

# News Letter

## PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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SI

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## MAAP-PAS-ANSO Hybrid Workshop on "Ecosystem Restoration: One-Health and Pandemics" June 5, 2022; Islamabad



World environment day is celebrated on 5th June every year to bring awareness among the masses about the importance of environmental conservation. This year the slogan for this day was "Only one Earth" which means that we have only one planet to live on and we need to live sustainably in harmony with nature. To celebrate world environment day, a hybrid workshop on "Ecosystem Restoration: One-Health and Pandemics" was organized by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) in collaboration with the Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO) and MEXT Alumni association of Pakistan (MAAP). The theme of this workshop emphasized on connecting human, animal and environmental health in a balanced way so that none of them is undermined because the human-health is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment. The resource persons in the workshop were leading foreign experts from different countries i.e., USA, UK, Japan, China, and Pakistan. They shared their views and their research outputs and discussed development in the area of one health and pandemic. This workshop included two technical sessions. The Chief Guest of the inaugural session of the hybrid workshop was Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan (President, PAS). Prof. Zabta Khan Shinwari (Chief Organizer) was the moderator of the Inaugural Session. Dr. Muhammad Ali (Assistant Professor, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad) is the Coordinator of the hybrid workshop.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, President PAS, stressed holding such joint sessions. Notably, in discussing the COVID-9 pandemic, he said the world must work jointly to save the environment and protect people's health. Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari expressed his warm appreciation to the members of the organizing committee, speakers, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and especially ANSO for their collaboration to organize this hybrid webinar. Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat (Secretary General PAS) welcomed all the guests, speakers, organizers, and workshop participants. He appreciated all the efforts of MAAP, PAS, and ANSO to organize this series of webinars and emphasized on organizing other similar webinars in the future.

**Fellows and Members  
may submit news and  
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**Editor  
Pakistan Academy of  
Sciences  
3-Constitution Avenue,  
G-5/2, Islamabad,  
Pakistan**

**Email:** editor@paspk.org  
**Tel:** (+92 51) 920-7140  
**Web:** www.paspk.org





Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar (Vice Chancellor of the National Skills University) has lauded Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) for its contributions to creating awareness about saving environments and pristine ecosystems. While chairing the Technical Session, he said that this workshop was organized to commemorate World Environment Day 2022, and people from twelve countries participated through Zoom.

Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari briefed the participant on the idea that “No one is safe until everyone is safe.” Rutgers University USA Professor Nancy Connell outlined the unique idea of artificial intelligence to save lives on the Earth and take actions based on data gathered through artificial and human intelligence. Dr. David Franz, a biosecurity/biosafety expert from the USA, put forward the idea of universal health insurance for everyone living on this Earth. Dr. Tim Trevan, Co-Founder of Chrome Biorisk Management Consulting from Maryland, USA; Dr. Muhammad Ali from Quaid e Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan; Prof. Dr. Li Cui from Institute of Urban Environments; Dr. Shahbaz Khan from UNESCO Beijing; discussed the current COVID-19 pandemic, viral diseases transmission from other animals to humans.

They also described measures to stay safe from these emerging viral infections. Others who presented their work include Dr. Qadeer Ahsan, the Executive Director of Fleming Fund, and Dr. Quaid Saeed, Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority CEO. Dr. Nirryoshi

Shinomiya, President, National Defense Medical College, Japan, talked about the “Advances in the life sciences and the risk of pandemics.” He also expressed his fear that the eradicated viruses such as the smallpox virus can remerge, particularly in the realm of monkeypox spread to non-endemic areas. After a brief discussion by the moderator of the concluding session, Prof. Dr. Shaukat Hameed thanked PAS for this timely conference.

The Chief Guest of the concluding session was H.E Ryuji IWASAKI, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan. The session was concluded by Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat (Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences). He expressed his gratitude to worthy Chief Guest H.E Ryuji Iwasaki for sparing his precious time to grace this Workshop. In total, 11 lectures were presented by eminent local and foreign speakers in two technical sessions of the hybrid workshop. In addition, a few posters were also presented by participants of the workshop.

This workshop provided a platform for a wholesome discussion on ecological restoration and presented some robust solutions and conceptual frameworks that could be very helpful to address the existing ecological crises. One health approach can be a very effective strategy to cope with the disastrous effects of an imbalance between humans and the environment and deadly pandemics that sprout from the critical nexus of human beings and the ecosystem.

