



ECO Science Foundation



ECO Science Foundation and ISTIC are Stepping Forward for Future Collaborative Activities

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President ECO Science Foundation during his visit to Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia for 4th Plenary of IPBES, held a meeting at ISTIC with Chairman of ISTIC Governing Board, Dato' Ir. Lee Yee Cheong and his team including Director ISTIC, Dato Dr. Samsudin Tugiman FASc, Dato Dr Sharifah Maimunah IBSE Coordinato. The FEIAP representative (choha) also joined the meeting. The main agenda items being discussed during the meeting regarding future collaborative activities included ECOSF IBSE workshops program in Iran with particular emphasis on workshop in Turkey and in China with reference to "one belt one road", standardizing engineering qualification and the process of recognizing engineering institutes primarily in central Asian region and the upcoming ISTIC Governing Board meeting to be held in Paris in 2016.

It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF and ISTIC had signed MoU for coordination and collaboration. It was mutually agreed that President ECOSF will invite by write a letter to the Ambassadors of ECO Member States for seeking their participation in the ISTIC activity titled "Embracing the Future: Improving Quality of Science Education in Schools" to be held in Paris (UNESCO Headquarters) on April 05, 2016, preferably by using the courtesy of Pakistan mission to UNESCO.



Dear Readers,
The ECOSF Newsletter has been redesigned and it will now be issued on bi-monthly basis with effect from 1st Jan 2016 onwards.
Your comments will be welcomed.
Warm regards,
ECOSF Team

ECOSF and International Islamic University, Islamabad Jointly organize a Motivational Seminar on "Identify Your Best, Good and Ugly Self "

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in collaboration with International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad organized a Seminar entitled "Identify Your Best, Good and Ugly Self" on January 11th 2016. Dr. Shahid Qamar from James Graham Brown Cancer Centre, University of Louisville USA was the keynote speaker. Main objective of the seminar was to educate and motivate the students and young researchers/faculty about procedural requirements of Graduate Admission and Post Doctoral positions in USA.

In the inaugural session of the seminar, Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF in his remarks, gave a brief introduction of ECOSF and talked about the use of collective wisdom. He said that everyone has one special quality which one has to identify and then make use of that to benefit the society. He also highlighted need for research with reference to Quran and science; which he emphasized needs to be promoted and ECOSF would like to collaborate with IIUI and other institutions on the topic, he said.



Afterwards, Dr. Shahid Qamar made a very motivational speech. He spoke about Graduate Admission and Post Doctoral positions in US universities opened to the whole world. It was a good learning session not only for students but for the faculty as well.

At the end of the seminar, Chief Guest President IIU, Ahmed Yousif Ahmed Al Draiwesh addressed the audience. He said that such seminars are equally beneficial for students (male & female) and the faculty. He emphasized that Quran urges every Muslim (male or female) for hard work to achieve their goals and to serve the society. He also highlighted the need for establishment of a Career Counseling Centre at IIU. Finally, he thanked the ECOSF President for the seminar. He also presented an IIUI memento to the Dr. Soomro and Dr. Qamar.

Preparatory Meeting among ECOSF, PEC and Tajikistan Embassy held for Organizing a Joint Workshop on Standardizing Engineering Qualification in ECO Countries at Dushanbe - Tajikistan

A preparatory meeting to discuss the modalities for organizing a joint workshop for Standardization of Engineering Qualification in ECO Countries at Tajikistan (Dushanbe) in 2016 was held at PC Bhurban Hotel, Murree on February 01, 2016. Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Engineer Javed Salim Qureshi hosted the meetin. While President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, , Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sherali Jananov and Additional Registrar, PEC Engineer Dr. Nasir A. Khan attended the meeting.

Chairman PEC warmly welcomed the participants of the meeting. Dr. Nasir Khan gave a brief description of PEC certification by the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) on Standardization of Engineering Qualification. The Ambassador of Tajikistan ensured his full support and



cooperation and informed that he already had taken on board the Government of Tajikistan for organizing the said workshop in Dushanbe with Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan as the focal organization. President ECOSF mentioned that the engagement of university faculty and entrepreneurs in such activities are always vital, therefore universities along with Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Dushanbe would also be invited to attend the workshop.

