



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## Corona Virus - COVID 19: Situation in Numbers in the ECO Member Countries

Country	Total confirmed cases due to COVID-19	Total confirmed deaths due to COVID-19
Afghanistan	39,254	1,458
Azerbaijan	40,119	590
Iran	453,637	25,986
Kazakhstan	140,707	2,078
Kyrgyzstan	46,669	1,064
Pakistan	312,263	6,479
Tajikistan	9,726	75
Turkey	317,272	8,130
Turkmenistan	-	-
Uzbekistan	56,519	468
<b>ECO region Total</b>	<b>1,416,166</b>	<b>46,328</b>

**Date Stamp:** September 30, 2020 **Source:** <https://ourworldindata.org> **Note:** So far, no case has been reported in Turkmenistan.

## BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center on Scientific, Technological and Economic Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative Launched in Beijing

Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) together with Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) has launched a Joint Training Center on Scientific, Technological and Economic Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on September 25, 2020. The opening ceremony of the Center was held in the BTBU campus in Beijing China. The ceremony was also hosted online to facilitate participation of international delegates and participants from different parts of the world.

The Joint Training Center has been established under the funding of China Association of Science and Technology (CAST) which was won by the BTBU and ECOSF jointly, for human and institutional capacity building in science, engineering, technology, and business management along the belt and road countries. The Center would serve as a strategic training platform, which is deemed to be critical for infrastructure development and socio-economic growth for B&R countries, including Pakistan.





**Prof. Song Jun, Executive Secretary of CAST** was the Chief Guest in the ceremony. Prof. Jun underlined that the BRI offers a tremendous potential to spur a new era of trade, economic and industrial growth for the countries in the Asia and beyond. Thus, this Joint Training Center by ECOSF and BTBU will play a key role in realization of the BRI goals.

Earlier, in his speech, **Prof. Huang Xiankai the President BTBU** emphasized over the need for cross-industry and trans-disciplinary international training program to build essential human resource capital among participating countries.

**President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro** joined the ceremony online and greatly appreciated financial support of CAST and thanked BTBU for hosting this Joint Training Center together with ECOSF. Prof Soomro said that the Center will greatly maximize the benefits of BRI for participating countries in developing adequate technological workforce.

In his keynote address by academician **Dato Ir. (Dr) Lee Yee Cheong**, President Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World, Malaysia said that Pakistan is undoubtedly the largest partner of China in BRI with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Program. Pakistan is therefore ideally suited to be the site of the joint training center with all the CPEC projects providing the training test beds, he added.

Earlier, **Dr. Ata Ur Rahman, Counsellor (S&T)**, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Beijing also appreciated the BTBU and ECOSF for establishing this important alliance for promotion of cross-border cooperation in the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) sectors.

During the launch, **Mr. Jia Wei; First Secretary (S&T) of Embassy of the People's Republic of China** in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan also joined the event virtually and stressed the significance of strategic collaboration between China and Pakistan in the Science and Technological sectors.



**Mr. Kaan Sayin**, Director, Human Resource and Sustainable Development, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Secretariat Tehran also spoke in the occasion, highlighted enormous benefits for the ECO region with enhanced regional connectivity and provision of training in emerging areas of science, engineering and technology.

**ECOSF Contributed to the Book on Communicating Science: A Global Perspective**

A new book ‘*Communicating Science- A Global Perspective*’ was released by Australia National University (ANU) Press on 15 September, 2020. The book documents the global emergence of modern science communication. It has 40 chapters, 108 authors, and covers 39 countries.

We are delighted to report that the book includes a chapter on Pakistan entitled; “*Pakistan: Changing Landscape of Science Communication*” which has been co-authored by Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECOSF and Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF.

This is the first endeavour describing how science communication has developed around the world, including in Pakistan. The book covers all regions and all cultures: advanced nations of Europe, Asia and the Americas, and emerging economies like Russia, Jamaica, Estonia, Iran and Pakistan.

The launch event featured five authors telling the story of their country: the USA, Australia, East Africa and Russia, including President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro from Pakistan.



During the launch ceremony, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro emphasized that Science communication plays a significant role in addressing many developmental challenges facing Pakistan for all important economic sectors. He shed some light on the chapter on Pakistan, which outlines the key developments of science communication and outline recent trends in the country. The chapter also discusses policy framework and underscores as to why S&T have not been able to deliver socio-economic benefits to the general public at large, and why public engagement in science remains low in Pakistan.

