

ECOSF NEWSLETTER



President ECOSF Made a Courtesy Call Upon the New Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi made a Courtesy Call upon the New Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam at the Embassy on 27 June 2023.

Prof. Tayebi welcomed the Ambassador for his new assignment and hoped that under the new portfolio, the relations between Pakistan and Iran and other ECO countries will be more strengthening.

President ECOSF briefed the Ambassador about ECOSF and said that ECOSF was established in December 2011 but began its formal functioning in June 2013. He is 2nd President of the Foundation whereas, 1st and Founding President was Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro from Pakistan. Since the establishment, the Foundation has undertaken variety of scientific activities in member countries in the fields of Science, Technology, Innovation, Engineering, Science Education, Science Diplomacy, etc, in its Member Countries. Iran is the most beneficiary of ECOSF activities after Pakistan, President ECOSF added.



Prof. Tayebi highlighted the role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) saying that STI is very critical for social-economic development of any nation or region. He further highlighted that the countries who invest more on STI, enjoy significant developments.

President ECOSF also discussed the issue of transfer of budgetary funds from Iran and requested for the provision special intervention/support to resolve the matter. Prof. Tayebi also briefed about Technology and Trade Exhibition and Conference (TTEC) to be organized next year in Islamabad. President ECOSF invited companies, industries, tech startups, etc of Iran to participate in the event and asked the support of Iranian Embassy in this regard.

H.E. Dr. Moghaddam highly appreciated the role of ECOSF in promoting STI activities in ECO region. The Ambassador said that Iran is the founding and key member of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) who also hosts the headquarters of ECO, thus, ECO and its allied organizations and institutes are very much supported/cooperated by Iran. He also assured his maximum possible support to ECOSF specially to resolve the issue of transfer of funds from Iran; which is mainly due to international embargo on Iran.

President ECOSF Meets Secretary Abdullah Khan Sumbal to Enhance Regional Cooperation in Science & Technology

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) delegation, led by President Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, held a significant meeting with Mr. Abdullah Khan Sumbal, the newly appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan. The meeting, which took place on June 19, 2023, aimed to discuss the core objectives of ECOSF and explore avenues of collaboration to advance regional cooperation in science, technology, and innovation within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) region.



President Prof. Tayebi briefed Secretary Sumbal about the fundamental goals and mandate of ECOSF, emphasizing the Foundation's commitment to fostering scientific research, technological advancements, and cooperation among ECO member countries. The President expressed his gratitude for Secretary Sumbal's positive response and the assurance of due patronage and support extended to ECOSF.

The meeting concluded with Secretary Sumbal expressing his enthusiasm for collaborating with ECOSF and his commitment to supporting the Foundation's initiatives. He acknowledged the importance of regional cooperation in science and technology and expressed his willingness to leverage his position and network to facilitate the promotion of Science and Technology among Pakistan and other ECO Member Countries. The other members of the ECOSF delegation were Executive Director Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon and Engr. Khalil Raza, the ECOSF Program Manager, welcoming Mr. Abdullah Khan Sumbal, the newly appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan.

ECOSF and AIOU agreed to strengthen joint collaboration in STI

The Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood visited the Secretariat of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) on June 7, 2023. He was cordially greeted by President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi on his maiden visit to ECOSF. The VC AIOU was accompanied by Dr. Irshad Ahmed, Dean Faculty of Sciences, AIOU.

During the meeting, both sides discussed areas of joint collaboration to achieve shared goals of the two organizations. The Vice Chancellor AIOU briefed about the University and said that was established in May, 1974, with the main objectives of providing educational opportunities to masses and to those who cannot leave their homes and jobs. Prof. Mehmoos also shared that the University is one of the biggest University of Pakistan with presence of 54 regional centers all over the country. As per United National's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No.1, AIOU is at 25th Number all over the World, the VC added. He also highlighted main programmes and initiatives of the University.



Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi appreciated the role of AIOU for provision of higher education to the people of Pakistan. He further introduced ECOSF by highlighting its establishment in December 2011 with the aims and objectives to promote science, technology and innovation-based activities leading to the economic development in ECO region. He also shared that since start of formal functioning in June 2012, the Foundation has been contributing in STEM education through Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methodology, climate change education, STI policy, engineering qualification standardization, science diplomacy, developing collaboration with regional and international organizations, facilitating networking/collaboration between the scientific organizations/institutes of ECO countries, etc. in ECO region.

