



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## Fusion of Civilizations- School Curriculum Design for Global Peace

China Association of Children's Science Instructors (CACSI), Children and Youth Science Center of China Association of Science and Technology- CAST (CYSCC), Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology (CSHST), ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Inter Academy Partnership – Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP) co-organized the 2017 International Forum on Science Education in Beijing, China on July 3-4, 2017. The forum focused on the theme of Fusion of Civilizations curriculum design for Peace and Harmony along the "One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative of China. Thus the Forum deliberated on the history of science education along the OBOR.



The Forum was well attended by more than 30 historians of science and curriculum development experts and managers from 11 different countries. The Forum included keynote speeches, presentations, field trip to ancient astronomical observatory and round table discussions on various themes of Curriculum Development and History of Science and Technology along the ancient Silk Route. ECOSF sponsored the participation of Curriculum Experts and Historians of Science and Technology from the ECO Member States viz., Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. On behalf of ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF along with Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the Forum.

The Forum was opened by Prof. Liu Depei, the President of Inter Academy Partnership (IAP) and Prof. Wang Qinglin, Deputy Director General of Department of International Affairs, China Association for Science and Technology. Prof. Liu Depei, in his welcome address appreciated the efforts undertaken by all the partners in co-organizing this Forum on the important theme of Science Education along the Belt and Road. Prof. Depei underlined this Forum will help develop meaningful relations and cooperation amongst various countries under Chinese President Xi Jinping's OBOR initiative.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H Soomro President ECOSF spoke in the opening session introducing ECOSF and its programmes and collaborations. He also contributed to discussions on various aspects of curriculum development based on Fusion of Civilization. He also moderated one of the Round-



Table Discussions on Fusion of Civilization Curriculum Development. In his address, Prof. Soomro thanked all organizing partners for their sincere contribution towards the successful co-organization of this Forum. Prof. Soomro introduced to the participants the role of ECOSF and its flagship programs, such as IBSE and establishment of S&T Fund to promote S&T development in the ECO region. With strong collaboration of Chinese partners under belt and road initiative, the Forum is potentially a great opportunity to develop a curriculum that promotes peace and contribute to the socio-economic development of countries along the Belt and Road, he said.



Dato Lee Yee Cheong, Chair IAP SEP Global Council and the Honorary Chairman, International Science Technology and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) made his keynote speech on “Children as Agents for Peace and Harmony through Inquiry based Science Education”. Dato Lee underlined that OBOR is the vision initiative of china that will transform economic and social and sustainable development in the sixty odd countries along the Belt and Road. He stressed for adopting the IBSE pedagogy for Children for teaching common humanity amongst cultivations and cultures to promote peace and harmony.

Mr. Li Xiaoliang, Executive Vice President of China Association of Children’s Science Instructors (CASCI) made his keynote speech on “Science Education and Cooperation along the “Belt and Road”. Mr. Xiaoling asserted that “The Belt and Road” initiative is aimed at carrying forward the Silk Road Spirit of “Peace and Cooperation, Openness and Inclusiveness, Mutual Learning and Mutual Benefit”, upholding the principle of joint discussion and joining hands with the rest of the world for common development. Promoting children’s science and technology education, improving future laborers’ scientific quality and cultivating scientific and technological are strategically important to contribute to economic and social development of countries along “The Belt and Road”, he said.



Prof. Sun Xiaochun, Acting Dean of School of Humanities, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences made his keynote presentation on the Connecting Force among Civilizations along the Silk Road. Prof. Sun presented a few examples of astronomical exchange between China and Islamic Countries in medieval times to illustrate the transmission of scientific knowledge between china and countries along the Silk Road.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/FUSION-OF-CIVILIZATIONS>

### Meeting of Chinese fellows of AETDEW held in Beijing

During the 2017 International Forum on Science education in Beijing, a meeting of Chinese fellows of The Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World (AETDEW) was held in Beijing at the hall of Science of China Association of Science and Technology. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the agenda points for a meeting of ATEDEW team with the China development and reform commission International cooperation centre in Beijing on cooperation of ATEDEW team with one belt one road initiative in infrastructure development and maintenance which was held later on July 05, 2017.



The meeting was chaired by President ATEDEW Dato Lee Yee Cheong. Two council members comprising of Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro of ECOSF and Prof. Mustafa el-Tayeb of Sudan, Dr. Athar Osama S&T Advisor to the Government of Pakistan and number of founding fellows from within China including Prof. Liu Xila, Prof. Mu Ping Shao, Xhao Yi Xin Zhong.

