



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



3rd Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop held in Nanning, China - Enthusiastic Participants from Thirty-Three Countries and regions Joined In, including Seven ECO Member States

The 3rd Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop were successfully held from 25-29 September 2019 at Nanning No.2 High School in the Beautiful and Green City of Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, P.R. China. The annual event is organized by China Association of Science and Technology (CAST) through its Children and Youth Science Centre (CYSCC), Ministry of Science and Technology of China and local S&T Associations and supported by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) and the Network of Academies of Science of African Cooperation (NASAC). This 3rd annual event was jointly opened by the Vice President and Executive Secretary of CAST Mr. Meng Qinghai. Vice Chairman of the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mr. Huang Junhua; the Director General of Children and Youth Science Center of CAST (CYSCC), Mr. Liu Yang and President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro.



In his opening remarks, Mr. Meng Qinghai cordially welcomed the distinguished guests/participants from Asia-Pacific, Europe, Americas and Africa and said that it was an important mission of science education to strengthen the international exchanges and cooperation in science education, work together to improve the scientific quality of young people, and cultivate the reserve force for the development of science and technology innovation. The China Association for Science and Technology adheres to the concept of open collaboration and is willing to exchange and share with the rest of the world and cooperate in depth to promote resource sharing, information exchange, talent exchange and pragmatic cooperation in countries and regions along the "Belt and

Road". I hope more friends can join us and contribute to the sustainable and high-quality development of the "Belt and Road" science education in future, he said. Other speakers included leaders of local party, City government, representative of MoST, President, ECOSF and Executive Secretary of NASAC. It is pertinent to mention that efforts of ECOSF, seven ECO countries i.e., Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan with total of 49 people (32 high school students and 17 teachers/officials) participated in the camp.

Prof. Soomro, in his remarks, appreciated the CYSCC, Guangxi-Zhuang Government and Nanning Municipality for making marvellous arrangements for the camp. He also said that the collaboration of ECOSF and CYSC of CAST started in 2017 and getting stronger day by day. He briefly introduced ECOSF and said that the Foundation is an intergovernmental organization of ten countries of ECO region working for promotion of science, technology and innovation (STI) leading to socioeconomic development of the region. He hoped that the participants specially the students and youth will learn and develop networking with other fellow participants from around the world.



This year, the event was held outside Beijing for the first time in green city of Nanning, Guangxi-Zhuang Autonomous region of China; which is an important hub for the Maritime Silk Road. The teams comprising of students, teachers, entrepreneurs and officials from 33 countries and regions joined the event.



During one week long event, the students and teachers were divided into separate groups and assigned various scientific tasks in the fields of intelligent robots, colourful chemistry, model world, electronic art and video production. The students developed smart projects and presented before the Jury for assessment on final day of the camp.



Read more: <http://www.ecosf.org/3rd-Belt-and-Road-Teenager-Maker-Camp>

BRISECC Annual Meeting 2019 held at Nanning, China

The 2019 Annual Meeting of Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC), was held on 25 September 2019 at Nanning, Guanxi-Zhuang Autonomous Region of China. The meeting was presided over by the BRISECC President Prof. WU Yueliang and attended by Vice President of BRISECC Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro and other Members from China, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Iran, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, Rumania, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine and Czech Republic.

In the meeting, Dr. ZHU He, Deputy Secretary General of BRISECC, presented the report on annual activities of BRISECC carried out during the reporting year (2019) such as development of the website (<http://www.cyscc.org.cn/brisecc/index.aspx>) and logo of BRISECC, participation in the thematic forum of 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in April 2019; wherein, Deputy Secretary General Ms. ZHU shared the progress of Committee activities, organization of Belt and Road International Science Week with China Science and Technology Exchange Center in Beijing in May 2019 and Organization of OBOR Fusion of Civilization Education (FoCED) Curriculum Workshop of Chinese teachers in Nanjing, China in August 2019.



One of the biggest events of BRISECC i.e., “3rd Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop” was also organized from 25-29 September 2019 at Nanning, China. International Science Education Forum was another event held in Nanning on 26 September 2019. A 4-day workshop on OBOR FoCED Curriculum was also held during the camp.

