



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



The 24th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held at Antalya, the Resort City of Turkey on 9 November 2019

The 24th Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization Council of [Foreign] Ministers (ECO COM) was held at Antalya, the Resort City of Republic of Turkey. The meeting was opened by H.E. the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (Chairman of the 23rd COM) and was participated by the Ministers/Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of all the ECO member states as well as representatives of Observers and Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies including ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF).



At the beginning of the meeting, a documentary film was shown on the activities of ECO. First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri spoke about the recent projects with the member states. Then, the ECO Secretary General Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour presented his report and statement. After the reports, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Republic of Turkey was elected to chair the meeting. Then the national anthem of Turkey was played and the Chair of the organization moved from Tajikistan to Turkey. From then on the meeting was presided over by Turkish Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavusoglu. Mr. Çavusoglu welcomed all the ministers, deputy minister, observers, heads of specialized agencies and other dignitaries for attending the important meeting of COM at Antalya. Later, he commenced the proceedings of the meeting item-wise and decisions were made.



The Head of Delegates of ECO member countries, Observers and Specialised Agencies made their statements and committed to support the organization for achieving its goals and objectives. Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey were represented by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs; whereas, rest of the member countries were represented by the Deputy Ministers or Ambassadors. On behalf of Pakistan the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs H.E. Ms. Andleeb Abbas participated in the meeting.

Preceding the ECO COM meeting, a Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held on 8 November 2019. The task of SOM was to prepare for the COM meeting.

On behalf of ECOSF, the Foundation's President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the COM and SOM meetings. Prof. Soomro highlighted the role of science, technology and Innovation as well as science education in economic development of the region and pointed out some of the impediments in pursuing the Organization's goals. He also shared with the meeting, the stronger international collaboration of the Foundation. President ECOSF requested the member states that have not yet ratified the Charter and its Additional Protocol of the Foundation, to complete the process of ratification to make the Foundation more vibrant and strong. The Council while reviewing the progress of ECOSF lauded the activities of the Foundation and endorsed its progress with appreciation.

Five Muslim scientists awarded Mustafa (PBUH) Prize in various fields of Science and Technology in an award distribution ceremony held in Tehran, Iran

The award distribution ceremony of the 3rd round of Mustafa (PBUH) Science Prize was held in Tehran on November 11, 2019. During the award ceremony, two Turkish and three Iranian scientists were recognized as the laureates of the 3rd Mustafa Science Prize. The laureates were also adorned with special medals and certificates.

The Mustafa Prize is a top science and technology award granted to the top researchers and scientists of the Islamic World biennially. It was launched in 2015 with the mission to promote science and technology in the Islamic world. The Mustafa Prize is awarded in five categories of information and communication science and technology, life and medical science and technology, Nano-science and nanotechnology and all areas of science and technology and scientists from Islamic countries. Each laureate is awarded USD 500,000/- which is financed through the endowments made to the Prize.



The award ceremony attracted a large number of eminent scientists and researchers around the world. Dr. Sourena Sattari, the Vice President of Islamic Republic of Iran for Science and Technology, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Ali Ekber Salihi, Chairman of Iran Atomic Energy Commission also graced the occasion as a guest of honor. Dr. Sattari who is also the chairman of policy making council of the Prize, made his speech and highlighted the significance of collaboration among the Muslim scientists to address the challenges being faced by not only Muslim countries but for entire the developing world. He further emphasized that the Mustafa Science Prize is an effective platform to recognize the remarkable discoveries and research in science and technology contributed by the Muslim Scientists around the world.

During award ceremony, the Mustafa Science Prize was awarded to five eminent scientists of the Islamic World in two categories in their respective fields, as listed below:

Cat.-A:

1. Ali Khadem Hosseini, an Iranian National (Life and Medical Science) University of California, Los Angeles, USA.
2. Ugur Sahin, a Turkish Professor (Life and Medical Science) and founder of TRON GmbH, Mainz, Germany.



