

**Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf**  
Chairman  
Pakistan Science Foundation

**M. Javed Iqbal**  
Education Programmer



# PSF NEWS

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## From the Chairman



### Turning adversities into opportunities

*A farmer was working in his fields. Suddenly his horse fell into an open well. The farmer made his all efforts to pull the horse out to save his life but failed. When the farmer lost his hope to save the horse he give up and decided to close the well. The farmer called his neighbours and started throwing garbage and soil into the well to fill it. This situation further disturbed the horse but he did not lose the hope*

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## PSF Chairman Administers Oath to Office-Bearers of ICG Students Council

PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf was the Chief Guest at the Investiture Ceremony of Islamabad College for Girls (ICG), held on February 9, 2017.

The College administration also arranged a Science Fair in which the College students displayed their projects. The PSF Chairman inaugurated the Science Fair and visited different stalls. He appreciated the science projects of the students.

Later on, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf administered oath to office-bearers of the new Students Council of ICG.



PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf administers oath to the Students Council of ICG on February 9, 2017.

Addressing the Investiture Ceremony, he informed the students about various ongoing

programmes of Pakistan Science Foundation for students. He made special mention to Science Talent Farming Scheme, Asian Science Camp, International Junior Science Olympiad, London International Youth Science Forum and Mobile Science Labs under its Science Popularization Programmes. He called upon students to fully benefit from these programmes. The ICG Principal informed the participants of the Investiture Ceremony about the curricular and extra-curricular achievements of the College.



PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf visits stalls set up by students in Science Fair on the occasion of Investiture Ceremony of ICG on February 9, 2017.

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From the Chairman

to save his life. Instead of getting buried under garbage and soil he started shaking his body to remove these things, taking this material under the feet and continued to rise. Ultimately, the well was filled with garbage and soil and the horse was out saving his life. Animal's this instinct and struggle to save him astonished the farmers that how the horse changed an adversity into opportunity. We confront such situations daily in the form of opposition, mud-slinging, criticism, scourges. It is up to us either get buried under the garbage or convert it into opportunity to rise through our wisdom, struggle and determination. If we have to succeed in the field of science and technology we have to explore the opportunities around us and turn the adversities into blessings.



Glimpses of the Investiture Ceremony of ICG on February 9, 2017.



PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf plants a sapling in the lawns of the Foundation on February 13, 2017 as a part of the Spring Tree Plantation Campaign.



Mr. Lars Bergmeyer, Director DAAD Information Center Islamabad and PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf discuss collaborative programmes during former's visit to PSF on February 27, 2017.



Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Saani, Minister of Education Gilgit-Baltistan meets PSF Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf during his visit to the Foundation on February 22, 2017.

## 26<sup>th</sup> Intra-Board Science Essay & Poster Competitions

PSF in collaboration with all Secondary Education (BISE) Boards of Intermediate and of the country has been



Students participate in Essay and Poster Competition arranged by BISE Sahiwal

organizing Intra/Inter-Board Science Essay and Poster Competitions for the last 25 years. Science Essay and Poster Competitions are firstly held at Intra-Board level and then PSF organizes "Inter-Board Contests" on the basis of results of Intra-level. Judges comprising professors, scientists and artists evaluate the essays and posters received from all over the country for best three positions. To encourage the students, PSF awards merit certificates and cash prizes to the winner students.

This year 26th Science Essay

## Quote of the Month

"One, remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Two, never give up work. Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it. Three, if you are lucky enough to find love, remember it is there and don't throw it away."

— Stephen Hawking



A group photo of the participating students with Board officers and PSF representative

Competition has been announced on the theme “Science Museums: a potential means of informal education” and for Science Poster Competition on theme “Quality of food items available in local market”. In this regard all the Boards are conducting the competitions. BISE Sahiwal arranged a competition at Govt. Comprehensive High School Sahiwal on February 23, 2017. The Secretary BISE Sahiwal visited the Competition. PSF



Glimpses of Essay and Poster Competitions at Shikar Pur and Larkana

representative from Science Caravan Multan Unit was also present on this occasion. The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Larkana conducted the 26th Intra Board Science Essay and Poster competition at Larkana,

Shikarpur, Kamber, Jacobabad, Kashmore and Dadu districts. Over 400 students participated. Mr. Irfan Ahmed, AD Caravan Sukkur Unit and Mr. Muzaffar Ali. A.S.O, visited the competition centers in District Shikarpur and Larkana.