Dato Lee presented the proceedings of inaugural meeting of ATEDEW held during May, 2017 and shared the concept proposal and MoU to be discussed with the International cooperation centre of OBOR headquarter, National Development and Reforms Commission. In the meeting it was also decided with consensus that Prof. Xhao Yi Xin Zhong will take the responsibility of Chinese Chapter of ATEDEW.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Meeting-of-Chinese-fellows-of-AETDEW>

**Meeting of AETDEW Team with International Cooperation Centre of NDRC Commission**

A team of Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World (AETDEW) led by the President of AETDEW Dato Lee Yee Cheong along with the founding fellows of AETDEW including Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro of ECOSF, Prof. el-Tayeb of Sudan, Prof. Liu Xila and Prof. Yi Xin Zhong visited the International Cooperation Centre (ICC) of one belt one road (OBOR) National Development and Reforms Commission and held a meeting with their vice president and Deputy Director.



Team members of ATEDEW were introduced and Dato Lee introduced AETDEW, its establishment, aims and objectives and proposed to join hands with OBOR for infrastructure and maintenance. He then invited each member of his team to introduce their own organization to highlight the strength of ATEDEW team and their associated organizations.

On the part of ICC, the vice president explained the role of ICC and presented a power point presentation explaining the aims and objectives of ICC. They welcomed the offer of AETDEW for joining hands in the OBOR initiative. While discussing the MoU they indicated signing however it will be discussed with higher authorities of ICC and will be communicated to the chairman of Chinese Chapter of AETDEW.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/International-Cooperation-Centre>

**ECOSF partnered with KISTEP in co-organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Innovation Forum in Seoul, South Korea**

In partnership with ECOSF and S&T Policy Research and Information Center (STPI) from Taiwan, the Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP) organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Innovation Forum in Seoul, South Korea on August 29, 2017. The Forum focused on the themes on fostering creative talents, cultivating startup ecosystem and promoting green innovation for the sustainable future. The major goal of organizing this Forum was to address the key challenges facing Asia and to seek creative solutions, collaborative efforts for inclusive and sustainable growth in the region. The Forum provided a platform to seek new possibilities by bringing together innovation leaders, policy makers, researcher and STI program developers by sharing the knowledge and experiences in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the Asian region.



A large number of innovation leaders, policy makers and research scientists, scholars and representatives of leading STI organizations and academia from across the region attended the Forum. The Asian Innovation Forum is held annually, since launched in 2015 which brings together global leaders in their respective fields of STI to discuss and exchange ideas on various topics such as value creation in innovation economy, evidence-based policy making, sustainable development and inclusive growth. It is important to mention here that ECOSF is the founder member of the AIF and the Asian STI Think Tanks Networks (ASTN). On behalf of ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF and Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF participated in the Forum. During the Forum, Prof. Soomro also moderated and chaired one of the sessions on “Green Innovation for Sustainable Future” in the Forum co-organized by the ECOSF.



The Forum was formally opened by Dr. Kichul Lim, President of KISTEP. In his welcome address, President Lim acknowledged all the partners for their contributions to the Forum. Dr. Lim highlighted the AIF is a platform and the communication channel to identify national and global agenda for STI and address the challenges for emerging issues and sustainable development in the region. Dr. Myung-Ja Kim, President of Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies and Dr. Richard B. Dasher, US-Asia Technology Management Center, Stanford University were the keynote speakers.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/3rd-Asian-Innovation>

**President ECOSF participated in the ASTN Round Table Meeting as one of the Founder Members of ASTN organized by KISTEP in Seoul, South Korea.**

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF was especially invited to participate in the Asian STI Think Tanks Networks (ASTN) round-table meeting which was organized by the Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP) on August 28, 2017 in Seoul, South Korea. ECOSF became the founder member of this Network during its launch in 2015, which was established to provide a cooperating platform for institutes in Asia specializing in policy, research and education for science, technology and innovation (STI) for sharing and exchanging unique knowledge and experiences to enhance STI capacity of the region. This round table meeting was convened for the 3rd Asian Innovation Forum (AIF) to share the insights, review and discuss the achievements and prospects of the AIF that was scheduled next day on August 29, 2017. A total of 17 institutes from 11 countries across the Asia representing S&T policymaking, research and education are members of the ASTN. Whereas, three new members from Singapore, Taiwan and India joined this network during the meeting.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/ASTN-Round-Table-Meeting>



