

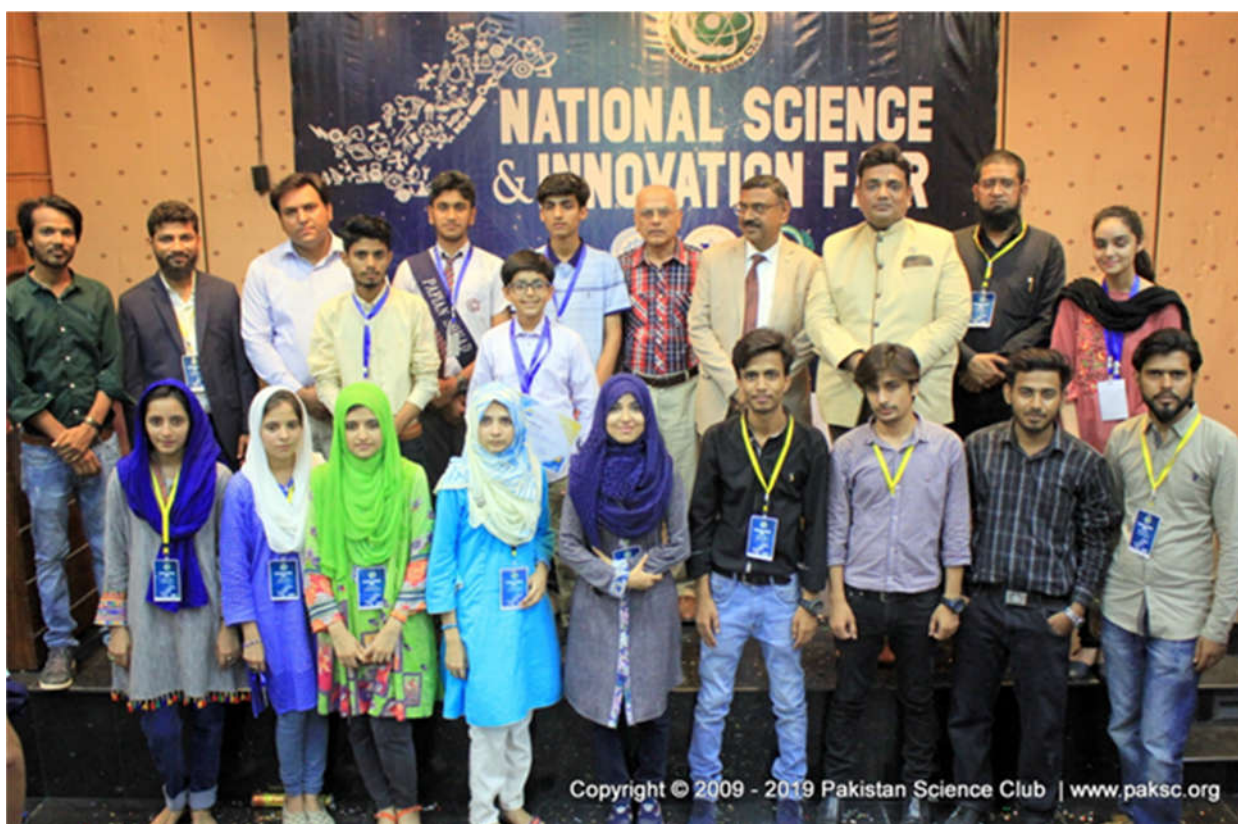


# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## ECOSF and PSC successfully organized National Science & Innovation Fair 2019 at Karachi, Pakistan

National Science & Innovation Fair 2019 was successfully organized by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Pakistan Science Club (PSC) in collaboration with Usman Institute of Technology (UIT), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and others. The purpose of the Fair was to provide an opportunity and exciting challenge to the students of aged 12-20 years to participate and display their novel ideas and projects. The science talent searched through NSIF'19, would represent Pakistan at international level mainly in the 34<sup>th</sup> China Adolescent Science, Technology and Innovation Competition (CASTIC) to be held in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July 2019 at Macao- P.R. China. Participants from all over the country were invited to present and contest their independent research in various fields of science and technology for the solution of local and global science and engineering issues. NSIF not only contributed towards the social development of the participants but also helped them to think in a rational way to explore the possibilities for the betterment of society using scientific concepts and innovative approaches.



