



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) held in Isfahan, Iran

The 5th Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) was held on February 14, 2023, in Isfahan, Iran. The meeting was opened and chaired by the Minister for Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) of Iran, H.E. Prof. Dr Mohammad Ali Zolfigol, and attended by representatives from Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Tajikistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan. The BoT Meeting was preceded by the 7th Meeting of Executive Committee (EC) on February 13, 2023, under the Chairmanship of President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi.



During the opening ceremony of the 5th BoT Meeting, Mr. Masoud Golshirazi, President Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) welcomed the delegates to the meeting. The Chair of the 5th BoT Meeting, Minister for Science, Research and Technology, I.R of Iran, H.E Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ali Zolfigol in his statement, emphasized the importance of Science, Technology, and Innovation as the key drivers of economic growth and appreciated the efforts made by ECOSF for the promotion of science and technology in the ECO region.

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi expressed his gratitude for the Government of I.R. of Iran, MSRT, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of respective Member Countries, ICCIMA, and University of Isfahan for hosting the meeting, and providing generous hospitality and support to the ECOSF. Prof. Tayebi also expressed his appreciation for the participants, including the honorable Minister and Vice Minister of Iran, Federal Secretary, Ministry of S&T, Pakistan, and representatives from Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, among others.

The ECO Secretariat was represented by Secretary General ECO. H.E. Ambassador Khusrav Noziri. Representatives of ECO Educational Institute and ECO Cultural Institute also participated in the meeting. In addition, ECOSF Collaborators, including the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), University of Isfahan, Isfahan Regional Center for

Science Parks (IRIS), Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT), Isfahan University of Medical Sciences (IUMS), and Art University of Isfahan, participated in the meeting as observers. After the opening ceremony, the Chair of the 5th BoT Prof. Zolfigol delegated Prof. Dr. Vahid Haddadi Asl, Vice Minister for International affairs, MSRT I.R. of Iran to chair the rest of proceedings of the meeting.

The Secretary General ECO, Ambassador Khusrav Noziri in his remarks appreciated the role of the ECO Science Foundation as an incubator of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in the region. While commending the efforts of the ECO Science Foundation to foster scientific cooperation amongst the Member States, the Secretary General hoped that the ECOSF would continue with its meaningful role and contribution to support our region's sustainable advancement in the progressive world of science and technology.



During the meeting, President Tayebi highlighted the major achievements, international and regional linkages developed by the Foundation. Later, Prof. Tayebi invited Engr. Khalil Raza to present the progress in detail on the ongoing programmes of the Foundation, which included several new initiatives for providing strategic technical and scientific support to the ECO Member Countries in the important areas of Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Guidelines, including Climate Change, clean energy, and electric mobility.

The President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi as the Secretary BoT also briefed the Meeting on the proposal for ECOSF Strategic Plan and Organizations Restructuring Agenda. The Strategic Plan aims to strengthen ECOSF in developing a deep understanding of the specific challenges and needs of each member country and build the capacity to effectively carry out the organization's mandate. The Board appreciated the Foundation on its Strategic Plan and also for undertaking several important initiatives and programmes to provide technical and scientific support to the ECO Member Countries in the areas of Climate Change, clean energy, Technology Enhanced Learning and electric mobility.

On the sidelines of the 5th Board of Trustees Meeting, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi also met with the Minister for Science, Research and Technology, I.R of Iran, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ali Zolfigol. Prof Tayebi expressed his vision and ambitions for scaling up the scientific and technological activities of the Foundation for sustainable development in the region. Prof. Tayebi further sought support of the Minister Prof. Zolfigol to strengthen the Foundation. Prof. Zolfigol assured his robust support on behalf the Government of I.R of Iran.

Subsequently, the Heads of delegations delivered their country statements, appreciating I.R of Iran for hosting the meeting. They also appreciated the potential role of regional cooperation in the fields of science, technology, engineering, research, and innovation.

Towards the end of opening ceremony, the President University of Isfahan, Prof. Dr. Hossein Harsij in his vote of thanks, expressed his gratitude to Government of Iran for hosting the 5th BoT Meeting of the Foundation and appreciated the all the honorable delegates and representatives of the ECO Member Countries for their support to the ECO Science Foundation.