**ECOSF calls for writing articles on Science Communication in ECO Member countries and looks forward to feedback addressed to [registry@ecosf.org](mailto:registry@ecosf.org)**

“*Communicating Science- A Global Perspective*” is available for free download at ANU Press: <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/communicating-science>.

The virtual launch event can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBf9I82W8Zc>

**ECOSF and IRP jointly organized the webinar Post COVID-19: Reorienting – STI Cooperation amongst the Belt and Road Countries during the Virtual Innovation Summit**

**IRP** **INNOVATION SUMMIT** **Virtual Innovation Summit 2020** **ECOSF**

**Post COVID-19: Reorienting – STI Cooperation amongst the Belt and Road Countries**

Friday, 18 September 2020 at 11:00 AM (GMT+5)

 <b>Prof. Dr. Hu Zhijian</b> President Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development, China	 <b>Ms. Xin Bing</b> Director General Children and Youth Science Center of CAST, China	 <b>Ms. Farhat Asif</b> President Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Pakistan	 <b>Dato Lee Yee Cheong</b> President The Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World, Malaysia	 <b>Dr. Di Yuna</b> Dean, Department of International Business Management, School of International Economics and Management, BTBU, China
 <b>Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro</b> President ECO Science Foundation		 <b>Moderator: Engr. Khalil Raza</b> Scientific Officer ECO Science Foundation		

Zoom ID: 915 2169 4502 Password: 629893 [www.ecosf.org](http://www.ecosf.org) Facebook Live: [f/ECOScienceFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation)

ECOSF in collaboration with Institute of Research Promotion (IRP) Pakistan hosted a joint webinar on “**Post COVID-19: Reorienting – STI Cooperation amongst the Belt and Road Countries**” during the Innovation Summit 2020 on September 18, 2020.

The objective of holding this session was to address as to how effectively utilize the ECOSF platform to synergize strengths of China and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Countries including the ECO Member States to reorient our priorities and ensure rapid and inclusive sustainable growth to achieve Sustainable Development Goals during the post COVID scenario.

**Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF** moderated the session and steered the discussion on the need for International collaboration across scientists and experts to bring evidence and scientific consensus to the attention of policymakers to make informed decisions grounded on evidence-based research with relevance to COVID-19.

**Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF** in his welcome remarks said that COVID-19 has not only raised the expectations we have of science, but it has also emphasized the fact that global challenges require global solutions. Thus, COVID-19 is really a call for reinforced scientific collaboration under the Belt and Road Initiative.

**Prof. Dr. Hu Zhijian, President, Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED)** emphasized over the need for development joint laboratories, institutes, and regional technology transfer platforms to accelerate and strengthen STI cooperation in the BRI region. Dr. Zhijian highlighted a number of joint collaborations and programs that have been initiated among Chinese S&T Institutions and other BRI countries.

**Dato Lee Yee Cheong**, President, The Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World (AETDEW), Malaysia and Member, International Advisory Board of ECOSF while delivering his speech underscored that Pakistan is undoubtedly the largest partner of China in BRI with the CPEC program embracing all major economic and infrastructure sectors. He further suggested that ECOSF in collaboration with China and ECO Member Countries raise the banner of post COVID-19 Development Revolution for countries of the South.

**Ms. Xin Bing**, Director General, Children Youth and Science Center delivered his recorded message during the webinar. Ms. Bing highlighted key developments directed towards accelerated cooperation between China and other countries under the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan. Ms Bing further said that China has been a great contributor in promoting broader cooperation in science and innovation. She also highlighted a number of fruitful initiatives that CYSC has been undertaking in partnership with the ECOSF.

**Ms. Frahat Asif**, President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies underlined that China has demonstrated extremely well the way it has dealt with COVID-19 crisis. This shows that China by virtue of its science and technology has developed robust health care sector. Thus, China through its experience and expertise can assist other BRI Countries and share the best practices in the development and management of STI in the post COVID-19 setting. She also put forwarded her valued ideas and highlighting important cooperation initiatives and mechanism between China and Pakistan.

**Dr. Di Yuna**, Associate Professor, Dean, Department of International Business Management, School of International Economics and Management, Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) underlined may strategic initiatives by BTBU to promote the integrated development of the BRI countries with help of Chinese S&T expertise. Dr. Yuna also shed some light on the Joint Training Center by BTBU and ECOSF to establish a cross-industry and trans-disciplinary international training program to build essential human resource capital among participating countries to achieve overarching goals of BRI.

