



ECOSF NEWSLETTER



Corona Virus - COVID 19: Situation in Numbers in the ECO Member Countries

Country	Total confirmed cases	Total confirmed deaths
Afghanistan	41,425	1,536
Azerbaijan	54,174	718
Iran	604,952	34,478
Kazakhstan	149,699	2,226
Kyrgyzstan	58,878	1,145
Pakistan	332,993	6,806
Tajikistan	10,977	82
Turkey	373,154	10,177
Turkmenistan	-	-
Uzbekistan	66,628	563
ECO region Total	1,626,252	57,731

Date Stamp: October 31, 2020 **Source:** <https://ourworldindata.org> **Note:** So far, no case has been reported in Turkmenistan.

Belt and Road STI Think Tank Cooperation Network Launched - ECOSF Joined as Founding Member

Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Think Tank Cooperation Network was launched in Shanghai-China on October 23, 2020 as part of the Pujiang Innovation Forum 2020. The Network has been established under the auspices of Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED). The launching ceremony was opened and moderated by Prof. HU Zhijian- the President of CASTED. Initially, eight Members viz., Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt; Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF); Office of National Higher Education, Science, Research



and Innovation Policy Council of Thailand; China-ASEAN Studies Thailand; Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED) China; Faculty of Health and Business Studies, Singidunum University Serbia; Institute of International Politics and Economics Serbia and Belt and Road Institute, University of Novi Sad, Serbia joined the Network as founding members of the network and signed the cooperation agreement. It is expected that more institutes/organizations from other countries would join the network subsequently.

President CASTED Prof. HU in his short speech highlighted the aims and objectives of the Network and termed it as an important platform to gather and share the common thoughts and interests leading towards the economic stability. During the launching ceremony, President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro joined the ceremony online and addressed the audiences. He introduced ECOSF as an intergovernmental regional organization of ten countries, working on promotion and development of STI among the member countries leading towards the economic prosperity. He further said that the Network provides excellent opportunity to the countries along the Belt and Road to collaborate in the field of science, technology and innovation, and develop joint projects to meet the requirements of the masses.



The Network serves as an open and inclusive platform for exchange, cooperation and sharing. It aims to bring together the innovative ideas and wisdom of well-known technology innovation think tanks, to promote sharing of scientific and technological innovation resources, information, and achievement as well as exchange of personnel. It also aims to strengthen collaborative research on science and technology innovation strategies, policies and governance of the Belt and Road countries, in an effort to provide services for mutual benefits and a win-win cooperation in science and technology among the “Belt and Road” countries.

ECOSF participated in the Pujiang Innovation Forum 2020

The forum was organized to provide a global platform for dialogue and exchanges about innovative developments; the dissemination of advanced concepts; the communication of academic ideas; interactions between governments, industry, universities and institutions; the publication of the latest policies; and international cooperation in the fields of science and technology.

The Forum’s opening was chaired by **Mr. XU Guanhua**, the President of Pujiang Innovation Forum and opened by **Nenad Popovic, Minister for innovation and technological development, Serbia**. While the Chief Guest was **H.E Mr. WANG Zhigang**, the Minister of Science of Technology of Peoples Republic of China and Secretary of CPC Leading Group.

During the Forum the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED) organized the “Belt and Road” Seminar on Mutual Trust and Interaction in Science and Technology Innovation. The Seminar was moderated by Prof. HU Zhijian, President CASTED. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, participated virtually as a keynote speaker during the seminar and delivered his talk on Innovation in Scientific & Technological Education: Developing Competence in Emerging Technologies for the Sustainable Development in the Belt and Road Countries under the framework of BRISECC.



Prof. Soomro in his talk highlighted the scale of penetration and adoption of Digital Technologies around the 4th Industrial Revolution that is rapidly changing entire sectors of the economy. He advocated that there is an urgent need to develop digital competencies and technological skills that will allow everyone to fit in the world of tomorrow for sustainable future. “Given that picture of a rapid change of technology, we see a much slower rate of evolution of the schools, and that means we’re seeing a bigger and bigger gap between schools and tech society”, he said. Prof. Soomro concluded that Belt and Road International Science Education Coordinating Committee (BRISECC) is an excellent platform to play its role in promoting evidence-based learning using digital and modern technologies for the Belt and Road countries.



