



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## Corona Virus - COVID 19: Situation in Numbers in the ECO Member Countries

Country	Total confirmed cases due to COVID-19	Total confirmed deaths due to COVID-19
Afghanistan	71,838	2,944
Azerbaijan	333,956	4,913
Iran	2,910,000	80,156
Kazakhstan	442,935	3,453
Kyrgyzstan	104,729	1,808
Pakistan	922,824	20,850
Tajikistan	13,308	90
Turkey	5,250,000	47,527
Turkmenistan	-	-
Uzbekistan	100,335	690
ECO region Total	<b>10,149,925</b>	<b>162,431</b>

**Date Stamp:** May 31, 2021 | **Source:** <https://ourworldindata.org> | **Note:** So far, no case has been reported in Turkmenistan.

## ECOSF in collaboration with CAST, BAST, PEC and BTBU organized the High-end Dialogue for International Engineers and Technicians

ECOSF in collaboration with China Association for Science & Technology (CAST), Beijing Association for Science & Technology (BAST), Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU), Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), and Beijing Institute of Engineers (BIE) organized the High-end Dialogue for International Engineers and Technicians on May 26, 2021.

The objective of holding this dialogue was to generate a meaningful debate to support science and engineering, including the capacity building and human resource development in the key engineering sectors. The virtual event attracted a large number of experts, engineers and scientists from different parts of the world.



**President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro** was amongst the keynote speakers in the virtual dialogue signifying the cooperation and collaboration in the field of Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) in the Belt and Road Countries. Prof. Soomro underscored that Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) play a critical role in providing policy instruments that are essential to develop strong base of countries for boosting socio-economic growth and sustainable development. President ECOSF also highlighted some of the key initiatives, the Foundation has undertaken to promote SETI in collaboration with Chinese Institutions in the ECO region.



During the event, **Engr. Jawed Salim Qureshi, Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council** also made a speech and highlighted the significant role of engineering qualification standardization for socio-economic development. Engr. Qureshi proposed a plan for enabling engineering mobility in the Belt and Road countries, especially between China and Pakistan while recognizing the need for capacity development of engineering professionals to achieve the infrastructural milestones laid out in the form of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

ECOSF in collaboration with BTBU also hosted a session on New Energy Vehicles, which aimed at exploring viable opportunities for collaboration in the development of sustainable and clean transportation in the Belt and Road countries.



During this dialogue, **Engr. Khalil Raza**, Scientific Officer ECOSF also presented his talk on “Scaling Up Electric Mobility in Pakistan” highlighting key incentives of recently promulgated Electric Vehicle Policy of Pakistan. Mr. Raza presented the latest electric mobility practices in the emerging markets, including China and Pakistan.

A number of leading international experts and speakers, including industry experts from M/S NIO and M/S Great Wall Motors also contributed to this dialogue and concluded that more avenues for collaboration and cooperation are needed to materialize the massive infrastructure needs under the Belt and Road Initiative.

**Building Academic Linkages within BRI Countries- Webinar contributed to by ECOSF President as BRISECC Vice President**

A “Webinar on Building Academic Linkages within BRI Countries” was organized by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) on 7th May 2021. The objective of the webinar was to discuss the academic avenues and potential within the BRI countries.

It was moderated by Ms. Farhat Asif, Founder President of IPDS and attended by the experts, researchers, academia and students from all over the world. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro joined as an invited speaker. The renowned speakers from different countries such as China, France, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan spoke during the webinar.

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro, who is also Vice President of Belt and Road Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISSECC) in his speech introduced his organization i.e., ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and its aims, objectives and activities and said that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) play a critical role in providing policy instruments that are essential to develop strong base of countries for boosting socio-economic growth and sustainable development.



