



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) held in Hybrid Mode

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) organized in hybrid mode from January 16-19, 2023. The delegations of the Member States, ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies attended the segmental discussions and deliberations as well as plenary and closing sessions of the RPC. During the meeting, various sectoral committees discussed and considered their specific areas for making appropriate recommendations to the RPC. President ECOSF along with Scientific Officer, Assistant Director and Accounts Officer represented ECOSF virtually in the Meeting.



The ECO Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri welcomed the participants and highlighted evaluating the Organization's ongoing activities as well as considering and developing some new projects and programs to be implemented to shoulder, support and continue the regional development process.

Moreover, the Secretary General congratulated the Republic of Azerbaijan for assuming the Organization's Chairmanship in 2023, assuring his complete support and cooperation to ensure the smooth implementation of ECO activities and programs under their Chairmanship. Chairing the Plenary Session of the RPC, Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Special Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan expressed pleasure over assumption of ECO's Chairmanship by the Republic of Azerbaijan.



President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi made the statement of ECOSF in the meeting. In his statement, Prof. Tayebi shared the progress of the ECOSF and status of ongoing programmes of the Foundation. He further underlined that despite financial and budgetary constraints, ECOSF has continued its robust efforts on strengthening Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in the ECO Region. The Foundation recognizes that Human Resource Capacity Building is our core area of focus, he emphasized. Prof. Tayebi further said that he is personally and on behalf of the Foundation, grateful to the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for signing the Host Country Agreement in December 2021, thereby enabling his joining as the 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the ECOSF. Prof. Tayebi assured that the Foundation is making all possible efforts to promote science, technology, innovation and scientific education activities in the region with the collaboration and support of International Organizations.

The Council appreciated and thanked the ECO Secretary General and his team for making necessary arrangements for successful holding 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of RPC and preparation of relevant documents. The Council concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks to the Chair for managing the meeting in a proactive, smooth, and efficient manner.

**President ECOSF hosted Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan to discuss the potential ways to promote STI in Iran and ECO region**

Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan, H.E. Mohammad Ali Hosseini visited the ECOSF Secretariat and held a meeting with President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi in Islamabad on January 11, 2023. President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi warmly welcomed the Ambassador Hosseini to the ECOSF. Ms. Zahra Ghayanloo, Second Secretary, Embassy of I.R. of Iran also accompanied the Ambassador during the meeting.



Prof. Tayebi appreciated and underlined the important role of Government of Iran towards its strategic support to the ECOSF. Prof. Tayebi underscored that ECOSF has a tremendous potential to provide support to Iran as its important Member State. ECOSF could play a vital role by facilitating partnerships between universities, research institutions, and private businesses, amongst Iran and other Member States to help ensure that the results of scientific research are translated into practical applications for the ECO region.



During the meeting, Engr. Khalil Raza presented the briefing to H.E. Iranian Ambassador on various ongoing programmes and future plans or initiatives of the ECOSF to strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the ECO, particularly for Iran. In his presentation, Mr. Raza highlighted some of the significant science education and training programs that have been focused on Iran towards development of a skilled workforce in science, technology, and innovation.

H.E. the Ambassador Hosseini congratulated and appreciated Prof. Tayebi for his leadership and vision to promote the STI in the ECO region and affirmed all his support to help Foundation reach its full potential for shared goals and benefits. He concluded that the Government of Iran has high priority for promoting science, technology, and innovation which requires a comprehensive and coordinated effort, academia, industry, and the collaborative institution such as the ECOSF.



**President ECOSF made a Courtesy Call upon the Secretary Ministry of S&T Pakistan**

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi made a courtesy call upon the Federal Secretary H.E. Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon on 17 January 2023. The Secretary warmly welcomed President ECOSF. Prof. Tayebi acknowledged the support and patronage of the Government of Pakistan through its Ministries of S&T and Foreign Affairs. He also thanked Government of Pakistan to facilitate his joining as 2nd President of ECOSF and said that his stay in Pakistan has been so far productive and peaceful. Prof. Tayebi further said that Pakistan seems just as his home. He also shared some ongoing programmes of the Foundation. Prof. Tayebi apprised the Secretary about financial constraints faced by ECOSF and requested to pull it from that situation. President ECOSF also invited the Secretary to join the 5th Meeting of ECOSF Board of Trustees (BoT) which will be held next month in Isfahan city of Iran.



