

2nd Meeting of Board of Trustees (BoT) and Executive Committee of ECOSF held in Islamabad-Pakistan from 10-11 August 2015



2nd Meeting of ECOSF Board of Trustees (BoT) was successfully convened in Islamabad-Pakistan on 11 August 2015. It was preceded by the meeting the Executive Committee on 10 August 2015. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Federal Secretary to Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Ministry of Science and Technology. It was attended by the Deputy/Vice Ministers, Diplomats and Experts/Representatives of the relevant authorities of the eight (08) Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) namely; the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan.

The Executive Committee of ECOSF held on 10 August, was participated by the senior scientists and diplomats of member countries; and as per the Rules of Procedure, discussed and finalized the Agenda for 2nd Meeting of ECOSF BoT.

ECOSF initiates the 1st scientific collaboration among the ECO Member States ICCBS of the University of Karachi- Pakistan and the Institute of Chemistry of Republic of Tajikistan sign MoU for Collaboration under the auspices of ECO Science Foundation

ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), an intergovernmental specialized agency of 10 countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) region mandated to promote science and technology for economic development has initiated the first research collaboration. The collaboration agreed upon between Pakistan and Tajikistan will be among the International Centre for Chemical and Biological



Sciences (ICCBS) of the University of Karachi Pakistan and the Academy of Sciences of Republic of Tajikistan through its Institute of Chemistry.. The collaboration was agreed upon in a meeting coordinated and co-sponsored by ECOSF at ICCBS on 12 August 2015. The two sides were led by Prof. M. Iqbal Chaudhary Director of ICCBS and Prof. Zayniddin Kamarovich Muhidinov, Director of the Institute of Chemistry of Academy of Sciences of Republic of Tajikistan with the presence of President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro.

Both the sides subsequently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint research projects as well as exchange of scientists and students between the two brotherly members of ECO under the auspices and patronage of ECO Science Foundation.

Under the agreed upon programme, three important areas of research will be focused;

1. Natural Product/medicinal plant chemistry
2. Pharmacology of herbal medicine, and
3. Drug delivering system (hydrogels emulsions, etc).

It is expected that once this bilateral collaboration gets going, it can be expanded to other ECO member states as well.

ECOSF joined 1st Asian innovation Forum and became Founder Member of Asian STI Think Tanks Network (ASTN)

ECOSF upon invitation by the organizers, joined the 1st Asian Innovation Forum and also became a founder member of Asian STI Think Tanks Network (ASTN), that was launched on the occasion. The 1st Asian Innovation Forum (AIF) with the theme; "*Towards Better Asia: Seeking New Possibilities of Innovation*" was organized by Korea Institute of Science & Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP) in partnership with National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) Japan and the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED) on 25-26 August 2015 at Seoul, Republic of Korea. KISTEP is one of the leading institutions of South Korea, providing future vision and strategies, as well as promoting S&T and Innovation (STI) in Asia and the developing world.

Selected innovative leaders from Asian countries including President ECOSF were invited to join the first Asian Innovation Forum. Experts from USA and Europe also joined the Forum and shared their wisdom and experiences. Those included experts and speakers from; KISTEP, National Science & Technology Council of Korea, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), publishing giant Elsevier, OECD, NISTEP Japan and CASTED China. On behalf of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), the President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro participated and spoke in the Forum.



Group photo of 1st AIF leaders and speakers 25 August 2015

The 1st AIF was opened with the welcome remarks by the President KISTEP Dr. Youngah Park and addressed by the Chairman of National Science & Technology Council of South Korea and the Malaysian Ambassador to Seoul. Special Keynote speech was made by the Speaker of 19th National Assembly of the Republic of Korea H.E. Mr. Ui-Hwa Chung with particular reference to S&T Innovations and development in the Republic.



Dr. Youngah Park, President KISTEP (left) and Mr. Jang Moo Lee, Chairman of National Science & Technology Council, Korea speaking in the Opening Session

Finally, the Asian STI Think Tanks Network (ASTN) was launched on 26 August with an opening Keynote speech by Academician Dr. Zakri, Abdul Hamid, the Science Advisor to Prime Minister of Malaysia. It is pertinent to mention that Dr. Zakri is also the Chairman of IPBES and member of UN Secretary General's Science Advisory Board.

Subsequently, 15 S&T organizations from across Asia including ECO Science Foundation joined as the founder members of ASTN and signed a broader agreement of cooperation. The President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro signed the ASTN network agreement; that way, ECOSF became the founding member of ASTN.



