



## ECOSF launches Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) for ECO Region with an International Capacity Building workshop in Astana- Kazakhstan

As an initiative of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), an international capacity building workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) was jointly organized by ECOSF and the Committee of Science under the Ministry of Education and Science, Government of Republic of Kazakhstan on 22-25 June, 2015. Workshop was organized in collaboration with *La main a la pate* Foundation France, the Embassy of France in Kazakhstan, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Center for South–South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) Kuala Lumpur, the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP) Science Education Programme (SEP) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The workshop was hosted by the "Palace of Students" Astana- a unique complex of science, technology, engineering, arts and sports Learning Centre for children. It was participated and contributed by 19 Scientists, Educationists, & Policy makers from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan & Turkey and Global IBSE Leaders from international institutions- *La main a la pate* Foundation France as well as 59 young teachers & researchers from



across Kazakhstan.

Purpose of the workshop was to build the capacity of participants to: Recognize the philosophy of IBSE pedagogy in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teaching; Experience the process of inquiry-based science teaching and learning, problem solving skills through hands-on, minds-on activities; Gain insights into activities that not only can encourage and motivate students in science through the hands-on, minds-on activities but also convince decision makers to pursue

*Inquiry* based approach for education; and decide on strategic steps for implementation of IBSE – based STEM education at school level in the 10 ECO member countries.

The Deputy Chairman of Science Committee of MES Kazakhstan, Dr. (Ms.) Lazzat A. Kussainova opened the workshop. She welcomed the distinguished guests from international institutions, Ambassadors and Diplomats and participants from ECO member countries as well as the young teachers & researchers from all over Kazakhstan. Dr. Kussainova especially thanked all international partners and supporters for cooperation and support in making the workshop possible. She hoped that all participants would enjoy the hospitality of Astana.



President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro on his part as the initiator of the four-day workshop, welcomed the partners, diplomats and participants, and made a presentation of ECOSF history and its programmes. He then introduced the workshop and gave a summary of the process of *Inquiry* in IBSE Programme of *La main a la pate* Foundation France- the main theme of the workshop. He especially thanked the international partners, viz., Govt. of Kazakhstan, LAMAP Foundation, ISTIC, IAP-SEP and IDB for their cooperation and support in organization of this key workshop for ECO region. He also



Academician Prof. Dato (Ir.) Lee Yee Cheong, the Chairman ISTIC Governing Board and Chairman of IAP Science Education Programme also made a detailed presentation and highlighted the programmes of ISTIC and IAP-SEP especially for science education. Then he presented a global picture of how S&T is linked with economic development; he shared numerous mega projects by China in various continents. He was of the view that UNESCO should patronize the IBSE approach for education of STEM subjects at primary and secondary schools. Dato Lee Cheong elaborated upon the UN SDGs with SDG-4 in detail

and the roadmap for their achievement by the South countries. He assured the organizers for their continuous cooperation and support in future as well.

Prof. Piere Lena, the Co-founder and Chairman of *La main a la pate* Foundation, France shared the 20 years



of their programme development and implementation in France. He shared the historical developments of the programme that was led by a Nobel Laureate in Physics Prof. Georges Charpak in 1996. He said that their IBSE programme was evaluated as successful and that it had spread to over 55 countries around the world now. Prof. Lena said that the outcome of the IBSE in France was excellent, therefore, the Founders decided to expand the programme in other parts of world and many countries including Pakistan have already initiated the programme. He expressed pleasure that through ECOSF, the programme has successfully been initiated in ECO region, starting from Kazakhstan.



Pakistan's Ambassador to Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Abdul Salik Khan also honoured the workshop by attending opening session and in his short speech, he appreciated the activity by ECOSF and hoped that it would bring some tangible results for promoting science among the students of ECO region. The Ambassador assured of their support to future events by ECOSF. He also hosted an Iftar dinner at his residence in the honour of workshop participants

The ECO countries' delegations then made presentations about their country programmes, highlighting the scientific and educational activities being carried out especially how the national education systems function and whether any IBSE approach is being pursued in each member country. They all also spoke about their future plans for promotion of scientific culture in the society especially at the school level.

The workshop devoted two days to the concepts of IBSE with hands-on/minds-on activities and global scenario of IBSE implementation and contributions to science and technology development around the globe; a day to review the status and methods of science teaching in ECO member states; and



finally round table discussions on the "way forward". The constructive deliberations and discussions culminated in recommendations and outcomes in "Astana Declaration". The Astana Declaration was unanimously adopted by the organizers & participants of the international workshop.

