



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



3rd Joint Training Program on Digital Transformation for the Belt and Road (B&R) Countries (October 11th, 2021)

BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center is hosting its 3rd Training Program on “Digital Transformation for the Belt and Road (B&R) Countries’ on October 11, 2021. Digital transformation is the process of adapting existing practices to new digital methods to increase efficiency and keep up with rapidly-changing market demands. This means integrating new technologies—big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, the Internet of Things—into every area of the conventional business.



BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center on Scientific, Technological and
Economic Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative



For further information and registration, please visit us at www.ecosf.org/training.aspx

It's imperative to not just implement new technology for the sake of innovation, but to fundamentally change the culture and increase operational efficiency by using agile digital and modern business tools and techniques. This training program on digital transformation would provide an overview of digital technologies that benefits everyone at government, business and individual level. The training program is in line with 'Digital Silk Road' initiative which aims to promote the interconnection of countries worldwide and provided development momentum for sustainable development in the world.

Deadline for the registration is **October 09, 2021**

You are cordially invited to participate in this important training program. For registration, please visit us at ecosf.org/signup.aspx

For further details and information, please download or view the training brochure <https://bit.ly/2WMUeJG>

ECOSF participated in the Subregional conference on food loss and waste reduction in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Turkey, organized by FAO and other partners including the Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)



The Subregional conference on food loss and waste reduction was organized by FAO in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey and the Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) on 29 September, to mark the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

The conference aimed at encouraging governments in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Turkey to address the issue of food loss and waste, and support and implement the necessary policy changes and adopt adequate regulatory mechanisms to create a conducive environment for the private sector to act.

The conference provided a platform to discuss common challenges and barriers of food loss and waste reduction in the subregion and inspired joint action through exchanging ideas on possible solutions and demonstrating the benefits and impacts of a collaborative approach. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer joined in the conference.

Representatives of FAO and the Ministry shared recent developments in the area of food loss and waste reduction in the subregion, including implementation of the key elements of the Turkish National Strategy and Action Plan for Food Loss and Waste Prevention and Reduction and country-specific analysis of causes and impacts of food loss and waste in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The invited speakers from different sectors presented inspiring cases and innovative and technological solutions, ranging from legal advancement facilitating food donations and date labelling improvement to nanoengineered food packaging and a technology-based platform for surplus food management.

ECOSF participated in the Climate Change Education Summit organized by the Reading University, UK

University of Reading, UK in collaboration with Office for Climate Education, Royal Meteorological Society, Met Office UK organized a virtual Climate Education Summit on September 15, 2021. The Summit included keynote plenary sessions and roundtable discussions with the aim of identifying and outlining how a step change in climate and sustainability education can be made so that young people have the skills and knowledge needed for the



CLIMATE IN THE CLASSROOM

CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

twenty-first century. The scope included both policy-related matters and in-school activities. Summit was widely attended by scientists, teachers, students and the general public. On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the online summit. It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Soomro is an alumnus of the University of Reading and was especially invited to join the summit.

Invited speakers during the summit underlined that the impacts of global warming are already being felt across the world, the decisions taken now on climate action will most affect today's young people. Climate experts recognized that many children rarely encounter discussion of climate change in the classroom or in their wider lives, except in often-distressing news stories or through what they see on social media.

Summit also highlighted that regardless of the quantity of climate education in the curriculum, the quality is another key issue. Surveys of teachers by the "Teach the Future" campaign group showed that nine out of 10 teachers agree that climate change should be compulsory in schools, yet only three out of 10 feel properly equipped to teach it. Addressing any shortfall in climate education is a complex process and doesn't necessarily have to involve formally changing the curriculum. Summit concluded that generation armed with knowledge about the challenges it faces, and the potential solutions, is much more likely to engage with the climate challenge with greater confidence and vigour.

PCSIR Launched Hemp Value Chain Development Programme - 2021

A Hemp Value Chain Development Programme – 2021 was launched on 30th September 2021 by Pakistan Scientific and Industrial Research Council (PCSIR) in collaboration with Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan and PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi.

The programme was launched by the Honourable Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Shibli Faraz. The Minister was joined by the Chairman Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) Dr Syed Hussain Abidi, University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Qamaruz Zaman, Additional Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology Dr Syed Ataur Rehman and faculty members, prominent scientists. From ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro President attended.



During the inauguration speech, the Minister said that Pakistan has a natural climate to grow hemp and the Ministry has started work to formulate a national hemp policy. The minister said the future of the country's development lays in science. He further said that academia-industry linkage was very important for any country's progress and appreciated the efforts of PCSIR and the university for its work to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

The hemp development programme is a project of the government initiated on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The PCSIR will execute the project in collaboration with the Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. Under the project, hemp will be cultivated and processed for the development of medicinal/industrial products.