Other founding member organizations include; Academy of Science , Malaysia; Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED), China; Graduate School of National Public Policy, Chungnam National University; Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI); KISTEP; Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MiGHT), Malaysia; National Agency for Technology Development (NATD), Republic of Kazakhstan; National Institute of Patent and Technology Exploitation (NIPTEx); National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP, Japan; The National Science and Technology Council, Cambodia; Qatar National Research Fund (member of Qatar Foundation) and Pardana School of STI Policy of the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

ASTN will meet each year and aims to bring together leading figures in S&T policymaking, education, and research to enable open discussion on the evolution of Asian innovation.

President ECOSF Professor Manzoor Soomro speaking to the forum, introduced ECOSF and shared his wisdom for S&T Innovation and sustainable development. He emphasized on the STI Education as a key component of societies and economies for a long term sustainable development. He said, "Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) approach for teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects is vital for inculcating inquiry, critical thinking and experimentation among the young children and youth as future leaders and innovators. That can ultimately lead to innovation and economic development. Dr. Soomro also shared that ECOSF has launched IBSE with a capacity building workshop in Astana Kazakhstan during June 22-25, 2015 and more activity has been planned for future. He invited other Asian STI Organizations and countries to adopt IBSE for teaching STEM subjects at schools for consistent supply of young innovators.



Competition for a Design of Emblem/Seal of ECOSF

A competition is being called for a design of Emblem/Seal of ECOSF among the science and art students of universities, colleges, schools of ECO Member Countries. The design may reflect science, economic development, regional landscape, etc. The best/selected design will be offered a prize of **US\$500/-** along with a certificate. The entries can be forwarded through email for inclusion in the Competition

till 30 November 2015 on following email:

registry.ecosf@eco4science.org

For further details, visit: www.eco4science.org

ECO Science Foundation and Korea Institute of Science and Technology discuss Cooperation

President ECO Science Foundation held a sideline meeting with Director of International Affairs, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) Dr. (Ms.) Eun Gyeong YANG along with Mr. Chang G. Lee Manager, International Cooperation Department of KIST on August 25, 2015, during the 1st Asian Innovation Forum in Seoul Korea. Both the Scientists having common motive of S&T promotion and development, discussed various possibilities to collaborate and cooperate.



As an initial step towards collaboration, KIST has shared with ECOSF the programme of International R&D Academy (IRDA) for the researchers (Master and Ph.D Students) in various Science fields. Under the IRDA programme, students from ECO countries can apply for admission with option to join IRDA/KIST. Scholarships are also offered on merit by the Government of Korea. Monthly stipend provided in the amount of US\$1,100 for master's students and US\$1,500 for

Ph.D. students. More details are available on the link (<http://www.eco4science.org/KIST-International-R-D-Academy-IRDA-Programme>).

President ECOSF called upon the Pakistan Ambassador in Seoul-Korea during the 1st Asian Innovation Forum

While in Seoul Korea for the 1st Asian Innovation Forum, President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro had a meeting with the Ambassador of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Zahid Nasrullah Khan in his office. President ECOSF apprised the Ambassador on 27 August 2015, about 1st Asian Innovation Forum (AIF) and launch of Asian STI Think Tanks Network (ASTN) and possibilities of cooperation between Republic of Korea and ECO member countries including Pakistan in the fields of science, technology and innovation.

Prof. Soomro gave a brief introduction of ECOSF to the Pakistan Ambassador and shared with him the major aim of the Foundation i.e., to promote as well as fund scientific and



technological research and innovation collaboration and other relevant activities among the member states and international cooperation for socioeconomic development in the ECO region.

The Ambassador appreciated the activities of ECOSF and efforts of Dr. Soomro. He also shared with President ECOSF that Korean Government has agreed to support Pakistan through a programme worth US\$500 million and that the Embassy is looking for suitable projects through the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) of the Government of Pakistan. Dr. Soomro assured Ambassador Khan for sharing the information with relevant S&T institutions in Pakistan. Later on, the Ambassador hosted a luncheon for Prof. Soomro.