He also introduced the BRISSECC and its aims and objectives. The Belt and Road Initiative of China commits to foster the industrial development with strong technical cooperation in many fields, including Sustainable Energy, Infrastructure Development, Emerging Technologies, Smart Cities and Transport etc. To achieve these massive goals, it requires a robust commitment to support science and engineering, including the capacity building of human resource. He further added that undoubtedly the BRI is an ambitious effort to improve regional cooperation; and connectivity is the core determinant to this entire initiative. Thus, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) region; which includes Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, being important part of BRI, holds great potential and significance as an important gateway to connect China with the Middle East, South West Asia and Europe and beyond.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Building-Academic-Linkages-within-BRI-Countries>

**IAP-SEP Global Council Annual Meeting 2021 held online; President ECOSF attended as a Member**

The 2021 Annual Meeting of Global Council of InterAcademy Partnership – Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) was held virtually on May 28, 2021. Agenda of the meeting was circulated among the Global Council (GC) Members and it was meant to review the progress on various activities carried out by the Regional Networks of IAP and the collaborating organizations as well as GC members since the last meeting held in April 2020. The meeting discussed the plans and the budgetary matters for 2021.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Wafa Skalli of the National Academy of Sciences of Morocco as the current Chair of the Global Council and attended by Members from Europe, Asia, Americas and Africa. Prof. Manzoor Soomro, President ECOSF also attended the meeting as its Member; so, did the immediate past Chair of Global Council, Dato Lee Yee Cheong of Malaysian Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Wafa welcomed all the participants and appreciated their online attendance of the meeting. Then the agenda was discussed item-wise and decided with consensus. Later, the members were invited to present the progress of their Networks and organizations.

During the meeting, Prof. Manzoor Soomro shared the status and latest updates on the progress by ECOSF, which has been continuing capacity building activities on STEM education through Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methodology in ECO region.

### President ECOSF attended the US Congressional Briefing on Science Diplomacy

Virtual United States Congressional Briefing on Science Diplomacy co-hosted by the offices of Senator Chris Coons (D-Delaware) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) in partnership with University of Delaware USA on May 14, 2021. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Saleem Ali, Professor of Energy and the Environment, University of Delaware. President ECOSF, Prof. Soomro attended the webinar and participated in Q&A. Discussion explored the role of science on the global stage and how the geopolitical factors influence the interpretation and use of scientific information.



Distinguished Panellists included:

- Dr. Alan Garber, Provost, Harvard University
- Dr. Tong Shijun, Chancellor, New York University, Shanghai Campus- China
- Dr. Peter Daszak, President, EcoHealth Alliance, NY
- Dr. Tolullah Oni, Clinical Senior Research Associate, Cambridge University
- Dr. Drew Shindell, Professor of Climate Sciences, Duke University
- Dr. Marga Gual Soler, Founder, SciDipGLOBAL
- Jake Parker, Senior Vice President, US-China Business Council
- Martin Loken, Minister for Political Affairs, Embassy of Canada

**Dr. Alan Garber** highlighted the importance of cross border collaboration in the field of science amongst the allies and competitors. He concluded his remarks with a potent quotation from Louis Pasteur “Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity and is the torch which illuminates the world”.

**Dr. Tong Shijun** said in his statement that Science and human endeavour is benefitted by mutual understanding among countries, including the US & China”.

**Dr. Peter Daszak** pointed out that Pandemic treaty is the good first step in building scientific trust and collaboration in an increasingly fragmented world to deal with the universal diseases and pandemics like Covid-19.

**Dr. Tolullah Oni** said we need to build public trust on science and for that we need an effective communication on science. For this youth can play a vital role in science communication.

**Dr. Drew Shindell** said we need global cooperation to study the climate crisis & identify benefits of mitigation. We need to follow the pattern of insurance companies. They do risk analysis of every situation, similarly we also need to do risk analysis for climate change.

**Dr. Marga Gual** said science and global health diplomacy are key to establishing a trusting and productive relationships based on mutual and global benefits despite the political divides. Science is one of the few channels of dialogue in collaboration that always remain open particularly through non-governmental channels.