**President Soomro leads ECOSF and SAMEO delegation to meet KOFAC official for Collaboration in South Korea**

A delegation led by Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF and comprised of Dr. R. InderJani Director of SAMEO from Indonesia and Mr. Aphiya Hathem Deputy President of Science Museum of Thailand in Bangkok and Mr. Khalil Raza of ECOSF visited the KOFAC head quarter and met with Dr. Hyang Suk Cho, Director of Division for Creative Convergence Education and her team to assess the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) program and discuss possible cooperation areas for the future collaboration. The meeting was held at the head quarters of Korea Foundation for Advancement of Science and Creativity (KOFAC) on August 30, 2017 in Seoul, South Korea.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/KOFAC>



**ECOSF and SAMEO joint delegation visits Sangmoon High School in South Korea**

A joint delegation of ECOSF and Southeast Asian Ministry of Education Organization (SAMEO) comprising of Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF, Dr. R. InderJani Director of SAMEO from Indonesia and Mr. Aphiya Hathem Deputy President of Science Museum of Thailand in Bangkok and Mr. Khalil Raza of ECOSF, Dr. Muhammad Qasim and Mr. Zia Khan as an interpreter from Seoul visited Sangmoon High School on August 30, 2017 in Seoul South Korea. The visit to the school was facilitated by Ms. Na Yeon Lee and Mr. Jung Byoungho of Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science & Creativity (KOFAC). The delegation was warmly welcomed by Dr Kim Chang Don, Principal of Sangmoon High School (SHS). Dr. Don gave a brief orientation about its various education plans and programs being implemented by the school. SHS is one of the private schools in Seoul imparting quality education with especial focus on science and creativity with state of art laboratories and class-room accessories.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Sangmoon-High-School>



**ECOSF in partnership with UNESCO and PCRWR co-organized a Sub-Regional Experts Meeting on Groundwater Management**

The ECOSF in collaboration with UNESCO and Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), and the Ministry of Science & Technology co-organized a Sub-Regional Experts Meeting on Groundwater Management on August 3-4, 2017 in Islamabad. The objective of holding this meeting was to highlight the importance of sustainable use of groundwater and develop recommendations to address the key challenges of groundwater in the region. The Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken was the Chief Guest of the event. Mr. Maken underscored that the groundwater depletion is a major concern in the region, thus it needs integrated efforts by all the stakeholders to address this challenge. He appreciated the efforts of all the partners in joining hands together in organizing this crucial event. Prior to this, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PCRWR welcomed the participants and appreciated the effort undertaken by the partners in co-organizing this important meeting.



Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, the Regional Director for Asia and Pacific at UNESCO Jakarta office and Ms. Vibeke Jensen, Director UNESCO Islamabad office also graced the occasion. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro was invited as one of the Key Note speakers but he could not participate in the meeting due to his prior engagements. However, his key note message was read out to the participants, which emphasised on the efficient use of groundwater and development of effective groundwater management strategies for the sustainable development. This meeting provided an opportunity to key stakeholders to enhance the regional cooperation and collaboration to address the challenges. The meeting brought together expert scientists, engineers, water resources managers, and practitioners from ECO region countries. It is important to mention here that ECOSF sponsored the participation of three experts on Groundwater Management from the ECO region. On behalf of the ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza-Scientific Officer and Mr. Ghulam Abbas- Assistant Director (Admin and Programs) attended the meeting.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Groundwater-Management-1>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) Ankara was held on 26 July 2017 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. It was attended by the Ministers/Deputy Ministers for Education/Diplomats/Representatives of the host country Republic of Turkey, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus- the Observers of ECO. The Secretary General of ECO was also present in the meeting. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro along with the Assistant Director (Admin & Programmes) Mr. Ghulam Abbas also attended the meeting.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> BoT Meeting was preceded by a High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting earlier on 26 July 2017 under the chairmanship of Mr.Ufuk GÖKÇEN, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. The Assistant Director represented ECOSF in the HLEG meeting. The HLEG after having in-depth deliberations on the outstanding matters pertaining to the Institute prepared the Draft Report which was presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> BoT Meeting for consideration and adoption.



