



## ECOSF- FCC Joint International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development" from October 9-11, 2014 at the Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore – Pakistan.

ECOSF is pleased to announce a three day International Conference on “Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development” from October 9-11, 2014 at the Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore – Pakistan. The conference is being organized in partnership with Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan with the support of numerous donors.

The main objective of the conference is to facilitate the life scientists from ECO member countries for sharing of experiences and promotion of collaboration as well as networking within the ECO Region and with the international scientific community.

Scientists of ECO Member States are invited to participate in the conference in the historical city of Lahore and present their researches under the relevant themes. They should submit their abstracts directly to the conference secretariat via email ([etls2014@fccollege.edu.pk](mailto:etls2014@fccollege.edu.pk)) with a copy to ECOSF ([registry.ecosf@eco4science.org](mailto:registry.ecosf@eco4science.org)) by 30th August 2014 along with their brief CV, list of publication and dully filled in registration form.

All participants will be provided local hospitality. The participants

**FCC 150**

### International Conference Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development 9-11 October 2014

Environment      Agriculture      Health

**Call for Abstracts/Posters**  
**Deadline: 30 August, 2014**  
[etls2014@fccollege.edu.pk](mailto:etls2014@fccollege.edu.pk)

Venue: Forman Christian College  
(A Chartered University)  
Lahore, Pakistan

For more Information:  
[www.fccollege.edu.pk/etls2014](http://www.fccollege.edu.pk/etls2014)

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from ECO member countries (except Pakistan), can also apply for Travel Grants to ECO Science Foundation along with their registration forms, CV & list of Publications as well as scanned copies of their passports as soon as possible but not later than 30 August 2014.

## Afghanistan ratifies the Charter of ECO Science Foundation President ECOSF calls upon the Afghan Ambassador Mosazai to thank him



Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro called upon the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Janan Mosazai and discussed the status and activities of the Foundation, the other day (July 3, 2014).

The Afghan Ambassador Mr. Mosazai extended a warm welcome to the President ECOSF Prof.

Soomro on visiting the Afghanistan Embassy.

At the outset, Prof. Soomro thanked the Ambassador and Government of I.R. of Afghanistan for recent ratification of the ECOSF Charter along with its Additional Protocol by the Afghan Parliament and hoped that the action will strengthen and invigorate the ECO Science Foundation. Prof. Soomro then briefed the Ambassador about the aims and objectives as well as the activities initiated by the Foundation. He highlighted the facts that Afghanistan is the fifth country to ratify the ECOSF Charter and that over the last one year; the Foundation has gained accreditation of the Intergovernmental Science and Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as "Stakeholder/Observer" and has nominated a number of experts from the ECO region on the task forces of IPBES.

Dr. Soomro also shared with the Afghan Ambassador the planned International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development" at Lahore, October 9-11, 2014 and the International Conference on "Ecosystem Services of Mountain Protected Areas of the ECO Region" (26-28 November 2014) in collaboration with Italian Foundation-EvK2CNR, with whom the Foundation has signed an MoU for collaboration. President

ECOSF further sought Afghan Government's cooperation to implement the work plan of the Foundation.

The President also stressed upon the need for studying possibilities of collaboration between Afghanistan and Pakistan in the field of science and technology for economic development as per mandate of ECO. He said, "in this regard the exchange of experiences could be the initial step between the member states under the umbrella of ECOSF".

Ambassador Mosazai, agreed with the views of the President ECOSF Soomro and suggested for interaction with Afghan National Academy of Sciences, which he said, is the appropriate institution for coordination and to explore ways and means to establish cooperation in the relevant fields. The Ambassador gave an assurance of his full support to strengthen ties of scientific community of Afghanistan with ECOSF.