At the end of the opening ceremony of 5<sup>th</sup> BoT meeting, an MoU between ECOSF and University of Isfahan was signed and witnessed by the delegates of the meeting. The BoT evaluated the performance and programmes of the Foundation since its last meeting and highly appreciated the performance of the Foundation despite the budgetary constraints. The BoT also approved new initiatives, strategic and work plans of ECOSF. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks.

**ECOSF partnered with FCC University to host International Conference on Mitigation and Adaptation for Climate Change**

ECOSF partnered with Forman Christian College University (FCCU) to host International Conference on Mitigation and Adaptation for Climate Change, Focused on Agriculture and Food Security in Lahore, Pakistan on February 6-9, 2023. The purpose of this international conference was to provide a forum for the leading international researchers, scholars, and scientists of the region to exchange their research ideas and share ways of combatting climate change and its impact on the food systems in the region, especially in Pakistan. A large number of international and national climate change experts, food security and agricultural researchers and representatives of leading research institutions participated in the International Conference. President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi was especially invited as the Chief Guest in the inaugural ceremony.



Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, the Dean of the Post Graduate Studies at the FCCU delivered his welcome note in the inaugural session. Prof. Malik emphasized that climatic crisis around the globe has been an increasing and alarming threat to world's ecology. He further added that Pakistan faces acute risks in terms of agricultural and food security with climate concerns, including erratic rainfalls, receding of glaciers, abrupt floods, drought years, a decrease in the capacity of water reservoirs and an increase in food

insecurity. Hence, this International Conference would bring forward scientific and technical recommendations on addressing the food security challenges.

Rector FCCU Dr. Jonathan Addleton in his remarks underlined that the innovative and multi-disciplinary research on climate change and food security in the region is important to identify effective mitigation and adaptation strategies. Dr. Addleton also encouraged the participating scientists to contribute to pragmatic research solutions on irrigation practices and technologies, drainage water management, and tools for sustainable agroecosystem management.



Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi as the Chief Guest of the event highlighted that climate change is a serious global threat, and it poses complex challenges for sustainable development for our future generations of the ECO region. Prof. Tayebi underlined that the biggest challenge the ECO region faces today in terms of food security is the availability of freshwater resources. He recognized the fact that water resources are becoming increasingly scarce as a result of population growth, urbanization, industrial development and changing lifestyles and diets, constraining capacities for effective adaptation to climate change and jeopardizing the sustainability of many ecosystems. Hence, it requires integrated solutions and the need for expertise in climate risk management and climate change adaptation for resilient development of the ECO region, he added. Prof. Tayebi further encouraged the participating experts to use this Conference as a platform to identify and suggest the most important, most suitable, and innovative Climate Sciences solutions to address Food Security and Water challenges that can contribute to reducing future climate risks in the ECO Region.



Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Mitigation-and-Adaptation-for-Climate-Change>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Chemical Expo in Pakistan Promotes Sustainable Industry Practices with Keynote Address of President ECOSF on Science, Technology, and Innovation**

Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers Association (PCMA) hosted the 2nd Chemical Expo with the theme Sustainable Chemical Industry 2023 on February 7 and 8, 2023. The event aimed to promote and showcase the sustainable practices adopted by the chemical industry in Pakistan.

The objective of hosting this Chemical Expo was to showcase the progress made by the chemical industry in Pakistan towards sustainability and competitiveness. The event was attended by industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, and academics from the chemical industry. The expo comprised of exhibits, presentations, and talks on various aspects of the chemical industry in Pakistan.



Governor of Punjab Mr. Baligh-ur-Rehman opened the Expo as the Chief Guest where he underscored that the the country is suffering from economic and social problems. There needs to be a consensus among the political parties on signing a charter of economy. The governments come and go but economic policies should continue without any hindrance.

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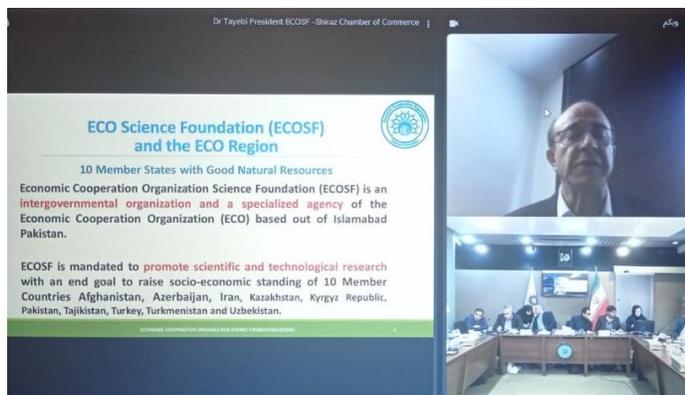