While HLEG was in meeting, the BoT members/Heads of Delegations were invited for a breakfast meeting by the Deputy Minister of National Education (MoNE) of Turkey H.E. Mr. Orhan ERDEM, followed by a Group Meeting and Press Briefing. Therein the Deputy Minister welcomed the guests and highlighted the plans of Turkey for supporting the ECO Institutions; the Secretary General of ECO was invited who made his remarks and invited President ECOSF to share his experiences on how to handle key matters for activating the ECO Educational Institute in Turkey. President ECOSF Professor Soomro thanked the hosts and Secretary General of ECO for the trust and highlighted the key actions to be taken by the Turkish Government for the institute. His suggestions included; provision of suitable office building, authority to newly elected President to take decisions and of course, provision of financial contributions by the member states mainly the host country. President ECOSF also mentioned how nicely the Government of Pakistan has been sponsoring and patronizing ECOSF in Islamabad. He also extended full cooperation of ECOSF to the ECOEI.

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro in his statement expressed thanks to the Turkish government for inviting ECOSF and for extending warm hospitality to the delegates. He congratulated the Government of Republic of Turkey, mainly the Ministry of National Education, for holding this meeting. Prof. Soomro highlighted the programmes and activities of ECOSF and extended full cooperation to the reactivated ECO Educational Institute in Ankara. He said that the Foundation in addition to promoting STI research, strives to strengthen the science base of the future generation as it contributes towards the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in the region following the inquiry based learning method- IBSE.



Read More: <http://eco4science.org/2nd-Meeting-of-ECOEI-BoT>

## The 1<sup>st</sup> International Exhibition & Festival on New Urban Technologies (ICS 2017) in Isfahan, Iran

"The 1<sup>st</sup> International Exhibition & Festival on New Urban Technologies (ICS 2017)" was held in Isfahan, Iran on August 4-7, 2017. This international exhibition was organized by New Technology Center of Isfahan Municipality and supported by ECOSF. The Exhibition and Festival was well attended by city managers of developed cities from all over the world and representatives of hundreds of knowledge-based companies from Iran and abroad. It provided an opportunity to experts, intellectuals in universities, industries, and technology development centers, policy makers and urban planners to identify and utilize new urban technologies to develop solutions focusing on their application in infrastructures and priorities of urban development of Isfahan.



The Chief Guest of the festival was Governor General of Isfahan city Dr. Rasoul Zargarpour. Mayor of Isfahan city Dr. Mehdi Jamalinejad was also present at the event. During the inaugural session, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro shared his thoughts on direct correlation between the school education and Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach, which has an enormous potential to bring innovation and boost technology development with a goal to develop new urban technologies and achieve sustainable economic growth.

On the second day of exhibition Prof. Soomro made a power point presentation entitled, "Catalyzing SETIENSHIP for Development of Innovative and New Urban Technologies for Sustainable Development". Prof. Dr. Soomro highlighted the importance of Science, Engineering, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SETIENSHIP), as these are the basic building blocks and key ingredients to develop new urban technology.

It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF also participated in the exhibition. The Foundation also sponsored participation from of two Universities from Pakistan in the Exhibition and Festival i.e. National Nematology Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi and University of Management & Technology (UMT), Lahore.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/New-Urban-Technologies>



## ECOSF, Planning Commission and UNESCO held a joint meeting to discuss and review the initiative of establishing Infrastructure Maintenance Capacity Building Center in Pakistan under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro along with Mr. Khalil Raza - Scientific Officer ECOSF and Mr. Raza Shah of UNESCO held a meeting with Member S&T of Planning Commission Dr. Athar Osama at the Planning Commission on August 16, 2017. The meeting was held to review and assess the initiative of establishing the China-Pakistan Technical and Vocational Education Training Program under One Belt-One Road initiative of China. The objective of development of this program is to train the local labor force to ensure the sustainability of mega infrastructure projects in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and transfer necessary technical skills to local manpower so that they become proficient to maintain these projects. This project is being developed under the initiative of Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW) based in Kuala Lumpur in collaboration with International Cooperation Center of National Development Reforms Commission of P.R. China. It is important to mention that Prof. Soomro and Dr. Osama are the Founding Fellows and Council



Members of AETDEW. The proposed project is aimed at establishing the Infrastructure Maintenance Capacity Building Center in Pakistan. This center would be first of its kind in the region to help build the capacity in infrastructure maintenance not only for Pakistan but also for other countries along the OBOR.