This Astana Declaration reaffirms that; science and technology and engagement of youth is the key to economic and cultural development of all nations; and IBSE is the most efficient way to go about teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at schools.

On last day of the workshop (June 25, 2015), a press conference was organized and various representatives of media were invited. A detailed briefing about the workshop was given to the media

persons by the President ECOSF, Deputy Chairman of Science Committee of the MES Kazakhstan, Leaders of *La main a la pate* Foundation and Ambassador of France to Kazakhstan.

The Astana Declaration says, "*this IBSE workshop in Astana is a ground breaking effort to promote IBSE in ECO countries to help them achieve the UN SDGs by 2030*".

The local hosts also made arrangements for the international participants to visit various sites of Astana city i.e., National Museum, Bayterek Tower, etc.

At the end of the workshop, a certificate distribution ceremony was held and all national and international participants were awarded the certificates of the workshop.



**A participant of Astana Workshop Ms. Rafiga of Azerbaijan has afterwards published an article about IBSE concepts in a local Newspaper.**

**Other readers who subscribe to IBSE approach are also encouraged to highlight IBSE in local media.**

## **Dr. Manzoor Soomro invited to speak on Ethics and Education of Children at the Vatica**

It is an honour for ECO Science Foundation and the ECO Region that Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF as a science educationist has been invited by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of The Vatican to speak at an international conference entitled, Children and Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Education to be held on 13-15 November 2015.

## **Tajikistan Ministry of Education and Science assures Support to ECO Science Foundation**

The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) of the Republic of Tajikistan has assured all possible cooperation and support to ECO Science Foundation. This assurance was extended by the Minister MES H.E. Mr. SAID, Nuriddin Said and the 1st Deputy Minister of MES Tajikistan H.E. Mr. MIRBOBOEV, Rahmatulo Madayubovich during meeting of President ECOSF with the two dignitaries in Dushanbe on 3 June. Purpose of the meetings was to apprise the Ministers about ECO Science Foundation, its programmes and request their cooperation in the interest of Tajikistan and the ECO Region as a whole.



The President ECOSF after thanking the hosts for their enthusiastic welcome and hospitality, elaborated the establishment of ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad, its aims and objectives and activities done so far and future programmes.

President ECOSF while talking about technical aspects, emphasized the strengths of "Cooperation and Collaboration" being pursued by stakeholders globally. He also highlighted the International Collaborations and Strategic partnerships of ECOSF for S&T based economic



development in ECO countries. He said that education and educationists play a pivotal role and particularly where it comes to science education, it plays a key role in economic development- Japan and Korea being classical examples of resource poor countries' advancement, based on S&T.



At the end, an insignia of Tajikistan was also presented to the President ECOSF.

## 8th Meeting of ISTIC Governing Board- Participation of President ECOSF

The **8th ISTIC Governing Board Meeting** was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (KLCC) in Kuala Lumpur on 25 May 2015. President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro as member of ISTIC GB participated in the meeting and contributed in decision making.

The ISTIC GB meeting was chaired by its Chairman Academician Dato (Ir.) Lee Yee Cheong and



attended by the members from all continents. This ISTIC GB meeting was specially joined briefly by the Director General UNESCO Ms. Irina Bokova as well as by the Assistant Director General (Natural

Sciences) Dr. Flavia Schelgel. The DG UNESCO expressed her pleasure and satisfaction on the efforts and progress of ISTIC in a short span of time since its establishment and that too, with a very small team!

## International Forum on Harnessing Women's Talents in Science, Technology and Innovation

An "International Forum on Harnessing Women's Talent in Science, Technology and Innovation" was held at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) on 25-26 May, 2015. The Forum was jointly organized by the ISTIC, Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO, Govt. of Malaysia, ISESCO, and the NAM Institute for Empowerment of Women (NIEW). Objective of the event was to review the status of women in science, technology and innovation (STI), education and leadership around the world and formulate recommendation for stakeholders on harnessing women talent in STI.

The forum was opened by the DG UNESCO Ms. Irina Bokova. She in her opening speech, stressed on the need for engaging more and more women in STI since over 50% of global population is females. She said that non-involvement of women in national and global affairs would mean that over 50% of world's talent would remain unutilized.

