



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



2nd International Conference on Green University held at University of Isfahan, Iran



The 2nd International Conference on Green University was held on April 30 to May 1, 2019 at the University of Isfahan, Iran. The conference was opened by the Acting Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Iran H.E. Mr. Abdolreza Bagheri with the presence of the Heads, Administrative and Financial Deputies and Civil Engineers of Research Centers and Science and Technology Parks.

The two-day conference attracted a number of experts and scientists who shared their experiences and best practices in the field of sustainable development with special focus on sustainable campuses. The conference provided an opportunity to participants to present a comprehensive landscape of environmental conditions, policies and sustainable development in universities of different countries.

The conference highlighted various themes and concepts on sustainable campuses using GreenMetric system. The GreenMetric system assesses six key dimensions of environmental infrastructures, energy and climate change, waste water management, water, transport, and education in the universities. The GreenMetric system was launched by Universitas Indonesia in 2010 in order to present a comprehensive overview and policies related to environmental issues and sustainable development in universities worldwide.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited as the keynote speaker. In his presentation, Prof. Soomro highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the Foundation to promote STI as a whole but specifically the science education with focus on sustainability and green concepts in the universities and campuses in the ECO member states, in line with SDGs. Prof. Dr. Soomro emphasized over the need to transform universities into green and sustainable campuses. It is crucial to stay competitive in a greener world and it is important to implement sustainability management into all



economic sectors including universities and schools, he said. Prof. Soomro also stressed that the sustainable approach tends to increase operational efficiency, reduce waste and optimize the resources, which is helpful to improve business and process productivity. He also proposed establishment of an "Office of Sustainability" in universities to coordinate the many planning initiatives, projects, networking, and monitoring of the program's progress in achieving its goals.

Prof. Soomro further underscored that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education coupled with Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach, is the key to achieve sustainability in all spheres of life. ECOSF strives to promote STEM education through IBSE approach in the ECO region. Our youth and young students are required to be trained with such skills that have the potential to address some of the most pressing challenges of sustainability in the water and energy areas.



Another expert from Pakistan co-sponsored by ECOSF Prof. Dr. Ghulam Raza Bhatti talked on the importance of biodiversity and community parks under the patronage of Universities.

After the conference, a day long forum on the green concepts with especial reference to town planning was organized for the managers and staff of the Isfahan Municipality. In this forum numerous experts including Prof. Soomro and Prof. Ghulam Raza Bhatti shared their experiences and wisdom, Prof. Bhatti also proposed for winning of Isfahan and Islamabad as green sister cities (I2I), which was appreciated by the audiences.

2nd Day of Conference Prof. Dr .Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) had a meeting with Prof. Mousavi Movahidi of University of Tehran at the University Isfahan on the sidelines of the Green Campus conference on 1 May 2019 Prof. Movahidi sought ECOSF Cooperation in the field of science for youth.

It is pertinent to mention that Green University initiative was taken by ECOSF in partnership with Ferdowsi University of Mashhad in 2018 wherein, 1st Green University Conference was organized in February 2018. This conference is the continuity of the initiative. A national level conference on GreenMetric was also organized by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan supported ECOSF in July 2018. The initiative will be expanded in other countries of ECO.

President ECOSF as a Keynote Speaker at the International Seminar on “Belt and Road Education for the Elderly”

The Hubei University for the Aged at Wuhan in partnership with the China Association of Universities for the Aged (CAUA) and the International Association of Universities for the Third Age (AIUTA) organized the “**International Seminar on the Belt and Road Education for the Elderly**” which was held in Wuhan, China on May 20-22, 2019. The objective of holding this conference was to establish linkages between the Universities of Third Age (U3A) among the Belt and Road (B&R) Countries and generate a dialogue on how to enhance the international cooperation for U3A and bolster the cultural integration through people-to-people bonds.



