



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



Announcement - Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon joins as an Executive Director (ED) of ECOSF

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon has joined the ECO Science Foundation as its new Executive Director on March 27, 2023 as per the decision of Board of Trustees (BoT) of ECOSF.

Dr. Memon is a seasoned civil servant, having served in various leadership positions at the Government of Pakistan for over 35 years. With a background in policy formulation, change management, financial management, human resource development, administration, auditing, and accounting,

During his career, Dr. Memon has been actively involved in promoting science and technology development in Pakistan. He has served as Secretary of the Ministry of Science & Technology and held the position of Executive Director of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), an inter-governmental and international organization. He has also served as the Chairman Pakistan Council for Science & Technology (PCST), where he was involved in S&T policy making, planning and implementation.



Throughout his career, Dr. Memon has served in various leadership positions in the public sector, including Acting Auditor General of Pakistan, Additional Auditor General, Senior Member FLC, Member Finance at SUPARCO, Director General Commercial Audit, Defense Audit, and Local Government Audit.

Dr. Memon is a Fellow Member of the Pakistan Institute of Public Finance Accountants (PIPFA) and an affiliate member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA), UK. He also holds an undergraduate degree in Medicine, Master in Business Administration (MBA) and Master degree in Economics. He also served as the President of Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), Beijing China. He has also held key positions in the Military Accounts Department and served as the Acting Auditor General of Pakistan.

With his extensive experience and expertise, we are confident that Dr. Memon will lead the ECO Science Foundation to new heights of success and contribute significantly to the advancement of science and technology in the ECO region. We extend our warmest welcome to him and look forward to working together.

ECOSF hosted a Virtual Session on Technology Enhanced Learning: Experience of the ECO Member Countries

ECOSF in partnership with the E-learning Association of Iran (YADA) organized a virtual session on Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) during the 10th International Conference on e-Learning and e-Teaching (ICeLeT 2023) on March 1st, 2023. The conference was co-hosted by the University of Shiraz, Iran.



**Join us on the Virtual Session on
Technology Enhanced Learning: the Experience of ECO Member Countries
March 1, 2022, at 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM (Pakistan Time - GMT+5)**

Meeting ID: 878 3916 7561
Passcode: 547783

DIGITAL LEARNING

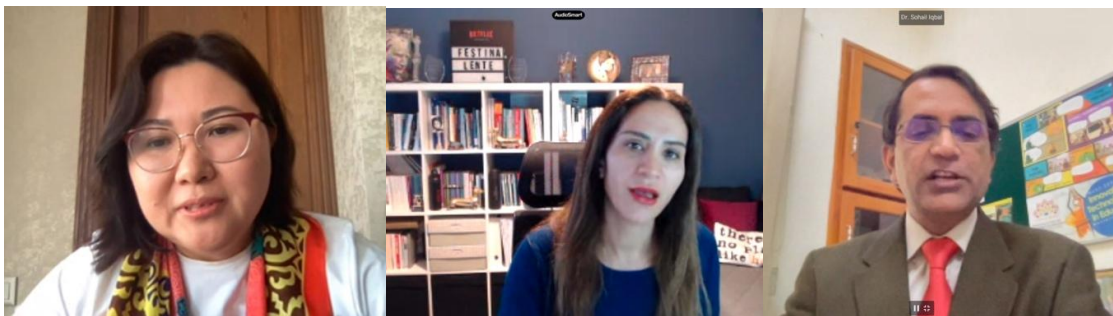
10th International Conference on e-Learning & e-Teaching (ICeLeT 2023)

 Prof. Sohail Iqbal Director - Center for Education Research and Practice (CERP) NUST, Pakistan	 Ms. Mona Aykul Business Development and E-Learning Director at DAS Akademie, Turkey	 Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan	 Dr. Aiman Khamitova, EdD Innovative Learning Officer Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan	 Prof. Ali Akbar Safavi Chairman E-Learning Association of Iran (YADA) Shiraz University, Iran	 Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECO Science Foundation Pakistan
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The virtual session aimed to provide a platform for experts from the ECO Member Countries to share their insights and experiences on the latest developments in TEL in their respective countries. The session also allowed policy makers, academicians, research scholars, and students to engage in dialogue and discussion on ideas related to the adoption of e-learning and the future of TEL in the ECO region. The virtual session was moderated by Engr. Khalil Raza, Programme Manager ECOSF.

