



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



Corona Virus - COVID 19: Situation in Numbers in the ECO Member Countries

Country	Total confirmed cases due to COVID-19	Total confirmed deaths due to COVID-19
Afghanistan	38,196	1,406
Azerbaijan	36,435	534
Iran	375,212	21,571
Kazakhstan	90,367	1,815
Kyrgyzstan	43,958	1,059
Pakistan	296,149	6,298
Tajikistan	8,583	68
Turkey	270,133	6,370
Turkmenistan	-	-
Uzbekistan	41,994	322
ECO region Total	1,201,027	39,443

Date Stamp: September 1, 2020 **Source:** <https://ourworldindata.org> **Note:** So far, no case has been reported in Turkmenistan.

ECOSF hosted a webinar on “Impact of COVID-19 in ECO region & what it holds for the future of the ECO Member Countries”

Webinar: Impact of COVID-19 on the ECO region and what it holds for the future of ECO Member Countries!

Monday, 10 August 2020 at 11:30 AM (GMT+5)

 Dr. Hanz Holzaker Chief Economist CAREC Institute	 H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour Secretary General Economic Cooperation Organization
 Prof. Dr. Mustafa Gerek Vice President University of Health Sciences Turkey	 Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)
 Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi Director, Center of Excellence for International Economics (CEIE) University of Isfahan, Iran	 Moderator: Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)
 Prof. Dr. Amirhossein Takian Chair Department of Global Health & Public Policy, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran	

Facebook Live: [f /ECOScienceFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation)
 Zoom login details will be shared soon!
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www.ecosf.org

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragile limits of healthcare facilities and infrastructures around the world. Even in the countries with best healthcare system, their overall preparedness seems to be weak in handling this situation. In order to discuss the overwhelming challenges arising out of COVID-19 pandemic, especially the economic impact, the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in collaboration with Center of Excellence for International Economics (CEIE) of the University of Isfahan- Iran, organized a Webinar on the Impact of COVID-19 in the ECO Region and what it holds for the future of the ECO Member Countries on August 10, 2020. The webinar attracted over 400 participants from around the region.

The objective of holding this webinar was to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on health and economy of the region and how these countries have responded during the outbreak of this pandemic.

Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF moderated the webinar. Mr. Raza began the webinar with insight on the lack of healthcare capacities in the developing countries that are essentially needed to detect, and respond to the pandemic. He shared that the COVID-19 outbreak is creating significant additional pressure on an already overburdened health system in the ECO Member Countries.

In his welcome address, **Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF** underscored that the COVID-19 pandemic requires decisive and swift actions to respond to this overwhelming challenge for the ECO region. Prof. Soomro said that by the virtue of science, technology and human intellect, humanity can find a solution and fight this pandemic like all previous natural calamities. He especially thanked H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization for his honor to join the webinar as a Chief Guest.

H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization in his remarks appreciated the ECOSF for organizing this insightful webinar. Deliberations and pertinent recommendations put forwarded by the experts would be valuable to the forthcoming virtual ministerial meeting on health, Dr. Soleimanpour added. He further said that although COVID-19 is not the first pandemic the world has experienced, what makes it unprecedented is actually the transformation from health shock to socio-economic decline. This pandemic is likely to increase the global poverty and will severely affect all human life essential elements such as economy, health and education etc. Dr. Soleimanpour said that the economic recovery will remain highly uncertain and vulnerable to second and probably third wave of infections. The global economic GDP is expected to see negative growth of 4.9 and 6 percent during the 2020 as forecasted by the IMF and OECD, respectively. Dr. Soleimanpour commented that as a result of the lockdown and containment measures, ECO region is forecasted to see negative growth of 4% of regional GDP. In the end, **Mr. Kaan Sayen, Director, Human Resource and Sustainable Development of the ECO Secretariat** also contributed in the discussion.



