



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



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

Country	Total confirmed cases due to COVID-19	Total confirmed deaths due to COVID-19
Afghanistan	46,498	1,774
Azerbaijan	121,176	1,392
Iran	962,070	48,246
Kazakhstan	132,348	1,990
Kyrgyzstan	73,178	1,275
Pakistan	400,482	8,091
Tajikistan	12,194	86
Turkey	638,847	13,746
Turkmenistan	-	-
Uzbekistan	73,094	610
ECO region Total	2,459,887	77,210

Date Stamp: November 30, 2020

Source: <https://ourworldindata.org>

Note: So far, no case has been reported in Turkmenistan.

ECOSF participated as a Major Contributor to the 4th Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop held in Chongqing, China

Children & Youth Science Center (CYSC) of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China (MOST) and CAST organized the virtual 4th Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop with strategic support of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), InterAcademy Partnership Science Education Program (IAP SEP), and Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) was held during the months of October 2020 and concluded on 24 November 2020. The closing ceremony of the camp and workshop was held in Chongqing, China which was broadcasted live to over 5 million viewers spread across 53 countries.



It is an annual event but this year's event was organized virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the camp was to strengthen cross-cultural exchange, promote international understanding, inspire innovation in young generation and also for all scientists and science teachers to promote mutual learning and fulfill their responsibilities in science education career.

It was widely participated by elite young makers, science teachers, and officers of science and education administrations, that totalled 2000 from 53 countries/regions and international organizations, covering Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas and Oceania. 350 participants from seven ECO countries viz., Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey also attended the Camp. ECOSF wholeheartedly congratulates all the winners and participants.



President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, Foreign Academician of the Russian Academy of Astronautics, Executive Dean of the Chinese Academy of New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Strategy Gong Ke; Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Academic Vice President of the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences Prof. Wu Yueliang; former Inter-Academy of Sciences Organization Science Education Project (IAP SEP) Chairman Academician Dato Lee Yee Cheong; ECO Science Foundation President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, African Academy of Sciences Executive Director Ms. Jacqueline Alice Akinyi Olang and other international organizations attended the event online; whereas, Ms. Xin Bing, Director General of CYSC; Ruan Xiangping, First Inspector of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Ling Fan, Deputy Director of the General Office of Chongqing Municipal Government, and Wang Heqing, Secretary of the Party Group of Chongqing Association for Science and Technology, and Executive Vice Chairman Wang Heqing attended the closing event offline.



In his message, Huai Jinpeng said that adolescence is a key stage for the formation of creativity. He hoped that everyone would promote the spirit of science, keep scientific curiosity forever, insist on seeking truth, questioning, openness, and cooperation, and cultivate the potential of scientists from an early age. The CAST is very happy to build a communication platform and a display stage for everyone to collide with the sparks of wisdom and forge innovative thinking, he affirmed. He also hoped that the experience of the maker camp would light up everyone's scientific dreams and become a treasure in memory.

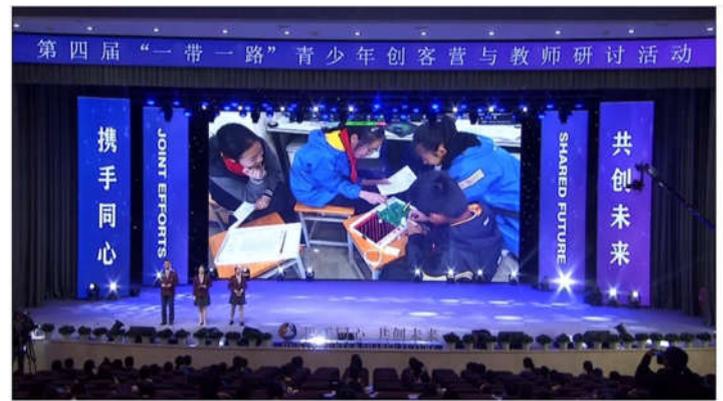
President ECOSF in his remarks said that the world facing a deadly pandemic of Covid-19 since the end of last year, which has severely affected our daily lives and education is probably the most affected sector. He further said, that despite the difficulties, CYSC and CAST together with Chongqing Association for Science and Technology made it happen; thus, the leadership and management of CYSC, CAST and all the organizers deserve sincere congratulations. He further said that he believes, this is an ideal space and opportunity for all of us, especially for the young students to bring innovative ideas and work together to foster scientific and technological innovation, peace and harmony among young students and promote cooperation and cultural integration among the countries along the Belt and Road. He also said that if we provide our children, the leaders of tomorrow, with the opportunity to discover themselves and inculcate the concept of inquiry and questioning, they would be better citizens, more responsible and critical thinkers. He also mentioned that the collaboration between the ECOSF and CYSC/CAST was established in 2017, since then, the collaboration has grown stronger and more avenues have opened to work together, especially in the field of youth engagement and science education and innovation.