President ECOSF, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi was invited as the keynote speaker in the Expo, who spoke on the role of Science, Technology, and Innovation for sustainable development with a perspective of ECO. Prof. Tayebi highlighted the importance of research and development in driving innovation and adopting sustainable practices in the chemical industry. Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi also emphasized the need for collaboration between academia, industry practitioners, and policymakers to create a sustainable and competitive chemical industry in Pakistan. He later shared insights on how science and technology can be leveraged to develop new materials, products, and processes that are environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, and cost-effective.

The keynote address was well-received by the attendees, who appreciated the insights shared by the President of ECOSF. The expo provided an excellent platform for industry players to exchange ideas, showcase their innovations, and promote sustainable practices in the chemical industry.

**Promoting Low Carbon Development in the ECO Region: Insights and Recommendations from the meeting between the ECOSF and Shiraz Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (SCCIMA)**

ECOSF was invited by the Shiraz Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Minerals and Agriculture (SCCIMA) to discuss potential collaboration and opportunities in the Low Carbon Development on February 16, 2022. The meeting was attended virtually by President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, who delivered a presentation on the role of ECOSF and its priority areas of research and collaboration. While ECOSF delegation comprising Engr. Khalil Raza, Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar and Mr. Adnan Ali Abbasi visited the SCCIMA. Mr. Mohammad Sadegh Hamidian Jahromi, Senior Vice President of SCCIMA welcomed Prof. Tayebi and ECOSF delegates to the Shiraz Chamber of Commerce.



During the meeting, President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi highlighted various strategic initiatives and programmes of the ECOSF and also proposed some recommendations for working together with Members of the Chambers to address various economic and development challenges of the ECO Region. Prof. Tayebi expressed his gratitude for Dr. Zahra Zamani and Mr. Sadeghi of Isfahan Chamber of Commerce and Industries for facilitating this meeting between ECOSF and SCCIMA.

Engr. Khalil Raza, Programme Manager Climate and Energy, presented his talk on Low Carbon Development and best practices for the ECO Member Countries. During his presentation, Mr. Raza emphasized the need for immediate action to mitigate the impacts of climate change and decarbonize the economy. He presented various strategies to reduce carbon emissions, such as transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and promoting sustainable transportation. He recommended that the Members of the Shiraz Chamber work together with ECOSF to identify and implement sustainable solutions that can drive economic growth while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



The discussion among the Members of the SCCIMA was engaging, and they expressed their interest in collaborating with ECOSF to promote low carbon development in the region. They shared their experiences in implementing sustainable practices and emphasized the importance of education and awareness-raising among the public. The Members of the Chamber also appreciated ECOSF's efforts in promoting research and innovation in the fields of science, technology, and innovation to address sustainability challenges.

This meeting hosted by SCCIMA was a good opportunity for ECOSF to share its expertise and engage with the Members of the Chamber. The discussion among the Members highlighted the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in promoting sustainable development in the ECO region.

### ECOSF Delegation Explores Collaboration with Isfahan Mathematics House for Promoting Mathematics in ECO Member Countries



ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) delegation, led by President Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, visited the Isfahan Mathematics House on February 15, 2022. The meeting was hosted by Prof. Ali Rejali, Dr. Rasoul Roknizadeh, and Dr. Keivan Samani from the Isfahan Mathematics House.

The main focus of the meeting was to discuss the strategies for promoting mathematics in ECO Member Countries under the earlier signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECOSF and Isfahan Mathematics House. The participants discussed the potential steps for establishing a Mathematics House in Pakistan with technical support from Isfahan Mathematics House.

The meeting was productive, and the ECOSF delegation was shown around the Isfahan Mathematics House, including the facilities and the demonstration of students' engagement in learning and playing various mathematical games.



The visit provided an opportunity for both sides to explore collaboration in the field of mathematics education, which is one of ECOSF's priority areas of research. The ECOSF delegation expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality and insightful discussion during the visit. Both sides affirmed to continue to work together to promote mathematics education and research in the ECO region.