The session commenced with a welcome note by Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of ECOSF, who shared his experiences of the UNITEL project. This was followed by Ms. Mona Aykul, Business Development and E-Learning Director at DAS Akademie, Turkey, who discussed the future of TEL in Turkey. She also discussed the latest developments in the country and potential strategies for further advancing e-learning.



Dr. Sohail Iqbal, Director of the Center for Education Research and Practice (CERP) at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, presented on the use of ChatGPT for enhanced learning. Dr. Iqbal underlined that Chat GPT models have been used in various natural language processing applications and could potentially have remarkable applications in TEL. Dr. Amina Khamitova, Innovative Learning Officer at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan, shared her perspective on the future of innovative learning environments in universities in Kazakhstan.

Finally, Prof. Ali Akbar Safavi, Chairman of the E-Learning Association of Iran and Professor of Systems and Control Engineering and IT Expert at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Shiraz University, spoke about the technology-enhanced learning initiatives in Iran.

The session concluded with a Q&A session, allowing the audience to engage in a discussion with the speakers and share their thoughts and ideas. The virtual session was successful in providing a platform for knowledge sharing and dialogue on TEL among the ECO Member Countries.



ECOSF hosted Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye in Pakistan to discuss the potential ways to promote STI in Türkiye and other ECO Member Countries

ECOSF hosted the Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Dr Mehmet Paçacı, at its Secretariat in Islamabad on March 29, 2023. The main focus of the meeting was to strengthen collaboration with Türkiye and explore potential ways to promote science, technology, and innovation (STI) in Türkiye and the ECO region.

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi and newly appointed Executive Director of ECOSF, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon, welcomed the Ambassador to the ECOSF. Ms. Esra Dera, First Secretary, Embassy of Republic of Türkiye also accompanied the Ambassador during the meeting. Advisor ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro also contributed during the meeting and highlighted some of his pioneering initiatives while he served as the Founder President of the Foundation.

Prof. Tayebi appreciated and underlined the important and potential role of Government of Türkiye towards its strategic support to the ECOSF. Prof. Tayebi underscored that ECOSF has a tremendous potential to provide support to Türkiye as its important Member State and vice versa.





ED ECOSF Dr. Memon underlined that ECOSF could play a vital role by facilitating partnerships between universities, research institutions, and private businesses, amongst Türkiye 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. Turkish 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 Türkiye. In his presentation, Mr. Raza highlighted some of the significant science education and training programs that have been focused on Türkiye towards development of a skilled workforce in science, technology, and innovation. ECOSF side requested the Turkish Ambassador for his support towards the ratification process of ECOSF Charter and establish robust diplomatic channels between ECOSF and relevant Turkish authorities.



H.E. the Ambassador Paçacı 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 Türkiye 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.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with both parties agreeing to work towards strengthening STI in Turkey and the ECO region.

ECOSF and Islamic Azad University signed an agreement to strengthen collaboration in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)

In a move to strengthen educational and scientific cooperation and ties amongst the ECO Member Countries, the delegation from Islamic Azad University (IAU) was invited to ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad on March 11, 2023. The visit by IAU delegation aimed to strengthen collaboration between the Islamic Azad University and the ECOSF.



The delegation was headed by Prof. Jalal Dorakhshah, Vice President of International and Foreign Students affairs, Islamic Azad University, along with Prof. Ali Sarvari Majd, Advisor and Head of the Department of Public Relations and Coordination of Provincial Affairs, Dr. Mohsen Moradi, President of Islamic Azad University of Khorasan Razavi Branch, and Dr. Masoud Akbari Zadeh, Head of Azad University of Sistan and Baluchestan Province. Mr. Ehsan Khazaei, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan also accompanied the delegation.

President ECOSF, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed his appreciation for the leadership of Islamic Azad university for solidifying the partnership between the two institutions. During the meeting, a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) was signed between ECOSF and Islamic Azad University to promote the exchange of knowledge, information, and mobility of students among the ECO Member Countries. On behalf of Islamic Azad University.

