



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017

From ECOSF

Promoting Vision 2025 and SDGs

ICCBS AND ECOSF ORGANIZED THE 14TH EURASIA CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL SCIENCES IN KARACHI PAKISTAN

President ECOSF Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the 14th Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences held in Karachi, Pakistan on 15-18 December, 2016. A newspaper supplement was issued in the National press with messages from Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman, Patron-in-Chief, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Director (ICCBS) and Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECOSF were printed. Over 700 eminent scientists and researchers from 50 countries participated in this important international event in the field of chemical sciences. Many plenary and keynote lectures were arranged through video conferencing as well as oral presentation during the three days program. A quarter page advertisement congratulating ICCBS and brief introduction of ECOSF were also the main part of the newspaper supplement.



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collaboration, cooperation and networking of the Foundation with the scientific institutions and innovative research centers in the region especially in Iran.



INNOVATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (STIPM-2016) HELD AT KARACHI-PAKISTAN

Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Institute of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Management (MUISTD) in collaboration with ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST), sponsored by Higher Education Commission (HEC) organized the 1st International Conference on Science, Technology Innovation Policy and Management (STIPM-2016) on November 16-17, 2016, at Karachi. The conference aimed to provide a forum to STI community for the presentation and discussion of the STIPM best practices adopted at national and international levels; addressing the need, challenges and strategies involved related to designing and implementation of STI Policy and to stimulate and exchange new ideas and approaches for STIPM and related studies required. The 2 days of programme included keynote speeches, papers presentation and plenary panels on global trends in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Management.



Experts from across Pakistan and International Science, Technology & Innovation Centre (ISTIC), University Technology Malaysia (UTM)-Malaysia, KISTEP Seoul- South Korea and University of Isfahan Iran as well as from UK and Nigeria joined the conference. A large number of MUISTD students also attended the conference. H.E Mr. Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Minister for Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh inaugurated the conference as Chief Guest.

Mr. Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani appreciated the theme of conference and stressed on need for capacity building and research in STI policy. He assured of their patronage and announced a grant of 0.500 Million. Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Federal Secretary to Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan also noted his remarks as a Guest of Honor and shared the STI policy and strategy of Pakistan. Earlier Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Uqaili Vice Chancellor, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro opened the conference with his welcome note. He thanked all the partners for their support in organizing this international conference. Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto Co-Director, MUET presented the Objectives of the STIPM Conference. Key note speakers included Prof. Dr. S.M. Qureshi, Former Federal Secretary of Science and Technology, Pakistan; Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro, President ECO, Science Foundation and Prof. Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani Chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology, Pakistan.



Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro in his keynote address made a power point presentation on “Role of STEM Education towards Sustainable STI Policy and Economic Development”. After giving a brief introduction of ECO Science Foundation, its aims, objectives and activities, Professor Soomro mentioned that, “key to economic development of a country lies in its ability to innovate and effectively exploit innovations.

It is pertinent to mention that ECOSF, MUET and Technology Times signed MoU for cooperation on Appldea2R' 17 Contest - System Apps for Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). Three other MoUs were also signed by MUET on the occasion and those included with; UTM, PCST and KISTEP for cooperation in STI Policy and Management.

Two days International conference concluded to sharpen the strategy for implementation of STI Policy of Pakistan and to plan initiatives for Capacity Building of Human Resources in Policy making.

27TH MEETING OF ECO REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (RPC) HELD IN TEHRAN-IRAN

The 27th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 5–8 December, 2016 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. After the Opening and Plenary sessions, the Sectoral Committee meetings were also held and their outcomes converged in the Closing Plenary on 8 December; wherein, the final RPC report was presented and adopted with consensus.

The Meeting was attended by the delegations of all the 10 Member States, the Observers; the Turkish Cypriot State and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States; as well as by the ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies.

In the opening session, the ECO Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akça, welcomed the visiting delegations and presented a comprehensive overview of the main activities of the Organization during 2016. The Secretary General appreciated that accession of Pakistan to TIR Convention has resulted in bringing all Member States under the TIR System.



The Meeting was formally inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Nasrollah Jahangard, Deputy Minister of Communication and Information Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He warmly welcomed the distinguished delegates of the ECO Member States on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that the ECO has achieved many important milestones in its work for regional development through common efforts, building on the Member States' close cultural ties, shared historical past and joint plans for the future. The Chief Guest wished this very important gathering, live and productive discussions and outcome based deliberations.

