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Chairman
Pakistan Science Foundation



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From the Chairman



The importance of biodiversity is very little known and different ecosystems are being destroyed in the name of development by the human beings, whereas the nature and all the creatures that contribute to make it what it is need to be loved and protected for our own survival. Our planet is remarkably abundant with natural resources like plants and animals which are our food baskets and there's more than enough for all of its inhabitants. It is the greed and shortsightedness of people that create the illusion of scarcity of resources as we are paying no or very little attention to sustainability and conservation of our natural wealth.

International Day for Biodiversity will be celebrated on May 22. This year's theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" reflects the importance of efforts made at all levels to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda for the

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PSF Participates in S&T Expo/Symposium at Lahore



Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for S&T and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF, address the Symposium on Effective Linkage Between Industry and Academia at PCSIR Laboratories Complex, Lahore.

The Ministry of Science and Exhibition and Symposium at National Development". Rana Technology (S&T) in PCSIR Complex, Lahore on Tanveer Hussain, Federal collaboration with S&T April 13, 2015. The theme of the organizations and regional Symposium was "The Chambers of Commerce and Role/Linkages of Research, Industry organized S&T Academia & Industry for



Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for S&T gives a shield to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF at the Symposium on Effective Linkage Between Industry and Academia at PCSIR Laboratories Complex, Lahore.

Mr. Hasnat Qureshi joins PSF as Member Finance



Mr. Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi, an officer of the Department of Auditor General of Pakistan, Islamabad, has joined Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) as Member Finance. The position was vacant for the last two years. Mr. Qureshi has foreign education in public finance from UK and in human resource management from Canada. He has over 20 years experience in public sector

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Put Price Tag on Research Results, Secretary Directs Scientists



IBSE Priority Area of IOSTE Symposium in Turkey



"Essential Skills for new age Information professionals"



From the Chairman

period of 2015-2030 and the relevance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development.

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), which strongly believes in the notion that science is the key to development, is making its all out efforts for promotion and popularization of science in the country. The Foundation is making its all out efforts for sustainable development in the country and its subsidiary organization Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) through different displays is imparting invaluable education to visitors about conservation of natural resources. It is creating awareness among general public that our fate is linked to biological diversity – the variety of life on earth, as biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and human well-being. It is crucial to the reduction of poverty, due to the basic goods and ecosystem services it provides. In collaboration with International Organizations like UNESCO and other stakeholders it making efforts to get declared different ecosystems as biosphere reserves in order to conserve the biodiversity for sustainable development. But these efforts are not enough and we need to take some urgent measures at public and private levels to reverse the damage being done to the biodiversity through pollution, deforestation, over-hunting, over-grazing and soil erosion etc. Focus on local communities' involvement in this process is very important. PMNH has planned different activities to celebrate International Biodiversity Day to create awareness among masses about the importance of biodiversity on May 22. People are invited to visit the Museum and participate in the national and international cause of biodiversity conservation.

financial management, administration and auditing. Before joining the PSF, he worked on important positions such as Chief Finance and Accounts Officer, Federal Shariat Court; Director, Foreign and Internal Audits, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad; Director, Federal Government Audit Consultant, Local Government Finance Think Tank, UNDP and Director, Inspection and Vigilance, Ministry of Finance etc.

From page 1 Expo in Lahore

Minister for S&T was the Chief Guest at inaugural ceremony of the symposium, which was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF. PSF also set up its stall in the exhibition. Two animated dinosaur models were part of

the stall. All the visitors took keen interest in PSF stall. The Federal Minister along with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, S.I., Chairman PSF visited the stall. In the end, Federal Minister S&T presented appreciation shield to the Chairman PSF.



Federal Minister for S&T and Chairman PSF visiting the stall of PSF during S&T Expo held in Lahore.

MoST Honours Officers for Highlighting S&T Achievements on Pakistan Day Put Price Tag on Research Results, Secretary Directs Scientists



Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi, Secretary MoST, presides over certificate awards ceremony at PSF on April 9, 2015. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF is also present.

Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) in collaboration with Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) organized an Appreciation Certificate and Shields Awarding Ceremony at PSF on April 09, 2015 to honour the officers and staff of MoST and its attached departments who took part in preparation of the Float that participated in Pakistan Day's Joint Services Parade on March 23, 2015 and highlighted S&T achievements. Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi, Federal Secretary MoST was the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF was also present on this occasion.

