

**Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto**  
Chairman  
Pakistan Science Foundation

**Dr. Naushaba Nadeem**  
**Ms. Zaiban Farooq**



# PSF NEWS

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## From the Chairman



*In Many verses, The Holy Quran invites Human beings to study all aspects of nature and the discovery of the mysteries of creation, the learning of which is in the interest of humanity and brings felicity to human society. And we have to obtain scientific facts through our efforts. One of the most important things that we learn from the Quran, in relation to science, is its unique world-view and epistemology. And the discovery of nature can all be done using human senses and intellect.*

*In this era of globalization,*

*Continued on page 2*

## PMNH and MNHN ink MoU



Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister for S&T at the MoU signing ceremony, Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto, Chairman, PSF and H.E. Mr. Philippe Thiebaud, Ambassador of France to Pakistan signing MoU - Dr. Muhammad Yahya Khawaja, Member, Planning Commission (S&T and IT); Mr. Haider Zaman Khattak, Secretary, PSF; Dr. Muhammad Khan Leghari, D.G. PMNH; Mr. Tahir Maqsood Khan, Additional Secretary, MoST; Mr. Chaouki Boutharouite, French Attaché for Scientific Cooperation; Dr. M. Akram Shaikh, D.G. PASTIC; Dr. S. Azhar Hasan, Former, D.G., PMNH; and Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR are also present.

The MoU is for the implementation of joint projects, exchange of techniques, publications, specimens, information and visits of researchers for development of museology and natural history sciences. The MoU includes the inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Zahid Hamid, and Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto, Chairman, PSF, on July 23, 2014 for collaborative research and science promotion. A number of activities including cooperation in

of Honour of the ceremony. PSF Chairman, Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto; Additional Secretary MoST, Mr. Tahir Maqsood Khan; PMNH Director General, Dr. Muhammad Khan Leghari; Chairman, PCRWR Dr. Muhammad Ashraf and large number of high officials/Heads of S&T organizations were also present. Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Member National

### Pakistani students will shine in London



4

### PSF-NSLP Technical Committee



5

### PTV telecasted Documentary on PMNH



6



From the Chairman

sharing of ideas and resources has got special importance, it is not possible that a scientist or researcher can undertake a productive activity or generate new knowledge keeping himself seized in his laboratory, so, PSF always try to join hands together with International Scientific organizations to enhance the research capabilities of its Pakistani scientists by using the expertise of these organization

PSF's Museums of Natural History, which is the country's only museum conducting scientific research on different aspects of natural antiquity, is playing a key role towards establishing effective and efficient linkages between scientists and society/young generation for promotion of natural history.

The MoU signed between National Museum of Natural History and PMNH will lead towards capacity building and national development through mutual collaborative research activities in the field of Natural History and Museology and will strengthen the friendly bonds between the two countries.



PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto and French Ambassador Mr. Philippe THIEBAUD exchanging the MoU documents after signing. Federal Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Zahid Hamid is also present

Assembly Standing The Federal Minister for France for his support for Committee on Science and S&T highlighted various promotion of science in Technology, Executive steps taken by the present Pakistan. He said, "the MoU Director & Director, Pakistan Government for promotion will lead towards national Institute of Parliamentary of Science in the country. He development and capacity Affairs also participated in informed that the building of scientists through the ceremony. Government had realized the mutual collaborative importance of Science for research activities in the field On behalf of PSF/PMNH, National development and of Natural Sciences and Prof. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto signed the MoU, whereas the had paid special focus Museology". He added that Director General MNHN, towards socio economic the platform created by this Mr. Thomas Grenon could development through MoU would have enhanced Science and Technology. He the inter-change of ideas of appreciated the collaboration research between the signed and stamped copies of the MoU (two in original) for between PSF and French scientists of France and the signing ceremony. The institutions, which has been Pakistan. increased manifold during He believed that the platform Federal Minister and French last few years. The Minister created by this MoU will Ambassador signed the MoU as witnesses. thanked H.E. Ambassador of further enhance the inter-



Federal Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Zahid Hamid, PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto, French Ambassador Mr. Philippe THIEBAUD addressing the ceremony

### Quote of the Month

The increase of scientific knowledge lies not only in the occasional milestones of science, but in the efforts of the very large body of men who with love and devotion observe and study nature.

-Polykarp Kusch



change of ideas of research between the scientists of France and Pakistan. Hand in hand, “I am sure we will be able to create synergy and sparkle off innovative ideas in Museology, sowing the seeds that one day will bring forth long-term benefits to both places”, he added. He also appreciated the efforts of PSF for arranging such activities.