## Visit of Delegation of Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran May 12, 2022

A four Member delegation of the officials of the Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, Iran visited the Pakistan Academy of Sciences on May 12, 2022, at the invitation of Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, Fellow PAS and Former President PAS to briefly discuss the role of PAS and the possibilities for the establishment of a long-term mutually beneficial relationship between the two academies based on scientific cooperation, collaboration, scholarly research activities and academic exchange of professional personnel ideas.

Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat (Sec. General, PAS) welcomed the visiting delegation and explained the organizational structure, aims and objectives, national and international collaboration aspects, and salient achievements of the Academy since its inception. In this regard, an Initial draft of the Memorandum of Understanding for Academic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran

and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) was shared.

Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan (Fellow PAS and Former President PAS), Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat (Sec. General, PAS), Prof. Dr. M. Asif Khan (Fellow PAS), Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari (Fellow PAS) and Dr. Riffat M. Qureshi, Dir. Administration PAS attended the meeting.



## Prof. Dr. Aamer Saeed (FPAS) Elected as Fellow of the Prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry (UK)

Prof. Dr. Aamer Saeed (FPAS) was honored with the Selection as Fellow of the Prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) (2022). Prof. Dr. Aamer Saeed, FRSC is Chairman & Professor (tenured) of Chemistry, at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. He has been selected as FRSC for his outstanding research and scholarly contribution. It consists of an Award Letter, Certificate, and batch of RSC. Earlier he was awarded with Gold Medal PAS (2003), Dr. M. Razziuddin Siddiqi Prize in Chemistry, Gold Medal, Idara-e-Farough Taleem, Punjab Lahore (2015). Included in World's Top 2% Scientists list (2020) by Stanford University. Highly cited scientists of Pakistani Universities (Ranking list published by Elsevier (2021). RPA awardee from 2004-2017 in category: A by PCST, Alexander von Humboldt Post-Doctoral Fellow Germany (2001, 2019), Fellow of the Chemical Society of Pakistan, Fellow Pakistan Academy of Sciences (2020), Highest Impact Factor Award 2018, TWAS Visiting Expert Award, Certificate of Outstanding Research University of Hannover 2019. He is Associate Editor of Frontiers in Chemistry (Impact factor 4.62) and co-editor of book published by Springer.



He has published nearly 600 research papers in international journals, 14 book chapters, 07 International patents. His impact factor is greater than 2000 and are over 9000 citations with H-index 41.

Pakistan Academy of Sciences congratulates Prof. Dr. Aamer Saeed for selection as FRSC 2022.



## **Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shniwari (Fellow PAS), became Ethics Committee Co-Chair of the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) and Dr. Shujaul Mulk Khan (Member PAS) Elected as the Vice President of ISE**

The International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) is a global, collaborative network of individuals and organizations working to preserve vital links between human societies and the natural world. Established in 1988, the ISE now includes researchers, academics, students, lawyers, policy-makers, and community leaders from over 100 countries. Despite our diversity, ISE members share a common concern and a common vision. We are concerned by the loss of traditional, local, and indigenous knowledge, and the effects of that loss on biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity. The ISE envision harmonious existence between humankind and the natural world for the benefit of future generations, and work toward this vision by promoting dialogue on resources, knowledge, ethics, and research methods across regions, cultures, and worldviews. The ISE is governed by a constitution and guided by a voluntary board, committee members, and a council of elders, as described by our organizational structure.

The ISE is guided and administrated by a board (comprised of the executive, representatives, and program chairs), committee members, a council of elders, and a single staff person, the Managing Director. Working together, these ISE members oversee the society's fundraising and outreach work, direct the ISE's three core programs and biennial ISE congress, and liaise with an extended network of NGOs, sister societies, and local, traditional, and indigenous communities.

It's an honor for Pakistan in general and Pakistan Academy of Sciences in particular that it's Fellow Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari has become ISE Ethics Committee Co-Chair and Dr. Shujaul Mulk Khan Member PAS has been elected as Vice President of the Society. More details can be reached via the following link;

<https://www.ethnobiology.net/about/current-ise-board/>.

