



(ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST))

Statement by: Dr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel, President of ECO-IEST,
29th Meeting of the
ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
17-20 December 2018
ECO Secretariat-Tehran

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor,

Excellencies,

Esteemed delegations of Member States,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honor for me, as the President of the ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology to address the 29th Regional Planning Council on the background, status and prospect of the Institute.

Let me start my intervention by congratulating HE Dr. Hadi Soleimanpur for his election as the Secretary General which will be a value added for the ECO family.

Just to refresh your mind, as you are well informed the ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology was formally created in 2006 with the rationale of:

- generating knowledge through research and studies on environment;
- strengthening human resources through training and educational programs;
- promoting scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of experiences;
- creating a network of experts in the region;
- strengthening bilateral and multilateral co-operation to mobilize international assistance for environmental conservation.

While the overall goal of the ECO-IEST has been to strengthen the capacity of key actors in environmental conservation in the region and promote exchange of information and experiences with efficient management of resources; we have set

- professional training;
- information sharing and technology;
- networking;
- scientific cooperation;
- resource mobilization;
- communication, education and public awareness (CEPA).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm really proud to announce that after 12 years since the establishment of the Institute, we are very optimistic, with improving capacity building, awareness and also sharing knowledge among the Member States.

In this opportunity, among several activities, I would like to brief you on a couple of the most highlighted our activities in 2018:

- In collaboration with German environmental experts are planning to implement a project to enhance knowledge of management of protected areas, to strengthen participatory management, climate change adaptation and environmental education. The Pilot project will be started in Ghamishloo National Park of Iran and experiences and lessons learned to be disseminated to other Member States.

- By successful organization of "Workshop on Combating desertification with a special emphasis on dust haze and sand storm in the ECO region", the **ECO LandCare Initiative** Draft has been submitted for further consideration for Member States and fundraising through the Secretariat;

Excellencies, Mr Chairman,

While the IEST has experienced some financial challenges, but we are honored to closely cooperate with all of you in pursuing the ECO Environmental agenda. Considering the capacity which has been built in this Institute and experience gained during our performance, the ECO-IEST will pursue its best to serve the Economic Corporation Organization for the region.

Thank you for your attention.