



# ECOSF NEWSLETTER



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sustainable Development Conference of SDPI-Pakistan themed, “Sustainable Development in a Digital Age” held in Islamabad



The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) 2019 organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Pakistan in Islamabad on 2-5 December 2019. Theme of the conference was; “Sustainable Development in a Digital Society”. The conference was opened by the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi on 2 December at the Presidency. In the inaugural plenary the two key note speakers were; Dr. Sania Nishtar, the Chairperson and Federal Minister of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Mr. Haroon Sharif the former Chair of the Board of Investment.

The President in his speech appreciated the SDPI for regularly organizing this Sustainable Development Conference and said the present conference theme is very close to his heart as he strongly believes that in today’s digital age Pakistan must push ahead. He also spoke about his initiative of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to be launched soon in Pakistan. He further highlighted the AI in healthcare provision, agriculture, and waste reduction in industrial and commercial operations. The president urged the private sector, universities and independent researchers to bridge the communication gap of policies and implementation to enable Pakistan face the coming revolution confidently.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Dr Sania Nishtar said Ehsaas Program is a multi-sector and multi-component programme encompassing 130 agendas and policy initiatives. Government is engaging and taking onboard all stakeholders to achieve desirable outcomes, she added.

The next Plenary Session on December 3 was opened by the Minister of Planning & Development and Reforms Mr. Asad Umar, who spoke on the importance of transparency and communication on all aspects of development and finance in public domain with the use of digital tools. He said it is unfortunate that Pakistan is an elite captured society and we all need to strive for a society and political system where elite influence can be mitigated. He emphasized the need for introducing and implementing wealth tax which has fundamental place in the advance economies.

Overall the conference contained around 250 talks in 35 plenary sessions and attracted participants from 18 countries. On behalf of ECOSF, President Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro and Scientific Officer Engr. Khalil Raza joined the conference and contributed in sessions on Energy, Food & Agriculture, Ecofeminism, Mother Languages, Digital Activism for Human Rights Movements etc. The final and Closing Plenary was to celebrate the Living Legend Syed Babar Ali (OBE) for his contributions in the sectors of Business, Development, Education and Philanthropy. A number of senior and distinguished of Syed Baba Ali's network in Pakistan were invited to speak on his contributions; finally he also spoke to the audiences and thanked them all and the SDPI for acknowledging his efforts.



SDPI in collaboration with Engro Energy organized a policy session on “Renewable Energy Reforms in Pakistan: An Appraisal” in Islamabad on December 3, 2019. The panel discussion was held as part of the on-going renewable energy reforms in Pakistan.

The objective of holding this session was to generate a dialogue amongst private power sector representatives and government agencies to provide an enabling environment to promote the renewable energy development in the country. Senator Shibli Faraz was the guest of honor and chaired the session, while Executive Director of SDPI Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri moderated the discussion. A number of executives of private power companies, energy regulators and government sector entities, lawmakers, energy experts and representatives of development partners participated in the panel discussion. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the discussion.

Senator Shibli Faraz in his remarks assured that the government is committed to promote sustainable energy with the prime motive to produce cheap, clean and green energy for the sustainable future of Pakistan. He underlined for the need to employ the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) to optimize the energy mix and create fine balance between demand and supply. CEO Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) Dr. Abdul Jabbar Khan underlined that Government has launched the Renewable Energy Policy 2019 which aims to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix to 25% and 30% by 2025 and 2030, respectively. AEDB is working to introduce competitive bidding to bring the cost of electricity down, he further added.

Dr. Sardar Mohazzam, Managing Director National Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (NEECA) emphasized that demand-side management is the key to reduce the inefficiencies in the energy sector. NEECA has a critical role to play and implement various energy efficiency measures to address the exorbitant crisis of Circular Debt in the country. Dr. Mohazzam assured that NEECA will take prudent measures to improve efficiencies in entire energy supply chain and promote competitiveness in the energy market. Mr. Shahab Qadir, Vice President Engro Energy shared that Engro Energy aspires to promote indigenous energy resource to achieve energy security and supply low-cost power to the country. Engro Thar Coal is an ideal manifestation of capabilities we have and the potential of public-private partnership to take on challenging energy projects and deliver them on time to improve energy security in the country, he said.

