



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



Lake Saif ul Malook, Pakistan  
(Surface Elevation: 10,577 ft)

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop Co-organized by CYSC-CAST and ECOSF as a major contributor in Beijing, China

The first "Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop" was organized on December 17-22, 2017 at the No 35 Beijing High School. The event was jointly organized by Children and Youth Science Centre (CYSC) of China Association of Science and Technology (CAST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) of P.R. China and supported by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), InterAcadmy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) and Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW). The theme of this event was "Thinking & Making" and was jointly opened by the leadership of CAST, MoST, ECOSF and AETDEW by an innovative way of highlighting the board.

There were 118 students/teenagers and teachers/coordinators (students-74+ teachers/coordinators-44) from 16 countries from 4 continents. Among 16 participating countries, four were from ECO region viz. Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkey, all with the efforts of ECOSF. ECOSF was represented by President ECOSF and Assistant Director (Admin & Programmes). Some 42 participants joined from ECO countries, which included 27 students.

Prof. Xu Yanhao, the Vice Chairman and Executive Secretary of CAST, in his remarks on the occasion, appreciated the large number of participants from diverse countries. He thanked ECOSF and its President Soomro and AETDEW and its President Professor Lee for being partners of the event and hoped that the event would bring some healthy scientific activities coupled with latest technologies and cultural integration along the Belt and Road. He appreciated the idea of ECOSF to conduct the event annually and pledged the support of his institution for the noble cause.

Earlier, the Principal of the School No. 35 Beijing welcomed the participants. Afterwards, Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro in his opening remarks appreciated and congratulated CYSC, CAST, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, IAP-SEP and AETDEW for organizing this wonderful and magnificent event; "Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop" in Beijing, China. He also expressed his deepest thanks to the leadership of CYSC and IAP SEP for bringing together teams of brilliant students and passionate teachers from over sixteen different countries along the One Belt and One Road (OBOR). He further



said the Camp and Workshop was a great opportunity for all of us to strengthen further our cooperation and deliberate on the way forward to achieve the desired goals of “Belt and Road” initiative. He believed that our partnership of ECOSF with CYSC, CAST and IAP SEP is strategic to promote regional integration along the ancient Silk Route which includes all ECO member countries. The ECO region has a great potential to be harnessed by developing effective collaborative linkages with China to promote scientific & technological research and cultural integration among the 10 member states of ECOSF. He shared that CYSC and CAST has mutually agreed upon request made by ECOSF to institutionalize and hold this event annually under the Belt and Road initiative of CYSC CAST. He further shared that ECOSF is collaborating with IAP SEP, CYSC, CAST and other partners for developing a science curriculum based on “Fusion of Civilizations”. He once again thanked to all partners and participants.

Dato Lee Yee Cheong, the Founder President of Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World (AETDEW) also graced the occasion with his remarks and thanked the organizers and partners i.e. CYSC, CAST, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, ECOSF for organizing the very important event. In his remarks, he further said that young children are the future and investing on them is to save the future and make it more bright and prosperous. He pledged the support of AETDEW and IAP SEP to make this camp and workshop more vibrant and fruitful.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/First-Belt-and-Road-Teenager-Maker-Camp-Teacher-Workshop>



### ECOSF and CYSC-CAST enter into long term collaboration and sign MoU for Implementation of Belt and Road (B&R) Programmes in the ECO region

ECOSF and Children and Youth Science Centre (CYSC) of China Association of Science & Technology (CAST) entered into long term collaboration by signing MoU on December 18, 2017 at Beijing, China. The MoU was signed by Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF and Professor Liu Yang, Director General CYSC; while Professor Xu Yanhao, the Vice President and Executive Secretary of CAST, Dr. Yao Jian, Director of Division of Communication and Cooperation of CYSC, Dato Lee Yee Cheong, President Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World (AETDEW), Professor Wang Qinglin, Deputy Director General of Department of International Affairs of CAST and other officials from CYSC/CAST witnessed the signing ceremony.



It is pertinent to mention that under the MoU, the first Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop was organized on December 17-21, 2017 at the Beijing No. 35th High School. The event was jointly organized by Children and Youth Science Centre of China Association of Science and Technology and Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) of China with the support of ECOSF, IAP-SEP and AETDEW.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/ECOSF-CYSC-MOU>

### Follow up Capacity Building Workshop of Master Trainers on Inquiry Based Science Education at Sukkur, Pakistan

A follow up workshop of Master Trainers on IBSE was jointly organized by ECOSF and Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU), Sukkur-Pakistan from 25-29 December 2017 at SIBAU Campus-II. Purpose of this workshop was to get/ascertain the feedback of the participants of the IBSE workshop held from 5-9 September 2016 in Islamabad and to impart further training on IBSE based upon the feedback as per original three years plan. 35 participants participated in the workshop from different schools system of Pakistan i.e., PAEC Schools, Sukkur IBA Schools, Cantt/Garrison Schools and The Science Schools (TSS), Islamabad. The trainers from PAEC and IBA Sukkur earlier trained as Master Trainers on IBSE by the LAMAP France Trainers conducted the training and workshop. However, some new teachers/trainers and Regional/Local coordinators were also invited to participate.

The workshop was opened by the Commissioner of Sukkur Division, Dr. Muhammad Usman Chachar, as the Chief Guest. During his opening remarks, he appreciated ECOSF and SIBAU for organizing such workshop in the interior city of Sindh Province of Pakistan (Sukkur) through inviting the teachers from small towns for the training which in itself is a great contribution towards the masses. He highly appreciated IBSE methodology of teaching and its implementation in the schools. He further said that he is confident that through this approach, the interest of the student towards science education will be increased and they will take sciences as their careers. The Commissioner emphasized that more workshops of this kind be organized frequently in remoter

areas so that the roots of science education may grow stronger and stronger. He offered all possible support from the local governments for this cause.