At the end, floor was opened for the Q&A session where panelists responded and contributed to fruitful discussions.

The recorded session is available on ECOSF Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation/videos/722343951680703>

**ECOSF participated in the Twenty-Third Virtual Strategic Workshop (SW'20) organized by CTIF Global Capsule**

A Centre for Tele Infrastructure (CTIF) Global Capsule, which is a cross-/Inter-disciplinary Academic Research Center based at Aarhus University, Denmark, organized its 23rd Strategic Workshop on September 29-30, 2020. The first workshop was held in Delft, the Netherlands in 1994. The theme of this year workshop was "Sustainable Green Environment (SGE)".

A group of world leading experts and technical specialists from wide ranging backgrounds on Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) participated in the strategic workshop.

The strategic workshop hosted technical presentations and panel discussions on cutting-edge technological developments and transformations. The fundamental goal of the workshop was to scale up innovation and the path to commercialization of the relevant technologies ensuring the green environment and a strong partnership between industry and academia.

Prof. Ramjee Parsad Founder President, CTIF Global Capsule, Professor, Aarhus University, Herning, Denmark opened the workshop. Prof. Parsad highlighted that the sustainable and renewable green resources with digitalization are the focal priority of the present & future agenda or policies within the national and international platform.

Prof. Parsad in his opening remarks highlighted that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), big data analytics, internet of things (IoT), energy storage solutions, green products and services are impersonating a floor for intelligent data generation to achieve long terms settlements, planning and sustainability for digital business and green infrastructure.

During the workshop, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated as a panelist in the panel discussion on Technological Platform Paradigm & Global Partnerships. Prof. Soomro underscored that the sustainability is critical as humans cannot survive or maintain quality of life as human beings, or Earth's ecosystems unless we adopt sustainability. Prof. Soomro further emphasized that technology collaboration is a key for innovation and bringing meaningful impact for future sustainability of the world.

Engr. Khalil Raza Science Officer ECOSF also presented a talk; "*Leveraging Global Partnership and Technological Platforms to Achieve SDG7: Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)*" during the technical session on Security, Policies & Safety Standards. Mr. Raza elucidated that energy generation will be redefined by the use of decentralized networks of intelligent, agile and self-serve units to ramp up, balance and diagnose demand.



**Students along with their families attended more batches of Online Family STEM Summer Camps organized by ECOSF and PSC**

In continuation of Online Family STEM Camps which began in April 2020, more batches (6th and 7th) were organized by Pakistan Science Club (PSC) in partnership with ECOSF in the month of September 2020 during COVID-19 pandemic and closure of schools. Online Family STEM Summer Camps provide a platform for hands-on/fun-learning scientific activities by engaging not only students of different age groups but also parents. These camps provide confidence and better understanding of scientific processes to the participants.



More than 50 families participated in the last 2 camps. 3 open workshops conducted on Sunday. Batch-8 will be starting from 9 October 2020. A range of very interesting small scientific projects was the main reason behind the enthusiastic involvement/performance of the participants such as; Vibrating robot, Rubber powered gun, Hovercraft, Hydraulic crane, Paper circuit, Electromagnet Solar Lantern, Wind Mill, Air rocket / Straw and Paper Airplanes, Saltwater battery, Solar oven, Vertical Axis, Wind Turbine, Water Rocket, Hydraulic Lift, Gliders and Dark sensor

**Following are some shots from the scientific activities:**



**Chinese Ambassador reiterates the commitment of China for the development and prosperity of Pakistan**

Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Yao Jing reiterated the commitment of China towards a developed and prosperous Pakistan during a meeting with the Chairman of Saylani Welfare Trust of Pakistan Mr. Bashir Farooqi and the Chairman of Giga Group of Companies Haji Muhammad Amin Giga Pardesi on September 03, 2020 in Islamabad. President of ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited as a technical expert by the parties.



Purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibilities of support to M/s Saylani Welfare Trust by the Chinese Government and Chinese Companies active in Pakistan as well as the Chinese philanthropists. During the meeting, Saylani Welfare Trust gave a presentation about the Trust and their numerous programmes including the programme for the rural farming communities, followed by discussion by the Chinese Ambassador. President ECOSF, Prof. Soomro was specially invited to assist the Saylani Welfare Trust in discussing possible technical support from the Chinese side.

