

ECO Science Foundation and EvK2CNR joined hands to promote the ecological integrity of Pakistan and the ECO region

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 23 April 2014 between the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF)- a regional intergovernmental organization, and EvK2CNR- chartered association, an Italian Foundation for the promotion of Scientific Research and Capacity Building of relevant stakeholders to contribute to filling serious gaps in research-based management of natural resources; better understanding of problems and issues of selected protected areas; and finding solutions of ecology-linked economic problems. The MoU was signed by the Presidents of the two organizations. The Federal Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan Mr. Zahid Hamid presided over the MoU signing ceremony.



Islamabad 23 April, 2014. Zahid Hamid Federal Minister for S& T and delegation of Italian embassy in Pakistan witness the signing of MoU between Economic Cooperation Organization, Science Foundation (ECO-SF) and EvK2CNR chartered association, an Italian Foundation (EvK2CNR)

While speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister who is also the Chairman of Board of Trustees of ECOSF, appreciated the initiative of the two scientific organizations and assured them of the full cooperation of the S&T Ministry. The Minister was flanked by his team led by Federal Secretary Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi, Additional Secretary and Joint Scientific Adviser (International Liaison). The Minister further shared that he has been involved in numerous

environmental laws and is quite aware of the environmental degradation and climate change effects on biodiversity, thus appreciates the need for ecological research and environmental protection. "Thus I would fully support the initiative of ECOSF and EvK2CNR and encourage both the organizations to work on more Biosphere Reserves in Pakistan and some trans-boundary as well", he said.



Earlier, the two heads of the partner organizations highlighted the need for such a cooperation in view of the available capacities

President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro after welcoming the dignitaries, highlighted the aims and objectives of ECOSF and said that environment and biodiversity are the two priority areas of the 10 country-Intergovernmental organization based in Islamabad. He further said that since most of the natural ecosystems of Pakistan are extended across the borders, the partners also intend to explore ways to address the problems of the greater chunks of such landscapes.

that need further strengthening for scientific research and awareness and their applications in the field.

Mr. Agostino Da Polenza- the President of EvK2CNR thanked the Minister for his time and support and assured him of full scientific contribution to Pakistan and also in the ECO region. On this occasion the First Secretary from Italian Embassy Dr. Federico Bianchi shared some of the major contributions of Italian Government in Pakistan in the fields of science & technology and higher education, and assured for continued support. He particularly endorsed the MoU signed by the EvK2CNR and ECOSF.



Group Photo of the Participants of the MoU Signing Ceremony

ECO Science Foundation and COMSATS jointly organize seminar on “Science Communication and Journalism”

The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) joined hands and organized one day seminar on ‘Science Communication and Journalism’ on 6 April 2014 in Islamabad- Pakistan. The seminar was inaugurated by the Federal Secretary to Government of Pakistan for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Mr. Nazir Saeed. Over 100 participants included journalists, media reporters, scientists, policy makers and students of science as well as journalism.

The basis and importance of organizing the seminar was mainly to emphasize on the need to promote knowledge-based societies and a culture of science. Training of reporters and journalists is critical to render the jargon-laden scientific information into a form that non-scientists can comprehend and appreciate. Communicating wonders of science, in a manner that fulfills the information needs of a common man, is thus very important.

Dr. Imtihan Elahi Qureshi, Executive Director, COMSATS welcomed the Chief Guest Mr. Nazir Saeed, the Federal Secretary to Government of Pakistan and other distinguished guests and participants of the seminar. He also thanked Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECO Science Foundation for recognizing the need of these kinds of informative and awareness based conferences and seminar in Pakistan and for joining hands to make this first ever COMSATS-ECOSF joint seminar on “Science Communication and Journalism” in Pakistan a success.

The President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro shared his thoughts with the audience and said that there is need of some collaborative work in the field of science communication and journalism as we, mostly do the things individually or in isolation but we need to join hands and must do the collaborative efforts in this field for the betterment of society. Prof. Soomro also emphasized the need of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in schools which is an important and necessary element to create awareness of science in younger generation.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Nazir Saeed, Federal Secretary appreciated the joint efforts of COMSATS and ECOSF for holding the seminar on



the concept of science communication and journalism. He also said that the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage shall be open to suggestions for improvement and better working relationship between the government and the media.