### The President ECO Science Foundation bode a farewell to H. E. Mr. Pierre Mayaudon Deputy Head of EU Mission in Pakistan



H. E. Mr. Pierre Mayaudon Deputy Head of EU Mission in Pakistan was bode a farewell by President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro in Islamabad on 25 Aug 2014. Pierre, a good friend and supporter of ECOSF completed his tenure in Pakistan and has been appointed as EU Ambassador to Bangladesh from today 1 Sept. Prof. Raza Bhatti,

Member HEC and Dr. Hamid Saleem among others joined Dr. Soomro on the occasion. ECOSF wishes all the best to Mr. Mayaudon in his future endeavours.

## ECO appreciates the initiatives being pursued by ECO Science Foundation for promotion of Science and Technology in the Region



The President of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro visited the ECO Secretariat, Tehran and held a meeting with Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu, Deputy Secretary General (AIT/T&I/IR) on September 04, 2014 to discuss progress of ECOSF.

The Deputy Secretary General welcomed the ECOSF President and appreciated the initiatives being pursued by the Foundation for promotion of science and technology in the ECO region. In particular, he congratulated the

ECO Science Foundation President on being elected as Member of the Governing Board of International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Deputy Secretary General also felicitated ECOSF on being accredited as Observer/Stakeholder of Intergovernmental Science and Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) based in Bonn - Germany. He expressed the hope that engagement with these regional and international peers in the field of science and technology would support the broad objectives of ECO.

The ECOSF President briefed the Secretariat that the Foundation is co-organizing an International Conference on “Emerging Trends in Life Sciences for Sustainable Development” on 9-11 October 2014 in Lahore, Pakistan. The main objective of the Conference is to enable the scientists from ECO countries to share their relevant experiences and to promote collaboration among the scientific community in the region. He also expressed confidence that the event would result in furthering the cooperation among the scientific community in the region.



The ECOSF President also held discussions with the Director (Energy/Minerals/Environment)

at the ECO Secretariat and stressed on the need for a coordinated approach in pursuing important initiatives in the field of environment and biodiversity.

## International Forum on Environmental Ethics at Tehran ECOSF President Prof. Manzoor Soomro shared his Wisdom Iran

President ECOSF participated as a panelist in the International Forum on Environmental Ethics at Department of Environment, Tehran- Iran on 6 Sept 2014. The forum was jointly organized the ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Karaj- Iran and the Dept of Environment in collaboration with UNESCO and a number of other organizations.

An International Forum on Environmental Ethics was organized in the city of Tehran, I.R of Iran on September 6, 2014 jointly organized by the Iranian Department of Environment (DoE), the University of Environment (UoE), Iran and ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST) in collaboration with **ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)**, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and numerous other Iranian and international organizations.

The Forum was formally opened by the Vice President of Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of the Department of Environment, H.E. Dr. (Ms.) M. Ebtekar.

She in her speech highlighted the importance of life on earth, the environment and the ethics of it. She said that humans especially the corporate sector and multinationals as well as nations have to sacrifice for the sake of the environment, for the sake of the betterment of the human life on planet earth. She said; the issue of environmental ethics has become more important as we now have a better understanding of the environment and a lot of scientific information about issues like climate change is now available. Scientists now know how climate change is adversely affecting our lives, our livelihood, our economies and how it is actually threatening our future. The media who rather control the hearts and the minds of the communities, should promote environmental ethics.



The keynote speaker Dr. Mohaghegh Damad author of a book "Environmental Theology" pointed out to the fact that life has a moral status, an intrinsic value, and that's very important in our ecosystem approach. He said that there is an intrinsic value to



life and it is given to human beings, human beings are provided life with dignity and it is their right to live in a healthy environment to be able to preserve their human dignity and also the right of other creatures. And that relationship gives us, that three dimensional relationship, (which) brings about the ecosystem approach that we need so much today in managing local, national and global affairs.

Earlier, the President of ECO-IEST Dr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel welcomed the distinguished guests/participants and gave introduction of the day long programme of the Forum.