4th IPBES Plenary Session held at KL- Malaysia-ECOSF Participated through its President



President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro attended the opening Session of the 4th Plenary of Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) held on Feb 22, 2016 at KLCC Kuala Lumpur. The Plenary was hosted by the Malaysian Government.

ECOSF is an accredited Stakeholder/Observer of IPBES since 2013 and has been contributing

technically through the "Stakeholders Engagement Programme" as a nominated expert of ECO countries for various task forces. President ECOSF also participated in the two days Stakeholders meeting held prior to the Plenary from 20-21 Feb 2016. The different strategic meetings of the experts in the Plenary continued till February 28.

The IPBES Chair, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zalmi in his opening remarks, welcomed the delegates to KL. Followed by the remarks of the Executive Secretary of the Platform Ms. Anne Larigauderie. She said that considerable progress has been made in implementing the work programme for 2014-2018 as different strategies have been devised to enhance the engagement of indigenous people and local communities (IPLC), the procedure for the review of the Platform, linking existing networks to the IPBES Stakeholder network, and stakeholder coordination. The experts who already had contributed in the stakeholders meeting had ensured to continue their involvement.



Director UNESCO Science Bureau for Asia and Pacific Region called upon President ECOSF in his Office

Director UNESCO Science Bureau for Asia and Pacific Region, Dr. Shahbaz Khan along with his team had a meeting with the President ECOSF Dr. Manzoor Soomro in his office on 15 February 2016. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the modalities of Dushanbe Workshop 2016 jointly organized by UNESCO, ECOSF and PEC and Embassy of Tajikistan for Standardization of Engineering Qualification in ECO Countries as per standards of Federation of Engineering Institutions of the Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP).



President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro welcomed the Director UNESCO and his team at ECOSF and appreciated Dr. Khan's cooperation for organizing the workshop in ECO region. Dr. Soomro ensured his maximum possible support for the workshop and said that the workshop would be helpful for standardizing the engineering qualification in ECO region. He further said that the engagement of other relevant International organizations i.e. ISTIC Malaysia and IAP-SEP can be beneficial for this workshop, hence, both institutions may be taken on board for which ECOSF can provide help.

Dr. Shahbaz Khan appreciated President ECOSF for his support not only for the said workshop but for UNESCO other activities as well. He proposed that ECOSF being intergovernmental organization should approach the Authorities of Tajikistan (Ambassador) to nominate Tajik Academy of Engineering Sciences or some Engineering Institution for the workshop. While President ECOSF informed that on his request Tajik Academy of Sciences already identified two engineers for providing support in organizing the workshop.

President ECOSF Distributed 11th ISMO National Awards Among the Students

Pak-Turk International Schools and Colleges organized its National Award Distribution Ceremony of 11th Inter School Mathematics Olympiad (ISMO) on January 07, 2016 at a Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Olympiad was an open national mathematics challenge for all the public and private inter school students of grade - 5 to grade - 8.

H.E Engr. Balighur Rehman, State Minister for Education and Trainings graced the occasion as Chief Guest. H.E, Engr. Balighur Rehman in his address congratulated the prize winners, their parents, teachers. He also appreciated the organizers of ISMO for their hard work, commitment and dedication. He assured his full support and cooperation for all sorts of educational activities and projects which are vital for the overall development of student's personality.



Dr. Manzoor H Soomro, President ECOSF being the Guest of Honour at the occasion distributed the prizes among the winning students. Later on in his remarks Dr. Soomro congratulated the winners and emphasized that to keep pace with the developing world it is necessary to encourage the implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education using the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach of teaching in Pakistan.

ECOSF Seeks Collaboration with IEEE & Royal Society of Edinburgh

President ECO Science Foundation, Dr. Manzoor H Soomro held a meeting with Professor Tariq Durrani a Research Professor, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (IEEE) from University of Strathclyde Glasgow Scotland UK on January 16, 2016 in Islamabad Pakistan. Dr. Soomro warmly welcomed the distinguished guest in Pakistan and gave him a brief introduction of ECOSF. He also shared with him the ECOSF initiative of Inquiry Base Science Education (IBSE) in ECO Region in collaboration with international partners, viz., La main a la pate Foundation of the Academy of Sciences of France, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia and the IAP's Science Education Programme (IAP SEP). He also mentioned the forthcoming IBSE workshops in Pakistan (March 2016), Iran (May 2016) and Turkey (Sept 2016).