The event was also broadcasted through Facebook Live which can be accessible at: <https://www.facebook.com/181178742083700/videos/313107179890529>

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Impact-of-COVID-19-1>

ECOSF and IRIS jointly organized a webinar Science Parks and Support for Start-up Companies in COVID-19 era

In recognition of emerging role of Science and Technology Parks (STPs) and Incubation Centers as essential platforms to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ECOSF in collaboration with its partner- Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Business Incubators & Science Parks Development (IRIS), Iran under the auspices of UNESCO, organized a webinar on **Science Parks and Support for Start-up Companies in COVID-19 era** on August 12, 2020.



Ms. Mzhgan Yazdianpour, Director of International Scientific Cooperation Department of IRIS opened the webinar by highlighting the important role of science parks and presented the key objectives of this webinar. Ms. Yazdianpour also appreciated the valued partnership amongst the ECOSF, IRIS and other key stakeholders for providing their valuable insights on STI parks in the region.

Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid Director of IRIS, Iran in his statement, underlined that the impact on SME’s and start-up companies has been both positive and negative. Some have achieved growth and expansion while others have been hit hard by the pandemic, he added. However, net effect of this pandemic has accelerated the disruptive role of digital technologies for the businesses, Prof. Omid said. Thus, he called for the need for Science Parks to reorient their business models to respond to the emerging challenges of COVID-19. Dr. Omid concluded that Science Parks would play important role in saving communities during these difficult times.



Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF delivered his talk on ECOSF - a Platform for Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation through Development of STI Parks in the ECO Region. Engr. Raza highlighted as to how start-ups and entrepreneurial eco-system in the ECO region have been hit hard by the pandemic. Mr. Khalil called for introducing supportive measures and policies for startups during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the ECO region.

Prof. Hak-Min Kim, Professor of Soonchunyang University of Korea delivered his talk on Start-up-Business Opportunities in the Post COVID era: A case of Smart City Development in S&T Park. Prof. Kim elaborated on innovative approaches to development of smart city through smart connections of Industry, Universities and Research organizations to untap new economic opportunities. Prof. Kim emphasized that policy support from the government is a key to the successful development of smart cities.

Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in his talk shared as to how the UNESCO Science Networks have responded to the COVID-19 and beefed up their efforts to strengthen the scientific community in the region. Prof. Khan emphasized that STI are crucial not only to manage the COVID-19 pandemic but also to prepare for global threats. Prof. Khan shared important initiatives undertaken by the UNESCO Jakarta office with emphasis on effective use of science to enable and empower Asia and the Pacific region in responding to COVID-19.

The recorded session is available on ECOSF Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/181178742083700/videos/853187102174409>

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Start-up-Companies-in-COVID-19>

3rd Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) held virtually on 12 August 2020

The 3rd Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI) based in Ankara Turkey was held virtually on 12th of August, 2020. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Ziya SELCUK, Minister of National Education of Republic of Turkey and attended by the Education Ministers/Vice Ministers/High Officials from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey (host) and Republic of Uzbekistan. The delegates of ECO Observers including Turkish Cypriot State and Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States also participated in the Meeting. The Secretary General of ECO and delegation of ECO Cultural Institute also attended the meeting. ECOSF was represented by its President Prof. Manzoor Soomro and Assistant Director Ghulam Abbas. The chair welcomed all the Ministers/Vice Ministers and distinguished guests for participation and contribution in the meeting.



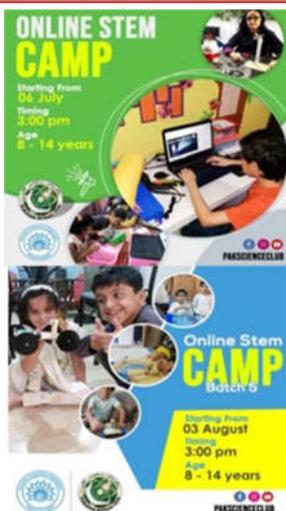
The Ministers/Vice Minister and Head of the delegations made their statements in the meeting. President of ECOEI made an introduction of the institute and briefed the BoT about the institute's programmes and activities. Prof. Soomro also made the statement in the meeting and shared the programmes, achievements and plans of ECOSF in collaboration with ECOEI.

