



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



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

Country	Total confirmed cases	Total deaths
Afghanistan	36,542	1,271
Azerbaijan	31,560	441
Iran	301,530	16,569
Kazakhstan	89,078	793
Kyrgyz Republic	35,805	1,378
Pakistan	278,305	5,951
Tajikistan	7,366	60
Turkey	229,891	5,674
Turkmenistan	-	-
Uzbekistan	229,891	137
ECO Region Total	1,239,968	32,274

Date Stamp: July 31, 2020

Source: <https://ourworldindata.org> Note: So far, no case has been reported for COVID 19 in Turkmenistan.

Invitation: Impact of COVID-19 on the ECO region and what it holds for the future of 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



Prof. Dr. Mustafa Gerek
Vice President
University of Health Sciences
Turkey



Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi
Director, Center of Excellence for
International Economics (CEIE)
University of Isfahan, Iran



Prof. Dr. Amirhossein Takian
Chair Department of Global Health &
Public Policy, Tehran University of
Medical Sciences, Iran



H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour
Secretary General
Economic Cooperation Organization



Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro
President
ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)



Moderator: Engr. Khalil Raza
Scientific Officer
ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

Zoom ID: 945 3584 4606

Password: 000266

Facebook Live: [f/ECOScienceFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation)

www.ecosf.org

5th Floor, MoST Building, 01-Constitution Avenue, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: +92(51) 9215496 Fax: +92(51) 9215497

Website: www.ecosf.org, E-mail: registry@ecosf.org, Facebook/[ECOScienceFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation)

ECOSF is organizing a Webinar on the Impact of COVID-19 in the ECO region and what it holds for the future of ECO Member Countries on August 10, 2020. The discussion during the webinar will mainly underscore as to how ECO Member Countries have responded to the COVID-19 and identify gaps in the healthcare systems in the region. The webinar will generate discussion on the short-term and long-term impacts of the pandemic on the economic integration of the ECO region.

President ECOSF invited as the Guest Speaker in the Webinar of Sustainability Insight series #5, organized by UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific



UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Jakarta organized the fifth interview of the “Sustainability Insight” series on 16 July 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 was the guest speaker in the fifth interview session of the series. Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Jakarta conducted the insightful interview with Prof. Soomro on “**Investments in Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) for SDGs**”.

During the session, Prof Soomro and Prof Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Jakarta, discussed the critical role of STEM, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and Inquiry-based science education (IBSE) and relationship among them.

In Prof Soomro’s view, STEM subjects are the important topics for ESD, and the IBSE is a key approach in teaching the STEM subjects. IBSE allows children the opportunity to explore “hands on”, to experiment, to ask questions and to develop responses based on reasoning. Therefore, all three elements are synergistic, and important for all levels of society members and all genders.

Prof. Soomro highlighted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the most significant challenge for ECO countries and beyond has been the lack of stable broadband. Unstable internet connection has been affecting the IBSE program and online teacher training, Prof. Soomro added. He highlighted that “it is important for government to invest on ICT infrastructure to support delivery of education”.

Prof. Soomro underscored that the ideal level of investment in STEM. On average, ECO countries spend 0.3% of GDP on research and development, which is much less than most developed economies. Prof Soomro recommended all part of society must invest into STEM, and acceptable minimum level of investment would be at 1 % of GDP.

Relevant material for this session is available at <https://bit.ly/31fBbFY>. The recording of the session is also available at https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=413253396258088&ref=watch_permalink

Current Scenario of R&D on Locust Management: Pakistan Perspective, Webinar organized by the MNS University of Agriculture Multan with the support of ECOSF

Institute of Plant Protection and Center for Agricultural Sustainability in South Punjab (CAS-SP) of the Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan (MNSUAM) organized a webinar on “Current Scenario of R&D on Locust Management: Pakistan Perspective” on July 9, 2020.