ECOSF participated in a Webinar on Technological & Science-based Solutions to the COVID-19 Challenge

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) organized an online dialogue on “Technological and Science-based Solutions to the COVID-19 Challenge” on October 29, 2020. The objective of holding this webinar was to assess the science-based policies and innovations that have developed during the pandemic, identifying good practices as well as areas where work is still needed. A large number of scientists, technologists, researchers and representatives of various civil society organizations, government agencies participated in the virtual event. On behalf of ECOSF, its President Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the webinar.

The event invited global leaders in science and technology who assessed the science-based policies and innovations that have developed during the pandemic. The experts identified good practices as well as areas where work is still needed. The event featured a broad panel discussion as to how the international community could play its role to ensure that scientific researches and innovations related to COVID-19 are accessible to all? Mr. Munir Akram the Permanent Representative of Pakistan in UN as the current President of UN Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC) emphasized on the need to better engage society, counter misinformation and overcome apathy towards science in policy-making. During the event, Prof. Susan Athey, Stanford University and Liu Zhenmin UN Under-secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs also contributed to the webinar as keynote speakers.

TECHNOLOGICAL & SCIENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE

Thursday, 29 October 2020
10-11:30 a.m. EDT (New York)
4-5:30 p.m. EEDT (Beirut)



Munir Akram
President, UN Economic and Social Council



Susan Athey
Professor, Stanford University
Graduate School of Business



Liu Zhenmin
UN Under-Secretary-General for
Economic and Social Affairs



The recorded webinar can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/joinundesa/videos/819446705533447/>

ECOSF Participated in COMSTech Webinar on Sustainable Water Management in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Bangladesh

Live Streaming
 [comstech-oic](#)

WEBINAR



Sustainable Water Management in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Bangladesh



Prof. Dr. M. Jamaluddin Ahmed, FRSC
Chartered Scientist (EU), Chartered Chemist (UK)
Department of Chemistry, University of Chittagong, Chittagong, Bangladesh

Time & Date:
October 5, 2020
03:00 pm Pakistan Standard Time
02:00 pm Gulf Standard Time:
10:00 am Greenwich Mean Time:

COMSTech organized a webinar entitled “Sustainable Water Management in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Bangladesh” by Prof. Dr. M. Jamaluddin Ahmed. The webinar discussed many challenges posed by climate change and growing economic development on Water Resources. A good number of policy makers, academicians, scientists and general public and the member OIC states attended the webinar. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza participated in the webinar on behalf of the ECOSF.

Prof. Ahmed underlined that water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Providing reliable and affordable wastewater treatment in rural areas is a challenge in Bangladesh. Due to low-lying elevations and dense population, Bangladesh

is considered one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impact of climate change, he added. The challenges posed by climate change and growing economic development require that the quantity and quality of water resources in Bangladesh be managed by sustainable development policies, he said.

Prof. Ahmed presented a global strategy for the sustainable management of water resources, which laid down the importance of water in human lives and in other species as well and addresses the problem of water scarcity, especially in developing countries.

ECOSF participated in a Virtual Dialogue on “Transformations within reach: Resilient food systems” organized by ISC and IIASA



The International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the International Science Council (ISC) have partnered to establish a Consultative Science Platform – for consultation, deliberation, and collaboration among scientists, policymakers, and representatives from civil society to explore how the world can recover from the coronavirus crisis sustainably. As part of this initiative a virtual discussion on **Transformations within reach: Resilient food systems** was organized as part of the side event of the International Borlaug Dialogue 2020.

The meeting was moderated by Frank Sperling, Lead of Resilient Food Systems theme of the IIASA-ISC Consultative Science Platform, IIASA and joined by leading global experts. On behalf of ECOSF, President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro-an agriculture specialist participated in the meeting.

This virtual meeting presented key insights and areas for transformative action that have emerged from extensive consultations with the scientific community and from the complementary applied research initiatives. Leaders from academia and governments discussed near-term impacts of the pandemic on the food system and highlighted key entry points for action to ensure that the post-COVID recovery process aids the transformation of food systems towards greater resilience and sustainability.