The President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro made statement on behalf of Foundation. In his statement, he thanked the ECO Secretariat for organizing the meeting amicably and shared the progress on activities/achievements of the Foundation carried out

throughout the year of 2016. Prof. Soomro in his statement urged the member states to fully support ECOSF so that the objectives of the Foundation can be achieved through its various scientific activities. President ECOSF expressed deep gratitude to all the Member States and ECO Secretariat for their continuous support to the Foundation and special thanks to the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for patronizing ECOSF through its Ministries of Science & Technology and Foreign Affairs. President ECOSF also appreciated the Government of Pakistan – Ministry of Science and Technology for official allocation of Office Space to the Foundation in its newly constructed building.

During the four-day RPC meeting, various Sectoral Committees were formulated on trade, investment, transport, communications, energy, environment, agricultural, industry, tourism, economic research, statistics, human development, disaster risk reduction, drugs and organized crimes and the international relations.

Two separate sessions on ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies including ECOSF were also held during the meeting, wherein, the progress/achievements of the agencies/institutions were discussed in detail. At the end of the RPC meeting, on behalf of all the participating delegation, the Council expressed its appreciation and thanks to the ECO Secretariat for making excellent arrangements for this important meeting.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM: EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING, TEHRAN, IRAN

International Conference on “Water and Environment in the New Millennium: Education and Capacity Building” was jointly organized by the University of Tehran and its International partners including ECO Science Foundation, German Academic Exchange Services, UNESCO-IHE and others was held at University of Tehran-Iran on 3-5 December 2016. The idea of organizing this International conference was first raised by the members of “SusWaDialogue” Project (Water Management and Sustainability from a Cultural and Social Perspective – a Dialogue between Germany, Iran, Egypt and Indonesia) in March 2015. The conference in line with the UN-SDG-6, aimed to focus on water education and capacity building of K-12 children as well as University students, for sustainable development and developing a new curriculum and for training water policy makers with cross-disciplinary knowledge in the fields of hydrology (surface and groundwater), water engineering, water law, water and environment economics, socio-hydrology and eco-hydrology. In addition to oral presentations and posters, some hands on workshops and panel discussions were also held during the conference.

The conference was opened by the Conference Chair Professor Mahmoud Nili Ahmadabadi, Chancellor of the University of Tehran. Professor Hamid Pezeshk, Dean, College of Science, University of Tehran also delivered his welcome message in the inaugural session. Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro President ECOSF in his welcome remarks in the inaugural session, appreciated and congratulated the organizers including the students for organizing this important International conference. Prof. Soomro suggested that by engaging the educated young population the future of all nations becomes even more important in the context of Climate Change and for achieving the targets set in the UN Agenda 2030 and its SDGs. He added that empowering young children to live responsible lives and address complex global challenges through education and competency of critical thinking for imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way.



Professor Manzoor Soomro briefed the participants on his research paper in K12 Water Education Session titled, “Empowering K-12 Learners with Water Management Pedagogy for Sustainable Development through Inquiry Based Science Education Approach”. While discussing the linkage of SDG-6 and sustainable development he said, “Water (SDG-6) the largest natural resource is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself.

During the three days event, Professor Soomro also co-chaired a session with Dr. Ali Bagheri, Tarbiat Modares University Iran titled, “Participatory Water and Environment Management: Educating Stakeholders”. Moreover he also participated as a panellist in a roundtable discussion on Internationalization of Water Education and Capacity Development.

ECOSF AND QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY ORGANIZED THE FOURTH AWARDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM (2016)

ECOSF jointly with Quadi-Azam University (QAU) and the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies (DSS), Islamabad, Pakistan Society for Computational Science and Biology (PSCB) and Biochemist Association of QAU, Islamabad organized the 4th annual award presentation ceremony for the High School Summer Science Research Program (HSSSRP) on 23 December 2016. Dr. Bushra Mirza, Professor of Biochemistry, QAU led and supervised the activity. Above 100 students and their mentors from different areas of Pakistan participated and presented their scientific projects and interacted with other students, researchers, faculty members and mentors. In her opening and welcoming remarks Dr. Bushra Mirza briefed the participants on the HSSSRP and the concept of research. Chief

Guest of the event, President, ECOSF, Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, in his concluding remarks encouraged all the participants to visit the websites of all organizers and specifically the websites that explain 17 UN-SDGs and 169 targets. He also suggested that student may opt regional languages to express their points of view on various ideas. A three Members Judges committee evaluated the ideas and the subsequent presentations by the 14 selected students. Mr. Atif Soomro, IBA, Community College, Jacobabad, Mr. Danyal Akram, Lahore Grammar School, Lahore, and Syed Azmat Ali, IBA Public School, Sukkar, received first, second and third prize respectively. All students who participated in the contest also received certificate of appreciation from the President, ECOSF.