Following proposals for by the three working panels were discussed in detail:

Panel – Science Education Resource (headed by Dato Lee Ye Cheong of Malaysia)

1. Virtual Global Belt and Road Museum
2. OBOR Fusion Extension in Africa and South America
3. Belt and Road Virtual Science Center

Panel – Science Instructor Development (headed by Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro of Pakistan)

1. 2-days International High level Advocacy Seminar and 4-days Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) workshop in Sukkur-Pakistan (December 2019)
2. A 3-days Awareness-cum-Advocacy Workshop in Baku-Azerbaijan in March 2020.
3. A 5-days IBSE workshop in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in June 2020.
4. Young Scientists Forum
5. BRISECC Working Group/Coordination Sub-Committee for Science Instructor Development
6. Online teaching training program

Panel – Teenager Science Education Events (headed by Mr. LISOVYI Oksen of Ukraine)

1. 9-days multidisciplinary course of sustainability for teenagers
2. International Nanotechnology Olympiad in Iran proposed by Dr. Fatemeh Mohajerani of Iran.

Proposals for inclusion of new member organizations and individuals i.e., CYGNUS Scientific Society – UNESCO Center (individual member Prof. Laurentiu Dan Milici), Science Center Singapore (individual member Dr. Lee Song Choon) and China Science and Technology Museum (individual member Mr. OU Jiancheng) also came under discussion. The Committee unanimously approved most of the proposals with suggested modification to others.

Read more: <http://www.ecosf.org/BRISECC-Annual-Meeting-2019>

Workshop on Piloting the OBOR Fusion of Civilization Education (FoCEd) Curriculum held in Nanning, China

A workshop for teachers on pilot testing of Fusion of Civilization Education (FoCEd) School Curriculum was held in Nanning, China on 25-29 Sept 2019 during the 3rd Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop (24-29 Sept). The curriculum experts and teachers from China, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand attended the workshop. The aim of the workshop was to train the participants on piloting of FoCEd Curriculum along with the national Curriculum in respective countries along the belt and road. So far, the curriculum for promotion of global peace and harmony is being pilot tested in 18 schools across China and will be tested in 10 schools in Malaysia; four schools in Indonesia, two schools in Pakistan and possibly in 1-2 schools in Tunisia and the National Science Museum of Thailand.

During the workshop, presentations on various units of the Curriculum were made and hands on activities were performed. The workshop was informed that piloting of the Curriculum has already begun in China and Pakistan. The experts from China and Pakistan also shared their feedback of piloting in the class which was greatly appreciated. Based upon the feedback, some revisions were proposed in the Curriculum.



The experts/teachers also visited a school in Nanning where piloting of FoCEd Curriculum is being done. The participants were very excited to witness the piloting of the Curriculum and found it remarkable, the way teacher taught the units of it. The students were also very responsive on the curriculum.

It is pertinent to mention that the development of this curriculum for “Global Peace & Harmony” was initiated in 2017 under the auspices of InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP SEP) and undertaken by the Children and Youth Science Centre of China Association for Science and Technology (CYSCC), ECOSF and the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) Malaysia. The Draft Curriculum was worked out by experts from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan by the end of 2018. The FoCEd aims to promote tolerance and respect of other cultures and traditions through understanding of current scientific knowledge and discoveries driven from ancient wisdom to inculcate global peace and harmony among children at earliest possible age.

FoCEd Piloting Strategy A meeting between the leaders of the Curriculum development namely Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro of ECOSF, Dato Dr. Sharifa Mamunah of ISTIC Malaysia, Dr. ZHU He of CAST China, Dr. Inderjani of Indonesia and Dr. Ye Zhaoning of China was held to discuss the strategy for piloting of the curriculum, feedback and consequent revision. Subsequent implementation strategy and scaling up implementation in other countries along belt and road was also discussed.



Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Piloting-the-OBOR-FoCED>

The “Belt and Road” Science Education Forum was held in Nanning, China during 3rd Teenager Maker Camp

The “Belt and Road” Science Education Forum was held at the Guangxi Science and Technology Museum on 26 September 2019. The Forum was one of the events held during 3rd Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop. The experts/representatives from China, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Malaysia, Romania and Tunisia made presentations at the forum, and more than 200 participants from various countries and local science and technology teachers in Nanning participated in the event.



The speakers introduced the new initiatives, policies and projects in promoting science education in their respective countries to strengthen the training of young people's science and technology innovation talents, scientific education activities and curriculum resources with various characteristics, and on the science education in various countries. In-depth exchanges and sharing of issues such as fairness, gender equality, improvement of teachers' ability and how to develop students' scientific understanding in future were the main points of deliberations.



