



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



13th Summit and 22nd Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held at Islamabad-Pakistan

The 13th ECO Summit was held on 1 March 2017 in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Heads of State and Government and high level officials from the 10 ECO Member States and Specialized Agencies attended the meeting hosted and chaired by H.E. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. High level officials and representatives from the ECO observers as well as regional and international organizations, government of China and United Nations also attended the Event. ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) was represented by Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF. The leadership of ECO Region reiterated their political will and strong commitment for realizing the aims and objectives of the Organization for economic development, common prosperity, regional integration and peace and stability in the ECO Region;



The 22nd Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of ECO was held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 28 February 2017. It was preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 26-27 February 2017. The meeting was attended by the delegations of all the member states, viz., the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. The delegations from specialized agencies and institutions also attended both the meetings.

The COM was opened by the outgoing Chairman of the Meeting H.E. Mr. Jawad Zarif, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran and delivered welcoming remarks.

H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of Pakistan was unanimously elected as Chairman of the COM. After assuming the Charge as Chairman, H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz thanked the Members of the



Council for reposing confidence in him and outlined his vision for further enhancing economic cooperation in the region. He reiterated that Pakistan will continue to provide support to the projects, enhanced trade and investment opportunities, regional connectivity and infrastructure development, regional energy markets, oil and gas pipelines and trans-regional socio-economic development projects which will act as catalyst for transforming ECO into a prosperous trading bloc that stimulates and promotes industrial growth to promote free trade through operationalization of ECOTA within the region and becomes a factor of global peace, stability and prosperity. He further stressed the need for taking collective and coherent steps to give priority to certain areas of cooperation of the Organization for effective implementation of ECO Vision-2025 to make ECO more effective, dynamic and vibrant.



A three member delegation from ECOSF led by the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro participated in the meetings. The ECOSF statement was presented by the President Prof. Manzoor Soomro during the meeting. He expressed his gratitude to all the member states and ECO Secretariat for their continuous support to the Foundation. In his statement, he especially mentioned the gratefulness to the Government of Pakistan for patronizing the ECOSF through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Science & Technology, and Pakistan Science Foundation. In his statement, he reported that since the 21st COM Meeting, the 2nd and 3rd Meetings of Board of Trustees of ECOSF were held on 11 August 2015 and 18 August 2016 respectively in Islamabad. Both the meetings were co-sponsored and hosted by the Government of Pakistan. During the meetings, the Financial

Regulations of ECOSF and the Priority Research Areas for funding by the Foundation were approved by the Board. The approved Priority Research Areas are: Energy, Water, Food Security and Health with some overarching areas including Climate Change, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Migration. Subsequently the Foundation has formally launched the program by inviting the concept proposals and last date for submission is 31st March 2017. National Science Funding Agencies can also join hands by synergizing their programmes with ECOSF for joint funding. The President ECOSF also shared the launch of Appldeea2R Contest addressing UN SDGs for the youth specially university students and progress and future plans pertaining the IBSE in ECO region.

A dinner was also hosted by the new Chairman of COM in the honour of the honourable delegates/participants on 28 February 2017. A cultural show representing Pakistani Culture and music was also arranged for the guests at Pakistan National Council of Art which was amazing and well appreciated by the foreign guests.

1st national workshop on IBSE in Iran for “Professional Development Programme on Inquiry Based Science Education” organized at Isfahan

As a part of ECO Science Foundation’s Programme on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in ECO Member States, the 1st National Workshop on IBSE in Iran entitled “Professional Development Programme on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) was jointly organized by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), University of Isfahan, Ministry of Education of Iran, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of Iran, in collaboration with *La main a la pate* Foundation (LAMAP)France, Inter Academy Partnership – Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) Malaysia from 8-13January 2017 at the University of Isfahan. The purpose of the workshop was to develop and enhance the capability and capacity of the teachers/ educationists for promoting/implementing IBSE (*La main a la pate* approach) in Iranian Schools.