Mr. Qureshi said motivation is the basic thing to accomplish any task without any financial resources and with motivation one can do miracles. The Secretary said that when he was appointed as Secretary MoST all the organizations working under the Ministry were without heads and they were rudderless-ships. Mr. Qureshi said that the Ministry took this responsibility and in a transparent way selected heads of the organizations purely on merit. He said that the new heads had now started showing wonderful results within very short time. It was an honour for the MoST that out of 40 ministries it was the only one having

representation in Pakistan Day Parade, he added.

Mr. Qureshi said that establishment of Hilal Food Authority and extension of Pakistan's continental shelf up to 50,000 sq. kilometers were the other remarkable accomplishments of the Ministry during his term as the secretary. He said that the establishment of Hilal Food Authority would result into providing Pakistan access to a



Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi, Secretary MoST, gives shield to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF at the awards ceremony.

Quote of the Month

To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.

—Albert Einstein

market of trillion dollars. He directed the scientists that results of scientific research should not be a free lunch for its users. He asked them to put some price tag on it. "We must realize that funds given by the government must be used judiciously," he stressed.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf said that the staff of MoST and its attached departments including PSF worked day and night for fabrication of the float in the shortest possible time and showcased it in the event held after a gap of seven years to highlight achievements of Pakistan in the field of S&T.

The highest level leadership, general public and print as well



Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi, Secretary MoST and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF award certificate to an officer of PMNH.

as electronic media largely appreciated the float and this success was only due to the devotion of MoST team and vision of its top management, he added.

The Chairman said that during monitoring of PSF funded projects he de-ciphered four success stories including development of bio-geyser and cultivation of mushroom and its supply to hotels on commercial

basis.

Dr. Zaheer Hussain, Assistant Scientific Advisor MoST, briefing the participants of the function about fabrication of the float said that it was a huge task which was accomplished within a very short time and the MoST emerged as a very vibrant entity. He said MoST, PSF, International Council of Museums (ICoM) Pakistan and attached departments of the

Ministry took part in fabrication of the float and their work is commendable.

At the end, the Chief Guest, Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi and Chairman PSF, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf awarded shields and certificates to officers and staff as a token of appreciation and encouragement.

Those who were awarded on this occasion included Mr. Nawazish Ali Shah, Joint Scientific Advisor MoST, Mr. Akhtar Javed, President International Council of Museums (ICoM) Pakistan, Dr. Muhammad Khan Leghari, DG PMNH, Dr. S. Zaheer Hussain, Assistant Scientific Advisor Policy and Coordination Wing of MoST, Mr. Rahat Saeed, Operational Manager PMNH, Mr. Muhammad Abbas, Associate Curator PMNH, Syed Nusrat Hussain Zaidi, Senior Graphic Artist PSF and Engr. Umer Farooq from NUST.



Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi, Secretary MoST, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Dr. Zaheer Hussain, Assistant Scientific Advisor MoST, address the certificates and shields awards ceremony at PSF on April 9, 2015.

Inquiry Based Science Education Priority Area of IOSTE Symposium in Turkey

The International Organization for Science and Technology Education (IOSTE) organized "IOSTE Eurasia Regional Symposium & Brokerage Event Horizon 2020" on April 24-26, 2015 at Istanbul, Turkey for providing information about EU Horizon 2020 calls for proposals and bringing all stakeholders together to promote partnerships. The educationists, scientists and researchers from 30 countries around the world participated in this event. Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) was designated as priority area of working for the promotion of science in this 3-day event.

PSF in collaboration with Embassy of France, Islamabad has implemented IBSE program in Pakistan and it is the Focal Organization for EU Research and Innovation Program



Glimpses of "IOSTE Eurasia Regional Symposium & Brokerage Event Horizon 2020" held on April 24-26, 2015 at Istanbul, Turkey.

Horizon-2020 in Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Focal Person of PSF for International Linkages visited Turkey and participated in the event to explore more opportunities of cooperation and coordination with Turkey and other EU countries in different disciplines of science. They exchanged views with the participants from other countries about the IBSE method for the teaching of science in other countries and its



adoptability. Chairman PSF pledged to avail the opportunity to utilize the experience and knowledge of other countries' educationists for the improvement of teaching method of science in Pakistan. They also tried to identify some partners to promote and support IBSE in Pakistan. Abstracts of the PSF presentation on Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in Poster Presentation form were accepted by the organizers.

During the Symposium, Prof.