Experts deliberated on the disruptions to food supply and measures taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 which has led to food crises in many parts of the world, with the poor and marginalized affected disproportionately. All the speakers emphasized on the use knowledge gained from responses to the pandemic to ensure that the recovery process aids transformation to food systems able to withstand and recover from disruptions in a way that ensures a sufficient supply of safe and accessible food for all.

The recorded session can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXbccRbJ5Ko>

ECOSF joined in the Virtual International Forum on Consonance of Civilizations on the Silk Road organized by International Turkic Academy (TWESCO)



The Virtual International Forum on Consonance of Civilizations on the Silk Road was organized by the Turkish World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization (TWESCO) also known as "International Turkic Academy" on October 19, 2020. It was dedicated to 1150th anniversary of a great scholar Abu Nasr Al-Farabi. The Virtual Forum brought together renowned scholars of Turkic history and culture, prominent statesmen, ambassadors and diplomats, as well as the executives of International organizations, to discuss the significance of cultural values of Eurasian and Turkic nations in the development of human civilization.

The major objectives of holding this virtual forum were, to find answers to pressing issues of the contemporary world, to accentuate the growing significance of Eurasian nations in international arena and to provide a platform for discussion and communication and dialogue between renowned scholars who conduct systematic research on various aspects of ancient and contemporary Turkic World. A good number of eminent scholars and scientists participated in the virtual event. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the event and read out the speech on behalf of President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro.

Engr. Khalil Raza underlined that the Eurasian nations experienced the booms and busts of many eras and civilizations, many of its signs still resonate to this day. He further stressed for the need to learn and study about human civilizations so that one should develop an in-depth understanding about who we are and how we have evolved to the present day.

He deliberated that Eurasians Civilizations gave birth to one of the greatest minds, intellectuals and philosophers of the world civilizations; Abu Nasr al-Farabi, who made tremendous contributions to science, philosophy, ethics and logics. Al-Farabi, also considered as "the Second Master" (the first one being the Aristotle)

Mr. Raza concluded that in order to preserve, promote and appreciate the cultural and traditional values of Eurasian Civilizations, youth should be given special attention by providing them participatory engagement opportunities.



ECOSF Participated in World Teachers' Day 2020 virtually Celebrated by UNESCO

UNESCO virtually celebrated World Teachers' Day on October 8, 2020. This is an annual event and celebrated to know the role of a Teacher in the development of an ethical and prosperous society. The theme of the Day for this year was "Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Re-imagining the Future". On behalf of ECOSF, President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro participated in the event.

World Teachers' Day, also known as International Teachers Day, is an international day held annually on 5 October since 1994. It commemorates the signing of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which is a standard-setting instrument that addresses the status and situations of teachers around the world. World Teachers' Day aimed at focusing on "appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world" and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching.

Objectives of the event were to share experiences of innovations in thinking on education, learning ecosystems and future-ready teachers for higher education systems; Identify new roles for teachers of higher education; Identify key messages to policy-makers, Global Education Coalition partners, and governments to support and strengthen the leadership of higher education teachers/instructors in research on education technologies for quality hybrid education and development of future talents in youth through all learning pathways.



Mr Carlos Tamez Vargas, Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office in Santiago moderated the event and welcomed all the panellists and participants.

Dr. Mansoor Al Awar, Chancellor, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University talked about the Teacher-researchers leading, innovative technology supported pedagogies for lifelong learning beyond Covid-19 crisis.

Prof. Stephanie Gottwald, Tufts University, Boston, USA discussed about Curious Learning of University educators engaged in research and promoting creative learning approaches for the pre-primary level children.

Prof. Elifas Bisanda, Vice-Chancellor and UNESCO Chair holder, Open University of Tanzania shared as to how the Open University of Tanzania never closed during the Covid-19 shutdown, and the teachers developed a unique summative assessment system (OREX) rapidly to replace standard written examinations.