The Ambassador made it clear that the Embassy of China works with the Government of Pakistan (GoP) at Government level (G2G collaboration); and if GoP officially introduces a project of Saylani Trust, they can extend the requested support in terms of seed, fertilizers, farm machinery, field vehicles or hospital equipment and/or ambulances. The Ambassador also agreed to introduce Saylani Welfare Trust of Pakistan to Chinese companies active in Pakistan for any direct support from them.

In addition, a project of Sweet Sorghum cultivation and ethanol production by the Giga Group of Companies was discussed with the Ambassador who provided guidance to the Company's leadership. Professor Soomro shared with the Ambassador the on-going scientific collaboration between the ECOSF and some Chinese Institutions and sought continued support and assistance of the Chinese Embassy in the on-going and new projects in the field of capacity building in agriculture. To which the Ambassador was positive and assured to send his Agriculture Commissioner to visit ECOSF and further discuss the possibilities in detail.

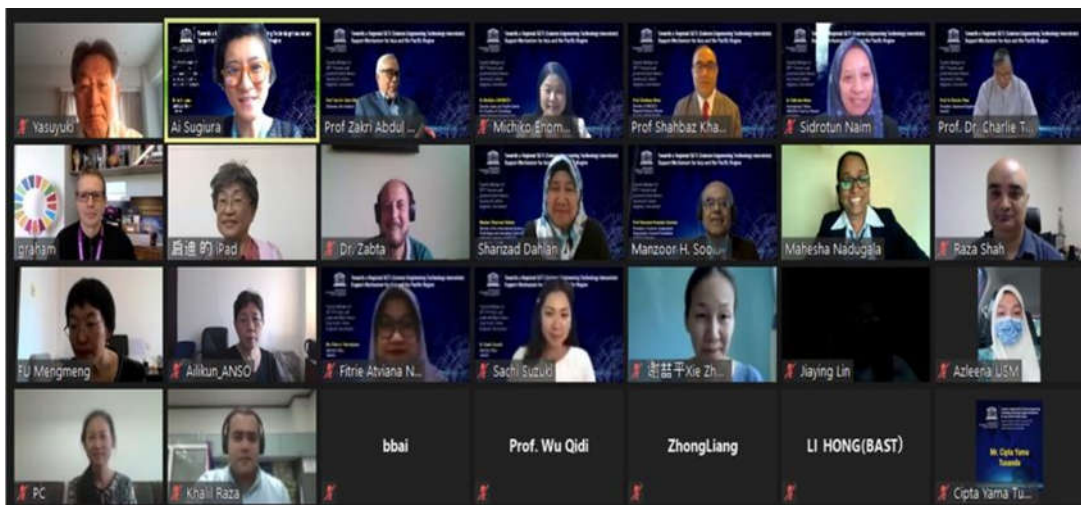
In the follow-up of the above meeting, Dr. Gu Wenliang Agricultural Commissioner of Embassy of China in Islamabad called upon President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro at his office on September 07, 2020 on the direction of the Chinese Ambassador. During the meeting, possible options were discussed to work and promote cooperation in the field of Agriculture between Pakistan and China.



**ECOSF Participated in “Expert Consultation for SETI Support Mechanism in Asia and the Pacific Region”**

UNESCO Jakarta as the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific organized an online Regional Experts Dialogue on SETI Priorities and Implementation Means on 1st September 2020.

This dialogue was a follow-up to several regional and global consultations that have been taking place since March 2020 and the 209th UNESCO Executive Board Meeting (29 June - 10 July 2020). The dialogue aimed at identifying key collaboration areas, support mechanisms, and develop the UNESCO regional SETI strategy,



reaching a regional consensus on the role of SETI in delivering SDGs. Eleven eminent experts were invited to deliver their views and insights on regional SETI aspects of the six focus areas of UNESCO Science Policy Capacity Building programme. On behalf of the ECOSF, President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the event.

1. **Science policy including open science and STEPAN** (Science and Technology Policy Asian Network): Prof. Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid, Atri Advisory, Malaysia and Dr Mahesha Nadugala, National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka, stressed the importance to bring science and policy interface at the right decision-making level and the need to revive science networks, such as STEPAN, to close gaps between member states, involving existing networks and interacting with national governments.
2. **Capacity Building Including Capacities in Engineering**: Dr Yasuyuki Aoshima, JABEE (Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education), Prof. Wu Qidi, UNESCO International Engineering Education Centre Beijing and Prof. Charlie

Than, Myanmar Engineering Council, emphasized the role of engineering in providing solutions for SDGs and how accreditation can improve education quality.