Cat.-B:

1. Mohammad Abdolvahed, an Iranian National (Nano Science and Technology) University of Tehran
2. Hossein Baharvand, an Iranian National (Stem Cell Biology) Royan Institute, Iran
3. Umran Inan, a Turkish scientist (Ionospheric and Atmospheric Physics) Koç University and Stanford University



On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the award ceremony. It is important to mention here that on the sidelines of this award ceremony, 6th Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) was held; where Prof. Soomro was invited as a keynote speaker on Science Communication.

President ECOSF participated as a Keynote Speaker in the 6th Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) held in Tehran, Iran

The Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) organized the 6th Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) in Tehran on November 10, 2019. This international event was organized on the sidelines of the 3rd Mustafa Science Prize Award Ceremony. STEP aims to serve as a platform to expand the scientific network amongst the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) stakeholders of the Islamic World in form of holding international events and laying the groundwork for enhancing the scientific synergy and cooperation. STEP attracted a large number of eminent scientists and researchers to take part in thematic discussions, such as energy-water-food nexus, women in S&T, scientific collaboration, science communication and health, people & environment.

STEP held a dedicated session on the significance of Science Communication. President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated and delivered his keynote on **“Bridging Science and Society through Science Communication”**. In his keynote, Prof. Soomro emphasized that Science and technology (S&T) has played a central role in the human development, industrial growth and eradication of poverty in certain region of the world. However, S&T has mainly been inward-looking, thus giving rise to unparalleled economic growth and over exploitation of earth’s resources, which has further fuelled the inequality around the world, he added. He underscored that S&T must adhere to inclusivity and address human needs to achieve synergy between scientific and societal progress.



Prof. Soomro further underlined the important aspects of science and society and how effective science communication can play its role to bridge the gap between the scientific world and general public and exposes them to real world problems. In the end, he proposed the way forward and recommendations to establish strong linkages and build synergy among scientists, communities and individuals in the Islamic World to build a network of effective science communication.

It is important to mention that Prof. Soomro also participated as a panellist in one of the sessions on "Science Communication in Islamic Countries: Towards an Effective Network". After the session on Science Communication, President ECOSF Prof. Soomro was interviewed by the local TV IRIB on the significance of Mustafa Prize, STEP as an engaging platform for the scientific community in the Islamic world and science communication.



ECOSF, COMSTECH and COMSATS, MoFA, PAS and Technology Times joined hands together to co-organize a one-day Seminar on Science Diplomacy

The Science Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in collaboration with Pakistan Academy of Science (PAS) and COMSTECH, and with the cooperation and support of ECOSF, COMSATS and Technology Times organized a one-day seminar on Science Diplomacy at COMSTECH Headquarter on November 27, 2019 in Islamabad. The objective of holding this seminar was to generate a meaningful debate and dialogue on effective use of Science & Technology as an instrument for diplomacy to foster Pakistan’s international STI collaborations and leveraging the country’s Foreign Diplomatic Missions to bring

strategic international partners to achieve the socio-economic development in the country. The seminar brought together members of diplomatic corps, country's leading scientists and academicians, government officials, representatives of media, development organizations and students of the local universities. On behalf of ECOSF, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, and his team, including Engr. Khalil Raza, Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar and Mr. Adnan Ali Abbasi participated in the seminar.



Dr. Tariq Banuri, the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Coordinator General of the COMSTECH graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. Banuri underscored the significance of knowledge based economies in the 21st Century and how knowledge can drive the nations to uplift their social-economic conditions. With the advanced information and communication technologies, countries with strong scientific and technology foundations have the potential to create immense wealth, and one must learn from the countries who have demonstrated this growth pattern. He underlined that HEC is now focused on collaborative research agenda with transition from input based to impact based research to help achieve sustainable development goals by utilizing the partnership with other developing and friendly countries. Dr. Banuri highlighted a number of initiatives being undertaken by the HEC to promote international research collaborations with leading global universities.