At the closing event, the winners of the Best Maker Award, Best Presentation Award, and Best Team Award were also announced. The event provided students the opportunity to cooperate with the best of their age at international level, to share ideas and study cutting-edge knowledge in science labs of top schools in China through hands-on experience and teamwork under the guidance of experienced teachers.

In the era of COVID-19, the methods of epidemic prevention and control, two scientific and technological courses viz., health education and engineering design for special anti-epidemic content, preparation of new coronary pneumonia protection guidelines and the design of shelter hospital models were included in scientific tasks.



Belt and Road Science Education Forum held virtually during 4th Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop



Belt and Road Science Education Forum was held virtually on November 9, 2020. The event is a regular part of "Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop" held annually and physically. However due to the emergence of COVID-19 last year (Nov 2019), it has badly affected the daily life especially the education sector around the world, thus, the aim of the Forum was to promote experience sharing and practical cooperation among science and education experts from different countries and regions in the era of COVID-19 Pandemic. The Forum was attended by the education experts, students and the youth around the world. The Forum was opened by Mr. Lixin Zhu, Director of CIT China. He gave brief introduction of the Forum and its objectives.

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Later, an opening speech was made by Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF. In his speech, Prof. Soomro talked about the connectivity among the Belt and Road countries. He emphasized that in the era of COVID-19 pandemic, importance of science education has increased manifold to address this challenge and addressing this challenge, state of the art technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data, Cloud computing are playing an important role. He further said that new benchmarks have been set due to COVID-19; thus, online education will play significant role in post COVID-19 era. Big challenge is the connectivity and provision of latest technologies to nook and corner of every Belt and Road country. Without it, the goal of a prosperous world and equality will remain a question mark, he expressed.

