Genetics and Genebank Operations. The message highlighted the importance of mechanisms to conserve plant genetic diversity that are vital and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources is essential. In his message, Prof. Soomro introduced ECOSF and highlighted that the Foundation supports events like this and collaborative research. The Foundation promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, using Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach to strengthen the science base of future generations and the regional economy of ECO member states. The message highlighted the initiative of ECOSF on “Climate Change Education” at school level in collaboration with its international partners; La main a la pate Foundation of France and the Inter-Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP).

Read more: http://eco4science.org/Plant-Genetic-Resources-and-Genebank-Operations-Management-System

Biological Society of Pakistan and ECOSF organized the third International Conference on Biological Science at GC University, Lahore

The Biological Society of Pakistan in Collaboration with ECOSF organized the three-day International Conference on Biosciences at Government College University Lahore from May 9-11, 2018 to deliberate upon challenges and latest scientific developments in biological sciences. The International Conference brought together eminent scientists from Canada, USA, UK, Turkey, Malaysia, Iran and China and as well as a large number of scientists and researcher all across from Pakistan. It is important to mention here that ECOSF sponsored the participation of senior biological and marine scientists from Iran and Turkey. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF participated in the first day of the conference.

The Vice Chancellor GC University Lahore Prof Dr Hassan Amir Shah was the Chief Guest in the event. Prof. Shah highlighted the importance of Biological Sciences for combating future challenges, particularly in the health and agriculture sector in Pakistan. Prof Dr Hassan Amir Shah stressed over the need for more investment in research and development in biological sciences and this was the only way forward for Pakistan. He directed the organisers to publish the proceedings of this conference and make potential use of the research finding. He also suggested to put forward the key findings and make practical recommendations for country’s agriculture policy makers.

Prof. Dr Syed SH Rizvi, Professor of Food Process Engineering at the Cornell University USA was the Keynote Speaker and the Guest of Honor in the event. He highlighted major threats and challenges to the world’s food security and sustainability, stressing that their future depends upon developing sustainable food systems which use less land and water. In his key note address at the inaugural, Prof. Rizvi said that agricultural productivity was not rising fast enough to sustainably feed the world in...
2050. Professor Rizvi also underlined the immediate need for reducing food wastage in production processes, storage and human consumption through scientific innovations. “If the loss and waste are cut in half by 2050, the world would need to produce 22 percent less food to feed 9 billion people,” he added.

On behalf of President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Mr. Khalil Raza read out his message to the audience in the inaugural session. In his message, Prof. Dr Soomro appreciated the efforts of partners to come together to discuss and share the most recent innovations, trends, practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the field of Biological Sciences. Prof. Soomro highlighted the importance of biological sciences and said it helps to support our national wealth.

Read more: http://eco4science.org/International-Conference-on-Biological-Science

**ISTIC 10th Anniversary 2018: International Conference on Climate Change Education in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

The International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) in collaboration with Ministry of Education, Malaysia, Akademi of Sains, Malaysia, LAMAP Foundation, UNESCO, IAP-Science Research Health, ECOSF and Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development Organized the International Conference on Climate Change Education from 7-8 May, 2018 at Corus Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Conference mainly focused on Climate Change education and role of women, youth and children in developing countries to prepare them for worst impacts of climate. Climate change education is critical to prepare them for facing the challenges of climate change in their everyday life such as violent natural disasters; food and water scarcity and job security etc. Since the Climate Change Education is the essential Goal of Sustainable Development (SDG No. 13), the conference identified the effective mechanism on how to integrate climate change education into national education curriculum, good practices on climate change education. The conference realized the urgent need and support for teacher training on Climate Change Education the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) way and provided learning resources and good practices that will enhance climate change education.
The conference was attended by a large number of educationists, climate change practitioners, students, and households. Whereas Speakers and Moderators from all over the world participated to address and moderate the conference.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro moderated the 4th Plenary Session on “Climate Change Education: Institutions and Resources”. The panelists in this session included Dr. David Wilgenbus of LAMAP Foundation of France “Role and Function of the Office for Climate Education”; Ms. Ganigar Chen of National Science Museum, Thailand “Role of Science Museums in Climate Change Education”; and Datin Dr. Ng Soo Boon, from Curriculum Development Division, Ministry of Education, Malaysia “Climate Change Education Curriculum Design in Crowded Curriculum”. Dr. Soomro was also one of the panelists in the panel discussion on recommendations and the way forward, which was chaired by Dato Dr. (Ir.) Yee Cheong Lee, the Honorary Chair of ISTIC Governing Board and President of AETDEW. In his remarks, Dr. Soomro congratulated the leadership of ISTIC for holding this successful conference on one of the most pressing and emerging issues i.e. Climate Change Education. Prof. Soomro highlighted the importance of education that is a key factor to prepare societies for global changes. These trainings are essential and lead to the achievement of SDG’s and it helps build the capacity of women and children in combating the climate change; he added.