ECOSF participated in the Science Museum CEOs Dialogue organized by the BTBU and BAST

The 2nd Science Museum CEO's Dialogue was held in parallel with the 11th International Week for Science Literacy on September 26-27, 2021 organized by the Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST) and Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU). The objective of holding this festival was to improve science literacy, highlight to role of Science Centres & Science Museums, and promote international cooperation & exchanges in science popularization.



The Dialogue was sponsored by BAST, organized by Beijing Young Science and Technology Center which was themed “Contemporary Mission and Development Strategy of Science Museums”. Several CEOs of Chinese and foreign science museums, and experts, scholars and outstanding practitioners in the field of science communication were invited to share their thoughts and practices. On behalf of President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the event virtually. With the efforts of Prof. Soomro, Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director UNESCO Cluster Office Beijing also participated in the as a keynote speaker through his recorded video message. Prof. Khan emphasized the significance of the science museums to dispel anti-epidemic rumours and advance the mission of scientific and cultural development of science museums.

NPU-FEIAP Belt & Road Engineering Education Training Centre (NFTC) organized the Outcome Based Engineering Education Training

A virtual training on Introduction to Outcome-Based Engineering Education and Professional Engineering Development and Assessment was held from 17th September 2021 virtually, hosted by the NPU-FEIAP “Belt and Road” Engineering Education Training Centre, NFTC and supported by the China Association for Science and Technology- CAST.

Objectives of the training were to provide information and training on outcome-based engineering education, accreditation system, and professional engineering development and assessment. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the training.

Prof. Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, Chiarman of FEIAP Standing Committee on Engineering Education was the conducted the training. He underscored that the objective of this training was to promote the scientific and technological progress in engineering and to improve the engineering quality in advancing engineering development in the industries for the benefit of the profession.

Prof. Chuah called for exploring opportunities to exchange ideas on engineering education development, enhance mutual understanding, and strengthen cooperation in facilitating the formation and operation of the Belt and Road Engineering Education Accord in order to improve the quality of engineering education of all countries. Prof. Chuah further shared the importance of mutual recognition of engineering personnel graduates (e.g. engineers, engineering technologists and engineering technicians) for growth, cross border mobility and networking in a globalised world. Dr. Teik also discussed the demand, actions & understanding required by institutions/organizations and highlighted a few case studies of countries and regions to achieve this engineering development objectives.



10th Governing Board Meeting of IRIS held virtually, President ECOSF attended as the Member of the Board

10th Meeting of Governing Board of Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators and Science Park Development (IRIS) was virtually held on September 22, 2021. H.E. Dr. Ghaisari, President of Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) Isfahan Iran presided over the meeting and was attended by the Board Members including Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF.

The Board reviewed the progress of the Center since last meeting and actions on the previous decisions as well as the on-going programs and approved the future work activities, financial and budgetary matters of the IRIS.

The Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators and Science Park Development was established in Isfahan in May 2010 according to an agreement between Islamic Republic of Iran and UNESCO. Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) is the host for this regional center. IRIS has been mandated to address and resolve the problems currently limiting the success of Science Parks and Technology Incubators in developing countries. The initial focus of the center, as Category II center of UNESCO, is on facilitating the integration of developmental approach into science, technology and innovation, developing technology transfer, organizing capacity building, providing policy advice, facilitating the exchange of experience and best practices, and conducting research and problem solving in Science Parks and Technology Incubators development.

It is pertinent to mention that IRIS/ISTT is the collaborator of ECO Science Foundation and under this collaboration; numerous activities have been organized in the field of Science Parks and Technopreneurship for the betterment of the scientific community/masses of the region.

President ECOSF participated in the 14th Meeting of ISTIC Governing Board Virtually

14th Meeting of Governing Board of International Science Technology and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was held virtually on September 6, 2021 due to prevailing situation of COVID-19 pandemic around the World. The meeting was presided over by the Chairperson of the Governing Board (GB) Madam Prof. Datuk Dr. Halimaton Hamdan of Malaysia and attended by the Members including Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF.

The board reviewed the progress of the Centre since the last GB meeting, actions on the previous decisions and approved the future work plan, financial & budgetary matters of the ISTIC. Prof. Soomro also contributed his inputs to decision making during the Meeting. It is pertinent to mention that ISTIC is a collaborator and partner organization of ECOSF for promotion of STI, Engineering, IBSE, Technopreneurship and Women in Science Programmes in ECO region and beyond.

UNDESA and UNDP hosted a virtual session on the Future of Work

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) are hosting a six-part Global Policy Dialogue Series on “The Future of the World” from September 2021 to February 2022 to share insights and experiences to reduce risks and make our future systems more resilient. In partnering on this initiative, UN DESA and UNDP hope to enhance the preparedness of the UN system to respond to multi-dimensional and systemic risks in today’s interconnected world.

The “Future of the World” series kicked off on 15 September, 2021 with a high-level discussion on “The Future of Work.” On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the virtual session. As the changing nature of work and lifelong learning—and what we need to do now in order to be better prepared for the future of work.

Invited experts debated on the crucial issues such as economic insecurity, the gig economy, informal work, fair wages, the role of artificial intelligence and policies to support workers. Across all issues, special attention was paid to the needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, older persons, indigenous persons and persons with disabilities.