Afterwards, the technical sessions of the seminar began and Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro chaired the 1st session on “**Fundamentals of Science**”

Journalism". Mr. Aleem Ahmed, Editor Global Science, Pakistan gave a presentation on "Writing Science for Public" focusing on the passion of science, love to learn through reading, listening and watching as well as ability to explain the matter fluently, accurately and unambiguously as the basic tools. He also shared what care should be taken before, during and after writing, as well as the need of clarity in what to write, how to write and for whom to write (target audience), which is the essential part of writing. Mr. M. Khalid Rahman, Editorial Consultant Express Tribune Newspaper shared his thoughts and knowledge on "Effective Press Release - Making Communication between Scientists and Media – beneficial to the Public". He emphasized the need of a link between the scientists and journalists so that every press release can be authenticated and vetted. He also shared that media should be informed of the basics of the science issue and briefing should be given to media personnel before the handing over of the press release. He said that science news must be handled with utmost care and with suspicion to avoid false claims; countercheck with other authentic/authoritative sources and should hold the news until fully authenticated.

Two more technical sessions of the seminar were held and renowned journalists from Pakistan including Mr. Sayyed Paras Ali, CEO TechTV, Pakistan, Mr. Inam ur Rehman, in-charge Department of Media & Communications Studies, International Islamic University Islamabad. Mr. Ameen Amjad Khan, Freelance Journalist and Ms. Sadia Ishtiaq Nauman, Lecturer Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi and Mr. Iqbal Jamil, Director, Institute of Communication and Media Studies, Ziauddin

University, Karachi delivered the presentations covering the history and potential of Science Journalism in Pakistan. The experts / speakers shared their experiences and emphasized on the need of more coordination between scientists and journalists and contribution of newspapers towards science journalism.

It is pertinent to mention that some speakers from abroad like Mr. Edward W. Lempinen, Information officer, The World Academy of Sciences, Italy, Ms. Joanne Manaster, Faculty Lecturer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA and Ms. Shireen Gul, Copy editor/staff writer of Illinois Institute of Technology (ITT) USA also made live presentations through video conferencing via skype.



A good number of participants / audience comprising from media, educations and other walks of life was present. Their keen interest in the seminar was evident through questioning and discussion.



President ECO Science Foundation, says: all stakeholders must collaborate for protection of environment and sustainability of ecosystems for conservation of biodiversity and wellbeing of global community



Prof:Dr Asadullah Kazi,Prof:Dr. Parveen Shah,Dr.Manzoor Hussain Soomro,Dr.Fayaz Memon,Dr.Nisar Kanhar,Mr.Naseer Memon and Dr.Saeed Rid Speak On the eve of inaugural Ceremony of Two day International Conference on the Environmental Issues of Sindh and its Remedies held at Shah Abdul Latif University,Khairpur.

Environment is a blessing of nature and all stakeholders must collaborate for protection of environment and sustainability of ecosystems, for wellbeing of biodiversity and global community- said President ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. He was speaking as the Chief Guest in the inaugural ceremony of two day international conference on “**Environmental issues of Sindh and its Remedies**” organized at Khairpur-Pakistan by Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur on 9-10 April, 2014. The conference was organized in collaboration with Higher Education Commission-Pakistan, WWF Pakistan and Sindh Green Environmental Forum.

Prof. Soomro shared his own study on environmental and health hazards of pesticides and said that chemical pesticide residues were found to be present in 100% sample of vegetables collected from markets in cotton growing districts of Pakistan. Of which around 60% samples had pesticide residues above maximum residue limit (MRL) set by WHO. He

further said that fertilizers and the irrigation water contaminated with industrial affluent was adding to the miseries of consumers and the degradation of environment. Thus Dr. Soomro stressed upon minimizing the use of synthetic agricultural inputs and avoiding the contaminated water for irrigation. He also considered the public awareness about the sources of environmental pollution as very important.