The 3rd Meeting of BoT was preceded by the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting, held virtually on 10 August 2020, chaired by Mrs. Burcu EYISOY DALKIRAN, Director General (EU and Foreign Relations) Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey. The meeting discussed and finalized the agenda and other necessary documents for the BoT.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/3rd-Meeting-of-BoT-of-ECOEI>

ECOSF continues its Online Family STEM Summer Camps in collaboration with PSC in the Era of COVID-19

ECOSF and Pakistan Science Club (PSC) started a series of Online STEM Camps since April 2020 for the students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic which has confined children in their homes. Recently, three more Online Camps (3rd, 4th and 5th) have successfully been conducted. Online Family STEM Summer Camps provide a platform for hands-on/fun-learning scientific activities and engaging experience for not only students of different age groups but their parents also enjoy themselves by helping and guiding their children.



More than 170 families participated in the last 3 camps. An open workshop was also conducted in the wake of improved situation of COVID-19. Various interesting projects on STEM were undertaken by the students during the camps as shown in the pictures.

Batch 6 of the Camp will be starting from 12 September 2020.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Family-STEM-Summer-Camps>

4-Day Workshop organized for Capacity Building of Champions for Change (CFC) of Tharparkar, Pakistan

ECOSF has been collaborating with the Thar Education Alliance (TEA) for promotion and implementation of STEM Education through Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) - a *la main a la pate* methodology. Tharparkar is a desert area of Pakistan with meagre infrastructure and facilities. TEA has initiated various projects for promotion and improvement of educational and socio-economic conditions of the local masses of Tharparkar, especially the females. In this context, 50 young females were selected to be trained as activists, mobilisers and teachers for the promotion of education in the area.



In this regard, a 4-Day workshop was organized by TEA in collaboration of ECOSF for the capacity building of Champions for Change (CFC) from 20-23 August 2020 at Mithi City of Tharparkar District of Sindh, Pakistan focusing on importance of STEM Education and to enhance their skills so that they can enrich the educational landscape of Tharparkar, play a vital role in their local community to ensure the enrolment of girls' education.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Champions-for-Change>

President of Pakistan opened the 1st COMSTECH-MoST Showcasing of Artificial Intelligence and IoT Products and Services: AI and IoT for Pakistan

COMSTECH in partnership with Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications of Pakistan and Center for Advanced Research in Engineering (CARE) organized 1st Showcasing of Artificial Intelligence and IoT Products and Services: AI and IoT for Pakistan” on 4th August 2020. H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the Chief Guest opened the event. The Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain was the Guest of Honour. A good number of tech/computer experts, heads of organizations, academicians/educators and students attended the event. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro also attended the event on a special invitation.



The President of Pakistan inaugurated the Exhibition and then made a speech to the audiences. In his remarks, Dr. Alvi appreciated Ministry of Science and Technology, COMSTECH and other partner organizations for taking a pioneering step to initiate a series of exhibitions on modern technologies. He also appreciated COMSTECH for establishing close collaboration with partner institutions in OIC countries to hold such events and mentioned that under the new leadership of Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, COMSTECH has initiated a large number of capacity building activities and programs using its strong networking in 57 OIC member states. He highlighted the need of AI and its application while stressing for innovation creation and marketing the products. He further said that such showcasing not only encourages a culture of innovation, but serves as a platform for interfacing between business and research institutions. The President pointed out weakness in human resources and mentioned a major initiative taken by his office to meet this lacking on Artificial Intelligence & Advance Computing (PIAIC) as a youth trainee program, to introduce the youth to these latest technologies.

The Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Fawad Chaudhry also addressed the inaugural session. He said that the Ministry of S&T strongly believes that scientific and technological developments in our country must be translated into products and services. The Ministry continues to support research institutions, assured the minister. He mentioned that COMSTECH is the most important international organization OIC hosted by Pakistan. He said that MoST greatly values the central role that COMSTECH can play not only in the capacity building of OIC countries through linkages and exchanges, but also its pivotal role in presenting the best of Pakistan’s scientific and technological capabilities for the promotion of export of high technology products. We are closely working with the COMSTECH for the success of a large number of initiatives and programs, which have been launched under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary Coordinator General of COMSTECH, he said.