**Read More:** <http://eco4science.org/Capacity-Building-Center>

### President ECOSF met with delegates of Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities of U.S.A under the Patronage of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan

Higher Education Commission of Pakistan is developing a scholarship program under the project entitled “US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor” which plans to award approximately 10,000 scholarships over the next ten years. In this respect, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) has been contracted by USAID to assist the Government of Pakistan to assess the feasibility of this program. APLU is a research policy and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of over 236 public universities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The feasibility study team from APLU U.S.A visited Pakistan to hold consultative meetings with various stakeholders of higher education and S&T organizations to develop the feasibility and provide recommendations to the HEC. In this connection, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was especially invited to participate, engage in the consultative process and meet with APLU study team on August 11, 2017 at HEC.



Prof. Soomro enlightened the delegates about the crucial role of ECOSF and its contributions towards strengthening the education sector across all levels not only in Pakistan but the other ECO member states. Prof. Soomro stressed that the primary education is the foundation and building block that needs to be given high priority in order to achieve the goals of quality higher education with induction of more qualified students into the tertiary education system. Dr. Soomro underscored that Inquiry Based Science Education is an effective pedagogical approach, which is key to improve the quality standards at primary education.

**Read More:** <http://eco4science.org/Association-of-Public-Land-Grant-Universities>

### President ECOSF visited Ferdowsi University of Mashhad

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Husain Soomro along with Executive Director (elect) of ECOSF Professor Seyed Komail Tayebi paid a visit to Ferdowsi University of Mashhad on August 06, 2017 and held a meeting with Dr. Mohammad Kafi, President of Ferdowsi University. Head of International Academic Relations Department, Vice Presidents of Humanities & Academics and Research & Technology, Deans of various Departments of the University were also present in the meeting. They warmly welcomed the ECOSF delegation led by Prof. Soomro and showed them around the university including the laboratories of agriculture, animal sciences and food science technology.



Prof. Soomro made a power point presentation of establishment, aims and activities, programmes and international partners of the Foundation. University management and faculty were encouraged to be benefited from ECOSF programmes and activities. The meeting ended with exchange of souvenir from both the Presidents.

During his visit to Mashhad, Dean Faculty of Economics from University of Sistan and Balochistan Dr. Mosayeb Pahlavani paid a special visit to Prof. Soomro. He had specially come to meet the President ECOSF on the desire of Governor of Sistan and Balochistan province of Iran.

**Read More:** <http://eco4science.org/Ferdowsi-University>

### Delegation led by President ECOSF meets the President of University of Isfahan

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Husain Soomro along with Executive Director (elect) of ECOSF Professor Seyed Komail Tayebi and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, NNRC, University of Karachi visited University of Isfahan (UI) and held a meeting with the President of UI Dr. Talebi. Both sides discussed in detail the ways and means of developing collaboration between University of Karachi and University of Isfahan.

Both sides briefed each other about their activities and university programmes. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz shared the draft MoU with Dr. Talebi. It was agreed in principle that the two universities will sign MoU, however team of Isfahan University will review and send back the MoU to be signed by the vice chancellor of University of Karachi and under the patronage of ECOSF as the third signatory of MoU. The delegation was also shown around the university and visited the laboratory of biology to assess the scale of technology and infrastructure to establish the collaboration in biological sciences between the two universities.

### President ECOSF visits Isfahan Mathematics House

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Husain Soomro along with Executive Director (elect) of ECOSF Professor Seyed Komail Tayebi and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, NNRC, University of Karachi visited Isfahan House of Mathematics during their participating in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Exhibition & Festival on New Urban Technologies (ICS 2017) on August 04, 2017 in Isfahan. The delegation was shown around the Isfahan Mathematics House by Dr. Ali Rejali, the team leader of Isfahan Mathematics House. He gave a brief introduction about the history, establishment, goals and achievement of the house. Isfahan Mathematics



House was established with a goal to advance mathematical sciences and stimulate the interest amongst the students. The House is a playground for non-conventional education, also serves as an information center for history of mathematics and a place to familiarize young students with various mathematical sciences through observations, collaboration and benefiting from different information resources.

Prof. Manzoor Soomro asked Dr. Rejali to extend its cooperation and support to other ECO member states in developing such a concepts at grass root level, to which he happily agreed. The ECOSF would strive to expose some of the interested institutions and individuals to visit and interact with Isfahan Mathematics House for replication and establishment on the same lines in their own countries.