32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PSDE AND CONFERENCE ON CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The 32nd Annual General Meeting of Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) and Conference on China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Regional Integration was held at Islamabad on December 13, 2016. ECOSF co-organized the three-day long Conference with Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), with the support of Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms of Pakistan, UNDP, the World Bank, OXFAM, ILO, IUCN, AKRSP, IFPRI and ADB. Theme of the conference was “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Regional Integration”, with the aim to encourage rigorous and evidence based research on the potential benefits of the CPEC for Pakistan and China as well as its regional and global implications.



Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs inaugurated the Conference. In his keynote address, Mr. Aziz said that CPEC is indeed a landmark development and it is hoped that important insights and wisdom will come out of the three-day Conference.

Earlier the presidential address was noted by Dr. Asad Zaman, President PSDE and Vice Chancellor PIDE. Dr. Ejaz Ghani, Secretary PSDE noted welcome remarks and presented Secretary's report.

President ECO Science Foundation Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro was invited to moderate a special panel discussion. Dr. Soomro was of the view that the evolution of this project started many years ago when they realized that many parts of China, mainly Xinjiang, were far from ports. CPEC is a grand concept that would not only connect China but it would also connect the surrounding countries including the land-locked ECO member states. Professor Soomro emphasized that ECO as a whole but especially Central Asia, China, and Pakistan has the potential to lead the world development. OBOR is not only for the sake of trade but also to build institutions to aid in development and integration of the entire region.

PRESIDENT ECOSF MEETS THE IRANIAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro called upon H.E. Dr. Vahid Ahmadi, Deputy Minister for Research and Technology of Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) of Islamic Republic of Iran on 6 December 2016 in MSRT office in Tehran.

The Deputy Minister welcomed President ECOSF and briefed him about the initiatives of MSRT for promotion of science research and technology. He emphasized on the need for extensive interaction of scientific community of ECO Region which could provide basis for initiation of research projects among the S&T organizations of the region. He encouraged ECOSF to continue to play its role as a bridge between the S&T community of the ECO Region with more emphasis on collaborative research.

Dr. Vahid Ahmadi in response assured his Ministry's full support for the activities and programs of ECOSF. He also offered to share the experiences and specialization of Iran in the areas of Science Research and Technology to other ECO region's countries through the Foundation. In this respect, he suggested that ECOSF may compile a catalogue of S&T strengths of member states. Dr. Ahmadi also assured President ECOSF for financial contributions to the Foundation as per BoT decisions.



PRE-SCOPING VISIT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ORGANIZING THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING THE ROADMAP ON ENGINEERING QUALIFICATION STANDARDIZATION, ACCREDITATION AND PROFESSIONAL SYSTEM (EQSAPS) IN DUSHANBE – TAJIKISTAN

In realization of its objectives, ECO Science Foundation in partnership with UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Jakarta, UNESCO-Pakistan the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, Federation of Engineering Institutes of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) and Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) is organizing an International Workshop on Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization, Accreditation and Professional System (EQSAPS) Dushanbe – Tajikistan from in first week of March 2017. The purpose of the workshop is to enhance the engineering standards of ECO region at par with FEIAP Standards to be recognized worldwide.

In this context, a two member delegation comprising Dr. Engr. Nasir Mehmood Khan of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and Ghulam Abbas Rahar of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) visited Dushanbe, Tajikistan from 8-10 December 2016 to discuss the arrangement of organizing the International Workshop on Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization, Accreditation and Professional System (EQSAPS). The delegation was warmly welcomed by the President of Academy of Sciences of Republic of Tajikistan (ASRT) at the Headquarters of the ASRT. The President of the Academy and his team was briefed that the scoping workshop would be a roadmap towards engineering qualification standardization based on the standards of Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific. It was further briefed that the workshop would be attended by a good number of international participants along with the significant number of local participants from engineering and scientific institutes, industry, private sector, etc. The President ASRT appreciated the concept of the workshop and thanked to the organizers for organizing such an important international workshop in Tajikistan. He assured the maximum possible support of his organization for the workshop.