3. **Women in Science:** Madam Shahrizad Dahlan, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) under the auspices of UNESCO, and Dr Sidrotun Naim, Indonesian International fellow of UNESCO L’Oreal for Women in Science, strengthened the necessity to continue promoting women scientists with more social research and actions.
4. **Scientific and Ethical Dimensions of AI:** Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, ECOSF and Prof. Zabta Shinwari, COMEST and Council Member of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and reflected the myths and facts about AI where ethical considerations and standards have an essential role in national and international strategies.
5. **SDG ready technologies and innovations:** Dr Michiko Enomoto, Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, UNESCAP, stated the importance of existing technologies and innovations, including pro-poor inclusive, frugal, and grassroots innovations, and invited collaborations in Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APCTT) and UNESCO Jakarta current initiatives in developing the catalogue of SDG ready technologies for the Asia Pacific.
6. **Science Communication and Citizen Science:** Prof. Graham Durant, Questacon -Australia’s National Science and Technology Centre, exposed the current change in the relationship between science and society. The changes required science communication to play a greater role in fostering the emergence of citizen science, especially with youth, as the answers to the challenges in building STEM futures and achieve the SDGs.

More than 45 experts participated in the dialogue and shared their comments and questions to the experts. The participants represented the Universities, UNESCO Science family (category 1 and 2 centres, and Chairs), Field Offices, as well as Science and Research Centres in Asia Pacific region.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Jakarta, moderated the discussion and concluded in his remarks that a regional SETI mechanism will be revitalized with the constitution of a regional advisory committee. Furthermore, a strategy to link the regional and national level SETI stakeholders through UNESCO national commission.

### ECOSF Participated in “International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE)-2020”

UNESCO in partnership with Mobius Foundation and the Climate Reality Project on 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 jointly organised the two-day International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE). The conference focused on sharing innovative ideas and understanding on sustainability education within the overall objective of strengthening the role of education in changing attitudes and behaviour towards positive action for a better quality of life and environment ultimately leading to the achievement of SDGs and creating a sustainable future for all.

This conference was organized as a major sustainability event to bring together thought leaders, practitioners, teachers, educators, policymakers as well as youth from around the globe to share innovative ideas, case studies, practices and policies and came forward with recommendations for incorporating environmental sustainability as a core concept in the school education system. On behalf of ECOSF, President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the Conference.





Mr. Pradip Burman, Chairman Mobius Foundation underscored as to how the sustainability education in post COVID era is critical to promote environmental education. Dr. Ram Boojh CEO Mobius Foundation said that sustainability education is the key to understand complexity of nature and outdoor hands on activities be practiced beyond the comforts of homes during COVID-19 or beyond the classrooms post COVID scenarios.

**SIBAU value the collaboration and support of ECOSF for Promotion and Implementation of IBSE and Piloting of FoCEd Curriculum at SIBAU Schools/Colleges, said by new VC during the meeting with President ECOSF**

A meeting was held on September 23, 2020 at the Vice Chancellor Secretariat, Sukkur IBA University to discuss and review different areas of ongoing collaboration between Sukkur IBA University and ECOSF. The Vice Chancellor Professor Syed Mir Muhammad Shah warmly welcomed the President ECOSF Professor Manzoor Soomro at the University. Other Officials from SIBAU viz., Mr. Noor Hussain, Director IBA Community Colleges (IBACC)/Schools; Mr. Mehmood Dool, Principal IBACC Jacobabad and Mr. Mujeeb Ur Rehman, Assistant Director IBACCs and Schools were also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF briefed the Vice Chancellor about the global history and background of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the world and beginning of the programme in ECO Region including Pakistan. It was noted that there is need to have a dedicated coordinator for looking after the matters of collaboration between Sukkur IBA University and ECOSF related to IBSE especially under the framework of MoU signed between ECOSF and SIBAU in January 2020.