The conference in Wuhan was opened by Mr. Wang Rauilian, Member of the Standing Committee of the Hubei Provincial Committee who underscored the importance of B&R Initiative to promote U3A education among B&R countries. In his remarks, Prof. Francois Vellas, President of AIUTA emphasized

over the effective use of AIUTA platform through B&R initiative to facilitate the mutual learning, communication and development of U3As, which can eventually lead the way towards promoting the multicultural integration.

President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited as a keynote speaker and delivered his speech on **“Inquiry Based Education for Lifelong Learning”**. Prof. Soomro highlighted the impact of fast changing demographics around the world. In many developed and developing countries, including China the fraction of elderly population is growing at considerable rate. This growing ageing population is developing a challenge and may affect the economic, social and cultural and overall lifestyle in the future, he said. Prof. Soomro suggested that Governments should develop policies to address the needs and interests of older persons. Education for elderly is essential fulfil the pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that no one will be left behind, he added. Prof. Soomro added that adequate investment in education is essential that empowers the elderly with life-long learning skills.



These skills can help ageing population to remain active and maintain cognitive functions. Prof. Soomro shared that technology has advanced significantly in the past 40 years but the elderly population has not grown up with tech gadgets. Therefore, there is a need for digital education. Prof. Soomro emphasized over the idea to promote Inquiry Based Education as a pedagogical approach that can potentially address the challenges associated with elderly care and education.



STI is the key for sustainable development of ECO region, said the Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan during a meeting with President ECOSF

New Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain was called upon by the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro on May 9, 2019 at his office. President ECOSF briefed the Minister about the establishment of the Foundation and its aims and objectives. Prof. Soomro apprised that Minister about ongoing activities and initiatives of the Foundation. He also shared with the Minister that the Foundation has developed working relations/collaborations with international organizations such as; UNESCO, International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur, La main a la pate Foundation of France (LAMAP), Children and Youth Science Centre of China Association of Science and Technology (CYSCC), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and other renowned organizations.



President ECOSF further shared with the Minister that the Foundation is implementing Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) programme in ECO region since 2015. Through this programme, the participants especially science teachers are trained on IBSE methodology for teaching STEM subjects in their respective countries. The programme is successfully being implemented in Pakistan and Iran and discussions are undergoing with Tajikistan and Azerbaijan to launch the IBSE programme in the countries.

President ECOSF also presented a Five Year Report of the Foundation to the Honourable Minister.

H.E. Mr. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain thanked the President ECOSF for introduction of the Foundation and appreciated the role of the Foundation for bringing the scientific community of ECO region for developing collaboration.

He said that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are a key for sustainable development in the region. The region has great potential and rich in resources as well as cultural similarities, just needs the efforts to tap them for developing the sustainable societies.

He emphasized on more activities with reference to science literacy and communication especially with the younger generation and spoke of organizing a National Science Fair in Islamabad later during the year. He confirmed to participate in the next meeting of the Board of Trustees of ECOSF to be held in Iran, and assured of maximum possible support from his Ministry.

A Nine Year Old Pakistani Child breaks Guinness World Record by making Periodic Table in the Shortest Time.

Pakistan Science Foundation hosted a Guinness World Record Ceremony on May 28, 2019. The attempt was to arrange the elements of the periodic table in the fastest time. The ceremony attracted a large number of students, teachers and media professionals to witness the record breaking. A 9 year old Pakistani child, Zidane Hamid made three attempts and successfully managed to break a previous Guinness World Record. He arranged all the elements of periodic table in a shortest time of 5 minutes and 41 seconds. Earlier, this record was made by Professor Vilas Pol of America's Prude University who attempted to set the base



world record for fastest time (8 minutes and 36+ seconds) to assemble a periodic table. Zidane Hamid has earned a number of titles, The Little Professor, Miracle Baby, The Chemistry Cockroach, The Youngest Speaker and Future Scientist.



