



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



President ECOSF participated in International Symposium on The Role of Science Academies Towards the Future of Basic Sciences hosted by TUBA and AASSAA.



Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA), the Interacademy Partnership (IAP), and the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) hosted the International Symposium on "**The Role of Science Academies towards the Future of Basic Sciences**", which took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 28-29 April, 2023.

The symposium covered a range of themes, including the future of basic sciences, the relationship between basic sciences and other fields, sustainability practices in basic sciences, and the role of science academies in basic sciences, among others.

A number of presidents, directors, heads and representatives of scientific academies, centers and universities such as ECOSF, TUBA, TUBITAK, AASSA, IAP, the Research and Application Center for Space and Accelerator Technologies (RACSAT), Hungarian Academy of Sciences, KOICA, KAST (the Korean Academy of Science and Technology), Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR), etc. attended the symposium actively.



President ECOSF Professor Seyed Komail Tayebi presented a paper (co-authored with Khalil Raza) on “**Role of Basic Sciences in Climate Mitigation**” at the second session on 28 April, 2023

President ECOSF highlighted the crucial role of basic sciences in developing solutions for climate mitigation. He emphasized climate change is a global challenge caused by human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. Basic sciences, including physics, chemistry, and biology, provide the foundation for understanding the complex science behind climate change.

The ECOSF President mentioned educating the young minds about the climate change is a main challenge of climate change mitigation. Hence, education system must equip learners with the capability of understanding and decision making, based on evidence and critical thought and scientific education, rather than letting opinions or irrationality guide their choices in the future. Additionally, adequate teacher mobilization, science education and support and introduction of climate change education into national science curricula must be planned.

In his presentation, he talked about the impacts of climate change on natural systems, while he added basic sciences provide insights into the impacts of climate change on natural systems, including oceans, forests, and biodiversity. The impacts of climate change on rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and the resulting impacts on marine ecosystems and coastal communities. Basic sciences help us understand how climate change affects forests. Changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events can disrupt ecosystems, leading to altered habitats, species distribution, and ecological interactions.

President ECOSF also explained Teachers Training Module on climate change that develop a teacher training for science teachers who employs Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) pedagogy. This training module aims at delivering effective content on climate change to students of grade 5 through 10. Therefore, an assessment or evaluation methodology for this training is to measure the depth of learning with IBSE pedagogy. This is to demonstrate that inquiry-based approach could offer greater degree of learning and understanding of science concepts and processes in comparison to traditional science teaching methods.

President ECOSF participated in closing session on **Symposium Evaluation & Closing Remarks**, chaired by Prof. Dr. Ahmet Nuri Yurdusev, while other panelists were Prof. Dr. Supawan Tantayanon, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Ersöz and Prof. Dr. Bekir Salih.



Prof. Tayebi concluded this symposium on "**The Role of Science Academies towards the Future of Basic Sciences**" was evident that basic sciences play a critical role in addressing the global challenge of climate change. The symposium provided an excellent opportunity and a platform underlining the crucial role of science academies. The symposium provided insights, and best practices in advancing basic sciences and fostering scientific research and innovation. It aimed to explore ways in which science academies can contribute to the future of basic sciences through various initiatives, policies, and collaborations. Some of the key areas of discussion during the symposium were:

1. Science academies play a vital role in promoting basic sciences by advocating for their importance, supporting research funding, and raising awareness among policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public. The symposium explored strategies for science academies to effectively communicate the value of basic sciences in advancing scientific knowledge and addressing global challenges.
2. Science academies must contribute to the future of basic sciences by nurturing young talent, providing mentorship, and fostering scientific leadership. The symposium discussed ways in which science academies can develop programs and initiatives to promote capacity building, skill development, and career advancement in basic sciences, including fostering diversity and inclusivity.
3. Basic sciences often require interdisciplinary approaches and collaborations across different scientific disciplines. The symposium highlighted the role of science academies in facilitating interdisciplinary research, promoting collaborations among scientists from diverse fields, and fostering innovation at the intersection of different branches of basic sciences.
4. Science academies should play a critical role in shaping science policy and advocating for evidence-based decision-making. The symposium explored how science academies can engage with policymakers, provide scientific advice, and contribute to the formulation of policies related to basic sciences, including funding, regulations, and ethical considerations.
5. Basic sciences are inherently global, with scientists and researchers from different countries collaborating and exchanging knowledge. The symposium discussed ways in which science academies can foster international cooperation, promote partnerships among academies from different countries, and facilitate knowledge exchange to advance basic sciences on a global scale.
6. Science academies should also contribute to the future of basic sciences by promoting science education, outreach, and public engagement. The symposium highlighted initiatives undertaken by science academies to promote scientific literacy, engage with the public, and inspire the next generation of scientists.