Engr. Khalil Raza, during the discussion, emphasized that Pakistan has undertaken many reforms in the energy sector. Unfortunately, all those reforms have been targeted at supply or generation side, while neglecting the demand-side management. This is the high time that relevant government agencies to develop management strategy and bring reforms in transmission and distribution sectors to address the circular debt.



**ECOSF contributed to the National Dialogued on Agriculture-Biotech for Food Security and Capacity Building of Bio-Safety Regulators, jointly organized by PABIC-FCC and USDA at COMSTECH**

The Pakistan Biotechnology Information Center (PABIC) at Forman Christian College (FCC)- a Chartered University in collaboration with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and supported by International Service for Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Application (ISAAA), organized a National Dialogue on Agriculture-Biotech for Food Security and Capacity Building of Biosafety Regulators on December 11 – 12, 2019 at COMSTECH Headquarter in Islamabad.

The objective of this National Dialogue was to review the status of Agricultural Biotechnology in the country and highlight the constraints in utilizing the emerging technologies in agricultural sector. The national dialogue attracted a large number of distinguished biotech and agricultural experts, scientists, representatives of academia, scientific organizations, media and government officials from across the country. Federal Minister for Science and Technology, H.E. Mr. Fawad Hussain Chaudhary was the Chief Guest in the event. On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro who is basically an agricultural scientist, participated in the conference and contributed in the discussions.



**Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, HEC Distinguished Professor and Dean of School of Life Sciences** at FCC University in his welcome remarks, highlighted the progress made by Pakistan in the field of agricultural biotechnology. Prof. Malik emphasized on the need to introduce compliance mechanism for implementation of rules and regulation to remove the bottlenecks in adopting new technologies in agriculture sector.

**Prof. Dr. Iqbal Chaudhary, head of International Center for Chemical and Biological (ICCBS)** and PABIC Karachi, in his remarks said that effective regulatory framework is critical to take advantage of new bio-technologies and increase the agricultural productivity in Pakistan. Globally, agriculture practices are rapidly changing due to innovation and in this backdrop, the government should consider introducing a policy to develop sustainable agriculture sector in the country, he added. He also emphasized on the importance of biotechnology to be under the patronage of Ministry of Science and Technology rather than any other ministry.

**Federal Minister for Science and Technology H.E. Mr. Fawad Chaudhary**, in his address emphasized on the importance of agriculture and its contribution to economic development of Pakistan. Mr. Chaudhary underscored that agricultural sector needs technological solutions in order to boost the agricultural yields. It is expected that by 2030 the population of Pakistan would reach over 350 Million and we would not be able to feed this much number of people if we do not innovate and bring new technologies to reinvigorate agriculture sector.



At the end of inaugural session, the ISAAA also launched its 54th report. The representative of US Embassy/USDA in Islamabad and ISAAA also spoke during the inaugural in the event.

Subsequently, the delegates shared their experiences and status of various Agri-biotech activities and made presentation and presented posters. Panel discussions were also held on various issues and aspects of the Agro-Biotechnology. The organizers will compile the outcomes of the conference and the recommendations will be taken up with concerned authorities subsequently.

**ECOSF co-organized the 15<sup>th</sup> National Nematological Event: “Significance of Nematode Identification for Better Crop Management”**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Nematological Event; a seminar-cum-workshop on “Significance of Nematode Identification for Better Crop Management”, was jointly organized by Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN), National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi with the support and cooperation of Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) on December 30-31, 2019 at the NNRC Karachi, Pakistan.

Focus of the seminar was to highlight the significance of taxonomy and to emphasize on the correct identification of nematodes for their better management and crop protection; which would help strengthen the country’s agricultural economy.



At the inaugural session, **Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi** applauded the efforts of Pakistan Society of Nematologists to disseminate the knowledge of Nematology and emphasized to expedite the training workshop program of Nematode Identification for better Crop Protection and Management in the country. Prof. Iraqi thanks President PSN and ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro for his leadership of the Nematological Society and support extended to the NNRC. He also acknowledged the services of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, the outgoing Director of NNRC and announced that one lab or portion of the NNRC would be named after her and her scientific contributions would be acknowledged; the gesture was highly appreciated by the participants.