Dato Lee Cheong in his welcome speech, said that "the world is at war with respect to poverty, hunger, diseases, natural disasters due to climate change, and human made disasters due to conflict and terrorism etc. In promoting gender balance in all human endeavour, let us go on a war footing and actively agitate for change." He suggested "that the

global scientific, engineering and technological community; to which most of us belong, take the lead and take matters into our own hands by assuring proactive measures are taken in our own organizations be they in government, industry, academia and civil society to achieve gender balance not later than the dateline of 2030 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". He thanked DG UNESCO to be in the Forum personally.

President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro along with other members of ISTIC Governing Board was invited to join the forum and he participated for the first day- 25 May.



## International Workshop on "Education and Raising Awareness on Dual Use Sciences" and a Training on Bioethics

The International workshop on Education and Raising Awareness on Dual Use Sciences and Training on Bioethics was held at Sarob, Khojo Obogarm in a mountain resort outside Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan from 1-6 June 2015. The participants were the experts from Russia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, Pakistan and the EU. The objective of the conference was to take into account the recommendations of the group experts under the discussion on the need for compliance with the international instrument on biosafety and bioethics principles and to recognize the urgency and importance of the issues discussed on education and awareness rising in dual-use sciences. The basic aim was to generate information and knowledge and to expand cooperation with the media to raise awareness about dual-use technologies, biosafety and bioethics. Over 50 scientists and researchers from Central Asia, Caucasus and EU participated in the forum.



The President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the event and made a presentation on ECO Science Foundation, Biosafety awareness and IBSE. Title of his presentation was; *"Awareness on Biosafety and Dual Use of Organisms in the ECO Region- Role of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) and Coordination"*. He emphasized on the "Cooperation and Collaboration" factor for the subject. President emphasized that global citizens should promote "responsible conduct and use" of



science and technology (S&T) for economic development. S&T plays a major role in economic development and to sustain scientific and technological progress leading to economic development, education plays the crucial role to maintain the feeding-in of thinkers, innovators and well informed responsible scientists and citizens.

The discovery of numerous biological organisms and gaining knowledge on their use has brought revolutionary significance and benefit to the mankind. However, since some organisms have dual use (beneficial & harmful), their abuse and negative use can lead to irreparable loss to various forms of life viz., humans, animals, plants and other microbes in the ecosystem. Thus understanding of this adverse use aspect of microorganisms and the risks associated with handling or mishandling them is vital for the global community. President ECOSF also elaborated the role of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) implementation in ECO region.

## President ECOSF meets the President of Academy of Sciences Tajikistan

President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro while in Dushanbe-Tajikistan, held a meeting with the President of Academy of Sciences of Republic of Tajikistan Prof. Dr. Farhod RAHIMI in his office on June 3, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was; to introduce ECOSF and its programmes to the key national S&T institution, discuss the in-country



developments and seek their cooperation for promotion of scientific and technological collaborative research and education in the ECO region with special reference to Tajikistan for stronger economic development and ties among ECO member countries.

Professor Rahimi along with Prof. Zayniddin Kamarovich MUHIDINOV, Director of Chemistry Institute of the Tajikistan Academy of Sciences, warmly welcomed Prof. Manzoor Soomro to Tajikistan and to the Academy. President ECOSF briefed the hosts about the historical background of ECOSF establishment, and its ongoing programmes and activities. He emphasized on the need for a stronger "Cooperation and Collaboration" in S&T research institutions among the 10 ECO member countries. Dr. Soomro further said that ECO Science Foundation will play the role of a catalyst and will also provide linkages with international players. He highlighted the international strategic partnership of ECOSF including International Science Technology and innovation Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, La main a la pate Foundation of France and the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP) Science Education Programme. He said that since Tajikistan Academy of

Sciences is member of IAP, it should benefit from the SEP of IAP, of which Prof. Soomro is a Global Council member.

Prof. Rahimi appreciated the initiatives of ECOSF and for accepting two nominees of the Academy for IBSE workshop in Astana later during the month. He also assured President ECOSF for their consistent cooperation and support. However, he pointed out that after the collapse of Soviet Union and independence of Tajikistan, the S&T Research Sector in the country was facing various challenges including the poor condition and facilities of research laboratories of the institutions under the Academy of Sciences. Thus Prof. Rahimi shared with Prof. Soomro that they have proposed a programme of laboratory strengthening and training of scientific community of Tajikistan to the President of Republic for consideration.

