



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## 15<sup>th</sup> Summit of ECO Heads of States held at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

15<sup>th</sup> Summit of ECO Heads of States was held at Ashgabat, the Capital of Turkmenistan on November 28, 2021. The meeting was attended by the Heads of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan (the host) and Uzbekistan as well as ECO Secretary General. The Summit was organized under the theme of **“Together into the Future”**, and chaired by the honourable President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov; while the honourable President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as the Chairman of 14th Summit Meeting inaugurated the Summit.

The honorable President of Turkmenistan was elected as the Chairman of the Summit. After his election as the Chairman, he made the opening statement and highlighted the establishment of dynamic dialogue of Turkmenistan with ECO and the work done in the Organization during the chairmanship of Turkmenistan. He also highlighted the permanent neutrality position of Turkmenistan and the cooperative relationship of Turkmenistan in international relations. He also attached importance to the strengthened cooperation among ECO Member States in the priority areas of the Organization such as Energy and Transport, Trade and Investment. He also assured that the support of Turkmenistan would be extended to the ECO for the fulfilment of its objectives.



Addressing the meeting, the ECO Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri made a focused briefing concerning the Organization’s key areas of cooperation, particularly, trade, transport, energy, tourism etc. He mentioned that following the guidelines of the ECO Leaders, given during the 14th Summit in special consideration of the pandemic, the Organization made considerable progress to secure its developmental goals as envisaged in the ECO Vision 2025 under the chairmanship of Turkmenistan. He emphasized that the Summit’s theme is more important in particular reference to the conditions developed

after the COVID-19 defining the significance of enhanced collaboration and partnership among Member countries during the time of crisis. While noting the importance of ECO's external relations with other regional and international bodies as most essential tool for achieving strategic objectives, the Secretary General informed that during the 25th COM held a day before the Summit, an MoU between the ECO and UNESCAP was signed for further institutionalizing the mutually developed cooperative ties between the two sides. He also reiterated ECO Secretariat's commitment to accomplish the organization's aims and objectives in line with its Vision 2025 and the Treaty of Izmir. To meet this end, the Secretary General looked forward to the continued patronage and support and guidance of the ECO Leaders.

The Heads of ECO Member States appreciated the Secretary General for his comprehensive statement, valuing the performance of the Organization especially to counter and manage the post-COVID negative impacts on the overall socioeconomic condition of the region. They also agreed to expand and develop their trade and economic ties in the shared areas of interest, highlighting some priority areas of cooperation, trade, transport and energy. While noting the progress and implementation on some joint projects, the ECO Leaders also put forward various ideas, initiatives and proposals for development of some new projects in diverse areas of collaboration. Moreover, they appeared poised to remain united and make consolidated efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic on ECO regional economy.

The Heads of States from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan also addressed the august Forum and emphasized more coordinated approach to tap the hidden potential of the region for development and prosperity.

The Summit also adopted the Ashgabat Consensus for Action, renewing the Member States' commitment for the shared progress, prosperity and development in the region, as well as promotion of ECO as a more effectual regional economic forum.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan hosted the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) in Ashgabat, the capital city of Turkmenistan on November 27, 2021. The meeting was preceded by Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). SOM prepares the documentations for the COM. The delegations from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan (host) and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. The delegation of ECO Cultural Institute as well as the ECO Secretariat delegation headed by the Secretary General, also attended the Meeting. ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) attended through a written Statement of President ECOSF.



The former ECO Chairman, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, H.E Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu opened the meeting and congratulated Turkmenistan for their excellent chairmanship during the year 2021. The Minister said that the Member States should benefit from ECO to have an integrated regional response to challenges like the pandemic and needed economic

recovery. During the chairmanship of Turkey, the organization worked towards this goal and at the same time focused on increasing regional trading connectivity, he added.

His Excellency Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of the Ministers and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan in the capacity as Chairman of Council of Ministers (COM) welcomed and extended warm greetings to the honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations in 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of COM. While referring to the concept of Turkmenistan's chairmanship that the country developed to lead the Organization, he emphasized on some key objectives that particularly entailed the intensification of investment activities in the Member States, creation of free trade and economic zones, formation of new economic corridors and establishment of partnerships in the field of sustainable energy, including renewable energy sources. H.E. Mr. Rashid Meredov also highlighted that comprehensive support and promotion of cooperation in the fields of science, education, sports, scientific research in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, as well as expansion of interaction in agriculture, food security and other fields, remained priority for ECO Member Countries. He acknowledged the important role of ECO Secretariat to meet such goals. Moreover, he thanked the ECO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri and his team for joint work during the Chairmanship of Turkmenistan and for preparation of this meeting.



The Foreign Ministers/Heads of Delegations in their statements stressed the need of further enhancement of regional socioeconomic cooperation to overcome the impacts of pandemic as well as other current challenges. They desired more intensified collaboration amongst the Member States for creation of free trade and economic zones, formation of new economic corridors, expansion of interaction in fields of sustainable energy including renewable energy sources, science and technology, education, sports, agriculture & food security and tourism.

Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, ECO Secretary General while extending his sincere thanks to the Government of Turkmenistan, especially His Excellency Mr. Rashid Meredov, the honourable Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan for hosting the important event and warm hospitality, thanked the honourable Foreign Ministers/ heads of delegations for their kind participation in this important meeting.