Closing remarks were passed by Mr. Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, Education Sector, UNESCO

ECOSF participated in Launch Ceremony of the Book: "*Deen e Islam Aik Mukamal Nizam-e-Hayyat, Qaid-e- Azam ka Tasawor-e-Pakistan, Jadeed Islami Falahi Riyasat ka Qayam*" written by Dr. M. Akram Sheikh, the former Deputy Chair of Planning Commission of Pakistan



ECOSF participated in the Launch Ceremony of the book, "*Deen-e-Islam Aik Mukamal Nizam-e-Hayyat, Qaid-e-Azam ka Tasawor-e-Pakistan, Jadeed Islami Falahi Riyasat ka Qayam*" written by Dr. M. Akram Sheikh the former Deputy Chair of Planning Commission of Pakistan at COMSTECH Auditorium-Islamabad on 16 October 2020.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony, Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, addressed the Book Launching ceremony as the Chief Guest.

During the ceremony, Prof. Aqeel Asif, Mr. Ejaz Rahim, Lt. Gen.(R) Syed Shujaat Hussain, Mr. Bashir-ud-Din, the author Dr. M. Akram Sheikh and many other scholars participated in the event. A number of national and

international academic experts, scholars, researchers and representatives of development partners and media attended the event. President ECOSF Dr. Manzoor Soomro joined the event on behalf of ECOSF.

ECOSF participated in the Virtual Seminar on Future Wireless Technology and its role in supporting Green Business Model Innovation

ECOSF participated in the Virtual Seminar on Future Wireless Technology and its role in supporting Green Business Model Innovation on October 21, 2020. A number of leading global experts delivered their talks and explored the role of new wireless technologies that could help transform the businesses into greener and cleaner ventures. The Seminar was organized by Wireless World Research Forum and Aarhus University, Denmark. On behalf of ECOSF, Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer participated in the virtual event.

The experts during the virtual seminar centered their talks and discussions around the latest innovation that are being taking place in the digital space particularly in the wireless technologies. These wireless technologies are rapidly being scaled up for the use in the energy industry. With robust eco-system, the wireless technology can reduce the overall energy carbon footprint by improving the efficiency and reducing redundancy in many energy operations. Prof. Peter Lindgren who was the chair of the seminar delivered his research talk on Green Business Model Innovation and presented a few case-studies to demonstrate various aspects of Green Business Model and how it differs from the conventional business models. At the end, the floor was opened for the discussion and Q&A.



ECOSF joined the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR)

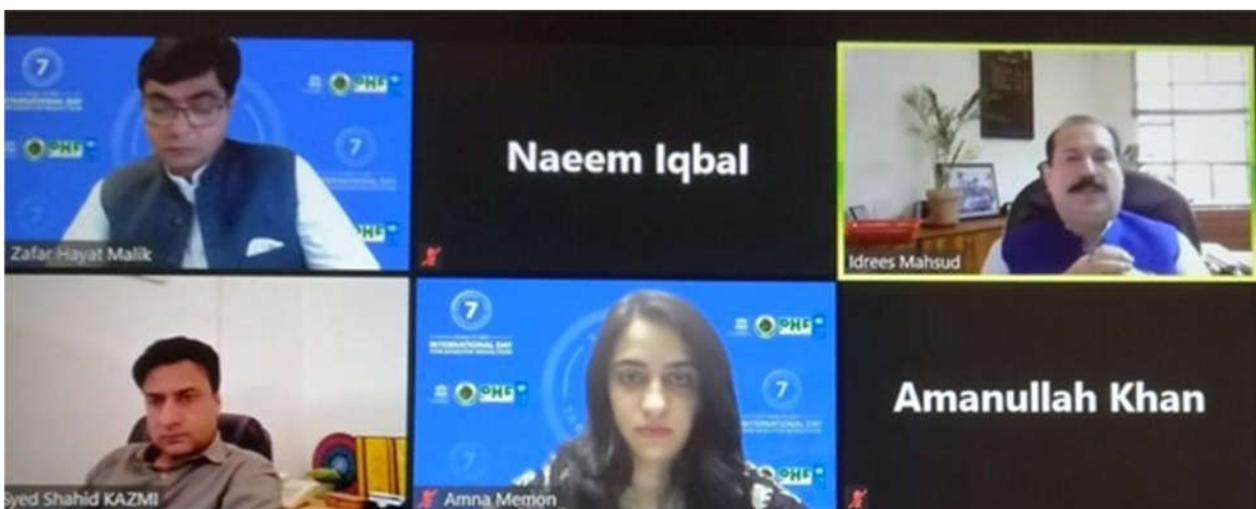
UNESCO Islamabad in partnership with UNDP, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) organized a webinar to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) on 13 October 2020. On behalf of the ECOSF, President Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and Engr. Khalil Raza Scientific Officer ECOSF participated in the event.