Opening Remarks by
Prof. Dr. Asif Ali
Vice Chancellor, MNS-University
of Agriculture, Multan



Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro
Founder President of ECO
Science Foundation



Dr. Syed Wasim-ul-Husain
Food Security
Commissioner
Ministry of National
Food Security
and Research, Pakistan



Dr. Mohammad Anjum Ali
Director General Agriculture
(Ext. & AR)



Dr. Abid Mahmood
Director
General Research
Punjab



Prof. Dr. Shafiqat Saeed
Dean Faculty of
Agriculture &
Environmental Sciences,
MNS-University of
Agriculture Multan



Dr. Shaker Ahmad Khan,
Locust Control
Specialist,FAO



Aatif Shah Kaker
Director
Agriculture
Extension
Baluchistan



Prof. Dr. Riffat Safiana
University of
Sindh Jamshoro



Nadum Ahmad Karal
Deputy Director
Plant Protection,
Agriculture
Department, Sindh



Dr. David Hunter
President
The Orthopterists'
Society, Australia



Join us
Meeting number: 166 596 4809
Password: 4321
<https://mnsuam.webex.com/join?MTD=65404c5f4ac0f743f4e4d5a9805738>
Complications in joining on link?
Please contact 0307914356

A number of experts within Pakistan and from abroad spoke on the occasion to highlight the research and development on locust management being undertaken in Pakistan. President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was one of the speakers. In his talk Dr. Soomro presented an overall situation of locust invasion in the ECO countries particularly of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. He called for strengthening international collaboration to better study the behavioural patterns of Desert Locusts in relation to changing meteorological and climatic conditions and to adapt control and preparedness plans. Earlier Prof. Dr. Asif Ali Vice Chancellor, MNS University of Agriculture Multan welcomed the panelists and attendees, emphasizing on the need for local R&D.

During the webinar, many national and international agricultural experts, officials of relevant entities of provincial and federal government, representative of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and research scientists deliberated on the issues and shared their research work and strategies to minimize the locust invasion in the region.



President ECOSF joined the Official Launch of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework by the United Nations

The United Nations launched the SDG-6 Global Acceleration Framework during 2020 High-level Political Forum (#HLPF2020) that was held online on 9 July 2020. The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Platform is an interactive space for national governments and other actors to record their initiatives voluntarily undertaken to accelerate SDG implementation on water and sanitation initiatives.

During an online launch, Secretary General of UN António Guterres along with heads of UN DESA, FAO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNICEF, UN HABITAT, WHO, representatives of World Bank and a number of high official delegates, including the Foreign Minister of ECO Member- Tajikistan as well as the International Youth Parliament on Water participated in an online launch. On behalf of ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF also joined the online launch.

UN Secretary General António Guterres along with other delegates spoke on the importance of water, the effects of climate change and water education, trans-boundary water and use efficiency. The Global Acceleration Framework will expedite and facilitate implementation of SDG-6.



The banner features logos for '6 Sustainable Development Goals', 'DECADE OF ACTION', 'SPECIAL EVENT', and 'WATER ACTION DECADE'. The main title is 'SDG 6 GLOBAL ACCELERATION FRAMEWORK' in a blue box. Below it, the subtitle reads 'DELIVERING THE PROMISE: SAFE WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL BY 2030'. Three overlapping arrows labeled 'AMBITION', 'COMMITMENT', and 'ACTION' point towards the right. At the bottom, the website 'www.unwater.org/sdg6-action-space' is listed, along with the United Nations and UN Water logos, and the date 'SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework | 9 July 2020'.

The SDG Acceleration Actions online database is a tool to help inspire and mobilize actions around the world to promote the implementation of the SDGs, as well as build resilience and bring inclusive recovery in the context of new realities post COVID-19, so that the global economy, planet and people we serve could emerge stronger together from the crisis.