H.E. Mr. Memon appreciated the initiatives of the Foundation to promote S&T in ECO region. He offered his support to resolve the matters of ECOSF especially the financial issues. He also ensured his full support for smooth stay of Prof. Tayebi in Pakistan. Mr. Memon thanked President ECOSF for extending the invitation to attend 5th Meeting of BoT and said that he would try to attend it.

**ECOSF participated in the International Conference on Sustainable Development hosted by the University of Chakwal**

The University of Chakwal organized an International conference on January 4, 2022. The theme of the conference was “Bridging the Industry – Academia Gap for Sustainable Development in Pakistan.” The prime objective of this conference was to explore and strengthen the linkages between academia and industrial sectors. A large number of educational and industrial leaders participated and contributed to the conference.



Several international renowned academicians graced the occasion. Prof. Kim Emerson Stansfield from the Vocate LTD UK, Prof Fernando Colmenares from the Columbia, Prof Freeha Azmat from the University of Warwick, UK, Prof Shahid Munir Chairman of PHEC and more than eight Vice Chancellors of several Pakistani Universities participated in this international conference.



**Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECOSF** was specially invited as the Guest Speaker in the inaugural ceremony of the International Conference. Prof Tayebi delivered his keynote speech on Sustainable Development in the ECO region. Prof. Tayebi underlined that the Science, Technology, and Innovation are the driving forces behind progress and have the potential to accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable future. He added these forces can provide us with the tools and solutions we need to address some of the most pressing challenges we face, such as climate change, poverty, inequality and economic crises.

**Provincial Minister for Higher Education Punjab, Mr. Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfaraz Khan** was the Chief Guest in the International Conference. In his Address, Mr. Khan encouraged the organizations from both sides; Industry and Academia to actively seek out potential partners and initiate conversations about potential areas of collaboration to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, technology, and expertise.

Earlier, **the Vice-Chancellor University of Chakwal, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Bilal** in his welcome address said that industry-academia collaborations can lead to the development of new technologies and products and can also help to stimulate economic development by creating jobs and fostering innovation in Pakistan.



Other speakers also highlighted that the Government could play an important role in promoting industry-academia linkages by providing funding and support for collaborations, and by creating favorable policies and regulations that encourage partnerships.

**ECOSF contributed to the 1<sup>st</sup> International Forum on Children and Youth Sustainable Development Education**

The Research Institute of Science Education of Beijing Normal University hosted the 1st International Forum on Education and Youth Sustainable Development Education on January 16-17, 2023. The purpose of hosting this Forum was to raise the awareness of youth and children about the "community of a shared future" and "Sustainable Development Goals", so as to further strengthen the people-to-people exchange and mutual learning and exchange of civilization amongst the Belt and Road Countries.



Renowned experts and scholars around the Belt and Road Countries contributed to the Forum and emphasized on working together to cultivate the new generations capable of taking up responsibility for national development in the new era.

The Forum discussed as how to guide the youth and adolescents to participate in the action for achieving sustainable development goals under the collaborated education ecosystem construction of the family, school and community for youth sustainable development. The Forum also focused on cultivating their basic quality and necessary scientific and technical skills needed for realizing their potential, so as to improve their comprehensive capacity in terms of knowledge, innovation awareness and practicing ability.

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi delivered his keynote presentation on Integrating Climate Change Education in Schools for Sustainable Development. In his talk, President Prof. Tayebi emphasized that education system must equip learners with the capability of understanding and decision making, based on evidence and critical thought, rather than letting opinions or irrationality guide their choices in the future. Prof. Tayebi advocated for adequate science teachers' mobilization, education and support and introduction of climate change education into national science curricula in the Belt and Road countries. Prof. Tayebi then shared some of the important initiatives of the ECOSF to integrate the climate change in the science education systems in the ECO region.

**ECOSF in collaboration with e-Learning association of Iran (YADA) hosted a webinar on Technology Enhanced Learning**



**Iran's action plan in the European UNITEL project:  
Lessons for the ECO Region  
(Experiences of the University of Isfahan)**

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in collaboration with e-Learning Association of Iran (YADA) and University of Isfahan hosted virtual session on January 18, 2023. This virtual event explored the means and strategies to promote the Technology Enhanced Learning in the ECO region with a theme entitled *"Iran's Action Plan in the European UNITEL Project: Lessons for the ECO region (Experiences of the University of Isfahan)"*.



President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi delivered his presentation on role of the ECOSF in promoting TEL and shed some light on the background of EU funded UNITEL project. He further explained the role of UNITEL project, which aims to support modernization, internationalization and accessibility of the Higher Education System between Iranian and European Universities through the development of innovative pedagogical approaches based on collaborative technology enhanced learning methodologies.