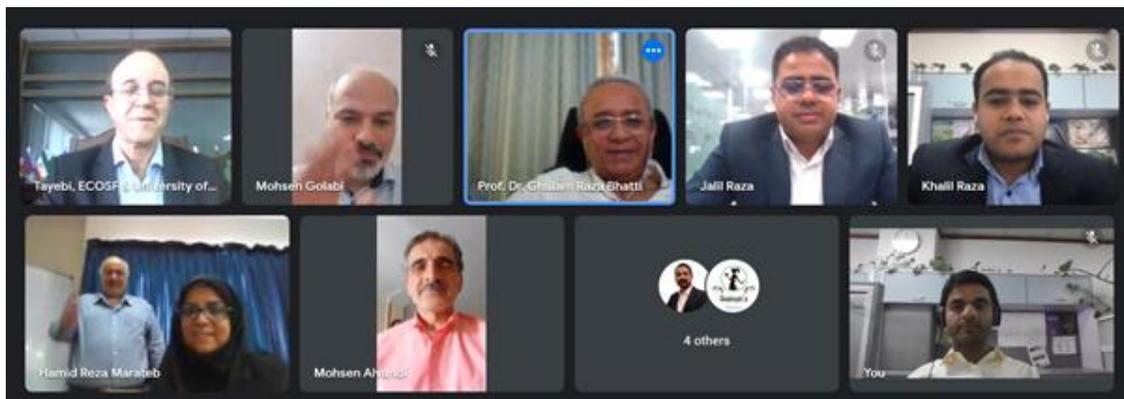


President ECOSF offered AIOU to develop long term collaboration in E-learning, STEM education through IBSE, Climate Change, Development of Mathematics House at AIOU, etc. He also shared that ECOSF is going to organize Technology and Trade Exhibition and Conference (TTEC) in February 2024, in Islamabad. TTEC would essentially provide a platform for universities, businesses, technology companies, organizations from the Member Countries to showcase their latest scientific knowledge, technologies, products, and services to network and to learn from each other with a grand vision to promote and strengthen cooperation in important areas of Science and Technology (S&T). Taking the opportunity, President ECOSF also invited AIOU University to join as collaborator.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Mahmood thanked ECOSF for inviting to AIOU to join in the important regional programmes of the Foundation and committed the maximum possibility for joining in various programs of ECOSF. He also invited ECOSF to participate in different initiatives of AIOU. To formalize the collaboration, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was proposed to be signed between both the organization. As an immediate step, both sides decided to host the Summer Science Camp to promote science literary and STEM education in July 2023.

ECOSF and UI with support of UNITEL Hosted a Successful Workshop on AI and e-Learning in Engineering Courses

The ECO Science Foundation in collaboration with the University of Isfahan, Iran and the UNITEL Project organized an insightful workshop on ‘Artificial Intelligence (AI) and e-Learning in Engineering Courses’. The hybrid event was held on June 6, 2023 and brought together experts, scholars, students and academic leaders to explore the potential of AI in transforming the educational landscape.



The workshop featured two experts; Dr. Hamid Reza Marateb from the University of Isfahan and Engr. Jalil Raza from the Pak-Austria Fachhochschule - Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology (PAF-IAST) Pakistan who shared their insights and knowledge on various themes related to the integration of AI in online learning. The event was moderated by Dr. Azam Naghavi, an academic member of University of Isfahan.

Join us in the Workshop on
"Artificial Intelligence and e-Learning in Engineering Courses"
 Venue: Council Hall, Faculty of Engineering, University of Isfahan
 Tuesday June 06, 2023 (16/03/1402), 8:00-10:00 am (Iranian local time, GMT+3:30)
 Meeting Link: meet.google.com/jcd-roxt-gii

Dr. Hamid Reza Marateb, University of Isfahan, Iran

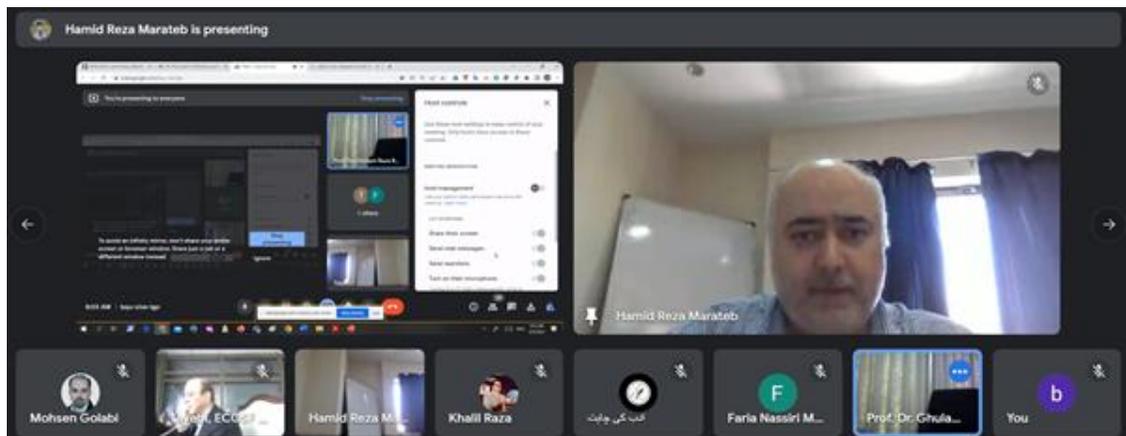
- Artificial Intelligence Innovations in Online Learning
- The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Learner-Instructor Interaction in Online Learning
- Learning analytics