Later, Republic of Uzbekistan was elected as ECO's Chair for the Year 2022 starting from January next year. Assuring his full support and cooperation, Secretary General of ECO believed that under Uzbekistan's Chairmanship, the Organization would go ahead with further advancement to achieve expanded cooperation in the region.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COM concluded its session by adopting several reports regarding the activities of the Organization as well as approved other important documents aimed at further development of the agenda of the organization.

Invitation to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Training Program on Science, Technology & Innovation Policy and Instruments for Sustainable Development for the Belt and Road Countries (December 15, 2021)



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



**4<sup>th</sup> Training Program**  
**Science, Technology and Innovation Policy & Tools for Sustainable Development in the Belt & Road Countries**

- Time: 02:00 PM – 05:30 PM (Beijing Time GMT+8)
- Date: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Hosted by

- Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU)
- Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF)

Organized by

- BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center on Scientific, Technological and Economic Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative
- School of International Economics and Management, BTBU
- Pakistan Study Centre of Science & Technology and Economy, BTBU

Co-organized by

- Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED)
- Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators and Science Park Development (IRIS) Iran
- Mehran University Institute of Science & Technology Development (MUISTD)

- Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87039320471>
- ID: 870 3932 0471
- PW: 1215
- For more information, please visit: <http://ecosf.org/btbu-ecosf.aspx>



Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators & Science Park Development (Under the Auspices of UNESCO)



中国科学技术发展战略研究院  
 Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development

It is an established fact that the comprehensive and inclusive Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies are extremely critical to achieve the SDGs and can bring solutions to the global challenges in all economic sectors. Many regions and countries need to build capacity in STI policy in order to strengthen their national STI systems and thus foster STI for addressing the pressing health, economic and social challenges of the pandemic crisis, especially for the Belt and Road countries.

Recognizing the significance of this critical need, BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center is planning to organize its 4th Training Joint Program in collaboration with Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for the Development (CASTED), Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators & Science Park Development (IRIS-UNESCO), Isfahan- Iran and Mehran University Institute of Science and Technology Development (MUISTD), Jamshoro- Pakistan. In this 4<sup>th</sup> session, the training theme is **“Science, Technology & Innovation Policy and Instruments for Sustainable Development for the Belt and Road Countries”**.

On behalf of this BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center, you are cordially invited to participate in the virtual training program scheduled at 02:00 PM (GMT+8 Beijing time) on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

For more information on login access and brochure of the training, please visit: <http://ecosf.org/4th-Joint-Training-Program>

**5<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop concluded successfully**

The 5<sup>th</sup> "Belt and Road" Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop concluded successfully at Bishan Middle School in Chongqing, P.R. China. The closing event was held in the form of a combination of online and offline, and the leaders and guests from the host city attended the event in person. Simultaneously, international venues were also set up in 7 countries including Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Pakistan for the closing.

The Camp was organized by Children & Youth Science Center (CYSC) of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, the People's Government of Chongqing Municipality, and the

People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. It was supported by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Inter-Academy Partnership Science Education Program (IAP SEP), and Network of African Science Academies (NASAC).



The Camp was launched in online and offline mode on 20 September 2021 and continued till 20 November 2021. It was attended by some 2490 students and teachers from 48+ countries/autonomous regions along the Belt and Road.

ECOSF put efforts to invite the participation from ECO countries, resultantly, 451 participants from eight ECO Countries i.e., Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan attended.



An impressive ceremony was arranged to formally open the Camp in Nanning on 9th Nov 2021. Opening Ceremony was attended by Mr. Huang Ribo, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of the Autonomous Region and Chairman of the Association for Science and Technology, Na Xiang, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and other high dignitaries. The leadership from Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Officials from the Thai Consulate General were also present in the opening ceremony.



Mr. Huang Ribo, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony and said that Guangxi is an important hub of the Maritime Silk Road. He further said that Guangxi issued and implemented the "Guangxi National Scientific Literacy Action Plan (2021-2035)", which is of great strategic significance to boost Guangxi's innovation-driven development and serve the sustainable and high-quality development of science education along the "Belt and Road" initiative.

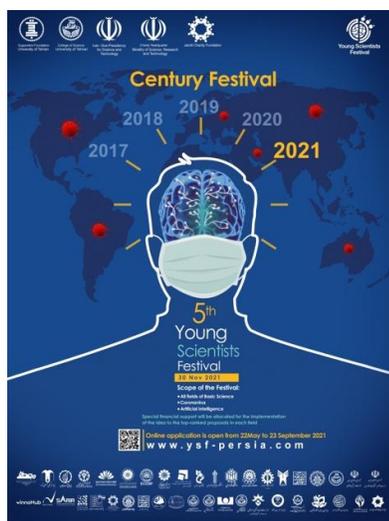
During the closing ceremony, wonderful performances were presented by the students and the results of the event in the past two months,

were reviewed. This year, the scientific activities/projects were assigned on three themes i.e., **low-carbon energy saving, space makers and scientific imaging**. In these categories, three awards of Best Maker, Best Presentation and Best Team were given to the participants.

Prof. Manzoor Soomro attended the ceremony through a video message. In his video message, Prof. Soomro appreciated the efforts of leadership of CYSCC and CAST for continuity of the programme since 2017. He emphasized upon students and teachers to take opportunity on this huge international platform to sharpen their scientific knowledge and wisdom.