The recorded session can of launch ceremony be accessed at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuu5x1hMtpM&feature=emb_title

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development- Virtual Event at the United Nations: Pathways towards Universal Access to Resilient Connectivity in the LDCs and Landlocked Countries, President ECOSF joined in



The banner includes the logo for the 'HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT' and 'Virtual Side Event at the United Nations'. The event title is 'PATHWAYS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO RESILIENT CONNECTIVITY IN THE LDCS AND LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES', held on 'Thursday 9 July, 2020' from '1200h-1330h EST'. A hashtag '#HLPF2020' and a large yellow arrow graphic are present. The text 'Access event here: bit.ly/3eRjySz' is provided. Four circular portraits of the featured commissioners are shown: Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Moez Chakchouk, Fekitamoeloa Katoa, and Patrick Nyirishema. The UN Broadband Commission logo is at the bottom right.

A virtual side event was held during the High-level Political Forum (#HLPF2020) on Sustainable Development entitled; “Pathways towards Universal Access to Resilient Connectivity in the LDCs and Landlocked Countries” on July 9, 2020. The virtual side event was organized by the UN Broadband Commission to highlight the significance of access to the broadband - and its importance during the current global crises like COVID-19.

The session highlighted best practices of public-private partnership and digital cooperation to enable connectivity for the most vulnerable populations and with emphasis on the specific needs of LDCs and landlocked countries. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the webinar.

During the webinar, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, Doreen Bogdan-Martin (ITU) gave her opening remarks, while ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao (ITU) was the keynote speaker. In addition, Moez Chakchouk (UNESCO), Fekitamelo Katoa 'Utoikamanu (UNOHRLS) and Patrick Nyirishema (Regulator, Rwanda) were amongst the panelists.

HESI Special Event: Where Next? Reimagining Further Education for the Future

On July 8, 2020, the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) hosted special webinar on “**Where Next? Reimagining Further Education for the Future**” alongside the United Nations High-level Political Forum (#HLPF2020).

The webinar discussed the important role of Higher Education in educating the current and next generation of leaders, driving the research agenda for both the public and private sectors which plays a critical role in shaping the direction of national economies.

HESI Annual Conference at HLPF deliberated on how to redesign higher education in support of sustainable development, a green recovery, and regenerative pathways for education. The discussion provided valuable insights on how COVID-19 will affect the sector and what new ideas are being considered that can enable higher education to enable radical change and regeneration. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the webinar.



Where Next? Redesigning Further Education for the Future

Wednesday, 8 July 2020

8:00 – 10:00 AM EDT

10:15 EDT International Green Gown Awards



HESI HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

It is important to mention that Ms. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO, Her Excellency Mona Juul, President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) were amongst the notable speakers during the webinar.

Recorded session is available to watch at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=11&v=KovZDueuUA&feature=emb_title

Locust Control Strategies for Pakistan– Success Stories & New Approaches

Pakistan is currently facing one of the worst locust plagues this century with an area over 57 million hectares already affected and threat of a further invasion from the Horn of Africa. Pakistan’s government has declared the plague a national emergency as it impacts on Pakistan’s economy and food security. The FAO, World Bank & Asian Develop Bank are among several donors providing technical and financial assistance to reduce the impact of the plague but only time will tell if the measures were adequate. .

Whilst current locust control measures, based on chemical insecticides, are somewhat limiting the damage, it is clear that this approach is not sustainable as it creates other challenges such as health risks, residues, environmental pollution, and loss of biodiversity. Concomitantly, the locust plague creates opportunities for Pakistan such as the opportunity to test new products and strategies for improved monitoring and control of locusts. Furthermore, Pakistan has the opportunity to spin out industries which could produce these novo products, tackling both current and future threats. In this regard, UK-Pakistan Science & Innovation Global Network (UPSIGN) with the support of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) organized a webinar and panel discussion where experts from around the world shared their experience of successfully controlling locusts as well as new approaches to control locusts in Pakistan.