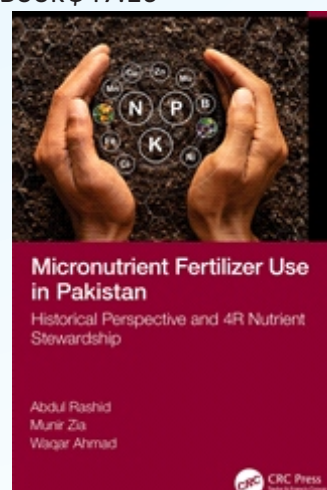
## **Dr. Abdul Rashid (Fellow, PAS) Published a Book on 'Micronutrient Fertilizer Use in Pakistan: Historical Perspective and 4R Nutrient Stewardship'**

Dr. Abdul Rashid, Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, has persistently pursued R&D on micronutrient nutrition of crops since 1973. Despite superannuation, he remains (partially) active professionally; his recent work being on micronutrient biofortification of staple cereals. According to him, it was his keen desire to review/summarize and document decades of micronutrients R&D carried out by various institutions of the country -- prior to leaving the temporary world for his eternal abode.

Consequently, Dr. Rashid spearheaded the book "Micronutrient Fertilizer Use in Pakistan: Historical Perspective and 4R Nutrient Stewardship" – By Abdul Rashid, Munir Zia & Waqar Ahmad – published by CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group), Boca Raton, Florida (2023), (340 pages).

The book information is available at the following link:

<https://www.routledge.com/Micronutrient-Fertilizer-Use-in-Pakistan-Historical-Perspective-and-4R/Rashid-Zia-Ahmad/p/book/9781032307626>. Also, the book can be ordered at this link: Hardback \$140.00 (free shipping); eBook \$47.16



## **Prof. Dr. Jinde Cao (Foreign FPAS) Elected as Foreign Member of Russian Academy of Sciences**

Prof. Jinde CAO (Foreign FPAS) is elected as a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) in 2022. The news is released at the General Meeting of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) held on June 02, 2022. Professor Alexander Sergeev, President of RAS, extended his warm congratulations to Prof. Jinde CAO in his email and stated that the joint efforts will promote the fruitful cooperation between Russia and China. The Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) is a state academy that aims to ensure the continuity and coordination of basic research in the natural, technical, medical, agricultural, social, and human sciences. It was founded in 1724, when Peter the Great on the advice of Gottfried Leibniz invited prominent foreign scientists -- including Leonhard Euler, Nicholas and Daniel Bernoulli, Christian Golbach, Jean Delisle, Georg Krafft and others -- in a quest to improve visibility of Russian science. Many of the foreign academicians, including Daniel Bernoulli and Euler, became world-famous while working for the Russian Empire. Between 1925 and 1991 the Academy bore the name that incorporated the name of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics -- the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. It was reconstituted as the Russian Academy of Sciences on November 21, 1991 by a decree of the President of the Russian Federation that also confirmed its status as the highest scientific institution in Russia. The RAS has always cherished ties with foreign scientists, as evidenced by the fact that foreign honorary members have been selected on a regular basis since its establishment.



Jinde Cao is an Endowed Chair Professor, the Dean of the School of Mathematics, the Director of the Jiangsu Provincial Key Laboratory of Networked Collective Intelligence of China and the Director of the Research Center for Complex Systems and Network Sciences at Southeast University. Prof. Cao was a recipient of the National Innovation Award of China, Gold medal of Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Obada Prize and the Highly Cited Researcher Award in Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics by Thomson Reuters/Clarivate Analytics. He is elected as a Fellow of IEEE, a member of the Academy of Europe, a foreign member of Russian Academy of Engineering, a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, a foreign fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, a fellow of African Academy of Sciences, and a foreign Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

## **Prof. Dr. Gary Stein Foreign Fellow Pakistan Academy of Sciences Awarded a five-year \$20M Grant to Study Northern New England Clinical and Translational Research Network**

Dr. Gary Stein was awarded a five-year \$20m grant from the National Institutes of Health for the Northern New England Clinical and Translational Research Network. The program supports investigation that addresses the challenges of health and healthcare encountered with northern New England rurality.

Two chapters were published by Springer Nature in Nuclear, Chromosomal, and Genomic Architecture in Biology and Medicine. Dr. Rabail Toor, Postdoctoral Fellow in The Stein Laboratory made a significant contribution. Dr. Toor received her Ph.D. from the University of Punjab in 2020. ("Epigenetic-mediated regulation of gene expression for biological control and cancer: cell and tissue structure, function, and

phenotype" and "Epigenetic-mediated regulation of gene expression for biological control and cancer: fidelity of mechanisms governing the cell cycle")