During the meeting, Engr. Khalil Raza, Programme Manager ECOSF, also presented the key programmes and initiatives of the ECOSF during the meeting. The signing of the MoU between ECOSF and Islamic Azad University is a significant step towards strengthening the collaboration amongst the ECO Member Countries and promoting regional development through education and science.

The meeting concluded on a positive note with both organizations expressing their commitment to promoting academic cooperation and cultural exchange among member countries.

ECOSF collaborated with the Delegation from Islamic Azad University to strengthen educational cooperation with Pakistani Academic Institutions & Universities

ECOSF in cooperation with Cultural Counselor at Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan earlier facilitated the delegation from Islamic Azad University on signing MoU with Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) to strengthen collaboration through education and science on March 10, 2022 in Islamabad.



On the occasion, President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi commended the collaboration between the two universities and encouraged further collaboration. The Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, also attended the signing ceremony and praised the strengthening trade, cultural, and political relations between the two brotherly Islamic countries.

In his remarks, Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood highlighted the deep ties of religion, civilization, and culture between Iran and Pakistan and expressed his hope that AIOU will play a role in strengthening the relationship through education.

Vice Chancellor for International Affairs and Foreign Students, Islamic Azad University, Dr. Jalal Dorakhshah, also expressed his appreciation for the partnership and the leadership of AIOU in fostering cooperation.

President ECOSF participated in the Science Diplomacy and Sustainability Course

A 1-Day introductory course on **Science Diplomacy and Sustainability** was organized by COMSTECH on Monday 06 March 2023. The purpose of the course was to stress the role of science in multilateral negotiations to overcome the problem of climate change through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and that of biodiversity loss through the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The participants included a large number of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, academics, and professionals from the field of science diplomacy and sustainable development. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi and Assistant Director Ghulam Abbas Rahar participated.



Main resource person of the introductory course was Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid who is the the Chairman ATRI Advisory, Malaysia and the former Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. Mr. Kamran Akhtar, ACDIS), Additional Secretary from the Policy Planning and Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was second resource person.

The welcome address was delivered by the Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary. He welcomed all the distinguished participants and hoped that it may lead to enhanced cooperation in science and technology through the aegis of COMSTECH. In his remarks, Prof. Choudhary, explained the role of COMSTECH in the domain of science diplomacy. He mentioned its ongoing initiatives on health and medicine in Sub-saharan Africa, its cooperation on food security with concerned organizations and its award of research grants to scientists in member states as examples of science diplomacy.

Dr. Zakri delivered two lectures, and explained in both lectures, that the drive towards sustainability and preservation of biodiversity and the earth’s resources in the face of climate change is more challenging in the Global South that also includes the 57 countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He said that these countries which are still in need of rapid economic development face the consequent negative impacts of expanded economic growth on the environment and biodiversity. He said that this challenge requires a careful scientific balance between promoting development and enabling conservation. He discussed the possible course of action of various stakeholders on the basis of science diplomacy. Prof. Zakri stressed the need for enhanced role of science in multilateral negotiations to overcome the problems of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Mr. Akhtar spoke about the essentials of science diplomacy in different areas of international negotiations emphasising its role as a soft power to advance diplomatic objectives and creating goodwill. He further described Pakistan’s contribution to multinational scientific initiatives such as the CERN LHC collaboration in physics. With regards to the control on greenhouse gas emissions he emphasized that while it is a common problem of all nations, there has to be a graded responsibility for reduction in emissions based on the contributions of various nations towards the current state of the environment.

Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, Advisor ECOSF joins the Inter-Academy Partnership Science Education (IAP-SEP) Global Council Meeting in Rabat Morocco, 16-17 March 2023

Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, the Advisor ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) as a senior member of the Global Council of Inter-Academy Partnership Science Education Programme (IAP-SEP), joined the triennial conference-cum-meeting of the Global Council in Rabat, Morocco on 16-17 March 2023. The meeting was hosted by the IAP Lead Academy for Science Education Programme- the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology of Morocco.

Day 1 was a conference-cum-review of the IAP-SEP funded projects and key note presentations on best practices around the globe; while the Day 2 was exclusively dedicated to the formal meeting of the Global Council.

The Day 1 began with opening remarks and welcome by Mr. Omar Fassi Fehri, the Perpetual Secretary of the host Moroccan Academy (Hassan II Academy of S&T); followed by welcome remarks by Prof. Wafa Skalli the Chair of the IAP SEP Global Council (GC).