**5<sup>th</sup> Young Scientists Festival (YSF) organized by Jamili Charity Foundation of Iran in collaboration of ECOSF & Others**



The 5<sup>th</sup> Young Scientists Festival (YSF) as “Century Festival” was concluded in Tehran-Iran on 30th November 2021. The event was organized by Jamili Charity Foundation of Iran in collaboration with ECOSF and other national/international organizations. The aims of this event were to support applied science, nurture talents and strengthen the morale of innovators and inspire the young generation of Iran. A number of students, researchers, experts representing the state institutions, academia, participated in the event.

Young Scientists Festival was focused on supporting youth ideas in 5 areas of basic sciences (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, and Life sciences) along with two special lines of artificial intelligence and COVID-19.

The closing ceremony was opened by Mr. Ebrahim Jamili, Chairman of Iran Economy House. He welcomed all the distinguished guests and the



young lot. He further said that science and technology is the backbone for development, hence, his company supports new talents and provide them platform to show it.

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro also addressed the festival through a video message. In his message, Prof. Soomro introduced ECOSF and said that the festival is a fantastic event to recognize the talent of young scientists. He emphasized that from next year, the festival may be organized at regional level to provide opportunity to a large number of young scientists of ECO region. Prof. Soomro further said that these types of festivals are splendid platforms/opportunities for the young scientists to showcase their talents which enhance their confidence level.

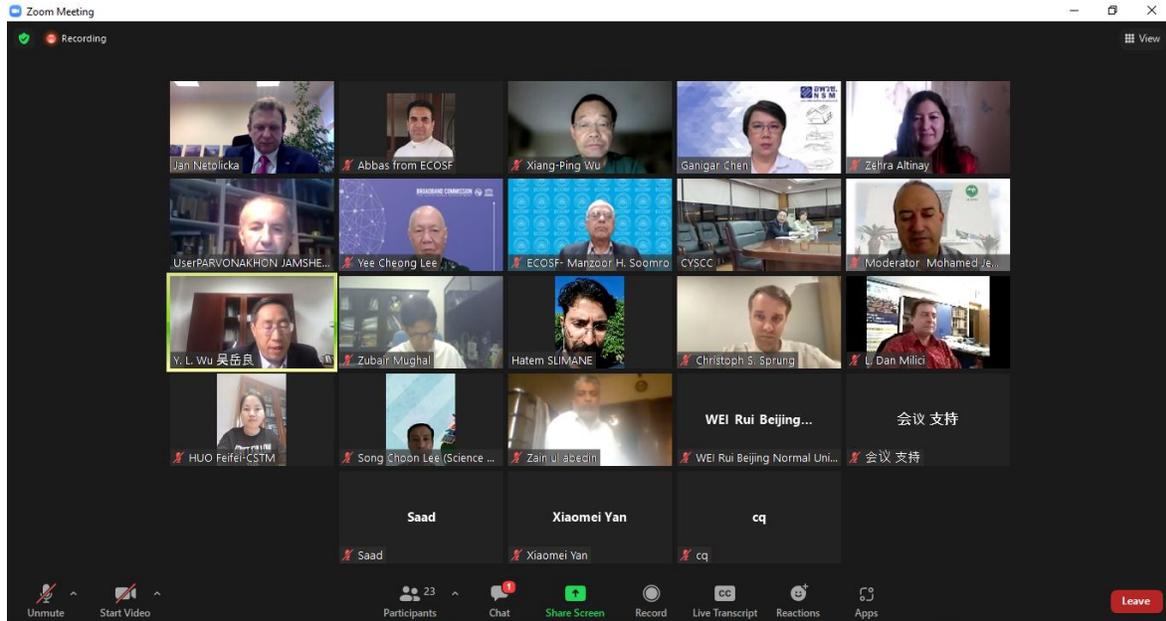


Other renowned scientists/personalities including the President of ECO Cultural Institute Dr. Sarvar Bakhti also spoke during the

closing ceremony. At the end, the young scientists were awarded with certificates in recognition of their research in the field of science, technology, and innovation.

**Annual Meeting of BRISECC – 2021 held virtually**

The Annual Meeting of Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC) was held on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. The meeting was held virtually, mainly due to the spread of deadly COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world. The meeting was chaired by the President and attended by the BRISECC Secretariat, Vice Presidents and Members from different countries along the Belt and Road. ECOSF was represented by Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF/Vice President BRISECC and Mr. Ghulam Abbas, Assistant Director ECOSF.



Purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of activities done under the framework of BRISECC in 2021 and to chalk out new plans and proposals for 2022.

The meeting was opened by Prof. WU Yueliang President of BRISECC. He welcomed the new members and participants of the BRISECC. He congratulated Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro for winning the **2020 Chinese Government Friendship Award** for his contributions developing the networks between China and other countries along the Belt and Road including ECO member states. Later, Prof. WU invited the Secretariat to share the 2021 progress report of BRISECC. On behalf of the Secretariat, Ms. Yang Feng, Deputy Director of International Affairs of CYSC highlighted the progress of the activities of 2021 such as 5th Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop, Development of 10 courses by Belt and Road Virtual Science Center (BRVSC), signing of Letter of Intent (LoI) with Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Space Maker Camp and many other activities.



Since Prof. WU as President BRISECC and the four Vice Presidents successfully completed their three years term, the next team was elected. The new unanimously elected team for the three years term till 2024 is: President- Academician Dato Dr. (Ir.) Lee Yee Cheong, Commissioner of UN Broadband Commission from Malaysia (President); and four Vice Presidents- Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF; Dr. Ganigar Chen, Vice President of National Science Museum Thailand; Prof. WU, Xiangping, Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Mr. SLIMANE, Hatem, National President of Tunisian Association for Future of Science and Technology of Tunisia.