Earlier, Prof Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor SIBAU welcomed the distinguished guests for attending the workshop from far flung places of Pakistan. He thanked ECOSF for bringing the IBSE programme in Pakistan and especially SIBAU Community Colleges and hoped that the participants of the workshop would learn the effective methodology of teaching i.e., LAMAP's IBSE methodology and implement it in their schools.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF, in his key note speech, highlighted the importance of the workshop and explained the IBSE approach of LAMAP initiated by the trio of LAMAP founders; Prof. George Charpak (Nobel Laureate), Prof. Yves Quere and Prof. Pierre Lena in 1996. After the success in France, the programme was expanded to other parts of the world. Prof. Soomro said that in Pakistan, the Programme was initiated by PSF under his Chairmanship in 2010. Prof. Soomro further elaborated that critical thinking that comes with science education is vital in training the mind, understanding the world, making



choices and solving problems. The concept of "inquiry" fosters the understanding of technological innovations, which need to be inculcated among children at primary & secondary school levels. Thus, IBSE approach is used for teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects at schools with the objective to instill the willingness of children to explore new ideas through evidence and logic, he said.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Follow-up-Workshop-on-IBSE>

**UNESCO in Collaboration with ECOSF, AETDEW and Indonesian Institute of Engineering organized the Regional Workshop- “South-South Cooperation for Strengthening Engineering Standards and Mobility of Professionals” in Jakarta Indonesia**

UNESCO Regional Sciences Bureau in Asia and the Pacific with support of ECOSF, Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW), FEIAP and Indonesian Engineering Institution organized the Engineering Regional workshop on “South-South Cooperation for Strengthening Engineering Standards and Mobility of Professionals”. The workshop was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 - 22 December 2017. The aim of this regional workshop was to develop the roadmap between UNESCO, ECOSF, Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and Pacific (FEIAP) with partners to enhance engineering qualification, standardization and south-south cooperation; moreover, review engineering, technology, Industry and innovation linkage to create strong sustainable development of engineering in Asia and Pacific region. The workshop discussed the Cooperation among UNESCO, ECOSF and FEIAP to review the current situation of engineering education and training, through attention to FEIAP standardization for curricula, identify the needs of society and analysis the gap between engineering supply and jobs demand in society to achieve engineering sustainability. The workshop was attended by renowned engineering education experts, heads and leaders of engineering bodies, institutions and academicians. Participation of heads of Engineering Institutions from Myanmar and Timor Leste was also important as they have recently been accredited by the FEIAP. President ECOSF participated in the event and contributed to the technical sessions and made his presentation as one of the key note speakers as well as session chair.



Opening and welcome remarks were presented by Prof. Arief Rahman, Executive Chairman of National Commission of Indonesia for UNESCO, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director and Representatives of UNESCO Office Jakarta and H.E. Dato’ Seri Zahrain Mohamed Hashim, Ambassador of Malaysia in Indonesia and various other dignitaries. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro, President AETDEW Prof. Lee Yee Cheong and Secretary General of FEIAP also spoke in the inaugural session. From ECO countries professional Engineers from Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan participated on invitation of ECOSF.

Subsequently sessions on different aspects were held. Prof. Dr. Soomro made his presentation in one of the technical sessions on the “ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) –Promoting Engineering Education Qualification and Standardization in the ECO Region”. Prof. Soomro highlighted the proactive role of the ECOSF for promotion of Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation in the region. Prof. Soomro said that engineering practice has societal impacts. Thus there is a need to regulate the practices of engineering to safeguard life and property. He said that regulations of professional engineering practice including international accreditation of engineering qualifications is prerequisite in any country for establishing the competent National Board of Engineers or Engineers Registration Board. Prof. Soomro also appreciated the role of UNESCO and its leadership for their invaluable partnership with ECOSF for promotion of the engineering standardization and accreditation in the region, particularly in the ECO region. He also underscored various strategic and collaborative initiatives in partnership with international partners to promote STI in the region.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Strengthening-Engineering-Standards-and-Mobility-of-Professionals>

### ICCBS in collaboration with ECOSF co-organized the International Symposium-cum-Training Course on Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (MMDR-6) with at Karachi Pakistan

The 6th International Symposium-cum-Training Course on Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (MMDR-6) was inaugurated on November 6, 2017. The four days International Symposium-cum-Training was organized by the H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi in collaboration with the ECOSF, with the support of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, French Embassy Pakistan and many other local and international partners. One of the prime objectives of this symposium was to bring together the leading experts in the field of molecular medicine from all around the world. About 100 scientists from 30 different countries and 500 scholars from across Pakistan attended this mega event.



The symposium included lectures by eminent scientists and poster presentations by the researchers. The training sessions focused on developing concepts of molecular medicine and its applications in understanding diseases at the molecular levels. HEC Chairman Prof. Dr Mukhtar Ahmed inaugurated the international symposium as the Chief Guest. President ECOSF Prof. Dr Manzoor H. Soomro was especially invited in the inaugural ceremony. However, on his behalf, Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF read out the congratulatory message of Prof. Soomro. It is important to note that ECOSF sponsored the participation of scientists from the ECO region in the symposium. During the event, Engr. Khalil had an opportunity to interact with participating scientist from Iran and Azerbaijan.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/MMDR-6>

### 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) held in Islamabad, Pakistan

The 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 11-14 December, 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Meeting was attended by the delegations of all the 10 Member States, the Observers; the Turkish Cypriot State and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States; as well as by the ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies.

In the opening session, the ECO Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akça, in his opening remarks, welcomed the ECO Member States, Observers and Specialized Agencies, Institutions & Affiliated Bodies to the 28th Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting in the Islamabad. The Secretary General thanked and appreciated the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, especially the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms for hosting the 28th RPC Meeting. The ECO Secretary General presented an overview of the main activities of the Organization undertaken during the Year 2017, including

successfully holding of 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit and 22nd COM, which adopted the documents – ECO Vision 2025 with Implementation Framework and Islamabad Declaration. He mentioned that the Secretariat has made enormous efforts in realizing the overarching objectives of the Work Programme in 2017 in various segments.