Mr. Kamran Akhtar, the Director General (DG) Science Diplomacy Division of MoFA presented his talk on "Science Diplomacy Initiative by MoFA". Mr. Akhtar said that role of Science Diplomacy is not new. One should be mindful of the fact that with looming threat of Climate Change and Food Security, no one country can tackle these challenges in isolation, therefore, the importance of science diplomacy is gaining traction around the world. He further emphasized on the instrumental role that diplomats can play in promoting scientific and technological collaborations among the nations. Mr. Akhtar shared that, as part of this initiative, special attention would be given to areas of strategic importance such as; climate change, energy, water, food and agriculture and public health.





President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro delivered his talk on “Science Diplomacy for the Sustainable Development: Experiences of ECOSF”. In his presentation, Prof. Soomro emphasized that Science and Technology has immense power to address issues of great importance to all societies. Prof. Soomro elucidated that technological advanced countries are now capable of influencing nations by exerting soft-power to achieve their economic goals, and its efficacy and impact is often more persuasive than hard-power. He further demonstrated the case of soft-power where tech-giants like Google, Huawei, General Electric and Apple: their products are so demand driven with high utility that even rival countries are left with no option but to use them. That is how technologically

advanced countries use science and technology in combination with persuasive diplomacy to gain their economic goals. Therefore, ECO Member Countries, including Pakistan have to move up the technological ladder to develop capabilities in STI to remain globally competitive. Prof. Soomro shared that ECOSF is actively promoting science diplomacy not only among the Member States but beyond the region by bringing expertise from advanced countries. He further shared a number of activities and programs that Foundation carries out in collaboration with its leading global STI organization. Our international partners and collaborators have been instrumental in enabling the ECOSF to achieve its intended goals, he added.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Seminar-on-Science-Diplomacy>

ECOSF participated in the Launch Ceremony of Clean Green Pakistan Index (CGPI)

Pakistan launched its first ever “Clean Green Pakistan Index (CGPI)” as part of government’s efforts to curb pollution and reduce the severe effects of climate change. Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan launched this index at the inaugural ceremony on November 25, 2019. The objective of developing CGPI is to promote sustainability in cities, which will rank cities on 35 indicators on greenery and cleanliness. The index is based on five pillars, namely; safe drinking water, total sanitation, liquid waste management & hygiene, solid waste management and plantation. Each pillar carries equal weightage of each (20%) and the overall sum of scores for five pillars will provide the final score of Pakistan Clean Green Index for each city. The CGPI portal can be accessed at <https://cleangreen.gov.pk>



The launch ceremony attracted a large number of key stakeholders, top government officials, city administrators, foreign diplomats and representatives of international development organizations, media and academia. On behalf of ECOF, President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the launch event.

In his inaugural address, Prime Minister Imran Khan underlined that Pakistan is blessed with enormous resources, including twelve climatic zones, fertile land and natural resources. He said we need to appreciate these resources in order to help the country stand on its own feet. Given the immense natural beauty of the country, this initiative could play a central role to promote sustainable tourism in the country, he further added. Prime Minister stressed the significance of participatory engagement of civil society and the general public to make this initiative a great success. Government has limited resources,

therefore, every segment of society, especially the youth to actively participate in this green initiative to combat climate change and to secure a sustainable future, he urged.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/CGPI>

ECOSF participated in 3rd Annual Conference on CPEC Consortium of Universities

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan organized the 3rd Annual Conference of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Consortium of Universities under the theme, "Academic Collaboration for Sustainable Partnerships" on November 18-19, 2019 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The objective of this conference was to review progress of academic collaborations among partner institutions, identify new areas of cooperation for development of human resource, and expand academic linkages among the universities of China and Pakistan. The consortium aims to promote civilizational harmony and invigorate people-to-people contacts, explore joint research projects and areas of convergence, plan joint conferences, seminars and workshops and strive for internationalization of higher education under the CPEC program.



Conference attracted a large number of distinguished academicians, higher education managers and leaders, scholars, scientists and researchers of China and Pakistan. Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform (PDR) was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony. H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Lt. Gen. (R) Muhammad Asghar, Consultant CPEC and Executive Director HEC, Mr. Guan Peijun, Vice President, Chinese Association of Higher Education, and Dr. Moeed Yousuf, Chairman, Strategic Policy Planning Cell spoke and expressed their views on importance of strategic partnership for Higher Education between China and Pakistan. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the event.

