

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf
Chairman
Pakistan Science Foundation



PSF NEWS

June 2015

Monthly Newsletter of Pakistan Science Foundation

Vol. 13 No. 6

From the Chairman



For a long time informal education has been considered very controversial in the education world and looked upon as just for entertainment. Informal education is commonly defined as learning that takes outside of formal school settings, such as field trips to science centers, aquariums, museums, zoos, or planetariums. All of these places are considered to be "informal settings" because they are all outside the classroom area. Informal education provides students with a new outlook on learning and makes them more attentive. But more importantly, informal education assists formal education and does not replace it by any means.

Formal education contributes greatly to a child's development because this is how he/she learns the sciences and arts. It helps him acquire the skills he/she needs for such everyday activities as reading a newspaper or managing their money. It also gives them the specialized training they may need to prepare for a job or career.

Continued on page 2

Winners of Inter-Board Science Poster Competition Announced PSF to carry out need assessment of rural area schools, says Dr. Ashraf



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF speaking as the Chief Guest at a function in connection with 24th Inter Board Science Poster Competition, at PSF on June 2, 2015.

ISLAMABAD (June 2, 2015): Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) will carry out need assessment of rural

area schools for launching a pilot project in one of the districts to promote inquiry-based science education, said Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). The Chairman was speaking as the Chief Guest at a function in connection with 24th Inter Board Science Poster Competition, at PSF on June 2, 2015.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF talks to jury members of 24th Inter Board Science Poster Competition, at PSF on June 2, 2015.

Prof. Dr. Akram Sheikh,
Continued on page 2

CDWP Approves Science Talent Farming Scheme for 1800 Young Students

Under vision 2025, Government of Pakistan has launched "Science Talent Farming Scheme" collaborative efforts of relevant organizations and stakeholders. PSF is

INSIDE



3

4

5

From the Chairman

But informal education is a truly lifelong process whereby every individual acquires attitudes, values, skills and knowledge from daily experience and the educative influences and resources in his or her environment - from family and neighbors, from work and play, from the market place, the library and the mass media. Informal education contributes greatly to a child's development because this is where he/she will learn all the other things about life that they wouldn't learn at school. This has more influence on how the child will learn to interact with others.

Despite immense importance the informal education in Pakistan has remained an ignored area and the main focus remained on formal education. Keeping in view the importance of informal education's role in promotion of science and technology, Pakistan Science Foundation has taken many steps such as establishment of Pakistan Museum of Natural History in Islamabad and Science Centers, mobile science caravans, arranging science exhibits in almost all the parts of the country, PASTIC information centers, international travelling science exhibitions and introduction of inquiry-based science education program in the country.

But these steps are not enough and the task of bridging the missing link between the formal and informal education could not be accomplished without the interest and active role of all the stakeholders. The R&D organizations and science institutions etc must open their doors for students. The educational institutions also need to adopt more proactive role and holistic approach towards the educational development of students through informal education by arranging students' visits to the informal educational settings in the country to develop their interest in science and technology and arouse their curiosity about different phenomena of science and nature.

playing a major role in this regard. After a number of meetings at various levels a PC-I titled "Science Talent Farming Scheme for 1800 Young Students" amounting to Rs. 1395.73 was prepared and submitted to Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) for onward submission to the Planning Commission. The project was approved, with some

From Page 1

Member Science PSF, Mr. Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi, Member Finance PSF and Mr. Amjad Hussain, head of International Liaison, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) as well as members of Jury for declaring winners of the posters were also present on this occasion. The Jury members comprising renowned artists and scientists included Mrs. Tasneem Abbas, an eminent artist, Mr. Khalid Siddique, Joint Technical Advisor MoST, Ms. Nosheen Aamir, an artist. Mr. Nusrat Zaidi, Sr. Graphic Artist of PSF and Organizer of the competition, a good number of scientists and people from academia and other walks of life attended the function.