The webinar speakers and panel members included Dr David Hunter (President, Orthopterists' Society & ADB Consultant on developing sustainable locust control strategies, Dr Belinda Luke (Senior Insect Pathologist & Team leader, CABI, UK), Prof. Tariq Butt (Natural Product Group, Swansea University, UK), Prof. Manzoor Soomro (President, Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation) and Dr Farooq Shah (General Secretary UPSIGN & CEO, Razbio Ltd., UK). The webinar attendees included researchers from leading agricultural universities of Pakistan, Research organizations including CABI, UK & Pakistan, NIBGE, PARC and representatives from Agricultural Extension services and industry.

Dr Farooq Shah briefed the attendees on current locust situation in Pakistan and its reliance on the use of chemical insecticides to control locust. He explained the negative impact of chemicals on human health, environment, and economy whilst stressing the urgent need to develop sustainable safe alternatives to chemical insecticides. The webinar speakers highlighted the importance of using environmentally friendly options such as biopesticides for the prevention and control of locust. Dr Hunter stated that fungal insect pathogens based bio pesticides have been used successfully in many countries particularly in Africa, therefore, its right time for Pakistan now to move away from harmful chemical insecticides and to incorporate biopesticides in locust control strategies. He also emphasized the need for developing biopesticides for other insect pests.

Dr Luke shared the success of a CBAI led project which helped to develop an insect pathogenic fungus for the control of locust in Africa, which is now commercially available in many countries. She highlighted the economic and environmental benefits of using biopesticides as opposed to chemical insecticides. Prof. Butt shared his experience in controlling insect pests using “stress & kill” and “Lure & kill” strategy using combination of semiochemicals and biopesticides. He emphasised that these innovative strategies improve the overall control of insect pests and concomitantly reduce or even eliminate the use of chemical insecticides. Dr Owen Jones of Lisk & Jones Consultants Ltd added that use semiochemicals could help improve monitoring and targeted insect control.

Prof. Soomro highlighted the importance of engaging with key stakeholders and policy makers to improve locust control strategy and adopt novel technologies discussed in the webinar. Attendees appreciated the cutting edge knowledge and expertise shared by the speakers and panel members. The webinar not only raised the awareness of novel technologies/strategies for the locust control but also offered a platform for UK and Pakistan based academia and industrial partner to form collaborative networks for the establishment of biopesticides research and capacity building in Pakistan.

China-Pakistan Workshop- Use of Artificial Intelligence against COVID-19 held

Considering the challenges of current pandemic, Pakistan and China are working together to overcome the difficulties of COVID-19 especially in Pakistan. In this regard, Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU), Beijing China and Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) Islamabad have planned to organize a series of joint online Science Workshops to help scientists and engineers to fight COVID-19 using new technologies. These workshops are sponsored by the Embassy of People’s Republic of China in Islamabad, Embassy of Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Beijing, China Centre for International Science and Technology Exchange (CISTE) at BTBU and the Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST).

The first workshop of the series titled, “Use of Artificial Intelligence against COVID-19” was held on July 23, 2020. Prof. **Zheng Wenhog**, Vice President of BTBU in his opening remarks welcomed the participants and appreciated the organisers for holding the workshop on

中巴科技合作系列培训 (I)
China-Pakistan Science Workshop (I)

主题：人工智能在抗击新冠肺炎领域的应用
Topic: Use of Artificial Intelligence against COVID-19

中国时间：7月23日 13:00-17:00	Pakistan Standard Time: 10:00 AM- 14:00 PM, 23/July
直播平台：Zoom 会议直播平台	Platform: Zoom Meeting
会议号：63344825930	ID: 63344825930
密码：123456	Password: 123456

主办单位： 北京工商大学
巴基斯坦科学基金会
巴基斯坦科技信息中心

支持单位： 中国驻巴基斯坦大使馆
巴基斯坦驻中国大使馆
中国国际科技交流中心
北京市科学技术协会

承办单位： 北京工商大学巴基斯坦科技与经济研究中心
北京工商大学国际经贸学院
北京工商大学经济学院
北京工商大学国际交流合作处

Sponsored by:
Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU)
Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF)
PAKISTAN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION CENTRE (PASTIC)

Supported by:
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Beijing
China Centre for International Science and Technology Exchange (CISTE)
Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST)