Read more: <http://ecosf.org/1st-COMSTECH-MoST-Showcasing>

President ECOSF invited as a Keynote Speaker at the International Science Education Forum held virtually during Global Smart Education Conference by Beijing Normal University

Beijing Normal University (BNU) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of People's Republic of China and National Engineering Laboratory for Cyberlearning and Intelligent Technology (CIT) and other partners organized the International Science Education Forum on August 22, 2020. This forum was organized along the sidelines of Global Smart Education Conference 2020. It was jointly sponsored by the Research Institute of Science Education and the Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University.

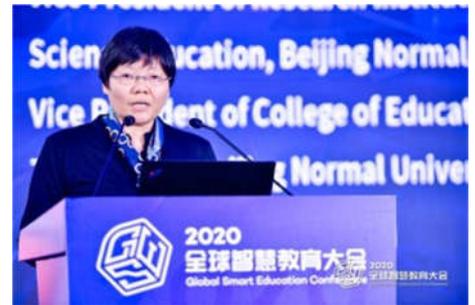
The objective of this conference was to pool global resources and strength for promoting smart education, forge high-end platforms for exchange and cooperation, facilitate innovative integration of intelligent technologies and education and promote equity in education and personalized growth.





Dr. Lee Yee Cheong, Commissioner of UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, President of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World and Professor Dong Yan Cheong, Vice President of Research Institute of Science Education of Beijing Normal University co-chaired the Forum. Dr. Lee Yee Cheong emphasized the STEM education must not emphasize only physical science, engineering, technology and mathematics, it must place equal importance to social sciences so as to instill some age-old virtues to the young. He further said that “these virtues are: study hard and work hard; spend frugally and save for a rainy day; respect elders and authority, take care of extended family and community”

Professor Dong Yan said “the development of science education, especially the development of science education in K-12 stage, is the basis of improving a country’s science and technology ability.” She further mentioned that COVID-19 has made people more aware of the importance of science and technology.



Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, the President of the ECOSF made his keynote presentation on “Blended Education System- a post COVID-19 need for the World”. In his presentation, Prof. Soomro said that COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected education around the globe, however with the help of ICTs many regions have shifted to digital platforms for delivery of education. However, online education has its own challenges especially in developing countries due to lack of adequate ICT infrastructure, he added. Electricity and internet access have been the biggest challenge for effectively imparting the formal education across the developing world. With non-availability of reliable connectivity, it is difficult to follow the methods and models being

practiced by *the developed countries*.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Global-Smart-Education-Conference>

13th ISTIC Governing Board Meeting held virtually

The 13th Governing Board Meeting of International Science Technology and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) Malaysia was held virtually on 13 August 2020. The meeting was presided over by the Chair of the Governing Board (GB) Prof. Datuk Dr. Halimaton Hamdan and attended by the Members, flanked by the Honorary Board Chair Dato Lee Yee Cheong and the Director ISTIC Ms. Tengku Sharizad Tengku Chik. This was the first ever virtual meeting of the ISTIC Governing Board.

The board reviewed the progress on the previous decisions and on-going programs and approved the future work activities, financial and budgetary



matters of the ISTIC. Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECO Science Foundation as a senior Member of the ISTIC Governing Board participated in the meeting and contributed to decision making. It is pertinent to mention that ISTIC is a collaborator and partner organization of ECOSF for promotion of STI, Engineering, IBSE, Technopreneurship and Women in Science Programmes in ECO region and beyond in ECO Region since 2014.

Dr. Soomro emphasized on the ISTIC leadership to organize some STI capacity building workshops in the ECO Region in partnership with ECOSF; which were agreed in principle by the Forum.

UNESCO Jakarta Office Organized a Webinar on Sustainability Insight # 11: Crossing Disciplines to Reduce Water Inequalities

UNESCO Jakarta organized 11th interview session of the “Sustainability Insight” series on 6 August 2020. In this series, UNESCO Jakarta invites one implementing partner at a time and learn from their knowledge, experience, and view of the post-pandemic new normal. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the webinar.