Dr. Soomro further said that climate change is a reality and a bigger challenge. He said that ecosystems and biodiversity serve the humanity we must learn from nature and research must lead to the development of the society. He told the audience that in the light of IPCC report the Intergovernmental Science and Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has been established in Bonn Germany for scientific research on climate change and mitigation/adaptation. He also shared that his organization- ECO Science Foundation has been accredited by IPBES as an Observer/Stakeholder of IPBES and has already

nominated numerous experts from ECO countries including Pakistan to IPBES for various deliverables.

Prof. Manzoor Soomro suggested that building on the strengths of the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC) of Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, efforts should be made to strengthen and expand it to undertake research and awareness on various aspects of environment.

Mr. Naseer Memon the Chief Executive of Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) Islamabad in his key note lecture, presented the dismal state of environment in Sindh. He said that forests in Sindh are being lost by the passing day and in Pakistan, only 5% area is under forest cover, while in Bangladesh forest cover is 18%. Naseer Memon said that due to air pollution and vehicular emission, the environment is being degraded; water logging and hunger have become eminent, and three million people are Hepatitis patients due to use of unsafe water. He said that at this juncture Sindh faces serious challenges; i.e., Indus Delta is dying, Left and Right Bank falls have collapsed, wetlands are in bad condition, EPA is no more effective in terms of finance, legal course of action and trainings. Mr. Memon suggested that the means for the improvement of environmental status of Sindh can be achieved by empowering Universities in research, policy and awareness, civil society agenda for betterment, regulation process.

Prof. Dr. Asadullah Kazi Chancellor of Isra University- Hyderabad, in his Presidential address said that "we have destroyed the ecosystem and biodiversity and must make efforts to protect them". He shed light on Indus water accord between Pakistan and India and elaborated on the importance of water distribution among the provinces on equity. Earlier, Prof. Dr. Parveen Shah, Vice Chancellor SALU welcomed the dignitaries and participants from different parts of Pakistan and abroad and said that in the era of globalization the most common issues is environment pollution caused by various human interventions including; industrialization, urbanization, deforestation and global warming etc. Thus she emphasized on more research and mitigation.

Dr. Fayaz Ahmed Memon from U.K. presented another key note speech on decentralized water management options to address water scarcity in developing countries. He said that water has central importance in world .He said by year 2015, 25 mega cities in the developing countries would be developed and as result, three billion people will face water scarcity. He shared some projection which indicated that there will be severe water scarcity among the 25 most populists countries of south Asia including Pakistan by the year 2025, which will also lead to energy crisis.

Finally, Prof. Dr Nisar Ahmed Kanhar, Conference Secretary extended vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, eminent speakers and the participants from across the country and abroad.

ECO Science Foundation as an accredited Global Stakeholder/Observer Member of IPBES Bonn Germany nominates experts from ECO Region on IPBES Expert Panels

ECOSF as one of the global stakeholders/observers of IPBES invited nominations of experts in different fields of biodiversity research studies and assessments from the ECO Member States for the Expert Panels of IPBES.

For submitting nominations, specific form were designed and made available on the website of ECOSF (www.eco4science.org). So far, two calls

for nominations have made. In all, 12 nominations from Iran, Pakistan and Turkey were sent to IPBES.

More information in this regard can be obtained from ECOSF website (www.eco4science.org) and by email from registry.ecosf@eco4science.org as well as the website of IPBES (www.ipbes.net)

Prof. Manzoor Soomro participated in the 6th International Congress of Nematology, Cape Town, South Africa

The 6th International Congress of Nematology (6th ICN) was organized by the Nematology Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) under the auspices of the International Federation of Nematology Societies (IFNS) in Cape Town, South Africa from **4-9 May 2014**. The President ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the congress on behalf of Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN), of which he is the current President and as a Councilor of IFNS. Thus there was no costs to ECOSF. The other two participants from Pakistan included Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanum of National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi and Mr. Amjad Shahzad Gondal- a Ph.D. student from PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. Each of the three made scientific presentations- Dr. Soomro spoke about the development and status of Nematology in Pakistan and its future prospects and direction.