Organized by:
Pakistan Study Center of Science & Technology and Economy at HTBU
HTBU School of International Economics and Management
HTBU School of Economics
HTBU International Office

this very important issue. Mr. Muhammad Suleman, Education Attaché, Embassy of Pakistan Beijing in his remarks applauded the efforts of the organisers and said that both the countries always stand side by side in every difficult moment and same cooperation is continuing in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Sheikh**, Director General, PASTIC in his speech also thanked the participants for their keen interest in the workshop and highlighted the main objective of the workshop; viz., to promote China-Pakistan bilateral research in S&T and capacity building of Pakistani scientists, researchers, technologies, healthcare professionals in the use of modern technologies in the fight against COVID-19.

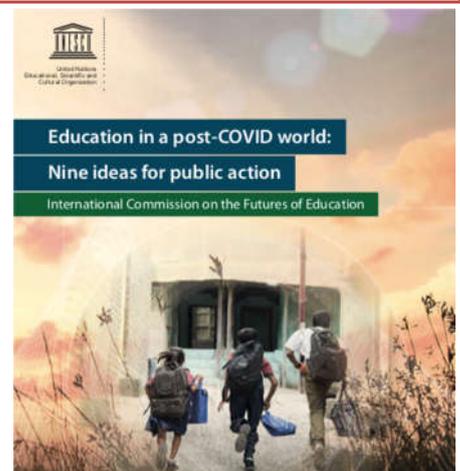
The workshop comprised of two lectures from **Prof. Chen Wei**, Deputy Director, State Key Lab of CAD&CG Zhejiang and **Prof. Zhang Zike** from Alibaba University School, Hangzhou Normal University. Prof. Wei talked about the Data Visualisation and its application in fight against pandemic. In the second lecture, Prof. Zike talked about the role of big and small data on COVID-19 in China. He shared his experience on how the Chinese government collected the data from different resources, analysed it and responded on the results of analysis during the pandemic days. He highlighted how infections were traced and measures taken to restrict the outflow from infected areas using machine learning and artificial intelligence; which helped to contain the spread of virus in China.

It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF and BTBU are also collaborating for promotion of STI under Belt & Road Initiative of China; and upon the invitation of BTBU and PASTIC, ECOSF team led by President Prof. Manzoor Soomro and Scientific Officer Mr. Khalil Raza, Assistant Director Programmes Mr. Ghulam Abbas and IT Specialist Mr. Bilal Mehmood attended the workshop. Prof. Soomro in his comments appreciated the organizers for conducting such an informative workshop on futuristic technology. ECOSF-BTBU joint activities will also begin soon.

Education in a post-COVID world: Nine ideas for public action

COVID-19 pandemic has severely hit every sector of society including education of 1.5 billion students throughout the world and it has shined a harsh light on the vulnerabilities and challenges humanity faces. In this context, International Commission on Futures of Education UNESCO has prepared a report entitled “Education in a post-COVID world: Nine ideas for public action”. The report presents nine key ideas for navigating through the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath.

It is evident that we cannot return to the world as it was before. One of the strongest messages in the report is that our common humanity necessitates global solidarity. We cannot accept the levels of inequality that have been permitted to emerge on our shared planet. It is particularly important that the world supports developing countries with investment in 21st century education infrastructures; this will require the mobilization of resources and support from developed countries, in particular with debt cancellation, restructuring, and new financing.



Read More: <http://ecosf.org/Nine-ideas>

ECOSF participated in webinar on “COVID-19 and its Relationship with Nature – Build Back Better” organized by the UNESCO and WWF Pakistan



UNESCO Pakistan in Collaboration with WWF Pakistan organized a Webinar on “COVID-19 and its Relationship with Nature – Build Back Better” on July 21, 2020. The objective of this webinar was to recognize the important linkage between the mismanagement of biodiversity and ecosystems and the risks of pandemics and infectious diseases to humans. On behalf of the ECOSF, President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro along with his team participated in the webinar. ECOSF is an Observer/Stakeholder of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and

promotes the approach being advocated by the IPBES and the concept of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Ms. Patricia McPhillips Director UNESCO Office Pakistan gave her welcoming remarks and highlighted the role of UNESCO in the global fight against the COVID-19. Dr. Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General WWF Pakistan underlined the important role of ecology and biodiversity to ensure the protection and growth of a healthy, globally biodiverse planet.