**Read More:** <http://eco4science.org/Isfahan-Mathematics-House>

### President ECOSF held a virtual meeting with Smithsonian Science Education Center - USA

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President, ECOSF held an online meeting with Ms. Katherin Pedersen Blanchard of Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC) on August 22, 2017. SSEC is based in Washington D.C. USA, which works to improve the teaching and learning of science for K-12 students using Inquiry Based Science Education throughout the United States, and globally across 25 countries. SSEC develops innovative new curriculum, conducts Summer Science Academies for Teachers at the Smithsonian museums and labs, and fosters science education leadership among school and community leaders. SSEC provide support to school education systems in the US and across the globe through Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) model, which leads to higher student achievement in science and improved science teaching and learning. The meeting was held to discuss possible areas of cooperation between ECOSF and SSEC.

Both sides agreed to cooperate with each other to promote the culture of Inquiry Based Science Education, and introduce innovative teaching methodologies to stimulate curiosity among students, which is key to success for future generations. Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro emphasized on the need to shift the culture to Inquiry Based Science Education whereas the curriculum can be a key to promote "Global Peace and Harmony" by educating children about different cultures and civilizations to nurture future generations to show them that all humans are same under the skin and no culture or civilization is superior or inferior than others.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Smithsonian-Science-Education-Center>

### President ECOSF held a meeting with Prof. Pardhan at the Aga Khan Institute of Education Development (IED) of the Aga Khan University in Karachi

President ECOSF Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro held a meeting with a renowned scholar and educationist Professor Pardhan and his young colleagues Dr. Tasneem Anwar and Dr. Sadia Bhutta at the Aga Khan Institute of Education Development (IED) of the Aga Khan University in Karachi on July 28, 2017. During the meeting both sides discussed the educational programs of ECOSF and IED and possible cooperation for promotion of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in Pakistan and beyond in ECOSF member countries. Both sides agreed to cooperate.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/meeting-Prof-Pardhan>



### President ECOSF held a meeting with Professor M. Iqbal Chaudhary Director -ICCBS and Professor Shahina Fayyaz Director – NNRC at Karachi

President ECOSF Professor Manzoor Soomro met with Professor M. Iqbal Chaudhary Director of International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences-ICCBS and Professor Shahina Fayyaz the Director of National Nematological Research Centre-NNRC of the University of Karachi Pakistan on July 28, 2017. ECOSF and the two institutions are organising an international conference on Organic Chemistry 6-10 Nov 2017 and an ECO Regional Training workshop in Nematology on 14-26 Nov 2017 in Karachi.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/ICCBS-NNRC>



**Mega Summer Science Exhibition held at Sukkur IBA**

Sukkur IBA in Collaboration with Community Development Program (CDP), Planning and Development Board, Government of Sindh organized a three-week 'Summer Science Camp'. The purpose of organizing this camp was to impart Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) to the students to explore the hidden potential among the students of government schools to become future scientists and technologists. A three-week Summer Science Camp concluded on July 31, 2017 at the Sukkur IBA with a Mega Exhibition, where students displayed over 50 innovative projects developed during the course of this summer camp.



The President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was the Chief Guest of the event. Prof. Soomro appreciated the efforts of the Sukkur IBA and CDP, Government of Sindh for organizing this Science Summer Camp and the exhibition. During his remarks, he emphasized over the importance of critical thinking and inquiry based learning by youth as well as by the communities. Prof. Soomro visited various stalls where students had displayed their innovative scientific projects. He highly encouraged the students and appreciated for their curiosity and hard work they had put in developing these projects. The exhibition was well attended by students, parents, science enthusiasts and people from civil society where they visited the stalls and keenly observed their projects.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Science-Exhibition>

**International Workshop on “CPEC Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation & Silk Roads Disaster Risk Reduction” held in Islamabad**

An International Workshop on “CPEC Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation & Silk Roads Disaster Risk Reduction” was held in Islamabad on 17-18 July. The Workshop was jointly organized by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Institute of Mountain Hazards & Environment of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Karakorum International University. The major objective of this workshop was to formulate a mechanism and provide disaster risk reduction strategy for the infrastructure projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Forum was opened by the Jie Zhang, the Vice President of Chinese Academy of Sciences and whereas, Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Federal Secretary for Ministry of Science and Technology was the Chief Guest of the event. Prof. Jie Zhang in his Keynote speech highlighted the importance of disaster risk management strategy for the infrastructure projects. Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken in his keynote address, commended the efforts undertaken by the partnering organizations in bringing together international experts and scientists from various regions of the world to work together on development of the disaster risk management strategy.

