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PSF NEWS

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From the Chairman



International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated all over the world every year on May 22 to renew commitment for protection and preservation of Biological Diversity on which our existence hinges on. Very few people are aware of the importance of Biodiversity as many species have either gotten extinct or on the verge of extinction due to many natural and human factors. Man is mainly responsible for posing serious threat to biodiversity, the main source of our food and shelter, which is gradually depleting due to rapid and unplanned industrialization,

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International Day for Biological Diversity Celebrated at PMNH Biodiversity conservation only solution to Challenge of Climate Change: Speakers

Speakers here on June 2, 2016 called for learning lesson from past mistakes and take immediate measures for halting and reversing loss to biodiversity as our survival is linked to its protection and sustainability.

They were addressing inaugural ceremony of an event organized to celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity at Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH). The function was organized by PMNH in collaboration with Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Ministry of Climate Change, Snow Leopard Foundation, Whitley Fund for Nature and UNESCO. The International Day for



The Chief Guest, Portugal Ambassador H.E. Joao Sabido Costa and Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Chairperson Foreign affairs Committee, jointly cut the ribbon to inaugurate the Biodiversity Exhibition, which was participated by 20 organizations working for protection of biodiversity

Biological Diversity is celebrated all the world on May 22

Ambassador of Portugal H.E. Joao Sabido Costa was the Chief Guest on this occasion. The event was part of two-week-long series of programmes including Speech Competition, Art Competition and Biodiversity Exhibition. The Chief Guest, Portugal Ambassador H.E. Joao Sabido Costa and Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Chairperson Foreign



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation, addresses inaugural ceremony of an event organized by Pakistan Museum of Natural History to celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity



From the Chairman

urbanization and many other factors. If remedial measures were not taken on war-footing basis the coming generation will have to face severe food and water crises as every living thing is dependent for food and shelter on other living things may be they are animals or plants. They are like a web and if any links breaks the entire web gets disturbed.

Though at the governmental level different steps have been taken for protection of biodiversity through declaring national parks but these interventions are not enough. Keeping in view there is dire need to take appropriate measures at the governmental and society level.

In order to create awareness about the critical situation the stakeholders must involve media, especially the social media so as the message may reach at the individual level and every person perform his responsibility for protection of biodiversity to secure the future of coming generations. The stakeholders only need to make effective social media campaigns and target the priority areas of endangered species and the result will be very encouraging.

Affairs Committee, jointly cut the ribbon to inaugurate the Biodiversity Exhibition, which was participated by 20 organizations working for protection of biodiversity. Federal Minister for Higher Education and Research, Togo, Mr. Broom, Secretary Ministry of Climate Change Mr. Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Wildlife Conservationist Mr. Ali Nawaz, PMNH DG Dr. Muhammad Khan Leghari and Deputy DG Dr. Muhammad Rafiq were also present on this occasion.

A large number of students and teachers from educational institutions of twin cities, scientists, environmentalists and people from different walks of life attended the event. The Chief Guest said that we should learn lesson from our past mistakes and take immediate steps to mitigate loss of biodiversity otherwise it will be too late and our own survival will be at risk.

The PSF Chairman said agenda



Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Chairperson Foreign Affairs Committee presents a souvenir to the Chief Guest, Portugal Ambassador H.E. Joao Sabido Costa at PMNH on June 2

of different national and international summits on Biodiversity is the same focusing same problems like clean water scarcity, climate change, biodiversity loss and food security etc. He said that instead of creating awareness about these issues now it is the time to take practical measures for halting and reversing the

loss of biological diversity. Dr. Ashraf said that every living thing is part and parcel of this universe and its existence is not without any purpose as every living thing depends upon others for food and shelter and can't survive in isolation. He said that elimination of a single creature jeopardizes the survival of many other living things.

The Chairman PSF said that all the above-mentioned issues are interlinked and we should use the appropriate methodology to address them. He also stressed that the invasive species of plants that are heavily consuming underground water should be eliminated from those areas which are short of water in order to maintain natural balance of ecology.

Secretary Ministry of Climate Change Mr. Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, Wildlife Conservationist Mr. Ali Nawaz, PMNH Deputy DG Dr. Muhammad Rafiq also



The Chief Guest, Portugal Ambassador H.E. Joao Sabido Costa and Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Chairperson Foreign Affairs Committee and other guests visit stalls of Biodiversity Exhibition, which was participated by 20 organizations working for protection of biodiversity

Quote of the month

Science is a way of life. Science is a perspective. Science is the process that takes us from confusion to understanding in a manner that's precise, predictive and reliable - a transformation, for those lucky enough to experience it, that is empowering and emotional.

– Brian Greene

spoke on this occasion and they highlighted various threats to biodiversity and required steps to thwart them.