Prof. Dr. Zabta Shinwari, Vice Chair of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) stressed over the need to dispel the misinformation and pseudoscience while promoting ethical responsibility to fight global pandemic. Dr. Ejaz Ahmed Director ECO Logical Ltd. emphasized that there is dire need to address the root causes of zoonotic diseases by respecting the ecosystem and not encroaching the biospheres of other animal species.

Prof. Dr. Bilquees Gul, Director Institute of Sustainable Halophyte Utilization, University of Karachi and Dr. Babar Khan, Director (Wildlife) WWF Pakistan also spoke during the webinar. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Nazifa Butt Manager, Climate and Energy Programme at WWF.

President ECOSF participated in a Webinar Series on " Innovation and Entrepreneurship" jointly organized by PIDE and PIF

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and Pakistan Innovation Foundation (PIF) organized a joint webinar on " Innovation and Entrepreneurship" on 15 July 2020. Purpose of the webinar series on Innovation and Entrepreneurship is to explore the underpinnings and factors of successful regional models in more rigorous manner and to generate national dialogue and research programme on the subject .The webinar was moderated by Dr. Naadeem ul Haque– the Vice Chancellor of PIDE. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the webinar.

Mr. Ernesto Sirolli, Thought Leader, Social Entrepreneur and Founder of Sirolli Institute started of the discussion saying that incubation system primarily needs an enterprise facilitator which is a key to create a sustainable and innovation system for any community or business.



Mr. Imtiaz Rastgar, Chairman, Rastgar Group of Industries highlighted the importance of setting up the local clusters for innovation. He said there are many small and medium level industrial units but there is lack of guidance to help them transform into making refine products.

Mr. Zia Imran, Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP) stressed over promoting trendsetters and success stories of innovation and entrepreneurship, as these attributes cannot be taught but learnt by observing the successful models.

Dr. Athar Osama, Founder /CEO Pakistan Innovation Foundation and INNOventure Global (Pvt. Ltd) concluded that clusters are primarily result of organic innovation, government can try to facilitate a cluster but cannot create a cluster on its own.

The recording of the session is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2esjKLXcaul>

UN DESA webinar on Partnerships against COVID-19 - building back better together to advance the 2030 Agenda

The United Nations Sustainable Development Group recently launched a framework for UN's urgent socio-economic support to countries and societies in the face of COVID-19. To advise the work of the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, a webinar was organized on Partnership against COVID-19 – Building Back together to advance the 2030 Agenda on 7 July 2020. On behalf of ECOSF, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the webinar.

Partnerships against COVID-19

Building back better together to advance
the 2030 Agenda

7 July 2020 - 08.00 - 09.00 EST



COVID-19
RESPONSE

It was moderated by Mr. Darian Stibbe, Executive Director, the Partnering Initiative while the panelists included:

- Fatmir Bitiqi, Special Advisor at the Cabinet of the President of the Government of North Macedonia
- Christine N. Umutoni, Resident Coordinator, Mauritius and Seychelles
- Gabriela Ocampo, United Nations Global Compact
- Kingsley Opoku Amaning, Resident Coordinator, Liberia
- Scott Ratzan, Business Partners for Sustainable Development
- Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, Professor and Department Chair of Development Sociology, Cornell University.

The discussion during the webinar centered around the ideas as to how partnerships can help assist in particular developing countries to address the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath and promote synergies between key sectors, including the scientific and technological community and the private sector.

