



Minutes of meeting of the Editorial Committee NESS-Pak held on 7 Nov 2024

A meeting of the Editorial Committee (EC) of National Eco-Security System (NESS-Pak) Global Report 2024 Pakistan Volume was held on 7 November 2024, the first day of the One Health Conference (OHC2924) on: One Targe, Long Term Survival of Human Being through National Eco-Security System. The meeting was chaired by Prof M Subhan Qureshi, President NESS-Pak and attended by delegates attending the conference physically as well online. Mr Tian Dexin and Dr Yan Xie from NESS-ISN joined the meeting online.

Prof M Subhan Qureshi opened the discussion, introducing the National Security System initiated by Chinese scientists, as an international scientific plan aimed at safeguarding children in every country in the world. It is dedicated to ensuring the essential minimum Eco-Security conditions necessary for the sustained survival of children across all nations, as they represent the biological essence of humanity and the future of human civilization. The inaugural [NESS International Scientific Congress](#) was held in Haikou in November 2022, and experts and scholars from 26 countries jointly launched the Haikou Initiative. [The second Congress](#), convened in Haikou in October 2023, engaging in experts and students from 39 countries onsite. [The third Congress](#) took place in Shennongjia, Hubei, in May 2024, participated 71 countries onsite. NESS 2024 Congress was attended by Prof M Subhan Qureshi and Dr Sher Bahadar Khan from Pakistan. Khunjerab National Park of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan was accepted as a protected area by IAPA Beijing.

Presently, the initiative has garnered support of experts and scholars in 1,107 organisations including universities, research institutions, and other organisations from 154 countries. The Preparatory Committee (PC) for National Eco-Security System Pakistan (NESS-Pak) was established, to be hosted by the Dairy Science Park (DSP) at Peshawar. The PC will work with Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM) to establish the NESS Research Center (NESS-RC). NESS-Pak Initiative was launched which has split the Eco-Security into Environment Security, Biodiversity, Food Security, Public Health and Livelihood Security.

There are 327 higher education, research and other institutes in Pakistan and abroad, out of which 63 (19.27)%, 59 (18.04%) and 205 (62.69%) have made institutional, individual and no promises yet, respectively. As of September, 2024, the number of members of the Editorial Committee has been: 85 Editorial Committee (EC) members for Pakistan Volume of NESS Global Report, as well as 46 Youth Editorial Committee (YEC) members were identified, with 3 executive members totalling 134, covering 129 higher education institutions and research institutes. A total of 250 persons have got registered as NESS Supporters through NESS-Pak. The information has been integrated into NESS Global Report 2024 Pakistan Volume and the document would be updated continuously. More institutions and individuals are invited to join the NESS-Pak Initiative.

Prof Sher Bahadar Principal College of AH and Vet Sciences (CAHVS) AWKUM shared his thoughts on NESS and referred to the series of One Health Congresses at Abdul Wali Khan University (AWKUM) Mardan. The first congress was held in 2023 with the theme “Recent Trends in Improving Resistance Against Diseases (IRAD)” while the current conference is focusing on the theme “One Targe, Long Term Survival of Human Being through National Eco-Security System”. He described the contribution of the AWKUM, already home to the NESS-Pak Research Center, to lead efforts in integrating eco-security initiatives into academic and outreach programs, focusing on biodiversity, food security, public health, and livelihoods. They are looking for funding opportunities within the country and abroad.

Dr Abdul Sajid, Pathologist at Associate Professor Pathology, CAHVS emphasised the critical role of veterinary pathology in the One Health framework, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health. Veterinary pathology contributes significantly by: Disease Diagnosis and Surveillance, Research and Innovation that overlap between humans and animals, such as antimicrobial resistance and emerging infectious diseases; Food Safety and Biosecurity; and Ecosystem Health, investigating diseases within wildlife populations and their interactions with domestic animals and human settlements to maintain ecological balance.

Dr Tahir Usman, Associate Professor CAHVS, specialised in Animal Genetics and Breeding, emphasised on the critical role of animal breeding and genetics in promoting eco-security, preserving biodiversity, and enhancing public health. Genetic selection and breeding programs can enhance the resilience of livestock to climate change, diseases, and environmental stressors. Preservation of indigenous breeds through genetic characterization and conservation ensures the protection of unique traits that may be crucial for future adaptability. Genetic advancements contribute to the production of healthier and safer animal-derived food products, reducing risks to human health. Sustainable breeding practices help maintain ecosystem balance by reducing the environmental footprint of livestock production.

Dr Naziruddina, Associate Professor of Microbiology, University of Swat, informed the Committee that Microbiology plays a vital role in ensuring eco-security by addressing the intersection of environmental, animal, and human health. Its contributions can be categorised into: i) Disease Surveillance and Control; ii) Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Management; iii) Environmental Health and Biosecurity; iv) Biodiversity Conservation; v) Food Safety and Security; vi) Climate Change Adaptation.

Dr. Muhammad Israr, PSO (NSLP) at the Pakistan Science Foundation, Islamabad, assured his full support for the implementation of the **NESS Global Report 2024 Pakistan Volume**. He informed the committee that the report would be presented to the Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Shahbaz Sharif. Dr. Israr also endorsed the establishment of a **NESS-Pak Support Cell** within the Ministry of Science and Technology, backed by a donor consortium, to advance eco-security research and development across Pakistan. Additionally, he committed to coordinating with various government ministries to foster engagement with NESS-Pak initiatives.

Prof. M. Subhan Qureshi expressed his gratitude for the support and valuable contributions of the Editorial Committee members. He urged the members to integrate eco-security

disciplines, including environment, biodiversity, food security, public health, and livelihood security, into the work plans of their respective organisations. Prof. Qureshi emphasised the need for dedicated funding to the NESS Initiative to enable more meaningful contributions from the members. He further proposed that Dr. Muhammad Israr may be officially designated as the Focal Point of NESS-Pak for the Government of Pakistan by NESS-ISN.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

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