Dr. Durrani told the president ECOSF that IEEE is engaged with youth around the world for promotion of Engineering. IEEE and he himself being the head of The Royal Society Edinburgh, have also been deeply engaged for cooperation of researchers in various countries. Dr. Soomro proposed him to join the forthcoming ECOSF IBSE/STEM workshops to share the programs of IEEE for awareness of young researchers in ECO region. He offered his cooperation for developing collaboration between the ECOSF and Royal Society for researchers of Scotland and ECO member countries.

President ECOSF Delivers Lecture on "S&T Based Economic Development and Cooperation in ECO Region" at the GC University Lahore



Vice Chancellor Government College (GC) University, Lahore Dr. Hassan Amir Shah through the GC university ORIC Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization invited President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro to deliver a speech on "S&T Based Economic Development and Cooperation in ECO Region" at GC university on January 22, 2016. In his lecture, Dr. Soomro demonstrated that philosophically how S&T plays a major role to promote and sustain scientific and technological development leading to economic growth. He emphasised that although infrastructure and human resource are essentials but education plays the crucial role to maintain the feed in the thinkers and innovators to nurture the scientific and technological innovations. He further said that critical thinking and critical observation are the basic concepts of "inquiry", especially for the children as learning through inquiry at grass root level will build a habit among pupils to enquire about the science phenomenon. Realizing the strengths of "inquiry based learning", thinkers and scientists around the globe have been

promoting "inquiry based science education (IBSE)" which in turn inculcates innovation among the children. He said ECOSF is promoting IBSE at primary level in its all the ten Member Countries to move a step forward to ensure a sustainable supply of young talent linking advance research and industrial development to cope with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also mentioned about the cooperation developed by ECOSF with international organizations such as La main a la pate Foundation France, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) Kuala Lumpur, the Science Education Program (SEP) of Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP)- a global network of 130 academies of sciences, engineering and medical and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) as all these organizations patronize the concept of IBSE. While talking about the cooperation Dr. Soomro said that ECOSF has developed cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan in the field of scientific research and exchange of researchers and that the GC University and other Pakistani institutions can also take benefit from the opportunity.

Prof. Soomro concluded the lecture by saying that the key to Socio-Economic Development lies in promotion of critical thinking and creativity at grass root level including promotion of Inquiry Based Learning, understanding and appreciation of Nature- Appreciative Inquiry, higher education: Academia - R&D-industry linkages & innovation, appropriate use of innovative strategies, and commercialization of research results. Cooperation in these non-political actions leads to positive International Cooperation! At the end of the lecture, the Vice Chancellor Dr. Shah thanked Dr. Soomro for sharing his wisdom with GCU faculty and researchers. He then presented a GCU memento of their 150 years celebration.



Heads of S&T Organizations Brainstorm on Promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation- Good Omen for S & T in Pakistan

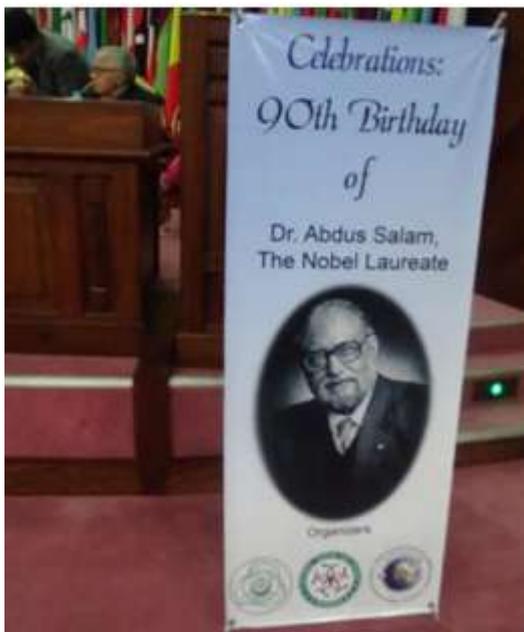
A brainstorming session of Heads of S&T organizations to discuss ways and means for promotion and popularization of science and technology in Pakistan, was held on January 27, 2016 at Pakistan Council of Science & Industrial Research (PCSIR) Head Quarters, Islamabad. The event was the part of the campaign initiated by Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) to make Pakistan and its youth "science conscious" and to link S & T research and education with economy.