The workshop was opened by President of University of Isfahan Prof. Hooshang Talebi. He thanked LAMAP for joining and supporting the ECOSF initiative in Iran. Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF also made a presentation in the opening session emphasising that ECOSF works to promote and fund Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) research collaboration leading to Economic Development among the Member States, promote and popularize Science at grass root level (to Strengthen Science base) through IBSE, and harmonize STI policies of ECO Countries. He shared his views that sustainable solutions, whether at the global, regional or country level,



require creativity, new advances in scientific knowledge, discoveries and innovations and Innovation geared towards sustainable development has the potential to uplift economic growth, create jobs, boost social development, as well as contribute to environmental protection and conservation but it requires a clear strategy that puts science and education at its core.

Dr. Mehmood Amani Tehrani, Director General Curriculum, Ministry of Education showed his commitment for IBSE activities. Prof. Pierre Lena, Co-founder of LAMAP is his presentation defined IBSE and elaborated construction of their scientific understanding and knowledge, based on observation, questioning, experiments, hypothesis, argumentation and expression. The highlight of the event was signing of a preliminary MoU between LAMAP and University of Isfahan, with the support of ECO Science Foundation and Ministry of Education of Iran.

It is pertinent to mention that the workshop was facilitated by LAMAP Trainers (Ms. Anne Goube and Mr. Patrick Arnaud) and 40 Iranian participants were trained. During the workshop trainees were given small scientific assignments/tasks with a mix of theoretical and practical exercises. The participants were also asked to prepare their own proposals for small projects. The enthusiasm and engagement of the participants in the workshop was highly appreciable.

AppIdea2R Contest Launched since 04 January 2017

The Sustainable Development Goals represent a unique opportunity for the world to work together on 17 critical measures that embody the collective aspirations of the world's citizens. Reaching the SDGs will enable all of us to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. In this context, and taking benefit of new Information Communication Technologies, a contest to seek ideas and ultimately developing an "Application Idea to Reality" (AppIdea2R) contest has been initiated by ECOSF in its member's states. The App submitted in the contest will address at least one of the 17 SDGs, either for awareness creation or to contribute to progress towards meeting the SDGs. The AppIdea2R Contest is an open opportunity for university students of ECO countries including Pakistan to win prizes as well as become part of an international team to solve the social problems. This activity will help the youth of ECO region for connecting each other.

AppIdea2Reality



System App for
Sustainable Development Goals

AppIdea2R first phase, called the "Education Phase" has started from 4th January, 2017 and a simultaneous phase called "App Idea Contest" will continue until 24th April, 2017. All details are available on its weblink: <http://www.appidea2r.com/> and have been circulated in all ECO member states through a diplomatic channels.

Besides ECOSF, other collaborative partners in this activity include Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, and Technology Times.

6th International Fisheries Symposium and Expo-2017 jointly organized by ECOSF and University of Veterinary Science (UVAS) in Lahore

The University of Veterinary Science (UVAS), Lahore and ECOSF in collaboration with Punjab Fisheries Department, Pakistan Fisheries Society, Fisheries Development Board and Fish Industry of Pakistan organized the 6th International Fisheries Symposium and Expo-2017 held on 8-9 February 2017 at Lahore. Guests of Honour were Mian Yawar Zaman, Minister for Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Mr. Asif Saeed Manais, Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development.

Dr. Syed Ghazanfar Abbas, Consultant, ECOSF attended this International Symposium. He shared his views and described ECOSF role and also presented a brief introduction of AppIdea2R in the concluding session of the event. He encouraged the youths and students to visit AppIdea2R weblink and submit ideas on SDGs. In recognition of ECOSF role in helping to disseminate and improving science culture in youth, a shield was presented for the ECOSF.



An Expo was also arranged where stalls by government as well as private sector companies had put their stalls ranging from fish feed, hatchery, and other miscellaneous products. Foreign delegates from Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand, Turkey, UK, and the USA attended this event. Around 26 technical presentations in two groups, beside 56 posters were displayed on day-1. On day-2, another 36 technical presentations were delivered. Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, S.I. appreciated the role of private as well as of International agencies such as ECOSF in supporting activities that involve promotion of scientific knowledge towards our youth.