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Prior to the event, a series of workshops was conducted to spread awareness about the event and to encourage talented young students to participate and bring out their talent to make this world a better place. The workshops were not only conducted in schools and colleges but online sessions were also carried out by PSC for the guidance of students in far flung areas.

A large number of students along with their mentors, teachers and families participated and witnessed the competition among different schools. Some 30 prospective projects were shortlisted out of over 500 registrations. Shortlisted candidates were from different schools and colleges of Pakistan.

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony whereas Dr. Prof. Sikander Shirwani (Professor Federal Urdu University), Parkash Lohana (Professor UIT), Bhawani Shankar Chowdhry (Professor Mehran University of Engineering and Technology- MUET Jamshoro), Dr. Zaheer (Director UIT), Partab Shivani (President Thar Education Alliance)



witnessed the competition as Special Guests. Three best candidates were selected for participation in 34<sup>th</sup> CASTIC sponsored by ECOSF and its partner China Association for Science and Technology (CAST).

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/National-Science-Innovation-Fair-2019-1>

#### **International Symposium by LAMAP Foundation on “One Decade of International Cooperation in Favour of Science Education in the World” held in Paris. President ECOSF attended as an Invited Speaker**

Above International Symposium was organized by *La main a la pate* (LAMAP) Foundation of France at the Foundation Del Duca of the Academy of Sciences of France in Paris on 21 June 2019. IBSE-STEM experts, members of International Advisory Committee of LAMAP and leaders from across the global network of LAMAP including Prof. Bruce Alberts (USA), Prof. Lee Yee Cheong (Malaysia), Prof. Rosa Deves (Chile), Prof. Guillermo Fernandez (Mexico), Prof. Hideaki Koizumi (Japan), Prof. Fritz Hahne (South Africa), Dr. Amadou Kone (Mali) and Prof. Soomro (Pakistan) spoke in the International symposium and shared their experiences and testimonies. Purpose of the symposium was to review and recall the history of IBSE in the world and initiation of *La main a la pate* in France and beyond in the French speaking as well as in other networked friendly countries.

The symposium was opened by the President of LAMAP Prof. Daniel Roun who welcomed the participants of the 10th LAMAP seminar and the members of International Advisory Committee and briefly shared the milestones of LAMAP. Afterwards, one of the co-founders of LAMAP Prof. Pierre Lena made a power point presentation on the establishment and the phase-wise development of the IBSE-LAMAP programme in France. He also spoke on the legacy of the Founder Prof. Georges Charpak (Late) (Nobel Prize winner in Physics) and subsequent progress of the programme including its expansion outside France. Subsequently, Dato Lee Yee Cheong, Honorary Chairman ISTIC Malaysia; Prof. Bruce Alberts, the Chairman of LAMAP’s International Advisory Committee and former President of National Academy of Sciences of USA and many other experts including Prof. Manzoor Soomro presented their experiences, ideas and thoughts.

Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro mainly presented his synthesis of the concluded international LAMAP seminar and a brainstorming session as well as his own testimony and experiences in the symposium as highlighted below.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/International-Symposium-by-LAMAP>





**Contributions of ECO Science Foundation acknowledged by the global IBSE Players**

The Contributions of ECOSF in science education have been acknowledged by the global Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) Players – *La main à la pâte* Foundation of France in its new publication **“Our International Expertise”**. LAMAP is the initiator of the IBSE approach and with their collaboration as partners ECOSF launched its IBSE programme in ECO Countries from Astana (Nur Sultan)-Kazakhstan in 2015 and has been expanding it in ECO region.

It is worth mentioning that the IBSE programme of LAMAP was initiated by Nobel Laureate Georges CHARPAK in association with his colleagues Prof. Pierre Léna and Prof. Yves Quéré in 1996.



