



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## TWESCO AND ECOSF SIGN MOU FOR COOPERATION

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The Turkic World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization (TWESCO) better known as International Turkic Academy, on the occasion of "The Great Steppe - A Forum of Human Sciences" signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) for cooperation in the field of education and scientific research at Astana, Kazakhstan on 23 May 2016.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and President TWESCO Dr. Darkhan Kydyrali signed the MoU on behalf of their organizations.

According to the bilateral agreement, joint scientific research projects in the fields of science, education and technology can be conducted within the framework of the ECO member-states. Also, possibilities of holding professional seminars and conferences, establishing links between research organizations and higher education institutions would be considered.



Subsequently, on 24 May, the two presidents held a separate one to one meeting and discussed the possibilities and areas of cooperation in detail. Dr. Kydyrali thanked Professor Soomro for joining the Forum and also for signing the MoU, which he hoped will be milestone in promoting cultural and educational ties between the member states of the two organizations, which are exactly the same. President TWESCO proposed to plan a joint event on Food Security as it is the need of time and. He assured President ECOSF of full cooperation of TWESCO in all other project as well.

## ECO'S 6TH WORKING GROUP MEETING (WGM) ON ENVIRONMENT HELD ISLAMABAD-PAKISTAN

The 6th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment was held on 1-2 June 2016 in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The meeting was organized by Ministry of Climate Change of I.R of Pakistan, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), ECO Secretariat and ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST). The delegates from Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkish Cypriot State (ECO observer), as well as UNESCO, ECO-IEST, ECOSF and ECO Secretariat attended the meeting.

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, Federal Secretary for Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan. The Federal Secretary Climate Change welcomed all the delegates for attending the meeting and underscored the importance of enhancing synergy and coherence among key stakeholders in the ECO Region and called upon Member States to strengthen their efforts for close collaboration in the field of climate change, biodiversity, sustainable forest management and other related environmental areas especially in the context of UNFCCC COP-21 Paris Agreement on climate change.



Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF in his speech in the inauguration ceremony thanked the Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan hosting the meeting and ECO Secretariat for coordinating the Meeting in collaboration with ECOSF and ECO-IEST in Islamabad-Pakistan. He mentioned that ECOSF had a pleasure to host the 1st meeting of ECO Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity in Pakistan in Nov 2013 with the cooperation of Government of Pakistan and support/contribution by ECO Secretariat and expressed pleasure to have co-organized the 6th meeting of experts- the ECO Working Group on Environment in Islamabad again. He further said that we all get affected from the climatic and environmental change issues and politically, there is always a talk about combating and mitigating the problems; but to address the issues, the education and research are mandatory to prepare the implementable policies and strategies in line with the international commitments and relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals. He further shared that ECOSF is active in promotion of Biosphere Reserves with UNESCO in Pakistan and in the Region. ECOSF and UNESCO also organized a capacity building workshop for the Afghan nationals in 2015 on biospheres.

Earlier, Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment (EME) of ECO Secretariat in his opening statement, expressed his appreciation to the Government of Pakistan particularly the Ministry of Climate Change for hosting the 6th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment in collaboration with ECO Science Foundation for providing necessary facilities for delegations and successful proceedings of the Meeting.

Mr. Sasan Rabieh, Coordinator for ECO-IEST also made opening statement. UNESCO Pakistan Representative also made a statement and talked about the ongoing cooperation of ECOSF and UNESCO and emphasized the joining of ECO in the mutual projects.



The delegates of ECO Member States also made presentations/statements on behalf of their countries and highlighted activities and programme on Environment.

While appreciating the collaboration established by ECO Science Foundation and UNESCO, the Meeting welcomed the proposal of UNESCO Representative to the ECO Secretariat to extend its support to UNESCO and ECOSF in convening the 8th Meeting of SACAM Network in August 2016 in Almaty- Kazakhstan and requested ECO Member States to participate in this

important event and urged for potential ECO Regional joint collaborative initiatives with UNESCO for future cooperation in biosphere reserves.

### **FCC-COMSTECH-ECOSF JOINT INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON “GENOMICS AND GENOME EDITING” ORGANIZED IN LAHORE**

An International Workshop on “Genomics and Genome Editing” was jointly organized by Forman Christian College (FCC) University Lahore, COMSTECH and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) on May 24 to 27, 2016 at FCC. The workshop was focused on the technologies of Genomics, Metagenomics, Epigenomics, Genome Editing and their use and applications in biomedical and agricultural sciences. In all 30 participants joined the workshop, 22 were from ECO countries viz., Afghanistan (1), Azerbaijan (1), Iran (2), Kazakhstan (2) and Pakistan (16). Nine participants from other COMSTECH member countries also joined. ECOSF provided the air tickets of the participants of the ECO member states other than Pakistan.