## President ECOSF calls upon the Ambassador of Pakistan to Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Tariq Iqbal Soomro at Dushanbe-Tajikistan

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, after meeting the President of Tajikistan Academy of Sciences and the Minister of Education and Science of Tajikistan, called upon the Ambassador of Pakistan to Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Tariq Iqbal Soomro and briefed him about his meetings in Dushanbe. He also briefed the Ambassador about the conference on "Dual use Sciences" organized in Dushanbe by Tajikistan Association for Biosecurity (TABios); wherein President ECOSF was also participating. The President emphasized on collaboration between ECOSF and Dushanbe as well as on bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan in the fields of science, technology and education. He said that ECOSF would be pleased to facilitate the bilateral cooperation as well.

Prof. Manzoor Soomro also shared with Pakistan's Ambassador the idea of implementing Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach/methodology for promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the ECO region.

The Ambassador of Pakistan Mr. Tariq Iqbal Soomro appreciated the efforts of ECO Science Foundation led by Dr. Manzoor Soomro for promotion of S&T research and education in the region. He assured Embassy's full cooperation to ECOSF initiatives in Tajikistan and said that these initiatives will also complement the efforts of Pakistan Embassy in Dushanbe.



## ECOSF at the STEM High Level Policy Forum on Evidence Based Science Education for Developing Countries at Kuala Lumpur

The International Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) High Level Policy Forum on Evidence Based Science Education for Developing Countries was organized by ISTIC together with numerous partners including the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and SEP IAP on 26-27 May, 2015 at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. Objective of the forum was to facilitate the integration



of a developmental approach into the science technology and innovation (STI) policies, capacity building in STI through providing policy advice and exchange of experience among developing countries. The Forum was opened by Academician Dato (Ir.) Dr. Lee Yee Cheong, Chairman of ISTIC Governing Board and Science Education Programme (SEP) of Inter-Academy Panel (IAP).

The President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, participated in the forum as a panellist speaker and made a power point presentation on 26 May, 2015. Title of his presentation was; **“Strategies for Effective Implementation of IBSE/STEM in the Developing World”**.

He discussed the current situation of education and issues related to the implementation of IBSE in Pakistan and the ECO region. Based on his experiences, he proposed recommendations and strategic steps for the effective implementation within the country as well as in the ECO region. He highlighted the importance of ownership by the National Authorities and recommended to politicize IBSE/STEM education as an election issue at all level and emphasized on the participation of Scientists, Educations and Intellectuals in political process. He emphasized that the movement of forming Alliances of scientists, artists, educationists, religious scholars, parents, teachers, civil society and media etc. should institutionalize the programme. President recommended that global forums such as SEP, IAP and TWAS should proactively motivate and urge National Academies of Sciences & Engineering to pursue IBSE for teaching STEM. He highlighted that lobbying with donors and linking IBSE-STEM as pre-condition in donor driven projects can strengthen IBSE. US-AID, JICA, CIDA, SDC etc. should include IBSE-#STEM as an essential component of development projects.

## IOSTE Eurasian Regional Symposium and Brokerage Event HORIZON-2020 on S&T Education, Istanbul TURKEY

International Organization of Science and Technology Education (IOSTE) Eurasian Regional Symposium and Brokerage Event Horizon-2020 was held at the Bahçeşehir University (BAU) Istanbul, Turkey from 24-26 April, 2015. The President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the event as an invited speaker; he chaired a session on 25th April, 2015 and made a presentation on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) and other programmes of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF). Title of his presentation was; "Inquiry Based Science Education- Key to S & T Innovation and Economic Development in ECO Region". Purpose of the presentation was to introduce ECOSF and its programme and seek collaboration in scientific and technological innovation from other countries, mainly the ECO member countries especially Turkey; which is a founder member state of the ECO.

A delegation of Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) comprising of Chairman, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf and Principal Scientific Officer, Dr. Mirza Habib Ali also participated in the event and presented a poster.