H.E. Ambassador of France to Pakistan said, “This is an important collaboration to create a dynamic research between both institutes and I am glad that during the last few years, several joint projects of French Government on education and travelling exhibitions have been completed with the support of PSF and MoST in different areas of Pakistan”. The Ambassador said this MoU would have a long lasting impact in promoting and enhancing scientific and cultural exchange between the two countries.

“The MoU will help in providing us with a committed approach to work more closely together, which will lead us to our common goal, the pursuit of the internationalization of education”, he added.

PSF Chairman Dr. Ibupoto said the MoU signing marked the joint efforts of the governments of both countries in strengthening co-operation in the fields of science and technology. He said PSF was working for the promotion of scientific and technological research by providing financial and popularization of science



Group Photo of PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto, French Ambassador H.E. Mr. Philippe THIEBAUD and PSF Secretary, Mr. Haider Zaman Khattak with Federal Minister for S&T Mr. Zahid Hamid

individual and institutional levels since its establishment. He informed that under patronage of PSF, PMNH was established in 1976 and since then it was actively working for the reference collection of flora & fauna, rocks, fossils and minerals and conservation of Biodiversity of our country. “It has collected over 600,000 natural history specimens which are preserved in its repositories, which are being digitized now”, he said. Further he added that PMNH had established Geographical

Information System (GIS) to document the distribution of various species, which would be available on the map according to their geographical reference later on. PMNH is an Associate member of Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and a member of International Council of Museums ICOM, he added.

PMNH has four principal divisions, out of which three divisions namely Botanical Sciences, Zoological Sciences and Earth Sciences Divisions are actively

engaged in the collection, identification and research activities pertaining to plants, animals and mineral resources of Pakistan respectively. Fourth one, the Public Services Division is responsible for mass education and popularization of natural history through various displays, exhibits and dioramas. There are more than 30 scientists and designers who are engaged in research primarily pertaining to the biodiversity of Pakistan with special reference to environment and natural habitat degradation. Highly productive collaboration research programmes with many foreign organizations of other countries including USA, UK, Japan, Italy, France, and Switzerland.

The National Museum of Natural History, Paris (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle-MNHN), is the national museum of natural history of France. The main museum is located in Paris, France, on the left bank of the River Seine at 57 rue Cuvier, 75231 – Paris. It was founded in 1793 during the French Revolution, but was established earlier in 1635. The museum now comprises 14 sites throughout France, with four in Paris, including the original location at the royal botanical garden, the *Jardin des Plantes*, which remains one of the seven departments of MNHN. The museum has as its mission both research (fundamental and applied) and public diffusion of knowledge. It is organized into seven research and three diffusion

departments.

The research departments are:

- Classification and Evolution
- Regulation, Development, and Molecular Diversity
- Aquatic Environments and Populations
- Ecology and Biodiversity Management
- History of Earth
- Men, Nature, and Societies, and
- Prehistory

The diffusion departments

are:

- The Galleries of the *Jardin des Plantes*
- Botanical Parks and Zoos, and
- The Museum of Man (*Musée de l'Homme*)

The museum also developed higher education, and now delivers a master's degree.

The voyage of research and science promotion between PSF/PMNH and MNHN was started in early 1990s when, French Scientists visited Pakistan and discovered

fossils from Balochistan. with Centre Sciences, Keeping in view, the similar Orleans for arranging and co-type of objectives and production of traveling activities of the two expos. Under these MoU's Museums, Scientists from number of collaborative the both sides paved the way activities like training for signing of MoU between workshops and participation PMNH and MNHN to in International seminars of deepen the collaborative *La main a la pate* Foundation, activities. being organized at Paris each

year. The present MoU with that PSF has already signed National Natural History MoUs with Paris Academy of Museum, Paris is the third Sciences for promotion of one, which has been signed Inquiry Based Science with a French organization. Education in Pakistan and

## Pakistani students shining as LIYSF Stars in London

Under the National STI Policy 2012, it has been emphasized that the Motivational programmes for students to engage in creative activities should be initiated and strengthened at the national level. PSF, being the prime organization for promotion and popularization of science, realized its role for creating science awareness in the country and took an important initiative in 2012 and selected 4 students for participation in "London International Youth Science Forum-LIYSF". This year, for the third time PSF announced the activity at its website and invited applications for the eligible students. Written Test and Interview was arranged for selection of students for their participation in LIYSF-2014 being held on 23 July to 6 August, 2014 at Imperial College London. A panel of eminent Scientists selected four students namely, Mr. Abdur Rahman, Mr. Waleed Ahmed, Ms. Itrah Sohail, Ms. Maimoonah Asif for this