Pakistan Science Foundation organized the 24th Annual Intra and Inter Board Science Essay and Poster Competitions among the students of all Boards of Intermediate and Secondary

revisions by the CDWP in its meeting held on June 9 2015 under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal.

During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, (S.I.), Chairman PSF, explained the various aspects of the project which were appreciated by the honorable members of the

CDWP and the project was approved. The Minister also desired to establish a scientific learning institute having boarding facilities in the Federal Capital. The name of the institute was proposed as "National Science School". The project envisages support to 1,800 students selected through specialized tests for their grooming up to higher level.



Jury members adjudging the winner of 24th Inter Board Science Poster Competition, at PSF on June 2, 2015.

Education (BISE) of the country. The theme was "Disadvantages of Mobile phones and Internet for Students". Students from all over the country took part in these competitions. The final of the Inter-Board competition was held on 2 June, 2015 at PSF.

Dr. Ashraf said that the rural area schools are in shambles and they need attention for equipping them with science labs to promote and popularize science education in the country. He disclosed that in collaboration with

UNESCO they would develop science kits for laboratories of rural areas schools to strengthen science-base in Pakistan. He said that assessment of these schools' needs will be carried out by PSF and on its basis the model kit will be developed. Distribution of these kits will be made as a pilot project in schools of rural areas of a district to evaluate the challenges and later it will be extended to other districts.

Dr. Ashraf also revealed plans to promote Inquiry-Based Science Education

Quote of the Month

"The principle goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done - men who are creative, inventive and discoverers."

—Jean Piaget

and scientific research through national and international collaboration. He congratulated all those who participated in the contest. The Chairman said the winners will be awarded with prizes at a prestigious ceremony on the World

Science Day celebrated each year on November 10. Speaking on this occasion Dr. Akram Sheikh said that the competition is a yearly activity of the Foundation which is being organized in collaboration with education boards of the

country. He said the posters of three top position-holders from each board were displayed at PSF and the jury adjudged winners of the three top positions. The Jury announced winners of the science

poster competition. Zartasha Rana and Amna Tariq from Sargodha won 1st and 2nd prizes respectively, while the 3rd position was shared jointly by Muhammad Muzammil from Tando Allahyar and Yasir Ali from Faisalabad.

PSF, PSCB Jointly Organize High School Summer Science Program

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Pakistan Society for Computational Biology (PSCB) jointly organized "Inaugural Ceremony of "High School Summer Science Research Program (HSSSRP)" at PSF Auditorium on June 9, 2015. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF, was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Representatives from Intel, Pakistan and ECO Science Foundation also participated in the event and interacted with students. It was a great opportunity to attract students towards science. Dr. Muhammad Akram Sheikh, Member Science PSF delivered welcome address and gave a brief introduction of the



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF, awards shield to a winner of High School Summer Science Research Program (HSSSRP-2014) at inaugural ceremony of HSSSRP-2015" at PSF Auditorium on June 9, 2015.

Foundation's similar motivational programs for the students. Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza from Quaid-i-Azam University interacted with young students and highlighted the importance of the event. She also discussed the objectives of the programme and its registration process. She said that purpose of

HSSSRP is to promote science at school level and during summer vacations give high school students hands-on research experience by working on research projects with top class research scientists affiliated with public and private universities in different parts of Pakistan.

Dr. Mahmood-ur-Rehaman Ansari General Secretary, PSCB, also spoke on the occasion and gave a motivational talk for the students. He also invited students for participation in the program. Few students spoke on their experiences learned during participation in international forums and discussed the details of their projects.

While talking to audience, Dr. Ashraf motivated the young students for participation in science

related activities. He emphasized on inquiry based learning. He also congratulated the organizers for the successful activity. At the end, shields and certificates were distributed among the winner students who participated in HSSSRP-2014. These students also gave presentations on their projects, which were appreciated by the audience. During the event, students were registered for HSSSRP-2015. Already registered students also attended the event.