**Meeting of International Advisory Committee of LAMAP held at Paris. Prof. Soomro joined as member**

Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECOSF has recently been inducted as the member of International Advisory Committee of *La main a la pate* Foundation of France and this was his first meeting. The meeting was held at the headquarters of LAMAP Foundation and chaired by the President of the International Committee Prof. Bruce Alberts from USA



The meeting decided that in future, the LAMAP Foundation should focus on the following areas:

1. Emphasis on multidisciplinary curricula and approaches
2. Social media communication
3. Focus on scientific and critical thinking at primary and secondary schools
4. Promotion of Houses of Science [which are basically the centres for hands-on learning of school teaches, mainly in universities but supported/sponsored by industry and/or NGOs.
5. LAMAP would have 24 new Pilot Centres with focus on 3-D printing and 1,2,3... coding. Each Pilot Centre to have 10-20 schools around to benefit.
6. Opening "Science World"; it is a new activity concept, wherein the scientists of Academy of Sciences, universities and research institutions would interact with children and parents on public education and literacy about their scientific research and development.
7. Office of Climate Change Education (OCE) of LAMAP Foundation will focus on SDGs in their training modules etc.

Finally, a recommendation of International Advisory Committee to the Government of France authorities was formulated and signed by all the members, which will be sent out by the President LAMAP with his letter subsequently.

**Presidents of ECOSF and AETDEW call upon the Deputy Director General of UNESCO**

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro and President of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of Developing World (AETDEW) Dato Lee Yee Cheong called upon the Deputy Director General (DDG) of UNESCO H.E. Prof. Xing QU at his office in Paris on June 19, 2019. .

During the meeting, President ECOSF introduced the Foundation and its programmes as well as international linkages with UNESCO, International Science, Technology and Innovation Center under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) Malaysia and China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and offered ECOSF's continued cooperation in ECO Region. Dato Lee and Dr. Manzoor Soomro also apprised the DDG who is a Chinese national, on the engagement of the two in China's Belt and Road Programs. Professor Soomro also presented to DDG UNESCO the book of Five Years Journey of ECOSF.

Mr. QU was very positive and supportive of ECOSF initiatives and expressed happiness that the Foundation as well as Prof. Soomro and Dato Lee (in their personal capacity) are working closely with UNESCO.



It is pertinent to mention that Prof. Soomro was in Paris as an Invited Speaker in the LAMAP International Symposium on Science Education and attending the meeting of International Advisory Committee of LAMAP. Thus, he availed the opportunity and called upon the High officials of UNESCO.

**Meeting of Presidents of AETDEW and ECOSF with the former DG UNESCO Ms. Irina Bokova in Paris**

In the late afternoon on 19th June 2019, an informal meeting of Dato Lee Yee Cheong President AETDEW and Prof. Manzoor Soomro President ECOSF was held over a cup of coffee with the former Director General UNESCO H.E. Ms. Irina Bokova. Dato Lee and Prof. Soomro shared with her the ongoing programmes of ISTIC Malaysia, AETDEW and ECOSF based in Pakistan, including the IBSE-LAMAP cooperation, the LAMAP Office of Climate Change Education (OCE) and the programmes under the Belt & Road Programme of China. She was requested for her help to the two institutions especially the IBSE-LAMAP for girls using her personal goodwill with world leaders. She was quite happy and appreciative of the efforts of ISTIC and ECOSF, and assured of her possible support.



**A visit to Pilot Centre of Cave School in District 18 of Paris by Dato Lee and Prof. Soomro**

Dato Lee Yee Cheong and Prof. Manzoor Soomro visited the Cave Primary School in district 18 of Paris, basically to discuss collaboration for promotion of developing an IBSE-LAMAP Pilot Centre initially in Pakistan and Iran and subsequently in other ECO member countries as the programme expands further. This was attempted in the light of a Memorandum of Understanding between ISTIC and Cave School through the LAMAP Foundation. The pilot centre is necessary for supporting teachers in preparing activities for teaching science subjects the LAMAP-IBSE way. The two visitors met the Director/Principal and responsible teachers involved in collaboration with Malaysia. They showed willingness to work with ECOSF and Pakistani schools in establishing IBSE Pilot Centres if so supported under the MoU between ECOSF and LAMAP Foundation of France.



**President ECOSF explored Cooperation with Cite des sciences et l'industrie, Universcience Paris**

Ms. Caroline Turre from the Direction of International Affairs of Cite des science received Dr. Soomro on 18 June, gave him a round of the interactive exhibitions and then the two sat together to discuss possibility of cooperation and support of Cite des science to TDF (The Dawood Foundation) and its Science Centre under construction in Karachi Pakistan.