Dr. Muhammad Ashraf and Dr. Mirza Habib Ali presented a paper on "IBSE in Pakistan: Issues in Implementation and Students' Assessment" on April 24, 2015. The paper highlighted the low literacy rate and extremely low scientific manpower that need in-depth renewal of Education System in Pakistan by introducing new teaching methodologies with emphasis on IBSE. PSF has a strong Network with 15 Sub-Offices in various cities and towns of the country. Almost, all

universities are on clientele list of PSF and running research projects funded by it. In addition, PSF has developed contacts with schools at grassroots level for developing science culture in the society. PSF and Academie des science France has signed MoU, mainly for conducting joint activities such as conferences and workshops on IBSE for promotion of science education. As a follow-up of the symposium in Turkey, PSF will organize an international seminar on IBSE in Pakistan. Scientists and educationists from England, Turkey and France will be invited to train educationists and scientists about IBSE proposals preparation in order to get funding available from Horizon – 2020 for IBSE.

Joint Committee Being Formed for Implementation of PSF-TÜB TAK MoU

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Focal Person of PSF for International Linkages visited Turkey for participation in the “IOSTE Eurasia Regional Symposium & Brokerage Event Horizon 2020”. They also visited the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜB TAK), Ankara, on April 28. They held



A group photo of Dr. Orkun Hasekioglu, Vice President of TUBITAK, Turkey and Harkan Karatas, Director International Cooperation, TUBITAK with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Focal Person International Linkages, PSF, during the visit to TUBITAK on April 28, 2015.

a meeting with Dr. Orkun Hasekioglu, Vice President of TUBITAK and Harkan Karatas, Director International Cooperation, TUBITAK. Both the sides briefed each other about the programs of their respective organizations and thoroughly discussed various areas of collaboration. It was mutually agreed that a Joint Committee comprising six

members (three members each from Pakistan and Turkey) will be formed for implementation of the MoU between PSF and TUBITAK. The formation of Joint Committee is also part of the MoU as mentioned in Article 5. PSF and TÜB TAK signed a MoU on 17th of September, 2013 at Ankara, Turkey to strengthen scientific and technological co-operation between Pakistan and Turkey on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The Chairman PSF vowed to implement the MoU in letter and spirit.

Under the MoU, PSF and TÜB TAK will initiate Joint Research Development Projects in the areas of Natural Sciences, Energy, Earth Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Inventions & Innovations.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF gives a presentation on PSF programs and Initiatives at TUBITAK, Ankara, Turkey on April 28, 2015.

Exchange of individual scientists for the purpose of conducting research work, exchange of information about ongoing research activities, adaptation of new scientific methods, delivering lectures, establishing new scientific contacts for developing joint projects, attending scientific events is part of the MoU. PSF and TÜB TAK will collaborate within the context of participation in European Union Program FP7/Horizon 2020).

PSF, TiKA Set to Popularize Dual Technology of Bio-Geyser

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF visited Turkey on April 28. Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Focal Person of PSF for Eurasia Regional Symposium & Brokerage Event Horizon 2020”. He also visited the Turkish Cooperation and Nurdun, Head of Department



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Focal Person International Linkages, PSF, with Dr. Rahman Nurdun, Head of Department East and South Asia, Pacific and Latin America, TiKA, Turkey.

East and South Asia, Pacific and Latin America, TiKA, Turkey.

Both the sides briefed each other about programs of their respective organizations and thoroughly discussed various areas of collaboration. Dr. Rahman Nurdun said Head of TiKA Pakistan will soon visit PSF to discuss various ideas that can be materialized for country-based projects. He showed keen interest in launching joint projects in Northern Areas of Pakistan to uplift socio-economic conditions of the common man.

They also discussed a joint project titled “Pilot Scale demonstration and popularization of dual



Dr. Rahman Nurdun, Head of Department East and South Asia, Pacific and Latin America, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TiKA), Turkey, presents a souvenir to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF during the latter's visit to TiKA, Turkey.

technology of Bio-Geyser with agro-waste composting” to overcome sever energy crisis in Pakistan.

Chairman PSF Calls on Turkish Ambassador

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) will initiate collaboration in science and technology.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF, held a meeting with H.E. Sadik Babür Girgin, Ambassador of Turkey at the Turkish Embassy on April 20, 2015. Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, PSF's Focal Person for International Linkages and R. Demet Sekercioglu, Deputy Head of Mission also attended the meeting.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and H.E. Sadik Babür Girgin, Ambassador of Turkey, discuss collaboration in science and technology between the two brotherly countries.

Dr. Ashraf apprised the Memorandum of Ambassador about a Understanding (MoU) on

scientific collaboration between PSF and TUBITAK.

The PSF Chairman and the Turkish Ambassador discussed initiation of joint research projects by the Foundation and TUBITAK. The PSF Chairman said he would shortly visit Turkey for implementation of the MoU.