The delegation also visited the Technological University of Tajikistan and held a meeting with the Rector of the University Prof. Amonzoda Ilhom Temur and his team and purpose/importance of the workshop was shared which was well admired and supported. After the meeting, the delegation was taken to have a visit to various facilities and labs of the university and shown the work of the students which was fantastic.



A visit to Tajik Technical University (TTN) of Dushanbe which is a mother university of engineering qualification in Tajikistan was also made. During the visit to the University, a meeting was held with the Rector of the University Prof. Odinaev Haydar Odinaevich at his office. Prof. Odinaev welcomed the guests and briefed that the university was established 60 years ago, after the establishment, a significant progress has been made in the fields of energy, construction, architecture, transport, telecommunications and metallurgy technology. He further said that the main task of the university is to prepare the world class specialists who are able to work on advanced production lines, combining research design and business. The delegation thanked the Rector for warm gesture and apprised

him about the scoping workshop to be held at the start of the March 2017 in Dushanbe. A constructive discussion was carried out during the meeting pertaining to the arrangements and organization of the workshop. He fully supported the concept of the workshop and hoped that this would change the engineering qualification standards in Tajikistan. After the meeting, the delegation visited modern engineering laboratories located in the beautiful building of the university.

On the third and final day (10 Dec 2016) of the visit, a concluding meeting chaired by Prof. Farhod Rahimi, President of the Academy of Sciences of Republic of Tajikistan was held at ASRT. The meeting was attended by the heads/officials of ASRT, Tajik Technical University (TTU), Tajik Technological University and other scientific institutes of the Academy. A tentative plan was discussed to organize the workshop. It was agreed that the workshop would be a high level policy Forum and workshop which will possibly be opened by the President of Tajikistan. For opening of the workshop, the National Library having all state of the art facilities was proposed and technical sessions would be conducted in the TTU/ASRT. Everyone in the meeting appreciated the international organizers of the workshop i.e. ECOSF, UNESCO, FEIAP and ISTIC for organizing a high level policy forum and the workshop in Tajikistan and shown the willingness to provide maximum possible support for making the workshop a success.

At the end, the visiting delegation highly acknowledged the warm hospitality of the Academy and thanked to all for sparing their precious time to attend the meeting and supporting the workshop.

PRESIDENT ECOSF EMPHASIZES ON SCIENCE EDUCATION AT A NATIONAL SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY STUDY AID FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE (SAFE)

National Seminar on Education was organized by Study Aid Foundation for Excellence (SAFE) in Islamabad on 10th November 2016, H.E Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman Minister of State for Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training graced the seminar as a chief guest. Students from various disciplines attended the seminar to address the issues of education system and policies of Pakistan and their possible solutions.

H.E Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in his remarks said that, Education is the basic right of every child and a very important aspect for progress of any nation. Human Resource Development is the central pillar of the government policy and education plays a fundamental role towards the formation of human social capital. The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has aligned all its programs to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals. He also shared the statistics of education of Pakistan and the progress made during the last 3 years.



On behalf of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, he assured the student federations to improve the state of Education in Pakistan that will ensure holistic development and economic growth.