The first keynote presentation; “Science education and literacy for Global Goals (SDGs)” was presented by Dr. Carol O’Donnell, Director of Smithsonian Science Education Center, Washington, DC, USA and member of GC. Second keynote was entitled; “IBSE Development in Multi-facet Global Initiative” by GC member Dr. R. Indarjani, Dean Faculty of Sciences and Technology, As-Syafiyah Islamic University, Jakarta, Indonesia. Subsequently, various speakers, mainly the members of IAP SEP Global Council members shared reports of their projects and activities. Regional IAP Networks including the African (NASAC), Asia & Pacific (AASSA), All European Academies (ALLEA) as well as the Latin American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS).

From the ECO Region, two members of Global Council presented the report of their IAP funded projects and science education activities. Dr. Lazzat Kussainova from the International Center for Scientific Cooperation (ICSC), Astana-Kazakhstan shared the report of their activities of teachers’ trainings in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan with the additional support of UNESCO Cluster Office Almaty Kazakhstan. Her presentation was themed; “Big Ideas in Science Education” in Central Asia.

Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro made a presentation based on the teachers’ training module on Climate Change Education developed by ECOSF under a project funded by the IAP SEP. Title of his presentation was; “**Developing and strengthening climate change education in Pakistan**”.

Dr. Soomro shared that ECOSF had launched in 2015 its flagship programme Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the ECO region with the cooperation of IAP SEP, ISTIC Malaysia and the Ma main a la pate Foundation of France. The Foundation has since been implementing IBSE in member states. Recognising the need to integrate the Climate Change Education into science education at schools, ECOSF developed the proposal and won the grant from IAP SEP to develop a Teachers Training Module which includes the following 10 units:

- Climate and Weather Science
- Science of Changing Climate
- Climate Change Observations
- Causes of Climate Change
- Climate Change Impacts Globally and Locally in Pakistan
- Identifying Human Activities related to GHG Emissions
- Response to Climate Change
- Natural Disaster Risks and Reduction
- International and Pakistan’s Efforts to respond to the Climate Change
- Learning Teaching Strategies

The forum appreciated presented and some questions were also asked with particular reference to the inclusion of concepts of resilience. The audience was informed that resilience is an overarching concept in the project and the module.

Finally, a roundtable session was held around the theme; “Sharing Resources for Science Centers- How to create synergy”, Prof. Soomro was among the participants and also helped the forum with preparation of session summaries of the daylong session.

Day 2 was dedicated to Global Council’s business meeting as per the agenda, and was chaired by the Chair Prof. Wafa Skalli assisted by Dr. Peter McGrawth the Secretary of IAP. Among the agenda items were; a presentation of Science Centers in Africa supported by IAP SEP and the renewal of the Global Council as some members including Prof. Soomro, Prof. R. Indarjani from Indonesia and Dr. Lazzat Kussainova were completing their tenures.



The forum decided with consensus that since Dr. Kussainova had only completed her first tenure, she may continue for another tenure; while Prof. Soomro and Prof. Indarjani had completed maximum three tenures, they be rotated and replaced with new members. However, both- Profs. Soomro & Indarjani were elected as members of the International Advisory Board of the SEP.



An International Conference on “Transboundary Diseases of Animal and Public Health” held at Sakrand, Sindh-Pakistan

An International Conference on “Transboundary Diseases of Animal and Public Health” was held on 1 -2 March 2023 at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Science (SBBUVAS), Sakrand, Sindh-Pakistan. The conference was organized by SBBUVAS, Higher Education Commissions of Pakistan and Sindh and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and supported by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF).

Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Dr. Farooq Hasan welcomed all the distinguished guests and participants. He further said that in a short period of time, two international conferences were organized in which the important issues facing the world at that time were discussed. He further said that the world has been facing various issues and the solution for those issues can be found through these kinds of conferences, seminars, etc. He thanked all the organizers and supports for their support to make it successful.



Chairman of the conference organizing committee and Dean Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Science Prof. Dr. Zahid Iqbal Rajput congratulated all the local and international scholars, and guests. He also thanked to the participants and said that without their participation, this great conference would have not have been possible.