Earlier, the meeting was opened by Director of BAU. The President IOSTE, Dr. Hae-Ae Seo, Pusan National University, Korea also had a word in the inaugural ceremony. The head of International Department of the Turkish National Organization is promoting S&T Research and Education in the country. The Director of International Collaboration & Horizon 2020 National coordinator Mr. Hakan Karatas was the chief guest. Mr. Hakan Karatas said in his speech that Turkey is the second largest investor in S&T after China. He said that TUBITAK had joined EU's 7th Framework Programme (FP-7) and now is participating in Horizon 2020 under a bilateral agreement. TUBITAK supports scientists for various scientific activities including funding of research projects and travel grants within the country, but to encourage Turkish scientists to participate in the EU Horizon 2020 programme, they provide special incentives. He said that TUBITAK provides matching grants to winners of EU funding. In addition, they give away cash prizes of 50,000 Euro each and travel grants to project winners of EU funding.



The basic aim of the event was to provide information about Horizon-2020, to bring all stakeholders together and to enhance partnerships among potential coordinators and partners in a fruitful networking environment. In the technical session of the event all the EU's premature projects were presented by all the project investigators from Europe and other countries.

## ECOSF Promotes Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme in Afghanistan

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) triggered and embarked upon a new initiative in Afghanistan- the UNESCO's "Man and Biosphere (MAB)" Programme in June 2015. It began with an international training workshop on the concept of UNESCO's MAB Programme organized jointly by UNESCO (Pakistan and Afghanistan) and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in partnership with the Pakistan National MAB Committee, and IUCN-Pakistan for the Afghan National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) in Kabul from 7-10 June 2015. Participants were the experts from NEPA and UNESCO Afghanistan; while trainers were from Pakistan Museum of Natural History, IUCN-Pakistan, ECOSF and UNESCO-Pakistan.

The basic aim of the workshop was to develop the foundation within the natural and social sciences for the rational and sustainable use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere and for the improvement of the overall relationship between people and their environment in Afghanistan. To predict the consequences of today's actions on tomorrow's world and thereby increasing people's ability to efficiently manage natural resources for the well-being of both- human populations and the environment.



## Meeting of President ECOSF with the Minister of Higher Education Prof. Dr. Farida Mohmand Kabul Afghanistan



While in Kabul Afghanistan during MAB conference, President ECOSF had a very good meeting with the Minister of Higher Education Prof. Dr. Farida Mohmand on collaboration among ECO member countries in higher education and S&T research under the umbrella of ECOSF. She was all out supporter for the idea. She also shared that numerous students from Afghanistan are studying in Pakistan on scholarships. She was assisted by Ministry's Education Advisor Dr. Emal Masood.



Also had brief meeting with Dr. Nasir Stanikzai the Coordinator and Focal Point for Biosafety and Biosecurity the same day. ECOSF is working with relevant international institutions and member countries in this respect.

## Need for a National Academy of Engineers Stressed upon by Stakeholders

In a follow-up meeting on 6 May 2015 of an earlier International conference on "Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization-Preparing Future Engineers for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific and ECO Region", the stakeholders stressed upon need for establishment of National Academy of Engineers Pakistan.



The meeting was jointly organized by UNESCO, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan

Engineering Council and Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia & the Pacific (FEIAP) on 9-10 January, 2015 in Islamabad- Pakistan. At the conclusion of the conference, six action points were agreed by the stakeholders and six working groups were formed against each action point. Subsequently, the groups were assigned to submit their detailed technical studies on respective point. In this context, various follow up meetings of respective groups were held to finalize the final versions of their reports.

The final follow-up meeting of all groups was held on 6th May 2015 in Islamabad to review the progress of the working groups for Standardization of Engineering Qualification. The meeting was attended by PEC, UNESCO, ECOSF, Engineering faculty members of various universities and industry representatives.

## President ECOSF emphasizes on Multidisciplinary Research coupled with IBSE at Schools for Economic Development during 3<sup>rd</sup> National Computational Science Conference (NSCC 2015), IST Islamabad

The 3rd National Computational Science Conference (NSCC 2015) was organized at Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad from 13-15 May, 2015. It was a joint venture of Pakistan Society for Computational Biology (PSCB), Institute of Space Technology (IST) and Government College University, Faisalabad in collaboration with National Academy of Young Scientists (NAYS). The mission of the conference was to provide guidance and educational tools to the research community in the effective administration of research compliance to expand human knowledge and to benefit society through research integrated with education related to Computational Sciences.