Overall, this series provided foresight analysis and addressed the multidimensional risks such as economic and financial instabilities, rising inequalities, digital and frontier technologies, and climate change. The virtual also presented the key messages of UN DESA’s policy briefs on the future of work, as well as from other UN resources.

ECOSF participated in the webinar on Music and Technology organized by KLESF



Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF) organized a webinar on Music and Technology on 14 September 2021. Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, a music lover who is a telecommunication engineer was the guest speaker. Prof. Dr. Wei is the President of Tunku Abdul Rahman University College and co-chairman of KLESF steering committee. The webinar was a casual walkthrough of how music and related industry have evolved with the development of technology, from the beginning of the human civilization to the highly connected society today. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated as Foreign Fellow of the ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology (AAET) in the virtual event. Prof. Dr. Wei shared some of his views on the likely future outlook and development of the music industry in view of the current and possible future technologies.

ECOSF participated in the Strategic Communication Training Program by STEM Platform Strategic

STEAM Platform organized the training program on Strategic Communication with a special focus on "Entrepreneurship Powered by STEAM & Driven by Sustainability" on September 26, 2021. Many students, scientists, entrepreneurs, and industry players took part in this virtual training program. ECOSF President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro as an invited guest participated in the event. The objective of this training was to empower and equip scientists with right entrepreneurial tools and market analyses methods to help them commercialize their scientific products.

Mr. Arslan Siddique, Education Director, STEAM Platform and Dr. Mark Foley, Chief Strategist, NanoGlobe delivered training program on "Strategic Thinking & Value Chain Mapping and Technology Analysis". The training highlighted the significance of critical skills especially in terms of 'Big Picture Thinking'. Dr. Foley underlined that scientific researcher usually tend to have high domain knowledge but, in many cases, they lack life cycle or big picture thinking, which can act as the barrier towards the commercialization of their research and knowledge products. Hence, understanding the importance of value chain analysis, that can help scientists/ researchers to identify opportunities for improved value creation.



Preparations for Sindh Science Festival – 2021 Discussed in Virtual Meeting

A virtual meeting was held on 28 September 2021 to discuss the activities to be carried out during Sindh Science Festival – 2021. The meeting was attended by Prof. Manzoor Soomro, President ECOSF; Mr. Partab Rai Shivani, CEO Thar Education Alliance (TEA), Mr. Prem Sagar from JICA; Mr. Farhad Jaral from Campaignistan, Dr. Uneiza Alvi from Sukkur IBA; Mr. Ghulam Abbas from ECOSF and Mr. Sarangram from TEA.

It was agreed that the suggestions surfaced during the meeting will be pursued and materialized to sensitize all the stakeholders in a best way to make the Festival a success and way forward.

Agenda of Cooperation in Central Asia According to Common Interests

Courtesy of Eurasian Research Institute (ERI)

At a time when the political and security issues in the region became more and more important, a consultation meeting was held under the chairmanship of the leaders of the Central Asian states, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, President of Tajikistan Imamali Rahman, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguli Berdimuhamedov. Along with the presidents of the Central Asian countries, the special representative of the United Nations (UN) Secretary General in Central Asia, Natalya German, also attended the meeting. A

program for the future was formed by discussing important issues regarding the security of the region and improving international relations between the five brotherly and neighboring states. The first consultation meeting of the heads of state of the Central Asian countries was held in Kazakhstan in 2018 and the second in Uzbekistan in 2019. The third meeting, which was planned to be held in Kyrgyzstan in August 2020, was postponed due to the pandemic. The consultation meeting, which was postponed to different dates, was held in Turkmenistan on August 6th 2021 with the slogan "Five fingers of one hand".

In recent years, developments in the national economies of countries, energy demand as a result of population growth and the importance of security has become a frequent topic on the agenda of the countries of the region. When the introduction of green energy and energy-efficient technologies, the creation of energy fields, the fight against drought and the solution of water shortages are considered as common interests, the rapid resolution of regional problems will also contribute positively to the development process. Among these problems, there are common interests and common security issues such as the increasing cooperation of the relevant ministries of the countries in the field of energy in the solution of energy problems, the ever-growing demographic of the region, and the inadequacy of food and agricultural products which have become more visible due to the pandemic. At this point, the need to establish a regional food safety monitoring system for each country has emerged by the agriculture ministers of the Central Asian countries. It was decided to come together and hold a meeting every year to resolve such issues. In this context, the joint action and cooperation of the Central Asian states is directly related to all the states in the region.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3oAQaHQ>

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

5th Young Scientists Festival

University of Tehran in collaboration with ECOSF and other national/international organizations is organizing "5th Young Scientists Festival" on 30 Nov 2021 in Tehran, Iran. The young scientists are encouraged to attend the Festival.

Deadline for Registration of ideas: May 22 to September 23,2021.

Read more: <http://ysf-persia.com>