The Meeting was formally inaugurated by H.E. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan warmly welcomed all delegates to Islamabad for attending the 28th RPC Meeting. The Federal Minister while highlighting the enormous regional and global changes taking place, inter alia, economic disparity issues, political rivalries, security challenges, environmental hazards, terrorism and extremism threats, he called for adopting collective ECO Regional efforts to address these challenges for upholding peace, stability, prosperity and economic development in the ECO Region, as well as to achieve the sustainable development goals as enshrined in the UN Development Agenda 2030.



The President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro made statement on behalf of Foundation. In his statement, he thanked the ECO Secretariat for organizing the meeting amicably and shared the progress on activities/achievements of the Foundation carried out throughout the year of 2017. Prof. Soomro in his statement urged the member states to fully support ECOSF so that the objectives of the Foundation can be achieved through its various scientific activities. President ECOSF expressed deep gratitude to all the Member States and ECO Secretariat for their continuous support to the Foundation and special thanks to the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for patronizing ECOSF through its Ministries of Science & Technology and Foreign Affairs. He further mentioned there is a convincing need to push forward to build a strong S&T base for economic development in the region. He further added that since the inception of ECOSF, it has transformed itself into a dynamic and agile vehicle to promote Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and Science Education to help build the capacity of its Member States to respond to the emerging challenges of the future.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/28th-Meeting-of-ECO-RPC>

**A Conference with the Theme on “Redefining Prosperity Paths in Changing Global Economy Opportunities and Challenges for Pakistan organized by PSDE/PIDE in collaboration with ECOSF**

A Conference titled “Redefining Prosperity Paths in Changing Global Economy Opportunities and Challenges for Pakistan” was organized by Pakistan Society of Development Economics (PSDE)/Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in collaboration with ECOSF during 33rd Annual General Meeting of PIDE from 12-14 December 2017 at Islamabad-Pakistan. The conference was the largest annual academic gathering of the economists, social scientists and policy makers in Pakistan. The conference brought world’s renowned development practitioners in dialogue with local experts to discuss and determine appropriate strategies to move forward and take cognizant response to the economic challenges. The conference offered excellent learning and networking opportunities to the participants and sponsors.



ECOSF sponsored participation of two participants from ECO Countries, Prof. Vilayat Valiyev, Director Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Dr. Mehdi Yazdani, Assistant Professor of Economics Department of Economics, Shahid Beheshti University of Iran to attend the conference. Both the participants contributed in technical sessions and shared their experience about economics in their countries and the world.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Redefining-Prosperity-Paths>

### The Second Round of Mustafa (pbuh) Prize for Science & Technology in the Islamic World held in Tehran- Iran

The 2017 Mustafa (pbuh) Prize Ceremony was held on December 3, 2017 at Tehran's Vahdat Hall, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Great Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The Mustafa (pbuh) Prize is a top science and technology award granted to the top researchers and scientists of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states biennially. The Prize is awarded in four categories, namely "Life Sciences and Medical Sciences", "Nano Science and Nanotechnologies", "The Information and Communication Science and Technologies", and "Top Scientific Achievement in other fields". The laureates in each section are awarded 500,000 USD which is financed through the endowments made to the Prize. The two winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Mustafa (pbuh) are Prof. Erol Gelenbe from turkey and Prof. Mohammad Amin Shokrollahi from Iran in Information and Communications Science and Technology and Information Theory.



On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the ceremony and contributed in the Prize Policy-making Council meeting later with a suggestion to expand the programme to school and university level. He also appreciated the efforts of Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) running of Noor student competition specially designed for young scientists with more than 3600 scientific ideas submitted aimed at launching and supporting developed research projects. It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF has been supporting and collaborating with MSTF since its first round of Mustafa (pbuh) Prize held at 2015. Professor Omar Yaghi from Jordan in the Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and Professor Jackie Ying from Singapore in Bio-nanotechnology category, were the recipients of this award.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/The-Mustafa-pbuh-Prize-for-S-T>

### **Workshop on Fusion of Civilizations Curriculum Design for Schools along One Belt One Road (OBOR) Countries organized by IAP SEP held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Inter Academy Partnership – Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia jointly organized a **“Workshop on Fusion of Civilizations Curriculum Design for Schools along One Belt One Road (OBOR) Countries** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from December 7-12, 2017. The Workshop aimed at engaging curriculum design experts and historians of Science & Technology to contribute towards the development of Curriculum based on the concept of “Fusion of Civilizations”. The project arose out of the need to inculcate peace and harmony through evidence based science education for children in the light of the current conflict and increase in violence in societies, and terrorism resulting in atrocities and displaces persons. The core objective of development of this curriculum is to foster peace right at the beginning of young children by employing Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach among the countries that share a common heritage of the ancient Silk Road. This can be achieved by reflecting on the history of science and technology of ancient civilizations from the Islamic Golden Age in the Middle East westwards to Europe and eastwards through Central Asia to India and China. ECOSF is collaborating with IAP SEP, China Association of Science and Technology (CAST), Children’s Science Instructors (CACSI), Children and Youth Science Center of CAST (CYSCC) and the Institute of History of Natural Sciences (IHNS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, for development of this project. ECOSF is contributing to this project by facilitating the participation of renowned experts on Curriculum Design and Historians of Science and Technology from the ECO Member States in the development of this curriculum.



Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Workshop-on-Fusion-of-Civilizations>

**The 1<sup>st</sup> leg of Appidea2R Award Concluded at MUET, Jamshoro**

An impressive “Award Distribution Ceremony” for the winners of Appidea2R Contest was held at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. Ms Jehan Ara, President, Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT & ITES (P@SHA), Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Taha Hussain Ali along with Dr. Manzoor H Soomro, President, ECOSF graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. Besides a large number of students, families of the award winners, other partners of the Appidea2R Contest who attended the ceremony included Mr. Sayed Paras Ali, CEO, Technology Times (TT), Ms Hina Baloch. ECOSF was represented by Dr. Ghazanfar Abbas and Mr. Adnan Ali.



President, ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H Soomro in his usual style engaged the participants in his address and asked young students about the evolution process of SDGs that were introduced in 2016 from the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He also explained the difference between MDGs and SDGs as the process announcing SDGs included lots of joint efforts of all UN Member Countries therefore there is a complete consensus on achieving the targets of SDGs by 2030. Dr. Soomro also briefed the participants about ECOSF past, current and some future activities and encouraged students to regularly visit ECOSF website and participate in any other future program. He particularly indicated the “Teen Agers Makers Camp” that is scheduled to be held in China in December, 2017 where ECOSF has sponsored 4 teachers and 10 students from Pakistan, and few from other Member States including Turkey, Iran, and Kazakhstan.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Appidea2R-Ceremony>

**The ECOSF participates in the STEM Education Training for Asia-Pacific Region held at Bandung- Indonesia**

Five-day Training Workshop on STEM Education for Asia Pacific was held from 20-24, November 2017 in Bandung, Indonesia hosted by the SEAMEO (South East Asia Ministers of Education Organization, QITEP (Quality Improvement in Teaching and Education Personnel) Programme. The training workshop was conducted by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) and sponsored by Orica (an Australian Mining Company) that focused on addressing the key global challenges using the Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics (STEM) education incorporating inquiry based science education pedagogical approach.

The workshop used the STELR (Science and Technology Education Leveraging Relevance) model, which is the flagship Program of ATSE to raise awareness of the potential of STEM in developing solutions to critical issues such as climate change, energy, water and sustainability. The unique aspect of STELR model is to highlight the relevance of STEM education and encourage students for

consideration of STEM careers to address global challenges. The workshop was attended by 41 participants from eight different countries. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF participated in the training workshop.



The training workshop was opened by Prof. Dr. Tryanta, Director Center of SEAMEO QITEP in Science. In his opening remarks, he appreciated the ATSE for bringing in their expertise to promote STEM education in the Asia Pacific region. He said STELR project is significant for teachers to explore the principles of STEM education with special relevance to local challenges that could raise interest of students to choose science and technology tracks in their careers and help them make meaningful contribution. He encouraged all participants to fully contribute to this workshop and integrate acquired knowledge and techniques back into their classroom.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/STEM-Education-Training>

### President ECOSF calls upon the Vice President of Iran for Science & Technology at Tehran

During the Mustafa (pbuh) Prize week, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H Soomro took an opportunity to call upon the Vice President of Iran for Science & Technology Dr. Sourena Sattari at the Vice Presidency on December 02, 2017. Dr. Sattari warmly welcomed Dr. Soomro and highly appreciated the contributions of ECOSF towards promotion of Science and Technology (S&T) in the region. Dr. Sattari appreciated the efforts of ECOSF in coordinating and collaborating with Mustafa (pbuh) Prize secretariat and its continuous support to Mustafa (pbuh) Prize. In addition to Mustafa (pbuh) Prize, the promotion of S&T among young scientists also came under discussion. Dr. Sattari invited Prof. Soomro to further strengthen the ties among ECOSF and S&T based institutions in Iran especially with Iran National Science Foundation (INSF). Prof. Soomro warmly welcomed the proposal to establish collaboration among ECOSF, Vice Presidency and other institutions of S&T development working under it for S&T promotion in the ECO Region. The Vice President proposed to Dr. Soomro for organizing a youth festival for young scientists in collaboration with Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and ECO Cultural Institute (ECO CI) based in Tehran. Dr. Soomro warmly welcomed the proposal and later an exclusive meeting was coordinated with President of INSF Dr. Nosratollah Zargham on December 04, 2017 to discuss the proposal in detail.



Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Science-Technology-Iran>

**ECO Secretary General H.E Halil Ibrahim Akca paid a visit to the ECOSF Secretariat**

Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) H.E Halil Ibrahim Akca paid a visit to the ECO Science Foundation and met President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro and his team on December 12, 2017 during the 28th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC). H.E. Halil Ibrahim Akca was accompanied by Mr. Muqheet Shah Assistant Director ECO. Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro welcomed the H.E Halil Ibrahim Akca and appraised him of various initiatives and activities undertaken by the Foundation to promote Science, Technology and Innovation in the region. Prof. Dr. Soomro highly appreciated the continuous support of the ECO secretariat extended to the ECOSF for smooth functioning of the Foundation during their meeting.



During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Soomro also discussed a number of administrative issues with the Secretary General and sought his kind assistance towards resolving those issues in consultation with concerned ECO member states. Prof. Soomro also shared a number of collaborative programs launched by the Foundation for scientific and technological community of the ECO region that provide them an access to STI sector in other countries. ECO Secretary General H.E Halil Ibrahim Akca appreciated the efforts and initiatives taken by the ECOSF and assured the full cooperation and support of the ECO secretariat to boost STI in the region.

**ECO Secretary General and President ECOSF held a meeting with Chairman HEC of Pakistan**

ECO Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) H.E Halil Ibrahim Akca and President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro held a meeting with Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed on December 13, 2017 to discuss strengthening of institutional linkages among Higher Education Institutions of Pakistan and other ECO member States. Prof. Ahmad welcomed the distinguished delegates and briefed them about the various programmes and initiatives of HEC. Prof. Ahmed further appreciated the efforts and collaboration between ECOSF and HEC for promotion of STI including Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the region. H.E Halil Ibrahim Akca thanked and appreciated the on-going collaboration and programmes of HEC with ECOSF for uplifting of science education in the region. Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro highly valued the support and cooperation of HEC extended to ECOSF. All the parties looked forward to continued cooperation for promotion of science education in the region.