Read more: [http://eco4science.org/ISTIC-10th-Anniversary](http://eco4science.org/ISTIC-10th-Anniversary)

The International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) held Regional Seminar on “Challenges of Scientific and Technological Evolution for Export Control Systems” in Astana

The International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in collaboration with European Union Export Control Programme for Dual use goods (EUP2P) organized regional seminar on “Challenges of Scientific and Technological Evolution for Export Control Systems” in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 24-25 May 2018. The purpose of this seminar was to build an interaction among research communities with their experience and best practices with government and Industrial Sector of Export Control Systems.

The participants from ISTC member Countries as well as other ECO member countries viz- Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the seminar. ECOSF was represented by its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro along with representatives from Academia, Industry as well as from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan.

During the seminar, President ECOSF held a meeting with European Union representative from European Commission “DEVCO” Brussels; Mr. Eddie Maier and the Executive Director ISTC Mr. David Cleave for strengthening and collaboration with the Foundation. Both the senior officials of EU and ISTC assured of continued cooperation and collaboration mainly in capacity building and export control system in the ECO region.
UNESCO-SAWCRI Training Workshop on “Collective Community Actions for Eco-Watershed Mitigation to Flood and Drought”, Islamabad


At the opening session of the workshop, H.E. Mr. Takashi Kui, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan commended UNESCO’s role in strengthening flood early warning capacity of Pakistan, and also appreciated technical advancement made by all the partner agencies. In his remarks, he said water related disasters cover about 80% of the total disasters and Japan is one of the countries which frequently suffer from such disasters – and then Japan share the experience learned on how to mitigate with these disasters with other countries – including Pakistan.

Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in his welcome remarks thanked the Japanese Ambassador and Government of Japan for extending generous financial and technical support for the Project. He mentioned that UNESCO’s International Hydrological Program (IHP) is one of the largest intergovernmental program in the world, which has more than 160 countries as part of IHP. Before this project started, there were lots of technical gaps in the flood early warning system in upper Indus catchment and as well as there were not many trained professionals for GIS/RS based flood modelling, he added.

Read more: http://eco4science.org/Collective-Community-Actions-for-Eco-Watershed-Mitigation-to-Flood-Drought

Meeting with the Kazakhstan’s New Ambassador to Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Barlybay Sadykov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan met at the Embassy with President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro on May 21, 2018. They discussed issues for pursuance and achievement of the objectives of ECOSF for betterment of people of ECO region including Kazakhstan.

The Ambassador warmly welcomed the President ECOSF and briefed him about the initiatives of Kazakhstan being taken for promotion of STI in Kazakhstan and other Islamic countries including ECO region. He also mentioned that Kazakhstan hosted the 1st Summit on S&T of OIC countries in Astana last year (2017).
President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro thanked the Ambassador for warm welcome and apprised him about the Foundation’s establishment and how Foundation is pursuing its goals. He further shared that the prime programme of the Foundation is to coordinate and fund applied S&T research and promote collaboration among the ECO member states. He further said that to strengthen the science base for future generations and the region’s economy, the Foundation is actively promoting science education at school level. For this purpose a programme for capacity building on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) – *La main a la pate* approach – was launched in ECO region from Astana Kazakhstan in 2015 in collaboration with its international partner organizations. Furthermore, the mobilization and promotion of youth engagement in science, technology and education for economic development and peace within the ECO region and beyond, is and remains the priority of ECOSF. Integrating gender perspective in policies, plans and actions directed towards the improvement of life and development of youth is priority of the Foundation.

Read more: [http://eco4science.org/Kazakhstan-Ambassador-to-Pakistan](http://eco4science.org/Kazakhstan-Ambassador-to-Pakistan)

**President ECOSF assures the support to the President Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences for promotion of STI in Azerbaijan**

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro assured the maximum possible support to Academician Akif Alizadeh, President Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) for promotion and implementation of Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) in the ECO region including Azerbaijan. President ECOSF said this during a meeting with Academician Alizadeh at ANAS Secretariat on 11 May 2018 in Baku. Prof. Soomro was in Baku for attending International conference on understanding the problems of Inland Waters: Case Study for Caspian Basin from 10-15 May 2018 organized by the ANAS Institute of Geography. It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF is the supporting organization of the workshop.