Prior to this, Director of NNRC Prof. Dr. Saboohi Raza welcomed the distinguished guests and participants for their joining the event. In her welcome address, she briefly highlighted the activities and contributions of NNRC. Afterwards, a short documentation “Tribute to former Director and Meritorious Prof Dr. Shahina Fayyaz” was presented by Dr. Erum Iqbal, scientific officer of NNRC.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro President ECOSF & PSN delivered his keynote and presidential address in the inaugural session. He told the audience about the establishment of Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN) and its accomplishments. Dr. Soomro underlined the importance of nematode identification for management of the nematode parasites of plants but also of utilization of entomopathogenic nematodes as biopesticides for insect pest management as crop protection. He said that identification of nematodes is the key to crop management. Dr. Soomro also highlighted the role of nematodes and bio-indicators environmental pollution including oil pollution in the sea. He also acknowledged the contributions of Prof. Shahina Fayyaz for the NNRC, the PSN and consistent publication of the PSN’s Pakistan Journal of Nematology since 1983. PSF was represented by the Deputy Director of PASTIC-PSF Karachi Mr. Abdul Fateh Shaikh.



After the inaugural session, a panel discussion was held on the importance of nematode identification. Dr. Aly Khan former Director in PARC and Dr. Farman Ali from Peshawar delivered their oral presentations related to the topic. Afterwards, participants took part in the discussion on different aspects of the nematode identification and its importance in disease management strategies.

The General Body meeting of PSN was also held at NNRC on the first day. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro as President of PSN. It was attended by office bearers and members of the society present on the occasion. Various matters of PSN including the next elections and publication of the Pakistan Journal of Nematology (PJN) were discussed and decisions made.

Subsequently the training workshop on nematode identification techniques began and continued for two days (30-31 Dec 2019).

The seminar cum workshop was attended by participants and members of the society from various institutions across Pakistan, including; Islamia University Bahawalpur; LUAWMS, Uthal, Balochistan; Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan; PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi; Poonch University Rawalakot, AJ&K; University of Swabi, Anbar KP, Wheat-Research Sub-Station Murree and many departments of University of Karachi. Participants were trained in proper nematode diagnosis and correct identification of nematode species in making better management decision for nematode problem

**ECOSF participated in the International Conference on Quality Assurance Standards and Policies: Issues and Challenges organized by HEC and USEFP**

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan in collaboration with the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) organized an International Conference on **Quality Assurance Standards and Policies: Issues and Challenges** on December 4-5, 2019 in Islamabad. President of Pakistan H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurated the Conference as the Chief Guest. Conference was attended by a large number of national and international academic experts, scholars, researchers and representatives of development partners and media. The US Ambassador Paul W. Jones also graced the occasion. On behalf of the ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the conference.

The International Conference on Quality Assurance aimed at employing measures to improve the quality of higher education and adopt international quality assurance standards through effective international collaboration cooperation, particularly with the US. The international conference identified a number of options for international cooperation for advancing the shared agenda, and reviewed national and regional developments in quality assurance in higher education.



In his address at the Conference, **President of Pakistan, Arif Alvi** emphasized that Universities must focus on enhancing the quality of education and research in addition to increasing enrolments and publications education. Education should be focused on developing human intellect; and it has to be relevant to needs of the society. He underlined that access to quality education is the most important goal for Pakistan to produce a useful workforce in compatible with the demands of emerging market and society.

In his address, the **Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Shafqat Mehmood** said the government is fully committed to develop a uniform curriculum to improve the quality of education and remove discrepancies among the students of public and private institutions and Madaris across Pakistan. He also appreciated concerted efforts undertaken by the US government and their assistance to Pakistan in education sector.



While addressing the Conference, **the Chairman HEC Dr Tariq Banuri** highlighted the significance of quality assurance and standards in the higher education sector. This Conference, therefore, is an important step to initiate a plan and generate meaningful dialogue to achieve improved quality of higher education by employing the latest international standards and quality assurance regime. The Chairman HEC emphasized that quality cannot be improved overnight; rather it is a continuous process to sustain and enhance performance.

Some discussants also linked the quality of education at universities with school education; Senator Taj Hayder of Pakistan even emphasized on the importance early childhood education as the base of good quality higher education.