The conference introduced by Dr. Asma Haque President Pakistan Society of Computational Biology, PSCB and opened by Dr. Engr. Imran Rehman Vice Chancellor of IST. The guests of honor Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECO Science Foundation and Vice Chancellor of the Government College University Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali also addressed in the opening ceremony.

President ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro in his speech highly applauded the establishment of a Two-disciplinary scientific society- Pakistan Society for Computational Biology (PSCB). He said that in real life and nature all disciplines function together in harmony but due to specialization trend and trend of working independently had developed over the last 5-6 decades; but it has lately been realized that experts of

different subjects have to work together to solve the problems of the society. Subsequently, Dr. Soomro also gave a plenary lecture on importance of inquiry based science education (IBSE) at schools for career development of youth and economic growth of nations with emphasis on ECO region.

The conference attracted a galaxy of computational scientists from all over the country. Over 350 researchers representing 75 Pakistani institutions across the country participated in the conference and presented over 220 research papers and posters. Over 75 institutes of Pakistan participated in the conference

## ECOSF and UNESCO meet the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan to initiate MAB Programme in Afghanistan

President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro along with Director UNESCO-Pakistan Ms. Vibeke Jensen called upon the Ambassador of The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Janan Mosazai on 5 May 2015 to apprise him of a joint initiative in Afghanistan by the two intergovernmental organizations that have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by their parent organizations (ECO and UNESCO, way back in 1995).

The Afghan Ambassador warmly received the President ECOSF and Director UNESCO-Pakistan, and the formal meeting began with a welcome note by the Ambassador. Subsequently, President ECOSF apprised the Ambassador about the ECOSF's ongoing and planned programmes especially forthcoming activities to be held in Kabul-Afghanistan on Man and Biosphere (MAB) and capacity building of Afghan experts in preparing documents for declaration of Biosphere Reserves (BRs) jointly with UNESCO and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) of Afghanistan. Director UNESCO shared the details of upcoming MAB-BRs workshop at Kabul and informed that it will be held within the premises of UNESCO-Afghanistan under full security protocol.

H.E. Mr. Janan Mosazai appreciated the efforts of ECOSF and UNESCO for tendering importance to war-torn Afghanistan through the planned healthy activities. The Ambassador shared the details of the higher education being provided to Afghan students by Pakistan mainly in the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. He also appreciated the Punjab Government for the collaboration in education and research especially in Agriculture field with Afghanistan for the better tomorrow. He also suggested to ECO Science Foundation for



prioritizing agricultural research in the region.

Ms. Vibeke added more into the conversation by discussing the upcoming capacity building workshops on Disaster Management in collaboration with Afghan meteorological colleagues to save this earth from unpredictable disasters to some extent by early forecasting.

## Meeting of President ECOSF Dr. Soomro with ISTC Astana Team

While in Astana Kazakhstan in last week of June 2015 during the Capacity Building Workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) for ECO Region (22-25 June, 2015), President ECOSF also visited Nazarbayev University and he paid visit to the International Science and Technology Center- ISTC and met the team: Dr. Graeme Frith, Mr. James Jubilee and Mr. Aidyn Turebayev. The President discussed with the team for ISTC support to Afghanistan and Pakistan in addition to Central Asian countries. The team was positive and the dialogue has been initiated with focus on Biosafety and Biosecurity.



## President ECOSF attended the 2015 Meeting of IAP SEP at Kuala Lumpur



President ECOSF Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro as a member of the IAP SEP Global Council, participated in the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015, at Istana hotel, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. The meeting was chaired by **Dato Lee Yee Cheong** Chair of the IAP SEP Global Council/Senior Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia. Dato Lee Yee Cheong welcomed the Global Council members, especially Dr. Mohamed Hassan, saying that it was the first time in several years that an IAP co-chair had attended a meeting of the IAP Science Education Programme Global Council.

President ECOSF emphasized that science education remains key component of development of societies and economies to for a long term sustainable development. He also affirmed that the IAP Regional Networks are quite successful in implementing IBSE, and proposed that it should be the aim of SEP to coordinate these activities as well as to initiate for new Regional Networks such as in ECO or Central Asia region; and member academies be pursued to come on board and implement IBSE.