President ECOSF joined the Gender Summit 6- Asia Pacific 2015 Seoul- Korea (August 27-28, 2015)

President ECOSF Prof. Manzoor Soomro during the 1st Asian Innovation Forum in Seoul also attended the Gender Summit 6- Asia Pacific 2015 on 27-28 August 2015 held at Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Gender Summit-6 was organized by National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), Korea Institute of Science and Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WISSET) and other partners. Participation of Professor Soomro was facilitated Dr. Youngah Park, the President of KISTEP, one of the main organizers. The Summit was opened by the welcoming remarks of Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning of Republic of Korea Mr. Yanghee Choi. From Pakistan, the General Secretary of Pakistan Academy of Sciences Prof. Zabta Khan Shinwari and Fellow of the Academy Prof. Azra Khanum attended the meeting; both were speakers in the Summit and Professor Shinwari chaired a session as well.



The aim of the Gender Summit 6 Asia-Pacific 2015 was to introduce compelling research evidence on benefits of addressing gender issues in science and technology to improve quality of research and innovation. The Summit connected relevant stakeholders to develop strategies on how discussions

and technological collaborations on gender diversity can open up opportunities to create new markets for scientific research and innovations.

DG Climate Change Division of Pakistan called upon the President ECOSF

Mr. Irfan Tariq, Director General Climate Change Division, Government of Pakistan and his team called upon the President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro at his office in ECOSF on 17 August 2015. Mr. Tariq discussed the proposal of ECO Secretariat to organize 6th Meeting of ECO Working Group on Environment, in Islamabad-Pakistan.

It is pertinent to mention that ECO Science Foundation in collaboration with Government of Pakistan, ECO Secretariat and ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST) had hosted and co-organized the 1st Meeting of Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity from ECO member states in Islamabad, Pakistan from 29-30 November 2013. The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Turkey, as well as the ECO Secretariat delegation had attended the meeting. In the follow up, three more meetings were held in; Nairobi (Kenya), Istanbul and Safranbolu (Turkey).

The Climate Change has become the major issue of the ECO Region including Pakistan especially with reference to floods all over the country, during the last five years and high spell of monsoon rains; which have played a havoc in the country. Climate Change is a serious issue which needs comprehensive discussion and well-coordinated programme to tackle the calamities.



Keeping in view the environmental situation in Pakistan, it was mutually agreed in principle to organize 6th Meeting of ECO Working Group on Environment in Islamabad-Pakistan tentatively in January 2016. Meanwhile, the expenditures and logistics will be worked out. President ECOSF assured all possible support for organizing the meeting.

ANAS- Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences assures the ECO Science Foundation of Cooperation and Support for Promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation

President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro visited Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) on 15 September 2015 and held meeting with the President ANAS, H.E. Academician Akif Alizadeh and his team including Vice-President ANAS Academician Ibrahim Guliyev, Secretary ANAS Academician Rasim Alguliyev, Directors of the Institutions and Organizations of ANAS, Heads of Departments and others. Main objective of the meeting was to acquaint ANAS with ECOSF and its activities and to discuss the prospects of cooperation.



The President ANAS warmly welcomed the President ECOSF on his maiden visit to the Academy. He gave a brief introduction of the Academy and its century old establishment in 1910. Academician Akif Alizadeh shared with Dr. Soomro about the celebration in November of current year as 70th anniversary of the present shape of ANAS which has vast and magnificent history. The ANAS scientists informed the guest on the scientific researches, reforms and complex actions which are carried out in Academy.



President ECOSF Professor Soomro gave a detailed presentation to the hosts about the historical background of ECOSF establishment, and its ongoing programmes, activities and plans for future. He shared with hosts, the international linkages developed by ECOSF emphasized on the need for a stronger "Cooperation and Collaboration" in S&T research institutions among the 10 ECO member countries including the Republic of Azerbaijan. Dr. Soomro further said that ECO Science Foundation will play the role of a catalyst and provides a platform to develop linkages with the S&T institutions and organizations of ECO countries as well as international organizations partnering with ECOSF.

Prof. Soomro emphasized during the discussion with Academician Akif Alizadeh that for sustainable scientific and technological development leading to economic well being, science/STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education at schools is vital and the teachers play a very critical role for proper implementation and execution of the science education programme. Thus training of school teachers by involving researchers and university faculty/scientists together with education professionals is required. He then highlighted the ECOSF programme of inquiry based science education (IBSE) recently launched in Astana-Kazakhstan and its implementation in ECO member countries together with international partners of ECOSF. Dr. Soomro also shared with the ANAS Presidium the ECOSF partnership with international organizations viz., Academy of Sciences France through its La main a la pate Foundation, International Science, Technology and Innovations (ISTIC) Malaysia and Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP) through its Science Education Programme (SEP).