**CUI in collaboration with COMSTech organized an International Conference on “Frontiers of Information Technology (FIT) 2019”**

COMSATS University Islamabad in collaboration with COMSTech organized an International Conference on Frontiers of Information Technology (FIT-2019) with a theme entitled “Artificial Intelligence for Economic Development”, which was held in Islamabad on December 16-18, 2019. The objective of holding this conference was to focus on modern trends pertaining to computer sciences, engineering, and other related areas and it provided a platform for exchange of innovative ideas in the field of Information and Communication



Technologies (ICTs). It is important to mention that FIT 2019 is the seventeenth consecutive conference that COMSATS University, Islamabad (CUI) has been organizing for many years.

The conference attracted a large number of international and local ICT experts, academicians, researchers and students. International experts and distinguished researchers on ICTs from Australia, Austria, France, Japan, Netherlands, Russia, UK and USA participated in the FIT-2019. Prof Dr Atta-ur-Rehman, the distinguished scientist of Pakistan graced the conference as the Chief Guest. On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro along with Engr. Khalil Raza and Mr. Ghulam Abbas Rahar participated in the conference.

In his welcome remarks, Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector CUI underlined the key objectives of conference and highlighted the significance of Information Technologies for the sustainable development of the country. Prof. Qamar shared that the three-day conference will host sixty-seven technical talks in 27 different sessions focusing on emerging trends and challenges in the IT industry and their relevance to the socio-economic development of Pakistan. Prof. Qamar underscored that Information Technologies have a massive potential and with effective use of emerging technologies, Pakistan can address its current and as well as the future challenges.

Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman gave his inspiring keynote talk entitled "Exciting World of Discovery". Prof. Rahman said that knowledge is now the single most important factor for socio-economic development and Science and Technology are great equalizers. Countries that have realized this and invested heavily in developing their human resources to the highest possible levels and then linked these resources to the manufacture of high technology industrial and agricultural products have leaped forward, leaving others far behind, he added. Science today presents a myriad opportunities for research and exciting careers in many diverse fields. Prof. Rahman shared that we live in a world where truth has become far stranger than fiction. Each day brings thousands of new discoveries, many of which are transforming our lives in a multitude of ways.

**Localization of Water, Energy and Food Nexus workshop organized by the PCRWR and Asia Foundation- ECOSF joined in the Closing Consultation**

Two days Consultation Workshop on Localization of Water, Energy and Food Nexus to Pakistan’s Local Governance was concluded at PCRWR Head Office on December 11, 2019. During the concluding ceremony, Mr. Farid Alam of The Asia Foundation-Pakistan, Dr. Sagar Parsai of The Asia Foundation- Nepal, Mr. Ahmad Kamal, Chairman of Federal Flood Commission and Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PCRWR made their closing remarks. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the event.



The Chairman, Federal Flood Commission, Mr. Ahmad Kamal remarked that each policy is important but needs to be implemented with the consultation of local stakeholders. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR concluded the session by taking oath from the participants for conserving water and food in daily lives.



**ECOSF joined in the Launch Ceremony of a Baseline Study of Plastic Waste in ICT and Ayub National Park (ANP), jointly steered by the UNDP, UNESCO and WWF Pakistan**

UNESCO and World Wildlife Fund (WWF Pakistan) in collaboration with the UNDP have conducted the baseline study of Plastic Waste of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Ayubia National Park (ANP). The report on this baseline study on plastic waste was launched on December 11, 2019 at UNESCO Office in Islamabad with discussion with a range of stakeholders. The objective of conducting this study was to assess the current situation and determine the statistics on production of plastic waste in ICT and ANP. A number of stakeholders, including the representatives of city district administration, Capital Development Authority (CDA), environmentalists, members of civil society organizations participated in the launch ceremony. On behalf of the ECOSF, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the event.

In her welcome remarks, **Director UNESCO Islamabad Vibeke Jensen** said that UNESCO is ready to support all stakeholders and donor agencies to partner in controlling plastic waste pollution and its management in Islamabad. Solid waste management requires technical solutions and awareness campaigns and education would be the key steps to address this challenge.

**Mr. Raza Ali Habib Director General Galiyat Development Authority (GDA)** said that waste management in mountain ranges is a complex challenge. The world's 42 per cent mountain ranges exist in Asia and 60 per cent of the population resides in these areas. However, we need to take all stakeholders on board to take best practical measures to turn this challenge into an opportunity which will become a risk if let go unchecked, he added.

**Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan Director General - World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Pakistan)** presented the outline of this baseline study. The study has raised serious concerns, as it has established that hospitals are the biggest producers of most hazardous plastic waste in ICT and due to weak regulatory framework, this hazardous waste gets dumped into the municipal garbage instead of being disposed in incinerators.

Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro spoke on the importance of regulatory framework but also on the education of public at large. He emphasized on education of children at home as well as across the schools, colleges and universities so as to education the future generations about production, use, abuse and pollution of plastics. He also underlined the importance of public awareness about health and environmental hazards of plastics including for human, animals and life under water.

**Mayor of Islamabad, Sheikh Ansar Aziz** highlighted the significance of waste management plan for cities. He assured that Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation (IMC) will develop an effective coordination mechanism with stakeholders to encourage the concept of recycling and reduce the impact of plastic waste in the city.



**International Mountain Day 2019 Celebrated at Islamabad- Pakistan**

The international Mountain Day was celebrated in Islamabad on December 11. The event was jointly organized by Italian Embassy in Islamabad, EvK2CNR (an Italian organization) and UNDP Pakistan. The Chief Guest of the event was H.E. Mr. Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari, Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis & Chairman Tourism Coordination Board. Other dignitaries included His Excellency Mr. Stefano Pontecorvo the Ambassador of Republic of Italy to Pakistan, Mr. Ignacio Artaza Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan, Professor



Dr. Ata Ullah Shah Vice Chancellor Karakoram International University, government officials, mountaineers, students and a large number of men and women participated in the event. President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro and Assistant Director ECOSF Ghulam Abbas were also among the participants.

Mr. Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari in his speech said that Pakistan is extremely rich in natural beauty with 5 peaks above eight thousand meters. He shared that government is implementing some of mega interventions for the clean and green Pakistan also putting a large emphasis on promotion of tourism in Pakistan including in Gilgit-Baltistan. He appreciated the role of Italian Government in the conservation, eco-tourism and sustainable development, particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan area of Pakistan. He hoped for the continuation of the support in the future.

Earlier, His Excellency Mr. Stefano Pontecorvo welcomed all the guests to the event. He said that the International Mountain Film Festival is the third edition that takes place with the support of Italian Embassy on December 11, which marks International Mountains Day. The Ambassador paid tribute to some national and international mountaineers who lost their lives in pursuit of conquering peaks in GB. He particularly referred to Italian Mountaineers Daniele Nardi and Leonardo Comelli who died on Nanga Parbat in 2018 during a winter expedition. He shed light on the contribution and support of Italian Government in northern Pakistan for last many years.

Mr. Ignacio Artaza, Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan said that the mountains play very important role in the ecosystem. He said that the mountains are a major source of fresh water and also provide habitat to a variety of wildlife. He further stated that UNDP is working in the mountain regions in Pakistan including in Gilgit-Baltistan where they are partnering with the Italian government in implementing number of initiatives. Mr. Maurizio Gallo paid a tribute to the late Italian mountaineers Daniele Nardi and Leonardo Comelli who died on Nanga Parbat. He presented a summary of their mountaineering endeavors. Mr. Ashiq Ahmad Khan, Scientific Representative, EvK2CNR gave an overview of the biodiversity, protected areas of Pakistan, measures taken towards the conservation, gaps and the way forward. He recommended for declaring the entire Gilgit-Baltistan as a biosphere reserve/protected landscape with various relevant interventions involving all related institutions.



Mr. Arif Hussain Technical Representative EvK2CNR said that the close ties between Italy and Pakistan dates back to 1954 when K2 was first conquered by the Italian expedition led by Mr. Ardito Desio. He said that various very significant interventions in GB particularly in CKNP and DNP are supported by the Italian Government whereby thousands of KGs of waste from mountains and glaciers has been removed besides many other activities that focus on livelihood improvement and conservation implemented by EvK2CNR. The best films on mountains were screened in the event while also playing the mountain music from Gilgit-Baltistan that earned a lot appreciation from the participants.

**28<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence of Republic of Kazakhstan Marked**

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan hosted a reception to celebrate the Independence Day of Kazakhstan at a local hotel in Islamabad.

Government of Pakistan’s Minister for Privatization, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Mian Soomro was the chief guest on the occasion; while a large number of ambassadors, diplomats, parliamentarians, members of civil society, officials of the government of Pakistan and citizens and families of the ambassadors of Central Asian countries attended the reception. President of ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro represented the Foundation.