The Chief Guest also awarded certificates to the winners of speech and art competitions organized by PMNH to celebrate the Biodiversity Day. Poster and speech competitions among the students of school and colleges of twins' cities were also organized. A numbers of students, teachers

and scientists attended the event. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Member Science PSF inaugurated the event as the Chief Guest. In speech competition Miss Afra Waqar from Educators Capital Campus, G11/1 Islamabad and Yusra Nadir from Siddique Public School Satellite Town Rawalpindi shared the first position and Huda Habib, Siddique Public School Satellite Town Rawalpindi and

Maimoona Shah, The Educators, got 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

In Art Competition Marooh Attiq, from The Educators bagged first position while Rida Zahoor from The Educators and Laraib Hanif from Pak Turk International School got 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. The Chief Guest of the event awarded prizes to the winners.

Stalls on the theme of the year

were established by different organizations. Expert panel discussion and technical session were also part of the activities. Over 700 students, researchers and general public participated in the event.

The scientist called for learning lesson from past mistakes and take urgent actions for halting and reversing loss to biodiversity as our survival is associated to its protection and sustainability.

Glimpses of Day for Biological Diversity Celebration



Pakistan Participates in 2nd China-South Asia Technology Transfer Forum

Pakistan and China have agreed to sign 18th Executive Protocol for S&T Cooperation by the end of 2016. The decision to this effect was taken in a meeting between Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Science & Technology (S&T) and Chinese Vice-Minister for S&T Mr. Yen Hejun in Kunming, China on June 12, 2016.

This protocol is being signed at the expiry of the term of 17th S&T protocol (2012-16) between China and Pakistan signed way back in November, 2011.

Pakistan delegation participated in the 2nd China-South Asia Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation Forum at Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Center, Kunming, China from June 12-14, 2016. The Pakistan delegation was led by Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for S&T. The other members included Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation and Dr. Shahzad Alam, Chairman, Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The

high level delegates from South Asian Countries also participated in this event. The Ministry of S&T, China organized this event to promote all-round cooperation and development between China and South Asian countries. The Pakistani delegates also met their South Asian counterparts and visited the science parks in China.

Mr. Rana Tanveer Husasin appreciated the Chinese initiative to develop practical approaches for scientific and technological cooperation in this region.

Science Caravan Exhibitions

The PSF Science Caravan science exhibitions on 18-30 schools which were visited teachers from 20 schools of Quetta Unit arranged June 2015 in different by 4,655 students and Quetta city.



Glimpses of students visiting science exhibitions in Quetta



A view of meeting with USAID officials



Mr. Mumataz Minhas, former Livestock Minister Punjab, calls on PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf to discuss research projects under PSF's NSLP programme.



PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf presides over a meeting of STFS Executive Committee at PSF on June 1, 2016.

Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH)

Editor: Dr. Muhammad Ismail Bhatti

Over 1.1 Million People Visit PMNH in Fiscal 2015-16

A total of 1,10,311 people including 39,264 general public, 19,107 students, 225 foreigners and 51,715 children under 12 years age visited Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) display galleries and repositories in fiscal year 2015-16.

The Museum has gained great importance in terms of non-

formal education. Many researchers, students of universities, colleges and schools regularly visit PMNH around the year. The trained tour guides and scientists of different disciplines guide the visitors during their visit to PMNH. Many students and researchers also participate in different events organized by PMNH on various topics.



PMNH, NIFA Discuss Cooperation in Mushroom Cultivation

Dr. Muhammad Ismail Bhatti, Associate Curator, Botanical Sciences Division (BSD) visited Nuclear Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Peshawar. The main objective of visit and meeting was to jointly work for mushroom

cultivation and its education in the country. A fruitful meeting was held with Director NIFA Dr. Ihsanullah, Head of Food Sciences Division Dr. Auranzeb and Mushroom Supervisor Mr. Auranzeb in the Director NIFA office.

Fungi Play Vital Role in Forest Ecosystem

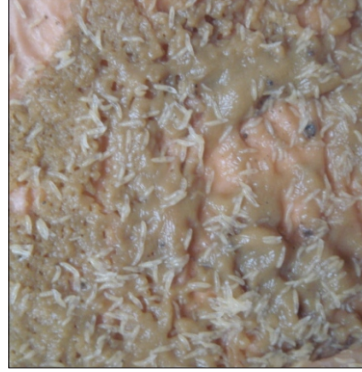
Macro and micro Fungi play vital role in the forest ecosystem. They are necessary to the reprocessing of nutrients in all global habitats because they are the leading decomposers of the complex components of plant debris, such as cellulose and lignin. As

opportunistic heterotrophs (An organism that cannot manufacture its own food), they have evolved hyphae (thread like structure) to penetrate solid substrates, and spores (fungi seed) for longrange dispersal. They cause many diseases of plants

and animals, but they also have established mutualistic symbioses with a wide range of organisms.

Fungivory or mycophagy is the method of organisms consuming fungi. Many living things including birds,

mammals, insects, plants, amoeba, gastropods, nematodes, bacteria and others have been recorded to gain their energy from consuming fungi. Some of these which only eat fungi are called fungivores.



Insect Lives in Bag

Bagworm or bag moth (*Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis* Haworth) has approximately over 1,000 species. This insect belongs to family Psychidae. Larvae of all these species live together in a bag and most species have flightless adult females. Bagworms can feed on many plants. *This insect*, also called the evergreen bagworm, eastern bagworm, common bagworm, common basket worm, or North American bagworm, can feed on over 50 families of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Severe infestations can damage the aesthetics and health of host plants.