Academician Alizadeh appreciated the initiatives of ECOSF and assured President Soomro of their cooperation and support. Finally, souvenirs were exchanged by the two leaders. Subsequently, President ECOSF was then taken to visit various institutions of ANAS including Institutes of Geology, Genetics, Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, Petrochemical Processes and Science Innovation Centre.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Azerbaijan assures Cooperation to ECOSF

During visit to Baku-Azerbaijan, President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, accompanied by Mr. Bunyamin from Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS), held a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Republic of Azerbaijan on 17 September 2015. On behalf of MFA, H.E. Mr. Marat Kangarlinki, Head of the Dept. of Humanitarian and Social Issues, was assigned to meet Dr. Soomro.



President ECOSF with Mr. Kangarlinki of MFA Azerbaijan (on his right) and Mr. Bunyamin of ANAS

Mr. Kangarlinski welcomed Dr. Soomro to Azerbaijan on behalf of MFA, Government of Azerbaijan. Dr. Soomro after thanking the hosts for the welcome and time for the meeting, introduced the ECOSF, its background and aims & objectives. He also shared with Mr. Kangarlinski the discussions he had with ANAS Presidium and its research institutions, the Institute of Scientific Research and Economics Reforms (ISRER) of Azerbaijan Government.

President ECOSF then emphasised on the need for ratification of ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol by the Republic of Azerbaijan, as an active member state of ECO. He also highlighted the importance of S&T Fund of the Foundation and requested Azerbaijan Government to generously contribute to the Fund for initiating collaborative research projects among the member states. Dr. Soomro further mentioned about holding a Capacity Building workshop in Baku on inquiry based science education (IBSE) in collaboration with Azeri Institutions such as ANAS, Ministry of Education, Scientific Innovation Centre of ANAS and international IBSE partners/collaborators of ECOSF.

H.E. Mr. Marat Kangarlinski took note of all the required actions to be taken by Azerbaijan and proposals made by the President ECOSF Professor Soomro, and assured that they will be pursued with the higher authorities in MFA as per their procedures. He appreciated the efforts of ECOSF and thanked Prof. Soomro for visiting the MFA. The meeting then ended with a mutual vote of thanks on both sides.

President ECOSF Visits ANAS Research Institutions in Baku- Azerbaijan

President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Professor Manzoor H. Soomro, after a formal meeting with the Presidium of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) in Baku on 15 Sept 2015, visited various institutions of ANAS on 15 & 16 Sept 2015. The visits were organized by the Department of International Cooperation of the ANAS. A brief on the visits is presented below.

1. Genetic Resources Institute (GRI): President ECOSF Professor Soomro was warmly received by the Director of the Institute Dr. Zeynal Akparov flanked by one of his deputies Dr. Mehraj. They took



President ECOSF with Director GRI Dr. Akparov

Dr. Soomro around various laboratories meeting in-charge of each lab. This institute is an asset of Azerbaijan established over 10 hectares of land and with 10,000 accessions in their gene bank. The material has been collected from across the country and preserved. It has a state of the art preservation including cryopreservation facilities as well as biotechnologically maintained genetic material and low temperature chambers. They also do the germination/propagation quality checking and testing facilities. The institute also does the breeding studies and genetic crossing with wild material indigenous to Azerbaijan. There seemed good strength in the institute and can facilitate and collaborate with similar institutions in other member countries of ECO.

Prof. Soomro thanked the Director of the Institute and his team and invited them to participate in and benefit from the programmes and activities of ECO Science Foundation, by accessing the information through the ECOSF website, facebook page and the quarterly electronic *ECOSF News*".

2. ANAS Institute of Botany- Bioadaptation

Laboratory: At the Biotechnology and Molecular Genetics Departments of the Institute, Dr. Soomro was received by the heads; Prof. Dr. Irada Huseynova and Prof. Dr. Jaja Aliyev. Though the Institute of Botany is an old institute, the two biotechnology and molecular biology are rather developing. Professor Soomro was taken around the laboratory facilities and introduced to various scientists and postgraduate students studying at the institute.



3. ANAS Science Innovation Centre:

During the visit to the Science Innovation Centre (SIC), President ECOSF had a formal meeting with the Chief/General Director of SIC Mr. Azer Namazov, the First Deputy DG Dr. Mukhtarov Mahir M. Oglu, Ms. Rafiga Agakishiyeva the head of dept of International Affairs of the SIC and other staff. The DG SIC warmly welcomed President ECOSF Professor Soomro and thanked him for visiting the SIC. The SIC scientists were apprised of ECOSF activities and a special discussion was held on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) and possible engagement of the SIC. It is pertinent to mention that on the nomination by ECOSF one SIC staff- Ms.



