An EPIDEMIC is a disease that affects many people within a community, population or region. ENDEMIC is something that belongs to a particular people or country. A PANDEMIC is an epidemic that’s spread over multiple countries or continents. Epidemics and pandemics are some of the leading threats to global health security. They not only affect people’s health and well-being, but they can also have a massive impact on livelihoods and entire societies too. Pandemics can cause sudden, widespread morbidity and mortality as well as social, political, and economic disruption. The world has endured several notable pandemics, including the Black Death, Spanish flu, and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

Most new pandemics have originated through the “zoonotic” transmission of pathogens from animals to humans, and the next pandemic is likely to be a zoonosis as well. Zoonoses enter human populations from both domesticated animals (such as farmed swine or poultry) and wildlife. Many historically significant zoonoses were introduced through increased human-animal interaction following domestication, and potentially high-risk zoonoses (including avian influenza) continue to emerge from livestock production systems. Some pathogens (including Ebola) have emerged from wildlife reservoirs and entered human populations through the hunting and consumption of wild species (such as bushmeat), the wild animal trade, and other contacts with wildlife. Spending and costs specifically associated with pandemic preparedness and response efforts are poorly tracked. There is no widely accepted, consistent methodology for estimating the economic impacts of pandemics.

To deliberate upon the gigantic role of scientists, researchers, policy makers, students, media, etc. and to arrive at possible strategies/recommendations, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) in collaboration with the Alliance of International Science Organization (ANSO) and Monbukagakusho-MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP) is organizing an ANSO-PAS-MAAP Conference on “Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness" on December 5 - 7, 2022 at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, 3- Constitution Avenue, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad.
ANSO is a non-profit, non-governmental international scientific organization founded in 2018 by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and 36 other international science and education institutions from around the world. ANSO came into being under the principles of “joint consultation, joint effort, and joint sharing” championed by the Chinese “Belt and Road Initiative”. ANSO is committed to promoting shared development, sustainable development, and the advancement of the UNSDGs through catalyzing and implementing concrete international cooperation initiatives in Science, Technology & Innovation, and Capacity Building (STIC). It is envisaged that ANSO will focus attention on the investigation and addressing of the most urgent regional and global scientific challenges. This focus includes supporting the needs and scientific capacity building of the Global South through partnerships and cooperation with the member countries and institutions. ANSO is an international organization designed to win global recognition and support through continuous activity, sound scientific programs and actions, and success in addressing global needs and challenges.

Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS):

PAS was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan in February 1953. The Government of Pakistan has bestowed consultative and advisory status to the Academy on all problems relating to the development of scientific efforts in the country. Currently, the PAS has 83 Fellows, 34 Foreign Fellows, and 26 Members. The Academy has been serving as the most prestigious scientific body in the country and has been offering science-based advice to Government on various matters. The Academy organizes and supports conferences on topics of national importance and lectures on emerging areas of sciences. The salient recent activities of the Academy include regular monthly brainstorming sessions under the banner of “Making Pakistan Science Conscious” amongst senior and young scientists (i.e., postgraduate students and young faculty), organized in collaboration with universities and scientific organizations of the country.

Monbukagakusho-MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP):

MAAP is an organization of scholars studying in Japanese institutions in the field of natural sciences, engineering & technology, social and medical sciences, public policy & management, etc. who were awarded scholarships by the MEXT (Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture, Japan: Monbukagakusho) to pursue their higher studies in Japan. It was founded in March 1996 in Islamabad by the then Scholars with the moral support of the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad. Most of the MAAP members earned higher-level postgraduate degrees (Master’s and PhDs) and did their Post-Doc having quite intensive professional experience in research and academic assignments at Japanese universities, research institutions, and leading industry/consulting firms. At present, many members are occupying very senior positions in various academic, and R&D institutions including in industry, multinational, and government organizations/ministries in Pakistan.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- Aim to bring together a wide audience of industry, healthcare, research, and medical practitioners to educate and bring about a fruitful debate on the confined topics.
- Aims to strengthen capacities of members especially in the fields of emerging pathogens, disease diagnosis, surveillance, antibacterial and antiviral resistance, epidemiology and prevention. The purpose of this event is to serve as a forum for enthusiastic researchers from all over the world to discuss scientific topics of mutual interest. The participants will have a chance to interact with the esteemed speakers in person.
- It will serve as a platform for a large scale interactions and awareness about Endemics and pandemics preparedness.
- This event will also expose Pakistani and developing countries researchers with the best of science in the important field of interest.
- The event will provide a platform to exchange ideas, develop research linkages, and foster collaborations in the field of virus research.
- To draft a resolution/recommendations for the government and other stakeholders including ANSO.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The conference is open to students, researchers, young scientists, and other countries. A great opportunity to meet renowned international and national speakers in person.

THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

- The futures of public health in a changing world
- Health assessment, infodemics, disease monitoring and reporting,
- Health promotion and healthy behaviour
- Health workforce, training and education
- Communication and infodemics
- One Health, zoonosis and animal diseases, and vaccines
- Infectious diseases, anti-virals & anti-bacterial/antifungal agents

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The conference is supported by ANSO under the collaborative research grant program.

VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE

Pakistan Academy of Sciences, 3-Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan

ACCOMMODATION

PAS Fellows Lodge, Islamabad, Pakistan

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Sunday December 04, 2022
Arrival in Islamabad

Monday December 05, 2022
09:00 – 09:30 (Registration)
09:30 - 10:30 (Inauguration)
10:30-11:00 (Tea Break)
11:00-13:30 (First Tech. Session)
13:30-14:30 (Lunch & Prayers)
14:30-17:00 (Second Tech. Session)
19:30 (Welcome Dinner)

Tuesday December 06, 2022
09.00- 10:30 (3rd Tech. Session)
10:30-11:00 (Tea Break)
11:00-13:30 (Poster Presentation)
13:30-14:30 (Lunch & Prayers)
14:30-16:00 (4th Tech. Session)
19:30 (Dinner)

Wednesday December 07, 2022
09.00- 10:30 (5th Tech. Session)
10:30-11:00 (Tea Break)
11:00-13:30 (Group work and Preparation of Recommendations)
13:30-14:30 (Lunch & Prayers)
Concluding Session