Second International Symposium

Biodiversity of Pakistan: Prospects and Associated Issues

May 22 - 24, 2016

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Second International Symposium

Biodiversity of Pakistan: Prospects and Associated Issues

May 22 - 24, 2016

Venue
Baragali Summer Campus

Organized by

Department of Botany
University of Peshawar

National Organizing Committee

- Dr. Amir Nawaz, Dean, FLES, University of Peshawar
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- Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad, QAU Islamabad
- Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, NIAB, Tandojam
- Dr. Samin Jan, Islamia College Peshawar
- Dr. Nisar Ahmad, University of Malakand
- Dr. Shuja ul Mulk Khan, Dept. Bio. Sci. QAU, Isl.

Invited Speakers

- Dr. Mary E. Barkworth, USA
- Dr. Chandrkant B. Salunkhe India
- Dr. Gulzar Khan Brazil
- Dr. Munir Ozturk, Turkey
- Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Canada
- Dr. Habib Ahmad VC Hazara University
- Dr. Ikeda Hiroshi, Japan
- Dr. Amin-ul-Haq, GC University Lahore
- Dr. Muhammad Khurshid, SACEP, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Khan Bahadar Marwat, VC SBBU Sheringal
- Dr. Muhammad Qaiser, University of Karachi
- Dr. Rasul Bakhsh Tareen, Univ. of Baluchistan
- Dr. G. Raza Bhatti HEC, Pakistan
- Dr. Mir Ajab Khan, QAU, Islamabad
- Dr. Amir Khan University of Peshawar
- Dr. Abdul Nasir Khalid, University of the Punjab
- Dr. Zabita Khan Shinwari, QAU Islamabad

World current rate of species extinction is at least 100 times the rate that existed before modern humans. It is expected to increase this at least 1,000-10,000 times the background rate during this century. Human modification of Earth's natural ecosystems has been extensive reducing biodiversity and NPP, strengthening pest species and disease-causing bacteria, over-harvesting natural resources. Scientific consensus is now generally accepted that the world is becoming less biological diverse in terms of genes, species and ecosystems and environmental degradation is rapidly taking place. This loss of biodiversity poses a global threat to the human wellbeing, mainly because of human induced non balanced behavior to the dynamics of nature. There are conservative estimates of extinctions that by 2050, twenty five percent of the world's present plant and animal species will be gone and 50% by 2099, will vanish. Losses rates are higher in biologically diverse areas with more endangered species "Hot spot" extinction rates may be 25-50%.

Pakistan is the home of some of the world's leading ecological regions due to immense variation in its wide latitude, spread from gigantic mountain peaks of Karakoram, Hindu Kush and western Himalayas to the coasts of Arabian Sea, which contributes to the overall biodiversity of the country. Unwise economic policies have widened inequalities and forced rural people and others to exploit biodiversity at rates that are no longer sustainable. As a result, processes such as deforestation, overgrazing, soil erosion, salinity and water logging have become major threats to the biodiversity in Pakistan. It is now feared that lacking any conservation measures, country is appearing with the world's second highest rate of deforestation. The key to protect the biological heritage of Pakistan lies in the involvement of local people and to support competent institutions for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The region not only preserve the precious biodiversity but also provide enormous ecosystem services, supporting livelihood of millions of people by providing food, shelter, medicinal plants and habitat for hunting. So there is a dire need to create awareness and educate the young generation regarding exploitation of the resources, sustainable utilization, conservation and restoration of the degraded habitats.

In this regard, a very successful 1st International Symposium hosted by Hazara University last year, it is deemed to continue with, therefore 2nd International Symposium on **"*Biodiversity of Pakistan; Prospects and Associated Issues*"** is organized by Department of Botany, University of Peshawar where all the participants will share their experiences with the local scientists for addressing the issues to conserve the nature.

Some 200 participants from all over the country and overseas have wished to participate in the congress.