The inaugural session of the workshop was opened by Dr. Joseph Jones, the Vice-Rector of FC College who welcomed the workshop participants as well as resource persons from different countries. Afterwards Prof. Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik in his speech introduced the workshop objectives to the participants. Dr. Saima Tanveer, Science Officer of ECOSF read the

Message of the President ECOSF, wherein the President warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, speakers and participants of the International Workshop and said that the Foundation promotes cooperation and collaboration and was pleased to be part of this workshop . Dr. Soomro in his message while stressing upon cooperation and collaboration said that, “that way, we pool the strengths of single institutions and persons and become much stronger to pursue the goals for a greater good of the people at large”.

Subsequently, the technical workshop began. The participants were given a deep insight into Genome assembly, Microbial consortia in the environment, Epigenetic modifications across the genome (Genotyping based on SNP’s), the prospects and possibilities in genome repair and developing resistance strategies against animal and plant infections.

President ECOSF Professor Manzoor Hussain Soomro was the Chief Guest in the closing ceremony held on 27 May 2016 and he distributed the certificates and shields among the participants.

**PRESIDENT ECOSF PARTICIPATS AT THE GREAT STEPPE- A FORUM OF HUMAN SCIENCES ORGANIZED BY INTERNATIONAL TURKIC ACADEMY (TWESCO) AT ASTANA- KAZAKHSTAN**



A Social Sciences Forum entitled, "The Great Steppe- A Forum of Human Sciences" was organized by The World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization (TWESCO), better known as "International Turkic Academy" in collaboration with various organizations of Turkic world, at the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, Astana, Kazakhstan on 23-24 May 2016. Forum was opened by the Secretary of State Ms. Gulshara Abdykalykova, who also read the Congratulatory Letter of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. H.E. Nur Sultan Nazerbayev. Main motive of the forum was to bring together renowned scholars of Turkic history and culture, prominent statesmen, ambassadors and diplomats, as well as the Executives of International organizations active in the region, to discuss the significance of cultural values of Eurasian and Turkic nations in the development of human civilization, as well as to find answers to pressing issues of the contemporary world. The goals of the forum were to, accentuate the growing significance of the Turkic world in international arena; to scrutinize the historical origins and continuity of statehood traditions in entire Eurasia; to provide a discussion platform for communication and dialogue between renowned scholars who conduct systematic research on various aspects of ancient and contemporary Turkic world and to give new momentum for further development of Altaic and Turkic studies.

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Korea, Russia, the United Kingdom and other countries of the world joined the forum and shared their views on 4 panel sessions of the forum.

President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was among the panellist of 1st panel discussion on “Scientific Cooperation and Integration in the Eurasian Space: Search for Modern Approaches”, While stressing upon the importance of scientific cooperation, he shared the International linkages of ECOSF and its programs & activities with emphasis on research and scientific & technological innovation.

### 1ST INVENTION TO INNOVATION SUMMIT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BALOCHISTAN QUETTA HELD

The 1st Invention to Innovation Summit at the University of Balochistan (UoB) Quetta was held on 4-5 May 2016. The Summit was organized by UoB in collaboration with Government of Balochistan, Institute for Research Promotion (IRP), ECO Science Foundation, Pakistan Science Foundation, PASTIC, Pakistan Council of Science and Technology and numerous other organizations.



The Summit was aimed to promote commercialization of research results by bringing various R&D institutions, individual innovators and researchers as well as the private companies engaged in technology development and production. The Governor of Balochistan and Chancellor of the University H. E. Mr. Muhammad Khan Achakzai was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Session on 4th May. Welcome address was delivered by Dr. Waheed Noor, Director ORIC, UoB. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were; Vice Chancellor of the University, the Federal Secretary for S&T Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Chairmen of PSF, PCST & PCSIR and the CEO of IRP Mr. Abid Shirwani.



President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, being one of the founders of the Invention-to-Innovation Summits in Pakistan (Lahore- 2011), also graced the event as guest of honor and spoke during the inaugural session highlighted the history of the commencement of the initiative as well as the subsequent developments. He also emphasized on the need for promotion of critical thinking and innovation among children at school and pre-school level. He also stressed upon the need for organizational innovation for creation of innovative ecosystem.

The Governor of Balochistan appreciated the speech and efforts of Dr. Manzoor Soomro and presented him a memento of the summit. The Governor also invited President ECOSF to visit him separately for discussion on development of S&T sector in Balochistan.