At the end of the ceremony, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro shared his concluding remarks. Prof. Soomro underscored the significance of a conducive environment to nurture the future generation by creating opportunities and imparting the skills for lifelong learning. For this to achieve, everyone including teachers, parents, schools and government have to play their important role, he added. He congratulated the young child and his parents for making an attempt and breaking the world record.

Earlier, Dr. Mirza Habib, Director Research Support at the Pakistan Science Foundation welcomed the audience and highlighted the importance of investment in youth to build a prosperous Pakistan. He appreciated the young child and his parents for his enthusiasm, hard work and outstanding talent.

International Biodiversity Day 2019 celebrated at Pakistan Museum of Natural History

Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) celebrated the International Biodiversity Day in association with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Snow Leopard Foundation, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Islamic University (IIU), Technology Times, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) on 22nd May, 2019 at PMNH Islamabad.



The purpose of organizing this event was to create awareness among youth and public regarding the critical challenges of loss of biodiversity in Pakistan. The International Biological Diversity day is celebrated annually on May 22nd to create awareness among the community to share concerns of loss of biodiversity and deliberate on measures to address those challenges. This year's theme was "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health" which highlighted the significance of biodiversity as the foundation for food, health and a key catalyst to transform food systems and improving human health.

Her Excellency Ambassador of Nepal, Ms. Sewa Lamsal graced this occasion as the Chief Guest. During the event, representatives of collaborating partners, biodiversity experts, researchers and students highlighted the issues and threats to the Biodiversity of Pakistan in the event. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar, Assistant Director (Programs) participated in the event.



The Ambassador of Nepal, H. E. Ms. Sewa Lamsal in her remarks, congratulated the organizing partners. The Ambassador emphasized on the importance of biodiversity and called for effective collaboration to create awareness raising and sensitization for sustainable utilization of natural resources.

Dr. Z. B. Mirza a senior Ornithologist and biodiversity specialist was the keynote speaker and delivered his presentation on hidden linkages and treasures of Biodiversity of Pakistan. Dr. Mirza said that biological

diversity is vital for human health and well-being, as the quality of the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe all depend on keeping the natural world in good health.

Dr. Aamer Irshad, Food Expert FAO shared his views on transforming food systems and the human health. Mr. Saeed Abbas, Representative IUCN discussed the key opportunities and emerging issues for biodiversity conservation in a changing climate. Dr. Abdul Wahid Jasra, Country Representative, ICIMOD read out the message of DG, ICIMOD at the Intel Biological Diversity 2019. Earlier, Dr. Muhammad Rafiq, DG, PMNH delivered his welcome remarks and spoke on Biodiversity Conservation: Challenges, Threats and Opportunities.

Ensuring Cybersecurity in Kazakhstan: Problems and Solutions

Courtesy of Eurasian Research Institute (ERI) Kazakhstan

Cybersecurity is the protection of information systems from damage to their hardware, software or electronic data, as well as from disruption of their operation or services they provide. A cyberattack is any type of an offensive attempt to expose, steal, destroy, alter or get an unauthorized access to information or an asset. A cyberattack can be launched against information systems, digital infrastructures, facilities, networks, personal computers and other electronic devices. In this light, the issue of cybersecurity has become one of the top concerns throughout the world. It has been estimated that on average a new malicious program is created every four seconds, and the damage from cyberattacks is measured by many billions of dollars on a worldwide scale. Thus, the damage from the massive attack of WannaCry viruses, which took place in May 2017, is thought to exceed \$1 billion, affecting 150 countries.

Nowadays, cybersecurity has been developed as a separate academic field in the Information System sciences and is an essential part of national security policies of many countries. The importance of cyber- security in the context of the overall security policy stems from the fact that as a result of the global digitalization and a widespread use of modern information systems in all spheres of human life, including governance, economy, defense, finance, and numerous routine daily activities of the public, a totally new dimension called 'cyberspace' has emerged. Thus, many activities of governments, institutions, organizations and ordinary people have been transferred to the cyber- dimension, which, like any other important environment, requires certain degrees of security.