## Over 15,000 Students Visit Science Caravans Exhibitions in Feb. 2017

Over 15,094 students and teachers from 66 schools visited science exhibitions arranged by PSF Science Caravan Units across the country in February 2017. The science exhibitions are a regular feature of the Foundation under its Science Popularization Programme. The detail of the exhibitions is as under:

**Federal:** Science Caravan Federal Unit organized planetarium show and Mobile Science Exhibition on February 1-2, 2017 at Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) for the students of Beacon House School System, which was visited by over 250 students. All the visitors took keen interest in the exhibits.

Science Caravan Federal Unit participated in Mother Language Literature Festival on February 18-19 at Lok Virsa, Islamabad. During the Festival, PSF and ECO Science Foundation jointly organized various science activities for the visitors especially for the students. Mobile Science Lab and Planetarium show were also part of the activity attended by over 3,500 visitors including



A view of Planetarium show arranged by Federal Unit at PMNH for Beacon House School's students

students. The exhibition was appreciated by all the visitors.

A Planetarium show was arranged at Al Huda International School, F-8 Islamabad on February 27-28 and over 700 students participated in it.



Students being briefed about Mobile Science Lab during Festival at Lok Virsa

**Peshawar:** The PSF Science Caravan Peshawar Unit arranged exhibitions at GHS-1 Nowshera, GGHS Takht-e-Nasrati Karak and New Peshawar High School & Degree College on February 01-04, February 13-19 and February 22-25, 2017 respectively. In these exhibitions, 2,663 students and 96 teachers from 28 schools participated.



Students watching scientific documentary and carrying hands on activities during an exhibition arranged by Peshawar Unit

**Sukkur:** The Science Caravan Sukkur Unit arranged an exhibition at Govt. (Boys) Higher Secondary School Badah, District Larkana on February 13-18, which was inaugurated by



A view of Science Caravan exhibition arranged by Sukkur Unit

Mr. Dhani Bux Brohi, The School Principal. Over 2,230 students, teachers and other staff of from nine schools visited it. The activity was telecasted by Awaz and Indus channels.

**Tandojam:** The Tandojam Unit arranged science exhibition at Govt Boys/Girls High School Matli 2 Taluka Tando Ghulam



Students being briefed about exhibits during exhibition arranged by Tandojam Unit



Hyder, District Tando Mohammad Khan on February 13-18, which was visited by 1,081 students and 61 teachers from 14 schools of the area.

Another science exhibition was arranged at Govt. Boys/Girls High Schools Taluka Saheedabad, District Matiari on February 20-25, which was visited by 1,418 students and 74 teachers from 13 schools.

**Faisalabad:** The Science Caravan Faisalabad Unit arranged a Science Exhibition at Tehsil Nowshera Virkan, District Gujranwala on February 13-24. Deputy DEO Saqib Shoaib visited the Science Exhibition on February 16. Over 4,500 students from 16 schools participated in the exhibition.



Glimpses of Science exhibition arranged by Faisalabad Unit



## Popular Science Lectures

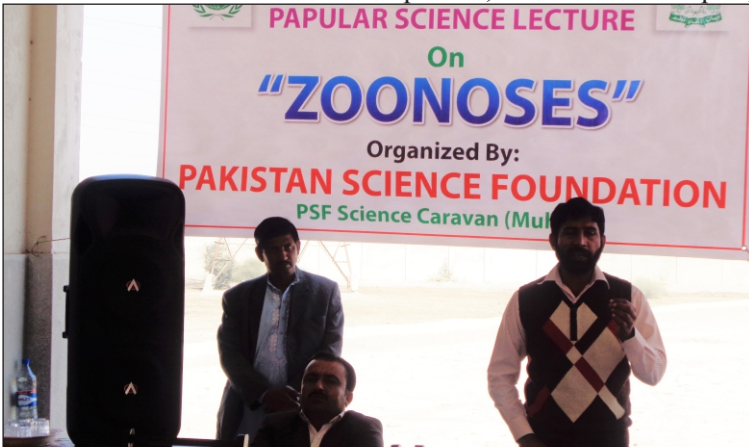
A Popular Science Lecture on “Zoonosis” was arranged by the PSF Science Caravan Multan Unit at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Piran Ghaib, Multan, on February 9, 2017. The activity was organized with the collaboration of CEO Education, DEO Secondary District Multan and the School

Principal, Mrs. Razia Niazi. Over 120 students and 10 teachers participated in the event.