The session was jointly moderated by Dr. Shahzad Alam, Chairman PCSIR and Dr. Anwar Nasim, President of PAS. Among the Heads of S&T organizations participated in the session were Secretary General of PAS Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, Chairman Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST) Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gillani, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Advisor Science COMSTECH Dr. Qasim Jan, the DGs of PCRET and NIE and representatives of other S&T organizations based in Islamabad.



President ECO Science Foundation Dr. Manzoor Soomro also participated in the session. In his remarks Dr. Soomro congratulated Dr. Shahzad Alam on his appointment as Chairman PCSIR and appreciated his efforts for strengthen PCSIR as well as the scientific landscape of the Country, particularly under the patronage of Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). He emphasised on the importance of engagement of meritorious scientists of Pakistan with the youth studying at schools, colleges and universities because more than 50% of the Pakistan's population is comprising of young's. He further added that work should be started from schools and even pre-school students to nurture their positive traits and guide them to discover the truth and uncover the mysteries of the Universe for a better tomorrow. The participants mutually agreed to continue brainstorming process in the next meeting to be held on 26 Feb, 2016 at PCSIR-Islamabad.

“Celebrations of 90th Birthday of Dr. Abdus Salam-The Nobel Laureate”– President ECO Science Foundation Participates



A memorial ceremony titled “Celebrations of 90th Birthday of Dr Abdus Salam-The Nobel Laureate” was jointly organized by The National Centre for Physics (NCP), COMSTECH and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) at the COMSTECH auditorium on 29 January, 2016. The objective of the ceremony was to pay tribute to the great scientist and was attended by the eminent scientists and physicists of the country including Dr Shaukat Hameed Khan Coordinator General COMSTECH, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Chairman BoG, NCP along with distinguished physicists Dr M. Aslam Baig and Dr Fayyazuddin of NCP, Dr N.M. Butt Chairman PINSAT, Muhammad Naeem Chairman PAEC and Dr Anwar Nasim President PAS. The ceremony was also attended by large number of young researchers.

H.E. Fazal Abbas Maken, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, also graced the occasion. A nephew of Prof. Salam Mr. Imran Rasheed was specially invited in the ceremony. He shared his personal childhood memories of Prof. Salam with the audience and thanked the organisers for arranging the event. While acknowledging the services of Dr. Abdus Salam for promotion of Science and Technology it was highlighted that Dr. Salam was the founding Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy where he kept a special place for the students with limited resources from the developing countries. He also played an instrumental and remarkable role in the creation and development of S&T institutions in Pakistan including SUPARCO, PINSTECH, and PAEC.

President ECO Science Foundation Dr. Manzoor Soomro also participated in the Celebrations of 90th Birthday of Dr Abdus Salam. While interviewing for the special supplement on Dr. Abdus Salam published by the Technology Times, he said that Prof. Salam emphasized on high level scientific research which was the desperate need not only of that time but at present as well. The strategic institutions that he had developed have three main components; highly educated human resource, infrastructure, and augmentation of scientific knowledge to develop new technologies. He further said that Dr. Salam was a faithful supporter of science education and its role in the development of a society. He always exhorted young students to study science subjects so that they could contribute materialistic benefits to their respective societies which will pave the way for development of scientific culture. He emphasized upon that people like Dr. Salam enabled our nations to keep their heads high and we are proud of being a Pakistani.

President ECOSF delivers a plenary talk in 36th Pakistan Congress of Zoology at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro- Pakistan

36th Pakistan Congress of Zoology (International) was held at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan from 16-18 Feb 2016. President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro gave a plenary talk on "Inquiry Based Science Education for S&T Innovation led Economic Development and International Cooperation" in the opening of the congress. The session was chaired by Prof. Dr. A. R. Shakoori, the President of the Zoological Society of Pakistan.