At the 11th session of this webinar series, UNESCO Jakarta invited Prof. Jeff Camkin, Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Australia’s Institute of Agriculture and the International Water Centre and Griffith University, Australia, and Prof. Soontak Lee, Distinguished Professor of Yeungnam University, Korea, President of International Hydrologic Environmental Society (IHES), and Governor of World Water Council (WWC).



Prof. Shahbaz Khan, the Director of UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, started the session by requesting the guests to provide their perspectives on water inequality issues. Prof. Lee referred SDG 10 and SDG 6, indicating that water inequality is one of various inequality issues, and is created by lack of available water, good management, investment, and political awareness. Prof. Camkin indicated that the “equity” is a better term than the "equality" to be used in this context. Although both terms promote fairness, the "equity" achieves it through supporting people differently depending on their needs. Governments are tasked to facilitate water equity for all to ensure the basic human rights.

With looking back the history of IHP activities in the region, Prof Lee explained that IHP 8 selected water security as a central issue, considering its wider scope than water scarce. Prof. Camkin stressed that governments are responsible for ensuring good governance, but the governance is for all people. Multi-disciplinary approach, consideration of various types of knowledge, and the participation of all relevant stakeholders are introduced as key elements for the successful governance.

The question remains as to how stakeholders can ensure the water security and investment in water in the post-pandemic world. Professors responded that the IHP programme have to develop cooperative actions, utilize the networks which were developed and maintained by JFIT and other support, and assist local transformation by looking at the issues through the local lens.

The recorded session is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/sustainabilityinsight/videos/308684040252770>

Transformation of Education System of Pakistan need of time, stressed by Experts/Educationists during the Online Roundtables on Education organized by PIDE Islamabad

Pakistan Institute of Development Economic took a great step and organized 5-Day virtual roundtables on Education in Pakistan from 19-23 August 2020. The series addressed the following topics/titles:

1. The Education Paradigm in Pakistan, what is it? what should it be?
2. Role of Government in Education
3. Public Private Partnership in Education
4. Is Technology the panacea and are we using it?
5. The National Unified Curriculum, what? Why?

Federal Minister for National Education and Training H.E. Mr. Shafqat Mehmood attended as Chief Guest of last webinar held on 23 August 2020. More than 10 renowned education experts of Pakistan also took part in the series which included; Ms. Quratulain Bakhteari, Ms. Neelam Hussain, Ms. Shehnaz Wazir Ali, Dr. Faisal Bari, Dr. Shahid Hafiz Kardar, Mrs. Nazish Attaullah.



In his speech, H.E. Mr. Mehmood said that nothing is more important than education for a civilized and developed society. He further said that the present government is taking some significant steps for education. During the current situation of COVID-19, the government launched online and tele-schools on urgent basis to provide education to the students in their homes, informed the Minister. H.E. the Minister accepted that there are lot of issues for quality education such as quality content, infrastructure, well trained faculty/HR, easy access to the required things. H.E. Mr. Mehmood stressed that the basic education from class 1-5 should be in mother language/local language, thus, English should only be taught as language rather than subject. In this context, the Government has been working on unified curriculum in consultation with education experts, provinces and other stakeholders. The unified curriculum is almost ready and will be taught in schools next year tentatively from April 2021. He further said that there is huge gulf that separate communities in the country and same is evident in education sector. Madarasah reforms have also been carried out to make them join in mainstream decrease the gulf. He assured the full support of the Government for quality education.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/Transformation-of-Education-System>

President ECOSF meets the Coordinator General of COMSTECH

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro paid a visit to the secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific & Technological Cooperation- COMSTECH in Islamabad and had a meeting with its Coordinator General Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary on 20 August 2020. Prof. Chaudhary warmly welcomed Prof. Soomro to COMSTECH. Prof. Soomro congratulated Prof. Chaudhary upon his assuming the challenging role as the Coordinator General of COMSTECH. Subsequently the two leaders sat together and discussed the possible STI cooperation in the common member countries of the two organizations.