PMNH Officer Receives Doctorate Degree in Management Sciences



Malik Muhammad Afzal, Assistant Director (Admin), Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Islamabad has received Ph.D. Degree from National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad. The notification was made on 1st June, 2016. The title of his research was “Antecedents of perceived job performance and its relationship with work outcomes: The mediating role of perceived job performance”. Dr. M.M. Afzal completed his research work under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Kashif-ur- Rehman, IQRA University, Islamabad.

He has become the first PhD officer in the management cadre in Pakistan Science Foundation and its attached offices.

The Great Artist of PMNH

Mr. M. A. H. Faizi, though retired as Associate Artist last year, always remains busy in developing new displays voluntarily at PMNH. During his service Mr. Faizi designed many displays which are a great source of attraction for visitors and they pay visits to the Museum to see them again and again. Many visitors meet him during their visits and learn many things related to art.



Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre (PASTIC)

Editor: Mrs Rahila Khurram

PASTIC Developing Consortium for Resource Sharing

PASTIC organized a one-day seminar on "Library Resource Sharing in the ICT era" on June 1st, 2016 at PASTIC National Centre, Quaid-e-Azam University Campus Islamabad. PASTIC had requested all the universities and R&D organizations to nominate focal persons from their respective institutions, who can collaborate and interact with PASTIC for various joint and collaborative activities. Thus, the seminar was attended by 35 focal persons nominated by universities and R&D organizations from Islamabad, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The objective of this seminar was to strengthen collaboration among libraries of universities and R&D organizations through development of consortium for resource sharing.

Prof Dr. Javed Ashraf, Vice Chancellor Quaid-e-Azam



Prof Dr. Javed Ashraf, VC, Quaid-e-Azam University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF, Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, DG PASTIC, Dr Shahid Soroya, DG Punjab HECat the inaugural ceremony of the Seminar

University was the Chief Guest on this occasion. In his address he said that there is a dire need to develop joint platform for resource sharing to overcome barrier of resource scarcity. Dr Shahid Soroya, Director General, Punjab Higher

Education Commission gave keynote address and focused on the provision of digital resources to the research community. He emphasized development of a real network of libraries for effective resource sharing.

Prof. Dr Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PSF said that the rapid pace of development in the field of information technology coupled with

emergence of internet calls for a total transformation of library services from conventional information services to innovational web-based services for resource sharing and we should focus on this new direction.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General PASTIC presented vote of thanks to all the guests. Mr. Attaur-Rehman, National Centre of



Prof. Dr Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF, presents a shield to Prof Dr. Javed Ashraf, VC, Quaid-e-Azam University



Syed Ghayour Hussain, National Library of Pakistan delivers a presentation to the participants of seminar

Physics, Syed Ghayour Jawad, Allama Iqbal Open Hussain, National Library of University, Islamabad were the Pakistan and Mr. Muhammad resource persons at the seminar.



A group photo of the participants and resource persons of the seminar with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, DG PASTIC

All the participants and resource persons were awarded with certificates and shields at the closing ceremony.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, DG PASTIC awards certificate to a participant

Annual Review Meeting

Chairman asks PASTIC to Prioritize Web-Based Information Services

PASTIC organized its Annual Review Meeting for the period 2015-2016 on May 31, 2016. The purpose of meeting was to review the performance of PASTIC including its Sub-Centers for improving and strengthening the existing activities and brain storming for having new vision to make the organization vibrant and viable in accordance with the needs of modern digital information era.

All the sectional heads of PASTIC National Centre and Sub-Centres participated in the meeting. The meeting was conducted in three sessions.

The first session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General (DG) PASTIC. The DG emphasized on the importance of review of activities and performance for self-assessment and improvement. He reviewed the activities and performance of PASTIC carried out during 2015-2016 with particular reference to the impact of services on research and development process in the country and projection of PASTIC services among the stakeholders.

After detail discussion and

deliberation on existing activities, the DG emphasized that in this competitive environment, information collection, management and dissemination activities having impact on users needs are very important for making the organization viable. The DG provided guidelines for improving the existing activities and initiating new activities.

The second session of the meeting was presided over by the Chairman PSF, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf. The Chairman emphasized on SWOT analysis of PASTIC to

explore new avenues for making the organization more active and vibrant. The Chairman directed that in this digital age, web-based information management and dissemination activities and services should be prioritized. The Chairman also provided guidelines and vision reframing the objectives of PASTIC according to the need of present era and utilizing the available resources and infrastructure for effective information dissemination having impact on the users' needs.

The last session of the meeting was chaired by Director, PASTIC. This session was meant for orientation of officers on using information resources and databases available free through internet for information dissemination activities. The officers were acquainted with free available information sites and resources and online database for provision of effective information services.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General PASTIC in a meeting with Senior Officers of PASTIC and In-Charges, PASTIC Sub-Centers



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF, reviews the performance and activities of PASTIC during second session of meeting.

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