Rafiga Agakishiyeva had participated in IBSE *La main a la pate* International seminar in Paris and the IBSE Capacity Building workshop in Astana- Kazakhstan during the month of June 2015.

The Centre (SIC) showed strong desire to initiate IBSE in Azerbaijan, however, they requested for support including financing of a national IBSE workshop for Azerbaijan. The President ECOSF guided them how to initiate the organization of workshop and advised them to keep the main Presidium of ANAS on board. He assured them of full ECOSF support for the IBSE initiative in Azerbaijan.

4. Geology and Geophysics Institute: Dr. Soomro was warmly received at the institute by its present Director Dr. Dadash Huseynov; who took the President ECOSF around various labs and introduced him to team leaders of various research groups/labs.

This is a great institute of ANAS established over 70 years ago when in 1938, it was established as a branch of the main USSR institute Moscow. It has over 30 departments and laboratories and substations across the country. Major laboratories include; Sedimentology, Mud Volcanism, Oil & Gas Geology and Geophysics, Genesis of oil and gas formation, Oil Geochemistry, Well drilling technology, Hydrogasdynamics, Technology of oil and gas production, Oil &, Gas mining, Petrophysics, Geomagnetism, Petrophysics, Geodynamics & Seismology



President ECOSF with Director Dr. Huseynov

Mineralogy, Radon monitoring etc. The Institute also has a Museum of Natural History in Baku where Geological/Earth Sciences collections are deposited and displayed.

The Institute has been studying Mud Volcanoes around the globe and have recently published a book on the Mud Volcanoes in the World by Prof. Dr. Adil A. Aliyev. The English version of the book is expected to be published in October 2015.



Prof. Adil Aliyev presenting his book on Mud Volcanoes to Prof. Manzoor Soomro during the visit to his lab

5. Institute of Petrochemical Processes:



At the institute, President Manzoor Soomro was welcomed by the Director Academic Dr. Vagif Abbasov along with his team of scientists. He then made a power point presentation about some of the major projects of the institute including petrochemical byproducts especially Naphthalene for curing various skin diseases and burns etc.. He also showed keen interest in developing collaboration with other countries of ECO.

The President ECO Science Foundation Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro briefly introduced the Foundation and its programmes and activities so far and

invited the institute to participate in and benefit from the initiatives of ECOSF.

Azerbaijan's Institute of Scientific Research in Economic Reforms (ISRER), ECO Economic Research Center and ECO Science Foundation agree to Collaborate in Economics of STI in ECO Region

The Institute of Scientific Research in Economic Reforms (ISRER) under the Ministry of Industries and Economic Reforms of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ECO Economic Research Center and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) have agreed in principle to cooperate and collaborate to study the economics of Science, Technology and innovation (STI) in the ECO Region. This understanding was reached at a discussion between the President ECOSF Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and the Director of ISRER Azerbaijan Dr. Vilayat Valiyev and his team during a formal meeting of the two scientists at ISRER Baku- Azerbaijan on 17 Sept 2015. Dr. Vilayat Valiyev is also the lead person guiding the under process establishment of ECO Research Center (ECORC) at ISRER Baku. ISRER is engaged in using mathematical modeling in economic evaluation and projections of development projects.



For the promotion of science, technology and innovation (STI) in the ECO member states, the two teams during discussions, agreed in principle that initially, the ISRER and ECORC will develop a concept proposal to work out the model for analyses of STI projects to be considered by ECOSF. President Soomro represented the ECOSF while the ISRER/ECORC team was led by Dr. Vilayat Valiyev flanked by his team members Ms. Arzu Husenova and Ms. Aynura Ismayilova. An expert Mr. Suat Lemi Sisik from ECOMod Turkey- an ISRER collaborator, was also present on the occasion.



President ECOSF with Director ISRER of Azerbaijan Dr. Vilayat Valiyev in Baku

At the end the two sides thanked each other for the trust and cooperation. Dr. Soomro thanked Dr. Valiyev for his excellent hospitality, logistics and assistance in organizing some other meetings in Baku. Dr. Vilayat Valiyev expressed his desire to also collaborate with Pakistani institutions such as Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Islamabad. To

which Dr. Soomro assured for exploring the possibilities and feedback to ISRER accordingly.