Dr. Muhmaamad Yahya Khwaja, Dr. Anwar Nasim and Ms. Nishat Riaz interacting with the students. Dr. H.U. Khan, CSO, PSF, Dr. Naushaba Atta, PSO, PSF and Mr. Abdul Rauf SSO/Coordinator LIYSF are also present

two weeks Youth Science Commission, Ms. Nishat Riaz and Hamza Saleem from British Council interacted with the students and discussed important aspects to be taken care during their participation in LIYSF-2014. PSF Officers and Scientists also provided useful information to the students and shared their experience with the students. Dr. Muhammad Yahya Khawaja, Member on S&T and IT, Planning

experience with their fellows and asked them to find the ways to enhance their skills in basic sciences in addition to medical and engineering. He suggested that science teachers training programme should be strengthened accordingly. Dr. Anwar Nasim, during his talk with students stressed that soft image of Pakistan should be created in the LIYSF-2014 and after participation in the Forum, the student must have played their role to conduct and organize such events in Pakistan. He also shared his experiences of foreign visits and participation in the International events with the

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Students selected for LIYSF-2014 expressing their views during send-off session at PSF. The students emphasized on opportunity to show their talent at International level and appreciated transparency in selection criteria and PSF efforts for creating science awareness among the young generation. All the students could have participated in the event. She assured that best possible performance in British Council would be the London International Youth Science Forum. At the end, the Chairman thanked all the scientists and wished the students and PSF a happy and fruitful journey and safe back on giving them the home.

### PSF-NSLP Technical Committee

20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee of NSLP was held on July 08, 2014 presided over by Chairman PSF. Nineteen new projects and two progress reports of ongoing projects were presented for discussion and recommendations. Committee thoroughly reviewed the new projects and recommended technically sound projects for funding while noted all annual reports as satisfactory.



PSF-NSLP Technical Committee's meeting headed by Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto, Chairman, PSF

## PSF represents in NA Standing Committee meeting

As a procedural matter, the Foundation gave presentation about its performance and achievements to the National Assembly Standing Committee on S&T headed by Ch. Tariq Bashir Cheema, MNA on 14 July at NA Secretariat. The Federal Minister Mr. Zahid Hamid, Secretary Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi, Additional Secretary, Mr. Tahir Maqsood Khan and other senior officials from MoST/PSF and 14 MNAs participated in the meeting.

The Chairman PSF Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto gave brief presentation of the activities undertaken by the PSF. Afterwards, detailed deliberations were made about research support and science popularization programs including funding of research projects, science caravans and traveling expos. The Chairman informed the forum about shortage of manpower and budget which is gradually causing less allocation towards statutory functions due to continuous increase in salaries and other related expenditure.

The Federal Secretary also intervened and explained the fact that overall budget allocation of PSF needs to be enhanced. He added that the research activities require a long time to transfer their outcomes & benefits to the general public. The NA Standing Committee urged PSF to give preference to the rural areas for science popularization activities and asked the MoST to move a summary for enhancement of PSF budget. The Committee added that a Science Centre/Museum may be established at Jhang/Chinote. The Chairman of the Committee Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema also constituted a sub-committee to review the PSF activities and justifications of its forum about shortage of manpower and budget which is gradually achieving less allocation towards statutory functions due to continuous increase in salaries and other related expenditure.

### Important Meetings/Events Attended:

Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto, Chairman PSF attended a number of important meetings and events during the Month of July-2014 including the following;

- Headed PSF Team and presented PSF activities and performance in the Meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Science & Technology on 14 July.
- 4th Meeting of Sub-Committee-III of PAC at Parliament House at Islamabad on 3 July.
- Meeting in connection with "Establishment of Technology Park" at MoST Islamabad on 17 July under the Chairmanship of Minister S&T.
- PARC Departmental Selection Board Meeting in the Committee Room of Ministry of National Food & Security, Islamabad on 22 July.



# Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH)

*Editor: Dr. Saleem Ahmad, Curator*

## PTV telecasted special Documentary on PMNH

Electronic and print media also interacts with PSF for wide coverage of its activities for awareness of scientific concepts among the masses. In this regard, PTV team visited PMNH on 15 July and recorded documentary about its galleries, diorama and natural history specimens to be telecasted under its Programme "Youth Voice". The team interviewed many visitors and students from Arid Agriculture University, National Centre for Physics and Federal Medical College and recorded their comments about PMNH and benefits of their visit to its various galleries. Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto, Chairman PSF gave the brief about PSF and PMNH programs and activities. The program was aired on 21.07.2014 on PTV News and highlighted Museum's role in popularization of science among the young generation.



Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibupoto, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation giving interview to PTV team at PMNH.