The Turkish Ambassador assured the PSF Chairman that he would extend his full support in developing and strengthening the science and technology linkages between the two brotherly countries.

Pak-US Joint Scientific Research Program Being Re-activated

Pak-US joint scientific research program is being reactivated to strengthen mutual cooperation in science and technology between the two countries and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and US National Science Foundation (NSF) is also in the offing.

Mr. David J. Williams, Agriculture Counselor, Foreign Agriculture Service, US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Embassy of United States of America, called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF on April 3, 2015. Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, PSF's Focal Person for International Linkages, also attended the

meeting aimed at launching some new joint initiatives in the field of science.

Dr. Ashraf informed Mr. Williams that the spectrum of PSF for international collaboration is very broad. He briefed him about PSF's different programs such as Research Support, R&D Industry and Natural Sciences



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Mr. David J. Williams, Agriculture Counselor, Embassy of United States of America, discuss Pak-US scientific research initiatives.

Linkages Program (NSLP). The Chairman said to reactivate Pak-US joint Research Program, which was dormant due to funds shortage on part of Ministry of Science and Technology, is being reactivated and now PSF under the NSLP program will fund some of the projects. Dr. Ashraf said this step has been taken

recently to expand the mandate of NSLP. He appreciated the US contribution for promotion of science in Pakistan, especially in the field of agriculture.

The Chairman there is an urgent need of Memorandum of Understanding between PSF and American NSF. He said they are planning a visit to US in May or June in connection with the MoU with NSF of America and exploring opportunities of cooperation with other similar organizations such as the Rockefeller Foundation. Mr. William extended his full support to the visit saying that they would facilitate it by figuring out the right persons for meetings in US in order to boost the cooperation in S&T.

Production of Humic Acid Starts from the PSF-NSLP Funded Project

Natural Sciences Linkage Programme (NSLP) is focusing on curtail of the country's import bill by supporting local industry. In this regard, NSLP has funded a project "To Speed up the Pilot Plant Production of Humic Acid" at Fuel Research Centre, PCSIR Laboratories Complex, Karachi.

Humic Acid is widely known as the soil conditioner and improver and is also known to improve the plant growth. The

project is based on the concept of local production of Humic acid to be further exploited as an efficient fertilizer. The Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation, Prof. Dr.



The Chairman PSF, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf examining the Humic Acid Production Unit FRC, PCSIR, Karachi.

Muhammad Ashraf, visited the pilot plant production unit of Humic acid at Fuel Research Centre, PCSIR Laboratories Complex, Karachi on April 16, 2015. The Chairman PSF lauded the efforts of scientists for the successful production of Humic acid at pilot scale. He stressed the need for distribution of humic acid on commercial scale by employing proper marketing team to attain maximum benefit from the research results.

NSLP Monitoring Team Visits Research Projects in Karachi

Natural Sciences Linkage Programme is presently providing financial assistance to 77 research projects across the country. Amongst them four projects are running successfully at different institutes including University of Karachi, HEJ Institute of Chemistry and PCSIR Laboratories Complex Karachi. Onsite monitoring of NSLP funded projects is regularly conducted by PSF-NSLP team and members of PSF Technical Committees to achieve the promising results from research projects.

The Chairman PSF/Chief Executive NSLP, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Director General PASTC, Dr.



DCSF 6940 & DCSF 6951: Chairman PSF, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf monitoring the progress of PSF-NSLP Funded Project at National Nematological Research Centre, (NNRC), University of Karachi.

Muhammad Akram Sheikh and Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Principal Scientific Officer NSLP visited Karachi to review and evaluate the technical progress and address any issues pertaining to project execution on April 16, 2015.

The projects were monitored onsite and issues regarding

implementation were discussed with the Principal Investigators. The team observed that all the projects were running smoothly without any major hurdle. The Chairman PSF also explained the priorities of Foundation to researchers for submitting research projects under NSLP.

PSF Screening Committee Reviews Research Proposals under NSLP

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF/Chief Executive Natural Science Linkages Program (NSLP) has constituted a PSF Screening Committee to review research proposals received by Foundation for funding. A meeting of the Screening Committee was held on April 02, 2015, which was presided over by the Chairman PSF/Chief Executive NSLP. The Committee reviewed 152 projects in detail keeping in view the national needs.

National Science Complex on the Cards

The President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences on Tuesday floated the idea of National Science Complex.