7. Interesting issued, climate change, small scale lab, connectivity, education of climate change and science must be considered for future work plans by scientific academies and centers.

In the end, on the behalf of ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Tayebi expressed his gratitude to TUBA, IAP, and AASSA for organizing this symposium and the organizers for providing me this opportunity for fruitful discussions on the role of science academies towards the future of basic sciences.

During the two days of symposium, Prof. Tayebi met some of esteemed participants such as Prof. Dr. Ahmet Cevat ACAR, President Istanbul Zaim University, Prof. Abdeslam Hoummada, Directeur, Direction des Sciences of Morocco, Dr. Jang, R. Liu, Director of AASSA Secretariat, Prof. Dr. Gabor Hamza, Full member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Dr. M. Bilge Demirköz, Director of the Research and Application Center for Space and Accelerator Technologies (RACSAT), Professor Serg, KOICA, KAST (the Korean Academy of Science and Technology), Professor Sergey V. Gaponenko, Chairman of Scientific Council and Director Academician, Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research (BRFFR), Prof. Dr. Supawan Tantayanon, Faculty member of Chulalongkom University (Thailand) and former President of Federation of Asian Chemical Sciences (FACS) and Prof. Lee, Mooha, Faculty Member of Seoul National University Fellow, CAST and Executive Board Member of AASSA.

#### **President ECOSF held meetings with Presidents of TUBA and AASSA during the sidelines of TUBA Symposium**

President ECOSF Prof. Tayebi held meetings with Professor Dr. Muzaffer Şeker, the President of TUBA (Turkish Academy of Sciences) and Prof. Dr. Ahmet Nuri Yurdusev, President of AASSA (Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia) to discuss the scientific collaborations between ECOSF and TUBA.

Prof. Tayebi expressed his gratitude to the TUBA president for his warm hospitality and his teams' efforts to hold the symposium productively. He showed the eagerness of ECOSF for expanding collaborations with TUBA in terms of joint research projects, mobility, joint conference, etc. Prof. Seker shared that his participation and contribution to this Symposium has been invaluable, and his insights is not only enhancing the quality of the symposium, but also helping us achieve our goal of promoting basic sciences and their contribution to sustainable development.





Professor Tayebi explained further objectives and programs of ECOSF and mentioned that Türkiye has not ratified the ECOSF's Charter even though Türkiye is of the main founding member countries of ECO. He requested both presidents to follow up the country's ratification through the relevant administrations and negotiations with the Turkish officials. Prof. Seker asked Prof. Tayebi to provide them with the recorded documents, as necessary for their follow-up.

At the end of this meeting, Professor Tayebi handed over formal letters to both presidents inviting them to participate to ECO Technology and Trade Expo and Conference (TTEC), which will be held by ECOSF, in Islamabad in February 2024.

**President ECOSF participated in the Istanbul TECHNOFEST 2023**

President ECOSF accompanied by Dr. Miray Basaran, Co-founder of Synergia, paid a whole day visit to TECHNOFEST, which was hosted by Ministry of Technology and Industry, Ministry of Industry and Technology (MOIT), TUBITAK, TUBA and other relevant Turkish institutions at the Atatürk Airport. A number of academia, knowledge-based companies, government corporations, industries and startups had participated to the event.



During the visit, Professor Tayebi had meetings with President of Technofest, Mr. Huseyin Yildirim and Mr. Ali Baygeldi, Head of Space and Spacecraft Department. He briefed objectives and programs of ECOSF, and then invited Technofest to take part to TTEC. The president of Technofest warmly welcomed the ECOSF President and confirmed his consideration for possible participation to the ECO TTEC. Then, both sides talked about possible collaborations and cooperation in terms of science, technology and innovation including various applications.