Among many types of cyberattacks, phishing fraud remains the most popular: it is basically an attempt to obtain personal information about internet users' financial assets such as usernames, pass- words and other details related to bank ac- counts, credit cards, etc. This method of a cyberattack is rather primitive as it simply directs internet users through links and instant messaging to enter their personal in- formation on fake websites purposefully created by internet hackers. In many cases, internet users do not realize a threat they face since fake websites often look identical to real websites used by banks and other financial institutions.

Read more:

<https://eurasian-research.org/web/publications/Weekly-e-bulletin-22-04-2019-28-04-2019-No-208.pdf?1559040242>

IPD, CBRI and COMSATS organized a seminar on the “Second Belt and Road Forum: Achievements and Prospects”



Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPD) and the Centre for Belt and Road Initiative (CBRI) in collaboration with COMSATS organized a seminar on **“Second Belt and Road Forum: Achievements and Prospects”** at COMSATS Headquarter on May 3, 2019. The seminar was organized in the backdrop of the second Belt and Road Forum held in Beijing where Prime Minister Imran Khan participated on the invitation of President Xi Jinping. A number of diplomats, students and members of the civil society participated in the seminar, reflecting the keen interest among the people to know more about the initiative and urge to learn. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the seminar.

Ms. Farhat Asif, President, IPD, welcomed the participants and congratulated the organizing partners for their support in organizing this seminar. Ms. Asif shared various initiatives undertaken by the IPD to disseminate and generate a dialogue on the Belt and Road Initiative, including the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through IPD’s platform. Ms. Asif highlighted that Belt and Road Initiative is meant to promote high-quality development in the region and beyond. We need to learn from China and their work ethics, values and ways to progress towards sustainable development.

Ms. Bao Zhong, head of Political and Press Section, Embassy of People’s Republic of China, appreciated the iconic friendship of China-Pakistan. Ms. Zhong said that China will continue to support Pakistan through its tough times, and will promote

development in Pakistan. The BRI is aimed at improving connectivity around the world, which has the potential lift millions of people out of poverty.

Engr. Mr. Zameer Awan from China Studies Centre, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), affirmed that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and BRI are blessings for Pakistan. "These projects are meant to provide unprecedented development opportunities to not only Pakistan but also larger developing countries of the world participating or agreeing to the BRI and its spirit," he said. Mr. Awan added that world powers have failed to address the global issues. Now the developing countries are looking towards China as a hope to solve these challenges through its wisdom of peace, prosperity and infrastructure development.

Dr. Muhammad Munir from the National Defence University (NDU) shared his concern that a negative propaganda campaign has been unleashed by the west and other countries against the BRI and CPEC, which is totally baseless. He said BRI and CPEC are meant to bring development and prosperity to those countries who are struggling to grow.

Pakistan Launches its 1st Ever Official Moon Sighting Website

Pakistan has launched a lunar calendar and the country's first moon-sighting website as an attempt to end decades-old controversy over start of key lunar months that decides the beginning of the holy month of Ramazan and Eid festivals. The website, <http://www.pakmoonsighting.pk> contains scientifically determined dates for all major Islamic festivals/days for the ongoing and coming years. The website was launched by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhary at a ceremony that took place on May 26, 2019 at Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR), Lahore.



Iranian embassy in Islamabad commemorated the Quds Day in support of the people of Palestine on the International Quds Day

Iranian Embassy in Islamabad commemorated the Quds Day on 31 May 2019 (25 Ramadan 1440 AH) in support of the people of Palestine on the International Quds Day. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan was the chief guest at this occasion. He said that we should feel the pain of our brethren in Palestine, we as Muslim Ummah should stand again for liberation of Al Quds. He emphasized upon unity among Muslims for sorting out the problems of Kashmir, Palestine and Burma. Our unity will push Israel out of Palestine.



The Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Mehdi Honardoost in his speech said that Alquds Sharif in view of divine revelation and Muslims due to existence of Alaqs Mosque enjoys a high value. He also said that Israel cannot suppress people of Palestine for their fundamental right of AlQuds and very soon, AlQuds will be liberated from Israel.

Imam Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on August 7, 1979, designated the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as the Quds Day and the day of Islam's life. To date, not only the Iranians, but also all the freedom-seekers of the world in many countries have marked the last Friday of Ramadan every year by holding demonstrations, to declare their solidarity with the Palestinians and support for their lawful rights.

Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Farhatullah Babar, Mian Mohammad Aslam, Mr. Rahman Malik and many others from all walks of life were there to demonstrate and express solidarity with Palestinians. President ECOSF also joined the event.

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

Call for nominations of experts to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Task Forces

Governments and relevant organizations or institutions are invited to submit nominations for experts to IPBES Task Forces. Nominated experts should have expertise - specific to the task force to which they are nominated - in one or more disciplines of natural science, social science or the humanities, be indigenous and local knowledge experts or have expertise in indigenous and local knowledge systems or be policy experts and practitioners. All nominees should have experience in working within interdisciplinary, international and/or global contexts. It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF is an accredited Stakeholder/Observer of IPBES and can recommend the experts for its Task Forces.

Interested experts and representatives of organizations or indigenous peoples and local communities (Nominees) are encouraged to contact their IPBES National Focal Point (<https://www.ipbes.net/national-focal-points>) regarding any country-specific processes or deadlines and are requested to fill out their application form by no later than **17 June 2019**. Nominators (Governments or organizations) should approve the applications and submit their nominations by **1 July 2019**.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/IPBES-Task-Forces>

Call for in-kind support for technical support units - the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Governments or organizations interested in providing in-kind support for a technical support unit are invited to send their offer to the secretariat at secretariat@ipbes.net by **1 July 2019**.

The offer should include specific information on:

- the task force for which the offer is being made;
- background and relevance of the hosting institution to the work of the task force;
- the administration and staffing of the technical support unit;
- funding arrangements, including a budget detailing how the IPBES dedicated funds and the matching in-kind contribution from the host institution would be used.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/IPBES-Task-Forces>

ISTIC's 4th Biennial International Conference on Women in Science, Technology and Innovation – “Empowering Women through Technology” 22 – 23 July 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) will organize the international conference which will be held on 22 – 23 July 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The International Conference is in support of the UN SDG (2016-2030) Goal 5 which aims at the empowerment of women and girls with a focus on **enhancing** the use of enabling technology, in particular ICTs

The candidates should register at this link: <https://bit.ly/2Q3TR5r>. The name of the candidates should reach ISTIC **before or on 14th June 2019**.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/ISTIC-4th-Biennial>

Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

May 29, 2019: Mr. Abid H.K Shirwani DG University of Management of Technology (UMT) and CEO Institute of Research Promotion (IRP) Lahore and Mr. Rahmat Ullah, Manager ORIC UMT called upon the President ECOSF and discussed the on-going collaboration between ECOSF, UMT and IRP.



May 13, 2019: The Member Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri visited ECOSF and held a meeting with President Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the ongoing cooperation between HEC and ECOSF especially the linkages among the Universities, colleges and schools and the Industry. Dr. Marri also discussed the possibilities of engaging the senior scientists under the auspices of Pakistan Academy of Sciences for the public good and to address the national issues requiring research. It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF and HEC in the past have jointly organized international forums on Science Education linking Science Education at schools with quality education and Industrial/economic development.



May 06, 2019: Mr. Naseer Memon General Manager CSR, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) visited ECOSF Secretariat and held a meeting with President ECOSF. During the meeting, the collaboration between SECMC and ECOSF in the field of STI and science education was discussed. SECMC under its CSR supports and promotes quality school education for children of Thar Coal Mines area through the Thar Foundation and they wished to explore the possibilities of ECOSF support for introducing the Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the schools nurtured by them.

