



# Botanical Society of Pakistan

A leading society of Pakistan, Established in 1968.

Council Members  
Botanical Society of Pakistan

## Subject: Minutes of The Meeting of Executive Council of The Botanical Society of Pakistan Held on 21.03.2023

A meeting of the newly elected members of "Botanical Society of Pakistan" for the year 2023-24 was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. in the office of the Vice President (Punjab) of the Society, Prof Dr Abdul Nasir Khalid, Institute of Botany, Punjab University Lahore. Following attended the meeting:

1. Prof. Dr. Seema Mahmood  
President/ Chair  
Online (due to severe illness)
2. Prof. Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Athar  
Secretary/ Treasurer
3. Prof. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad  
Vice President (Federal Capital) Online
4. Prof. Dr. Abdul Nasir Khalid  
Vice President (Punjab)/ Host
5. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tahir Rajput  
Vice President (Sindh) Online
6. Dr. Haidar Ali  
Vice President (KPK)
7. Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Jabeen  
Vice President (Baluchistan) Online
8. Prof. Dr. Rehana Kausar  
Vice President (AJK) Online
9. Dr. Qamar Abbas  
Vice President (Gilgit Baltistan) Online
10. Dr. Kausar Hussain Shah  
Joint Secretary
11. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser  
Chief Editor, Pakistan Journal of Botany Karachi
12. Prof. Dr. Ikram ul Haq  
Distinguished National Professor  
Former President of Botanical Society of Pakistan  
GC University Lahore  
ex officio member
13. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf (On special invitation)

☎ 0092-346-2798554  
0092-333-2188427

✉ pakjbot@pakbs.org  
🌐 www.pakbs.org/pjbot

📍 Office of Pakistan Journal of Botany, Botanical Garden,  
University of Karachi, Karachi 75270 Pakistan.



# Botanical Society of Pakistan

A leading society of Pakistan, Established in 1968.

The meeting was started with the recitation of Holy Quran. The chair welcomed all participants and congratulated newly elected office bearers. The secretary presented the agenda items to the members for discussion.

## **Agenda Item No. 1: Date of next Plant Science Conference at the Institute of Botany, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, Pakistan**

The secretary, by consulting the president, proposed that any date within the period from 15<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 could be finalized. However, in view of the holy month of Ramzan in 2024 it was proposed and resolved to fix the date of conference during the last 2 weeks of February 2024.

## **Agenda Item No. 2: Generation of funding from national/international funding agencies for holding the upcoming conference at B. Z. University Multan, Pakistan**

It was proposed that the organizers should submit formal applications for grant to different funding agencies including Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Provincial Higher Education Commission (PHEC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), etc. Prof. Dr. Ikram ul Haq also encouraged to apply to Pakistan Academy of Sciences. Dr. Kausar Hussain suggested that ECOSF, ISESCO and ICGEB may also be requested for funding. Dr. Haidar Ali suggested that different Banks and industries may also be requested for donations. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser suggested that all prospective bodies including federal and provincial governments as well as private organizations, banks, industries and philanthropists should also be requested for funds. He further suggested that the conference brochure should be uploaded on the website of Pakistan Journal of Botany as soon as possible for timely advertisement.

## **Agenda Item No. 3: Main theme of the next conference at B. Z. University Multan, Pakistan.**

After the long deliberations following title and theme of the upcoming conference was approved, "Capitalizing Plant Diversity for Ensuring Food Security". Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser suggested to finalize the subtitles/ categories under the theme such as Physiology, Plant Taxonomy and Ethnobotany, Plants Environment and Applied Botany and Agriculture. Dr. Haidar Ali was assigned the duty to design its brochure and share it with all to upload on various websites and social media.

## **Agenda Item No. 4: Proposed title of a special issue of Pakistan Journal of Botany.**

In order to increase IF of the journal Prof. Dr. Ashraf proposed to bring out special issues on current important topics which are more cited than the traditional ones. All the members appreciated the idea. Following titles were proposed: "Nanotechnology", "Artificial Intelligence and plant science", "Plant Signaling", "Plant Bioinformatics", "Remote Sensing" and Machine Learning". Prof. Dr. Seema Mahmood suggested that the frequency of special issues may be increased, that was endorsed by all members.

## **Agenda Item No. 5: Holding symposia/ workshops under the auspices of BPS.**

Prof. Dr. M. Ashraf suggested that symposia/workshops should be organized across the country under the umbrella of Botanical Society of Pakistan. All members agreed with it and encouraged to submit proposals to the society for funding to organize one or two days events. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser added that the society may contribute up to Rs. 0.2 Million for such activity. Dr. Haider Ali suggested that it would be better to organize the activity for at least two days instead of one day event because HEC does not provide funds for one day activity. Dr. Qamar Abbas also suggested for the similar frequent activities either virtual/ physical or hybrid mode could be arranged. It was also suggested by

☎ 0092-346-2798554

☎ 0092-333-2188427

✉ pakjbot@pakbs.org

🌐 www.pakbs.org/pjbot

📍 Office of Pakistan Journal of Botany, Botanical Garden, University of Karachi, Karachi 75270 Pakistan.



# Botanical Society of Pakistan

A leading society of Pakistan, Established in 1968.

Dr. Qaiser to inform the office of the society of any botanical activity held in your university/ institute so that it could be posted on the website of the society.

**Agenda Item No. 6: To authorize Chief Editor for hiring personnel and fixing their honorarium/ remuneration on case-to-case basis.**

The agenda item was discussed at length and all members agreed with it.