Prof. Dr. Anwar Nasim, President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) on April 7, 2015. They discussed the matters pertaining to development of science in the country. Dr. Anwar Nasim floated the idea of National Science Complex to use it as a tool for promoting national development, peace and prosperity. He said that coincidentally scientific organizations such as Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan Science Foundation, Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Pakistan Medical Research Council, Pakistan Engineering Council, OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and

Technological Cooperation (COMSTech) and the Secretariat of Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) are situated in one area of less than half kilometer radius along Constitution Avenue, Islamabad. He said that the area should be declared as National Science Complex that should work as a road to national prosperity through a unified and holistic approach. He sought cooperation of the PSF



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Prof. Dr. Anwar Nasim, President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences discuss the idea of National Science Complex on April 7, 2015

Chairman. Prof. Dr. Ashraf extended his full support to get declared this area as National Science Complex to achieve national development through science and technology. They agreed

upon holding a meeting soon to take up the matter with the government for getting this idea materialized. Both the scientists also discussed the evolution of science in Pakistan. Both renowned scientists also discussed evolution of science in Pakistan. They said that it should be explicitly documented with the help of all those scientists who have information on how Pakistani science has evolved since the creation of the country.

PSF, ECOSF to Launch Joint Activities for Promotion of Science

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad

Ashraf, Chairman PSF on April 7, 2015. Both the sides discussed areas of cooperation for promotion of science in region, particularly in

Pakistan. They agreed to boost coordination between the two organizations for betterment of scientific research and education. It is pertinent to mention that Dr. Soomro also headed PSF as its chairman before nomination as President ECOSF and he has deep love for the Foundation. During the meeting they identified activities and programs to be initiated jointly by PSF and ECOSF.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF discuss areas of cooperation for promotion of science in Pakistan.

S&T Pavilion at Islamabad Expo 2015 Attracts Public

Pakistan Science Foundation and Industry Islamabad (PSF) and its subsidiary organizations including Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) and Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) in collaboration with Women Chamber of Commerce

organized a Science & Technology (S&T) Pavilion at Jinnah Convention Centre Islamabad on April 18-19, 2015. This S&T Pavilion was set up under science outreach program of the Foundation. The main objectives of the event were to promote Science and Technology among public, bridge the gap between science and society, develop Public-Private Partnerships and build a knowledge-based highly productive and competitive Economy.

To generate public interest in astronomy and science, a series of Planetarium shows by PSF were also held to project the night sky with information on constellations and planets. Showcase of stuffed animals, gem stones and edible mushrooms was displayed by PMNH to provide information about biodiversity wealth of Pakistan. Science & Technology documentaries were also screened by PASTIC to develop people's interest in Science and Technology. The S&T Pavilion attracted a large number of general public including children and students. PMNH stall was award with shield for its exhibits that attracted a large number of visitors.



Kids learning about space in planetarium show at S & T Pavilion during Islamabad Expo 2015



Kids taking interest in stuffed animals at Pakistan Museum of Natural History stall during Islamabad Expo 2015.

PSF Selects 8 Students for Participation in ASC-15 in Thailand

Capacity building of Pakistani youth and sponsoring them for participation in International Scientific events is one of the important activities of PSF. The Foundation is striving for popularization of science among the youth and motivating them towards science education. In this connection, PSF invited applications from regular science students (16-21 Years of age) to compete for participation in Asian Science

Camp (ASC-2015) to be held on August 2-8, 2015 at Patumthani, Thailand. ASC-2015 is a forum, where the young students can share their ideas and projects with fellow students and eminent scientists/Nobel Laureates. For selection of 8 students for participation in the camp, test and interviews were conducted on April 22, 2015 at PASTIC National Centre, QAU, Islamabad. On the basis of test



Selection Board interviewing a student for participation in ASC-2015

score, shortlisted students were Butt, Aamir Zaryab, Hamna Ashraf and Muhammad Farhan Uddin Salik were selected by a panel of eminent scientists for participation in ASC-15.

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Chairman PSF Visits Science Caravan KPK and Tandojam Units

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, S.I., Chairman, PSF, visited offices of Science Caravan, Peshawar, and Tandojam units



The Chairman PSF during his visit to Science Caravan KPK Unit Peshawar

on March 30 and April 15, 2015 respectively. During his visit to Peshawar Unit, Mr. Haider Zaman Khattak, Secretary PSF and Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, PSO (NSLP) also accompanied him. He met with the officials of the unit. Mr. Sher Ali Baz, Assistant Director briefed the Chairman about the unit.