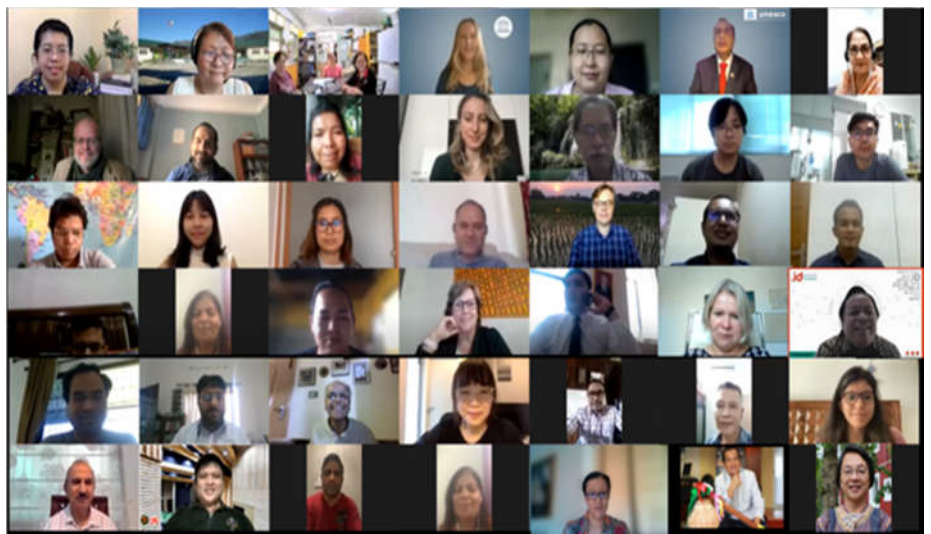
**Jake Parker** said there is a growing understanding of Intellectual Property enforcement in China, we need regular IP dialogs among US & China

**Martin Loken** said science is an important thread running through the Roadmap for renewed Canada-US relationship for example Building critical mineral supply chains for battery development for zero emission vehicles and for renewable energy storage.

The recording of the webinar is open for the public and can be viewed at: <https://cutt.ly/ib8jhGA>

**ECOSF Joins the UNESCO Regional Consultation in Asia for Preparation of the Global Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) 2022-2032**

UNESCO Bangkok Regional Bureau for Education, with the support of UNESCO Headquarters and Offices in Jakarta, New Delhi and Beijing organized a virtual regional consultation of a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives of the national governments, indigenous peoples, and organizations, international organizations, as well as academics and experts on indigenous languages, linguistic diversity and multilingualism on 10-11 May 2021 for the preparation of the Global Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) 2022-2032.



A large number of researchers, scholars, experts, linguists, academia and students attended the event. From ECOSF, President Prof. Manzoor Soomro and Assistant Director Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar joined the event. Prof. Soomro made a few interventions and contributions in the online sessions emphasizing on education in mother languages at primary school level.

During the opening session, renowned experts/linguists such as Manoch Chummuangpak, Dhurakij Pundit University, Member State Representative of the Global Task Force, Thailand; Anabel Benjamin Bara, Representative of Indigenous People's Organizations, Global Task Force, India; Katia Chirizzi, Deputy Regional Representative, OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia and Shigeru Aoyagi, Director, Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, UNESCO Bangkok, talked about the history and importance of local languages in the world. Keynote speech was made by Mrs. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, former UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. She talked about the fundamental rights of the people of the world to learn, own and communicate in their local languages. She said that UN has been promoting local languages throughout the world. UNESCO has been playing a pivotal role. Director UNESCO Cluster office in Beijing Prof. Shahbaz Khan also spoke in the event.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/International-Decade-of-Indigenous-Languages>

**IsDB and ECOSF held a virtual meeting to discuss potential collaboration to promote STI in the region**

On May 24, 2021, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro held a virtual meeting with Mr. Sameh Hussein, Head of the Regional Coordination and Integration Department at Islamic Development Bank to strengthen ongoing collaboration to promote Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the region.

Prof. Soomro appreciated Mr. Hussein for their tremendous work to deliver vital programs and activities with a wider and meaningful impact in the region during these tough times through this pandemic. President ECOSF also congratulated the IsDB on their recent publication; “Policy Paper on National Strategies for South-South and Triangular Cooperation”. A number of initiatives were discussed for promotion of STI undertaken by the Foundation in partnership with Chinese STI institutes to deliver meaningful impact in the region.