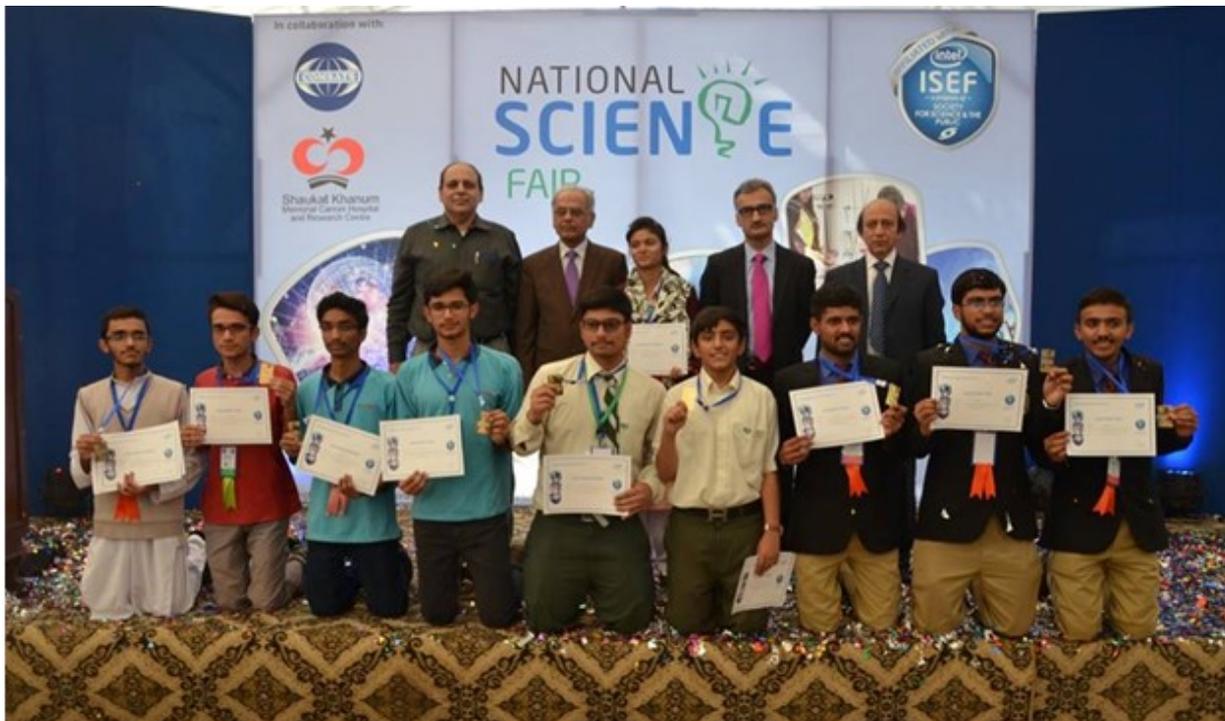
President ECO Science Foundation Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro who was invited as a speaker shared his thoughts on the issues of Education Systems, policies and their Solutions. Professor Soomro appreciated the efforts of the organizers in conducting the education seminar. He emphasized over the importance of critical thinking and inquiry based learning by youth as well as by the communities. "Moreover, education based upon the "inquiry" holds much importance in training the minds of individuals for understanding the world. It should be inculcated among children at primary & secondary school levels to nurture critical and innovative thinking in the society especially young children, no matter what career they may choose", he said.

PRESIDENT ECO SCIENCE FOUNDATION INVITED AS GUEST OF THE HONOR IN THE CONCLUDING SESSION OF THE INTEL NATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

The Intel National Science Fair Pakistan 2016-17 organized by Intel in collaboration with numerous National and Provincial organizations on 23-26 November, 2016, at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore. More than 300 students from 55+ institutions from all across Pakistan participated in the NSF' 16 after rigorous evaluation at the regional / provincial fairs. Intel's programs in Pakistan are mainly focused towards incorporating research based learning at an early age so that children can develop 21st century skills and compete effectively in the knowledge based economy of the future. Intel had been arranging science fairs across the country at the provincial and national levels to promote and celebrate learning and teaching in the areas of science and mathematics. Objective of science fairs is to inculcate research based learning and skills. Intel ISEF is a program promoting knowledge in science and mathematics in students from grades 8-12.

President ECO Science Foundation Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro who was invited as Guest of Honor in the closing ceremony on 26th Nov 2016 awarded certificates and medals to the winning students. After the distribution of awards and certificates, Professor Soomro while talking to students and teachers congratulated the young scientists and the management of Intel-Pakistan for organizing NSF 2016-17 successfully.

It is worth mentioning that the National finalists/winners will participate in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) that will be held in Los Angeles, California, USA in May 2017.