Students of Federal Medical College and Arid Agriculture University being interviewed by PTV team at PMNH Display Centre

## New Assignments and responsibilities

Dr. Saleem Ahmad, Curator, Botanical Sciences Division, has been assigned the current charge of Director, Public Services Division by Pakistan Science Foundation, w.e.f. 4th July, 2014. Dr. Saleem has been serving the PMNH since February, 1985.

Dr. Ghazala Shaheen, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, University of Balochistan, has joined as Curator, Earth Sciences Division at PMNH w.e.f. 1st July. She has 24 years of experience of research and teaching at University and college level.



## PMNH Displays attracted large number of visitors during Eid Holidays

The Display Centre of the PMNH remained open during the Eid holidays. PMNH officers and staff members facilitated thousands of the public from the second day of Eid-ul-Fitr. Special arrangements were made to provide entertainment as well as informal education and natural history dioramas

of the Museum. The visitors towns and were highly expressed their thanks to PSF and PMNH for history repository of providing such important Pakistan. A large number of scientific information and families and media non-formal education. personnel also visited the display galleries showed keen interest in PMNH.



Visitors watching a display diorama in PMNH Display Centre during the Eid Holidays



Children wearing colourful Eid dresses posing for photography at PMNH premises

## Training Attended

Mr. Khalid Ahmed Mirani and Mr. Ashfaq Solangi Research Associates, Earth Sciences Division, received one month training on Advanced Equipment at Centre for Applied and Pure Geology University of Sindh, Jamshoro from 16th June 15th July.

The main purpose of this training was to find out the geochemical composition and characteristics of rock surfaces for provenance, diagenesis and porosity or

permeability of rocks. They received training on X-Ray Diffractometer (XRD), X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (XRF) and Scanning Electronic Microscope (SEM). Atomic structure of rock samples have been determined by XRD. The mineral composition of rock samples have been determined by XRF. Highly magnified, detailed study of rock surface features was carried out through SEM.

## Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre (PASTIC)

*Editor: Ms. Rahila Khuram*

### PASTIC Acquires On-Line International Databases

Strengthening of Information Resources is vital for enhancing the information dissemination capacity and fulfilling the information needs of Information Users. As a result of sustaining efforts for developing and strengthening Information Resources, PASTIC has

acquired access to three on-line International Databases such as Wilson Applied Science & Technology Full Text, Wilson Social Science Full Text and Biological & Agricultural Index Plus. Access to these databases will be available for one year which will be renewed

regularly in coming years.

The first database "Wilson Applied Science & Technology Full Text" contains full text articles from various periodicals since January 1997. The database covers periodicals, including trade and industrial publications, journals issued

by professional and technical societies and specialized subject periodicals, as well as special issues such as buyer's guides, directories and conference proceedings. The other database "Wilson Social Sciences Full Text" covers the latest concepts, trends, opinion, theories, and



methods from both applied and theoretical aspects of the social sciences. This database contains high quality database "Biological & indexing of periodicals in the Agricultural Index Plus" biological and agricultural back as 1983. The third provides comprehensive sciences.

## Seminars and PASTIC S&T Information Services Stalls organized

Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) organizes seminars and stalls at universities, conferences and exhibitions across the country regularly to create awareness about PASTIC S&T information Services among scientists, researchers, engineers, academicians, technologists and entrepreneurs. Such efforts result in boosting of S & T information dissemination and increase in PASTIC member who benefit from provision of free on line services including email alerts, Technology Round Up, Current Contents and Fresh Arrivals of PASTIC Library on regular basis.

various universities and organizations during financial year 2013-14. Two seminars and four workshops were organized in collaboration with Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, KPK University of Engineering and Technology, University of Peshawar and Ayub Agriculture Research Institute, Faisalabad. Besides during 2013-14, 2226 S&T documents in print form and 27767 documents in digital form were supplied to scientists, researchers and R&D Workers. Also 88884 abstracts on various topics were supplied to 5175 users.



Students at PASTIC Services Stall organized at G C University, Faisalabad

## PASTIC Joins Hands with MUET to share Information Resources

Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) has initiated efforts for establishing liaison with Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro to share the two organizations has been information by using each other resources. Under this MoU, other resources initiated efforts for MUET Library and Online PASTIC and MUET will Collaborative training programmes and seminars work together for promotion of research culture in will be also organized under Memorandum of Pakistan through this MoU.

## Important Meetings Attended

- Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General PASTIC attended 6th Meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Science & Technology at Parliament House Islamabad on 14th July 2014.
- Mr. Muhammad Hasnain, Deputy Director (STI), PASTIC, Faisalabad along with representative of IRP held a follow up meeting with Director General, Ayub Agriculture Research Institute, Faisalabad for commercialization of Research Results and Innovations. This meeting was follow up of the consultative workshop on "Encouraging Environment" held at Faisalabad in June, 2014.

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