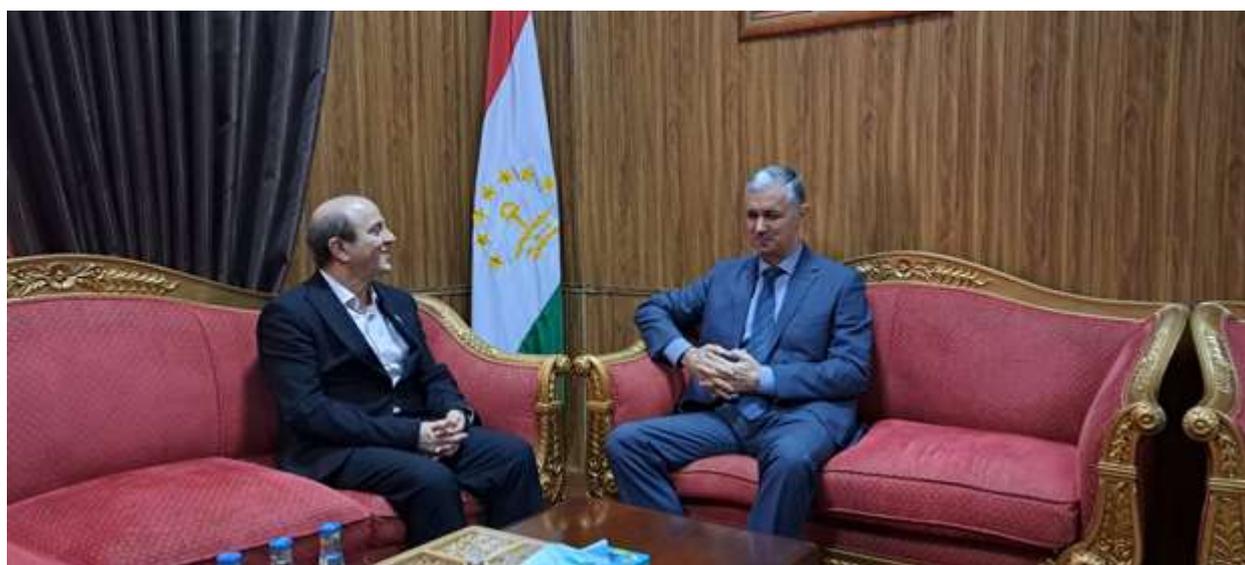
Istanbul Technofest is an annual technology and innovation festival held in Istanbul, Turkey. It aims to bring together the brightest minds, innovative startups, leading technology companies, and enthusiasts from around the world to showcase and explore the latest advancements in various technological fields.

The festival offered a diverse range of activities and events, including technology exhibitions, competitions, workshops, conferences, seminars, drone races, robotic competitions, and more. It served as a platform for participants to showcase their projects, products, and ideas, as well as network with industry professionals, investors, and potential collaborators.



### The President ECOSF called upon the Ambassador of Tajikistan in Islamabad

A courtesy call was made upon the Ambassador of Republic of Tajikistan to I.R. of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Ismatullo Nasredin by President ECOSF Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi at the Embassy on April 6, 2023. The Ambassador warmly welcomed the President ECOSF for his maiden visit to the Embassy of Tajikistan in Islamabad.



President ECOSF thanked the Ambassador for his cordial welcome and gave a brief introduction of the Foundation. He also shared that the Foundation has been playing an important role to promote Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) among the Member Countries including Tajikistan. He also briefed about main decisions of the Board of Trustees (BoT) taken during 5th BoT Meeting held in Isfahan on February 14, 2023. President ECOSF also shared that the Foundation has planned to organize a **“Technology and Trade Exhibition and Conference (TTEC)”** in the month of February 2024 in Islamabad which was approved by the BoT in its 5th Meeting.

The purpose of TTEC is to provide a platform for academia, businesses, technology companies, organizations from the Member Countries to showcase their latest scientific knowledge, technologies, products, and services. ECOSF aims to host this conference and exhibition as its flagship and regular programmes to provide an opportunity for the Member Countries to explore new trade opportunities and strengthen existing partnerships. The conference component of this event can provide a Forum for universities, government officials, industry leaders, and experts to discuss and exchange ideas on how to promote sustainable economic growth and regional integration in the ECO region, added. Prof. Tayebi invited the Ambassador to join this activity and invite relevant stakeholders to participate in the TTEC. Being the ratified member of ECOSF, President ECOSF requested Tajik Ambassador to pay the budgetary contributions so that more and more STI activities can be collaborated with Tajikistan.