**ECOSF facilitated the meeting between Ministry of Science and Technology - Government of Pakistan, and University of Isfahan - Iran.**

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) played a key role in facilitating a meeting between the Federal Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan, Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon and the President of the University of Isfahan, Prof. Dr. Hossein Harsij on the sidelines of the 5th Board of Trustees Meeting in Isfahan on February 11, 2022.



During the meeting, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi thanked the President of the University of Isfahan for his generous hospitality towards the delegates from Pakistan. Both sides discussed ways to promote joint collaboration in ECOSF's priority areas of research in science, technology, and innovation.

Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon was taken on a tour of various departments and facilities of the University of Isfahan after the meeting. He was shown around the Museum at the University as well. The meeting and the tour provided a great opportunity for the delegates to witness the excellent facilities available at the University of Isfahan and explore areas for future collaboration.



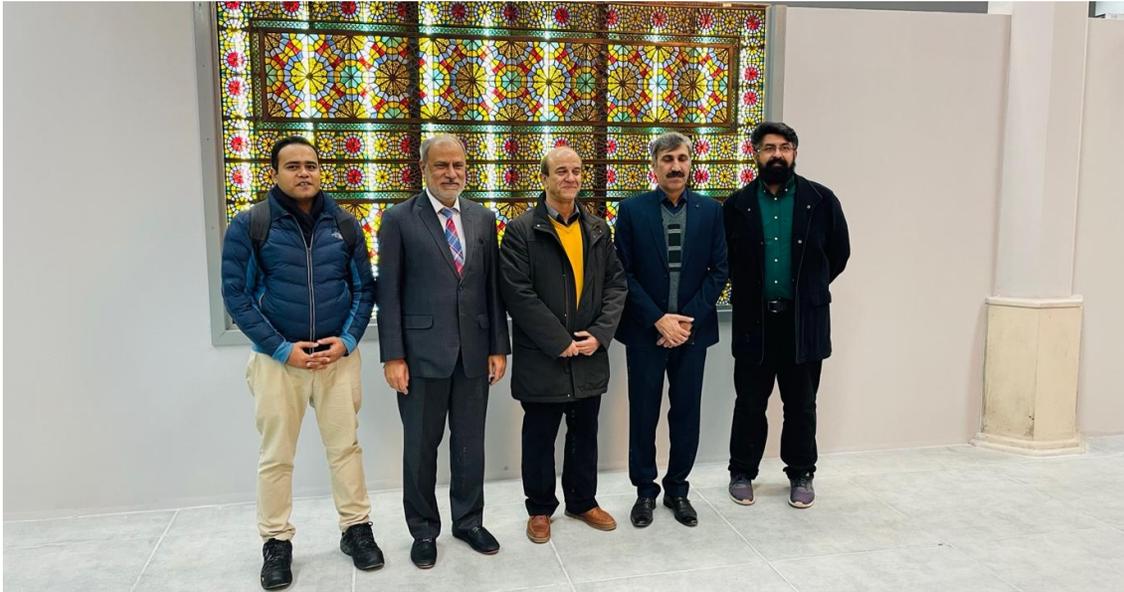
This meeting was a significant step towards strengthening collaboration between Pakistan and Iran in the field of science and technology. The discussion between the Federal Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology and the President of the University of Isfahan provided an excellent opportunity to explore avenues of collaboration between the two countries.



President Tayebi underlined that ECOSF is committed to promoting collaboration and research in science, technology, and innovation in the ECO region. Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon expressed his gratitude and underscored that this important meeting has set the stage for future collaboration and provided a platform for both sides to exchange ideas and explore areas of mutual interest between Pakistan and Iran.

The museum at the University of Isfahan plays an intrinsic role in teaching and learning, research and

engagement activities. Representative of University of Iran shared that the Museum at University of Isfahan hosts a collection of unique art and artifacts of national and international importance with display of artefacts and specimens reflecting thousands of years of academic enquiry, creativity and innovation and cultural history of Iran and Isfahan in general.



**Meeting between President ECOSF and Iranian Authorities to Discuss Iran Korea Forum on Tourism for Sustainable Development.**

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hossein Imani Khoushkhoo, a Member of the Supreme Council of Cultural Heritage & Tourism and the President of Iranian Cultural and Creative Industries Park on February 22, 2023 to discuss the upcoming Iran Korea Cooperation Forum on Tourism for Sustainable Development.