Dr. Soomro also shared with the Council that a capacity building workshop on IBSE- *La main a la pate* in Astana Kazakhstan is being organized on June 22-25, 2015 by ECO Science Foundation with the cooperation and collaboration of Govt. of Kazakhstan, ISTIC, LAMAP Foundation France, IDB and the IAP SEP. He also added that he will share details of a kit/game on awareness and education of children in Disaster Management called "Disaster Master" is available with UNESCO Pakistan & Afghanistan that enables children to play, ask questions

and learn best responses. Prof. Soomro also shared with the members the details of a meeting on science education at the end of November organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at the



Vatican-Rome. Pierre Lena and Lee Cheong and Manzoor Soomro have been invited to participate and speak. It will be a good opportunity to raise the question of interfaith science education.

While discussing Science as a key to development, President ECOSF confirmed that there were a lot of science and education references in the Quran that can be used for research and development in this field.

Earlier on 24 May, Dr. Soomro also joined the UNESCO Day in Malaysia festival, whereby various scientific, educational and cultural exhibits were displayed. The ISTIC had also put up a stall. The event was opened by the DG UNESCO Ms. Irina Bokova.

**“The Future of Science Education in changing world” an International Conference Organized by La main a la pate (Lamap) Paris- France**



Being an IBSE promoter it was a very rewarding day for President ECOSF and numerous IBSE and STEM education promoters from around the world in Paris from 9-10 June 2015. 20 successful years of IBSE- *La main a la pate* (Lamap) were celebrated

with a one day deliberations on future strategies. Rich tributes were paid to late founder of the program in France Prof. Georges Charpak a physics Nobel Prize winner. Students did plays to highlight science. Finally a classical concert was the last item of the long day. It was an immense pleasure seeing Prof. Yves Quevre cofounder of Lamap play Cello with three violinists. Prof. Pierre Lena another co-founder of lamap steered the event.

ECO Science Foundation is now reasonably well known on the global level as a promoter of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in ECO Region with ISTIC Kuala Lumpur and LAMAP France as collaborators.

## President ECOSF Calls upon the Special Secretary, MFA Pakistan

President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro called upon Special Secretary (PP and West Asia) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan H.E Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial on July 01 2015. After cordial welcome by H.E Mr. Sial various matters and issues of ECOSF were brought to the knowledge of Special Secretary. Most important matters of Host Country Agreement between ECO Science Foundation & Govt. Of Pakistan and office accommodation for ECOSF came under discussion. Dr. Soomro also informed Mr. Sial about upcoming Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting on 10-11 Aug 2015, in which important decisions for ECOSF will be taken. H.E the Special Secretary assured of full support and cooperation of MoFA to expedite the matters as early as possible.



President ECOSF also shared with Special Secretary the progress of the Foundation during last two years and experience of recently organized capacity building workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in Astana Kazakhstan. The deliberations and discussions during the workshop culminated into "Astana Declaration on IBSE" in ECO Region, Which was also presented to the Special Secretary. The Special Secretary MoFA appreciated the efforts of ECO Science Foundation and congratulated Prof. Soomro. Finally Prof. Soomro presented publications of ECOSF to the Special Secretary.

ECO Science Foundation is an Intergovernmental Specialised Agency of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) established in Islamabad for promotion of scientific and technological research and education among the 10 member states leading to socioeconomic development. The organization established in December 2011 under the patronage of Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of Pakistan.

# ECOSF Website and Social Media Aspects

The dynamic website of ECOSF has continued providing diversified information on science, technology and innovation to its visitors through different posting about conferences, training workshops and scientific developments. Many visitors take benefits by visiting ECOSF website and facebook page and apply for different programs.

Although, there is huge stuff uploaded on ECOSF website and shared through its facebook page ([facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation)) and a number of 11,190 people reached the 52 postings during the period. Some selected activities are highlighted below; (the full listing is available on the ECOSF website- [www.eco4science.org](http://www.eco4science.org))

## **IPBES – Call for expert reviewers for deliverable 3a “Pollination” – 2nd Review (deadline 17 July 2015)**

IPBES is calling for expert reviewers with relevant knowledge and/or experience to register to review one or more chapters of the second-order draft report and/or the first draft of the summary for policy makers (SPM) of deliverable 3a: “Thematic assessment of pollinators, pollination and food production”

Interested reviewers are requested to fill the online registration form available on the link (<http://www.ipbes.net/news/49-work-programme/pollination/665-pollination-sod.html>).