IBSE- Key to S&T based Socio-Economic Development in ECO Region emphasized by President ECOSF

Inquiry based science education (IBSE) is the key to Science & Technology based economic development in the ECO Region emphasized Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President ECO Science Foundation in a lecture to the faculty and students of the Qafqaz University at Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

Dr. Soomro on the invitation of the Rector of Qafqaz University Baku Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sanic, visited the university on 16 September 2015 during his visit to Azerbaijan (14-17 Sept, 2015). In his lecture, Professor Soomro began with introduction and aims & objectives of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and its programmes; and presented a strategic model and steps for socioeconomic development in the ECO member countries. He emphasized that the key strategic step in the model is the "methodology of teaching" science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at primary and secondary schools. He also highlighted on the curricula of STEM subjects.

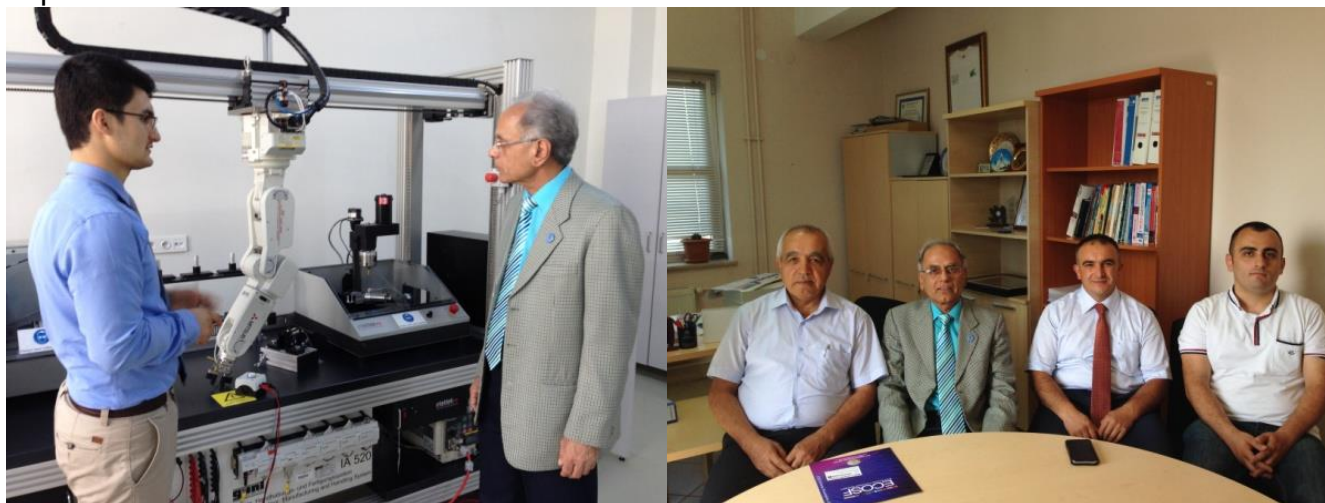
He said that it has been proven with evidence from around the world that the best way to learn is through the inquiry based science education (IBSE); which is being stressed upon and practiced by the developed world and many developing countries are also pursuing this.



Speaking about the strategy of ECOSF for promoting socioeconomic development in the ECO member states, Dr. Soomro said that IBSE for teaching STEM subjects at schools is to be linked with higher education and Industrial sectors, thereby bringing all main stakeholders together, i.e., children, scientists/researchers and industry (as end-user). He shared with the audience which included the Rector of the University himself that ECOSF had initiated implementation of IBSE in ECO member states in collaboration with some of the major global players in IBSE. Those global IBSE promoters that are now partners of ECOSF include; *La main a la pate* Foundation of France, International Science, Technology and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) at Kuala Lumpur Malaysia and the Science Education Programme (SEP) of the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP) as well as the relevant national organizations /National Academies of Sciences and the Ministries. It is pertinent to mention that IAP is a global network of 107 National Academies of Sciences around the world.

At the end of lecture and Q&A session was held and President ECOSF answered queries of students and faculty of Qafqaz University. Finally the Rector Professor Sanic thanked Prof. Soomro for taking time to lecture at the university and visit their labs, and presented him the university souvenir.