During the meeting, both parties discussed the arrangements and preparations for Iran Korea Cooperation Forum on Sustainable Tourism, which is being planned to schedule in Kish Island, Iran. They also talked about the importance of sustainable tourism and how it can help to promote economic growth, preserve cultural heritage, and protect the environment.



Prof. Tayebi expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Iranian authorities for the forum and highlighted the significance of such initiatives for promoting international cooperation and collaboration in the region. He emphasized the role of ECOSF in providing technical and scientific support to its Member Countries in various fields, including tourism and sustainable

development. Both sides will collaborate to hold jointly the conference in contribution with Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) by focusing on marine tourism, public tourism diplomacy, business tourism and other related subjects.

**ECOSF and Islamic Azad University, Iran discussed ways to strengthen scientific and technical collaboration.**

President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Dorakshah', Vice Chancellor for International Affairs and Foreign Students of Islamic Azad University in Tehran on February 21, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to explore opportunities for collaboration in Science and Technology between ECOSF and Islamic Azad University.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the potential areas of collaboration and the ways to work together. President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation in Science and Technology among ECO Member Countries and emphasized that Azad University can play a crucial role in achieving this objective.



Pror. Dorakshah expressed his interest in working with ECOSF and appreciated the efforts of the Foundation to promote Science and Technology in the ECO region. He added a team from his institution headed by himself will visit Pakistan in the new future, to discuss cooperation with Pakistan universities and scientific centers.

**President ECOSF called upon the Deputy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Present of Iran**

President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi called upon H.E. Dr. Hamid Padash, the Deputy of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Iran for Economic and Infrastructure Coordination, Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran on February 21, 2023. The meeting was aimed at discussing the budgetary challenges faced by the Foundation and seeking the government's support in transferring the ECOSF budget from Iran to the Foundation.



During the meeting, President Tayebi highlighted the importance of science, technology, and innovation for the development of the ECO region and the need for continued support from the Government of Iran in this regard. He informed Dr. Padash about the challenges faced by ECOSF due to the delay in the transfer of its Mandatory Budgetary Contributions from I.R of Iran. The ECOSF President also announced a plan of holding a regional conference on a survey of economic relations enhancement in the ECO region in 2023.

Dr. Padash expressed his appreciation for the Foundation's efforts in promoting scientific and technological cooperation among the ECO Member Countries. He assured President Tayebi of his support in resolving the budgetary challenges faced by ECOSF.

**President ECOSF invited as the keynote speaker in the Conference on Water Governance and Economy hosted by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries Mines and Agriculture**

On February 22, 2023, President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi was invited as the Keynote Speaker by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries Mines and Agriculture to speak on Water Governance and Economy of Water. The conference aimed to address the growing concern of water scarcity in Iran and the importance of managing water resources efficiently for sustainable development.

During his keynote presentation, President Tayebi emphasized the critical role of Science, Technology and Innovation in improving water governance and the socio-economic development of a country. He referred to the importance of various strategies and

solutions for managing water resources efficiently, such as developing new technologies for water conservation, implementing water pricing policies, and promoting public awareness about water scarcity and the need for conservation.

President Tayebi also highlighted the role of ECOSF in providing technical and scientific support to the ECO Member Countries in vital areas such as water management, climate change, clean energy, and electric mobility.



**ECOSF and Kharazmi University discussed strengthening ties on Science, Technology and Innovation.**

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Ali Hasanbeigi, the President of Kharazmi University in Tehran, Iran. The main agenda of the meeting was to explore opportunities for collaboration in the field of Science and Technology between Kharazmi University and ECOSF.

During the meeting, President Tayebi discussed the importance of enhancing scientific cooperation among the ECO member countries and the need for establishing more partnerships with academic and research institutions to achieve this goal.

Prof. Hasanbeigi appreciated the efforts of ECOSF in promoting Science and Technology in the ECO region and expressed his high interest in collaborating with ECOSF. He pointed out the University affords academic and scientific possibilities to share and collaborate with the universities, scientific centers and technology parks in the ECO region.



**President ECOSF met with Vice Minister for Research, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology**

On February 22, 2023, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Peyman Salehi, Vice Minister for

Research at the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in Tehran, Iran. The meeting aimed to discuss strengthening scientific cooperation between ECOSF and Iranian research institutions.