On behalf of the ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF along with Mr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF participated in the event and interacted with the experts.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/CPEC-Natural-Hazards-Risk-Assessment>



## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Astronomical Silk Road: International Workshop on Astronomy and Archaeoastronomy in China and Central Asia. Urumqi, China

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Astronomical Silk Road: International Workshop on Astronomy and Archaeoastronomy in China and Central Asia was held in Urumqi-China from July 6-9, 2017. The workshop was organized by Xinjiang Observatory, under the auspices of Chinese Academy of Sciences. Prime focus of the workshop was on the astronomical discoveries along the Silk Road, exploration of the ancient astronomical documents on the Silk Road, the spread of astronomical knowledge between Eastern and Western, astronomy and the Western Civilization and the history of astronomy of minority nationalities in Xinjiang. Experts from China, Asia, Iran, Hong Kong and Pakistan participated in the workshop and exchanged their research on Astronomy and Archaeoastronomy. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited as a keynote speaker. He made a presentation entitled, "The Role of ECOSF in promoting Astronomy along the Silk Route Linking China and the ECO Countries with Focus on Central Asia".

Prof. Soomro highlighted that Astronomy has played an important role in the formation of civilizations; it is even possible to assess the level of economic, technological and scientific development of a nation based on its state of astronomical advances. The use of astronomy became fundamental for taking important decisions in the agriculture, navigation and religious rituals. He further highlighted that Astronomy is one of the first Science used for education as sky-gazing by children and has always been universal

On behalf of ECOSF, Prof. Soomro at the end proposed collaboration between China and ECO Region especially networking with the ECO member states observatories especially the Maragheh in Iran, Ulugh Beg in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. He also assured Xinjiang observatory full support and cooperation to boost ties and cooperation in the field of Astronomy between China and ECO Countries particularly Central Asian States.



Read More: <http://eco4science.org/2nd-Astronomical-Silk-Road>

## President ECOSF Visits Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory in Urumqi

While being in Urumqi-China during the 2nd Astronomical Silk Road: International Workshop on Astronomy and Archaeoastronomy in China and Central Asia, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro took the opportunity to visit Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory on July 06, 2017. Prof. Soomro held a brief meeting with the Director of observatory Dr. Na Wang, and other colleagues. In principle it was agreed upon to join hands with the observatory of ECO member states emphasizing that some of the oldest observatories were established and developed in ECO member states i.e Iran, Turkey, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (Samarkand).



Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Xinjiang-Astronomical-Observatory>

### Prize Distribution Ceremony of Pakistan Science club's Summer Camp 2017

Pakistan Science Club (PSC) in collaboration with ECOSF organized a two-month 'Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)' summer camp in Karachi. STEM summer camp provided an amazing opportunity to students for hands-on learning experience with an insight to explore the logics behind scientific phenomenon and concepts taught in the schools. The camp consisted of two modules each comprised of 4 weeks. Each week had a special theme dedicated to pioneering scientists and technologists in the field of science and engineering. The students were awarded with theme badges at the end of each week. It is important to mention that ECOSF fully sponsored the participation of meritorious and competent students in the STEM Camp, which included the registration fee and provision of training material.

The STEM Summer Camp concluded on August 20, 2017 where certificates to the participants were distributed. In the concluding ceremony President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited as the Chief Guest. In his address, he congratulated Pakistan Science Club, participants, teachers and above all the parents who came along with their children and encouraged them to be a part of summer camp. Prof. Soomro highly appreciated the concept of inquiry based activities in the summer camp. Prof. Soomro stressed over the importance of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE), as it is a key to develop a strong foundation for teaching STEM subjects. In the end, Prof. Soomro distributed certificates to all the participating children. He also interacted with them and highly encouraged for their enthusiastic participation in such scientific camps and events.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/Summer-Camp-2017>



### Proposal for Strengthening of the FDSK Interactive Science Gallery in Collaboration with ICCBS and ECOSF

The Foundation for Diffusion of Scientific Knowledge (FDSK) Interactive Science Gallery under the patronage of International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) in the Maritime Museum Karachi is a show-case of the promise of informal science learning. The gallery aims to present Science and Technology in ways to entertain, educate and inspire the children and youth to appreciate and undertake scientific inquiry and research, as well as it motivates parents and entrepreneurs to invest in scientific and technological education and research, paving the way for a brighter and a more prosperous future. Current exhibits at the gallery are Water orchestra, Oil tanker, Submarine, Vortex, Anti-gravity mirror, Dam and river, Water weight, Archimedes screw, Alchemies buoyancy, Bernoulli



blower, Critical angle, Lens table, Infinity mirror, Wind generator, Kiosk, Sever, Sport light, Planets, Gyro scope, Hand battery, Water rocket, Downhill race, Reaction time, Pulley, Gear, Flow formation.