President ECOSF shared that a Fusion of One Belt One Road (OBOR) Civilization (FoCEd) curriculum has been developed by Children and Youth Science Center of China in collaboration with Inter-Academy Partnership Science Education Program (IAP SEP), ECOSF and other international organization. The FoCEd aims to promote tolerance and respect of other cultures and traditions through understanding of current scientific knowledge and discoveries driven from ancient wisdom to inculcate global peace and harmony. It was agreed that the piloting of FoCEd will be carried out in IBA Community Colleges and schools

During the meeting, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF introduced Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC) China; of which the ECOSF is a founder member, and shared its objectives. He emphasized the need of membership of SIBAU in BRISECC which was well appreciated and agreed by Prof. Mir Muhammad Shah.

Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro suggested that guide/module for youth prepared by the Inter-Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and Smithsonian Science Education Centre.(SSEC) USA entitled, “COVID-19! How can I protect myself and others” should be shared with all IBA Community Colleges and Schools. It is pertinent to mention that IAP-SEP and SSEC Washington are both partner organizations of ECOSF for promotion of STEM/IBSE.

Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF urged to maintain a Pool of SIBAU Master Trainers in IBSE having complete database He also emphasized on the need to establish an “IBSE Quality Assurance” Unit with 2-3 Master Trainers designated to monitor and assure the quality with a backup mechanism within the SIBAU CCs. President ECOSF also discussed the need and venue for the development of an “IBSE Resource Centre” in IBA Community Colleges and schools for support to teachers in activity development. SIBAU in principle agreed with the suggestion and the efforts will be put in to develop the “IBSE Resource Centre” in every community college and school.

It was also made a point of focus to develop modules based on local materials /examples for the contribution in society and better understanding of people. Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro emphasized to encourage the participation of nearby

government schools in IBACCs and Schools training programs continuously to support and contribute in the community. The suggestion well noted by the SIBAU.

The President ECOSF appreciated the recent performance of SIBAU CCs Master Trainers at Tharparkar and emphasized to utilize SIBAU Master Trainers for capacity Building in other ECO Countries under the aegis of ECOSF in line with MoU between the two organizations.

The Vice Chancellor thanked the distinguished visitor Prof. Soomro for his visit and the support being extended to SIBAU Community Colleges and Schools.

Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro then visited the SIBAU Fabrication in Khairpur and suggested that to integrate the emerging technologies in Schools such as 3D printing and LASER Cutting, SIBAU should incorporate it in their schools. He further suggested that market and commercialization of the products developed by Fab Lab should be done. ECOSF will also provide support for it. He further advised that neighbor country students (especially that of Iran) should be invited to study in Fab Lab in support of ECOSF.



**ECOSF Participated in Webinar on “Balanced Fertilizer Application in Wheat”**

Prof. Dr. Iqrar A. Khan in collaboration with Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), Pakistan Institute for Developmental Economics and CAS-D at PMAS-University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi organized a webinar on “Balanced Fertilizer Application in Wheat” on 12<sup>th</sup>, September 2020.

**Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan**, Professor Emeritus, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad opened the PAS Agriculture Webinar by welcoming the keynote speakers and participants, and presented an overview of meetings’ agenda.

**Dr. Muhammad Rashid**, former Director General AARI, presented his project results based on data gathered from government laboratories for soil and water analysis.

**Dr. Abdul Majeed**, Country Manager, ICARDA for Pakistan, explained the involvement of his organization in the expansion of UAF-developed fertilizer prediction model for the promotion of balanced use of fertilizer application. During the project period, it was pointed out that 65% farmers (particularly those with small landholdings) had inadequate information and/or resources to visit the soil testing laboratory and get the pre-sowing analysis done.

**Mr. Tariq Javid** represented Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) and explained the work of his company in promotion of balanced use of fertilizer. In this context, FFC since its inception is providing free soil & water analyses facility to the farmers across the country.

**Dr. Noor Muhammad Butt**, Chairman and Professor of Nanotechnology at Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology, explained the development of nano-fertilizers and nano-applications. **Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota** shared his work experience with



wheat farmers in Canada. Canada grows both Spring and Winter wheat of soft and hard categories. He spoke about the major reasons behind record wheat yield harvest reported in Canada.


**Dr. Manzoor Soomro**, the Founder President of ECOSF, advocated the training and capacity building needs of the farmers. For the continued and far reaching impact of the fertilizer prediction model project launched by UAF, he emphasized to increase the number of outreach activities for the knowledge dissemination and skill development of local farming community. **Dr. Asif Kamran**, Agriculture Economist, NIAB appreciated the "Fertilizer Prediction Model" as an excellent concept to predict yield from given level of fertilizer and vice versa.