ECOEI organized an International Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization in the ECO Region in Ankara

ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) in collaboration with the Ataturk Supreme Council for Culture, Language & History; and Turkish Historical Society organized an International Symposium on “Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey” on September 27-28, 2019 in Ankara Turkey. The objective of holding this symposium was to generate a dialogue on common historical legacy and interaction among the ECO Member States in various spheres; ranging from science, religion and philosophy to literature. The symposium also discussed how renowned philosophers, scientists, poets and scholars emerged from this ECO region and made influential contributions to the world cultural heritage.

The symposium in Ankara brought together over eighty international scholars and prominent academicians from 16 countries. A substantial number of participants were from the ECO member countries. Symposium hosted eighteen parallel sessions on various thematic areas, including philosophy, culture, history, politics, economics, science and education.



Prof. Dr. Refik Turan, President of the Turkish Historical Society opened the symposium in the inaugural ceremony. Prof. Turan appreciated the opportunity to engage in such a dialogue where scholars from the ECO region can generate meaningful discussion and spread historical legacy and values of this region to young generation. The generation who forgets its past has no future, he said. Therefore, we need to excel and learn about various cultural and historical aspects of the ECO region to appreciate our old legacy and prestige, Prof. Turan said.



Earlier, **Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireççi, President ECOEI** welcomed the participants and gave a brief introduction of the symposium. Prof. Kireççi underscored that this symposium provides a great opportunity for the scholar of the ECO Member Countries to present their work and establish strong linkages and integration to harness the true potential of this region. President ECOEI also highlighted the significance of the ECO region which share common culture and heritage and has made tremendous contribution towards the world cultural heritage. Prof. Kireççi was pleased to share that this symposium was quite unique and one of the largest events ever organized by the ECO Specialized Agencies, which focused on all aspects of the ECO region ranging from

philosophy, politics history, culture to education.

During the symposium, University of Isfahan and ECOSF co-organized a session on Opportunities for Economic Cooperation among ECO Member States. Prof. Dr. Vakur Sumer, Director Eurasian Research Institute moderated this session. It is pertinent to mention here that ECOSF facilitated the participation of two eminent economists from Pakistan Institute of Development Economics i.e. Prof. Dr. Musleh Uddin and Dr. Usman Qadir who presented their papers on Economic Modeling of the ECO Member Countries and the prevalent Challenges of Food Security in the ECO region, respectively. The other two panelists in the session included Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi and Dr. Zahra Zamani from the University of Isfahan, Iran.

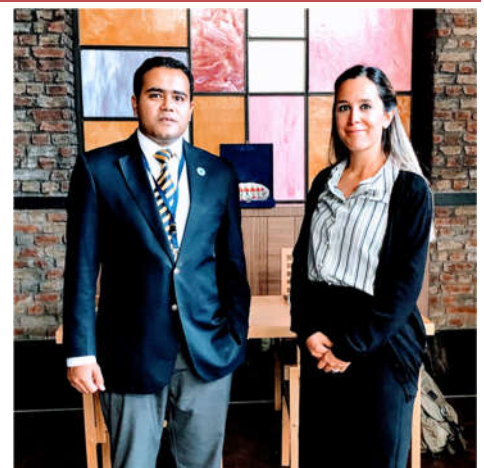


On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the symposium and presented his research paper on **“The age of Reason and Emergence of Scientific Wisdom in the Ancient Civilizations of the ECO Region”** in the session on Science and Education in the ECO Member Countries. This session was moderated by President ECOEI Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireççi. Mr. Raza underlined that the historical background and reviewed the major contributions to the development of science and technology by medieval empires of the ECO region. He further shared that medieval Persian, Ottoman and Central Asian empires produced phenomenal scientific work and greatly contributed to the Golden Age of Islam during 8th – 15th century.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Int-Symposium-on-Common-History>

ECOSF interacted with TUBITAK to discuss opportunities for cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation in the ECO Region

On the side-lines of Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization organized by ECOEI, Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF took the opportunity to meet with Ms Ayda Kara Pektas, Program Coordinator of the Directorate for International Cooperation of Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) in Ankara on September 27, 2019. Mr. Raza gave a brief introduction to the ECOSF and the work it carries out to support the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the ECO Region through its various programmes. Over the years, Turkey has established strong scientific and technological foundation, which has supported tremendous growth in the socio-economic development for the country. Thus, Turkey being the Founding Member of ECO can play a central role in developing the capacity of other Member Countries of the ECO in variety of fields in science and technology, Mr. Raza said. Ms. Pektas welcomed the opportunity to meet and discuss the potential collaborative prospects with Member Countries of ECOSF. Ms. Pektas shared that TUBITAK is the national agency of Turkey with strategic goal to develop STI policies, support and conduct scientific research and development in Turkey. During the meeting, both sides discussed a number of potential opportunities of collaboration and cooperation in the fields of science and technology to achieve their shared goals and uplift of the ECO region.