Earlier, Prof. Alizadeh cordially welcomed President ECOSF at ANAS and recalled the meeting held in 2016. He shared that ANAS being a premier scientific organization, is playing a pivotal role in promoting STI in Azerbaijan through its short term and long term programmes. He also shared some ongoing and future programmes of ANAS.

Prof. Soomro praised the role of ANAS under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Alizadeh. He also shared that how the Foundation provides platform through its programmes to the scientific community to share their wisdom, scientific research and initiate collaboration. In addition to other points, President ECOSF also mentioned collaboration of ECOSF with Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on Reverse Linkages Programme being implemented in OIC countries including ECO region. Prof. Soomro also presented an IDB book on Reverse Linkages to President ANAS which carries an article of Prof. Soomro on role of ECOSF for
South-South Cooperation. President ECOSF also shared the importance and glimpses of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) programmes being implemented by ECOSF among its member states and reaffirmed to launch it in Azerbaijan.

Read more: http://eco4science.org/President-ANAS

### President ECOSF visits Ministry of Education and Science (MES) in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

While in Astana for ISTC-EU(P2P) regional seminar, President ECOSF Prof Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro visited Ministry of Education and Science (MES), Republic of Kazakhstan and met deputy Chairman of the MES Science Committee Mr. Yerkin Sadykov on 25 May 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to apprise the deputy chair on the past cooperation between the MES and ECOSF with the emphasis on ratification of ECOSF charter and its additional protocols as well as Inquiry based Science Education (IBSE), which was originally launched in Astana in 2015 under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan.

Prof. Soomro apprised the deputy Chair Mr. Sadykov about the ongoing joint projects by ECOSF and Islamic Development Bank implemented at the Kazakh National University named after Alfarabi (KAZNU) in Almaty. Prof. Soomro presented Annual Report – 2017 of ECOSF to Mr. Sadykov.

Mr. Sadykov along with head of their Science Division Mr. Rashideen warmly welcomed Dr. Soomro and appreciated the Foundation for promoting Science, Technology and Innovation in the region including Kazakhstan and assured of overall cooperation in particular process of the ratification of ECOSF charter. In this respect, he said that all the communication with ECOSF on behalf of Ministry of Education and Science will be made by Mr. Rashideen.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

### President ECOSF visited Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and held a meeting with Deputy Head of Humanitarian and Social Department

While in Baku for attending the International conference on Understanding the Problems of Inland Waters: Case Study for Caspian Basin from 10-15 May 2018. President ECOSF visited Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Azerbaijan on 11 May 2018 and held meeting with Mr. Hamid Nasibov, Deputy of Head of Humanitarian, a Social Department of the Ministry. President Soomro briefly introduced ECOSF and its aims & objectives to Mr. Nasibov, and apprised him about the ongoing and future activities of the Foundation. Prof. Soomro also mentioned that so
Mr. Nasibov was very welcoming and appreciated the diverse and programmes of the Foundation. He said that the ratification of ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol is very much important to strengthen the Foundation to work liberally and assured to complete the process of ratification soonest possible. During the meeting, Ms. Gunay Rahimova, First Secretary, MFA, Mr. Elnur Safarov, Scientific Researcher of ANAS and Ms. Zarifa Aliyeva, Deputy Head of International Cooperation of ANAS were also present.

**President ECOSF meets the Rector of Baku Engineering University**

While in Baku, President ECOSF Professor Manzoor Soomro met the Rector of the Baku Engineering University (BEU) on 12 May 2018. Purpose of the meeting was to better understand the accreditation of engineering qualification in Azerbaijan and to sensitise the Engineering University leadership on the importance of Standardisation of Engineering Qualification and of having a National Institute of Engineers or Engineering Council in Azerbaijan. President ECOSF explained the on-going efforts of ECOSF in this respect in collaboration with UNESCO and FEIAP.

The Rector appreciated the efforts of the Foundation and agreed to prepare a status paper to be shared with ECOSF for consideration of next action. The Rector however requested for sharing the structure and legal status of Pakistan Engineering Council for study by him and other colleague Rectors and with Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan to convince the Government of Azerbaijan for an Engineering Accreditation body/Institute, which was agreed by the President ECOSF. On the part of BEU, Dr. Yadullah Babayev was declared to liaise with ECOSF; he had coordinated the meeting and was present during the discussion. The Rector then presented a BEU souvenir to President ECOSF.

**Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform organized the National Seminar on Broad Based Consultations for Consultancy Services**

Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms organized the National Seminar on Broad Based Consultations for Consultancy Services on May 2nd, 2018. Federal Minister for Planning Development & Reform. Prof. Ashan Iqbal was the Chief Guest in the event at the Pakistan Project Management Institute. The National Seminar highlighted the effective role of consultancy services in steering development process, the importance of consultancy both in public and private sectors and its requisite to achieve national development goals. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the National Seminar.
ECOSF-supported Summer Science Camp - 2018

The Summer Science Camp – 2018 is being organized by Pakistan Science Club in collaboration with ECOSF from May 17 – June 9 and June 25 – July 18 in Karachi. The Camp is an opportunity for students to learn, devise and explore about different scientific happenings by doing hands-on activities and projects. This camp is a platform for young students to engage in strengthening their cognitive and creative skills with a range of fun experiments from conducting scientific experiments to creating their very own robots.

Read more: http://eco4science.org/Summer-Science-Camp-2018

33rd 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), Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW) 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.

CASTIC is designed and organized for science-loving students aging from 12 to 20 years. CASTIC is one of the most prestigious and biggest science contests for young scientists around all parts of the World in China with history of over 30 years. This contest aims to engage young scientists and students with scientific activities and strengthening shared values and traditions for building regional integration.

Read More: http://eco4science.org/33rd-CASTIC
6th High School Summer Science Research Program (HSSSRP-2018) - Contest

The 6th High School Summer Science Research Program (HSSSRP-2018) Contest is jointly organized by Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, ECOSF, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Takmil Foundation. The registration for 6th High School Summer Science Research Program (HSSSRP-2018) Contest is open. The students of 9th & 10th Grade, O/A Level, F.Sc students can participate in the contest. Teaching faculty/Researchers can attend the program.

The objectives of the program are:

- Engage High School Students in Research.
- Expose Young Students to cutting edge research.
- Develop research culture in Schools.
- Encourage students to present in scientific conference.
- Engage faculty to train high school students.

Last Date for Registration: June 15, 2018.

For criteria and further details, visit: www.hsssrp.org

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF Website and Facebook Page

35th World Conference on Science Parks and Areas of Innovation – Isfahan, Iran
Read more: http://eco4science.org/Science-Parks-and-Areas-of-Innovation

IPBES: Call for expressions of interest in providing Technical Support Units
Read more: http://eco4science.org/technical-support-units

IPBES: Call for input regarding the organization of work of the seventh session of the Plenary (by 1 June 2018)
Read more: http://eco4science.org/CALL-FOR-INPUT

Second external review for the IPBES Global Assessment (EM/2018/09)
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
Read more: http://eco4science.org/Antimicrobial-Resistance-and-Strategies-for-Its-Mitigation

International Conference on “Agriculture Trade and Foreign Investments for Sustainable Regional Integration in Caucasus and Central Asia”, September 6-7, 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan
Read more: http://eco4science.org/Agriculture-Trade-Foreign-Investments
Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

May 16, 2018: Prof. Dr. G. A. Miana, Rector/Associate Dean, Riphah International University and senior Fellow – Academy of Sciences visited ECOSF Secretariat and called upon Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. The brief on Programs was shared and the possible collaboration was discussed.

May 15, 2018: Prof. Dr Syed SH Rizvi, Professor of Food Process Engineering at the Cornell University USA and Prof Dr. Ikram ul Haq, Professor Emeritus at the GC University the Lahore and the General Secretary of Biological Society of Pakistan (BSP) called upon the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. Both the delegates appreciated the efforts of ECOSF for promotion of STI in Pakistan and in the region.

May 15, 2018: Team of Trainee Librarians along with Representative of PASTIC (Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Center) visited ECOSF secretariat and met with the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. The group of librarians from across Pakistan is participating in a workshop on modern library tools organised by PASTIC. Prof. Soomro welcomed them and gave a brief overview of the functions and programmes of the foundation and encouraged them to interact with their counterparts in other ECO countries as libraries provide major support to S&T researchers.

May 03, 2018: Dr. Tariq Mahmood the Former Director Science of ISESCO Rabat and presently Professor of Environmental Sciences at the PMAS University of Arid Agriculture Rawalpindi made a courtesy call upon the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro.

May 02, 2018: Dr. Zafar Ali, Director General Strategic Export Control Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid a visit to ECOSF and met the President. He appreciated the contribution of ECOSF for promotion of STI in ECO region.