The ICN is organized after every 6 years under the umbrella of IFNS, of which the PSN is a member society. This event brings together researchers, extension workers, technologists, chemical industry and commercial users, each with an interest in a different field of Nematology and provides a forum for discussions, interactions and interchange between specialists of different geographic regions and different Nematology fields.

The theme of the 6th ICN was "Ensuring the future of Nematology by encouraging student participation, relying on experience and empowering developing nations to ensure global food security" and part of the drive of the organizing committee was to ensure student participation by sponsoring students to attend the congress. A total of around 500 Nematologists including around 100 students from all continents participated in the congress. The details are available at website: www.6thicn.com

The congress provided an opportunity to interact and network with the celebrated as well as young Nematologists from across the world. It was also the occasion where, the newly elected IFNS Officers (President, Vice President & Secretary General) took over from the past team for next three years. Also, on the sidelines of the Congress, a General Body meeting of the Afro-Asian Society of Nematologists (AASN) was held, wherein Prof. Dr. E.M. Mousa Sharif from Manoufia University, Egypt was re-elected as President and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz of Pakistan was elected as Secretary General, while Mr. Amjad Shahzad from Pakistan was taken on as Assistant Secretary of the AASN.



ECOSF invites nominations for ISTIC Training Workshop on Preparing R&D Proposal and Technopreneurship for CIS Countries in Astana, Kazakhstan

Recently, the ECOSF has developed working collaboration with the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The ISTIC in collaboration with National Centre of Science and Technology Evaluation (NCSTE), Kazakhstan, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Malaysia Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) is organizing Training Workshop on Preparing R&D Proposal and Technopreneurship for CIS Countries which will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 13-17 October 2014.

Nominations from each ECO member state have been invited. The information is also available on ECOSF website: www.eco4science.org

This course is targeted at researchers from universities and research institutes who have developed inventions or patents to provide them with the necessary knowledge on how to commercialize their research findings or directors of commercialization unit of universities and R&D Institutes.

The organizers will provide local hospitality (accommodation and meals) and pick and drop service from airport on arrival and departure. Participants are required to seek travel grant

from their organizations to pay their travel expenses to Astana, Kazakhstan. Limited travel grant from ISTIC is available for participants who are really in difficulties in getting travel grant from their organization which is to be based on merit and need on case by case consideration. Thus

there will be no financial liability on the part of ECO Science Foundation.

Nominations may please be sent through email, directly to ISTIC info@istic-unesco.org with a copy to ECOSF latest by 7 July 2014. Details of the training workshop are also available at the ISTIC website (<http://www.istic-unesco.org>).

A Farewell to Dr. K. K. Nagata, Director UNESCO-Pakistan

Dr. Nagata spent over three years in Pakistan and made historic progress. She helped Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). Government of Pakistan revive UNESCO-MAB Programme and declaration of Ziarat Juniper Forests of Balochistan as Biosphere Reserve, preservation & display of 18 meter long specimen of Whale-

Shark at Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) Islamabad and many more initiatives in Science, Education and Culture. Dr. Soomro, former Chairman PSF and President of ECO Science Foundation hosted a lunch to bid farewell to Dr. Nagata on June 1, 2014. Those who joined include; H. E. Mr. Pierre Mayaudon of EU and Mr. Amjad Hussain of Ministry of S&T.



The President ECOSF presenting Souvenir to Dr. K. K Nagata



Mr. Amjad Hussain, JSA(IL), MoST, presenting Flower Bouquet to Dr. K. K Nagata



Group Photo of the Participants at the Farewell in the Honour of Dr. K.K. Nagata

ECO Science Foundation nominates participants to 5th International LAMAP Seminar in Severs- France

The President ECOSF has established very good liaison with the "Academie des Science" France and the "La main a la pate" (LAMAP) Foundation France, for implementation of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE)- "La main a la pate" approach in the ECO Region. The LAMAP Foundation organized its 5th International Seminar on the IBSE approach from 2-7 June at Severs in the suburbs of Paris- France. The LAMAP Foundation invited nominations from ECOSF. The ECOSF had circulated the information and invited nominations from ECO member states. The local hospitality was provided by the organizers and French Embassies in respective countries were willing to pay for the return international travel. However, only four nominations- two each from Iran and Pakistan were received. The organizers accepted three participants- one each from Iran, Pakistan and Turkey; all the expenses were borne by the French side.