During the meeting, Prof. Soomro briefed Prof. Chaudhary on the on-going high impact programmes of ECOSF and discussed the potential collaboration between the two Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).

Dr. Soomro said that the potential collaboration between ECOSF and COMSTECH exists in the areas of; S&T Parks and Incubation Centres; IBSE for STEM Capacity Building of School Teachers and Teacher Trainers; and the Technology based business development in the common member countries.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Coordinator-General-of-COMSTECH>

Agriculture Policy of Pakistan discussed- Focus on Small and Medium Farms emphasized by the Experts

A webinar entitled “Review of Agriculture Policy in Pakistan” was organized by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) on 16 August 2020. The webinar was moderated by a Fellow of PAS Prof. Dr. Iqrar A. Khan and attended by a large number of agricultural experts, academia, economists, students and other peoples from all walks of life.

The agricultural experts discussed the agriculture policy of Pakistan and its issues such as land and water productivity/sustainability, climate change, diversification, stagnant yields, post-harvest losses & markets, social disparity, malnutrition and food security.

Experts such as Dr. Akmal Hussain from the Planning Commission of Pakistan, Dr. Yusuf Zafar (former Chairman of Pakistan Agricultural Council, Usman Rafique, Shaukat Bhatti and others made presentations and shared their ideas. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro also shared his wisdom and experiences with reference to education of farming communities, use of new technologies and engagement of youth especially the rural, for a long term sustainable agricultural productivity and livelihoods of the farmers.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Agriculture-Policy-of-Pakistan>

ECOSF Participated 2020 Puijiang Innovation Forum on 31 August 2020

2020 Puijiang Innovation Forum – Future (Science) Forum was organized by Springer Nature in collaboration with Polar Research Institute of China, Ministry of Natural Resource and hosted by Ministry of Science and Technology, and Shanghai Municipal government on 31 August 2020. The Forum aimed at building a platform for the exchanges on impact of climate change and the role science and technology to address the global environmental challenges. The theme of the forum was focused on innovation and development and supply-side structural reform in the new era. A large number of distinguished climate scientists, researchers and experts participated in the forum. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the Forum.

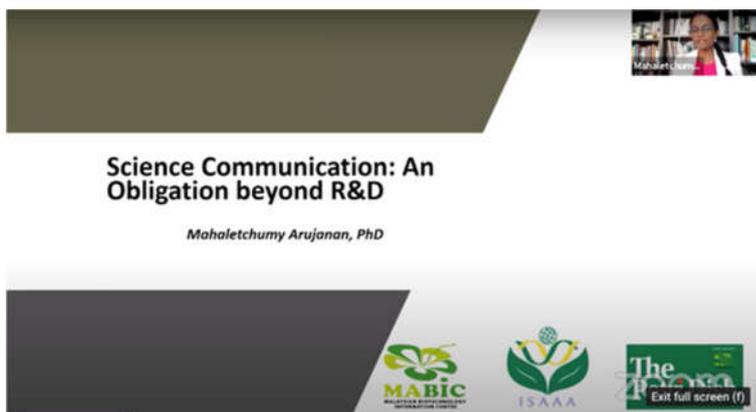


The forum was chaired by Senior Editor Jiang Xujia of Nature, which included keynote speeches by worlds’ most renowned climate scientists; Professor Myles Allen from the University of Oxford, Professor Denise Mauzerall from Princeton University USA, Prof. Guan Dabo, Senior Member of University of Cambridge, Distinguished Professor at Tsinghua University China and Dr. He Jianfeng, Senior Researcher of Polar Research Institute of China.

The forum organized panel discussions on impact of climate change on polar environment and climate change: crises, challenges and solutions. The debate during the panel discussion was centered around as to how the carbon emissions have temporarily dropped as a result of the outbreak, how it can be a turning point in the quest to rein in global warming. In addition, it also discussed that as countries are pulling together to defeat the pandemic, how their efforts would lead to a new era of cooperation to prevent climate disasters.