The students and teachers showed keen interest in the lecture. The “Zoonosis” term is used for the diseases transmitted to human beings from animals and birds. The speaker, Dr. Shahid Iqbal,

Assistant Prof. Govt. Emerson College Multan explained the transmitted diseases, their causes, treatment and curative measures. At end of the lecture, the participants asked questions about the diseases. Another Popular Science Lecture was arranged at Govt. Boys High School, Abad Lakha, District Sukkur on

February 23 by Science Caravan Sukkur Unit. Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan Ansari, Lecturer, Zoology delivered the lecture on “Pollution and its control”. Mr. Ashfaque Ahmed Mirani, Headmaster, senior teachers and students attended the lecture. Over 150 students, senior teachers and general public participated in the programme.



Glimpses of Popular Science Lecture arranged by Multan Unit



Glimpses of Popular Science Lecture arranged by Sukkur Unit



# Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH)

Editor: Dr. Muhammad Ismail Bhatti

## German Ambassador Visits PMNH

German Ambassador H.E. Ina Lepelalong with Chief of German Embassy's Cultural Section Mr. Burghard Brinksmeier visited Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) on February 1, 2017.

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) Chairman Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Director General PMNH Dr. Muhammad Khan Leghari and other senior scientists welcomed the distinguished guests.

The Ambassador visited the Museum display galleries including life size model of *Baluchitherium* and Skeleton of Blue

Whale. Senior scientists of PMNH briefed the Ambassador about the displays. She appreciated the PMNH scientists for preservation and display of natural history specimens for research as well as educational purposes in a very professional manner.

Later the German Ambassador, the Pakistan Science Foundation Chairman, PMNH DG and Directors during a meeting discussed the areas of cooperation between PSF, PMNH and the German Science and Technology institutions.



## PMNH Scientist Visit Karachi and Balochistan Coastal Areas

PMNH scientists from Zoological Sciences Division (ZSD) and Botanical Sciences Division (BSD) explored the Sindh and Baluchistan coastal belt for the collection of the flora and fauna on January 19 to February 12, 2017. The team members included Dr. Syed Aneel Ahmad Gilani from Botanical Sciences Division, Dr. Shabir Ali Amir and Mr.

Rafaqat Masroor from Zoological Sciences Division. The other team members included Mr. Riaz and Mr. Zafar. The team visited the Baluchistan areas including Jewani, Pasni, Gawadar, Ormara, Hingol and Sonmiani. The team also visited the Karachi coastal areas including Keti Bander, Karachi West Warf, Clifton, Hawks Bay and

Karachi University area for the collection of the floral and faunal diversity.

It was the very first field visit by the PMNH scientists to the Astola Island. The collection of the flora and fauna of the island will be a new addition to the respective BSD and ZSD herbaria/repositories.

The collection included the reptiles i.e. snakes and lizards,

fish fauna and higher plants of the targeted areas mentioned above. The team also collaborated with the indigenous people for the general information about the flora and fauna of the targeted area. The field visit was very productive and was a source of very interesting and rare collection of the flora and fauna.



### VOG Wears New Look with Latest Systems

Virtual Orientation Gallery (VOG) is one of the unique features of PMNH displays which provide instant access to different natural history specimens in the form of brief text, classification, short description and movie clips to the visitors. It contains information about 3,500 animals, plants, rocks, fossils and minerals found in our region. Due to increasing number of visitors, PMNH is currently focusing on the improvement of existing displays for an elegant look of the museum by adopting new and latest technology. As a part of this mission, six new high resolution Kiosk Systems have been installed in the VOG along with beautiful background and lights for the public attraction. These new high-speed systems will not only provide better access to the natural history specimens but also will be used for the transferring scientific information especially to the students of schools, colleges and universities along with general public. It is the most effective and meaningful way of communication.