Dr. Soomro also opened the AFAQ Innovation Star Competition patronized by Institute of Research Promotion (IRP) at UoB on 4th May 2016.



of each country was displayed. ECOSF also prepared and displayed a poster covering the activities on IBSE and future plans.

The participants were also taken to visit the school system run on Inquiry Based Science Education approach of La main a la pate Foundation in a suburb of Paris, named Chatenay Malabry. The participants experienced the live classes where science education was taught through inquiry. The performance and interest in science of the pupils was also witnessed which was exemplary.

A visit was also paid to Pilot Centre fully equipped with scientific materials established by the LAMAP with the support of local administration. The Pilot Centre facilitates local primary schools of the area with the scientific techniques to be taught to the pupils and provide scientific materials to the schools for conducting scientific activities.

The seminar ended with vote of appreciation by the organizers and a will by the participants to initiate the IBSE approach in the school systems of their respective countries.



### **ECOSF'S NOMINATED TECHNICAL EXPERT FROM PAKISTAN PARTICIPATES IN 3RD PAN EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF STAKEHOLDERS OF BIODIVERSITY, HELD IN LEIPZIG, GERMANY**

Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Chairman, Department of Entomology and Director External Linkages, Muhammad Nawaz Shareef (MNS) University of Agriculture, Multan participated as ECOSF nominated technical expert from Pakistan in 3rd Pan European Conference of Stakeholders of Biodiversity, held in Leipzig, Germany from 14.06.2016 to 16.06.2016.

It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF is observer member/stakeholder of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IPBES is a UN Scientific Organization with its secretariat in Bonn Germany, meant for assessment of scientific facts and policies regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services around the globe and by the virtue of being Stakeholder/Observer Member, ECOSF nominates experts from the ECO Region for various IPBES tasks/deliverables planned for next five years 2014-2018.

### **ECOSF CONTRIBUTES IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (HESI) AT PARTNERSHIP FOR SDGS ONLINE PLATFORM THROUGH APPIDEA 2R CONTEST**

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), a partnership between UN-DESA, UNESCO, UNEP, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative, UNU and UN-Habitat, is preparing a report on the role of Higher Education for Sustainable Urban Development, in support of 2016 Habitat III Conference, which is taking place later this year in Quito, Ecuador. The HESI partnership is seeking input to the report from higher education institutions all over the globe.

ECOSF contributed to HESI at the Partnership for SDGs online platform through its Appldea 2R Contest – System App Development for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiative. The contest is aimed at empowering and mobilising youth and accelerating the implementation of sustainable solutions in the community at national and international levels.

The Appldea2R (from app idea to reality) Contest aims to develop software applications for web, personal computer, mobile handheld device, console, SMS, or any software platform broadly available to the public on SDGs related to one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The App submitted in the Contest should address at least one of the 17 SDGs, either for Awareness creation or Contribute to progress towards meeting the SDGs.

**PRESIDENT ECOSF HOLDS MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB) DURING 15<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL MEETING OF COMSTECH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2016**

During 15<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of O.I.C, COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro held a sideline catch-up meeting with representative of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Mr. Sameh Hussein, Director (Capacity Building). It may be mentioned that IDB is one of the International partners and collaborators of ECO Science Foundation and has supported a Capacity Building workshop of the Foundation on IBSE in 2015. Dr. Soomro thanked Mr. Hussein and appreciated IDB's cooperation. The two organizations are in the process of developing a long term collaboration/partnership for capacity building of ECO member states in the fields of scientific and technological research.



Representative of IDB requested President ECO Science Foundation support and expedite two projects between Pakistan-Turkey and Pakistan-Kazakhstan that have already been agreed in principle.

**PRESIDENT ECO SCIENCE FOUNDATION HOLDS SIDELINE MEETINGS WITH DELEGATES OF ECO MEMBER STATES TO 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF COMSTECH, 31 MAY - 1 JUNE, 2016**



During the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of O.I.C Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) held on 31<sup>st</sup> May-1<sup>st</sup> June, 2016, President ECO science Foundation held sideline meetings with the delegates from ECO member states including the Vice Minister of Education and Science (MES) from the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E Mr. Takir Ospanovich Balykbayev accompanied with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Bakhytbek Shabarbayev, who is also the new Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Pakistan. Dr. Soomro in his meeting with Kazakhstan envoy primarily focused on the ratification of ECOSF Charter and active participation in Foundation's activities by the Republic of Kazakhstan. Mr. Balykbayev assured President ECOSF of their cooperation in this regard.