**Chair IAP-SEP, President ECOSF and the Vice Chair of CAST met in Beijing to discuss Cooperation**

During the Inaugural Ceremony of “Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop” at Beijing-China on December 18, 2017, a formal meeting was held between Vice Chairman of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) Prof. Xu Yanhao and President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro along with Chairman of Inter Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) Dato. Lee Yee Cheong. Prof. Xu Yanhao welcomed both the dignitaries and acknowledged the

support of ECOSF and IAP-SEP in mobilizing over 10 countries for participation in the Teenager Maker Camp and Teachers Workshop, and showed willingness for future cooperation with both the institutions. Dato Lee appreciated the initiative of the Camp by CAST and its subsidiary institutions especially the Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC) and assured the CAST Vice Chair for continued cooperation in future as well.



President ECOSF congratulated CAST and CYSC for initiating a strategic activity of Teenager Maker Camp for long term success of the Belt and Road Initiative and assured them for continued cooperation of ECOSF. He proposed to CAST to rely on ECOSF for implementation of its programmes under Belt and Road initiatives with reference to promotion of Science, Technology, Innovation and Youth programmes including the teenager maker camps in the future in ECO member countries and declare ECOSF as coordinating agency for the ECO Region. To this proposal, the Vice Chairman of CAST happily agreed to collaborate. In this regard, communication will continue between the two organizations.

After this meeting, a formal MoU was signed between ECOSF and Children and Youth Science Centre (CYSC) of CAST witnessed by the Vice Chairman CAST Prof. Yanhao, Dato Lee, the Deputy DG (International Affairs) of CAST and DG of Ministry of Science and Technology of China. The MoU was signed by President ECOSF and Director General of CYSC. Under the MoU, ECOSF will be a coordinating center for STI and science education in ECO region for CYSC-CAST and annually send young talents to attend science events. It would help in further exploring the possibility of working together on training and communication programmes of science teachers.

**President ECOSF meets the President of Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED) of MoST P.R. China**

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro along with Chairman of Inter Academy Partnership-Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP)/President of Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW) Dato. Lee Yee Cheong met the President of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Technology for Development (CASTED) of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) of China Dr. HU Zhijian at the Academy on 19 December 2017. Prof. HU enthusiastically welcomed the visitors and briefed them about the activities and programmes of CASTED which are focused on applied research and innovation. He mentioned that the famous Fujian innovation forum was initiated and launched by CASTED. In addition, CASTED has also developed Belt & Road Science & Technology Vision and Action Plan for its implementation in the Silk Route countries; however, he said that the Action Plan needs to be reviewed and updated.



Read more: <http://eco4science.org/CASTED>

**IAP SEP Global Council Chairman and President ECOSF meet the Director of Institute for History of Natural Sciences (IHNS) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)**

While in China, during the launching ceremony of the “Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop”, Chairman of the Global Council of Inter Academy Partnership-Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) Dato Dr. Lee Yee Cheong and President of ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro visited the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences (IHNS) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on 19 Dec 2017 and met the Director Prof. Zhang Baichun and his team.



The Director welcomed the visiting officials and gave a briefing on history and development of the institute. The IHNS was established in 1950s, which is unique of its own kind in the whole Asia Pacific region.

Dato Lee briefed Prof. Zhang Baichun about the joint efforts of IAP-SEP and ECOSF and the Chinese Institutions under the CAST for promotion of inquiry based science education (IBSE) and looked for stronger cooperation of IHNS of CAS in developing designing a global school curriculum for peace based on “Fusion of Civilizations”.

Dr. Soomro briefed Prof. Zhang Baichun about ECOSF, its programmes and activities for promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation and Science Education (IBSE) in the ECO region.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/IHNS>

**AETDEW President and Team meet the Director of International Cooperation Centre of NDRC of China**

President of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW) Dato (Ir.) Dr. Lee Yee Cheong and his team; Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF (Founding Fellow and Council Member), Prof. Zhong, XiYin of the Beijing University of Post and Communication (BUPT) and Prof. Han, Liquin from Beijing, both Fellows of AETDEW, met the Director of Silk Road International Production Capacity Cooperation Promotion Center/International Cooperation Center (ICC) of the National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) Mr. Yangjun Xie in his office on 19 December 2017.

Purpose of the meeting was to further discuss the collaboration between AETDEW and ICC NDRC for promotion of Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance and capacity building of local Engineers and Technicians along the One Belt One Road, in continuation of AETDEW meetings with ICC NDRC in July and September 2017. AETDEW had in July shared MoU with ICC NDRC for the proposed collaboration.

Mr. Yangjun Xie welcomed the AETDEW Team and gave a presentation on Belt & Road infrastructure development and on-going projects. He apprised the delegates of various programmes for promoting International University students in China and provide the foreign students with scholarships. Currently 6 million international students are studying in china, he said! He also shared their upcoming conference which will be held on 27 Dec, 2017 addressing the universities in Beijing as to what strategies should

be opted in teaching the foreign students from OBOR states considering they all have different backgrounds. The above mentioned conference was aimed at engaging entrepreneurs, as well as the public and private universities to come together for talent alliance, which was well appreciated by the visiting officials.

Regarding the under consideration MoU, Mr. Xie said that the proposal should have specific goals and programmes to be clear. The AETDEW will further work on the MoU and share with NDRC ICC in due course of time. It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF is partner in this project of AETDEW and ICC-NDRC in the ECO Region.



Read more: <http://eco4science.org/NDRC-China>

**President AETDEW along with President ECOSF meets with Executive Chairman of National School Sports League Robot Working Committee-China, in Beijing**

During the launch of inaugural “Belt and Road Teenager Camp and Teachers Workshop”, Dato Lee Yee Cheong, President Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW) along with founding fellows of AETDEW; President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Professor Han Liqun and Prof. Zhong Xiyin held a meeting with the Executive Chairman of National School Sports League Robot Working Committee-China Prof. He Chenguang on Dec. 19, 2017.