Mr. Sameh Hussein greatly appreciated the Foundation for continuing to expand their activities in diverse and critical areas of STI. Both parties agreed to continue leveraging global connections and regional partnerships to promote STI through South-South Cooperation in the region.

**ECOSF participated in the Global Policy Dialogue for Climate Action**

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is hosting a four-part series to discuss ways the world can place climate action at the heart of recovering better from the COVID-19 crisis. As part of UN DESA’s Global Policy Dialogues for Climate Action, a dialogue on “Strengthening Sustainable Forest and Ocean Management to Mitigate Climate Change” was organized on May 26, 2021. This session was organized in collaboration and support of UN-Forum on Forests and UN-Habitat.



This third session brought together leading voices in the fields of forest and ocean ecosystem restoration and management. On behalf of ECOSF, President Soomro participated in the virtual dialogue. Experts from the UN system discussed practical solutions and ways to reform these systems to minimize their effect on the environment, in the context of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Cross-cutting issues such as financing, governance, gender, data and statistics were part of the discussion, as well as how the world can best make systemic transformations to a more sustainable world while leaving no one behind.

The climate journalist Nicholas Kusnetz of Inside Climate News moderated the discussions and number of leading experts in this area contributed to the dialogue.

Dialogue during the session centered around following thematic areas:

- Restoration and sustainable management of forests help address the climate change and biodiversity crises
- Mitigation strategies for the climate impacts on forests and forest recovery
- Best practices programmes/projects that are leading the path to achieve reductions in emissions from deforestation.

**ECOSF Participated in Partnerships as Game Changer for a Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) organized the 2021 ECOSOC Partnership Forum on May 03, 2021 to discuss the role of partnerships in driving sustainable development under the theme of “Partnerships as Game Changer for a Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19”.

Partnership Forum of examined the critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) following the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

With only ten years left to achieve the SDGs, the 2021 ECOSOC Partnership Forum provided policy space for the Member States, non-state stakeholders, and the UN development system to focus on key cross-cutting and interlinked issues that are central to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum aimed at showcasing a number of successful partnerships that are accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

A large number of representatives of the Member States, UN system entities, relevant inter-governmental organizations, multilateral development banks, NGOs, private sector participated in the event. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the webinar.

Ambassador Munir Akram the Permanent Representative of Pakistan as President of UN ECOSOC presented his opening remarks to the virtual event and highlighted the UN’s unique role in bringing together countries, enterprises, and civil society. He outlined several areas where partnerships can be used to respond to COVID-19 and achieve SDGs. Mr. Akram said defeating the pandemic is the top priority, which calls for universal and equitable access to vaccines and related materials, equipment, and technologies. Countries also must work together to prevent millions from descending into extreme poverty and destitution.

The ECOSOC President said global partnerships must help to promote financing solutions such as debt restructuring, low-interest loans, and greater foreign investment. The creation of \$650 billion in new special drawing rights (SDRs), a type of foreign reserve asset developed by the International Monetary Fund, is another important component.

The overall costs of the pandemic have been profound, Jens Wandel, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Reforms, remarked during the Forum. He added that roughly \$100 trillion in investment in sustainable infrastructure will be needed over the next three decades to bring about a resilient and environmentally friendly global economy. He reported on the UN COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund, established to help countries cope with the staggering social and economic impacts of the crisis.



**The Ban Ki-Moon Centre in collaboration with Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy organized a webinar on CLIMATE JUSTICE 4 ALL**

The Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy in collaboration the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens jointly hosted the webinar on "Climate Justice 4 All" May 25, 2021.

Climate Justice 4 All is an approach to Intersectional and Feminist Climate Action aiming to empower activists, academia, policymakers, and civil society in using climate advocacy and implementation strategies in the framework of the SDGs through an



intersectional feminist lens. The webinar focused on knowledge exchange, joint learning, the creation of safe spaces, and networking. The idea behind holding this webinar was to open the floor to as many people as possible so that they can be heard, but also, to make people aware of topics they usually avoid or are simply not aware of.