In his address, H.E. Federal Minister Soomro congratulated Kazakhstan for completion of 28 years of progress and prosperity. He further said that Pakistan has always valued its relations with Kazakhstan and the two countries are engaged in a number of bilateral agreements. Pakistan is keen to enhance its economic cooperation with Kazakhstan and hopefully, cooperation will enhance further between the two countries in the coming days, he said.

Earlier, The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin welcomed and thanked the distinguished guests for attending the ceremony. He shared the achievements of the Republic of Kazakhstan over the years of independence, the contribution of the First President - Elbasy N.A. Nazarbayev to the development of the country's domestic and foreign policy and the strengthening of cooperation with Pakistan.

He further said that Kazakhstan is an integral part of Central Asia – a region connected with centuries-old links with South Asia. This is what defines Kazakhstan’s foreign policy towards brotherly Pakistan and Kazakhstan is grateful and proud that Pakistan was among the first countries that recognized our Independence, added the ambassador.



### ECOSF participated in the Stakeholders Workshop on “Standards & Labelling for Energy Efficient Electric Motors” organized by NEECA, HIMA^Verte and CLASP

National Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (NEECA) in collaboration with HIMA^Verte and CLASP organized the Stakeholders Workshop on Implementation of Standards and Labelling for Energy Efficient Electric Motors in Lahore on December 4, 2019. A large number of electric motors manufacturers, importers, representatives of government agencies and energy experts participated in the event. Dr. Sardar Mohazzam, Managing Director NEECA was the Chief Guest in the event. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the event.

Mr. Ali Habib, Managing Partner of the HIMA^Verte in his welcome remarks, shared the objectives and outline of the stakeholder workshop. Mr. Habib emphasized that introduction of Standards and Labeling (S&L) regime for various electrical appliances is an effective strategy to cut down the inefficiencies in the energy sector. Electrical Motors consume a substantial amount of energy, especially in the industrial sectors. Therefore, S&L regime for electrical motors can potentially reduce the energy waste, bring down the business cost, and boost competitiveness and exports.



Dr. Sardar Mohazzam, MD NEECA in his remarks highlighted the significance of energy efficiency measures, which has the potential to achieve significant reduction in the import bill for Pakistan. Electrical motors are prime movers and they are used in residential, commercial and industrial sectors of Pakistan. The proposed S&L regime would be critical to reduce the energy intensity and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in the country. He appreciated the partners for coming together and development of effective standardization regime. He further assured the motor manufacturers and importers that their suggestions and feedback will be given due consideration while implementing the S&L regime.

Mr. Stuart Jeffcott, the Team Leader representing CLASP (an energy contracting firm based in Washington D.C.) stated that Pakistan has demonstrated a successful case of introducing Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for electric fan. NEECA and relevant stakeholders should gear up to enforce higher energy efficiency standards for other appliances, including electrical motors to contribute to sustainability of energy sector.

Mr. Khalil Raza of ECOSF contributed to the discussion and shared his view point saying that recently launched Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy aims to incentivize the local manufacturing of EVs and associated components, including electrical motors and batteries. Under this policy, local manufacturers will be charged only 1% custom duty and 1% sales tax on motors and batteries. Thus, local manufacturers must take advantage of this policy and promote sustainable transportation in the country.

**ECOSF participated in the launch event of National Action Plan and Investment Prospectus on Sustainable Energy for All**

UNDP Pakistan launched the National Action Plan (NAP) and Investment Prospectus (IP) on Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) in collaboration with the Planning Commission in Islamabad on December 17, 2019. The event highlighted the importance of access to sustainable energy for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The launch event attracted a large number of energy experts, policy makers, representatives of development partners and government officials. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the event.

Mr. Ignacio Resident Representative of UNDP Pakistan in his remarks shared that UNDP has been supporting the government in the development of the National Action Plan on SEforALL, stated. The National Action Plan will provide the opportunity to achieve the SDG on Affordable and Clean Energy, along with opportunities for partnerships and collaboration with the international private sector, as well as effective governance of climate finance, he further added



SEforALL initiative is an important component of SDGs, and provides an all-encompassing approach linking energy access to other goals. SEforALL National Action Plan provides a comprehensive and holistic long-term vision, aligned with National Vision 2025, and national policies notified from time to time.