Accepted applicants will be sent an e-mail with requested chapter(s) within 48 hours. Registrants who do not receive an email after 48 hours are requested to first check spam folders before sending mail to the Pollination Assessment Coordinator, Mr Hien Ngo [hien.ngo@ipbes.net](mailto:hien.ngo@ipbes.net)\*

After the publication of the report, all names of expert reviewers will be published on the website and acknowledged in the annexes of the report. All government and expert reviewer comments and responses will be made public.

## **Call for expert reviewers for deliverable 3c: “Policy support tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem service”. Deadline 9 July 2015**

(<http://www.ipbes.net/news/49-work-programme/pollination/665-pollination-sod.html>)

## **IPBES Call for Submissions of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) Deadlines for submissions depend on regions**

The IPBES Task Force on ILK is calling for submissions of Indigenous and Local Knowledge for Assessments of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, with a focus on one or more of the following themes:

Land degradation & restoration;  
Sustainable use & conservation; and  
Invasive alien species & their control.

**Deadlines for Submissions are:**

15 June 2015 for the Africa region;

29 June 2015 for the Europe & Central Asia region;

15 July 2015 for the Americas and Asia & the Pacific regions.

All necessary information can be found on the official IPBES call <http://www.ipbes.net/news/55-vacancies/642-current-openings.html>

**Call for IPBES Young Fellows Pilot Programme**

The objective of this letter is to launch a call for nominations of fellows for the IPBES young fellows pilot programme, following up on the outcome of the third session of the Plenary (Decision IPBES/3/1).

The pilot programme is targeting young scholars who wish to gain experience by participating in the development of the regional and sub-regional assessments (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia) or the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration.

**ISTIC Certified Training Programme 17 – 24 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Details of the training workshop are also available at the ISTIC website (<http://www.istic-unesco.org>)

NOTE: Link for Online Application ICPS 2015: <http://goo.gl/forms/m3tFYBq0O4>

**International Training Workshop on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (21-25 September 2015), Beijing-China (September 21-25,2015)****Deadline – 25 June 2015**

Chinese government will cover the expenditure of accommodation, local transportation and training expenses during the training workshop (Sept. 21-25,2015) in China for the participants. However, participants are advised to have some pocket money for personal purposes such as distance calls or daily necessities and so on.

Application Form with resume and organization introduction was to be submitted by 25 June, 2015. email: [training\\_china@yahoo.co](mailto:training_china@yahoo.co)

**Opportunity for Young Scientists at JRC**

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), will hold a three-day Summer School bringing together scientists and policymakers to learn how to better use evidence for policy making. Application deadline is this Friday, 5 June 2015! Visit the following website for more details and how to apply (<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/about/events/150902-JRC-IIASA-Summer-School.html>)

## The Mustafa Prize for Top Researchers and Scientists of the OIC Countries and Muslim Community

The Mustafa Prize is a top science and technology award granted to the top researchers and scientists of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Muslim Community biennially.

The Prize will be awarded in four categories, namely Life Sciences and Medicine, Information and Communication Technologies, Nano Science and Nanotechnology and Top Scientific Achievement in other Fields.

The first edition of the Mustafa Prize is scheduled to take place in December 2015 and the laureates in each section will be awarded US\$500,000/- which is financed through the endowments made to the Prize. The winners will also be adored with the special medal and Diploma. The Prize will be granted to the works which are deemed to have improved the human life and have made tangible and cutting-edge innovations on the boundaries of science or have presented new scientific methodology.

### Calendar

Official Call for Submission - February 2015

Deadline for Submission - 22 May 2015

Deadline for Final Decision - 22 July 2015

Final Ceremony - 25 December 2015

## 3rd International Congress on Clinical & Counselling Psychology 2015

Date: October 13-17, 2015, Turkey, Istanbul

Abstract Deadline: July 1, 2015

Further Details:

[http://www.futureacademy.org.uk/ContentConference.aspx?code=2&description=CPSYC\\_Conference&conference\\_code=2](http://www.futureacademy.org.uk/ContentConference.aspx?code=2&description=CPSYC_Conference&conference_code=2)

## 5th International Conference on Management of Technology 16-17 December 2015

The 5th International Conference (IRAMOT 2015) is expected to be exciting conference which will be held with the theme of “ Learning and Technological Innovation in large Enterprises and Networks “in beautiful Kish Island, Iran .

For further information please visit <http://conference.iramot.ir/en>.

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