During his visit to Tandojam Unit, Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General, PASTIC and Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Principal Scientific Officer, PSF accompanied him. A brief meeting was held with the officials of the unit and some issues and progress report was discussed. Mr. Khalid Hussain Soomro,

Assistant Director briefed the Chairman about the unit.



A group photo of of Chairman PSF Dr. Muhammad Ashraf and DG PASTIC Dr. Akram Shaikh with the staff of Science Caravan Tandojam Unit

IBSE Training Session at Thoba, Rawalpindi

Science Caravan Federal Unit arranged a one-day training session for the teachers of Thoba District Rawalpindi on April 19, 2015 at the Academy Higher Secondary School, Thoba.

Ms. Zaiban Farooq and Mr. Asadullah conducted the training session. In the day-long interactive session the teachers were introduced with the Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) approach for teaching. Hands on activities under IBSE were also carried out in the session.

All the teachers and Principal of the school appreciated the activity. Over than 25 teachers participated in the training session.



IBSE Session arranged at Thoba District Rawalpindi

Science Caravan Exhibitions



A view of Science Exhibition arranged by Science Caravan Federal Unit at a school

Federal: Science Caravan from seven schools visited the Federal Unit arranged a 5-day Science Caravan Exhibition at the Academy Higher Secondary School, Thoba, Distt. Rawalpindi on April 6-10, 2015. Over 950 students and teachers

from seven schools visited the Science Caravan Federal Unit arranged Planetarium Show and Scientific Model exhibit during the Annual Science Exhibition of Roots International Schools,

Rawalpindi on April 29, 2015. The Sukkur Unit arranged Science Caravan Exhibition at GHS Gambat, District Khairpur GGCMS-1 Saidu Sharif, Mir's on April 21 to May 05, 2015. In which more than Over 1,376 students and 26 16,000 students, teachers from 14 schools participated.

UNESCO Balochistan: The Jaffarabad Disaster Master Kits were also distributed among the schools. A 2-day science exhibition was arranged at Bright Future Academy Peshawar on April 14-15, 2015, which was participated by 413 students and 11 teachers.

Sindh: The Science Caravan the schools. Deputy Tandojam Unit, Sindh, arranged Science Caravan Exhibition at Fawad Gafar Soomro along with D.D.O, Haji Naveed Hashmi and Principal Govt. Girls School inaugurated the exhibition at Uthal on April 15, 2015.



Students viewing a scientific documentary arranged by Jafarabad Unit at a school



Students are being briefed about Scientific Models during Caravan Exhibition arranged by Sukkur Unit

Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH)

Editor: Dr. Saleem Ahmad, Curator

PMNH Stall at Kharian Attracts Large Crowd

Pakistan Museum of Natural History/PSF displayed an educational stall on the Annual Spring Flower Festival show 2015, organized by Cantonment Board, Kharian Cantt., Kharian, from 9th to 11th April. The main objective of this event was to enhance awareness among people of the area about the importance of tree plantation and flowers for healthy environment. Keeping in view the request of the organizing committee of Cantonment Board of Kharian, PMNH displayed educational stall on the event with flora and fauna of the country. More than 50 different kinds of stalls were

displayed by different organizations in the event. About thirty thousand people from different walks of life visited the stalls. PMNH stall remained the eye catcher among the young students of schools, colleges and universities of the area. The PMNH team headed by Dr. Muhammad Ismail Bhatti, Associate Curator, BSD, briefed visitors about the role of the Pakistan Museum of Natural History in the country as well as replies to the questions raised by them. Major General Zafar ul Haq, Garrison Commander 37 Division, Kharinan Cantt. was the Chief Guest of the occasion. He visited PMNH



PMNH stall at Flower Festival show 2015, organized by Cantonment Board, Kharian Cantt.

stall and appreciated the role of Pakistan Museum of Natural History in the country. Organizing committee awarded a special Shield to PMNH in the recognition of great educational activity on the event.

Work on Ocean Diorama Starts

A team of PMNH scientists and artists led by Dr. Muhammad Rafique Director ZSD, visited coastal areas of Balochistan and Sindh. Dr. Ghazala Roohi, Director ESD, Dr. Khalid Mahmood Curator ZSD, Dr.

Muhammad Ismail Bhatti Associate Curator BSD, Dr. Syed Aneel Gilani Associate Curator BSD, Mr. Rahat Saeed Operational Manager PSD and Dr. Shabbir Ali Amir Research Associate ZSD were part of the

tour meant for collection of samples and photography of the habitat, fauna and flora of these areas to be used in the development of the new Marine Diorama in the PMNH Display Centre.