ECOSF Participated in a webinar on Science Communication organized by COMSTech.

COMSTech organized a webinar on Science Communication: An Obligation beyond R&D on 24 August 2020 to discuss the impact of democratising science for science and society. Guest speaker of the webinar was Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan, Global Coordinator, International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotech Applications (ISAAA). Dr. Arujanan also serves as the Executive Director, Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Chaudhary formally opened the webinar by highlighting the critical role of Science Communication especially for the developing countries. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the webinar on behalf of the ECOSF.



Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Science-Communication-2>

Evaluation of the new China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Transport Corridor

Courtesy of Eurasian Research Institute

While transportation services are experiencing enormous difficulties all over the world due to the coronavirus pandemic, China opened a new transport corridor to Uzbekistan through Kyrgyzstan. On June 5, 2020, the train loaded with cargo containers departed from the city of Lanzhou, the capital of the Gansu province, to the city of Kashgar in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). From Kashgar, the goods were transported by road through the Irkeshtam pass on the China-Kyrgyzstan border to the Kyrgyz city of Osh, where they were reloaded onto the train headed for Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. The train delivered approximately 230 tons of cargo worth \$2.6 million from Lanzhou to Tashkent, and on a return route from Tashkent, it brought around 525 tons of cotton worth \$1 million to Lanzhou. Thus, a new multimodal international transport corridor involving road and rail transportation has been created between China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

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

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

Book Launch of Communicating Science: a Global Perspective

We are pleased to invite you to the Book Launch of **Communicating Science: a Global Perspective** which is being published by ANU Press on September 15, 2020 at 12:00 GMT. We are extremely delighted to share that Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza from ECOSF have contributed to this book and co-authored a chapter on Pakistan, entitled **“Pakistan: Changing Landscape of Science Communication”**.

The Chapter on Pakistan highlights the key developments of science communication and outline recent trends in the country. It also discusses policy framework, and underscores as to why public engagement in science remains low in Pakistan. The launch would feature five authors telling the story of their country: the USA, Australia, East Africa and Russia, including Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro from Pakistan.

For more details, please visit the <https://pcst.co/webinars/public/>



Webinar: Post COVID-19: Reorienting – STI Cooperation amongst the Belt and Road Countries

ECO Science Foundation in collaboration with Institute of Research Promotion (IRP) Pakistan is hosting a webinar on **“Post COVID-19: Reorienting – STI Cooperation amongst the Belt and Road Countries”** during the Innovation Summit 2020 on

September 18, 2020 at 1100 Hours. The objective of this virtual event is to address as to how effectively we can utilize the ECOSF platform to synergize strengths of China and BRI Countries including the ECO Member States to reorient priorities and ensure rapid and inclusive sustainable growth to achieve Sustainable Development Goals during the post COVID scenario.

The zoom login details will be shared in due course at ECOSF's website and social media. For more details, visit us at: www.ecosf.org

Virtual launch of BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center on Scientific, Technological and Economic Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative

We are delighted to share with you that ECOSF is playing a key role in engaging key stakeholders and partners to bring meaningful impact towards the economic development through scientific and technological ventures among its Member States.

In this context that ECOSF in collaboration with Beijing Technological and Business University (BTBU) is planning to launch a BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center on Scientific, Technological and Economic Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative on September 23, 2020. The Joint Training Center is funded by China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and will provide capacity building training to young professionals of the ECO/BRI region in the emerging areas of economic development.

The zoom login details will be shared in due course at ECOSF's website and social media. For more details, visit us at: www.ecosf.org

Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

August 04, 2020: Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto, Co-Director Mehran University Institute of Science, Technology and Development (MUISTD), Jamshoro called upon President ECOSF at his office in Islamabad and discussed the policy development in STI in ECO Region.



August 31, 2020: Prof. Dr. Ghulam Raza Bhatti, Vice Chancellor of Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur and the Former Chief Conservator of Forest of Sindh Mr. Rahim Bukhsh Awan called upon President ECOSF at his office in Islamabad and discussed areas of mutual cooperation.