Dr. Soomro also had a brief meeting with H.E Meret H. Ashirbayev President, Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, and apprised him about ECOSF activities and programs in the ECO region. President of Academy suggested Dr. Soomro that ECOSF should liaise with the Vice Premier of Turkmenistan for Education and Science, to have an active coalition and collaboration for improvement in STI programs of Turkmenistan and for a stronger linkage with other ECO member states.



## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO ECOSF

- H.E Prof. Vahid Ahmadi, Deputy Minister for Research and Technology of Iran (center), an expert in the field of Photonics visited ECOSF office on 31-05-2016 along with his delegation and held a meeting with the President ECOSF on scientific cooperation between Iran and other ECO member states. Mr. Vahid also assured the financial contribution of Iran to be paid to ECOSF in kind due to international sanctions.



- Participants of 6<sup>th</sup> ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment visited ECOSF office on 02-06-2016



- Representatives of ICT R&D Fund of Pakistan and Institute of Research Promotion (IRP), Lahore-Pakistan, visited ECOSF office on 19-05-2016 to discuss about the tremendous potential of ICT to accelerate progress towards reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



- Mr. Alban SCHEWERER, Scientific and Higher Education Attaché, French Embassy called upon the president ECOSF at his new office on 02-05-2016 to discuss about the ongoing cooperation between ECOSF and LAMAP Foundation, France. It may be mentioned that LAMAP Foundation and ECOSF signed MoU for promotion of science education (IBSE) in ECO member states.



**Upcoming International Events posted on ECOSF website and FB page****ECOSF AND FCC'S 2ND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CRYSTALLOGRAPHY IN STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY FROM 15-19 OCTOBER 2016 IN, LAHORE**

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Foreman Christian College (FCC) Lahore jointly organize the 2nd International Workshop on Crystallography in Structural Biology from 15-19 October 2016 in, Lahore-Pakistan. The main objective of the workshop is to provide a platform to the participants coming from various countries including ECO countries to share their scientific knowledge/wisdom and to develop a networking for future cooperation/collaboration between their institutes/organizations.

**Web Link:** <http://eco4science.org/ECOSF-and-FCC-s-2nd-International-Workshop-on-Crystallography-in-Structural-Biology>

**CALL FOR DECLARING "YOUR COUNTRY'S SCIENTISTS ON NANOTECHNOLOGY"-INTER-ISLAMIC NETWORK ON NANOTECHNOLOGY**

The Inter-Islamic Network on Nanotechnology (INN) under the patronage of COMSTECH is registering the top scientists in the field of Nanoscience & Technology. Thus the INN has invited the top Nanoscientists/Nanotechnologists to register with INN.

**Web Link:** <http://eco4science.org/Call-for-declaring-Your-Country-s-Scientists-on-Nanotechnology-Inter-Islamic-Network-on-Nanotechnology>

**JOINT NAM S&T CENTRE - ZMT BREMEN (GERMANY) FELLOWSHIP IN TROPICAL COASTAL MARINE RESEARCH**

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre; [www.namstct.org](http://www.namstct.org)) is pleased to invite applications from suitable candidates for the Joint NAM S&T Centre - ZMT Bremen (Germany) Fellowship in Tropical Coastal Marine Research for the year 2016.

**Web Link:** <http://eco4science.org/JOINT-NAM-S-T-CENTRE-ZMT-BREMEN-GERMANY-FELLOWSHIP-IN-TROPICAL-COASTAL-MARINE-RESEARCH-CALL-FOR-APPLICATIONS-FOR-2016>

**CALL FOR MUSTAFA PRIZE NOMINATION**

The Mustafa(pbuh) Prize is a top science and technology award granted to the eminent scientists and scholars of the Islamic World biennially. The Prize is awarded in four categories, namely "Life and Medical Science and Technology", "Information and Communication Science and Technology", "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology", and "All areas of science and technology".

**Web Link:** <http://eco4science.org/Call-for-Mustafa-Prize-Nomination-December-2017>

**Invitation for External Review of First Order Draft Assessments**

As part of the open, transparent and collaborative process in the development of IPBES assessment reports, we would like to inform you that the external **First Order Draft review by experts** of the IPBES thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration (Deliverable 3bi) and of the four regional assessments (Africa, Asia Pacific, Americas, and Europe and Central Asia) on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Deliverable 2b) will run for six weeks from 30 May 2016 until 11 July 2016. The secretariat invites all expert reviewers with relevant knowledge and/or experience to register to review one or more chapters of one or more assessments.

**Web Link:** <http://eco4science.org/Invitation-for-External-Review-of-First-Order-Draft-Assessments>