Prof. JEMNI, Mohamed, Director of Information and Communication Technologies, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization ALECSO was elected as new Member of BRISECC.

After the election of new team, Prof. WU Yueliang invited the new President Dato Lee to chair the meeting.

**Dato Lee** took over the Presidency and thanked all the members for electing and entrusting him as the 2nd President of BRISECC. He appreciated the contributions of Prof. WU in the capacity as the Founder President.



Dato Lee proposed to change the name of BRISECC to make it “Belt and Road International Science Education Consortium (BRISEC) keeping in view the scope and objectives of the Committee. The members supported and approved the proposal; however, the secretariat took note and explained that as per the requirement, the final nod of CAST authorities will be sought subsequently.

Two proposals: 1) inclusion of The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) as member organization of BRISECC and 2) E-STEM PBL Project were presented and approved.

The Work Plan for 2022 and amendment in the BRISEC regulations were discussed at length and approved. The meeting then ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on China-Pakistan Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperation under the “Belt and Road” Initiative Jointly Organized by BTBU, ECOSF and PSF.**



On November 27<sup>th</sup>, Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) jointly hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on China-Pakistan Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperation under the “Belt and Road” Initiative themed at "Inheriting China-Pakistan Friendship, Creating the Future Together", supported by the Department of International Cooperation of the Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST), Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST), the China Embassy in Pakistan, and the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Beijing.

This Forum was held in a hybrid setting and attended by Prof. Huang Xiankai, General Secretary of the CPC BTBU Committee; Prof. Wang Qinglin, Deputy D.G. of CAST Department of International Cooperation; H.E. Mr. Moin UI Haque, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Beijing; Mr. Xie Guoxiang, the Minister Counselor of Economic and Commercial Section of the Embassy of P.R. China in Pakistan; Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECOSF; Prof. Shahid Mahmood Baig, Chairman of PSF and more than 200 Chinese and Pakistani experts, scholars and youth students. The opening ceremony was moderated by Prof. Xu Dandan, Vice President of BTBU.



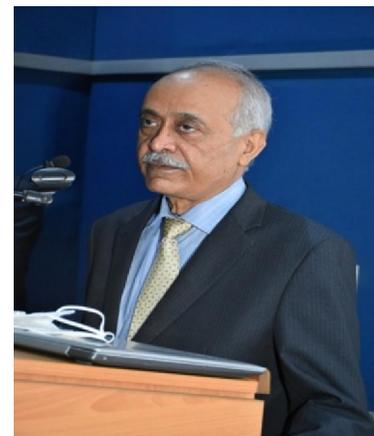
The Keynote session was moderated Prof. Ni Guohua, Dean of BTBU School of Economics. Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECOSF; Mr. Wang Zihai, President of Pakistan China Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Prof. Shahid Mahmood Baig, Chairman PSF; Mr. Ma Bin, Secretary-General of Overseas Chinese Association of Pakistan delivered their keynote speeches. President Soomro thanked the Chinese government for awarding him the Chinese Government Friendship Award and promised to continue to promote the cooperation between China and Pakistan and the "Belt and Road" countries in the fields of science and technology, science education and people-to-people exchanges.

**7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Pakistan Phytopathological Society (PPS) held at University of Agriculture Faisalabad – President ECOSF participated as Guest of Honour**

7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Pakistan Phytopathological Society (PPS) was jointly organized by the PPS, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Agriculture and Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Faisalabad on 21-23 November 2021.



The objective of the conference was to generate meaningful discussion forum for national and international Plant Pathologists. The event provided the opportunity to bring faculty, researchers, students, scientists, farmers, and industrialists together in open dialogue under one roof. Over 200 eminent scientists, researchers, agro-chemical industries, and farmers attended the event. Prof. Iqar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of the University welcomed all the distinguished guests, speakers, experts and the participants and hoped that the conference would generate a fruitful discussion and results in the phytopathology field.





President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro- basically a Plant Pathologist/ Nematologist participated as a Guest of Honour in the opening session. In his speech, Prof. Soomro briefly highlighted the importance of phytopathology and the scientific research. He stressed upon the researchers not to necessarily pursue research simply in their specific area that they may have done Ph.D., but to address the issues at hand in agriculture and food production. Dr. Soomro encouraged researchers especially the young scientists to cooperate and collaborate with each other within country and beyond to learn from others' experiences. He gave the example of how he had addressed the banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) epidemic in Pakistan in early 1990s even without any funding but using the cultural and cooperation strengths.

Finally, the Federal Minister for Food Security and Research, Government of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Fakhar Imam addressed the conference virtually. He while appreciating the holding of conference on plant pathology, emphasized on the need for continuous and consistent research on plant pathogens and diseases to ensure food security and sustainable supply of agricultural raw materials for industry. The Minister particularly highlighted the new pests and diseases due to climate change and also stressed on tree plantation. He assured the researchers of Government's continued support and research funding.