PMNH Extends Visiting Timing of Display Centre

Considering the summer season PMNH has opened the Display Galleries for its visitors from 8:00 am to 8:00pm. This extended time has been arranged in two equal shifts, first from 8 AM to 2 PM and the second from 2 PM to 8 PM. In this month over 7,000 persons visited PMNH display galleries. The visitors included 4,100 students and 15 foreigners, while the rest were general public. Many student groups from various universities, schools and colleges from all over Pakistan visited PMNH display galleries. These included students and teachers from educational institutes like University of

Swabi; QA University, Graduate College, Haripur; GC Islamabad; Winnington School, Khewra; Jinnah Standard School, Gujrat; Suffa College, Gojra; Beacon House School, Islamabad; Govt. Post



A group of young school children visiting PMNH Display Centre in April

Field Work at Lal Suhanra Biosphere Reserve and National Park

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Curator and Mr. Muhammad Asif Khan Associate Curator, ZSD carried out 7-day field work in Bahawalpur district to collect insects and small mammal fauna from Lal Suhanra Biosphere Reserve and National Park, Bahawalpur.

Presentation on Resolution of Oriental Fruit Fly Complex at Bahauddin Zakaria University

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Curator ZSD delivered a presentation titled "Resolution of Oriental Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) Complex and Fruit Fly Situation in Pakistan" in a seminar held at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan on April 14. The presentation was attended by a large number researchers and students.

PMNH Zoologist Awarded Ph. D. Degree

Dr. Shabbir Ali Amir, Research Associate, ZSD has been awarded Ph. D. in Marine Sciences by the University of Karachi. His degree was notified on March 27.

Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre (PASTIC)

Editor: Mrs. Rahila Khurram

PASTIC Organizes 4th Meeting of Society for Promotion of Science

PASTIC in collaboration with Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) hosted 4th Meeting of Society for Promotion of Science on “Scientific Information Searching in Digital Age-Emerging Challenges” on April 7, 2015 at PASTIC, National Centre, Quaid-e-Azam University Campus, Islamabad.

The main objective of this event was to bring together stakeholders, senior scientists and young researchers at a common platform in an informal environment. Participants of the meeting were eminent scientists from PAS, Ph. D. scholars and faculty members of the various universities and officers from HEC, PSF & PASTIC.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General, PASTIC, welcomed the participants and gave brief introduction of PASTIC and deliberated on importance of information sharing. Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, Secretary General, PAS highlighted the objectives of the society which are to encourage quality science education and R&D in the country. He said enhancing stakeholders' awareness about



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PSF, addressing the participants at the Inaugural session of Workshop



Prof. Dr. Akram Shaikh, D.G., PASTIC delivering his speech at 4th Meeting of Society for Promotion of Science

crucial role of S&T in economic development and human well-being as well as sensitizing decision makers for allocating adequate resources for S & T on sustainable basis is its other main objective.

Dr. Anwar Nasim, President of PAS, the Guest of Honour, said that Academy was focusing on the development of a National Science Complex by merging all the S&T organizations which are working towards a common goal i.e., promotion and development of a science culture.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PSF, applauded the vision of PAS for establishment of joint venture for Science & Technology development in the country. He briefed the participants about PSF multiple programs related to science promotion.

Dr. N. M. Butt, Chairman, Preston Institute of Nano

Science & Technology, said that impact factor is an inappropriate tool for the evaluation of the scientists ranking in Pakistan. He explained that impact factor is a metrics based on the average number of times an article published in a journal has been cited by authors in other journals.

Mr Saifullah Azeem, Senior System Analyst, PASTIC gave presentation on “Scientific Information Searching in Digital Age–Emerging Challenges”. Young scholars highlighted different difficulties being faced during the research process starting from the literature search to the submission of a research article.

Workshop on “Essential Skills for New Age Information Professionals”



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF, addresses the inaugural session of the workshop titled “Essential Skills for New Age Information Professional” at MUET Library and Online Information Center, Jamshoro on April 15-16, 2015.



A two days workshop on “Essential Skills for new age information professionals” was organized by Mehran University of Engineering & Technology in collaboration with PASTIC/PSF on April 15-16, 2015 at Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro.

Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Uqaili, Vice Chancellor, MUET, was the

Chief Guest and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PSF, was the Guest of Honor during the Inaugural Ceremony of the workshop. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General, PASTIC, also amongst the dignitaries. About 35 librarians from various organizations and universities attended the workshop. At the end of the session, shields and certificates were distributed to the resource persons and participants of the workshop.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf visits the Textile Engineering Department of MUET, Jamshoro on April 15, 2015.