It was agreed in principle by Ms. Turre that the cooperation is possible, however she said that it would depend on what sort of assistance is required by TDF; whether the Universcience management would agree and where the funds would come from? Meanwhile, she said that she would apprise her higher authorities and the matter would subsequently be discussed with the officials of Embassy of France in Pakistan to decide on specific technical support. On inquiry as to whether Cite des science conducts trainings of science communicators so as to build the capacity of institutions of ECO countries in science communication, Ms. Turre informed that they do conduct a school in “science facilitation” for science communicators and thus the training could be possible. It was also revealed that Palais de covre (Discovery

Museum) will begin closing next year (2020) and fully close by the year 2024 and the exhibits would be moved-out. Thus there might be a possibility of acquiring some exhibits for TDF Science Centre in Karachi Pakistan.

Dr. Soomro therefore proposed that upon his return back to Pakistan, he would debrief the French Embassy colleagues in Islamabad and encourage them to visit Cite des science during their forthcoming visit to Paris for discussion on possible support from Universcience to TDF in Pakistan.

#### Meeting of President ECOSF with Leadership of Centre Sciences (CCSTI), Orleans, France

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro visited the Centre Sciences on 17 June 2019. Received by Mr. Guy-Antoine DUFOURD Senior team member, Prof. Soomro was given a round of the Science Centre and explained its current as well as future activities. Dr. Soomro was also taken to an ongoing students’ workshop on Mathematics, whereby after theoretical discussions, students were to prepare some practical activities for teaching others. During the visit Mr. Dufourd informed that they are currently busy in preparing an exhibition entitled; “Mathematics of Planet Earth” which focuses on Mathematics for Sustainable Earth and highlights the importance of Centre of earth, weather, climate, water and soil etc. It was further informed that the interactive exhibition is mainly organized by the Centre of Doctoral Training (CTD); whereby Ph.D. scholars as a requirement of their Ph.D. degree, have to develop public education activities based on their findings.



After the round, the two sat together and discussed possibilities of cooperation between ECOSF, as well as through ECOSF with The Dawood Foundation (TDF) in Karachi Pakistan and Science Centres in other ECO countries. TDF has developed an interactive exhibition of around 20 activities for non-formal education of children in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); it is called “MagnifiScience Children’s Studio”. TDF is also in process of establishing an interactive Science Centre-cum-Science Museum just on the pattern of Cite des sciences et l’industrie in Paris.

CCSTI Orleans agreed in principle to support to and collaborate with ECOSF, initially in Pakistan starting with TDF in Karachi by; lending a travelling exhibition entitled, “Artificial Intelligence: the computer mind” and training TDF staff in Karachi Pakistan.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/CCSTI>

**President ECOSF meets with Assistant Director General (Natural Science) UNESCO Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle in Paris**

Prof. Manzoor Soomro along with Academician Dato Lee Yee Cheong, the Honorary Chairman of ISTIC Malaysia and member of UNESCO's Broadband Commission met the Assistant Director General (Natural Science) UNESCO Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle at her office. She was assisted by Mr. Ahmed Fahmi the Programme Specialist, Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building. The ADG Ms. Bedouelle warmly welcomed Dr. Soomro Dato Lee and showed her keen interest in working together with ECOSF to pursue common goals of UNESCO and ECOSF. Dr. Soomro briefed her on the on-going cooperation of ECOSF with UNESCO Pakistan, UNESCO Cluster offices in Tehran and Almaty as well as with UNESCO's Regional Science Bureau for Asia and Pacific in Jakarta. The ADG appreciated the on-going cooperation between the two institution and assured of cooperation in future as well.

**The Leadership of LAMAP and ECOSF Met for Continuation of the Cooperation**

In the evening of 20 June 2019, a meeting was held between President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro and the President LAMAP Foundation Prof. Daniel Roun assisted by Ms. Laurence Constantini, the head of LAMAP International Cooperation. Purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of last three years of cooperation between the two organizations and discuss future cooperation for signing new MoU. Other matters discussed included; organization of 3rd Follow up workshop on IBSE at Sukkur IBA in Pakistan, capacity building of teachers/coordinators of the schools managed by Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) and The Dawood Foundation in Pakistan, 3<sup>rd</sup> follow up workshop on IBSE in Iran and Launch of IBSE in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan LAMAP.