Regional Dialogue on SDG-6 jointly organized in Islamabad by ECO Science Foundation, Embassy of Tajikistan and PCRWR

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and the Embassy of Tajikistan in Islamabad jointly organized a “Regional Dialogue on SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation)” on February 15th, 2017 at PCRWR Headquarters, Islamabad. The primary objective of holding this dialogue was to deliberate on water related issues and devise strategy for implementation of SDG-6 at the regional level.

Mr. Muhammad Ashraf, Additional Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology, was the Chief Guest at the event. He appreciated the joint efforts of the organizers for holding this important dialogue and assured the possible support of the Ministry for future endeavours to implement and achieve SDG-6 targets.



Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF was the Keynote Speaker at the event. He highlighted the importance of water, as it is a human right and has become new oil, which fuels the engine for economy of every nation. He stressed that one must manage and use water resources very wisely, equitably and efficiently. Dr. Soomro further assured that ECO Science Foundation will continue to support research and technology ECO member countries in addressing challenges in water sector especially in line with UN SDG-6.

H.E Mr. Jononov Sherali, the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan highlighted the issues and key achievements relating to water resources management in Tajikistan.

In one of the technical session, Engr. Mr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer, ECO Science Foundation also delivered his presentation on *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Transforming our World for the Future*. In his presentation, he underlined the importance as to how these SDGs can make Pakistan a better place. He also talked about the transition that occurred from MDGs and SDGs.

2nd Meeting of the International Biotechnology Advisory Committee in FC College, Lahore

Forman Christian College, Lahore- Pakistan, ISESCO and ECOSF jointly organized 2nd Meeting of the IBAC on 27-28 February, 2017. Many countries including Azerbaijan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Senegal, and Tunisia delegates participated and contributed their views on role of biotechnology in agricultural sciences, health, environment and industry.

The Islamic Conference has established an International Biotechnology Advisory Committee (IBAC) to coordinate with the national biotechnology commissions and committees of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) Member States. Biotechnology is a key technology at present and holds enormous potential in the future. It also presents enormous scientific, commercial and business opportunities for the ISESCO Member States but entails great challenges and need careful and precise planning.

Further details can be seen at:

<http://eco4science.org/IBAC>

Forman Christian College
(A Chartered University)

and

The Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
(ISESCO)

In Collaboration with

ECO Science Foundation, Pakistan

have jointly organized

2nd Meeting of the
International Biotechnology Advisory Committee
(IBAC)

27-28 February, 2017

Venue
Forman Christian College (A Chartered University)
Lahore, Pakistan

"Workshop on Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship held on 23 February 2017", co-organized by Centre of Excellence in Analytical Chemistry, University of Sindh, Jamshoro and ECO Science Foundation

Workshop on Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship co-organized by Centre of Excellence in Analytical Chemistry, University of Sindh, Jamshoro and ECO Science Foundation was held on 23rd Feb, 2017 at Hyderabad-Pakistan. President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated as a main keynote speaker. He proposed a new concept of SETIENSHIP (Science, Engineering, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship) and made a Power Point Presentation entitled, "Science, Engineering, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SETIENSHIP) for Sustainable Development".

Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro briefly introduced ECO Science Foundation, its aims & objectives, activities, programmes as well as strategic steps and partners. Dr. Soomro in his presentation highlighted the importance of Science, Engineering, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SETIENSHIP) and its linkages with Sustainable Development in Pakistan. "SETIENSHIP is an integrated and holistic approach where innovation in science and engineering leads to new technologies and products, while entrepreneurship creates the business and economic opportunities", he added.