Addressing the conference, Federal Minister for PDR of Govt. of Pakistan, Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar underscored the importance of collaborative research on emerging challenges posed to the CPEC in particular and BRI in general for evaluating the different potential sectors to harmonize bilateral socio-economic development. We have broadened the cooperation through CPEC, in areas of socio-economic development, agriculture, industries, infrastructure, energy and people-to-people contacts through the universities for enhancing the multilateral relations between the two countries and to shape future economic growth," he further added.



Read more: <http://ecosf.org/CPEC-Consortium-of-Universities>

3-Day Program on “Regional Exposure Visit for Partnership to Strengthening of Community Based Seed System in South Asia” held at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) – Islamabad

3-Day Program on “Regional Exposure Visit for Partnership to Strengthening of Community Based Seed System in South Asia” was held on 5-7 November 2019 at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad- Pakistan. The program was jointly organized by SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC), Dhaka, Asian Farmers Association (AFA), and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

The event was opened by Dr. Muhammad Hashim Popalzai, Secretary to Government of Pakistan for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (NFSR) and Dr. Rudra B. Shrestha, Senior Program Specialist, SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka. Other international speakers were Mst. Shazada Begum, Chairperson, Asian Farmers Association (AFA), Ma. Estrella Penunia, Secretary General, AFA. Director General of NARC welcomed the distinguished guests and expressed that in order to facilitate country-led growth, there is a need to expand research activities for strengthening informal seed systems into other communities and countries, however, it goes beyond concerns about informal and formal seed system linkages, to bigger debates about the contribution of informal seed systems to local, regional, and global food security.



Addressing to the inaugural Ceremony, Mr. Rudra Bahodur Shrestha, Sr. Program Specialist, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka said that the Community Seed Banks give farmers access and control over seeds and strengthen local seed supply systems. With CBSS, farmers are able to raise their productivity, thus reducing their hunger months, enhancing their cropping system resilience and ultimately increasing their income from the sale of seed so it should be noted that main purpose of CBSS is to enhance seed security. This scale up is critical to enhancing food security, preserving biodiversity, and facilitating the sustainable development of these rural agro-ecosystems, she added.

The main purpose of the event was to discuss the Strengthening of Community Based Seed System in South Asia. National focal points/experts of this program elaborated the program activities. The Farmers were also invited to present the best practices of Community Based Seed System (CBSS).

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro also attended the program as an invited speaker and Session Chair. During the Session moderated by the President ECOSF, Ma. Estrella Penunia, Secretary General, AFA highlighted the community engagement on seed sovereignty for Resilient Agriculture in South Asia (2018 Program in Dakh) and Dr. Sadaruddin Siddiqui, Director BCI shared the genetic resource management in Pakistan.

Dr. Soomro in his concluding remarks emphasized on the importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge on seed conservation and production and suggested the forum to document and share that knowledge from across the SAARC countries for the benefit of especially the small farmers for their sustainable livelihoods.

It was a high level seed forum for policy guiding to community seed systems and easy access to improved seeds to the small holder farmers. CBSS is an informal arrangement wherein members of farming community or a group follows a collective system of producing, exchanging and selling good quality seeds especially in times of disaster.

World Science Day 2019 themed “Open Science: Leaving No One behind” Celebrated

The World Science Day is celebrated all over the World on November 10 every year to create awareness on importance of science and its use for peace and development. This year, the theme of the World Science Day 2019 is dedicated to “*Open Science, Leaving No One Behind*”. In this connection, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) observed the World Science Day on November 11, 2019. It is important to mention that the proposal to dedicate and celebrate a day to promote science was originally floated by eminent Pakistani Scientist Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad (Late) in 1999, which was formally adopted and declared by the UNESCO. The event attracted a number of students from local schools, representatives of media, and academia and scientists. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the event.

Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Director Research Support and Science Popularization of PSF welcomed the participants and highlighted various efforts being undertaken by the Foundation to popularize science in the country. Prof. Dr. Hamid Saleem, Former DG, National Center for Physics (NCP) Islamabad was the keynote speaker and delivered an inspirational talk on the Universe and importance of promotion of curiosity and inquiry among young students. He emphasized over the beneficial use of science to



spur economic development and promote peace and harmony among nations. He also called upon media persons to give more coverage to science activities for popularizing the science in the country.

Prof. Dr. Aslam Baig, the Secretary General of Pakistan Academy of Sciences was the Chief Guest in the event. In his address, he stressed that Pakistan is blessed with young talent but we need a lot of coordination among various organizations to tell the youth about the opportunities available for them. He emphasized the need to increase the number of Pakistani students participating in international science competitions and forums to give them more exposure and opportunities of interaction with Nobel Laureates.

The In-Charge Chairman PSF Maj. (Retd) Qaiser Majeed Malik in his address highlighted the Foundation’s research and science popularization programmes. He shared that PSF would make its best efforts to provide all possible support to young talent for making them best scientists. At the end, certificates and prizes were distributed among the winners of PSF’s annual Inter-Board Science Essay & Poster Competitions.

ECOSF participated in a roundtable discussion on Cybersecurity during LIFT Pakistan Conference 2019

Science Diplomacy Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Pakistan and Pakistan Information Security Association (PISA) organized a panel discussion on Cyber-Security, during the LIFT Pakistan Conference 2019 held in Islamabad on November 7, 2019. The objective of holding this panel discussion was to raise awareness and generate a dialogue among the relevant stakeholders regarding the emerging threats and implications of cyberwarfare that could potentially disrupt the critical infrastructure of Pakistan. The discussion attracted a large number of participants from diverse backgrounds, including cyber security experts, regulatory professionals, members of academia, legal experts, government officials and representatives of media outlets. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the panel discussion.



The conference discussed various facets of cyber security and the cyber threats, confronting the world today and assessed the efforts and preparedness measures being undertaken by the Government of Pakistan to combat the increasing level and frequency of cyber-attacks. Mr. Kamran Akhtar D.G. Science Diplomacy Division represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and highlighted the emerging challenges posed to Pakistan in the cyberspace, especially from the view point of international and diplomatic spheres. Mr. Kamran highlighted that lack of international legal framework serves a considerable barrier for Pakistan to tackle the cybersecurity related matters, particularly pursuing such cases at a level of international jurisprudence. “We need to strengthen our legal and regulatory framework to address these challenges both at the national and international level”, Mr. Kamran added.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/LIFT-Pakistan-Conference-2019>

ECOSF participated in the Mentorship Program for 2019 Hult Prize Challenge organized by the IST

Institute of Space Technology (IST) in Islamabad-Pakistan organized the Mentorship Program for the participating team for the 2019 Hult Prize Challenge on its campus on November 23, 2019. Hult Prize is the world’s largest student competition and a movement for the creation of new social enterprises. University students from around the world compete to solve pressing social challenges via start-up enterprises. This year’s Hult Prize Challenge theme is; “Bold Business for a Better Planet”. Winner of Hult Prize can win a prize of US\$ 1 Million award from Hult Prize Foundation USA by developing the most radical and breakthrough idea



to solve one of our world's toughest social challenges.

IST hosted the Mentorship Program to provide technical and planning support to refine the business ideas of participating teams and students competing for the Hult Challenge. A number of teams comprising of students from local universities are participating in this challenge. For this mentorship program, IST invited entrepreneurs, technical experts, business incubation specialists, and start-up analysts to help guide the teams to upscale their business ideas and mature their technical business proposals. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza participated as the mentor and offered strategic insight to improve the business ideas, particularly in the sustainable energy and transportation in the context of increased sustainability, scalability and profit.