The objective of the event was to promote and encourage stakeholders at the national, provincial and community levels to mark the implementation of the *Sendai Framework* with a focus on governance and highlighting challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Amanullah Khan, Assistant Resident Representative at UNDP Pakistan, opened the event by highlighting the importance of disaster risk reduction and the role that governance can play in it.

Mr. Syed Shahid Kazmi, from the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum, proceeded to elaborate upon the governance challenges faced during humanitarian work in this sphere. This was followed by Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, Member DRR at NDMA, speaking about risk governance from a national perspective and the work carried out by NDMA to promote DRR in Pakistan.

Mr. Zafar Hayat Malik, Senior Programme Officer at UNESCO, concluded by addressing different aspects of disaster risk governance that emerged in Pakistan this year. There was an active question and answer session at the end of the event. Ideas for future interventions, including gender-focused studies and the involvement of academia, emerged from the discussion.



Kazakhstani university for the first time among world's Top-200

In the international Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021, al-Farabi Kazakh National University rose to the 165th position right after the British University of Exeter and ahead of the American Rochester University and Taiwan's National Tsing Hua University. This fact can be regarded as a significant success for the al-Farabi Kazakh National University as one of the leading universities in Kazakhstan, but in another authoritative rating – the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021 – the university is incomparably lower – In the 1000+ group, together with the Gumilyov Eurasian National University and Satbaev University. At the same time, the aforementioned Taiwan's Tsing Hua University (not to be confused with the Tsinghua University of Beijing) is approximately 600 positions higher, in the 351-400 group of the THE ranking. Why are the results so strikingly different? The reason lies in the differing methodologies and data used to compile the rankings.



Read More: <https://eurasian-research.org/publication/international-university-ranking-systems/>

Upcoming Events posted on ECOSF website and Facebook page

Virtual Summit: Exposure of Industries to Scientists' Achievements (EISA) – 30th November to 7th December 2020

EISA is a platform hosting various commercialized services in the STI ecosystem. It was developed to meet the needs of the Islamic world's knowledge-based industry and scientific community, enabling technological achievements of products and services to be introduced to new markets, industries and investors.

Fifth round of EISA focusing on: Cutting-edge Healthcare and Medical Achievements.

Read More: <http://ecosf.org/EISA-2020>

The World Science Day for Peace and Development 2020



The World Science Day (WSD) for Peace and Development celebrated every year on 10 November, was established by UNESCO in 2001 to highlight the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging and important contemporary issues relevant to science. As this year has been marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the theme of the 2020 celebration is **Science for and with Society** in dealing with the global pandemic.

ECOSF in collaboration with UNESCO, COMSATS, COMSTECH, PSF and PAS is organizing WSD-2020 on Tuesday, 10 November 2020 at COMSTECH Auditorium, Islamabad. During the event, distinguished experts and speakers will highlight many critical aspects of science including nature based-solutions for sustainable development with an emphasis on responding to COVID-19 by enhancing national capacities on STI for evidence-based policymaking.

Read more: <https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldscienceday>

Distinguished Visitors to ECOSF

October 06, 2020: Pir Syed Fazal Ali Shah, a parliamentarian from Khairpur Sindh Pakistan paid a visit to ECO Science Foundation and met the President of the Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro. The two hailing from the same area of district Khairpur discussed possible S&T and Agricultural developments in the area. Professor Soomro warmly welcomed the distinguished visitor and shared his wisdom emphasising on STEM education in the rural areas for competitiveness and innovation required for prosperity of the future generations of the region.