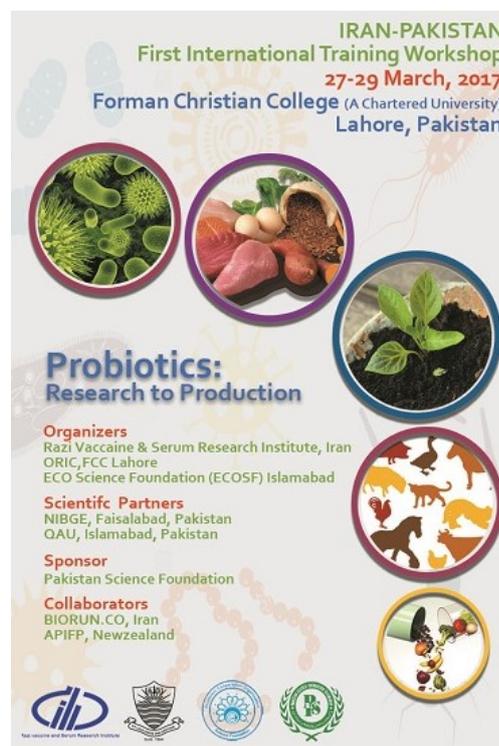
Dr. Soomro while highlighting the role of UN SDGs said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls on all countries including Pakistan to make progress in the welfare of their citizens in a sustainable manner to ensure the long-term viability of all development and growth.

The workshop was a part of "Symposium and workshops on Bio-waste Derived Carbons for Waste-to-energy conversion and water purification" organized by NCEAC, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Sindh-Pakistan during 20-23 February 2017 in Hyderabad. This activity was part of an ongoing project "Empowering of Pakistani Women through translational research in Science: Waste-to-Energy Conversation under Pak - US Science & Technology program.



Probiotics: Research to Production

Iran-Pakistan first International Training workshop on "Probiotics: Research to Production" is being jointly organized by ECO Science Foundation, Razi Vaccine & Serum Research Institute and ORICFCC Lahore from 27-29 March 2017 in Forman Christine College. The training programme will focus on the theoretical and practical aspects of safe and regulated use of probiotic in human and animal health. During the session, current advances in research, development, production and novel application of probiotic products in the different field of food, agriculture and pharmaceutical industry will be discussed. Scientific partners include NIBGE, Faisalabad and Quaid Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan. Collaborators include BIORUN.CO, Iran and APIFO, New Zealand.



President ECOSF amongst AETDEW Founding Fellows

The Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World (AETDEW) has officially been established and registered in Malaysia. Its aim is to move forward in the engineering discipline and to promote solidarity among the community of engineers, technologists, scientists and allied professionals in academia, research, government service and the engineering and technology industry. The first inaugural General Meeting of AETDEW is tentatively scheduled in Kuala Lumpur during the time of the ISTIC Governing Board meeting 15-17 May, 2017.

ECOSF is very pleased to report that its President, Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro has been appointed as a "Founding Fellow" along with numerous other International figures on STI, in recognition of his efforts in establishment process of AETDEW and promotion of Engineering in the ECO Region.

Further details on AETDEW Constitution can be seen on: <http://eco4science.org/uploads/files/AETDEW%20Constitution.pdf>

ECOSF is committed to support STI in all its forms including the activities of AETDEW and felicitates its founding members.

ECO Science Foundation and Pakistan Science Club jointly organized Water Rocket Challenge 2017, at Karachi

Water Rocket Challenge was jointly organized by ECO Science Foundation, Pakistan Science Club and Dream World Resort on Jan 21, 2017 at Dream World Resort in Karachi-Pakistan. This event served a unique opportunity for all Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics lovers of all ages. Many local Schools, Colleges, Universities and Hobbyists Participated in the event.

The participants of the events were given training on water rocket making after their online enrolment. In first phase, all of the teams were to make water rockets using their hands-on skills. The second phase included the competition. The competitors were divided in two age groups. The age group 12-18 competed for "Range competition". The age group of 18+ competed for "Bullseye" target hitting competition.

President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, was invited as a chief guest. In his address, he congratulated Pakistan Science Club, participants, teachers and above all the parents who came along with their children and allowed them to participate in the event. Prof. Soomro highly appreciated the concept of water Rocket Challenge and its scientific variables as part of inquiry based approach. "Inquiry Based Science Education is a key to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Subjects", he added.