Together with former Irish president and climate justice advocate Mary Robinson and Ugandan activist, feminist and environmentalist Dorothy Nalubega, discussed as how to implement international climate agreements with an intersectional feminist approach, challenge the climate crisis as a parameter for conflict and migration and ways for Feminist Foreign Policy as means to rebalance power inequalities in the fight against climate change.

**ECOSF attended the Yidan Prize Conference: Europe 2021**

The Yidan Prize Conference Series: Europe 2021 event, held in partnership with the Department of Education, University of Oxford, was a half-day virtual session on May 28, Friday.



**YIDAN PRIZE CONFERENCE SERIES: EUROPE**

The conference honored the achievements of the Yidan Prize for Education Research Laureate 2020, Professor Carl Wieman, and the Yidan Prize for Education Development Laureates 2020, Ms Lucy Lake and Ms Angeline Murimirwa from CAMFED (Campaign for Female Education). On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the event.

The conference also featured speakers including Dr Sobhi Tawil, Director, Future Learning and Innovation at UNESCO, members from the Yidan Council of Luminaries, Ms Vicky Colbert, Professor Larry Hedges, and Professor Thomas Kane; and speakers from the University of Oxford, Professor Sibel Erduran, Professor Harry Daniels, and Dr Susan James Relly.

The conference was a packed schedule that included insights from Dr Sobhi Tawil, Director, Future Learning and Innovation at UNESCO. It featured a panel discussion on how motivation affects behavior and taking a scientific approach to improve teaching.

**ECOSF attends the AASSA-PAS Webinar Series on Pandemic Preparedness: Science and Countermeasures**

The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) organized a Webinar on Pandemic Preparedness: Science and Countermeasures on May 4, 2021. Over 30 experts, scientists and medical doctors from China, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Turkey, Pakistan, etc. attended the meeting, sharing lessons and insights learned from the joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and discussing the challenges and issues of major concern towards the future joint efforts.

The experts during the webinar highlighted the major efforts committed by international scientific and technological focused organization in the fight against the pandemic, including development of testing kits at the start to the sharing of the genomic databases as well as the forecasting and analysis of the pandemic.





### AASSA-PAS Webinar Series on

## Pandemic Preparedness: Science and Countermeasures

Islamabad; Pakistan

Panellists underscored that knowledge sharing on the research progress played a key role in successfully conducting clinical trials on vaccination across the world. Speakers also took the opportunity to thank the PAS and the AASSA for the significant bridging role they played in knowledge sharing and dissemination in the fight against the pandemic. Panellists also called for further strengthening the cooperation and partnerships with the international scientific community in tackling the pandemic and in building a better future for global good.

### ECOSF Participated in Webinar on Covid-19 an Opportunity to Reform the Agricultural System of Pakistan

Forman Christian College University and Pakistan Biotechnology Information Center (PABIC), Lahore Chapter organized a Webinar on Covid-19 an Opportunity to Reform the Agricultural System of Pakistan on May 24, 2021. A number of researchers, scholars, experts, and agricultural scientists attended the webinar. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Manzoor Soomro participated.

Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Dean, Forman Christian College University, Lahore opened the webinar, and Dr. Jonathan Addleton Rector, Forman Christian College University, and Lahore after that Ms. Ayesha Aslam Manager, PABIC Lahore Chapter introduce the panelists.