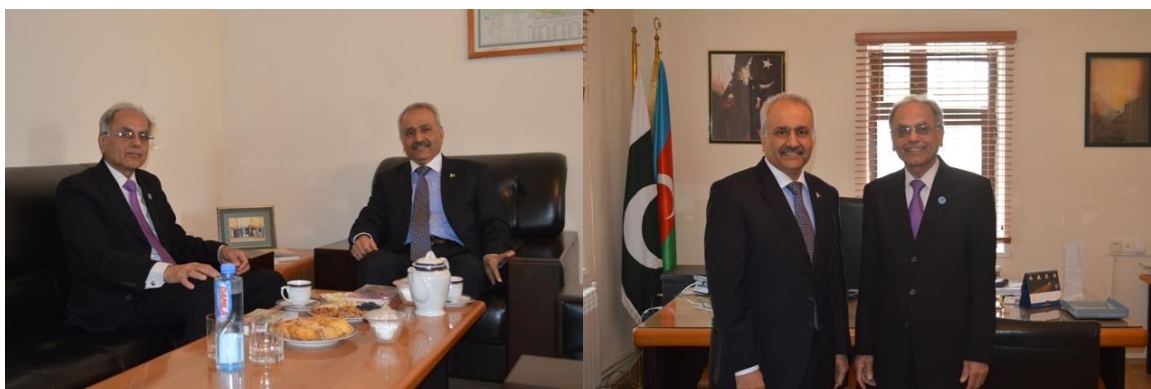
Earlier, Dr. Soomro also visited the teaching laboratories and Innovation Centre of the Qafqaz University, and had discussions with the Deans of faculties of Engineering and Education for future cooperation.



President ECVOSF visiting the Mechanical Engineering labs and meeting with the Faculty of Engineering at Qafqaz University, Baku- Azerbaijan

President ECOSF calls upon the Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan in Baku

President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro during his visit to Baku Azerbaijan (14-17) called upon the Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Khalid Usman Qaiser on 17 Sept 2015 in the Embassy of Pakistan at Baku. President ECOSF apprised the Ambassador about his meetings with different organizations during his visit to Baku; which included, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) and its Institutes of Geology, Genetics, Biotechnology, Petrochemical processes and Science Innovation Centre; Qafqaz University; the Institute of Scientific Research in Economic Reforms (ISRER) under the Ministry of Industries and Economic Reforms as well as the ECO Research Center; which is housed at ISRER. Prof. Soomro gave a brief introduction of ECOSF to the Pakistan Ambassador and shared with him the major aims and objectives of the Foundation; i.e., to promote as well as fund scientific and technological research and innovation collaboration and other relevant activities among the member states. Dr. Soomro also sought cooperation of Pakistan Embassy in strengthening the linkage between Azerbaijani S&T Institutions and ECOSF, as well as with Pakistani research Institutions/universities.



The Ambassador thanked Dr. Soomro for taking time to visit the Embassy and updating him about ECOSF activities and his discussions with Azerbaijani S&T institutions. Ambassador Khalid U. Qaiser appreciated the efforts of ECO Science Foundation for promotion of S&T research and education in the ECO region. He assured Embassy's full cooperation to ECOSF initiatives in Azerbaijan and said that these initiatives will also complement the efforts of Pakistan Embassy in promoting bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan- the friendly countries.

96th Independence Day of Afghanistan was marked by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Islamabad

The 96th Independence Day of Republic of Afghanistan was marked by its Embassy on 18 August 2015 in a local hotel here in Islamabad. Afghan Independence Day is celebrated in Afghanistan on 19 August to commemorate the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919. The treaty granted complete independence from Britain; although Afghanistan was never a part of the British Empire.



President ECOSF (right) is being welcomed by the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan

The British fought three wars with Afghanistan. Chief Guest of the Ceremony was Minister for Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain. President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro was among the large number of dignitaries including Ministers, Member Parliaments, Senior Government Officials from Pakistan, Diplomats, Political Leaders, Religion Scholars, etc, who attended the magnificent ceremony.

ECOSF Website and Social Media Aspects

The ECOSF's dynamic website and Facebook Page are continuously providing variety of information on science, technology and innovation to its visitors through news of conferences, training workshops and scientific developments & discoveries. The visitors can take benefits by visiting ECOSF website and facebook page and apply for different programs and opportunities.