ASIA PACIFIC POLICY DIALOGUE ON WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN DRYLAND REGIONS WORKSHOP ORGANIZED AT UAAR, RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN

Asia Pacific Policy Dialogue on Water, Energy and Food Security for Poverty Alleviation in Dryland Regions, was co-organized by UNESCO and PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-UAAR)- Pakistan with the support of *Japan Funds-in-Trust* and *Malaysia Funds-in-Trust*, on 23-25 Nov. 2016 at the University. The key objective of this International Conference was to provide an opportunity to hold an international dialogue between policy makers, scientists, academicians, other experts and stakeholders for exploring new dimensions to increase water and food security and alleviate poverty in the resource deficient dryland regions worldwide in the context of Agenda-2030, with particular reference to Asia and the Pacific region, particularly in Pakistan. Around 200 experts from across the Pakistan as well as from International institutions across the Asia & Pacific participated in this dialogue and discussed the thematic areas and proposed policy guidelines and strategies for effective use of resources to ensure water, energy and food security.

Director, Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific-UNESCO Jakarta and the Lead Organizer Professor Dr. Shahbaz Khan opened the International Dialogue with his keynote address titled, “AP-FAST Facility for Accelerating Science & Technology Knowledge Services for SDGs into National Development Plans in Asia and the Pacific”.



President ECO Science Foundation Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro made a Keynote speech titled, "IBSE Approach for Water, Energy and Food Security leading to Poverty Alleviation in Dryland Regions". After welcoming all the participants of conference, Prof. Soomro highlighted the importance of current global issues including climate change, emigration for various regions and preparedness of nations as well as the importance of critical thinking and evidence based decision making in the society. He noted that, "whenever the natural disaster happens, either of the two approaches are to be followed; mitigation and adaptation to the situation. Mitigation at the outset becomes a difficult approach, however the adaptation to the situation can only be done if the communities are prepared and have the capacity to understand and manage that crisis.

Professor Soomro also shared his experience of practicing FFS approach while working in FAO. *Farmer Field Schools* (FFS) originally developed by FAO in the 1980s. He said that the Pakistan experience of FFS approach actually reduced poverty of participating farmers by 12%, according to the empirical data published. Thereby he provided a direct link of IBSE way of education at schools with the development of future rational and capable global citizens to achieve SDGs.

Three days of International Conference concluded to develop policies particularly for dryland regions and implement those to ensure the facilitation of the integration of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals into National development plans of respective member states/countries, particularly on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15 and 17.

UNESCO DELEGATION APPRISED OF PRE-SCOPING VISIT TO DUSHANBE-TAJIKISTAN ENGINEERING QUALIFICATION STANDARDIZATION WORKSHOP

Director, Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific UNESCO Dr. Shahbaz Khan called upon the President ECOSF along with his team; Mr. Raza Shah and Mr. Junaid Naseem on 21st Dec, 2016. President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro warmly welcomed Dr. Khan and his team. UNESCO delegation was apprised of the outcome/progress of pre-scoping visit conducted earlier in this month by Engr. Dr. Nasir Khan from Pakistan Engineering Council and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar from ECOSF pertaining to Engineering Qualification Standardization workshop to be held in Dushanbe-Tajikistan. Various matters related to Engineering Qualification Standardization workshop were discussed among UNESCO and ECOSF in the meeting. It was informed that agreed tentative dates are fixed and now the workshop will be held from 01 March to 03 March, 2017.



STUDENT CONFERENCE ON ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCONEST) 2016 HELD IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Student Conference on Engineering Sciences and Technology (SCONEST 2016) was held at Hamdard Institute of Engineering and Technology, on 14-15 Dec, 2016. The conference was organized by the IEEE Section Karachi, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Hamdard University Karachi. The event was aimed to provide a platform for the students across Pakistan to meet, network, discuss and present their work to each other. It also provided an opportunity for students, academicians and the local industry to share the latest national and international trends in relevant areas and collaborate for a better future.

President ECOSF Professor Dr. Manzoor Soomro was invited as Chief Guest in the Inauguration of SCONEST 2016. Professor Soomro thanked the organizers for inviting him and giving him an opportunity to speak to the students.



While focusing on the quality and inquiry based education he said, “Empowering youth to live responsible lives and to address complex global challenges means; that through education especially STEM/STEAM education, we have to promote competency of critical thinking for imagining future scenarios and making positive & progressive decisions in a collaborative way”

Professor Soomro assured IEEE Karachi Chapter of his full support and cooperation and welcomed any ideas and collaboration from Hamdard University in the ECO member states. Earlier, Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University Professor Dr. Hakim Abdul Hannan expressed similar views on Science, technology and the need to empower students in the field of engineering technologies to have sustainable development.