PASTIC Opens Desk at MUET Library



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PSF inaugurating the PASTIC Desk at MUET Library

Pakistan Scientific and Engineering & Technological Information (MUET), Jamshoro, signed a Centre (PASTIC), Islamabad & Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for

collaboration in the area of journals, e-books, publishers information exchange, sharing data, etc. PASTIC will also of library resources and joint provide training to MUET events on October 17th, 2014. Library staff for using PASTIC As a result of this MoU, a on-line resources. This PASTIC-MUET Information cooperation and collaboration Desk was set up at the MUET in sharing information Library & Online Information resources of PASTIC & MUET, Center. Formal opening of the Jamshoro would enhance Desk was undertaken on 15th accessibility to the global April, 2015 by Prof. Dr. information resources for the Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, scientific community housed in PSF. Information Services are the nearby universities in and being provided from combined around Jamshoro for promotion information resources available of R&D culture in the country in both MUET Library and through dissemination of PASTIC including databases, e- scientific information.

Chairman PSF Visits PASTIC Karachi Sub-Centre

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Karachi on April 16, 2015. The Chairman held meeting with Muhammad Akram Shaikh, officers and officials of the centre Director General, PASTIC, and reviewed the activities, visited PASTIC Sub-Centre, discussed technical matters as

well as problems of the Sub to be entered in the database Centre. He emphasized on application developed for this. collecting data of R&D research He also advised to increase the projects from Universities/R&D result-oriented activities and to organizations and the same data contact more industries.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General, PASTIC during a meeting with officials of PASTIC Sub-Center, Karachi



A Group Photo of the Chairman PSF with officials of PASTIC Sub-Center, Karachi

Seminar on “Causes, Symptoms and Early Treatment of Autism” at Peshawar

PASTIC-Peshawar organized one-day awareness seminar on “Causes, Symptoms and Early Treatment of Autism” in collaboration with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar on April 2, 2015 at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University,



Dr. Mehar Taj Roghani (Pediatrics /Advisor to Chief Minister for Social Welfare Department, KPK) at the Inaugural Session of the Seminar

Larama Campus, Peshawar. The Seminar was designed to orient the researchers and faculty members of SBBWU about the Causes, Symptoms & Early Treatment of Autism.

Dr. Mehar Taj Roghani, Pediatrics/Advisor to Chief Minister for Social Welfare Department, KPK, was the Chief Guest of the seminar who shared her experience of handling Autism children. She gave valuable suggestions to help such patients and their families about healthy life.

Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, Vice Chancellor, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar, shared her views about the importance of health awareness seminars at university level. Ms. Nageen



Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, VC, SBBW University Peshawar along with resource persons

Ainuddin, Director, PASTIC causes of the disease, its treatment and also how to handle an autism child in psychological aspects. Speakers from reputable institutions shared the case studies which they made through their own experiences. Participants learned about the

Information Services at Doorsteps of Universities /Institutions

PASTIC regularly organizes its information services stalls at universities and R&D institutions to bring its services at the doorsteps of researchers.

Peshawar: PASTIC Services Stall was organized during One Day Awareness Seminar on “Causes, Symptoms and Early Treatment of Autism” at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Larama Campus-Peshawar on April 2, 2015 by PASTIC Sub Center, Peshawar. Students from B.Sc. Honors to M.Sc. Honors visited the stall.

A PASTIC Services Stall was organized at Social Work department, University of Peshawar on April 09, 2015 by PASTIC Sub Center, Peshawar. Students from M.Sc. to M. Phil level visited the stall.

Faisalabad: PASTIC Sub Center, Faisalabad organized

stalls of PASTIC Services at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Faisalabad on April 07, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, University of Faisalabad on April 08, UET Lahore, Faisalabad Campus, on April 14 and University of

Faisalabad on April 16, 2015.

PASTIC Services Stall was also arranged during 5th Expo 2015 organized by Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Islamabad at Jinnah Convention Centre Islamabad from April 18, to 19 2015



PASTIC services stall at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar

Meetings, Workshops, Trainings Attended

- Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General, PASTIC visited University of Science & Technology, Bannu as an Expert for accreditation of B.Sc Electrical Engineering, Telecommunication and B.Sc Software Engineering Programs of the University on March 31, 2015 to April 1st, 2015.

- Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General, PASTIC attended a National Curriculum Revision Committee final meeting in Computer Engineering at HEC, Regional Centre, Peshawar on April 8-10, 2015.

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