Prof. Soomro also appreciated Dream world Resort for extending a free facility for the children to conduct Water Rocket competition at their premises. He also appreciated the support of Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) Pakistan, in sponsoring this National Water Rocket Challenge 2017. In the end he distributed awards to winners and mixed with children encouraging them to participate in such scientific events.



Meeting of Global Council of the Inter Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) held on Feb 08, 2017 at Khartoum- Sudan

Meeting of Global Council of the Inter Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) was held on Feb. 08, 2017 at Khartoum Sudan. The meeting was chaired by DatoI/r. Dr. Lee Yee Cheong Chair of the IAP SEP Global Council/Senior Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia with members of the Global Council. Dr. Lee welcomed all the participating members of Global Council from all continents.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECO Science Foundation as a member of the IAP SEP Global Council, participated in the Council meeting. President ECOSF emphasized that science education remains key component of development of societies and economies to achieve a long term sustainable development goals. He also affirmed that the IAP Regional Networks are quite successful in implementing inquiry based science education (IBSE), and proposed that it should be the aim of SEP to continue coordinating these activities. Prof. Soomro presented the progress report of ECOSF on IBSE from May 2016 to Jan 2017, and also discussed the upcoming IBSE workshops in ECO region.



Earlier on Feb 07, 2017 an International Inquiry Based Science Education Policy Forum was opened by Dr. Mohd Hassan President of Sudanese National Academy of Sciences who appreciated the support extended by IAP SEP. Prof Soomro also chaired the panel on "Fusion of Civilizations" and designing of Global IBSE curricula.

During the period (5-9 Feb 2017), a school workshop was also conducted for the training of school teachers on IBSE jointly by the Sudan NatCom for UNESCO, IAP/ISTIC, Sudanese National Academy of Sciences and Future University Khartoum.

ECOSF Delegation Visits Isfahan Science and Technology Town

A delegation of ECO Science Foundation comprising of President ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, Executive Director (elect) Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi and Assistant Director (Programmes) Ghulam Abbas visited Isfahan Science and Technology Town on 9 January 2017. The delegation was in Isfahan for the Capacity Building Workshop (8-13 Jan 2017) on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) jointly organized by ECOSF and its International Collaborators including *La main a la pate* of France, IAP SEP and ISTIC Malaysia at the University of Isfahan Iran.



Taking benefit of the visit, a meeting was held with the management of ISTT headed by President ISTT Dr. Keshmiri.

It was informed that ISTT is the first and leading Science Town in Iran and the mission of the ISTT is to promote knowledge-based economic development by supporting innovative companies, fostering entrepreneurial culture, creating science and technology parks and incubators and stimulating the flow of knowledge amongst universities, scientific organizations, companies and market. It was also informed that so far, 38 Science Technology Parks have been established across Iran.

ECOSF delegation also visited the S&T Town including outlets of two companies and a Children S&T Park facilitated/supported/developed by ISTT.

ECOSF and Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture agree to enhance mutual cooperation

A meeting between President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Vice President of Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Mr. Mostafa Ronasi was held at ICCIMA on 9 January 2017. The meeting was facilitated by Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, Director of International Scientific Cooperation, University of Isfahan and the Executive Director elect of ECOSF.

Prof. Soomro shared the objectives and programmes of the ECO Science Foundation and offered that the Foundation will support to the collaboration of ICCIMA with the other Chambers of the ECO region. He further added that the first meeting of ICCIMA can be facilitated with the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Islamabad.



Children thrill in “Science Fun Mela 2017” at LokVirsa

Two-day “Science Fun Mela” was organized by ECO Science Foundation in collaboration with Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Pakistan Science Club (PSC), Indus Cultural Forum (ICF) and LokVirsa Museum of Pakistan at the LokVirsa Museum, Islamabad on 18-19 February 2017. The event was a part of 2nd Pakistan Mother Languages Literature Festival (MLLF). The Festival aimed at promotion of mother languages spoken in Pakistan and to bring together under one roof, the multiple colours and diversity of literature in indigenous languages. The idea of organizing Science Fun Mela (festival) along the MLLF was to inculcate among children the urge for learning science around us and in the universe; so as to promote *Science Culture* in the country.