During the meeting, both parties discussed the ways and means of fostering scientific cooperation, including the exchange of researchers, joint research projects, and organizing joint workshops and conferences. President Tayebi highlighted the importance of such collaborations in promoting science, technology, and innovation in the ECO region. Professor Salehi also highlighted the ways and possibilities of mutual collaborations in the ECO region, which is an important target point to Iran.



**President ECOSF had a consultative meeting with the Head of Industrial Cooperation Office at the University of Isfahan.**

On February 25, 2023, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi met with Prof. Mahdi Mortazavi, the Head of University, and Industrial Cooperation Office at the University of Isfahan, Iran. The meeting aimed to explore ways to strengthen scientific cooperation between ECOSF and the University of Isfahan under the signed MoU between the two organizations.

During the meeting, in which some UI faculty members attended, both sides explored possible areas of cooperation, including joint research projects, scientific exchanges, and workshops. Prof. Tayebi emphasized the importance of building a strong partnership between ECOSF and the University of Isfahan to promote scientific research and development in the region.



Prof. Mortazavi expressed his appreciation for ECOSF's efforts to promote scientific cooperation in the region and reaffirmed the University of Isfahan's commitment to enhancing collaboration with ECOSF. The other attendees also discussed the ways of collaborations by focusing on the ECO region.

**President ECOSF and President University of Isfahan discussed potential areas of cooperation.**

On February 25, 2023, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi held a meeting with Prof. Hossein Harsij, the President of

University of Isfahan in Isfahan, Iran. The meeting aimed to strengthen scientific cooperation between ECOSF and the University of Isfahan, in follow-up to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organizations.

During the meeting, President Tayebi and Prof. Harsij discussed various ways to enhance scientific collaboration between ECOSF and the University of Isfahan. They highlighted the importance of joint research projects, exchange programs, and training workshops for researchers and students.



President Tayebi reiterated ECOSF's commitment to fostering scientific collaboration among ECO member countries and expressed his enthusiasm for working with the University of Isfahan to achieve this goal. He emphasized the need to identify specific areas of mutual interest and develop a strategic plan for joint projects and initiatives.

**ECOSF facilitated the meeting between Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Minerals and Agriculture (ECCIMA) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) for exploring collaboration in Agriculture.**

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Pakistan hosted a delegation from the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) headed by its President Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi on February 03, 2023. The ECOSF delegation was accompanied by representatives of the Isfahan and Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mineral and Agriculture (ICCIMA), including headed by Mr. Muhammad Sadeghi, Director, Isfahan Agricultural and Water Strategic Research Center ICCIMA as well as Head of Agriculture Department, National Agriculture and Water Strategic Research, ICCIMA and Director of Economic Research Center, Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ECCIMA), Iran.



The delegation was received by Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali. The purpose of the visit was to explore areas of collaboration between PARC and ECOSF in the field of agriculture and related sciences. Chairman PARC delivered a presentation on strategic role, subsidiaries research centers and its contribution to research and innovation in agricultural sector of Pakistan. The PARC officials also shared information on their efforts to improve crop yields, reduce post-harvest losses, and address the challenges faced by farmers in Pakistan.

During the meeting, the President of ECOSF expressed his interest in exploring opportunities for collaboration between the two organizations. He emphasized the importance of research and innovation in agriculture for the development of the ECO region and highlighted ECOSF's commitment to supporting agricultural research in its member countries.

The representatives of the ICCIMA also emphasized the importance of research and innovation in agriculture for the development of the ECO region. They also discussed the role of the Chamber in promoting trade and technology transfer between the ECO countries, especially Iran particularly in the agriculture sector. They also discussed the potential for joint research projects, capacity building activities, and technology transfer initiatives in Pakistan and other ECO Member Countries.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali and his team welcomed the proposal and expressed their willingness to work with ECOSF and ICCIMA. They discussed the potential for joint research projects, capacity building activities, and technology transfer initiatives that could benefit farmers in Pakistan and other ECO countries.

Following the meeting, the delegation was taken on a tour of PARC's research facilities and was briefed on the PARC's ongoing projects and achievements in the field of agriculture. The tour included visits to the aeroponic potato seed production facility, the speed breeding of wheat facility, and the Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology Laboratory.

At the Aeroponic potato seed production facility, the delegation was briefed on PARC's efforts to improve potato seed production through the use of aeroponic technology. The officials explained how this method of seed production reduces the time required for seed production and improves seed quality, leading to better yields for farmers.