This Summer Science Research Program is meant to engage students early in their education where they will learn from their mentors as to how they can conduct cutting edge research and how to pursue science at college and university levels.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), addresses the inaugural session of HSSSRP-2015 jointly organized by the Foundation and Pakistan Society for Computational Biology at PSF on June 9, 2015.

Science Caravan Exhibitions

The PSF Science Caravan Punjab Unit arranged a science exhibition at Government Girls Model English Medium School, Tehsil Darya Khan, District Bhakkar on June 26- 30, 2015 and at The Smart School, Bhakkar Campus, Tehsil and District Bhakkar on May 31 to June 07, 2015. Mr. Rana Shabir Ahmed Khan, District Education Officer, Bhakkar, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of the Exhibition, while Mian Muhammad Ismail, Executive District Officer Education, Bhakkar, was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony. To

encourage the participating students, a competition of science models/projects was organized and the winner students were awarded prizes for their schools. Many heads of institutions, 120 teachers from 12 different schools and 3,731 students from the government and private schools in addition to general public visited the exhibitions.



The exhibitions are being inaugurated by the worthy Chief Guests at GGHS Darya Khan and The Smart School, District Bhakkar.



Screening Reviews Concept Papers for NSLP Research Projects

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF/ Chief Executive, Natural Sciences Linkages Program (NSLP) has constituted a PSF Screening Committee to examine the technical merits

of concept papers submitted for financial support under NSLP before obtaining the full length proposal. In this connection, a meeting of PSF Screening Committee was held on June 16, 2015.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, the Chairman PSF/Chief Executive NSLP presided over the meeting which reviewed 15 concept papers in keeping in view the national needs.

Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH)

Editor: Dr. Muhammad Ismail Bhatti, Curator, BSD

MAB-Pakistan Builds Capacity of NEPA Afghanistan

Man and Biosphere (MAB)-Pakistan Secretariat in partnership with UNESCO-Pakistan, UNESCO-Afghanistan, ECO Science Foundation, IUCN Pakistan and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Afghanistan held a training workshop “UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme-

Processes, Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development” at UNESCO Office, Kabul, Afghanistan on June 7-11, 2015.

At the inaugural session of workshop, Mr. Paolo Fontani, Director UNESCO Kabul, welcomed all the participants and the experts



A group photo of participants with resource persons at training workshop “UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme-Processes, Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development” at UNESCO Office, Kabul, Afghanistan.



Dr. Muhammad Rafique, Country Focal Person MAB-Pakistan with Mr. Mostapha Zaher, Director General/Minister of National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan at Kabul.

from Pakistan. Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Malikyar, Deputy Director General of NEPA, Afghanistan expressed his gratitude to all participants and appreciated the efforts of partner agencies in organizing the workshop. The message of Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF / Chairman

SACAM / Co-chairman, National MAB Committee of Pakistan was read by Dr. Muhammad Rafique, Country Focal Person, MAB-Pakistan. He highly praised the effort of MAB Afghanistan and ensured full technical support from MAB-Pakistan. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro,

President ECO Science Foundation, appreciated the partnership and ensured that ECO Science Foundation will keep supporting similar activities in the region.

Dr. Muhammad Rafique, Country Focal Person MAB-Pakistan/Deputy Director General PMNH/Director ZSD participated in this training workshop as a key resource person. There was eight technical sessions. He delivered 14 presentations encompassing thematic areas related to Biosphere

Reserve (BR) nomination criteria; Functions of BR; Endorsements for BR; Ecosystem services through BR; Logistic support function; BR governance, management and coordination; Supporting document for BR Nomination; Biological component of BRs; Education and research through BRs; Salient Features of a BR management plan; implementation strategies for Management Plan.

At closing ceremony of the

workshop, Mr. Mostapha Zaher, Director General/Minister, National Environmental Protection

Agency of Afghanistan expressed thanks and valued the efforts of all the partner agencies.