Excellency Mr. Ismatullo Nasredin appreciated the role of ECOSF for promoting STI in the region and offer his maximum possible support to the Foundation to carryout STI activities in Tajikistan and ECO region. The Ambassador also took keen interest in TTEC

and offered his help to invite relevant academia, businesses, technology companies, organizations from Tajikistan. He invited the President ECOSF to visit Tajikistan and have meetings with relevant Ministries, Institutes, Organizations for establishing the collaboration and follow up the budgetary matters.

**Coordinator General of COMSTECH and President ECOSF agreed to enhance the collaboration between ECOSF and COMSTECH**

Coordinator General (CG) of COMSTECH Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary visited the Secretariat of ECOSF on 4 April 2023. He was warmly welcomed by the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi.



During the visit, a meeting was held at office of President ECOSF which was also attended by Executive Director ECOSF Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon. During the meeting, CG COMSTECH briefly introduced COMSTECH and said that the COMSTECH is the Scientific Body of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) working in the field of Science and Technology among all Muslim countries of the world. He also shared ongoing programmes of COMSTECH.

President ECOSF also made an introduction of the Foundation and its programs and activities for promotion of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in its Member States. He also said that the Foundation is relatively new organization of ten Muslim countries who are interconnected famously known as ECO region.

CG COMSTECH noted that the Members of ECOSF are also the Member of COMSTECH, thus, there is great opportunity to enhance ongoing collaboration in various programs. He also invited ECOSF to join as partner/collaborator in some running programmes of COMSTECH to get maximum benefit from those for the betterment of the masses of the Member Countries.

President ECOSF gave a positive node to join the selective activities in this respect. The visit was concluded with commitment to continue the interaction and collaboration.



**ECOSF hosted Delegation from Chinese Embassy in Pakistan to enhance scientific collaboration amongst China and ECO Member Countries**

ECOSF hosted a Two Member Delegation from the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan on April 18, 2023. The meeting served as an opportunity to introduce the new Science Counsellor, Mr. Yin Shengxin at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, while acknowledging the valuable contributions of the outgoing Science Counsellor, Mr. Cao Zhouhua, who was due to retire.



The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from President ECOSF to the delegates, emphasizing the robust collaboration that ECOSF has established with Chinese Science and Technology Institutions. President ECOSF acknowledged the pivotal role played by Mr. Cao Zhouhua in fostering and strengthening the partnership between ECOSF and China.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Cao Zhouhua has been instrumental in promoting dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative projects in the field of science and technology. His expertise and deep understanding of the subject matter have facilitated the implementation of joint initiatives between ECOSF and Chinese institutions, ultimately benefiting the ECO Member Countries.

Mr. Yin Shengxin expressed his gratitude to Prof. Tayebi and conveyed his eagerness to work closely with ECOSF in further enhancing collaboration in Science and Technology between China and the member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). This meeting showcased the continuation of cooperation and the willingness to strengthen scientific and technological ties between China, ECOSF, and the ECO Member Countries.

**ECOSF Participated in the launch of Sino - COMSTech Collaboration Initiative on Traditional Medicine and Allied Biomedical Sciences in OIC Member States**

COMSTech hosted a dialogue with high-level delegation of Chinese scientists and Industrialists on April 27, 2023 to promote cooperation for research and development in the fields of natural products, biotechnology, public health, and traditional medicine. The event aimed at strengthening institutional and industrial linkages between China and OIC member states and enhancing academic and research initiatives between the People’s Republic of China and the OIC member states.

The delegation consisted of top-tier leadership of industries in the area of traditional medicine. Participants from several OIC member states also joined the discussions virtually. Through this collaboration, COMSTech seeks to liaison between OIC member states and Chinese institutions for strengthening cooperation in the field of healthcare.