The delegation then visited the genome laboratory, where the delegation was introduced to PARC's research in the field of genomics and its applications in agriculture.

The final stop on the tour was the speed breeding of wheat facility where they were introduced to PARC's efforts to develop high-yielding wheat varieties using speed breeding techniques. Speed breeding can significantly reduce the time required for plant breeding and development, resulting in the faster availability of improved crop varieties for farmers.

The tour provided the ECOSF and ICCIMA delegation with a comprehensive understanding of PARC's research capabilities and efforts to improve agriculture in Pakistan and the ECO region. The delegation left PARC impressed with the organization's cutting-edge research facilities and its commitment to addressing the challenges faced by agricultural community in Pakistan.

**Visit of the delegation from Iran and Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture to Pakistan**

On the invitation of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), a delegation from Iran and Isfahan Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture visited Islamabad from 2-5 February 2023. The delegation headed by Mr. Mohammad Sadeghi, Member of Board of ICCIMA and Director of Isfahan Agriculture and Water Strategic Research Center (IAWSRC), Director of the Economic Research Department of Isfahan Chamber of Commerce and Head of Agriculture Department, National Agriculture and Water Strategic Research Center, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA). The delegation included Director of the Economic Research Department of Isfahan Chamber of Commerce and Head of Agriculture Department, National Agriculture and Water Strategic Research Center, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA). Following are the details of the visits, meetings held at Islamabad.

**Visit to ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Islamabad**

In the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, the Iranian delegation visited ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF). The delegation was cordially welcomed by the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi. Prof. Tayebi briefly introduced ECOSF and its aims, objectives, programmes, activities and collaboration national, regional and international organizations.

The head of delegation Mr. Sadeghi thanked President ECOSF for the invitation to visit Pakistan and hoped that the visit would be fruitful to explore the areas of collaborations in Pakistan.

**Visit to Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Islamabad**

The Iranian delegation also visited Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. The delegation was received by the Vice Chancellor (VC) of PIDE Dr. Nadeem ul Haq. The VC made an introduction of PIDE and told that PIDE is a post-graduate research institute and a public policy think tank located in the vicinity of Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan. It was founded in 1957 by the Government of Pakistan but it has its own board of overseers. He further shared that how PIDE is helping Pakistan to undertake various studies to understand and tackle the economy of Pakistan.



Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi thanked the Rector and introduced himself, ECOSF and the delegation. Being an economist, Prof. Tayebi and the delegation showed keen interest in the studies conducted by the PIDE.

The Iranian delegation also briefly shared the activities of both the Chambers. They said there is a lot of room available for undertaking research activities not only in Pakistan and Iran but also in other countries of ECO region.

**Visit to Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Headquarters**

In the afternoon of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, the Iranian delegation visited Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Headquarters, Islamabad. Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, ECOSF along with Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar, Assistant Director, ECOSF accompanied the delegation. The purpose of the visit was to explore the possibility of cooperation in the future projects.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR welcomed the distinguished guests and said that PCRWR was established in 1964 and is working as a body corporate vide PCRWR Act 2007 under Ministry of Water Resources. PCRWR is mandated to conduct, organize, coordinate and promote research on all aspects of water, specifically irrigation, drainage, surface & groundwater management, groundwater recharge, watershed management, rainwater harvesting, desertification control, water quality and overall environment.



Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Delegation-from-Iran>

**ECOSF Delegation's Visit to University of Shiraz, Iran**

On February 18, 2023, the delegation from ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), comprising Engr. Khalil Raza, Ghulam Abbas Rahar and Adnan Ali Abbasi visited Shiraz University in Iran. The visit was facilitated by Prof. Ali Akbar Safavi, Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Shiraz, who gave the delegation a guided tour of the university facilities.



During the tour, the delegation was shown around the university's various departments and facilities, including the Eram Garden of the University. The delegation was impressed with the beautiful and well-maintained garden, which showcased a diverse collection of plant species from Iran. The Eram Garden also serves as a center for research and education in the field of botany and plant sciences.

The visit provided an opportunity for the delegation to learn about the academic and research programs offered by Shiraz University and explore potential areas of collaboration between the University and ECOSF in promoting science, technology, and innovation in the ECO Member Countries.

The visit to the Shiraz University and the Eram Garden was insightful and informative, and the ECOSF delegation was grateful to Prof. Ali Akbar Safavi and Shiraz University for their hospitality and support during the visit.