Dr. Soomro in his talk focused on how Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methodology at schools for teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects plays a vital role to promote and sustain scientific and technological developments for economic growth.

He further said Realizing the strengths of "inquiry based learning", thinkers and scientists around the globe ECOSF is promoting IBSE at primary level in its all the ten Member Countries to move a step forward to ensure a sustainable supply of the future innovators. He further mentioned that ECOSF is promoting international cooperation and encourages the scientists of ECO countries to come forward and benefit from ECOSF initiatives. He shared with audience, the strategic partnership and collaboration developed so far and invited Pakistani scientists to benefit from those; which include; La main a la pate Foundation France, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South–South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) Kuala Lumpur, the Science Education



Program (SEP) of Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP)- a global network of 130 academies of sciences, engineering and medical.

Prof. Soomro concluded his talk by saying that the key to Socio-Economic Development lies in promotion of Inquiry Based Learning at grass root level. He proposed that the zoological society of Pakistan should contribute in training of school teachers in zoological sciences and engage in curricula and development teaching activities for schools. He further added that that all scientific societies in Pakistan should collaborate for nurturing and patronizing schools especially in the surroundings of universities. He said, the university students can do a lot in developing teaching tools and activities in real life at schools in their home areas. Dr. Manzoor Soomro also stressed upon research in to the Quranic verses for acquiring scientific knowledge and learning from the Nature. Finally, he welcomed any zoologists forthcoming to take up the voluntary work for the good of future generations.

Chairman PCRWR Called Upon the President ECOSF at Islamabad

Chairman Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) Pakistan Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf called upon President ECOSF on 08 January 2016 at his office. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss avenues of collaborations pertaining to water resources between the two organizations and participation of Chairman PCRWR in Water Conference to be held in Tehran-Iran March 2016.

During the meeting Chairman PCRWR presented his book " Importance of Water in the light of Quran and Sunnah and Ways of its Saving" to the President ECOSF followed by his briefing on the programmes and activities of his organization. He also ensured his participation in the Water Summit in Tehran (Iran) this year and highlighted that recently UNESCO has included "Karezes of Balochistan" Pakistan in the tentative list of world heritage list of cultural, natural and mixed heritage site of Pakistan on the plea of Council of Research in Water resources (PCRWR). He added since it is a very old system of Water Wells and a major means of irrigation in Balochistan (like Iran and Afghanistan) until '80s but became dormant for years. PCRWR has now been trying to make them revitalize and functional. He requested President ECOSF for support to develop collaboration between PCRWR and Iran in this regard.



Later on President ECOSF gave a brief introduction of ECOSF activities. Dr. Soomro said that the importance of water is well established. He emphasized on the importance of engagement of youth in this regard. He also proposed to the Chairman PCRWR to develop inquiry based activities (learning by doing) for school children to promote water conservation and management among the young generation. Prof. Soomro assured Foundation's every possible support for collaborative activities of PCRWR in ECO region. President ECOSF also proposed to arrange a side line meeting of Chairman PCRWR with UNESCO Chair and SASTIW in Tehran during the Water Summit in Tehran to discuss on support of UNESCO to develop collaboration between PCRWR and Iran for reactivation of the karezes in Balochistan.

Upcoming Events and News

Commercialisation of Technology: International Training Workshop, Tehran, Iran, 22–25 May 2016

The Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) announces an International Training Workshop on 'Commercialisation of Technology' at Pardis Technology Park in Tehran, Iran.

Last date: 15th April 2016.

Training Dates: 22–25 May 2016

Venue: Pardis Technology Park which is 20 km North East of Tehran

Weblink: <http://eco4science.org/International-Training-Workshop-on-Commercialisation-of-Technology-at-Pardis-Technology-Park-in-Tehran-Iran-22-25-May-2016>

ISTIC Training Programme on STI Policy and Management for Developing Countries

ISTIC in collaboration with Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Malaysia, United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) will organize 'ISTIC Training Programme on STI Policy and Management for Developing Countries'.

Last date: 31st May 2016

Training Dates: 8 – 12 August 2016

Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Weblink: <http://eco4science.org/ISTIC-Training-Programme-on-STI-Policy-and-Management-for-Developing-Countries-8-12-August-2016-Kuala-Lumpur-Malaysia>