### Renovation/Up-gradation of Display Galleries

Display galleries of PMNH of Sea Turtles, Snakes, Hammer Head Shark and small mammals have been mounted. These backgrounds not only beautify the space but also enhance the illustration of specimens. New signs for “Dinosaurs Gallery” and “Whale Shark Gallery” have also been installed for the public guidance and interest.

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### Over 8,000 Persons Visit PMNH in February 2017

A total 8,375 persons including 2,000 students, 3,860 general public, 15 foreigners and 2,500 children under 05-year of age visited the museum galleries in February 2017. The detail of student groups from the main educational institutions that visited the Museum is as under: Saint Mary's Academy Lalazar Rawalpindi, Beacon House Islamabad, The City Science Academy Jehlum, Asria Public School AJK, Air Foundation

School System Rawalpindi, The KIMS College Chiniot, Govt. Girls High School Haripur, Air Foundation School System Kohat, Govt. High School Swabi, Secondary Public School Morgah Rawalpindi, Allama Iqbal Public High School Taxila, Govt. High School Swabi, Govt. College of Management Science Hangu, Quaid-i-Azam Public Girls/Boys Secondary School Hazro, Govt. College for Girls

Gujranwala, Ripha International University Faisalabad, Al Noor Public High School Chakwal,

PAF Finishing School, Islamabad and National College of Art Rawalpindi.



Chinese delegation visited PMNH

## Giraffidae family's 5.33 million old fossils found

The scientists of PMNH have found Giraffidae family's 5.33 million old fossils. The fossil specimen is last Maxilla P 3-4. The Giraffidae is Artiodactyl (The even-toed ungulates (*Artiodactyla*, from Greek ἄρτιος (ártios), meaning 'even', and dáktulos, meaning 'finger/toe' are ungulates (hoofed animals) whose weight is borne

equally by the third and fourth toes. By contrast, odd-toed ungulates, such as horses, bear their weight primarily on their third toe mammals that share a common ancestor with Deer and Bovids. There are only two living members of this family i.e. giraffe and the okapi. One with long slender shaped bone and other with robust bones. They are

evolved from Late Miocene Climate change that changes grass lands into forests. The age of the specimen is Pliocene i.e. 5.333 million to 2.58 million years before present. These fossils are found from Dhok Pathan Formation of Pabbi Hills, Jhelum District. The fossils are available in the repository of PMNH as reference collection.



## Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Centre (PASTIC)

Editor: Saima Siddique Tariq

### Training Workshop on Strengthening Innovative Library Leaders

Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre (PASTIC) in collaboration with Pakistan Librarians Welfare Organization (PLWO) organized a two-day training workshop on "Strengthening Innovative Library Leaders" from February 02-03, 2017 at PASTIC National Center Islamabad.

The objective of the workshop was to train and empower librarians to meet the challenges of this digital age by grooming their leadership skills.

Federal Secretary S&T, Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken was the chief guest at the inaugural session of workshop. In his



address he emphasized on capacity-building of the librarians to meet the challenges of present digital era. He appreciated and lauded the role of PASTIC and Pakistan Librarians Welfare Organization (PLWO) for taking this specific initiative.

He said that such efforts should be continued for the capacity building of librarians and information professionals.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PSF and Mr. Naveed Qamar, President PLWO were the Guests of Honor. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf said that

Leaders play a pivotal part in the success or failure of their team, group, or organization. As the field of library and information studies continues to rapidly change it is essential to understand what the requirements of library leaders are today. He further added that this workshop will prepare librarians to meet the challenges of this digital era. Mr. Naveed Qamar said that acquiring necessary knowledge and insight about innovative options in library leadership development and competencies is the dire need of present digital era. Overall 40 librarians and information professionals from all over Pakistan attended this workshop.