After the opening session of the Forum, a panel discussion was held and international experts from different organizations/countries viz. President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro; Dr. Ali Mojtabeh Shabestari from Centre for Peace and Environment; Dr. Sarinya A.M. Sophia, Programme Officer in Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok



Office; Dr. Roula Fakih, Director of Agriculture and Environment, Jihad Al- Binaa Development Association, Lebanon; Dr. Esad Prohic, Professor of Zagreb University, Croatia; Dr. Seyed Mostafa Mohaghegh Damad, Fellow of the Academy of Sciences of I. R. Iran and Dr. Ozer Cinar, Professor of Yildiz University of Istanbul exchanged their ideas and point of views about environmental ethics.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, the President of ECOSF in his speech highlighted the importance of environment with particular reference to biodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide to humans. He emphasized on the fact that in the food web, all life including plants, animals and humans

are interdependent; thus must live in harmony and take care of each other to survive and thrive together. However, it is only the humans that have understanding of things based on scientific discovery and therefore, have the ethical responsibility to respect and value other life on earth. He underlined that it was important to adhere to moral and ethical principles to make sure that we make correct decisions.



Prof. Soomro also emphasized on the need of mechanisms and tools for public awareness about environmental ethics and stressed on the need of improved school curricula, the teaching methodology and training of teachers. He said the best way would be use of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) methods, linking the science concepts with Quranic verses as well.



Several people from diplomatic corps, academia, experts of environmental and social sciences, theologians, political corps, UN agencies, NGOs, IGOs, Media and university students attended the Forum and benefited from the experiences and expertise shared by the scientists and experts during the discussion highlighting the importance of environmental ethics, ethical obligations of humanity towards the environment, relationship between environmental ethics and climate change and other damages to the environment, role of religions in environmental ethics, etc.

## Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro appointed as Member of ISTIC Governing Board



It is an honour and pride for Pakistan as well as the region of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) that the Pakistani Eminent Scientist and President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro has been appointed as Member of Governing Board of International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO based at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Prof. Soomro accepted the honour and attended the 7th Governing Board meeting of ISTIC held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on September 8, 2014.

Prof. Soomro is a Gold Medalist with PhD on Quid-e-Azam Scholarship from the University of



Reading, UK in 1987. He has won numerous awards and honours including the prestigious award of the "Order of Academic Palms" and appointed as "Officer" by the Republic of France. He has served as Professor, Researcher, Director General of Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Director General of PASTIC and Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation. He has also served the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN as an IPM Expert and Programme Coordinator for Pakistan for over four years. So far, he has six industrial patents and over 100 publications to his credit. He also travels frequently in the region for lecturing on various S&T topics.

## ECO Science Foundation and ISTIC Malaysia join hands cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation

Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) and International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation in the ECO Region on September 8, 2014 at Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

ECOSF President Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro signed the MOU, while on behalf of ISTIC, it was signed by the Chairman of ISTIC Governing Board Academician, Ir. Dato Yee Lee Cheong. The MOU will enable the two international organizations to work together for capacity building of the 10 ECO member states viz. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of



Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan for S&T based economic development as per ECO Charter. The salient aspects of the MOU are:

- Development and conduct of relevant capacity building activities, including training of skilled scientific and technical manpower, networks and linkages between government, academia and industry in and between their respective member countries.
- Supporting the exchange of researchers, scientists, engineers and technologists among member countries
- Facilitation of information transfer between their respective member countries by both the public and private sectors.
- Facilitation of information transfer between their respective member countries by both the public and private sectors.
- Surveys of problem areas faced by member countries in technology, and technology assessment for individual member states and facilitating technology transfer.

- Holding of science and technology fairs and exhibitions in collaboration with member states
- Grant of awards and prizes to eminent scientists in the fields of science, technology and innovation.
- Streamlining and harmonizing of STI policies.
- Capacity Building of ECO Region in Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE)

ISTIC and ECOSF will act in close cooperation and consult each other on a regular basis, to review the progress under this Memorandum, on issues of common interest, including joint projects and other activities at the international, regional and national levels, in order to coordinate their work and strengthen cooperation. ISTIC and ECOSF may enter into separate agreements to document each of their rights, benefits and obligations in respect of each specific project/programme that they may wish to jointly undertake during the term of this Memorandum.