EMBASSY OF AZERBAIJAN IN PAKISTAN CELEBRATES THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTORATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Embassy of Azerbaijan in Pakistan celebrated the 25th anniversary of the restoration of the independence of their state and Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations on 30th Nov 2016 in Islamabad. Azerbaijan has developed profoundly over the course of these years especially in the field of research and innovation. President ECOSF Professor Manzoor Hussain Soomro was also invited; he congratulated H.E the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Mr. Ali Alizada for profound developments in Azerbaijan in a very short period. He assured his Excellency his full cooperation and support especially in the field of Science, technology, innovation and science education in Azerbaijan being an ECO member state.



REPRESENTATIVE ECOSF ATTENDED THE 2ND INVENTION TO INNOVATION SUMMIT HELD AT UET, PESHAWAR

2nd Invention to Innovation Summit was held at University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar from 16-17 November 2016. The summit was organized by Institute of Research Promotion (IRP), South Asian Triple Helix Association and Offices of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORICs) and supported by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF).

Mr. Ghulam Abbas, Assistant Director of ECO Science Foundation attended the summit as an invited speaker in one of the meetings of the summit titled "Strengthening KPORICs". In his powerpoint presentation, Mr. Abbas gave a brief introduction of the establishment of ECOSF and its aims & objectives. He also informed that the funding is being initiated by the Foundation for the research projects with priority to the Energy, Water, Space, etc fields. He also mentioned that Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) programme has been launched in ECO region and a good number of teachers, educationists, etc have been trained through capacity building workshops organized in France, Kazakhstan and Pakistan and more workshops on IBSE are being organized/planned in Iran, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Pakistan in 2017. Main activities organized and future plans of ECOSF were also shared with the participants. As an intergovernmental organization, ECOSF has been facilitating the development of scientific culture and linkages among ECO countries. The scientific community/organizations of the region are being supported so that the strong science base in the region can be developed.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ECOSF ATTENDED THE 1ST INVENTION TO INNOVATION SUMMIT HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI ON 6-7 DECEMBER 2016

The Representative of ECO Science Foundation Mr. Ghulam Abbas, Assistant Director (Admin & Programmes) attended the 1st Invention to Innovation Summit held at University of Karachi, Pakistan from 6-7 December 2016. The summit is a regular annual activity organized by Institute of Research Promotion (IRP), South Asian Triple Helix Association and Offices of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORICs). ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) is among the supporters of the summit. The main purpose of the summit was to bring academia and industry on a platform where various new technologies could be introduced which at later stage could be commercialized for economic development in the country.



The Representative of ECOSF made a detailed presentation in one of the sessions of the summit titled "Research Funding". In his presentation, Mr. Abbas said that the ECOSF is a regional organization of ten countries which promotes and support the scientific activities in the region. Thus, in realization of its objectives, ECOSF supports the summit to bring various scientific and industrial organizations, scientists and researchers of the region together in the summit so that an interaction and collaboration can be developed. He also mentioned that ECOSF has initiated research funding for the scientific projects for the priority areas set by the experts of ECO countries. He further presented that a contest titled "Appldea2R" has been launched especially for the university students of ECO region focusing the youth. The students can participate in the contest and can win fabulous cash prizes. A list of main activities of the foundation were also shared with the participants.

At the end of the presentation a shield was also presented to Mr. Abbas by the management of Karachi University.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

6TH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM & EXPO 2017

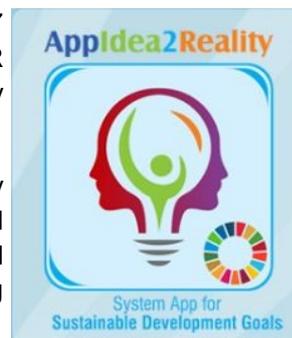
Pakistan Fisheries Society is organizing its 6th International Fisheries Symposium & Expo 2017 in Lahore, Pakistan on 8-9 February, 2017 at the University of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Sciences (UVAS).

Web Link: <http://eco4science.org/Fisheries-Symposium>

APPIDEA2R' 17 CONTEST - SYSTEM APPS FOR SDGS LAUNCHED

ECOSF, MUET and Technology Times signed MoU for cooperation on Appldea2R' 17 Contest - System Apps for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Appldea2R website developed by MUET was launched on the Occasion. The MoU was signed by President ECOSF, Vice Chancellor of MUET and CEO of Technology times.