The Science Fun Mela for children was opened by the President ECOSF Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. In his opening remarks, Dr. Soomro welcomed the children and accompanying teachers and parents in the Science Fun Mela and introduced the purpose and activities to be conducted during the two days. He mentioned that the



science activities would be combination of demonstration and hands on activities which would thrill the children to interact scientifically.

Afterwards, Mr. Abdul Rauf, CEO of PSC took the floor and conducted participatory scientific activities for and with the children. He created curiosity among the children by inquiring about various science concepts during the performance of science activities. His innovative and entertaining tricks were enjoyed by all age groups.

A planetarium show and scientific lab bus were also set up in the event- thanks to PSF. Children as well as teachers and parents experienced the demonstration of planets, stars, galaxy through imaginary projector and video in planetarium show. The scientific models placed in the bus were also liked by the children and students.



“LAHORE SCIENCE MELA 2017” held successfully on 28-29 Jan 2017

ECOSF President visits and interacts with the organizers and visitors

The two-day “Lahore Science Mela 2017” organized by the Khwarizmi Science Society of Pakistan (KSSP) was successfully held at Ali Institute of Education Lahore on 28-29 January 2017. The idea of Lahore Science Mela (Science Fair) was developed jointly by Dr. Siddiqui, the President of KSSP, Dr. Sabih Anwar of Lahore University of Management Sciences and Dr. Hamid Zaman of the Boston University USA to promote STEM education among the young children. The Science Mela was patronized by Syed Babar Ali, a renowned educationist, philanthropist and industrialist based in Lahore. He while making his opening speech, highly appreciated the activity and hoped that next year, a week-long Science Mela would be organized. Syed Babar Ali has been promoting and supporting numerous educational and scientific endeavours.

Main purpose was to engage young children in positive scientific and educational activities; however, the Mela was open to public and being it a weekend, a large number of parents also joined their children and visited the science fair. In all, an estimated 100,000 people mainly children visited the fair comprising of over 50 stalls of science and education promoting institutions, NGOs and Companies as well as Universities, R&D Organizations and numerous student groups from across the country.



President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro also visited each of the stall set up at the two-day Science Mela and interacted with innovators, educationists and associations and societies/Science Clubs that had put up their stalls. He particularly interacted with the children demonstrating science activities and those visiting the Mela. Dr. Soomro while talking to various stallers and organizers and suggested them to enhance inquiry aspect of their activities particularly when explaining to the visiting children. He said that it was a good opportunity for children to see different fields of science at one place and can idealize their options and passion in choosing their future career plans. President ECOSF is a great proponent of Inquiry Based Science Education and learning approach among the children/students and the public at large.

Meeting with Stakeholders for promotion of Science among Children held in Lahore

During the “Lahore Science Mela 2017” on 28-29 January, 2017, ECOSF arranged a meeting of different organizations/institutes who are working in siloes for promotion of science among the Children. The meeting was attended heads of ECOSF, Khoj Society for People’s Education, Pakistan Science Club, Science Fuse and Reset Switch.

Agenda of the meeting was to deliberate as how to link and bring together different science education contributor agencies such as Khoj Foundation, Science Fuse, Pakistan Science Club, etc. President ECOSF appreciated every one for their commendable voluntary services in education towards the society. He further said that working alone has its own limitations and thus access/benefit to only a limited number of children is made. Prof. Soomro suggested forming a platform to work together so that every organization/institute can benefit from each other’s experience and the “best practices” can be documented and shared with maximum number of institutions whereby more children can be reached. He also assured maximum possible support of his Foundation for this noble cause. Following was agreed upon with consensus.



4th meeting of National MAB Committee held in Islamabad-Pakistan on 02 Feb, 2017

4th meeting of National MAB Committee was convened by the Chairman Secretary of Ministry of Climate Change I.R of Pakistan. Purpose of the meeting was to review the progress made by the National MAB Committee, preparation and submission of dossier for new biosphere reserves (BRs) candidate and the Lima Action Plan for BRs.