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro participates in AAAS-TWAS Course on "Science and Diplomacy" at Abdus Salam ICTP Trieste- Italy



The President ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in a course on "Science and Diplomacy" held from 8-13 June at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy. The course was organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). Other participant from Pakistan was Dr. Anwar Nasim, Secretary General of Pakistan Academy of Sciences. From other ECO member countries, only I.R. Iran was represented by Mr. Ali Morteza BIRANG from the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology. In all, there were

over 50 participants from around the world including the resource persons.

This short course was designed for scientists who are interested in connecting their research to international policy making, policymakers interested in some of the central science based themes that might influence their work, research institution administrators, and research funders focused on identifying ways to build international networks.

Aim of the course was to expose participants to some key concepts on the interactions between the scientific and policy-making communities, and to some contemporary international policy

issues relating to science, technology, environment and health, while providing an overview of how scientific/technical information has been contributing more and more to policy development and organizational changes worldwide. Another focus of the course was; a better understanding of and appreciation for the roles played by the governments, international organizations and the private sector in complex science-based issues; and how the different governance structures are developed to address the needs and involvement of different stakeholders. TWAS had invited policymakers, diplomats with science portfolio, as well as a number of young scientists from the developing world.

The course themes included; Mechanism of Science Diplomacy, Science Advice in a Foreign Ministry, NGOs and Science Diplomacy, Role of Science Academies, International Organizations

and Linking Science to Development. Some case studies were also presented and discussed which included the "Cold War" period science diplomacy, International Space Station, PEER Program, CERN, ICTP and SESAME etc.; wherein the staunch opponent countries have joined together around the global science projects and programs. The resource persons included; Prof. Romain Murenzi Executive Director of TWAS, Dr. Mohammad Hassan of Inter-Academy Panel, Dr. Fernando Quevedo the Director ICTP, Dr. Vaughan Turekian, Mr. Norman Nureiter of AAAS, Dr. David Hilmers (former NASA Astronaut), Dr. Rachel Parker of USAID and a few others from Canada, Japan, Poland and USA.

The course proved to be very informative and a good opportunity to learn about the role of science in political diplomacy for a peaceful and prosperous world.

President ECO Science Foundation participates in the Second Meeting of EU's CBRN-CoE Focal Points held at the Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra- Italy



Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECO Science Foundation on the invitation of European Union (EU), participated in the second meeting of National Focal Points for EU's CBRN-Centres of Excellence (CoE) held at the Joint Research Centre site in Ispra- Italy, from 11-13 June, 2014.

The meeting constituted an important gathering at which representatives from different countries participating in the programme, came together to discuss and assess progress achieved in their respective regions and countries (in CBRN CoE projects, CBRN Needs Assessment, and the development of National Action Plans). The meeting was also attended by a number of prospective partner countries.

During the three-day meeting, presentations were given by representatives of the European Commission (DG JRC, DG DEVCO and DG ECHO) and UNICRI. There were a number of presentations given on progress in ongoing projects, as well as an overview of newly added projects. The second day was split into several regional Round Table Meetings, whereas the third day gave the opportunity to discuss different thematic topics in the various Working Groups.

During the conference had bilateral meeting with the Head of CBRN Unit at DEVCO EU Mr. Adrian van der Meer as well as his Deputy Edie Maier and team, and discussed EU support to ECOSF, particularly for organizing an international conference on "Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development scheduled for 9-11 October 2014 at FC College Lahore- Pakistan.