Engr. Jalil Raza, Pakistan-Austria Fachhochschule-Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology (PAF-IAST) Pakistan

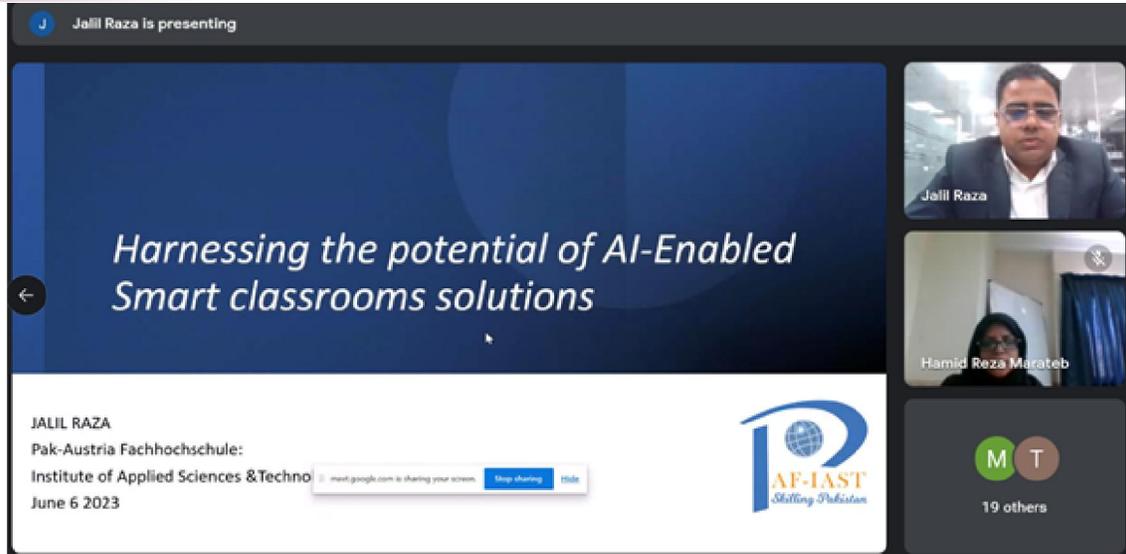
Transforming Education: Harnessing the Potential of AI-Enabled Smart Classroom Solutions

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Dr. Marateb from the University of Isfahan in his presentation underlined many aspects of AI, including use of AI in online learning, learning analytics and its impact on the instructor-learner. He emphasized that AI could enhance and improve the online learning experience for learners. He further highlighted many beneficial aspects of AI, such as personalized learning, adaptive learning systems, virtual assistants, and automated assessment. He also demonstrated live the application of AI as a Teaching Assistant (TA) while using GPT to deliver important tasks on the subject. Dr. Marateb also underscored the limitation and concerns of AI in the education. He concluded that while AI has many potential benefits, but it also poses serious concerns about data privacy and other ethical issues which needs to be addressed and needs special attention.



Engr. Jalil Raza delivered his presentation on ‘Transforming Education: Harnessing the Potential of AI-enabled Smart Classroom Solutions’. Engr. Jalil shed a light on the broader impact of AI in education. He underlined that AI has the potential to address both quality and access to education by integration of AI technologies. He further went on to demonstrate the application of smart boards, smart classroom solutions that have been deployed at the PAF-IAST and have had created positive impact on learning for students. He also highlighted the use of virtual reality as an application of AI to create dynamic and immersive learning environments, particularly for those topics and experiments which are otherwise challenging to conduct in a classroom environment. Mr. Jalil Raza concluded that in order for the AI to transform the education, stakeholders and institutions need to work together on developing right framework on curriculum, learning spaces and address the ethical challenges.



After the presentations by experts, participants actively participated and contributed to the discussions during the engaging Q&A session. The enthusiasm and keen interest displayed by the participants underscored the significance of AI and e-Learning in education.

In the end, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi was invited to deliver his concluding remarks, emphasizing the significance of AI in revolutionizing the future of education. Prof. Tayebi expressed his gratitude to the speakers, participants and organizers for their active participation and contributions to the workshop. Prof. Tayebi also commended the experts for their remarkable insights and underscoring their crucial role in shaping the future of AI-enabled e-Learning in engineering courses.