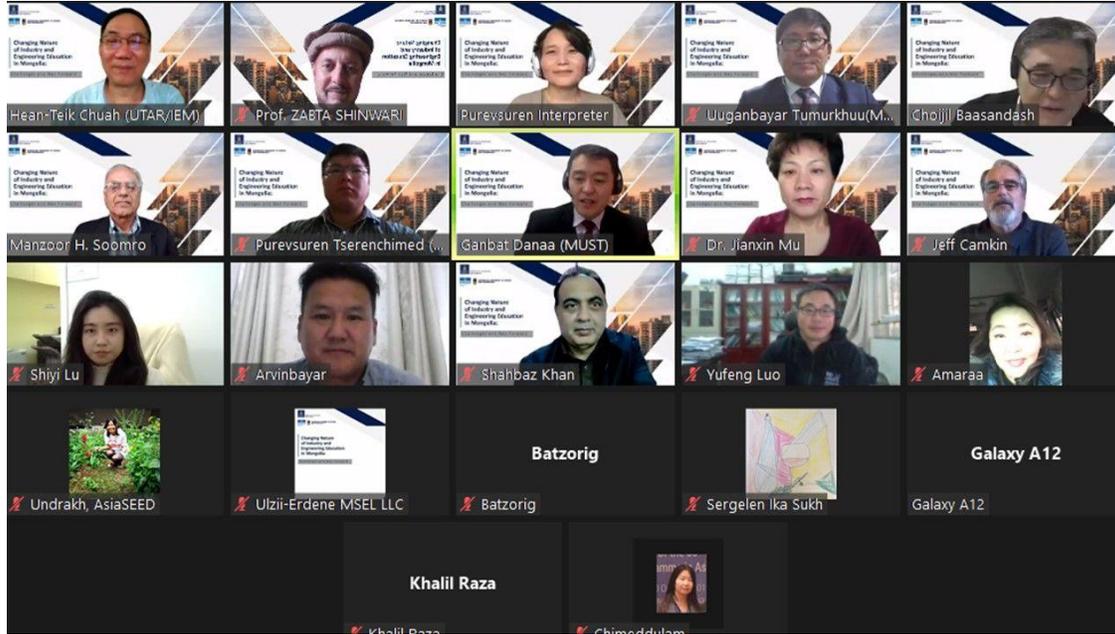
Other renowned experts also shared their knowledge and wisdom in the fields of Climate Change and Plant Diseases, Host-Pathogen Interactions, Molecular Plant Pathology, Biosecurity and Plant Quarantine, Plant Disease Management, Disease Resistance, Seed and Post-Harvest Pathology, Disease Modeling and Epidemiology, Taxonomy and Systematics of Plant Pathogens, Bioinformatics, Ecology of plant pathogens, Mycotoxins, Natural and chemical Pesticides, Insects in relation to Plant Diseases and Beneficial Microorganisms with the audience in different sessions.

Plant diseases are caused by living organisms known as pathogens, such as fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematodes, phytoplasmas, protozoa, and parasitic plants; and by nonliving agents such as air pollutants, nutrient imbalances and various environmental factors. New diseases and changes in existing pathogens remain a constant threat to our forests, food and fiber crops, and landscape plants. Thus, phytopathology helps to devise strategy to cope with such kinds of situations.

A 2-days pre-conference session for mentoring of young Plant Pathologists was also held on 20-21 November. Senior Plant Pathologists, viz., Prof. Manzoor Soomro, Prof. M. Ashraf Randhawa, Dr. Ahmad Saleem Akhtar, Prof. Saleem Shahzad and Dr. Munawar R. Kazmi spoke with the young scientists and shared their diverse experiences. The mentoring sessions were much applauded by the young scientists and hence the PPS decided to continue such sessions in future as well.

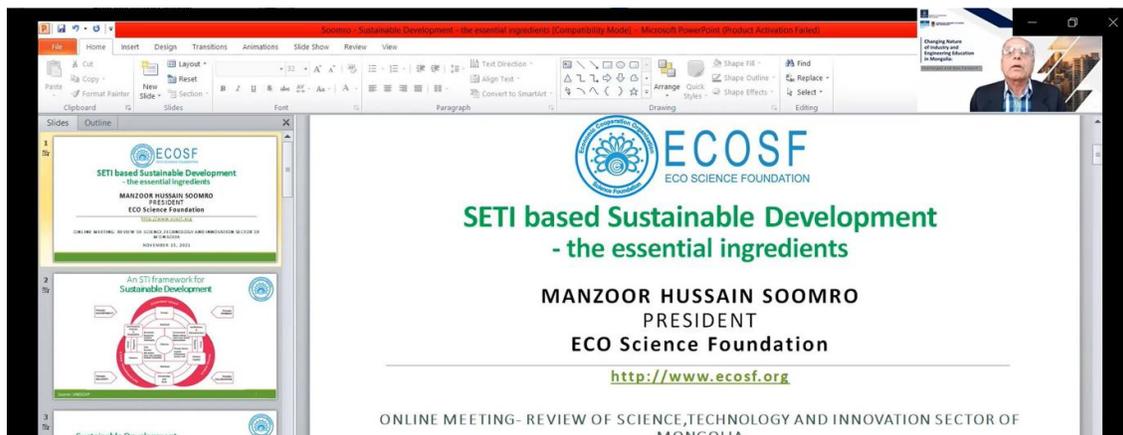
**UNESCO Cluster Office Beijing organized a virtual dialogue on "Changing Nature of Industry and Engineering Education in Mongolia: Challenges and Way Forward"**

UNESCO Cluster Office in Beijing in collaboration with Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU) organized an International Virtual Seminar on "Changing Nature of Industry and Education in Mongolia: Challenges and Way Forward" on November 25, 2021. The purpose of this event was to leverage and pool in international efforts to strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation (SETI) in Mongolia. Renowned scholars and STI experts from Australia, Malasia, Mongolia and Pakistan as well as from UNESCO Beijing contributed and participated in this virtual dialogue.



Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan Director UNESCO Cluster Office Beijing emphasized that investments in STI sectors is the key to achieve sustainable development for any nation. Prof. Khan said emerging technologies are transforming the industrial and engineering sectors at an unprecedented rate. Hence, it is imperative for the scientific and engineering communities to track and adapt to the changing nature of work to offer sustainable and productive solutions to the society.

President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro contributed to this virtual event on 25 November and presented his talk on “Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) based Sustainable Development – the essential ingredients”. Prof. Soomro highlighted that this world is grappled with triple challenge of demographic explosion, environmental degradation, and resources constraints. Hence, the capacity of this planet to meet higher demand for commodities, resources, and food to sustain its population is compromised. Therefore, there lies a great responsibility for scientific and research community to find ways to satisfy human needs on sustainable basis.



## Global Environment Facility (GEF) organized a sideline event on accelerating the shift to Electric Mobility at the COP 26

During the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP-26), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Energy Agency (IEA) and UNEP organised a side event on “Accelerating the shift to Electric Mobility: A new GEF supported Global Electric Mobility Programme” on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



This event was part of the GEF Pavilion at the UN Climate COP26. The purpose of hosting this dialogue was to emphasize the importance of a global switch to zero emissions vehicles fleets for meeting the Paris climate targets and highlighting the important role that low- and middle-income countries play in such a switch. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the event virtually.

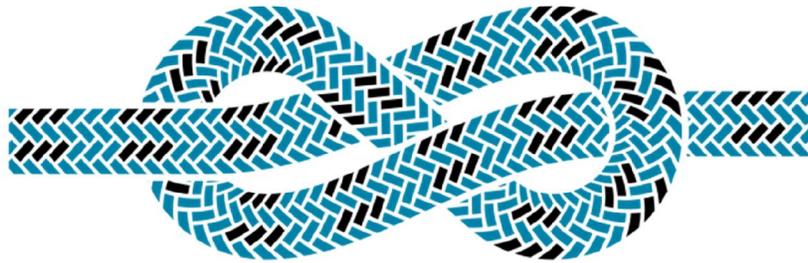
Experts highlighted that the transport sector is critical component, which needs to align with the Paris Agreement, all transport modes will need to be zero carbon by 2050. By 2030, 75% of all new sales of light duty vehicles in developed markets will have to be electric, including 100% of all new buses. To make this possible, the rate of adoption of electric vehicles will need to increase twelve times over the next decade. The expert panel discussed the importance of a global switch to zero emissions vehicles to meet the Paris goals, highlighting the significance of the newly launched GEF Global Electric Mobility Program.

This GEF programme is supporting more than 50 countries worldwide to build capacity, develop e-mobility strategies and roadmaps, establish e-mobility policy frameworks, create business models and financing schemes, prepare for environmental sustainability of electric mobility – and to pilot electric vehicles on the ground.

It is important to mention that Climate Change Conference COP 26 is one of the most important events in the history of climate negotiations where world leaders gathered on the to discuss urgent action to combat global warming.

## The Fifth CAREC Think Tank Development Forum "Economic Corridors: Pathways to Regional Growth"

The 5<sup>th</sup> CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum (CTTDF) was organized on 23-24 November 2021 by the CAREC Institute in partnership with the ADB-Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (ADB-RKSI), and the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIAME) in virtual format. This year, the forum was themed “Economic Corridors: Pathways to Regional Growth.” The CTTDF is organized annually under the auspices of the CAREC Think Tanks Network (CTTN) which was established in 2017 during the second forum.



## 5th CAREC Think Tanks Development Forum

ECONOMIC CORRIDORS: PATHWAYS TO REGIONAL GROWTH

23-24 November 2021

Register via ZOOM

In partnership with:



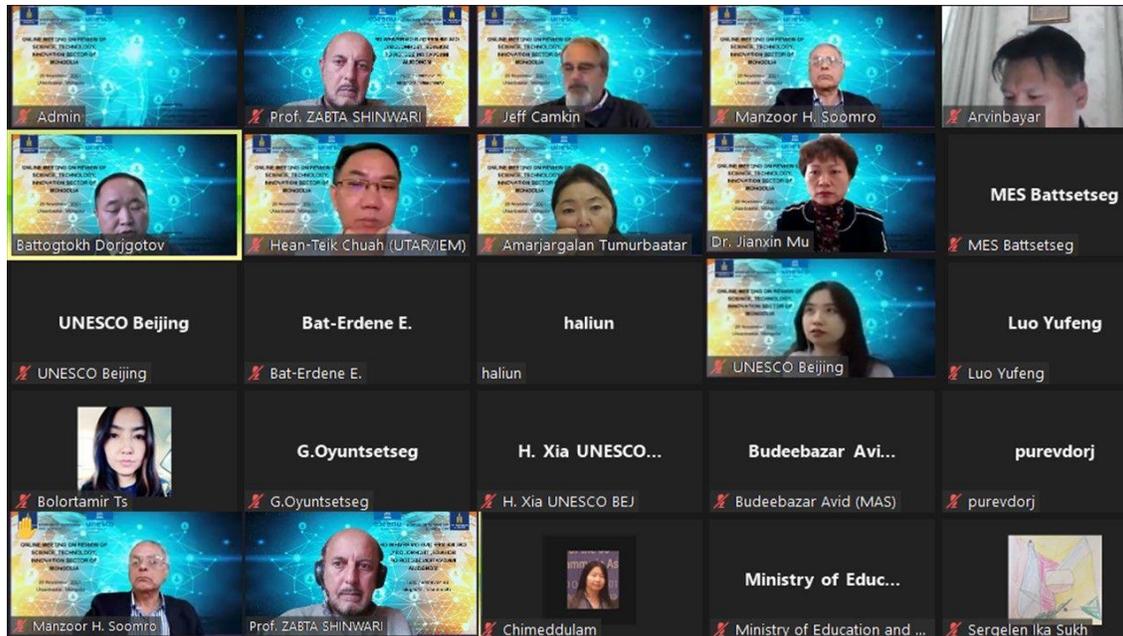
The forum was meant to provide innovative solutions for promoting economic cooperation by recognizing the importance of regional perspectives. Numerous prominent think tanks and universities from 11 countries of the CAREC region are members of this network. The CTTN tries to enhance systemic regional knowledge sharing; foster policy research and knowledge solutions to support governments; enable better policy advice; reduce gaps between research and policy; and enhance collective intelligence to consolidate development resources for effective cooperation, better services, and improved performance.