Representatives of all Provinces and territories including AJK as well as Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Director UNESCO-Pakistan attended the meeting. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro in his capacity as member of National MAB committee also attended the meeting and shared his experiences and ideas.



3rd International Rehabilitation Sciences Congress and 5th National Rehabilitation Conference held at Islamabad



3rd International Rehabilitation Sciences Congress and 5th National Rehabilitation Conference was organized by ISRA Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences, ISRA university at Islamabad on Feb 25, 2017. Theme of congress was “Empowering professionals through advancements in Rehabilitation Sciences”. These conferences have been proving a platform since 2012 for facilitating discussion among Rehabilitation Professionals and Educators by incorporating views and experiences to enhance research. The event focused on the educational requirements of the rehabilitation professional as well as interventional aspect for the people with physical and mental challenges and general public life styles. President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro participated in the congress as chief guest. In his remarks, Prof. Soomro congratulated ISRA for regularly holding this event since last few years. While stressing on the concept of inquiry he said that we must encourage and promote asking questions by the younger generation. In our culture it is ridiculed, which in turn hinders the process of thinking and inquiry based lifelong learning. “Inquiry is a key to learning and it must be promoted”, he said. Dr. Soomro also emphasized over the contribution of women in the society. He said that in the global scenario over 50% of the population is of females. “Women must play their role in the society, if not then 50% of the talent would be wasted”, he added.

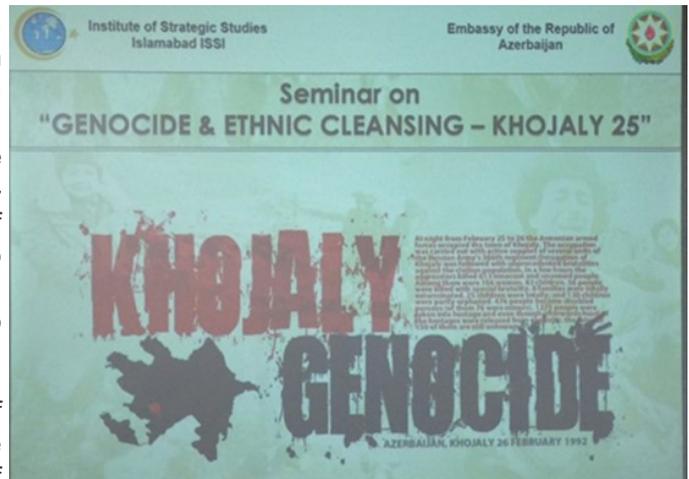
Seminar on “Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing – Khojaly 25” organized by The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in Collaboration with The Embassy of Azerbaijan

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in collaboration with the Embassy of Azerbaijan organized a seminar on “Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing – Khojaly 25” at ISSI on Feb 21, 2017. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Senate Defence Committee. Other dignitaries of the seminar included Ms. Shazia Fatima Khawaja, MNA and Convener of the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Friendship Group and Dr. Muhammad Khan, former HoD, Dept. of IR, NDU. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro also participated in the seminar.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors of ISSI, in his welcome remarks stated that the Khojaly genocide was one of the most tragic events of Azerbaijan’s history. He said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan are linked by histories and intense exchange of thinkers. Pakistan has provided endless support to Azerbaijan and has consulted its efforts with Azerbaijan in highlighting this tragedy.

“The Khojaly genocide of the 20th century is one of the most serious crimes in history not only against the people of Azerbaijan but humanity as a whole”, stated by H.E. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, during his keynote address.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that Pakistan has given unreserved support to Azerbaijan. He highlighted the commonality between the situations in Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh. Pakistan and Azerbaijan have a solid history and in the future there needs to be greater coordination between both countries especially on the issues of Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh.



President, ECOSF addresses the 9th International Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Summit – 2017 in Islamabad

National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEA) organized the 9th International Corporate Social Responsibility Summit – 2017 in a local Hotel in Islamabad on 19th January, 2017. Federal Secretary for Ministry of Climate Change Dr. Syed Abu Ahmad Akif was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr. Manzoor H Soomro, President, ECOSF along with Dr. Ghazanfar Abbas and Ms. Sumbal Naz participated in the conference. Besides many other participants, the representatives from Oil and Gas Development Corporation, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company, National Bank of Pakistan, World Learning Organization, and Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital also participated in the event.