ECOSF contributed to the 2nd Climate Change Summit in Islamabad- Pakistan

The Future Forum (Pvt.) Ltd in collaboration with Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan organized the 2nd Climate Change Summit 2019 on September 5th, 2019 in Islamabad. The main objective of holding this summit was to open up a dialogue among the key stakeholders to scale up the efforts and measures to adapt and mitigate the escalation of the climate change in Pakistan. The Summit also hosted an award distribution ceremony to appreciate the efforts undertaken by the business community in finding strategic solutions to the impacts of climate change and supporting Pakistan’s transition to low carbon economy. The Summit attracted a large number of participants from diverse backgrounds including the climate change experts, representatives of various government agencies, academia and business community etc.



Ms. Zartaj Gul Wazir, the Minister of State for Climate Change was the Chief Guest in the event. Ms. Wazir in her speech paid gratitude to the summit organizers and participants for their valuable inputs to the important debate on the impact of changing climate and their impacts on Pakistan. She assured that the current government is deeply concerned and committed to address the issues of climate change in Pakistan. She highlighted a number of important initiatives being undertaken by the Ministry of Climate Change, including the Billion Tree Initiative for the country and prohibition of plastic bags in the capital city. She further sought public support for the success of these measures, as they may not produce desirable results and she encouraged that we all need to come together to play our individual parts to help resolve this complex challenge.

Dr. Pervaiz Amir- the Water and Climate Change Expert was the keynote speaker in the Summit. Dr. Amir elaborated many emerging challenges posed by the climate change to economic sectors in Pakistan. Pakistan is being hard pressed for water resources as the demand by various sectors is increasing at a substantial rate, he added. This can potentially force other competing users to extract more water while affecting the supply for agricultural uses. As a result, Pakistan will face water shortages and surges in demand as temperature rises, particularly in the heat-related stresses in agriculture and domestic use.

On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated and presented his talk on “Climate Change Mitigation: the Role of Clean Energy Technologies”. Mr. Raza highlighted that energy, industry and transport are the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). About two thirds of the global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to the burning of fossil fuels to be used for



heating, industry electricity and transport etc., he added. Pakistan has just begun its journey to industrialize its economy, which would require intensive energy resources to achieve intended goals, therefore, it is right time for Pakistan to invest in clean technologies to reduce the impact of climate change, he emphasized. Renewable energy plays a key role in mitigating global greenhouse emissions by radically lowering the emission profile of Pakistan. Mr. Raza shared a landscape of disruptive innovation being spurred in the clean technology sector and recommended that Pakistan should take advantage of this emerging revolution to achieve sustainable economic development.

Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) delegation visits ECOSF

A delegation of Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) visited the Headquarters of ECOSF in Islamabad- Pakistan on 5 September 2019 and called upon the President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro. The delegation was headed by Dr. Di Yuna, Executive Director, BTBU Pakistan Study Center along with Ms. Zhu Zhenrong, Deputy Director of BTBU Pakistan Study Center and Mr. Jia Wei, First Secretary in S&T, Embassy of China in Islamabad.



President ECOSF warmly welcomed the delegation and briefed them about the Foundation and its objectives, programmes and collaboration with regional and international organizations. He shared with the BTBU delegation that ECOSF has also been working with Chinese institutes/organizations under Belt and Road Initiative of China especially the China Association of Science and Technology (CAST) and that a MoU has been signed with Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC) of CAST for promotion of science education, capacity building of human resource and other scientific activities in the countries along the belt and road which includes ECO countries. An initiative has been taken along with SUGON Rui Education and Academy of Engineering and Technology of Developing World (AETDEW) for Digital B&R Double Hundred Universities Cooperation Program (DHUCP), he said. Under this program, the Universities will be upgraded/equipped with latest digital technologies to cope with needs of future, he added.