The Executive Chair warmly welcomed the visitors and apprised them of various activities and programmes being undertaken by the Sports League Robot Working Committee. He informed the delegates that the robotics is being promoted among children right from the beginning at the primary school level in China to equip them with right set of skills to combat future challenges. The working committee has established required facilities across the educational institutions in the country, whereby they are providing productive opportunities to students by organizing robotic competition to develop logical thinking and technological reasoning abilities among students at different education level across China.

It is pertinent to mention that through these robotic competition and activities, young minds are being engaged to develop and sharpen their skills in the field artificial intelligence, which as whole is actively promoted across China. Dato Lee and Prof. Soomro appreciated the initiatives and activities being undertaken by the Sports League Robot Working Committee and they proposed to Prof. He Chenguang to extend these activities to other countries along Belt and Road as a part of inquiry based science education (IBSE) programme being pursued by Dato Lee and Dr. Soomro in collaboration with CAST and its subsidiary organizations- CYSC and CASCI. Professor HE was positive to the proposal.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/National-School-Sports-League>



**Prof. Soomro delivered a lecture on "The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation in Economic Growth of Islamic Countries" during the Mustafa Prize (pbuh) Prize Celebrations held in Tehran**

As a part of Mustafa (pbuh) Prize programme, general and specialized conferences on the Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) Symposiums were inaugurated at Tehran University, Sharif University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University, Imam Sadiq University, Tarbiat Modares University and Tehran University of Medical Sciences in morning and evening sections. The events brought together renowned scientists and scholars from the Islamic Countries to deliberate on various strategic and thematic areas in these universities accompanied by professors, international guests and university students.



Day-long symposium on; "Islamic Economics and Banking" was held at Imam Sadiq University, on Dec 02, 2017. President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro delivered a lecture

on "The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation in Economic Growth of Islamic Countries". Prof. Soomro underscored that importance of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) which is critical driving force for socio-economic development of any country or region. He further stressed that in order for Islamic World to gain competitive advantage against other countries, focused research in science and technology is a critical factor. He established that Low Investment in STI by the Islamic World is a major factor attributed to underutilization of vast potential that exists in the Islamic Countries, he added. While focusing on The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he mentioned that STI is fundamentally important to achieve sustainable development since STI serves as a crucial driver of rising prosperity and the national competitiveness in accordance to UN SDGs 2030.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Mustafa-Prize1-pbuh>

**Presidents of ECOSF and INSF Discuss Cooperation for Promotion of STI in ECO Region**

While in Tehran for Mustafa (pbuh) prize ceremony, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro President ECOSF on the request of host authorities held a meeting with President Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) Dr. Nosratollah Zargham on December 04, 2017. Dr. Zargham welcomed Dr. Soomro and discussed in detail the proposal and working plan of a youth festival and briefed on the objectives and programmes of INSF in collaboration with ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and ECO Cultural Institute (ECO CI). Dr. Soomro then introduced briefly the aims and activities of ECOSF especially the International Cooperation and programmes for youth. He also shared "Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp and Workshop" being held in Beijing on 17-22 Dec 2017 in collaboration with ECOSF and invited INSF to send two of its officials to gain the special experience. Both the Presidents agreed of their full cooperation in strengthening the S&T based economic and industrial development in the ECO region with focus on young people.



Read more: <http://eco4science.org/ECOSF-and-INSF>

**The Collaboration between PARDIS Technology Park and ECOSF discussed by the Heads of respective organizations in Tehran**

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF along with the prize winners of the Mustafa (pbuh) Prize and other dignitaries paid a visit to Pardis Technology Park, Tehran on November 30, 2017. After the visit Dr. Soomro had an exclusive meeting with the President of Pardis Technology Park Engr. Mehdi Safarinia with the word of appreciation of the ongoing cooperation from both sides. Engr. Safarinia highly appreciated the efforts of ECOSF and Dr. Soomro for supporting Mustafa (pbuh) Prize and Noor Competition for young scientists and desired continuation of support. It was mutually agreed in the meeting to further strengthen the collaboration between both the organizations specially in the area of youth engagement. It is pertinent to mention that under the Mustafa (pbuh) Prize Secretariat a Noor Competition” on light among High school students was held in Iran last year. The competition highlighted and commemorated the discoveries of Al-Haytham the great Muslim scientist synonymised with light. It was also agreed to engage youth of ECO region in similar activities.



**4<sup>th</sup> International Water Conference: “Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Development & Businesses” organized by PCRWR and RIU in Islamabad - ECOSF participated**

Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) and Riphah International University (RIU) in collaboration with University of Haripur, Peshawar University, Abasyn University and SHFINT held 4<sup>th</sup> International Water Conference on “Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Development & Businesses” from 19-21 December, 2017 at PCRWR Headquarters, Islamabad.



The conference highlighted the critical water issues and challenges and to explore way and means for integrated water recourse development and management to attain sustainable development through scientifically-sound advice under the various themes.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission was the chief guest at the inaugural session. He appreciated the unique combination of government, educational and development sectors to highlight the most alarming issue of “water” and its challenges under changing climate. He apprised the audience about the ongoing projects of government to overcome the water

challenges that Pakistan is facing. He appreciated the efforts of Riphah International University, PCRWR and other academic and non-governmental organization in organizing thought provoking session on a challenging issue. Leading national and International Universities and R&D Organization, Water experts are participating in the conference through scholarly paper presentations. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the inaugural ceremony of the conference.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/4th-International-Water-Conference>

### **Pakistan District Education Rankings 2017 Launched by Alif Ailaan in Islamabad**

The Pakistan District Education Rankings 2017 was launched by the Alif Ailaan Education Campaign during an event held in Islamabad on December 14, 2017. A panel discussion was conducted during the launch ceremony the Pakistan District Education Rankings 2017. On behalf of ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro along with Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF participated in the event. Panel discussion was moderated by Alif Ailaan Campaign Director Mosharraf Zaidi. Following panellists participated in the panel discussion:



- Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Former Deputy Chairman Planning Commission of Pakistan
- Mr. Abdul Maalik Baloch, Former Chief Minister of Balochistan
- Ms. Shazia Marri, Member National Assembly of Pakistan
- Ms. Nargis Sethi, Former Secretary to the Government of Pakistan
- Mr. Rana Mashhood, Minister for Education, Government of Punjab
- Mr. Atif Khan, Minister for Education, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Ms. Shandana Khan, CEO Rural Support Program Network
- Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Senator, Government of Pakistan

Alif Ailaan has been launching district-based reports, which focus on education score keeping in view the access, retention, learning and gender parity in educational institutes across the country. This year's report was launched on the federal level in Islamabad, taking all the stakeholders from each province on board. The data from the rankings point towards the need for provinces to attend to the different levels of performance in education across their districts. One of the most urgent issues the rankings point to is the need for improved data regimes in the country. The rankings use official government data from across the country, along with data to assess the performance of districts in education.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Pakistan-District-Education-Rankings-2017>

### **ECOSF Award for SDG-6 (Water & Sanitation) given during the 3rd Invention to Innovation Summit held at UET Peshawar**

An ECOSF Award for UN Sustainable Development Goal-6 (SDG-6) was awarded during 3<sup>rd</sup> Invention to Innovation Summit held at UET Peshawar on 29-30 November 2017. The award was introduced to promote and achieve UN SDGs in ECO member countries. The summit has been organized annual all over Pakistan and ECOSF is among the supporters.

Assistant Director of ECOSF, Mr. Ghulam Abbas also attended the summit as an invited speaker in one of the session of the summit titles “Fund Winning Opportunities for Academia and Industry”. In his PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Abbas gave a brief introduction of the establishment of ECOSF and its aims & objectives. He also informed that the funding is being initiated by the Foundation for the research projects with priority to the Energy, Water, Space, etc fields. He also mentioned that Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) programme has been launched in ECO region and a good number of teachers, educationists, etc have been trained through capacity building workshops organized in France, Kazakhstan and Pakistan and more workshops on IBSE are being organized/planned in other ECO countries. Main activities organized and future plans of ECOSF were also shared with the participants.



Read more: <http://eco4science.org/3rd-IIS>

**Participation of ECOSF in the Panel Discussion on Water-related Disasters and Hydrological Changes organized by UNESCO Islamabad**

A Panel Discussion on Water-related Disasters and Hydrological Changes was organized by the UNESCO Islamabad on 15 December 2017 in Islamabad. The Purpose of the panel discussion was to provide intellectual input and thematic guidance for stakeholders to understand the present situation and make knowledgeable decision on how to address the water-related hazards in Pakistan. The event also marked the launch of “Multi-Hazard Early Warning Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)” developed by UNESCO Islamabad. Thematic areas of the panel discussions included floods, droughts, tsunamis, glaciers outburst floods and cyclones. On behalf of ECOSF, President ECOSF Professor Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro along with Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the event. The event attracted a number of participants from diverse backgrounds representing the government agencies, academia, disaster risk management professionals and development professionals.



Ms. Vebeke Jensen Director, UNESCO Islamabad welcomed all the panelists and participants to the panel discussion. Ms. Jensen expressed that natural disasters, particularly water related disasters have a huge impact on social and economic welfare in Pakistan. She called for developing a well-designed natural disaster management strategy for Pakistan in the backdrop of the recent severe natural calamities that have caused loss of billions of dollar to Pakistani economy. She stressed over development of effective early warning practices in the country and there is a need to link all stakeholders in a coherent manner. Ms. Jensen

shared that the SOPs for Multi Hazard Early Warning System has been developed on current practices and aims to support the capacity building of relevant authorities involved in disaster situations and provide the road map for future interventions.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Water-related-Disasters-and-Hydrological-Changes>

### Competition and Prize Distribution Ceremony of HSSSRP 2017 held

High School Summer Science Research Program (HSSSRP) was launched in the year 2013 to promote basic research and science at high school level. The basic idea behind HSSSRP is to expose off high school students to research methods and techniques during their summer vacations so that the scientific talent can be identified at early stage of their academic career. This annual programme is jointly run on voluntary basis by ECOSF, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad Professor Bushra Mirza and Pakistan Society for Computational Science and Biology (PSCB).



1<sup>st</sup> prize



2<sup>nd</sup> prize



3<sup>rd</sup> prize



Consolation prize

The programme provides opportunity to the students to present their scientific research/projects. This year (2017), a large number of students participated in the programme but after rigorous evaluation, the 10 projects were short listed.

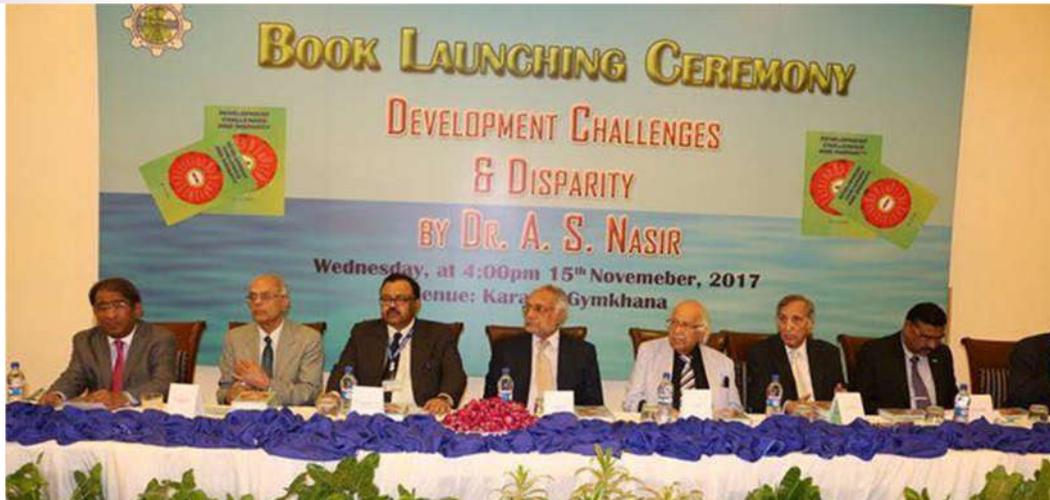
For the final selection of top three teams, a ceremony was organized by ECOSF, PSCB and Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU) on 29 December 2017 at SIBAU. During the ceremony, nine teams from Sindh and Punjab presented their innovative scientific projects. Keeping in view the set criteria, a three judge panel evaluated the projects/presentations.