The National Action Plan lays down pathways and determined interventions to provide affordable and clean energy for all and promote efficient use of energy to achieve sustainable economic development by 2030 with investment opportunities of over US\$ 66 billion. Needless to mention that effective implementation of SEforAll will be a key for Pakistan in its mission to tackle climate



change, promote sustainable industries, boost exports and create green jobs. It is important to mention that Engr. Khalil Raza played a key role as one of the co-authors this report during the development of this action plan in 2015-16.

Dr. Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission underlined the significance of sustainable energy for socio-economic development of the country. SEforALL provides a great opportunity to Pakistan to transform its energy systems by improving energy efficiency and incorporating more renewable energy into its mix by 2030, he added.

Dr. Sardar Mohazzam, Managing Director of National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) shared the approach of National Action Plan and Investment Prospectus. Mr. Inayat Ullah Qureshi, Chief of Energy Wing at Planning Commission, in his closing remarks at the launch, expressed government's commitment to achieve sustainable energy goals for poverty reduction, improvement of human capital and quality of life.

**President ECOSF and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi meet on 31 Dec 2019**



President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro and Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Prof. Khalid M. Iraqi met in the VC office on 31 Dec 2019 and discussed collaboration of the university in other ECO member countries. Dr. Soomro briefed the VC about the programmes and activities of ECOSF. The Vice Chancellor particularly desired the expand university's collaboration in other ECO member countries. Dr. Soomro assured the VC of all possible cooperation of ECOSF.

Dr. Soomro was also joined in the meeting with VC University of Karachi by the Director General of Southern Agricultural Research Centre (SARC) Karachi of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Dr. Attaullah Khan and Dr. M. Ibrahim Khaskheli, Associate Professor of Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam. Dr. Khan also briefed the Vice Chancellor about his recent joining as DG SARC-PARC in Karachi and emphasized on strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations.

After the meeting, the Vice Chancellor invited Prof. Soomro and Dr. Attaullah Khan to plant a sapling in the lawns of VC Office.



**International Workshop on “Nanotechnology and Renewable Energy” supported by ECOSF held on November 10, 2019 at Karaj – Iran**

International Workshop on “Nanotechnology and Renewable Energy” was held on November 10, 2019 at Karaj, Alborz, Islamic Republic of Iran. The workshop was organized by the Inter-Islamic on nanotechnology network (INN), whereas, ECOSF joined as supporter of the conference/workshop. The main objectives of the workshop were:

- Providing proper situation to exchange the recent scientific and technical developments and their applications challenges and opportunities in the field of nano science and technology between the OIC member states
- Promoting joint cooperation and advancement between scientific, research, and technology centers of OIC member states with research and technology centers outside the OIC member states
- Strengthening the relations and technological collaborations inter/intra Islamic member states and improving transfer of experience among the academic researchers
- Transforming ideas into wealth and supporting production and development processes
- Training of qualified human resources in the field of nano-science and technology
- New approaches for promoting entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives in nano-science and technology



The resource persons/speakers of the workshop/conference were from Turkey, UK, Iran, Pakistan and Oman. Whereas, large of participants from different countries including ECO region attended the conference. The conference provided an opportunity to the participants to share their wisdom, knowledge, research and develop networking for future collaboration.

**Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page**

**Opportunity to apply for Obada Prize**

Obada-Prize is an international award, endowed by the Natural Sciences Publishing. Initiated as a recognition of his excellence Professor Abdel-Shafy Obada. The Obada-Prize recognizes and encourages innovative and interdisciplinary research that cuts across traditional boundaries and paradigms. It aims to foster universal values of excellence, creativity, justice, democracy, and progress and to promote the scientific, technological and humanistic achievements that advance and improve our world.

For more Information and registration: <http://obadaprize.com/>

**Call for abstracts: 6th International Water Conference (6th IWC 2020) on “Circle of Blue; Water for Life & Survival” from 21-23 April 2020 at Islamabad.**

Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University in collaboration with PIDE and PCRWR is organizing 6th International Water Conference (6th IWC 2020) on “Circle of Blue; Water for Life & Survival” from 21-23 April 2020 at Islamabad. The aim of 6th IWC-2020 is to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Water for Life & Survival and Sustainable Water Resources Management. Any faculty member, researcher, scholars and students are welcome to submit their Abstract in accordance with the scope of the Conference.

For more information, please visit: <http://ecosf.org/6th-IWC-2020>