Prof. Ali Akbar Safavi, Chairman e-Learning Association of Iran (YADA) shared his thoughts and strategies to promote e-learning and strengthening collaboration amongst the ECO Member Countries to materialize the strategic objective of the UNITEL project.

It is important to note that this UNITEL project started with the participation of some European Union universities from Italy, Greece, Portugal and Finland, and several leading universities in Iran with the financing of the Erasmus program in 2021.

Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer delivered his presentation on Technology Enhanced Learning: The Experiences of ECO Member Countries. Mr. Raza outlined the current policy framework and ongoing initiatives to promote e-learning in Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Kazakhstan.

Dr. Hamid Reza Marateb, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of Isfahan, Iran also presented the status of the UNITEL project on behalf of the University of Isfahan as the Member of Consortium of UNITEL Project.

In conclusion, Ms. Ilaria Reggiani Project Manager, Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, Italy congratulated the organizing partners for coming together and hosting this important meeting. Ms. Reggiani assured all her support on behalf of European Partners to achieve the strategic milestones of the UNITEL Project.

### Distinguished Visitors to the ECOSF

Prof. Freeha Azmat, Associate Professor, University of Warwick, Senior Fellow, Higher Education Academy, UK called upon the President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi at his office on January 12, 2023. Prof. Azmat shared her experiences on creating policy instruments and programs for higher education institutes to engage in more collaborative and engaging linkages between academia and industries. Prof. Tayebi discussed and highlighted several ways to strengthen the industry-academia collaboration to achieve sustainable and socio-economic development in the region.



### Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

#### Online science communication workshops February 2023

Free Training Workshops for Science Communicators. Taking place between 10th February 2023 – 22nd February 2023



GlobalSCAPE has been seeking to learn about the perspectives of science communicators across the globe, especially those working in countries that often do not receive as much attention from the global community as they deserve.

There are two workshops being offered.

**Global Relevance in Science Communication:** This explores how science communicators can practice their work in a globally relevant way that acknowledges and reflects the efforts of science communicators across the globe, as well as the diverse audiences and institutions they work with.

**Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) in Science Communication:** This considers how we can focus on JEDI to deliver more inclusive and responsive science communication with and for our varied global communities. To ensure that as a global field, science communication strives to promote equitable practices and can contribute to global citizens as a force for justice in the world.

Read more: : <http://ecosf.org/Training-Workshops-for-Science-Communicators>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Pakistan Chemical Expo (PCE) 2023**

ECOSF is pleased to support Pakistan Chemical Manufacturing Association (PCMA) in hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pakistan Chemical Expo (PCE) 2023 with the theme of “Creating new bonds” on 7 & 8 February 2023 at Expo Center, Lahore. President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi would participate in the Conference as one of the keynote speakers to share his thoughts on ‘Role of Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development’.

PCE 2023 is envisaged to boost business networking and collaboration efforts translating into new business avenues. Expo will provide an excellent platform to domestic and international chemical manufacturers and stakeholders including traders, technology providers, equipment suppliers and logistic partners to share and exhibit their products and services.

**Technology Enhanced Learning: Experiences of ECO Member Countries  
10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on e-Learning and e-Teaching (ICeLeT 2023)**

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in partnership with E-learning Association of Iran (YADA) plans to host a virtual session on Technology Enhanced Learning: Experience of the ECO Member Countries on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 during the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on e-Learning and e-Teaching (ICeLeT 2023) which is being hosted by University of Shiraz, Iran.

The ECOSF Virtual Session during ICeLeT 2023 will bring together experts from around the ECO Member Countries to share their insights and experiences on the latest developments in technology-enhanced learning in their respective Member Countries. It is important to recognize that use of TEL and e-learning tools and delivery is still limited, whereby not many academic or research institutions and universities in the ECO region are equipped with right tools and devices; or hold the adequate technical capacity to implement the TEL or e-Learning framework in their respective institutions. Zoom access will be shared on the ECOSF’s Website and social media in coming days.

**An International Conference on “Mitigation and Adaptation for Climate Change: Focus on Agriculture and Food Security**

Forman Christian College University (FCCU), Pakistan is organising an International Conference on “Mitigation and Adaptation for Climate Change: Focus on Agriculture and Food Security” on February 6-9, 2023. ECOSF is pleased to partner with FCC University in this important Conference and we are delighted to share that President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi would participate as the Chief Guest in the Inaugural Ceremony in the International Conference on February 6, 2023.