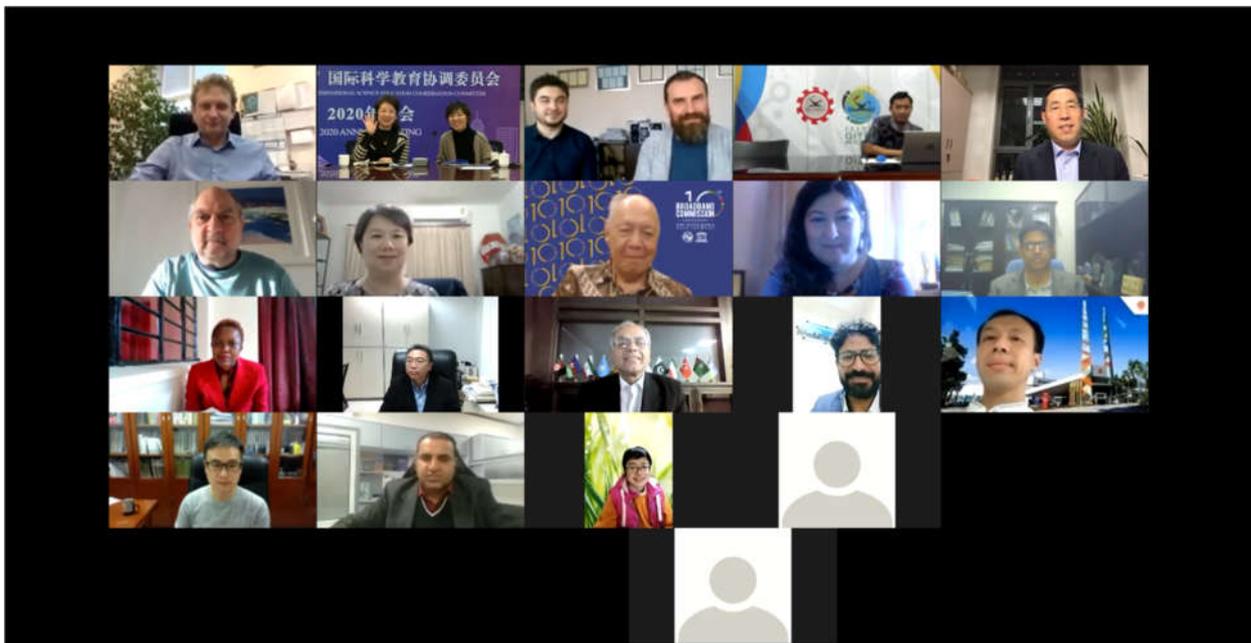


During the Forum, Scientific Officer of ECOSF Engr. Khalil Raza also delivered his presentation on “STEM Education for Inclusive and Sustainable Development of Belt and Road Countries”. Mr. Raza underlined the significance and strong correlation between countries with high economic growth to science education level. Khalil further emphasized that infrastructure is vital to any country, as it enables, maintains and enhances societal living conditions. He further underscored that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are important for building and maintaining the infrastructure needed for the Belt and Road Initiative. Finally, he concluded that solid fundamental of engineering sciences and STEM related subjects are critical to meet development and infrastructural needs of the Belt and Road Countries.

Other Education Experts viz., Mr. Nicoleta Vasilcovschi, QiLu Sino-Canadian International Program, Shandong; Ms. Tamara Milić from Ministry of Education of Montenegro; Prof. Rami Khalil from Sichuan International Studies University and Jako Olivier from South Africa also made the presentations/speeches.

2020 Annual Meeting of BRISECC held virtually

The 2020 Annual Meeting of “Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC)” was held virtually on 24 Nov 2020. The meeting was moderated by President of BRISECC Prof. WU Yueliang and attended by three Vice Presidents namely; Dato Lee Yee Cheong, Commissioner UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development; Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF and Mr. LISOVYI, Oksen, Director of the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine along with the Members from various countries along the Belt and Road.



The purpose of meeting was to discuss the annual progress of the activities under the framework of BRISECC and chalk out/approve plans for 2021. A presentation was given by Ms. YANG Feng of BRISECC Secretariat which highlighted the major activities done in year 2020 as under:

- The 4th Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop held in Oct-Nov 2020
- Establishment of Belt and Road Virtual Science Center (BRVSC)
- A 5-days Capacity Building Workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in Pakistan by ECOSF under the framework of BRISECC
- The International Festival of Engineering Sciences and Technology in Tunisia (IFEST)
- Developing and sharing science resources themed at COVID-19

New proposals such as Global Virtual Science Museum Network; Resource Sharing, Development and Practice of Belt and Road Virtual Science Center and Belt and Road Environmental Education Training Centre and Belt and Road Science Education Alliance of 100 Schools were presented in the meeting which were unanimously approved by the Committee.

New Members of BRISECC; Sukkur IBA Univeristy-Pakistan, Near East University-Cyprus and Beijing Normal University-China, joined the Committee.

Prof. Manzoor Soomro appointed as Distinguished Overseas Expert of China Association for Science and Technology

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, an eminent Pakistani Scientist and President of ECOSF, has been appointed as a Distinguished Overseas Expert of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST).

It is pertinent to mention that Overseas Experts are appointed under “Home Program” jointly initiated by CAST and 35 overseas Chinese professional organizations in February 2004. “Home Program” organizes various activities helping overseas professionals to conduct academic and technology exchanges and cooperation, project collaboration, setting up business start-ups, inspection trips, survey and training programs and business consulting in China.

Prof. Soomro is an expert in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Management in the ECO Region and beyond. He is also the Vice President of the Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC) under the patronage of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Children and Youth Science Center (CYSC) of China.



Previously having served as Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation and an expert in FAO of United Nations, he is also the Member of the Boards of Governors of numerous International Centers and Learned Bodies including ISTIC Malaysia, IRIS Iran, IAP SEP, Asian Innovation Forum & Asian STI Think Tanks Network (ASTN). Dr. Soomro is also a winner of the *Order of Academic Palms* award of the French Republic in 2013 in recognition of his contributions in developing STI and Science Education cooperation between Pakistan and France.

ECOSF and MSTF jointly organized the Virtual Panel Discussion on Health Communication.

Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP)
In Partnership with
ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

National Policy and Institutional Framework for Health Communication
Virtual Panel Discussion

November 26, 2020
10:30-13:00 GMT

Moderator: Zeinab Al SAFFAR
TV Personality, Host, Writer & Executive Producer

Focused on:

- ❖ National Policies on Information Sharing and Training Methods
- ❖ Strategies for Dealing with COVID-19 Infodemic
- ❖ Policy on Preventing Spread of Fake News During COVID-19 Pandemic

Manzoor Hussain Soomro
President of ECOSF

Zarrin Zardar
Executive Director in UNESCO
Chair on Communication of Science and Technology

Mahaletchumy Arujanan
Executive Director of MABIC

Mohamed E. Ramadan
Freelance Science Journalist

Register here:
Website: step.mstfdn.org
Email: step@mstfdn.org

The Webinar will be Live at: [f/ECOScienceFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation)

[Zoom](#) [@mustafaprize_en](#) [@ECOScienceFoundation](#)

ECO Science Foundation in collaboration with Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) of the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) organized a virtual panel discussion on National Policy and Institutional Framework for Health Communication on November 26, 2020. The panel discussion highlighted the critical role of effective science and health communication particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The virtual discussion brought together renowned experts in science journalism, health and science communication. The objective of the webinar was to sensitize the audience on principles of science and health communication and discussed the significant impact brought by science communication to the public particularly in the light of current pandemic COVID-19.

Ms. Zeinab Al Saffar AL-Mayadeen TV Host, Writer and Producer (Lebanese National) moderated the panel discussion. She opened the webinar by highlighting the critical role of Health Communication and strategies for dealing with infodemic. Ms. Zeinab underscored that the need for communicating

accurate information is vital during the pandemic COVID-19.

Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF delivered his talk on “Bridging Science and Society through Science Communication”. Prof. Soomro emphasized that Science and Technology (S&T) has played a central role in the human development, industrial growth and eradication of poverty in certain region of the world. However, S&T has mainly been inward-looking, thus giving rise to unparalleled economic growth and over exploitation of earth’s resources, have further fuelled the inequality around the world, he added. He underscored that S&T must adhere to inclusivity and address human needs to achieve synergy between scientific and societal progress. Prof. Soomro further underlined the important aspects of science and society and how effective science communication plays a central role in addressing misinformation around the COVID-19.



In the end, Prof. Soomro proposed the way forward and recommendations to establish strong linkages and to build synergy among scientists, journalists and the public in the Islamic World to fight the infodemics and provide reliable and accurate information



Dr. Zarrin Zardar, Executive Director in UNESCO Chair on Communication of Science and Technology underscored the significance of media management and strategies to address the infodemics, Dr. Zardar exemplified various strategies employed by Iranian authorities to identify the fake news and placement of measures to counter these fake news. Dr. Zardar specifically highlighted the roles of using innovative technological solutions by social media outlets to debug the misinformation.

Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan, Global Coordinator, International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotech Applications (ISAAA) who also serves as the Executive Director, Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre, was among the speakers.

Dr. Arujanan highlighted the significance of effective science communication around the world. She said that the developing countries around the world need to strengthen their efforts in R&D and charging ahead with their own STI strategies and goals. She underlined that a lot of investment is going into R&D, infrastructure, talent development, and policies and regulations; however, there is one area that remains in the backburner or non-existent, and that is Science Communication.



Dr. Arujanan said that science communication holds great significance for society at large. It plays a crucial role of democratizing science; or science literacy among the public. It is an important process that should go hand-in-hand with R&D initiatives, she emphasized.

Dr. Maha further said that advancement in science is often intervened by pseudoscience, fake news, ignorance and non-functioning policies and regulations. In the end she concluded that researchers and scientists should actively engage with the public about their research to widen the impact of science communication.

Dr. Mohamed Elsonbaty Ramadan presented his talk on “Preventing the next infodemic”. Dr. Ramadan underlined that the media is not ready enough to deal with scientific content and often when it comes to science news, the media faces a challenge. While scientists are not really well-equipped to deal with media related matters; due to lack of overall science literacy, the public is unable to assess the information through social media.