The dialogue was attended by researchers, relevant personnel from the research laboratories and industries and representatives from the embassies of the OIC member states in Islamabad. The aspects of collaboration such as the setup of Joint labs, exchange programs for scholars of OIC member states and product-based research were also discussed. On behalf of ECOSF, Mr. Adnan Abbasi, Manager Finance and Accounts participated in the event.

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof Dr Iqbal Choudhary gave a comprehensive briefing to the delegation on COMTECH programs and initiatives, its scope and avenues of collaboration. He underscored the avenues for Sino-COMSTECH collaboration for the development of natural products, biotechnology, public health and traditional medicine in OIC member states. Prof Choudhary briefed the delegation on various ways of institutional cooperation, capacity building, the establishment of traditional Chinese medicine clinics and research labs.

President of Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, Prof Dr Aiguo Dai, said that this interaction will promote the international cooperation of traditional medicine between our school and the “Belt and Road Initiative” countries. He said that the relations between China and Islamic countries are traditionally friendly. Prof Dai said that China attaches great importance to friendly relations with Islamic countries and regards the OIC as an important bridge for China to cooperate with Islamic countries.



**President of ECO Science Foundation Hosts Iftar Dinner for Ambassadors of ECO Member Countries**

President ECOSF, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, held an Iftar dinner to honour the Ambassadors of ECO Member Countries on April 12, 2023. The event aimed to strengthen diplomatic relationships among ECO Member Countries and promote collaboration in the fields of science and technology.



The distinguished guests, including Ambassadors, Diplomats, and Representatives from the Embassies of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, were warmly received by President Prof. Tayebi and the Executive Director of ECOSF, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon. The gathering also witnessed the presence of officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Science and Technology, further adding to the significance of the occasion.

The Iftar dinner served as a unique opportunity for fostering strong connections and partnerships among the ECO Member Countries. In an informal and cordial environment, the attendees had the chance to interact, exchange ideas, and explore potential avenues for collaboration in the realms of science and technology.

The interaction showcased the commitment of the ECO Science Foundation towards fostering regional cooperation and creating a platform for knowledge sharing among member countries. Through such initiatives, the foundation aims to promote scientific research, innovation, and technological advancements in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As the Iftar dinner concluded, the Ambassadors and representatives expressed their gratitude to President Prof. Tayebi and Executive Director, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon for hosting this dinner. They recognized the significance of strengthening diplomatic ties and forging collaborations in the fields of science and technology to enhance the overall progress and prosperity of the ECO region.



**COMSATS hosted Flag Hoisting Ceremony and Launched its new website.**

COMSATS hosted Flag Hoisting Ceremony and Launched its new website on April 18, 2023 at COMSATS Secretariate Islamabad. Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in the event. Ambassador Dr. Khan highlighted the importance of digitalization in the context of socio-economic development and called for enhanced cooperation among the COMSATS Member States, particularly for human resource development in this vital field. He noted with pleasure that Pakistan is among the fastest growing exporters of IT products and services and has one of the highest numbers of IT freelancers in the world. At the occasion, the Foreign Secretary launched COMSATS' new website, which will serve as a comprehensive web-portal to allow accurate, timely, high paced decision making and information dissemination.

The ceremony was attended by over 60 representatives from diplomatic missions in Islamabad, international and regional organizations, national scientific organizations, universities and ministries. The diplomats of COMSATS Member States hoisted their respective country's flags, and expressed their strong commitment to support the organization in meeting its objectives. On behalf of ECOSF, President Prof. Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi and Executive Director Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Memon participated in the event.





Speaking at the event, the Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, stated that COMSATS an intergovernmental organization of 27 developing countries has the capability to achieve its goals and meet the emerging challenges of contemporary times. In this regard, he recalled some of the achievements of COMSATS 24 Centres of Excellence in the areas of space sciences, IT and telecommunications, bio-sciences, chemical engineering, telemedicine, industrial applications and software solutions. Ambassador Zakaria apprised the audience with the organization's recent initiatives pertaining to genomics sequencing, IT training and tech hub since his joining as the Executive Director, which are meant to supporting innovations, patents, commercialization of scientific products and solutions, and developing R&D culture in the Member States, to ensure sustainability and self-reliance.