The top winner teams were awarded the prize money of **Rs.25,000; 15,000 and 10,000** as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively; whereas, the mentors of the winning teams were presented the shields. A consolation prize of **Rs.5,000/-** was also awarded to Hasan Farooq from Roots Schools Vehari for his project "Role of Computer Science in Scientific Research". All the participants (students & mentors) were also presented certificates of participation. The prizes and certificates were distributed by the Registrar of SIBAU Engr. Zahid Hussain Khand.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/HSSSRP-2017>

### President ECOSF joined book launching as the main reviewer of the book "Development Challenges and Disparity"

The launching of a book; "Development Challenges and Disparity" by Dr. S. A. Nasir a veteran development expert associated with UNDP was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017. The book has been published by the Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Jamshoro Pakistan. The launching was presided over the Senior Minister of Sindh Government and the Minister for Planning & Development of Sindh province H. E. Mr. Mir Hazar Khani Bijarani. Guest of Honour was Prof. Dr. Shamsuddin Quresh the founder VC of MUET. Prof. Muhammad Aslam Uqaili incumbent VC MUET welcomed the guests. The man behind the program was none other than the dynamic Prof. Bhawani Shankar Chowdhry



President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro was one of 3 reviewers of the book. The book is comprehensive account of various aspects of “Development” particularly in the Developing countries. Author has very nicely put the prerequisites of Development right from Education and Participatory Democracy, the donors, spending of loans and the ills of corruption and many more. He highlights the importance of primary education and the key role of a teacher, the teacher training as well as he has defined what a university should be and presents his Ideal of a University. It’s a great contribution and very educative especially for the students and functionaries of Development sector. Dr. S. A. Nasir and MUET deserve a lot of applause for the contribution!

### Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

14 December 2017: Prof. Asghar Muhammadi Fazel, President ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST) and Advisor to Vice President of Iran for Environment called upon the President ECOSF at his office during the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Regional Planning Council of ECO in Islamabad. Both the leaders discussed the environmental issues of ECO region and joint programmes. The two ECO institutions are collaborating since 2014.



13 December 2017: Delegation of Iran led by H. E. Mr. Ali Khani, DG MFA and his Colleague Mr. Hosein Darveshi and the Director National Economic Research Institute of Azerbaijan Dr. Vilayat Valiyev along with Ms. Gavhar called upon the President ECOSF during the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Regional Planning Council of ECO in Islamabad. The delegates appreciated the Foundation’s efforts for promotion of S&T in the ECO region.



11 December 2017: President ECO Education Institute (ECOEI), Dr. Akif Kirecci called upon President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro to discuss mutual collaboration between the two organizations. Both the institutions are working together to promote science, technology and education in ECO region.



23 November 2017: Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayaz, Director National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi holding a meeting with President ECOSF to discuss the status of upcoming 5th International Workshop for Capacity Building in Nematology. ECOSF and NNRC are jointly organizing the said workshop at Karachi University from February 12-22, 2018.



08 November 2017: Prof. Ruijun Long (Programme Coordinator of ICIMOD and Professor of Arid Agriculture and Ecology at Lanzhou University, China) calling upon President ECOSF at his office and discussing the areas of collaboration between the organizations.



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

#### Invitation for nominations of members for the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel - deadline extended to 2 February 2018

IPBES invites nominations for Multidisciplinary Expert Panel.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Multidisciplinary-Expert-Panel-1>

#### "5th International Workshop for Capacity Building in Nematology" from February 12-22, 2018 at University of Karachi - Pakistan

"5th International Workshop for Capacity Building in Nematology" jointly organized by ECO Science Foundation, Pakistan Society of Nematologists, National Nematological Research Centre and University of Karachi from February 12-22, 2018 at University of Karachi - Pakistan.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/Nematology-1>

#### 2018 STEPI Fellowship

STEPI (Science and Technology Policy Institute) invites graduate students, scholars and researchers to apply for 2018 STEPI Fellowship. This program aims to encourage research on the issues pertaining to science, technology and innovation (STI) policy, and to build a research network among STI policy researchers and students around the world. The fellowship supports up to 5,000 USD for research on various topics of STI policies, preferably issues pertinent to East Asian countries. Research results from the fellowship support will be published in 'STI POLICY REVIEW' ([www.stipolicyreview.net](http://www.stipolicyreview.net)), an international journal focusing on STI policy issues of East Asian countries.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/2018-STEPI-Fellowship>

**International Symposium on Networks, Computers and Communications. 19-21 June 2018, Rome-Italy**

The International Symposium on Networks, Computers and Communications (ISNCC) will be held in the beautiful city of Rome, Italy from 19-21 June 2018, under the patronage of the Italian Space Agency (ASI). ISNCC covers theoretical and practical aspects related to Information Systems, Communication Networks and Computing Technologies.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/ISNCC-2018>

**International Multi Topic ICT Conference, April 25-27 2018**

IMTIC'18 is jointly organized by Mehran University of Engineering & Technology (MUET), Jamshoro, Pakistan, Erasmus Mundus LEADERS and Erasmus+ CAPRIO. IMTIC is an international forum for researchers to exchange the information regarding novel aspects of technology, applications and the development of value added services in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.

Read more: <http://eco4science.org/IMTIC-2018>