Purpose of the Summit was to encourage and come forward to allocate more funds for the betterment of the society and increase donations particularly for health, housing and education in the country.

In his address Prof. Dr. Manzoor H Soomro suggested that the best use of the CSRs should be in the field of basic education particularly Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

International High Level Policy Forum and Workshop on Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization, Accreditation and Professional System (EQSAPS)

UNESCO in partnership with ECOSF, the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP), the International Science, Technology & Innovation Centre (ISTIC) and Academy of Sciences in Tajikistan have planned an initiative to extend the FEIAP guidelines on engineering qualification standardization to countries of the Central Asia region and Tajikistan has been selected as pilot country. In this context an International High Level Policy Forum and Workshop on “Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization, Accreditation and Professional System (EQSAPS)” is being organized in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from 27 to 29 March 2017.

For further details please visit: <http://eco4science.org/EQSAPS>

Invitation for submission of Concept Proposal for Research Grant under ECOSF S&T Fund

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) is inviting concept proposals for strategic applied research in the major priority areas viz Energy, Water, Food. The concept proposals should be based on goal oriented joint Research Projects of economic and commercial value contributing to the development of at least three ECO member states. The Research projects will be selected through a two stage process:

1. **Concept Proposals** - will be evaluated and shortlisted by a Technical Evaluation Committee.
2. **Research Proposals** - development of full Research Proposals (of selected Concept Proposal) by Principal Investigators (PIs) and Final Evaluation/Approval by ECOSF Forum in line with the Approved Modalities for Utilization of ECOSF Fund.

For further details please visit: <http://eco4science.org/conceptProposal.aspx>

President of the Republic of Tajikistan, opened the 17th Session of the Consultative Council

On 30th January, 2017, the Founder of Peace and National Unity, the Leader of the Nation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, opened the 17th Session of the Consultative Council on the Improvement of the Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. As per the objective of implementation of the Laws of Tajikistan ‘On Investment’ and ‘On Inspection of the Enterprises’, more decisions were taken including the international experience and has adopted a new edition. A Coordination Council was set up for facilitating the law ‘On Monitoring the Enterprises of Entrepreneurs’ which further decreases the burden of taxes and brings more support for new enterprises.

By decree of the government, the ‘Action Plan on Support of the Industrial Sector and the Promotion of Local Enterprises and Development of Local Production for the year 2016 – 2018 from 27 of July 2016’ was approved.

While deliberating the energy sector. Mr. Usmonaly Usmonzoda, the Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan gave a presentation on the energy sector including an analysis and draft of the Action Plan, featuring specific recommendations of the energy sectors, generating and providing the country with high quality energy and resources.

Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

Dr. Ghulam Raza Bhatti and Dr. Anwar Bhutto called upon President ECOSF at his office on 13 Feb. 2017



20 Jan. 2017: A delegation comprising of Dr. Shahid Qamar USA, Dr. Bushra Mirza, Professor Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad and Mr. Salman Naveed, Campaign Manager, AlifAilan, called upon the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro at his office to discuss the areas of mutual cooperation including Inquiry Based Science Education



New Staff Joins ECOSF

Mr. Khalil Raza joins the ECO Science Foundation as a Scientific Officer. Prior to joining the ECO Science Foundation, he worked at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a Consultant & Coordinator for Sustainable Energy for All Program in Pakistan. During his attachment at the UNDP, Mr. Khalil co-authored the Country Action Plan on Sustainable Energy for All. Previously, he has worked at the Planning Commission of Pakistan, where he assisted the Energy Wing of Planning Commission in the development of Integrated Energy Model and Planning tool for the Government of Pakistan. Mr. Khalil is a recipient of prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, and holds Masters in Renewable and Clean Energy from Wright State University, Ohio USA. Mr. Khalil is a welcome addition to the ECO Science Foundation and brings a new skill-set to the team.