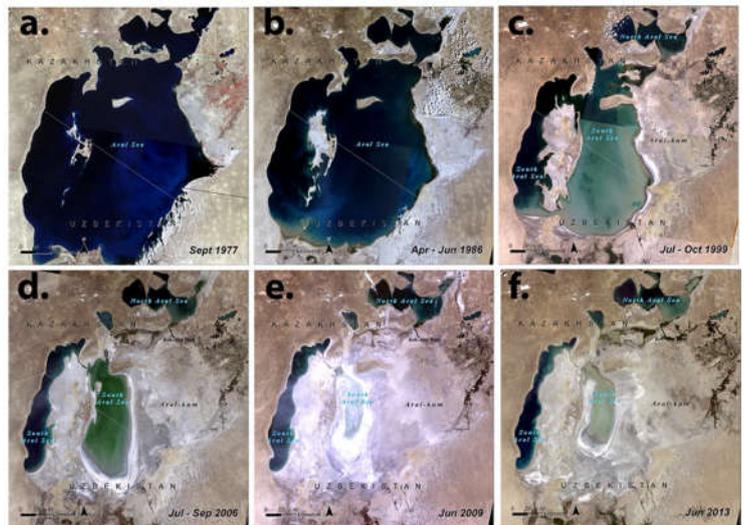
Dr. Ramadan said that solution to this is the infodemic management, applying evidence-based intervention that bring understandable, localized evidence-based information to citizens and drive positive health-seeking behavior. Social media platforms must come forward to use innovative technological solutions to debug the misinformation. Dr. Ramadan concluded that there is a significant need for building the capacity of scientists, journalists and the public to develop effective science communication interface amongst the key stakeholders.

In the end, the panel discussion was followed by Q&A session. The recorded session can be accessed at https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=376486200256425&ref=watch_permalink



ECOSF Participated in the International Symposium on Ecological Restoration and Management of the Aral Sea

The CAREC Institute and the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Uzbek Academy of Sciences in collaboration with more than 20 co-organizing partners, including the ECO Science Foundation organized a virtual international symposium on “Ecological Restoration and Management of the Aral Sea” on 24-25 November 2020. The main aim of this symposium was to establish an international platform for scientific research promotion and knowledge sharing on ecological safeguarding and restoration of the Aral Sea. Leading researchers, experts and policy makers from Central Asian countries, regional and international development agencies attended the symposium and delivered presentations to propose innovative ways for ecological restoration and management of the Aral Sea.



Among other high-level dignitaries, H.E. Ibromkhim Abdurakhmonov, Minister of Innovation Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, delivered a resounding keynote speech. His Excellency highlighted the importance of Aral Sea restoration and management for

Uzbekistan and the region. He called for coordinated and collective response to the Aral Sea ecological issues while reiterating Uzbekistan’s strong will and readiness for cooperation in addressing climate change issues.

Subsequently, leading experts began deliberations, based on which the expansion of intensive and wasteful irrigated farming during the former Soviet Union time were highlighted as the main causes for the drying-up of the Aral Sea. Mismanagement of water was highlighted repeatedly as one of the main reasons for ecological degradation.

President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro delivered his keynote address in the inaugural ceremony and highlighted the significance of ecology and sustainability of planet with reference to the Aral Sea. Prof. Soomro said that in modern times, the health of an economy is given far more importance than that of the ecology and underlined that the shrinking of the Aral Sea as one of the “planet’s worst environmental disasters” in the modern history.



Prof. Soomro further deliberated that most of the changes in climate and landscape in our environment particularly in the Aral Sea are the consequences of Human induced changes. This has been the common practice worldwide, therefore we are expected to face severe extreme climate events, such as increased variability of monsoons, receding glacial caps, heatwaves, floods and droughts.

To address this mammoth challenge, there is an urgent need for the adaptive capacity of communities through adequate science education and enabling citizens to make informed decisions in the context of climate change. Prof. Soomro concluded that considering the devastating impacts of climate change in the ECO region, it is high time for the political leaders and policy makers to come together to devise a strategy to integrate the climate change education in its existing science curriculum.

Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer ECOSF presented his talk on “Climate Change Mitigation: The Role of Clean Energy Technologies”. Mr. Raza highlighted that energy, industry and transport are the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). About two thirds of the global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to the burning of fossil fuels used for heating, industry electricity and transport etc., he added.



Emerging Economies of ECO are on the path towards industrialization, which would require intensive energy resources to achieve intended goals, therefore, it is right time for ECO Countries like Pakistan, Iran, Turkey to invest in clean technologies to reduce the impact of climate change, he emphasized. Renewable energy plays a key role in mitigating global greenhouse emissions by radically lowering the emission profile of Pakistan. Mr. Raza shared a landscape of disruptive innovation being spurred in the clean technology sector and recommended that Developing Nations should take advantage of this emerging revolution to achieve sustainable economic development.