The MoU signing was organized on the occasion of inauguration of a week-long training workshop on, "ISTIC Certified Training Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy and Management for Development Countries (ICPS)" on 8 Sept 2014. Below is the group photograph of ISTIC Governing Board with training participants after the workshop inauguration.



## 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. A total of 59 news items have been posted on the ECOSF website and Facebook [www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation), some main postings are highlighted below.

### 2014 KISTEP-ISTIC S&T Innovation Training Program for High Level Policy Makers: 8-12 December 2014, Malacca, Malaysia

The ISTIC and the Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP) are jointly organizing the 2014 KISTEP-ISTIC S&T Innovation Training Program for High Level

Policy Makers "P.I.E. (Planning, Investment, Evaluation) Framework and Government Policy in S&T", 8-12 December 2014, Malacca, Malaysia.

### Inquiry Based Science Education: the gateway to scientific development in the Islamic world

After the first industrial revolution in the 16th Century, the world needed a workforce to fill the assembly lines and factory floors that were coming up every day. In response to the need for this workforce, the 'industrial' model of school and learning was created. In the Industrial model

of the school, learning was teacher-driven, curriculum was focused on creating a large number of (somewhat) equally literate pupil, and conformity rather than individuality was emphasized. This model served and fed the industrial revolution very well.

### Research Training Fellowship for developing country scientists (RTF-DCS): Call for Applications for 2014-15

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) invites applications from the scientists, technologists and engineers of the developing countries for the award of the Fellowships under its 'Research Training Fellowship for Developing Country Scientists (RTF-DCS)' scheme for the year 2014-15. The RTF-DCS Programme was initiated by the Centre two years ago with full financial support of the Government of India, Department of Science & Technology (DST) and is aimed at capacity building of the developing countries in the fields of Science & Technology through the affiliation of their scientists with the Indian scientific and academic Centres of Excellence.

## Training on “Comprehensive & Practical Technique of Agriculture Machinery” October 20 –November 8, 2014, Jinan, China

"International Training Courses on Comprehensive and Practical Technique of Agricultural Machinery" International Training Courses On Comprehensive And Practical Technique Of Agricultural Machinery" to be held from October 20 – November 8, 2014 in Jinan, China.

The organizers have offered local hospitality (boarding & Lodging) only. The cost of

International Air Ticket has to be borne by the candidate or his/her organization (Organizers will not pay for air travel).

Candidates having interest in subject training, are requested to send us (by e-mail) – (awanzamir@yahoo.com) CV before 01 August 2014. Irrelevant and who cannot manage air tickets should avoid applying please.

## Call for Participation in the 28th Khwarizmi International Award (KIA) (February 2015)

Ministry of Science and Technology, Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (Khwarizmi International Award (KIA)).

Purpose: To recognize outstanding scientific achievements made by Researchers, Inventors and Innovators from all over the world.

## NAM S&T Centre - (South Africa) Training Fellowship on Minerals Processing & Beneficiation: Call For Applications For 2015 - Deadline is 31 August 2014

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre; [www.namstct.org](http://www.namstct.org)) has initiated a new Joint NAM S&T Centre – DST (South Africa) Training Fellowship on Minerals Processing & Beneficiation jointly with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of South Africa [[www.dst.gov.za](http://www.dst.gov.za)] and is pleased to invite applications for the same for the year 2015.

The last date for submitting application for the Fellowship is 31st August 2014.

## Call for Participation: Workshops at COMSTECH in October 2014

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

Course Title	Dates	Venue	Deadline
Stem Cell Technology and its Applications	October 14-16	COMSTECH, Islamabad	August 25, 2014
Emerging Viral Threats; Containment and Countermeasures	October 28-30	COMSTECH, Islamabad	September 5, 2014

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

## Call for Participation: Workshop on STI at COMSTECH in Nov 2014

COMSTECH (The Ministerial Standing Committee of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Scientific and Technological Cooperation), Islamabad is inviting applications for a week long intensive training course on "Design of Science, Technology and Innovation Policies for OIC Member States" from November 10 to 14, 2014.