### COMSTECH Interactive Get-Together and Iftar with OIC Ambassadors/High Commissioners

On April 4, 2023, H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH, hosted an interactive get-together followed by Iftar at the COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad. The event aimed to foster closer relationships between member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and COMSTECH, the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The gathering was attended by Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Deputy Heads of Missions, and Diplomats from various OIC member states.

The distinguished guests representing Turkmenistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Nigeria, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, Morocco, Syria, Bangladesh, Palestine, Libya, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, and Azerbaijan graced the event with their presence. Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, representing the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), also participated in the gathering.





During the event, President ECOSF engaged in conversations with the Ambassadors and High Commissioners, providing them with an overview of ECOSF’s work. The exchange of ideas and insights during the gathering served as a valuable opportunity for all participants, deepening their understanding of achievements and goals for Science and Technology in the ECO and OIC region.

In addition to the OIC diplomats, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, and former diplomats honored the occasion with their presence, adding to the significance of the event.

## Upcoming Events

### ECO Technology and Trade Expo and Conference (TTEC)

The ECO Science Foundation plans to organize the Technology and Trade Expo and Conference (TTEC) in Islamabad in February 2023 to provide a platform for businesses, technology companies, organizations, and governments from the Member Countries to showcase their latest technologies, products, and services.

TTEC would essentially provide a platform for businesses, technology companies, organizations from the Member Countries to showcase their latest technologies, products, and services. ECOSF aims to host this conference and expo as its one its flagship and regular programmes to provide an opportunity for the Member Countries to explore new trade opportunities and strengthen existing partnerships. The would provide a forum for government officials, industry leaders, and experts to discuss and exchange ideas on how to promote sustainable economic growth and regional integration in the ECO region.



TTEC will cover a wide range of themes related to science and technology and trade as listed below:

- Clean Energy, Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development
- Healthcare and Biotech
- Agri-Tech and Water Resource Efficiency
- Digital transformation and innovation (ICT, IoT, AI and Big Data)
- Regional integration and trade

- Entrepreneurship and SME development
- Education and human capital development (Universities, Research Organizations)
- Science and Technology

**Please join us and become a partner, sponsor, and collaborator on the Technology and Trade Expo and Conference (TTEC).**

For more information, please reach out to us at [k.raza@ecosf.org](mailto:k.raza@ecosf.org).

### **International Training Program on Renewable Energy Generation and Grid Integration**

ECOSF is pleased to announce an International Training Program on **Renewable Energy Generation and Grid Integration** hosted by North China Electric Power University (NECPU), Beijing from 26th June to 17th July, 2023.

NCEPU is a leading university in China that specializes in electric power education and research. The International Training Program aims to provide an opportunity for international participants to enhance their knowledge and skills in renewable energy generation and grid integration. The program is designed to cover topics such as solar and wind power generation, energy storage, smart grids, and microgrids, among others.



We believe that the International Training Program would be of great interest to professionals in the energy sector in the ECO Member Countries who are keen on learning about the latest developments in renewable energy and grid integration.

Read more: <http://ecosf.org/Renewable-Energy-Generation>

### **2<sup>nd</sup> International Seminar on Climate Change Education**

From the 12th to the 15th of September 2023, the Office for Climate Education is hosting its second International Seminar on Climate Change Education in partnership with the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research!

As the interest for climate change education grows internationally, the OCE wishes to create a space where decision makers and practitioners can get acquainted with the latest best practices and tools to help them accelerate the implementation of quality climate change education projects.

This three and a half days event will be comprised of a high-level day that will bring together a diverse set of key stakeholders, from international development banks, philanthropies and ministries to local NGOs from regions around the world, all working on climate change education (CCE) implementation strategies.

This segment will be followed by a full 3 days of workshops aimed at understanding the core principles of climate change education.

#### **Who can attend?**

The high-level event will welcome approximately eighty participants, whereas the workshop part of this seminar will host around fifty participants from various countries, outside the European Union at different stages of CCE implementation. Participants will be educational system officers, academics in charge of teacher's professional development, international cooperation education officers, funders and other stakeholders in CCE.

#### **How to apply?**

The OCE is currently welcoming double applications to attend the international seminar: 2 persons from the same country, 1 decision-maker / 1 educator. The profiles of the participants have to be complementary to guarantee a better transfer within their national system. The participants will have to be proficient in English.

[Click here](#) for registration.