Both the organizations took stock of the past three years and discussed continuation of the cooperation. It was agreed by both parties to extend the cooperation further with addition of the Climate Change Education in the IBSE-LAMAP Programme in ECO Region starting with Pakistan and Iran. It was mutually agreed that LAMAP office will revise the MoU accordingly and share with ECOSF for feedback and subsequently signed as mutually convenient under the patronage of the Embassy of France in Pakistan.

Regarding review workshops and facilitation by the French Trainers, it was pointed out by the LAMAP team that travelling of LAMAP trainers depended on their availability, their willingness to travel to Pakistan and taking care of the expenditures by either the local organizers or ECOSF or any other sponsor such as French Embassies in those countries as the LAMAP itself does not have any financial provision.

It is worth mentioning that the IBSE programme was launched in ECO region in 2015 under the leadership of Prof. Soomro and subsequently programme was expanded in other countries of the region which has successfully been running in Pakistan and Iran.

**President ECOSF facilitated the last Plenary Session of 10<sup>th</sup> LAMAP International Seminar on Science Education in Schools at Paris, France**

The 10th International seminar of LAMAP was held on 17-20 June 2019. Prof. Manzoor Soomro was invited by the organizers to facilitate the final plenary session on the essentials of a successful and sustainable IBSE programme and prepare recommendations to be presented in an International Symposium to be held by LAMAP Foundation the next day 21 June 2019. Accordingly, Dr. Soomro facilitated the session with the participants of 10th LAMAP International seminar.

**ECOSF participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Humanities Forum "The Great Steppe" organized by International Turkic Academy (TWESCO)**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Social Science Forum "The Great Steppe" was organized by Turkic World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization (TWESCO) also known as "International Turkic Academy" in Nur Sultan (Astana), the capital city of Kazakhstan on June 24, 2019. The Forum brought together renowned scholars of Turkic history and culture, prominent statesmen, ambassadors and diplomats, as well as the executives of International organizations, to discuss the significance of cultural values of Eurasian and Turkic nations in the development of human civilization.



The major objectives of holding this forum were to find answers to pressing issues of the contemporary world, to accentuate the growing significance of the Turkic world in international arena and to provide a platform for discussion and communication and dialogue between renowned scholars who conduct systematic research on various aspects of ancient and contemporary Turkic World. Over 250 eminent scholars, scientists, prominent statesman and figures from 21 countries of Europe, Asia and America participated in the event.

Deputy Chairman of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan Zhanseit Tuimebayev was the Chief Guest. The President of TWESCO, Dr. Darkhan Kydyrali welcomed the guests and speakers from around the Turkic World. In his welcome speech, President Darkhan Kydyrali emphasized that the Great Steppe witnesses historical genealogy of people of Eurasia and unites the east and western civilizations, adding that new ideas and conclusions had a positive effect on the globalization process in the Great Steppe.

On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the forum and delivered his speech on “Significance of Participatory Engagement of Youth for Promoting the Cultural Values of the Great Steppe”. Mr. Raza underlined that the Great Steppe experienced the booms and busts of many eras and civilizations, many of its signs still resonate to this day. He further stressed for the need to learn and study about human civilizations so that one should develop an in-depth understanding about who we are and how we have evolved to the present day. He deliberated that great Steppe gave birth to one of the greatest minds, intellectuals and philosophers of the world civilizations, such as, Abu Nasr al-Farabi, Khoja Ahmet Yassawi and Ulug Beg etc. There is a lot to learn from the historical events of the Great Steppe. Therefore, it is important to inspire our younger generation to learn from the history, cultural values and traditions of Great Steppe to take inspirations from certain historical events to motivate the youth to follow the great legacy of Turkic Civilizations, he added. Mr. Raza concluded that in order to preserve, promote and appreciate the cultural and traditional values of Turkic Civilizations, youth should be given special attention by providing them participatory engagement opportunities.