ECOSF together with UNESCO and other partners celebrated the World Science Day

ECOSF jointly with UNESCO, COMSTECH, COMSATS, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) celebrated the 2020 World Science Day for Peace and Development on November 10, 2020, at the auditorium of COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan.

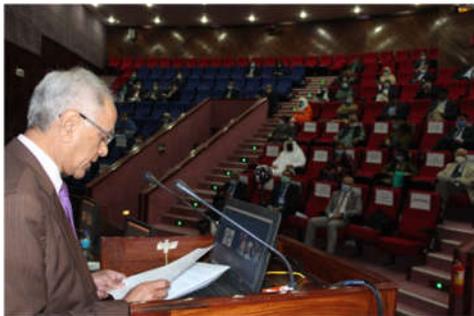
During the event, distinguished experts and speakers highlighted many critical aspects of science including nature based-solutions for sustainable development with an emphasis on responding to COVID-19 by enhancing national capacities on STI for evidence-based policymaking.

Federal Minister for Science & Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain was the Chief Guest during the event. The Federal minister said that World Science Day is an opportunity to renew our resolve for



the noble purpose of advancing scientific knowledge and its practical application so that human beings everywhere can live their lives in complete peace and freedom in a dignified manner. Mr. Fawad further emphasized the need of free and equal availability of vaccines and suggested that it must not be allowed to be monopolized by anyone in the world.

Ms. Patricia McPhillips, UNESCO Representative in Pakistan emphasized the criticality of sharing of scientific data openly with all stakeholders. As COVID-19 spreads rapidly around the world, crossing geographical borders, it reminds that we all live on one planet. Today, the world is in urgent need of the sharing of scientific information. UNESCO promotes the open science concept to encourage the exchange of global experiences and best practices. Ms. McPhillips specifically noted her appreciation for the two young students, who spoke on the occasion, on their achievements in winning international science awards.



Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, ECOSF, emphasized the critical role of science communication. He said that that Science Communication is extremely critical for well-informed policy making on global complex challenges, such as climate change, food security and especially during the current pandemic. He urged that we must have a strong science communication system and capacities. Prof. Soomro further proposed that Pakistan should hold a science week every year along with the world science day.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH in his remarks said that scientific and technological innovation had and will continue to drive massive global transformation and economic gains. We need a responsible science; where fruits of human ingenuity must reach to the one who needs them the most, he said.



During the event, representatives of PSF, PAS and COMSSATS also delivered their talks thereby highlighting the critical linkages of science and society. At the end, souvenirs were distributed among the experts and speakers.

ECOSF Participated in Inaugural Session of the International Workshop and Exhibition on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC) inaugurated a two-day workshop on artificial intelligence in healthcare at COMSTEC's headquarters in Islamabad on 24 November 2020.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTEC, Dr. Shoaib A. Khan, Chancellor, Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology and Dr. Shahid Mahmud, Chairman & Group CEO – Interactive Group addressed the inaugural session. A good number of policy makers, academicians, scientists, students and general public and diplomats from the member OIC states attended the event. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the event on behalf of the ECOSF.

The workshop and exhibition were collaborated with COMSTEC and the Sir Syed Center for Advanced Studies in Engineering (CASE) Institute of Technology, marking Pakistan's venture into the world of artificial intelligence.

Underscoring the government's seriousness in building up Pakistan's indigenous artificial intelligence prowess/capabilities, this event was organized under the patronage of Professor Dr. Atta ur Rehman, chairman of the Prime Minister's Task Force on S&T. Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Choudhary Fawad Hussain, was the chief guest in the inauguration ceremony.

The workshop featured technical/educational talks, training sessions on artificial intelligence applications in health, along with exhibitions of contemporary artificial intelligence products and services. The workshop further explored a variety of practical applications and real-world examples of using artificial intelligence to contribute positively to society.



3rd Meeting of National Steering Committee Nomination of Karezes Landscape of Balochistan as UNESCO Cultural Heritage, held in Quetta- Pakistan

The 3rd Meeting of National Steering Committee for nomination of Karezes Landscape of Balochistan as UNESCO Cultural Heritage site was held on October 22, 2020 at Quetta- Pakistan. The Meeting was chaired by the Additional Secretary (Culture) Mr Abdul Manan, Government of Balochistan, and attended by UNESCO Country Director for Pakistan Ms Patricia McPhilips; Chairman PCRWR Dr Muhammad Ashraf; President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro; Director OFWM (Balochistan) Mr. Abdul Wahab; Project Director (100 small dams) Irrigation Department of Balochistan, Mr. Shoaib Nadeem Tareen; Head (Geology Department) BUIEMS Dr Abdul Mauntaqim Naji; Assistant Chief (Culture) P&D Department Syed Muhammad Waseem; Deputy Director Department of Archaeology and Museum Islamabad Dr Tahir Saeed and representatives from Forests and Wildlife, Environmental Protection Agency, Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP), Consultant from Rogers Kolachi Khan and Associates Dr. Ayesha Rogers.