The CAREC Institute hosted the first CTTDF in June 2016 in Astana, Kazakhstan, with the theme of “Promoting Economic Cooperation for an Integrated Central Asia.” The second CTTDF was held in Urumqi, the PRC, in September 2017 with the theme of “Exploring Knowledge Solutions for Regional Cooperation and Integration.” The third forum was conducted in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in July 2018 under the theme of “Building Knowledge Corridors along the Silk Road.” The fourth forum took place in Xi’an, the PRC, with the topic of “Trading for Shared Prosperity” in August 2019.

The 5th forum also discussed the Almaty-Bishkek economic corridor, Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand corridor, China-Pakistan economic corridor, and related topics. It was argued that economic corridors which are characterized by superior connectivity (including transport and digital connectivity), seamless movement of goods and people across borders, extensive cross-border trade and investment flows, also cross-border value-chains and clusters of economic activity, can help CAREC members attract more FDI and international tourists; develop urban agglomerations, manufacturing and the service sector; and diversify the composition of exports beyond primary commodities.

### **ECOSF participated in a virtual meeting to review Science Technology and Innovation Sector of Mongolia, organized by UNESCO Office Beijing**

UNESCO Cluster Office Beijing organized a virtual meeting to review Science Technology and Innovation Sector of Mongolia on 29 November 2021. Renowned scholars and STI experts contributed and participated in this virtual meeting. The objective of this conference was to present the situation of Mongolia's STI sector to international and national participants, and to evaluate the implementation of the Science and Technology Master Plan for Mongolia 2007-2020. President ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated as an invited STI and STEM education expert in the virtual discussion and contributed to the objectives of the meeting.



Prof. Dr. Shabaz Khan, Director UNESCO Cluster Office Beijing presented his talk on “Science as the key towards Smarter Development”. Prof. Khan emphasized the need for smarter science for developing solutions and responding to the global challenges. He also shed light on the first Science and Technology Master Plan for Mongolia 2007-2020 co-developed by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education and Science Mongolia. This Master Plan was an essential and integral part of the broader national development strategies and policies. It includes targeted programmes on training and supporting young researchers to be implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, and universities and research institutions.

After 3 phases of its implementation, UNESCO is jointly evaluating the implementation of the Master plan, to better steer the continuous implementation of important goals of this master plan, and to elaborate recommendations for the development and adoption of a new (post-2020) STI Master Plan for Mongolia.

**Iran-Philippines International Virtual Symposium on Agricultural Nanotechnology**



Agriculture Biotechnology Research Institute of Iran (ABRII) and Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD) held a two days virtual science symposium on agricultural nanotechnology on 18-19 November 2021. In partnership with Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council (INIC), Agricultural Research Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), and Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The symposium aims to initiate and expand scientific collaboration between Iran and the Philippines with the following objectives:

- promote study and exchange of information on agricultural nanotechnology between Iran and the Philippines
- create new horizons for interaction among public and private sectors who are active in the agricultural nanotechnology fields in Iran and the Philippines
- assess and expand Iran and the Philippines' cooperation in the agricultural nanotechnology
- provide a platform to introduce small, medium enterprises (SMEs) and knowledge-based companies from agricultural nanotechnology fields to investors and financial and funding organizations

The forum was opened by Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebor, Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD)- Philippines. He said that the symposium aims to study and exchange information on agricultural nanotechnology, explore the role of public and private sectors in the agricultural nanotechnology fields, assess and expand Iran-Philippines cooperation in agricultural nanotechnology, and provide a platform to introduce SMEs and knowledge-based companies in the said field to potential investors.



Opening remarks were also delivered by Dr. Mojtaba Khayam Nekouei, Deputy Minister and Head, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization of Iran. He welcomed the audience and said that Iran has great potential in the field of agriculture and nanotechnology. He emphasized and appreciated of working together in the field of science, technology and agriculture for benefits of both the countries.

President ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro delivered an inspirational message during the forum and appreciated the organizers for highlighting the importance of Nanotechnology specially in the field of Agriculture. He said that Nanotechnology certainly has a great potential in enhancement of Precision and Smart Agriculture through diverse smart tools, and improvement of food security on the global level. Nanotechnology can help increase the soil fertility through precise delivery of nutrients via nano-fertilizers and nano-biofertilizers, it can enhance the plant protection against pests, weeds, and microbial pathogens. Nanotechnology can also reinforce the plant tolerance against stresses. In the end Prof. Soomro thanked the organizers for inviting him in the forum and assured his full support in the ECO region.



The recording of the symposium can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/180956890886738/videos/678179763143898>

**President ECOSF Participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> session on “Plastic Waste Management, Challenges & Solutions” at School of Chemical & Materials Engineering NUST, Islamabad**

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP, Global Water Challenge, Coca Cola Foundation, and NUST organized a session on Plastic Waste Management, Challenges & Solutions. A number of experts representing the state institutions, academia, development agencies, and private, and industry sectors participated in the event. On behalf of ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF participated in the event.



Dr. Nazir Akhtar, Secretary to Government of Pakistan for the Ministry of Science and Technology participated as the Chief Guest in the event. Dr. Akhtar stressed the need for sensitizing the general public about the hazardous effects of plastic waste on the environment. Besides, he called for finding a scientific solution to this global challenge. He termed the plastic waste as a global issue on which the environmental scientists across the globe should join hands and come up with solutions to the hazards of plastic waste and its inadequate disposal.

UNESCO Country Director Patricia McPhillips., UNDP Assistant Resident Representative on Environment and Climate Change Unit Amanullah Khan, and Director Communication Coca-Cola Foundation Pakistan Aisha Sarwari participated in the panel discussion on the ways and means to effectively meet the challenges posed by the growing plastic waste. The panel discussion was moderated by Pakistan Science Foundation Chairman Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig.

### **World Science Day under the Theme “Building Climate –Ready Communities” celebrated on 10 November 2021 at Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF)**

World Science Day is celebrated all over the World on November 10 every year to create awareness on importance of science and its use for peace and development. This year, the theme of the World Science Day 2021 was dedicated to “Building Climate –Ready Communities”. In this connection, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) observed the World Science Day on November 10, 2021. The event attracted a number of Students, representatives of media, and academia and scientists. On behalf of ECOSF, President ECOSF participated in the event.

Federal Minister for Science and Technology Senator Shibli Faraz, as the Chief Guest - stressed the need for knowledge sharing and promoting research culture in the country to meet climate change challenges by undertaking research projects aimed at easing the common man’s life.

Senator Shibli Faraz emphasized the need for supporting the STEM program to inculcate the interest in science and technology among the students and hoped that the program would go a long way in serving the cause of science and technology in the country.

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Akhtar Nazir stressed the need for dealing with the environmental issues of war-footing. Dr. Nazir Akhtar termed the billion-tree tsunami as a leap forward towards environmental protection and praised the commitment of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Federal Science Minister Senator Shibli Faraz towards the environmental up-gradation.



Mr. Raza Shah, National Officer UNESCO Pakistan read out the message of Director General UNESCO Audrey Azoulay. In the message, Audrey Azoulay stressed the need of adopting science and technology to search for the solutions to the problems like climate change, biodiversity loss, and declining ocean health.

Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation Shahid Baig in his welcome address stressed the need for cooperation both at the national and international level for the promotion of Science and Technology.

### ECOSF participated in the World Science Day celebrated at COMSTECH

COMSTECH also celebrated 'World Science Day' on November 10, 2021. The event was attended by (virtually and physically) students from several universities, vice-chancellors of various universities, ambassadors of 7 OIC member states, diplomats, Journalists , scientists, and faculty members of various institutions.

On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the event. Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman FRS, Chairman, Prime Minister Task Force for Science and Technology graced the occasion as chief guest. Prof. Rehman said that it is alarming that we are unable to see the light at the end of tunnel in case of implementing guidelines addressing climate change. He said at the moment we are not succeeding. The past actions of nations show the clear intent that how much they are serious towards climate change mitigation.



Prof. Rahman talked about number of technologies available to use to address climate change effects. He suggested that to use new technologies, OIC states need to invest in S&T, innovation and entrepreneurship. He stressed the need of awareness of issues at hand and the technologies available to deal with them.

Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, climate change advisor, planning commission of Pakistan, in his talked highlighted the actions that nations must have to take to tackle the climate change. The temperature increase by 1.5 degrees is considered bad but by 2 degrees it would be disastrous. Mr. Sheikh appreciated the fact that the global discourse on climate change is now driven by science.

Earlier, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Chaudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH gave his welcome address and highlighted the initiative undertaken by COMSTECH to address the climate change issues in the OIC region.

During the event, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Vice-Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, and H. E. Mr. Yerlan Baidault, Director-General the Islamic Organization of Food Security (IOFS) also spoke on the occasion.

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

#### **Invitation for the International Seminar on Climate Change Education**

“The Office for Climate Education is hosting a one week International seminar on Climate Change Education, in Paris, in January 2022, in partnership with the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

The seminar aims to promote the development of climate change education in national curricula by facilitating dialogue and cross collaboration between different countries and stakeholders (scientists, educational officers, teachers, etc.). Therefore, this event is intended for around 50 decision-makers, teacher trainers and teachers of foreign (non french) educational systems wishing to discover and get acquainted with the latest trends, methodologies and tools on climate change education (CCE).

The OCE would like to invite interested policy-makers, educators and teacher- trainers from the same country to apply together as a pair.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/seminar-Climate-Change-Education>