President ECOSF holds meeting with the Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey

On the sidelines of 24th ECO Council of Ministers (COM) meeting, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro took an opportunity to meet with the Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey H.E. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi in Antalya on November 9, 2019. President ECOSF presented the report on ECOSF's Five Year of Journey to the Ambassador and apprised of various activities and programmes undertaken by the Foundation for the promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the ECO region, as well as the status of Ratification of Charter of ECOSF by the Government of Turkey. H.E. the Ambassador appreciated the various initiatives of the Foundation for developing the human capital in Science and Technology, which is essential for the ECO region. H.E. the Ambassador Kazi also assured his maximum cooperation and support, especially in pursuing the matter of Ratification of Charter of ECOSF with the Government of Turkey.



ECOSF contributed to the Policy Insight on the potential impact of emerging Electric Vehicles and suggested measures to scale up the sustainable transition to electric mobility in Pakistan

For over a century, the Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) has dominated the road transportation. But the looming threat of climate change has led to the development of an alternative technology: a low-emission, high-efficient Electric Vehicles (EVs) hailed for their low running costs. Is it the next big thing? Interestingly, regulations are being placed on carbon dioxide and nitros-oxide emissions worldwide to curb global warming. Set against this, EVs are gearing up to gain momentum in lieu of improving battery technology, making them better alternatives for auto-manufacturers than petrol and diesel engines. For all these reasons, the world's leading car-makers are transiting towards EVs. Recently International Energy Agency (IEA) claimed that the demand for oil will sharply decline by 2030 due to rapid penetration of EVs. This should be ringing alarm bells for the oil cartels.

Scientific Officer of ECOSF Engr. Mr. Khalil Raza has analysed the situation and published as in the link below.

Read more: <https://blackbox.nervecenter.live/should-pakistan-get-behind-the-emerging-electric-vehicles-revolution/>

Dr. Majid Labbaf Khaneiki, Senior Expert from Iran visited ECOSF and discussed the collaboration on water related issues in ECO region

An Iranian Delegate Dr. Majid Labbaf Khaneiki, Senior Expert of International Center on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHS) – a UNESCO Category II Center visited ECOSF on 25 November 2019 along with Science Officer of UNESCO Pakistan Syed Raza Shah and other officials of UNESCO Pakistan and Pakistan Council of Research on Water Resources (PCRWR). The delegation was warmly welcomed at the Foundation by President ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor Soomro.



President ECOSF briefly introduced the Foundation and shared its objectives and programmes. Prof. Soomro shared that the Foundation carries out impact based research in prioritized areas of energy, water, food security and health. The water is amongst the top priorities of the Foundation. President ECOSF also shared that science education at grass root level is very essential; hence, ECOSF has been promoting and implementing STEM education through Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methodology in ECO region to develop critical thinking among the young generation. Foundation believes in working together and strong collaboration, and it has established partnership with number of leading organization around the globe to promote STI in the ECO region. The access to clean and drinking water is essential but the clean water resource is on sharp decline throughout the world. ECOSF has been working with various national, regional and international organizations, including UNESCO to address this issue in the region, he added.

Earlier, Science Officer of UNESCO introduced Iranian expert and expressed that ECOSF and UNESCO have been working on various programme and one of the programme is to rehabilitate the Karez system of Pakistan.

Dr. Khaneiki thanked President ECOSF for warm welcome and introduction of ECOSF. He appreciated the efforts and contributions by the ECOSF for economic development through STI in ECO region. He briefly introduced the core work of ICQHS, which is Category-II Center of UNESCO working on water sector throughout the world. The research projects have also been carried out in collaboration with Iranian and international organizations, he added. Dr. Khaneiki further said that they have rehabilitated Karezes and Qanats in Azerbaijan, Iraq, India and more work is underway in Iran, Pakistan and other countries.

President ECOSF appreciated the work of ICQHS and proposed that a module may be prepared by ICQHS to teach students about the karez/qanats through IBSE methodology. The proposal was greatly admired and supported by the delegation.

Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

November 20, 2019: Mr. Partab Shiwani, CEO Thar Education Alliance called upon the President ECOSF, Prof Dr. Manzoor Soomro, at his office and discussed a number of ways to promote science using Inquiry Based methods, and capacity building and learning outcomes. They also discussed opportunities on working together for promotion of STEM education for marginalized areas of Pakistan.