### ECOSF Participated in a Webinar on Light and Polymers organized by COMSTECH

COMSTECH organized the webinar to discuss light-based science and technologies and its impact on electronics, medicine, and in general on 10 September 2020. A good number of policy makers, academicians, scientists and general public and the member OIC states attended the webinar. Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the webinar on behalf of the ECOSF.


Prof. Dr. Yusuf Yagci, Professor of Chemistry at Istanbul Technical University, Turkey was the Guest speaker of the webinar. Prof. Yusuf Yagci said that Light is the major source of life through photosynthesis and all living organisms need light for survival. Today, light based science and technologies have a great impact on electronics, medicine, and in general natural sciences including chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy, and earth sciences.

Compare to the thermal counterparts, light induced processes provide several advantages such as lower energy, favorable environmental conditions, spatial and temporal control. Photochemical reactions are efficiently used in macromolecular synthesis through free radical, cationic, anionic and step-growth mechanisms. In his presentation, he shared major photochemical routes which can be activated in UV, visible and Near IR (NIR) region to prepare complex macromolecular structures will be presented.

Live Streaming  
 comstech-oic

## Light and Polymers

# WEBINAR




### Prof. Dr. Yusuf Yagci

*Professor of Chemistry at Istanbul Technical University, Turkey*  
*Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC)*

**Time & Date:**  
September 10, 2020

03:00 pm Pakistan Standard Time  
02:00 pm Gulf Standard Time:  
10:00 am Greenwich Mean Time:



**ECOSF is amongst the Board Members of the newly launched Editorial Board of Asian Research Policy (ARP) Journal based in Seoul-Korea**

We are pleased to announce that ECOSF as the founder member of the Asian STI Think Tank Networks (ASTN) has joined to serve as a Member of the Editorial Board of the Asian Research Policy (ARP). ARP is being co-hosted by the Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP) South Korea, which aims to transform its existing network of prestigious S&T institutions into knowledge platform with dedicated Journal for Science, Technological and Innovation policy of Asia.

The aim of Asian Research Policy is to enhance the national R&D system by establishing channels of communication between academics, research experts and policymakers around the world. We truly believe that ARP will pave the way for further strengthening and enhancing the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) capability of Asia, including the ECO Member Countries. For more details, please visit: [http://www.arpjournal.org/usr/about/about\\_journal.do](http://www.arpjournal.org/usr/about/about_journal.do)

**KISTEP** Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning  
 Center for International Cooperation Policy  
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 E-mail: arp@kistep.kr  
 September 1, 2020

Dear ARP Editorial Board and ASTN member institutes,

I, as the Chair of ARP Editorial Board, sincerely appreciate that you have sent us positive responses to ARP's reorganization. Thank all ASTN member institutes for your dedication and support.

This letter is to announce that the ARP Editorial Board has been newly launched.

We are honored to introduce 10 institutes below to be our next ARP Editorial Board.

ARP Editorial Board		
Country	Institute	Institute
China	CASISD	Chinese Academy of Sciences - Institutes of Science and Development
India	DST CPR	Centre for Policy Research, Department of Science & Technology
	NISTADS	National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies
Japan	GRIPS	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
	NISTEP	National Institute of Science and Technology Policy
Korea	CNU	Chungnam National University
	KISTEP	Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning
Pakistan	ECOSF	ECO Science Foundation
Taiwan	STPI	Science & Technology Policy Research and Information Center
	NARLab	National Applied Research Laboratories
Vietnam	NISTPASS	National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy Studies

We hope that the renewed ARP will perform as a platform to actively engage Asian STI institutes in sharing of knowledge and discovering opportunities for collaboration.

Sincerely,  
  
 Sang-seon Kim  
 Chair of ARP Editorial Board  
 President of KISTEP

**Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page**

**Online - 4th Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop (October-November 2020)**

The “4th Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop” will be held virtually in October-November 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Camp is being organized by Children & Youth Science Center (CYSC) of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People’s Republic of China (MOST) and CAST and supported by ECOSF, InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Program (IAP SEP), and Network of African Science Academies (NASAC).

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/4-BnR-Camp>

**Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF**

**September 14, 2020:** Coordinator General of COMSTech Prof. M. Iqbal Chaudhry paid his maiden visit to ECOSF Secretariat with warm welcome by the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro. During the visit, the two leaders discussed the programmes of mutual interest for the economic development of Muslim countries through STI