President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi made a key note speech during the opening ceremony. He thanked the VC of SBBUVAS for inviting him to attend the conference and appreciated the efforts of SBBUVAS for beautifully organizing the conference. Prof. Tayebi introduced ECOSF through the PowerPoint presentation and said that ECOSF is an intergovernmental organization of ten regional countries working on promotion of science, technology and innovation (STI) based economic development in ECO region. He further said that the topic of conference was very important which addresses the issues of transboundary diseases of animals and public health. He hoped that during the two-day conference, the experts will share their knowledge and solutions to address its main theme. He also highlighted important programmes and initiatives of ECOSF. President ECOSF was also a Chief Guest during the closing ceremony and distributed the shields and certificates among the participants. Prof. Tayebi also made some valuable suggestions to connect the academia with research and economic institutes of ECO region and the world to bring the prosperity in Pakistan, Iran and other ECO countries.



International and national researchers such as Professor Dr. Andrew McCabe of the United States, Professor Dr. Tahira Mohammad Abidi of Iran, Professor Dr. Ahmed Abedin of Masdar, Professor Dr. Renee Vidyasutti of Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Jahan. Ara Begum, former dean of the University of Dikarmabad Prof. Dr. Ahrar Khan, the University of Agriculture Faisalabad Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kashif Salimi, DG Sindh Institute of Animal Health and Livestock Prof. Dr. Nazir Hussain Kalhoro, Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Science Dr. Amjad Islam Aqib from Bahalpur, Professor Dr. Kirk Hazlitt, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Science Professor Dr. Abdullah Arijo, Royal Veterinary College London Dr. Neil Moss, the University of Agriculture Faisalabad Professor Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas and others addressed the conference and presented their comprehensive papers on various topics in which by following the suggestions given by the researchers, other countries of the region, including Pakistan, can achieve far-reaching results in the field of veterinary medicine.

The researchers and experts also said that human health is connected with the health of animals, if the animals are healthy, then humans can have a good life. Therefore, there is need to adapt the veterinary field to modern requirements and create a new generation of veterinary medicine. There is also a dire need to provide better education in this field.

The conference was attended by a large number of Students, Teachers, Government Representatives, Researchers and Experts.

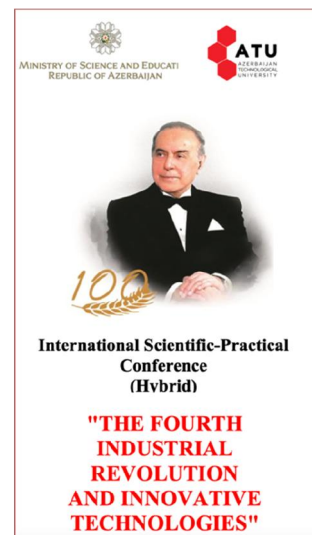
Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

International Conference on The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Innovative Technologies, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU), Azerbaijan is planning to host an International Scientific-Practical Conference in a hybrid format on "The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Innovative Technologies" on May 3-4, 2023.

Themes of the conference are:

- Artificial intelligence, robotics and information technology.
- Innovative technologies in the food industry;
- Innovative technologies in the textile and light industry.
- Innovative technologies in design.
- Innovative technologies in mechanical engineering, transport, and logistics.
- Innovative technologies in metals and materials.
- Marketing and management in digital economy; innovative technologies in tourism industry and ecology.
- Innovative technologies in multicultural education.
- Green economy and sustainable development.



The deadline for the submission of papers is 15 April 2023. Conference materials should be sent to: conference@uteca.edu.az

Paper publication and participation in the conference are free of charge. For more detailed information please see attached Conference brochure in English and Russian.

International Symposium on The Role of Science Academies towards the Future of Basic Sciences, Istanbul, April 28-29, 2023

Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA), InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), and Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) are organizing the joint Symposium on "The Role of Science Academies towards the Future of Basic Sciences". The symposium will convene in Istanbul, Türkiye between 28-29 April, 2023.

The symposium focuses particularly on basic sciences in order to contribute to the creation of a much greater appreciation for basic sciences, to generate discussions and raise awareness of the role of science academies for the future of basic sciences.

For more details, please visit the symposium website: <https://symposium.tuba.gov.tr>

Important Dates	
31 March	Deadline for abstract submission
07 April	Notification of acceptance
31 May	Deadline for full paper submission