ICCBS intends to strengthen the current exhibits with more biological exhibits such as: A DNA model to understand Molecular Biology of Life; Lungs experiment with or without smoking; A pumping heart model; Compound microscope with LED display to show microbial life in action; Gel Electrophoresis as Molecular Biology Science Activity. In this respect, ICCBS requested the support of ECOSF and a subsequent visit was paid by Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF to the Interactive Science Gallery. There he held a meeting with Director General of the Museum and also the managing team of ICCBS. The Foundation is considering ICCBS proposal and looks forward to extending support for strengthening of Interactive Science Gallery of different science subjects. The Foundation is also considering promotion of Houses of Mathematics in member states including Pakistan in collaboration with the Isfahan Mathematics House in Isfahan, Iran.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/FDSK>

### Summit and Expo "70 years of Development Journey" organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms of Pakistan

A three-day Summit and Expo on "70 Years of Development Journey" was organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms of Pakistan on August 17, 2017 as a part of 70th Independence Day celebrations of Pakistan. The major objective of the expo was to highlight the achievements made in different sectors of the economy during last 70 years and to sensitize the youth about their future responsibilities. Deputy Chairman Planning Commission H. E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz and Minister for Interior H. E. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal took part in the summit.



More than 1000 people including intellectuals and youth of Pakistan also participated in the summit. H.E Mr. Ahsan Iqbal in his address rightly related to story of Pakistan with Charles Dickens's "The Tale of Two Cities"! He emphasized that political stability and continuity of policies is vital for the sustainable development in the country. He encouraged over 60 million youth of Pakistan towards Entrepreneurship and to play their part in the development of Pakistan. Along with other intellectuals President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro also joined in the summit.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/70-years-of-Development-Journey>

### The 14<sup>th</sup> ASIALICS Conference concluded at Tehran with a commitment to enhance more collaboration and grow scientific exchange in the area of innovation learning and technology co-evolution

The 14<sup>th</sup> ASIALICS Conference 2017, held in Tehran from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2017, concluded with a commitment to enhance more collaboration and grow scientific exchange in the area of innovation learning and technology co-evolution. ECOSF was the co-organizer/supporter of the conference. The theme of this conference was "technological learning, innovation, and coexistence in the context of international interactions".

ECOSF has played an important role in bringing together researchers from ECO member countries for this conference. According to Prof. Ebrahim Souzanchi, this collaboration with ECOSF will go a long way in contributing to scientific research output of ECO member countries. Prof. Yalman Ansari from COMSATS, who presented his work on Sustaining Business Models for the start-ups at the conference, appreciated the efforts of ECOSF for nurturing the scientific community by enabling researchers to contribute from ECO member countries.



The conference was the first of its kind organized in West Asia with participation from countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. As ASIALICS Conferences have been providing a useful learning forum for both industry and academia, the conference will continue to work on achieving its new milestones with the next year's conference in China.

Read More: <http://eco4science.org/14th-ASIALICS-Conference-1>

**Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF**

**24 July 2017:** Mr. Darkhan Nursadykov, Counsellor of the Embassy of Kazakhstan visiting ECOSF and meeting the President ECOSF at his office to discuss the communication channels of Kazakhstan with ECOSF.



**02 August 2017:** Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director UNESCO Asia – Pacific, Jakarta meeting with the President ECOSF at his office and discussed the ongoing collaboration and future programmes of both the organizations.



**09 August 2017:** Chairman PCRWR, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf held a meeting with President ECOSF at his office to seek the collaboration of ECOSF for numerous activities especially in water sector.



**10 August 2017:** Prof. Dr. Ikram-ul-Haq, Director ORIC, GC University Lahore visiting ECOSF and meeting the President ECOSF.



**18 August 2017:** Dr. Tasneem Anwar, Assistant Professor (Science Education) at The Agha Khan University Institute for Educational Development met with President ECOSF and his team.



**24 August 2017:** Prof. Zabta Khan Shinwari Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) met with President ECOSF and discussed the collaboration between ECOSF and PAS. The organizing of the meeting of Global Council of Inter Academy Partnership-Science Education Programmes (IAP-SEP) in Islamabad next year was also came under discussion.