**Agenda Item No. 7: To consider the outgoing president as ex-officio member of the executive council of the society.**

It was agreed that the outgoing president will remain as an ex officio member till the new elections are held.

**Agenda Item No. 8: To include the Chief Editor of Pakistan Journal of Botany as a member of the executive council of the society.**

All members agreed with it.

**Agenda Item No. 9: Any other item with the permission of the chair.**

**1. Frequency of the Journal Issue:**

Dr. Tahir Rajput suggested that the frequency of journal issues may be increased to make it monthly due to significant increase in number of manuscript submissions. Senior members did not agree on it with following remarks, "quality may get compromised and affect the impact factor also". Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf further added that bimonthly issue frequency is actually more than enough and we focus on quality work rather than focusing on number of articles. All members endorsed it.

**2. Scientific advertisements in the Journal:**

Dr. Tahir Rajput suggested that a couple of pages may be dedicated in the journal for advertisement of scientific stuff from various companies to generate revenue for the society. All members discouraged it on grounds of keeping the journal purely academic rather than making it a commercial magazine. In addition, HEC will not agree on it while considering it in HJRS system.

**3. Book Reviews to be published in Journal:**

Dr. Tahir Rajput suggested that reviews on the books published by Pakistani Botanists may be published in Pakistan Journal of Botany. All members appreciated the proposal and unanimously endorsed it.

**4. Appointment of associated staff of the journal:**

Dr. Tahir Rajput suggested that considering the extra load of work on the Chief Editor, it would be better to appoint part time or full time associated staff for the journal such as managing editor or associated editors, etc. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser responded that he will look into this matter.

**5. Remuneration to the Reviewers:**

Dr. Tahir Rajput suggested that the reviewers may be offered incentive/ payment/ remuneration for their timely and quality reviewing services. For example, Rs. 5000/- for one review or any voucher of discount for publication in PJB. Generally the idea was discouraged by the members. Prof. Dr. Ikram ul Haq commented that Rs. 5000/- per review is too much. It was unanimously commented that it is professional liability to review scientific work.

**6. Reflection of the Conference and Society on Social Media:**

0092-346-2798554  
0092-333-2188427

[pakjbot@pakbs.org](mailto:pakjbot@pakbs.org)  
[www.pakbs.org/pjbot](http://www.pakbs.org/pjbot)

Office of Pakistan Journal of Botany, Botanical Garden,  
University of Karachi, Karachi 75270 Pakistan.



# Botanical Society of Pakistan

A leading society of Pakistan, Established in 1968.

Prof. Dr. Seema Mahmood suggested that there should be appropriate reflection of the conference as well as the society on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. All members appreciated this suggestion and have acknowledged.

## 7. Increase in paper publication charges:

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf suggested that the publication charges of Pakistan Journal of Botany is too low that should be increased especially for the foreigners. He quoted that Australian Journal of Agriculture and Biology was charging \$400/- fee. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser quoted that some journals are charging fee on the basis of per page, e.g., \$50/- per page. All the members agreed with this point and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser was authorized to revise the publication charges.

## 8. To increase the society membership and to reduce the membership fee:

Dr. Qamar Abbas suggested that the society membership should be increased that may increase the revenue of the society. Dr. Kausar Hussain suggested that the students should be encouraged to get society membership. If the membership fees is reduced it will bring a significant increase in membership. Prof. Dr. Rehana Kausar, Dr. Qamar Abbas and Dr. Kausar Hussain suggested that the current membership fee was too high for the students and also suggested to increase membership duration from one year to two or four years i.e., a complete term of MSc or MPhil or BS and PhD respectively. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf commented that life membership is a prestigious one, if someone wants to become life member then he has to pay for it Rs. 18000/- which is not a big amount for the life membership of this prestigious society. After thorough discussion it was resolved that the Life Membership Fee would be Rs. 20000/- and Rs. 18000/- with and without printed journals respectively and the fee for the students may be reduced to Rs. 3000/- for one year.

## 9. The ZAB as constituent Society of the BSoP:

Dr. Kausar Hussain, with the permission of the chair, introduced the Zakariyan Association of Botanists (ZAB), an official alumni association of the Institute of Botany, B.Z. University Multan, founded by Prof. Dr. Seema Mahmood and Prof. Dr. Habib ur Rehman Athar. He submitted that the ZAB may kindly be considered as constituent society of the BSoP. All members have appreciated the creation of ZAB and commented that it can be considered as a Multan chapter of the BSoP. However, Dr. Haidar Ali suggested that there was a need of legal input for the official name as it contains the word 'association' that may cause legal problems in registration.

## 10. Regular Meetings of the Council:

Members suggested that there should be regular meetings of the executive council of the society rather than only once in a year. And they also requested secretary to share the quarterly progress report of conference preparations with the council.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the secretary, Prof. Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Athar.

Prof Dr Habib-ur-Rehman Athar  
General Secretary,  
Botanical Society of Pakistan (2023-24)

Prof Dr Seema Mahmood  
President,  
Botanical Society of Pakistan (2023-24)

0092-346-2798554  
0092-333-2188427

[pakjbot@pakbs.org](mailto:pakjbot@pakbs.org)  
[www.pakbs.org/pjbot](http://www.pakbs.org/pjbot)

Office of Pakistan Journal of Botany, Botanical Garden,  
University of Karachi, Karachi 75270 Pakistan.