The Meeting recognized the importance of Karez Cultural Landscape of Balochistan and extended full support to the on-going nomination process. Experts deliberated on a number of means through which this initiative could achieve meaningful progress. The Balochistan Government officials and Chairman PCRWR shared the updates on the matter and the Country Director elaborated on the process of submission of dossier for UNESCO. The consultant then presented the progress of the process of dossier preparation.

During the meeting, President ECOSF Prof. Soomro extended his full cooperation to the cause of nomination of KSCL in World Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO. He also suggested for looking into the transboundary aspect of Karezes between Pakistan and Iran as both countries also share such sites and Karezes/Qanats. Prof. Soomro emphasized that the ownership of the project by the Department of Culture, Government of Balochistan is a key step for the success of the initiative.

FEIAP-WFEO-FAEO Jointly Organized Conference on Engineering Education



The Joint Conference of the Federation of Engineering Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP), WFEO and the Federation of African Engineering Organizations (FAEO) on Engineering Education Accreditation System and Capacity Buildings was successfully held on 7 November simultaneously online and offline at the Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), Xi’an, China.

Engineering education experts from Malaysia, Singapore, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and other countries shared their views and experience in engineering education with more than 100 participants via online webinars. Prof. Gong Ke, President of WFEO, Huang Wei, President of FEIAP, and Prof. Martin Manuhwa, President of FAEO addressed the virtual meeting. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the virtual meeting on behalf of ECOSF.

Prof. Gong Ke, in his speech, pointed out that improving the quality of engineering education is critical for the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. He also conveyed a message of solidarity on behalf of WFEO to welcome the cooperation between FEIAP and FAEO and said that WFEO is the platform providing opportunities and supports to member organizations to help each other to improve the quality of engineering education and enhance engineering capability buildings.

Prof. Martin Manuhwa stressed the importance of educating engineering talents and reinforcing international research cooperation in disciplines of basic and frontier science. With the theme “Engineering Education Accreditation System and Capacity Buildings in Belt & Road Region, Africa, Asia and the Pacific”, the event was organized in two sessions.



In the first session, with respect to the FEIAP engineering education guidelines and accreditation system, experts highlighted the role of accreditation of engineering qualifications, African engineering education accreditation system and capacity building for engineers, and explained the role of accreditation and education in driving economic development. The second session focused on Capacity Building and free mobility of engineering personnel.

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

Call for Research Papers: 3rd Biennial Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Conference

Persian Gulf University (PGU) invites research papers to be presented during the 3rd Biennial Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Conference (OGPC2020) which is scheduled to take place on 28-29 December 2020 in Bushehr Iran. OGPC2020 is an international event for new-age energy and environmental scientific researches and also the achievements of the oil, gas, petrochemical, and energy-related companies. OGPC 2020 is aimed at bringing together academics and industrial professionals in the fields of petroleum upstream and downstream technologies, energy, and environments. The objective of this conference is to promote industrial experiences, scientific researches and innovations, technology developments, sustainable progress and knowledge interchange between students, researchers, engineers, managers, and industry working globally.

Read More: <https://ogpc2020.pgu.ac.ir/>

Training Program on Development and Management of Economic Zones under the Belt and Road Initiatives

Appreciating the need for skill development and capacity building in key economic sectors, the Beijing Technological and Business University (BTBU) in collaboration with Economic Cooperation Organization - Science Foundation (ECOSF) launched a BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center on Scientific, Technological and Economic Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative in September 2020.

While realizing the immense potential of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as drivers of industrialization, infrastructure development, employment, trade and economic growth of ECO Member Countries, the BTBU-ECOSF Joint Training Center is hosting a two-day **virtual training program on Management and Development of Special Economic Zones under the Belt and Road Initiative on December 22-23, 2020**. Interested individuals may register themselves for the training at <http://ecosf.org/signup.aspx> by **December 17**. The brochure of the training is also available at the same link.