Read more: <http://www.ecosf.org/Beijing-Technology-and-Business-University>

ISTIC in collaboration with LAMAP and IAP SEP held an event on “Responding to the Unique Challenges of Climate Change through Climate Change Education” at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

Launched in 2008, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC)- a UNESCO Category-2 Centre is hosted by Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. Every two years, ISTIC hosts an event at UNESCO’s headquarters in Paris where it reports on its key activities to heads of UNESCO member countries’ delegations. This year, the ISTIC ‘Return Home to UNESCO’ took place on 3-5 September, with an associated forum: ‘Responding to the Unique Challenges of Climate Change through Climate Change Education’ on 3 September. The event was hosted by HE Dr Anessee Ibrahim, Permanent Delegate of Malaysia to UNESCO and featured a keynote presentation from Datuk Dr Amin Senin, Director

General of Education, Ministry of Education Malaysia. Pierre Lena, member of the *Academie des sciences*, co-founder of *La main à la pâte* (LAMAP), and key driver of the IAP Statement on Climate Change and Education, set the scene for the panel discussion.

Among the panellists were Peter Dogse, Co-chair, Executive Secretariat UNESCO Task Team on Climate Change; David Wilgenbus, CEO, Office For Climate Education (OCE), Paris; Peter McGrath, IAP Coordinator; Lucilla Spini, Senior Science and Policy Officer, International Science Council; and Abdoul Wahab Coulibaly, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Section of Education for Sustainable Development. The session was chaired by Dato Lee Yee Cheong, ISTIC Honorary Chairman and outgoing chair of the IAP Science Education Programme's Global Council.

A number of resources and activities for teachers in the area of climate change education were presented, including an increasing number being produced by the OCE that are designed to relate to outputs of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and include topics such as 'Oceans and climate change' and 'The greenhouse effect'.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Responding-to-the-Unique-Challenges-of-Climate-Change>

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

4th International EISA Summit, Nov. 9-10, 2019

The 4th International EISA (Exposure of Industries to Scientists' Achievements) summit, with a focus on the three fields of Water, Health and Energy, is to be held alongside the Mustafa Prize 2019 Award ceremony in Tehran, Iran, on November 9th and 10th. EISA is a commercial platform assembled to bring The Islamic World's scientific community and academia closer together, enabling technological achievements in products and services to be introduced to new markets, industries and investors.

For Registration: <http://eisa.mstfdn.org/download/Invitation.html>

For further information: <http://eisa.mstfdn.org/>

Brochure: <http://eisa.mstfdn.org/download/ex.pdf>

IPBES calls for participation in online conferences to seek input for the scoping process for the nexus and the transformative change assessment

IPBES plans to hold two online conferences as part of the scoping processes for the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health ("nexus assessment") and the thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity ("transformative change assessment"). They are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- 30 September - 2 October 2019: Online conference to seek input for the scoping process for the **nexus assessment**
- 9 - 11 October 2019: Online conference to seek input for the scoping process for the **transformative change assessment**

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

Call for Nominations for Christophe Mérieux Prize 2020

Each year the Institut de France's Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux Foundation awards a Scientific "Grand Prize" known as the "Christophe Mérieux Prize" to support research into infectious disease in developing countries.

This Prize is exclusively destined to researchers from these countries and whose activity is permanently exercised in such countries.

The Christophe Mérieux Prize (500,000 Euros) will be allocated as follows:

- 100,000 Euros as personal reward to the Prize winner having the scientific responsibility of the team

- 400,000 Euros earmarked for the development of the team’s research.

Deadline for receipt of dossiers: November 18, 2019

Constitution of application dossiers:

- CV of the applicant heading up the team, with date of birth and personal address (1 page)
- Composition of the team (1 page)
- Description of previous research achievements in the field (2-3 pages)
- Title of research project
- Current research project(s) (2 pages)
- List of ten most significant publications
- Reasons justifying the application for the Prize (1/2 page)
- Plus two supporting letters from outside Institutions

Applications must be mailed electronically as one continuous pdf file to the following electronic address at: anne.baechler@institutdefrance.fr.

Read more: <http://www.interacademies.org/57654/Call-for-nominations-Christophe-Mrieux-Prize-2020->

Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

September 16, 2019: A delegation of China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences led by Mr. Tianhua Hong the Executive Director of the Centre called upon the President ECOSF at his office. This Joint Research Center is currently under the development stage, which is being established in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. It is important to note that this joint research center will be housed at the campus of Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad where scientists and researchers from both the countries (China and Pakistan) will work together and conduct scientific research on key areas, such as the disaster risk reduction, climate change and environment. Both sides discussed a number of potential opportunities of collaboration and cooperation in the fields of climate change and environment to achieve their shared goals and sustainable development.