The Appldear2R Contest will provides separate opportunity for ECO region University students who can generate ideas or have app developing skills to use their ideas and technological knowledge, their ingenuity and their creativity to come up with an original System App that can be use every day. The goal of this Contest is to provide an engaging and empowering learning experience to increase student interest and knowledge in SDGs.



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING THE ROADMAP ON ENGINEERING QUALIFICATION STANDARDIZATION, ACCREDITATION AND PROFESSIONAL SYSTEM (EQSAPS)

UNESCO, Islamabad and Jakarta, in partnership with Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) is organizing a scoping workshop on engineering qualification standardization from 28th February to 04th March, 2017 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Further details will be shared on ECOSF website shortly.

3RD BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI): "INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS BY WOMEN FOR UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2016 - 2030"

The conference is organised for the following objectives:

- i. To show-case successful innovations in STI by women in solving or minimising problems faced by women;
- ii. To exchange and share experiences on how to achieve SDG No.5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" by 2030.

The Conference will bring together successful STI projects and initiatives by women that are innovative and practicable that have helped address issues facing women in developing countries.

Web Link: <http://eco4science.org/Biennial-International-Conference>

APPLICATIONS FOR LIYSF 2017

The 59th London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) - 26th July to 9th August 2017 – invites students to apply now to join 500 other likeminded students gathered from 70 countries across the world at our two-week residential course, held at Imperial College London. The LIYSF programme includes lectures, demonstrations from leading scientists and visits to industrial sites, research centres, scientific institutions, world-class laboratories and universities, along with an active social calendar and a focus on cultural education and forming lasting friendships.

Web Link: <http://eco4science.org/LIYSF-2017>

THE INTERNATIONAL TRIPLE HELIX SUMMIT 2017, NAIROBI, KENYA

The 1st International Summit of the Triple Helix Association (THA) will be held on 20th – 22nd February, 2017 at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of this THA international conference is "Accelerating the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals SDGs Through ICT and Data".

Web Link: <http://eco4science.org/Triple-Helix-Summit>

NAM S&T CENTRE – DST (SOUTH AFRICA) TRAINING FELLOWSHIP ON MINERALS PROCESSING & BENEFICIATION

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries is pleased to invite applications from suitable candidates for the Joint NAM S&T Centre – DST (South Africa) Training Fellowship on Minerals Processing & Beneficiation for the year 2017

Web Link: <http://eco4science.org/NAM-S-T-CENTRE-2017>

NEW STAFF AT ECOSF:

Dr. Syed Ghazanfar Abbas joins ECOFS as Consultant. He carries a very wide International exposure having worked as Consultant with FAO, UNIDO, and other International Organizations. Most recently he was part of a task team that has completed two assignments for Asia Pacific Association of Agriculture Research Institutions (APAARI) on Strategic Planning. PhD in Agricultural Engineering; he retired from Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) as Senior Director (Farm Mechanization) as well as Technical Staff Officer to Chairman, PARC. Dr. Ghazanfar will immediately be involved in organizing the International Workshop on Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization, Accreditation and Professional System (EQSAPS) in Tajikistan in the first quarter of 2017, as well as will liaison with the stakeholders for developing Appldea2R, a ECOSF concept for promoting SDGs. ECOSF welcomes him aboard!



ECOSF ENCOURAGES ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY PROGRAMS IN THE REGION

SDG-7 describes ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all segments of the society. Through print media ECOSF has observed that Government of Pakistan is introducing small scale hydro power generating units in the hilly areas of Pakistan where natural flow of stream water is used to operate turbines and produce “environmental friendly and sustainable electricity”. Very nominal power bills are charged to electricity users for its operational and maintenance cost. ECOSF supports all such activities and will establish further collaboration with all stake holders for achieving SDG-7. The foundation also encourages synchronization of all development activities with one or more of 17 SDGs

UZBEKISTAN AND PAKISTAN AGREE ON ENHANCING TECHNICAL COOPERATION

“Uzbek Export Corporation and KASB Group in Pakistan have signed agreements to set-up the Pak-Uzbek Trade House aimed at introducing technologically advanced agricultural equipment in Pakistan.

Read More: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1274009/enhancing-ties-agreements-signed-set-pak-uzbek-trade-house/>