The course will be mainly delivered by Professor Adam Szirmai (Professorial Fellow at UNU-

MERIT, and Professor at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Maastricht University, The Netherlands), Dr. Lorraine Warren (Director of Centre for Strategic Innovation, and Senior Lecturer in Innovation School of Management, University of Southampton, UK) and Dr. Hammad Akbar (Professor at Department of Business Administration, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia) in collaboration with the training staff of COMSTECH, Islamabad.

## EC Erasmus Mundus -- PhD Research in Agricultural Development at European Universities, AGTRAIN 2015

Six European universities collaborate to offer the program Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (AGTRAIN). AGTRAIN funds 3-year doctoral programs for study and research in themes of agricultural development, emphasizing

the developing countries. Participants are enrolled in at least two universities, and their research corresponds to topics defined in each year's call for applications. Fellowships are available. **Dead line: 1 November 2014.**

## UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program – Young Scientist Awards 2015

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program makes grants for conservation research through its Young Scientists Awards. Priority is for projects carried out in the world's biosphere reserves. Awards are up to US\$5 thousand in support of research on ecosystems, natural resources, and biodiversity. **Dead line: 31 October 2014.**

## International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) - Research Grants to Build Urban Resilience to Climate Change

IIED is a partner in the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network, and it invites research projects which can contribute to an improved understanding of urban climate resilience. Funding is available for individuals and research institutions based in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam to undertake research in urban centers in one of these countries. The themes are: (i) health and climate change in cities; and (ii) sanitation and other urban services in the context of climate change. **Dead line: 30 August 2014.**

## Maryam Mirzakhani becomes the first woman to win the Fields Medal in Mathematics - 2014

Maryam Mirzakhani has become the first woman to win the Fields Medal, the most prestigious prize in mathematics. Mirzakhani, 37, is of Iranian descent and completed her PhD at Harvard in 2004. Her thesis showed how to compute the Weil-Petersson volumes of moduli spaces of bordered Riemann



surfaces. Her research interests include Teichmüller theory, hyperbolic geometry, ergodic theory, and symplectic geometry. She is currently professor of mathematics at Stanford University, and predominantly works on geometric structures on surfaces and their deformations.

## A whole organ has been grown inside an animal for the first time

Scientists have grown an important immune system organ from scratch inside a mouse, a breakthrough that could lead to alternatives to organ transplants in humans.

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland have taken a group of cells from a mouse embryo and grown them into a fully functional thymus, an immune system organ, in an adult mouse.

This is the first time a whole organ has been grown from scratch inside an animal, and the findings, which have been published in Nature Cell Biology, could pave the way for alternatives to organ transplants.

## 2015 STEPI Fellowship

STEPI (Science and Technology Policy Institute) invites graduate students, scholars and researchers to apply for 2015 STEPI Fellowship. This program aims to encourage research on the issues pertaining to science, technology and innovation (STI) policy, and to build a research network among SI policy researchers and students around the world. The fellowship

supports up to 5,000 USD for research on various topics of STI policies, preferably issues pertinent to East Asian Countries. Research results from the fellowship support will be published in the 'STI Policy Review' ([www.stipolicyreview.net](http://www.stipolicyreview.net)), an international journal focusing on STI policy issues of East Asian countries.

## Call for Participation - Workshops in Dec 2014 at COMSTECH

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

Ensemble Database Mining and Whole Genome Sequencing Analyses	December 16-18, 2014 in Islamabad December 20-22, 2014 in Karachi
Essentials of Entrepreneurship – A Toolkit for Entrepreneurs	December 9-11, 2014 in Islamabad

COMSTECH will provide local hospitality (board and lodging) to a limited number of participants from OIC member states. Travel grants are not available for these workshops.

Flyers of the workshops are attached. For complete information and application form please visit our website, [www.comstech.org](http://www.comstech.org) in the News & Events section. You are requested to please share this information with your friends, colleagues and other potential candidates.