Recording of the webinar can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHV6Sqv53K8&feature=emb_title

ECOSF participated in a webinar on "Energy Investments and Planning" organized by PIDE

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) organized a webinar on Energy Investments & Planning on July 3, 2020. The discussion during the webinar centered on issues of energy system planning and the sustainable financing and investments in Pakistan.

The webinar was moderated by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque Vice Chancellor PIDE. Mr. Syed Akhtar Ali, Former Member (Energy) Planning Commission, Mr. Waqas Bin Najib Member (Energy) Planning Commission, and Ms. Afia Malik Senior Research Economist participated as the guest speakers. On behalf of ECOSF, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF participated in the webinar.

ENERGY INVESTMENTS & PLANNING

Speakers



SYED AKHTAR ALI
(Former Member
Energy, Planning
Commission)



WAQAS BIN NAJIB
(Member Energy,
Planning Commission)



AFIA MALIK
(Senior Research Economist,
PIDE)

At the Table

- **Ermeena Malik** (Renewable Energy Consultant, World Bank)
- **Tahir Basharat Cheema** (Former MD, PEPCO)
- **Shahid Sattar** (Former Member Energy, Planning Commission)
- **Rashid Aziz** (Former Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank)
- **Vaqar Zakaria** (Partner and Director, Hagler Barley, Pakistan)
- **Amer Durrani** (President, Reenergia)

Moderator: Dr. Nadeem ul Haque (VC, PIDE)

Syed Akhtar Ali enumerated number of challenges that exists in the energy system planning. Due to lack of Integrated energy planning, Pakistan faces great challenges in determining the adequate energy requirements. It is because of these reasons that Pakistan is facing another crisis of over supply while previously it suffered due to the deficit crisis.

Mr. Waqas bin Najib underscored the importance of spatial planning to effectively determine the energy demand for the country. He further argued on policy direction whether one should chase peak demand due to air conditioning which could be economically inefficient for a resource strapped country like Pakistan.

Earlier Ms. Afia Malik presented her research outcomes on energy investments and planning. She recommended that Integrated Energy Plan for Pakistan should be developed and adopted, which will be central to the sustainable development of the country.

In the end, discussion was held on various issues on attracting viable investments in energy sector and development of Integrated Energy Planning system for Pakistan.

Islamic Republic of Iran becomes party to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of cross-border Paperless Trade

Courtesy of UNESCAP

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the latest country in Asia and the Pacific to ratify the Framework Agreement. The inclusive and enabling Framework Agreement effectively builds upon the large number of bilateral and subregional paperless trade initiatives, ensuring greater harmonization and interoperability between systems and promoting adoption of international standards - with potential to cut trade costs by 25 per cent and make contactless trade a reality where supply chains are resilient even in the time of pandemics such as COVID-19.

Read more:

<https://www.unescap.org/resources/framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border-paperless-trade-asia-and-pacific>

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

Opportunities at TWAS

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) has announced various opportunities for young scientists particularly from the Least Developing Countries to participate in their fellowships, trainings and doctoral programs.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Opportunities-at-TWAS>

Extension of the call for contributions on indigenous and local knowledge

ECOSF being the stakeholder/observer of The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) shares the notification about “Extension of the call for contributions on indigenous and local knowledge” for contribution/participation of environmental scientists/experts, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/indigenous-and-local-knowledge-2>

Youth as Researchers (YAR) global initiative on COVID-19

UNESCO invites young people to join the Youth as Researchers (YAR) global initiative on COVID-19. This initiative connects and engages with young people to conduct research on the impacts of COVID-19 on youth and the responses young people have implemented to tackle these. Young volunteer researchers will be involved in each stage of the research process from the design to publication of the results. The research is led by UNESCO and the UNESCO Chairs at the National University of Ireland Galway and Penn State University.

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

External review of the draft scoping report for the IPBES transformative change assessment now live!

With reference to notification EM/2020/4 (25 February 2020), it is to announce that the draft scoping report for the transformative change assessment (thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity) is open for external review: **3 July 2020 – 28 August 2020 (8 weeks).**

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/transformative-change>