**COVID-19**  
An Opportunity to Reform  
the Agriculture System of Pakistan

May 24th, 2021 - 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Webinar Link: <https://bit.ly/3v8jKoG>

Dr. Siang Hee Tan Executive Director, CropLife Asia	Dr. Iqbal Choudhary Coordinate General, COMSTech	Dr. Iqrar A. Khan Former VC UAF, FSD	Dr. Yusuf Zafar Ex. Chairman PARC	Mr. Murtaza Quddusi Regulatory Affairs Manager BASF Pakistan Private Limited	Mr. Atif N. Mughal Assistant Professor, Business School, FCCU Certified Supply Chain Professional

Distinguished Panelists included:

- Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTech
- Dr. Sianghee Tan, Executive Director, CropLife Asia
- Dr. Iqrar A. Khan, Former VC, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
- Dr. Yousaf Zafar, Ex-Chairman PARC
- Mr. Murtaza Quddusi, Regulatory Affairs Manager BASF Pakistan Private Limited
- Mr. Atif N. Mughal, Assistant Professor, Business School, FCCU Certified Supply Chain Professional

The discussion during the webinar centered around role of science and technology towards effective strategies and practices in agricultural sector. Keeping in view the extreme challenges that current pandemic COVID-19, the speakers stressed over revitalizing the agricultural practices to keep with demand.

**ECOSF Participated in a Webinar on “Covering Climate and the Environment” organized by Knight Science Journalism at MIT**

Knight Science Journalism at MIT organized a webinar “Covering Climate and the Environment” on 20 May 2021. The Webinar was moderated by **Neela Benerjee**, Supervising Climate Editor, NPS and she was joined by **Fenwick Montaigne**, a senior editor at Yale Environment 360, and **Lyndsey Gilpin**, founder and editor-in-chief of the award-winning magazine, Southerly. Hosted by **Joshua Hatch**, co-editor of the Knight Science Journalism Science Editing Handbook.



The webinar provided an illuminating crash course in climate reporting. A large number of researchers, scholars, experts, climate scientists etc. attended the event. On behalf of ECOSF, President Soomro Participated in the webinar Series. Speakers talked about the urgency of the climate crisis — and how to tell stories that resonate.

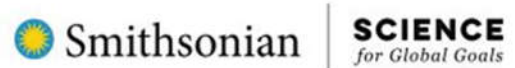
Speakers emphasized the importance of covering local climate stories, politicians, and the private sector, focusing on how climate change affects people, and situating stories within the context of global changes and the unprecedented rate at which these changes are occurring. Panelists also talked about the importance of taking a collaborative and intersectional approach to climate and environmental reporting. However, experts cautioned against sensationalizing developments in climate research.

**Vaccines! How can we use science to help our community make decisions about vaccines?**

"Vaccines! How can we use science to help our community make decisions about vaccines?" is a freely available community research guide developed by the Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC) in partnership with the InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme as part of the Smithsonian Science for Global Goals project. The Vaccines! guide helps young people learn more about the concerns of their community in order to communicate accurate, helpful, and trusted information about vaccines.

Vaccines! features 8 tasks that incorporate investigations and hands-on science to help students discover, understand, and take action. Students learn about the science of vaccines throughout history; understand the science of how vaccines work; explore how vaccines are developed; examine issues of equity, access, and misinformation; and develop an action plan for addressing vaccines concerns in their communities.

<http://ecosf.org/Vaccines>



**Vaccines!**

How can we use science to help our community make decisions about vaccines?



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

developed by

in collaboration with



**Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Training on Low Carbon Development and New Energy Vehicles**

BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Training on Low Carbon Development and New Energy Vehicles scheduled on June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The objective of this training is to build the human resource capacity to accelerate the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development in the Belt & Road Countries. The training will address three focused areas of low carbon development; (a) Renewable and clean energy development; (b) Smart and resilient power transmission and distribution grid infrastructure, and (c) Sustainable Transport Sector and latest electric mobility practices in the emerging markets.



Deadline for the registration is **June 25, 2021**. For more details and registration please visit: <http://ecosf.org/training.aspx>

**Distinguished Visitors to the ECOSF**

**May 19, 2021:** A delegation of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) led by Dr. Nasir Mahmood Khan, Secretary/Registrar PEC along with Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Sheikh, Additional Registrar and Engr. Muhammad Sohail, Sr. Deputy Registrar visited the ECOSF secretariat and held a meeting with President ECOSF. During the meeting, both sides assured for continued collaboration on a number of areas to promote engineering education, particularly in the space of engineering qualification standardisation and accreditation in the ECO Member Countries.