President ECOSF visits the "Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Italy

On the invitation of ECOSF collaborators, EvK2CNR, the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro visited the CNR Institute of Ecosystem Studies at Pallanza Verbania on the Lake Maggiore in the Italian region called Piemonte. Prof. Soomro was warmly welcomed by the President EvK2CNR President Mr. Agostino Da Polenza and the Director of the Institute of Ecosystem Studies Dr. (Mrs.) Marian M. Manca. Former Directors of the Institute, Mr. Ricardo de Bernardi and Mr. Piero Guilizzoni were also present on the occasion. The institute is a great and historical Centre of Excellence of Research in fresh water biology with a huge collection of Zooplanktons and Phyto planktons and over 66,000 books and journals on the subject in their library. They also publish the "Journal of Limnology" for the last about



70 years. The Institute has been providing research support to the projects of EvK2CNR with particular reference to the flora and fauna of high mountain lakes in their project areas around the world.

Dr. Soomro was given a round of the institute, briefed about the work and it was agreed in principle that through EvK2CNR, collaboration of the Institute with ECOSF can be developed. Finally, Prof. Soomro was presented a Souvenir of a Scarf with actual sketches of discovered Zooplanktons printed on it.



ECOSF Website and Social Media Aspects

The ECOSF has a dynamic website and a face book page. Various relevant information items such as conferences, training workshops and scientific developments are uploaded and shared with the website visitors. Some of the glimpses are highlighted below. The President Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro also tweets at @manzoorhsoomro. Some of the main postings on the ECOSF website and Face book page are highlighted below.

ECOSF Cooperation with ISTIC Kuala Lumpur- Malaysia

The International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) under the auspices of UNESCO was established on 21 January 2008 and is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ISTIC is committed to ensuring that developing countries are not left behind in the pursuit of economic advancement, impeded by the absence of a technological capability to harness new opportunities, that will generate income, jobs and revenue for government.

ECO Science Foundation's goals also match with ISTIC and has thus developed good working relationship with ISTIC and cooperates with them for nomination of most relevant candidates from ECO member states in various trainings that ISTIC organizes from time to time. The ECOSF uploads on its website and circulate the information to ECO member countries for nominations to ISTIC with copy to ECOSF. For specifics, the ECOSF website [www.eco4science.org] should be visited.

High School Summer Science Research Program 2014

A High School Summer Science Research Program 2014 has been launched by Pakistan Society of Computational Science/Biology (PSCS) with joining hands as partners by ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) National University of Science & Technology (NUST) and Intel. The applications from High School students and faculty members from all over Pakistan are being accepted.

The idea behind this program is to involve and connect the students with the faculty members in research where a Research program/Lab is available.

All the selected students will receive stipend and will be given an opportunity to present their research

project in 3rd Computation Science Conference in Oct/Nov 2014. Each project will be evaluated by three different judges and the first, 2nd and 3rd student award winner will get Rs. 50,000, Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 15,000, respectively. There will be few travel grants available for deserving students, too.

Moreover, all the students who would complete the project will be given another opportunity to participate in Inter ISEF 2014 international fair if selected. They will be given an opportunity to travel to USA and compete with rest of the world.

Application process, deadline, stipend information, travel grants and all other information can be found at www.rist.pk and www.pscb.org.pk

[IPBES Engagement Forum] Second call for Nomination of Experts

The second call for nomination of experts for the IPBES expert groups was been issued. Governments and other stakeholders including ECOSF. ECOSF invited member countries to submit nominations to the IPBES Secretariat for the following tasks:

- **Expert group to scope a set of regional and sub-regional assessments (deliverable 2b), including**
 - Expert group for Africa
 - Expert group for Asia and Pacific
 - Expert group for Europe and Central Asia
 - Expert group for Antarctica (NB: Arctic regions will be integrated in relevant regional scoping meetings)

There will be a joint meeting of nominated experts of all groups on 17-23 August 2014 expected to take place in Nairobi.

- **Expert group to scope a thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration (deliverable 3bi)**

The scoping meeting is expected to be held in the week commencing 8 September 2014.