**KAZGUU University in collaboration with ISTC organized an Executive Course on Export Control supported by the EU**

International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) organized an Executive Course on Export Control in collaboration with M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University which was held in Astana (Nur Sultan) from June 17-28, 2019. The participants from ISTC member countries as well as other ECO member countries; Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Armenia and Georgia participated in the executive course. The course outlined the core concepts of export control, including the very basic knowledge about Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) weapons, the international treaties, regulatory frameworks, science and technology transfers, threats and risks assessment, etc. On behalf of ECOSF, its Scientific Officer Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the course and contributed to various group discussions and table top exercises during the event.



The aim of the workshop was to exchange the best practices, to pose questions and promote the latest achievements in theoretical and empirical research in the field of export controls. The experts and specialists from Central Asia and the Caucasus, as well as the European Union took part in this workshop. Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders, Dr. Kai ilchmann and Dr. Maria J. Espona conducted this executive course as resource persons and offered their valued insights into CBRN, dual-use and export control.



The group exercises during the course helped the participants to identify binding international treaties and conventions, and their corresponding significance on the development of national legislative and regulatory frameworks on export control. It is important to mention that national laws and effective regulation measures can potentially promote the legitimate use dual use technologies (tangible and intangible) while at the same time preventing the deliberate and inadvertent transfer and production of CBRN material or technologies.

**Current Status of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea**

*Courtesy of Eurasian Research Institute*

*Written by Erkinai Ongarova*

Since the signing of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea during the Fifth Summit of the Caspian Littoral States held in Aktau on August 12, 2018, a number of important steps and measures have been taken to further develop cooperation in the Caspian Sea. As of today, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan have ratified the Caspian Convention, but Russia and Iran have not yet completed the ratification process. During the summit, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov suggested holding the next Caspian summit and the First Caspian Economic Forum in Turkmenistan in 2019. However, the proposal to organize the Caspian summit was not adopted, while the forum is scheduled to be held on August 12, 2019 in Turkmenistan, and preparations are already under way.

The Turkmen parliament ratified the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea on December 1, 2018, and the presidents of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan ratified the document on February 8 and 22, 2019 respectively. The implementation of the convention now depends on when Russia and Iran will complete their internal ratification procedures. It should be noted that in September last year Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry Igor Bratchikov expressed hope that no state would deliberately extend the ratification process. According to Bratchikov, the early entry into force of the convention was in the interest of all the parties, given that the convention took into account national interests of all the Caspian littoral states. Based on this statement, it seemed that Russia would soon implement the ratification process. However, Moscow has not yet taken any concrete steps towards the ratification.

Read more: <https://eurasian-research.org/en/publications/e-bulletin>

**Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page****Extension of deadline: Call for nominations of experts to IPBES Task Forces**

The deadline for nomination of candidates to the five IPBES task forces (policy tools and methodologies; scenarios and models; capacity-building; knowledge and data; indigenous and local knowledge) has been extended to **24 June 2019** with the deadline for the confirmation of nominations by Governments and organizations extended to **8 July 2019**. The information on the task forces and the nomination process can be accessed [here](#).

Please support the IPBES process by disseminating this call for nominations widely. The expert review of the first order drafts of the currently ongoing IPBES assessment on values and of the IPBES assessment of the sustainable use of wild species are scheduled as follows:

- Assessment on values: 29 July – 22 September 2019
- Assessment of the sustainable use of wild species: 26 August – 20 October 2019

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/Extension-of-deadline>

**The 13<sup>th</sup> IEEE International Conference on Application of Information and Communication Technologies (Aict2019)**

The AICT2019 is one of the most significant international academic conferences in the field of ICT application, which draws together researchers, academics, practitioners around the world to exchange, reveal and promote the latest advancements and technologies in regards of the Application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in in cross-sectoral areas.

Researchers, practitioners and distinguished speakers are invited to submit the original research papers and to make proposals of speeches addressing technical issues, challenges, best practices and technological solutions.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/AICT2019>

**Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF**

**June 12, 2019:** ECOSF facilitated a meeting between Turkmenistan Ambassador H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov and representative of business community of Pakistan for socio-economic development in the region.