Mr. Mostapha Zaher, Director General/Minister, National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan chairing the closing session of the training workshop "UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme-Processes, Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development" on 11th June 2015 at UNESCO Office, Kabul-Afghanistan.

Dr. Saleem Ahmad, Director PSD Retires from Service

Dr. Saleem Ahmad, Director, Public Services Division (PSD), retired from service on June 29, 2015 on superannuation. He joined PMNH on February 10, 1985. He had done Ph. D. from the Department of Plant Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University,

was an expert plant taxonomist and contributed greatly towards the development of PMNH Herbarium. He kept on preparing the annual, quarterly and annual progress and other reports of PMNH for about 15 years.



He served as the PMNH Editor of PSF Newsletter for about 10 years. Since July, 2014, he served as Director PSD (BPS-20) on current charge basis, which he continued till his retirement. Mr. Muzaffar Faizi Awan, Associate Artist (BS-16), PSD, retired from service on

June 14 on superannuation. He was a dedicated artist and contributed greatly towards the development of the PMNH Display Centre. Mr. Abdur Rehman, Driver, PMNH and Mr. Abdul Qadir, Dispatch Rider, Admin, PMNH also retired on June 30, 2015.

Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre (PASTIC)

Editor: Mrs. Rahila Khurram

PASTIC Organizes Workshop on Drafting, Filing of Patent Application

A one-day Workshop was organized by PASTIC-Peshawar in collaboration with ORIC-University of Peshawar at Video Conference Hall, University of Peshawar on June 04, 2015.

The workshop was planned to orient the faculty members about the basic of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and also with Drafting and Filing of Patent Application. About 38 faculty members attended the seminar. Participants

learned about the importance of IP rights, copyrights, trademarks, patents, and trade secrets and drafting and filling of patent application.

The Chief Guest of the workshop Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rasul Jan, Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar, shared his views about significance and requirement of such kind of activities and appreciated the efforts of PASTIC & ORIC in arranging the activity.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General PASTIC/ Member Science-PSF delivering the Inaugural speech to participants

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Sheikh, Director General, PASTIC/Member Science-PSF and Dr. Muhammad Nisar Ahmad, Director, ORIC, University of

Peshawar welcomed all the participants, Chief Guest and worthy speakers. At the end of inaugural session shields were distributed among the speakers and organizers.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General PASTIC/ Member Science-PSF presenting shield to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rsaul Jan, Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General PASTIC/ Member Science-PSF along with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Dr. Muhammad Rasul Jan, Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nisar, Director ORIC attending the Workshop.

Access to Global Information Resources through PASTIC

A one-day Seminar on “Access to Global Information Resources through PASTIC S&T Information Services” was organized by PASTIC Sub Center, Muzaffarabad in collaboration with Mirpur University of Science & Technology, Bhimber Campus on June 17, 2015. The main purpose of this seminar was to create awareness amongst M. Phil & Ph.D research scholars and faculty members of University of Science &

Technology Mirpur (MUST) about latest developments in Science & Technology and also the role of PASTIC in this regard. Prof. Dr. Naseem Akhter, Chairperson gave a welcome speech to the participants. Syed Habib Akhter Jafferri, Principal Librarian, PASTIC delivered a lecture on “Open Source Resources on Web” during the Seminar. Mr. Saifullah Azeem, Principal System Analyst, PASTIC, delivered a detail

talk on Web Searching Techniques. Mr. Muhammad Altaf, Deputy Director STI, Muzaffarabad

Sub Center, also delivered a presentation on Introduction to PASTIC and its Services/Activities.



Muhammad Altaf, Deputy Director STI, Muzaffarabad Sub Center delivering presentation on PASTIC Services.



Syed Habib Akhter Jafferri, Principal Librarian, PASTIC delivered a lecture on “Open Source Resources on Web” during the Seminar

Students of Islamia University Visit PASTIC

Every year a group of students from Department of Library & Information Science, Islamia University, Bahawalpur visits PASTIC National Centre, Islamabad during summer. This year

also a new group of students visited PASTIC on June 10, 2015.