All application forms should be filled on-line with CV attached through the dedicated web portal <http://www.ipbes.net/applicationform.html>. Earlier nominations are encouraged and late nominations will not be able to be considered. Self-nominations cannot be accepted.

Upcoming Expedition Mundus by The Netherlands National Young Academy

The Netherlandish national young academy and some other senior scientists worked on a project to develop a science game, which is targeting pupils in schools. It aims to provide pupils scientific information in the form of game.

languages that can be used for pupils in many different countries. The Netherlandish national young academy plans to offer a licence to translate the game for free. More about the science game can be found at:

It was tried in the Netherlands and proved to be very successful. They had the idea in Global Young Academy (GYA) to translate it in different

<https://www.dejongeakademie.nl/en/nieuws/upcoming-expedition-mundus>

The International Conference on Mangroves of Asia-Pacific Countries (11 to 13 November 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

The International Conference on Mangroves of Asia-Pacific Countries in View of Climate Change 2014 (MAPCVCC-2014) will be held from 11 to 13 November 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. For the first time, it will be jointly organised by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM), the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), the MARA University of Technology (UiTM), the University of Malaya (UM), the Institute for Environment &

Development, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (LESTARI, UKM) and the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). This Conference offers excellent opportunities and brings together researchers, academicians, students, policymakers, NGO's, forest managers/foresters and individuals involved in mangrove forest management, development and commercialisation of mangrove products and services from all around the globe to exchange research results and address open issues in various aspects of mangroves.

<http://www.eco4science.org/uploads/files/mapcvcc/mapcvcc-details.docx>

Call for Participation: Workshops at COMSTECH in Aug & Sep 2014

COMSTECH (The Ministerial Standing Committee of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Scientific and Technological Cooperation), Islamabad is inviting applications for the following training courses in 2014;

Course Title	Dates	Venue	Deadline
Applied Vacuum Technology	August 26-28	COMSTECH, Islamabad	July 1, 2014
Train the Trainer	September 10-12	COMSTECH, Islamabad	July 15, 2014
The Role of Higher Education in the Knowledge Economy	September 21-25	BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh	July 25, 2014

Local hospitality including accommodation and meals will be provided to a limited number of selected participants. Travel grants are not available.

Brochures are enclosed for more details. For complete information and application form please visit our website: www.comstech.org in the News & Events section. You are requested to please share this information with your friends, colleagues and other potential candidates. **Nominations be sent directly to COMSTECH with cc to ECOSF**

Conference on Emerging Trends in Life Sciences: Call for Abstracts

ECO Science Foundation and FC College Lahore [A Chartered University] with support of EU, COMSTECH, ICLS and Pakistan Academy of Sciences, are organizing International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Life Sciences" 9-11 Oct 2014. at Lahore. Prof. Kauser Malik and Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro are the principal organizers. Call for abstracts has been issued. It is expected that over 100 participants from around the

world and ECO countries as well as Pakistan will participate in the conference. Limited number of Travel Grants to participants from ECO member countries will be provided by the ECO Science Foundation on first come first served basis. Interested scientists may visit ECOSF website (www.eco4science.org) for more details. Details of conference are also available on <http://www.fccollege.edu.pk/etls2014/>

Deadline for submission of Abstracts: 30 August 2014

International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC) 2015

18th International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC) 2015 is being organized from 24-27 Aug 2015 in Berlin, Germany.

The program of activities being developed jointly by the three German organisations (DPG, JKI and IVA) together with IAPPS is aimed to address many of the key issues faced by farmers, governments and plant protection scientists in meeting the challenge of designing and implementing appropriate and sustainable plant protection measures.

The attendance and contributions to this unique international and multi disciplinary congress on

all aspects of plant protection in the exciting city of Berlin will be welcomed.

MISSION POSSIBLE: Food for all through appropriate Plant Protection

Conference Homepage:
www.ippc2015.de

Venue and Date:
Free University Berlin
Henry Ford Building
Garystraße 35
14195 Berlin-Dahlem/Germany