Some selected activities from the large stuff of ECOSF website and facebook are highlighted below: (the full listing is available on the ECOSF website (www.eco4science.org) and Facebook ([facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ECOScienceFoundation)))

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - International Climate Protection Fellowship

With the International Climate Protection Fellowships, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation enables prospective leaders to conduct a research-based project in the field of climate protection and climate-related resource conservation during a one-year stay in Germany. For more details, visit following link: <http://www.eco4science.org/Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation-International-Climate-Protection-Fellowship>

Reminder: Contribute to IPBES e-conferences

IPBES: We would kindly reiterate our invitation to register and contribute to the now ongoing e-conferences which are scoping (a) the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control (Deliverable 3bii) and (b) the thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools (Deliverable 3biii). More details, visit following link: <http://www.eco4science.org/Reminder-Contribute-to-IPBES-e-conferences>

Call for 29th Khwarizmi International Award

The 29th Khwarizmi International Award will be held in Tehran - Iran in February 2016. The Award is held annually to recognize the outstanding scientific achievements made by researchers, inventors and innovators from all over the world, Khwarizmi International Award accepts entries in the fields of aerospace, civil engineering, mechanics, agriculture, natural resources, animal sciences & veterinary medicine, electrical & computer, mechatronics, basic sciences, industry & technology management, medical sciences, biotechnology, environment & basic medical sciences, information technology, nanotechnology, chemical technology and materials & metallurgy.

The research works shall fall in the categories including applied research, fundamental research, research & development, invention & innovation.

Following are key dates:

10th November 2015 - Deadline for Submission

January 2016 - Announcement to the KIA Laureates

February 2016 - Award Ceremony

Details: <http://www.eco4science.org/Call-for-29th-Khwarizmi-International-Award>

Asian Regional School on FPGA Design for Scientific Applications, 7 - 18 December 2015 Jamshoro – Pakistan

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP, Italy) and the Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET, Pakistan), will jointly organize the Asian Regional School on FPGA Design for Scientific Applications to be held in Jamshoro, Pakistan, from 7 to 18 December 2015.

Scientists and students from Asian countries that are members of the United Nations, UNESCO or IAEA may attend. As the School will be conducted in English, so participants should have an adequate working knowledge of it. **More details are available at:** <http://www.eco4science.org/Asian-Regional-School-on-FPGA-Design-for-Scientific-Applications-7-18-December-2015-Jamshoro-Pakistan>

4th Annual International Conference on Agricultural and Water resources management, Health, Energy and Climate Change

4th Annual International Conference on Agricultural and Water resources management, Health, Energy and Climate Change+holding in London from 1st . 6th October, 2015.

Important Dates to note:

- **25th August, 2015 Deadline for abstract submission**
- **1st September, 2015 Notification of acceptance**
- **15th September, 2015 Deadline for full paper submission**
- **1st – 6th October, 2015 Conference dates**

For details: <http://www.eco4science.org/-4th-Annual-International-Conference-on-Agricultural-and-Water-resources-management-Health-Energy-and-Climate-Change>

E-conference on scoping the assessments on invasive alien species and sustainable use of biodiversity:

IPBES invites governments and prospective experts with relevant knowledge and/or experience to review and further develop the initial scoping for (a) the thematic of assessment invasive alien species and their control (Deliverable 3bii) and (b) the thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools (Deliverable 3biii). **Details at:** <http://www.eco4science.org/E-conference-on-scoping-the-assessments-on-invasive-alien-species-and-sustainable-use-of-biodiversity>

Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World

Since 2012 the Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World recognize the achievements of researchers who have made significant contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge. The program is run by TWAS, the academy of sciences for the developing world, the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) and the Elsevier Foundation.

Details at: <http://www.eco4science.org/Elsevier-Foundation-Awards-for-Early-Career-Women-Scientists-in-the-Developing-World>

Opportunities in IIASA, Vienna, Austria

Based in Laxenburg, near Vienna, Austria, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) conducts multidisciplinary policy-oriented research into persistent global problems that are too large or too complex to be solved by a single country or academic discipline. Funded by 23 member countries in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Africa, IIASA uses advanced applied systems analysis to provide impartial, science-based insights to policymakers on issues of global change and sustainable development. Over 300 scientists from 45 countries conduct research at IIASA in collaboration with some 2,500 associated and visiting scientists from 65 countries.

For more details: <http://www.eco4science.org/Opportunities-in-IIASA-Vienna-Austria>

KIST International R&D Academy (IRDA) Programme

The IRDA consists of a master's and doctoral program, supported by the Korean government, for international students from a wide range of countries.

IRDA also offers full funded scholarships.

For more details, please visit: <http://www.eco4science.org/KIST-International-R-D-Academy-IRDA-Programme>