Syed Habib Akhter Jafferri, Principal Librarian gave brief Introduction about PASTIC activities and Ms.

Kausar Sohail delivered a presentation about Literature Search Service.

This study trip of the students of Islamia University, Bahawalpur was to make the students

familiar with PASTIC and enhance their capacity. The students were took around the various facilities of PASTIC for acquainting them with the activities and services of PASTIC.



Students visited PASTIC Library



Students and Faculty members during visit to PASTIC Reprography Section

Director PASTIC attends Science Diplomacy Course in Italy

The Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) organized a course on Science & Diplomacy at Trieste, Italy on June 8-12, 2015. Ms. Nageen Ainuddin, Director PASTIC being a member of the Organization of Women Scientists in the Developing World (OWSD), an associated organization of TWAS, was selected to participate in the course.

Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among nations to address common problems and to build constructive international partnerships. Researchers, diplomats and policy experts from all over the world gathered in Trieste to discuss and explore many

angles of how to bridge the world through science, how science and diplomacy intersect, how national circumstances shape science agreements and how to

communicate with policymakers and the public. The course focussed on key contemporary international policy issues including environment, climate change,

science & technology, health and how science diplomacy has contributed to policy development and organizational changes worldwide.



Group photo of the Participants

PASTIC Collaborates with AHKNCRD in Conducting Training Workshop



Mr. Muhammad Usman, Web Manager, PASTIC, delivering a presentation during Workshop.

A five-day Training Workshop titled “Survey Data Analysis and Report Writing Techniques” was organized by AHKNCRD, Islamabad at AKH National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD) on June 11-15, 2015.

Mr. Muhammad Usman, Web Manager, PASTIC National Center, Islamabad conducted three sessions on third day of Training Workshop. 15 officers of Livestock Department, Government of KPK attended the training. Mr. Usman conducted sessions on Data Collection Methods, Survey Designs, Data Analysis and reporting using SPSS.

PASTIC Information Services at Doorsteps of Universities /Institutions

Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) regularly organizes its information services stalls at universities and R&D institutions to bring its services at the doorsteps of researchers.

PASTIC Sub Centre, Karachi

A PASTIC Services Stall was organized at Sindh Madersah Tul Islam

University Karachi on June 03 2015 by PASTIC sub center Karachi. A large Number of students, Researchers, Faculty Members of the University visited the PASTIC Stall. Mr Abdul Fateh Shaikh, Sr. Scirntific Information Officer, Karachi Sub Center delivered a lecture to senior faculty members, researchers, students & participants about PASTIC Services.



Mr Abdul Fateh Shaikh, Sr. Scientific Information Officer, Karachi Sub Center delivered a lecture to students.

Meetings/Workshops/Trainings Attended:

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Sheikh, Director General, PASTIC/Member Science-PSF attended Eighth One day Consultative Workshop on Policies for Creating Enabling Environment for Encouraging Problem Solving Research on June 11, 2015.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Sheikh, Director General, PASTIC/Member Science-PSF attended a 42nd meeting of Board of Governors of National Center of Excellence in Analytical Chemistry at University of Sindh, Jamshoro on June 18, 2015.

Pakistan Science Foundation

Constitution Avenue, Islamabad
Phone: 9201887, Fax: 9202468
www.psf.gov.pk
E-mail: psfsecy@psf.gov.pk

Pakistan Museum of Natural History

Garden Avenue,
Shakarparian, Islamabad
Phone:9249239 Fax:9249240
www.pmnh.gov.pk

PASTIC National Centre

Q. A. University Campus, Islamabad
Phone: 9248103-04, Fax: 9248113
www.pastic.gov.pk
E-mail: director@pastic.gov.pk

Layout: Abdul Rasool, PMNH