President ECOSF visited Kohsar University Murree

The President of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, accompanied by Mrs. Tayebi and Mr. Ghulam Abass Rahar the program manager for administration, visited Kohsar University Murree, Pakistan on June 1, 2023. He was warmly welcomed by Prof. Dr. Syed Habib Ali Bukhari, Vice Chancellor of Kohsar University Murree along with Additional Director, International Linkages Dr. Sara Sarfaraz and Deputy Director Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan.

During the visit, the introductory presentations about the University were made. It was shared that Kohsar University has designed different programmes and courses keeping in view the local area and its needs. The Vice Chancellor also shared that Murree is a hill station covered with lush green and tall trees which is the main source to attract tourists all over the world. Thus, the University is focusing on three main programmes: Environment, Tourism and STEM Education.

He further said that Kohsar University Murree currently offers undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate programs in various fields including Business Administration, Computer Science, Education, and Social Sciences.



Prof. Tayebi thanked the Vice Chancellor and the Faculties for sharing information about the University. Prof. Tayebi also introduced ECOSF through a PowerPoint presentation. He shared that the Foundation has been working in the field of Science Technology and Innovation (STI) leading to economic development in ECO region. He also shared main programmes of the Foundation such as Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE), E-learning, Climate Change, Engineering Qualification Standardization. President ECOSF further said that the Foundation has developed good linkages with regional and international organizations which enables ECOSF to participate and nominate scientists for various international programmes.

He also shared that ECOSF is going to organize Technology and Trade Exhibition and Conference (TTEC) in February 2024, in Islamabad. TTEC would essentially provide a platform for universities, businesses, technology companies, organizations from the Member Countries to showcase their latest scientific knowledge, technologies, products, and services to network and to learn from each other with a grand vision to promote and strengthen cooperation in important areas of Science and Technology (S&T). ECOSF aims to host this conference and exhibition as its flagship and regular programmes to provide an opportunity for the Member Countries to explore new trade and investment opportunities and strengthen existing partnerships. The conference component of this event can provide a forum for academia, government officials, industry leaders, S&T professionals, and experts to discuss and exchange ideas on how to promote sustainable economic growth, regional integration and address pressing challenges in the ECO region. President ECOSF also invited Kohsar University to participate to the TTEC along with other local tech companies.

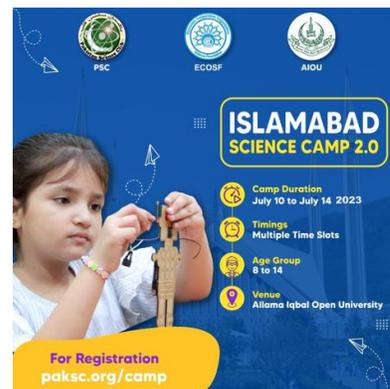
Later, President ECOSF interacted with students and faculties. He appreciated the various programs being offered by Kohsar University Murree, particularly the STEM education.

At the end, Prof. Tayebi thanked Prof. Bukhari for the kind hospitality and invited him to visit ECOSF Secretariat to further the collaboration.

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

Islamabad Summer Science Camp – 2023

This year also, Islamabad Summer Science Camp – 2023 is being organized by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan Science Club (PSC) and Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) from 10-14 July 2023 at AIU Main Campus. The Students and Children are invited to attend the Camp. The Camp will provide exciting hands-on projects. The participation will be through registration and the registration can be done using following link: www.paksc.org/camp. The registration will be done first come, first server basis.

**Forum on China-Central Asia Forum on Digital Innovation and Governance**

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) is organising the Forum on China-Central Asia Forum on Digital Innovation and Governance. This ground-breaking event is set to take place on July 05, 2023, during the Global Digital Economy Conference (GDEC) in Beijing, China. The Forum is being co-organized by ECOSF, Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU), China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), and CAREC Institute, aims to promote dialogue and cooperation in the field of digital innovation and governance between China and the ECO Member countries.



This Forum holds immense significance as it provides a platform to learn from China's remarkable progress in digital transformation. It also highlights the importance of the ECO region within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), fostering stronger ties and promoting socio-economic growth in the region.

CISTRAT Training Workshop 2023

International Training Workshop on STI Policy Research and Method in Belt and Road Countries will be held from 15 July to 3rd August 2023. The Workshop will be organized virtually by Chinese Academy of Sciences and Technology (CASTED) under its CISTRAT Center. ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and CASTED have collaborations which provide opportunity to send nominations from ECO countries in any training of CASTED/CISTRAT. The Participation is free.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/CISTRAT-Training>