### Training Workshop on Making Your Research Life Easier with Mendeley Tool

Mendeley is a cross-platform application (Windows, Mac, Linux, iPhone) that helps researchers manage and annotate their Scientific paper collections. Citation data from its cloud library can be accessed across multiple devices e.g., Laptop, PC, iPhone etc. In order to enhance the research capabilities and to inculcate modern thesis writing trends, PASTIC National Centre regularly organizes training workshops on



A glimpse of group activity during the workshop

Mendeley. The objective of this workshop is to build the capacity of young researchers and to enhance their skills in literature search, citation, sharing and discovering of new research. The workshop included practical sessions where an opportunity is provided to learn and practically use different features in Mendeley application.

In this context PASTIC organized a training workshop



The Chief Guest Secretary S&T Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken addressing the inaugural session of the workshop

on "Make your research life easier with Mendeley Tool" from 8th -9th February 2017 at PASTIC National Centre, Quaid-e-Azam University Campus, Islamabad.

Dr Maryum Ibrar Shinwari, Senior Scientific Information Officer (PASTIC) was the resource person of the

workshop. 21 Participants from academia (Quaid-e-Azam University & Bahria University) and R & D organization (PMNH, NARC, ISSI, PHRC) participated in this hands on training workshop. Certificates were also distributed among the participants at the end of the workshop.

### PASTIC arranges Awareness Seminar on PASTIC S&T Services for Researchers

PASTIC arranges Awareness Seminars on its Services regularly. The objectives of this regular activity are to raise researcher's awareness of information services offered by PASTIC. These seminars were attended by the students, Researchers and faculty members. Following seminars were organized during the month of February, 2017.

1. One day Awareness Seminar at Institute of Chemistry, University of the Punjab, Lahore on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.
2. One day Awareness Seminar at University of Sargodha Lahore Campus; Lahore on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2017
3. One day Awareness Seminar at CAMB, University of the Punjab Lahore on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2017
4. One day Awareness at FAST, National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences, Karachi Campus on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**PASTIC Services Stalls** PASTIC regularly organizes its service stalls all over the country, wherein PASTIC publications are displayed and membership forms/pamphlets are distributed and all the visitors are briefed about PASTIC services. In continuation of this regular activity, following stalls were organized during the month of February 2017.

#### Lahore

1. First stall was organized on 2nd February, 2017 at at Institute of Chemistry, University of the Punjab, Lahore.
2. Another stall was organized at University of Sargodha Lahore Campus on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2017
3. Third stall of the series was organized at CAMB, University of the Punjab, Lahore on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.
4. Fourth stall was organized at Department of Physics, University of the Punjab, Lahore on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

## PASTIC Training/workshop on SPSS

PASTIC regularly organizes training workshops on Research Methodology; this program is for students, scholars of MSc, MS/M.Phil & Ph.D. The objective of this workshop is to provide basic understanding about qualitative and quantitative research concept, methods and to build capacity in collecting, managing and analyzing data for qualitative and quantitative research. In continuation of this regular activity, PASTIC

National Centre, Islamabad organized a three-day training workshop on "Research Tools and Techniques" from 22nd to 24th February, 2017. Mr. Muhammad Usman, Web Manager, PASTIC was the resource Person of the workshop.

The Principal Librarian Syed Habib Akhtar Jafri anticipated that participants of training workshop will utilize their learning skills while conducting their research for getting better analysis output with ease. The participants expressed their appreciation for organizing such need based training. Later on, the certificates were also distributed among the participants.



Participants during the training session on SPSS

## Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Director General, PASTIC retires from service

Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, an illustrious officer since 1995, has retired on 01-01-2017 after attaining the age of superannuation. He Joined Pakistan Science Foundation as Principal Scientific Officer while serving in various capacities he contributed towards development of the organization and reached at highest post of Chairman. As a token of acknowledgement of his services a farewell party was organized in PASTIC. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation was also present at the occasion. Prof. Dr. M. Akram Sheikh, DG, PASTIC tinted salient personality traits of Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and his contributions as public servant, were highlighted



Prof. Dr. M. Akram Sheikh highlighting the career and achievements of Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro

along with his professional competence and self-discipline. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PSF acknowledged his meritorious services as he will be remembered for a long time for his dedication, commitment and hard work.

### 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