Global Young Academy

The voice of young scientists around the world

Demography and
Global Research

Global Young Academy's Third International Conference of Young Scientists and General Assembly 2013

Meeting Report

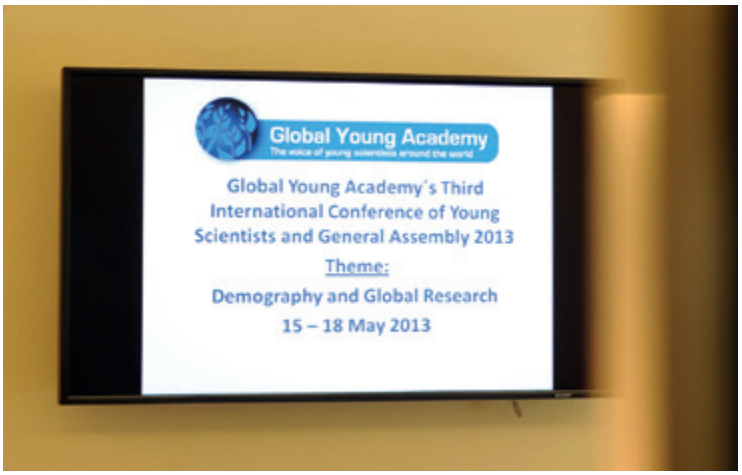
15–18 May 2013
Halle/Saale, Germany

Attendees at the GYA GA 2013, Halle/Saale, Germany

Index

The Changing Demography of Talent

Report on the Third International Conference of Young Scientists and General Assembly 2013 of the Global Young Academy, in Halle/Saale, Germany, 15–18 May 2013



The Global Young Academy (GYA) held a successful and highly productive General Assembly in Halle/Saale, Germany, on 15–18 May 2013. The packed four-day programme included keynote addresses by Ms Cornelia Quennet-Thielen (State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Mr Thomas Sattelberger (former CHRO of Deutsche Telekom), and Prof Lee Berger of the University of Witwatersrand. The meeting brought together 78 GYA members from 37 countries, distinguished members of the GYA advisory board, and senior science ambassadors from around the world. The theme of this year's meeting was "Demography and Global Research", encompassing issues such as large multi-investigator research groups, international science networks, and global mobility. Many of the programmed events and working group activities addressed opportunities and challenges that these issues present for the next generation of scientists.

Prof Lee Berger presented an inspiring vision of globalised research, peppered with success stories and cautionary tales from his own adventures in palaeoanthropology. Prof Berger portrayed a world at a historic turning point, with communication technologies enabling collaborative ventures that were unimaginable a generation ago, and traditional geographical boundaries imposing fewer constraints. He urged young scientists and the GYA to practise foresight and leadership in shaping the future of globalised science. This call to arms found resonance in subsequent working group activities, many of which took up themes of the address – notably the current state of young scientists, and the transformative potential of new technologies.

Leopoldina's stunning festivity hall

Mr Thomas Sattelberger, former CHRO of Deutsche Telekom, underscored the importance of strong science-industry links. Citing a shortage of scientific literacy in the workplace, Mr Sattelberger observed that talent is nowadays more critical than capital to a company's success. The resulting dynamic of supply and demand creates migration patterns that must be carefully managed if potential benefits to individuals, institutions, and nations are to be optimised. Mr Sattelberger highlighted several successful initiatives at Deutsche Telekom – recruitment of new graduates, training of existing employees, flexible working conditions, intergenerational teams – all of which are premised on inclusivity and investment in the full diversity of talent.

GYA Co-Chairs Rees Kassen (left) and Bernard Slippers (right)

State Secretary Ms Cornelia Quennet-Thielen of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) reviewed the first few years of the GYA from the perspective of the BMBF saying that, "the launch of the Global Young Academy in 2010 produced something completely new – instilling a breath of fresh air into the global network of outstanding researchers. It is already clear today that the GYA was not just a storm in a teacup or a squall that passes over as quickly as it arises but a constant wind that brings lasting changes". Ms Quennet-Thielen reflected on the many impressive achievements of the GYA since its inception - assisting in founding NYAs in several countries, establishing ties between developing and developed countries, advancing science policy recommendations. To stunned applause, Ms Quennet-Thielen then announced that the BMBF would fund the GYA Office initially for the next three years, thus ensuring its financial stability through the next phase of expansion.

The announcement vindicates the hard work that has gone into establishing the GYA as the voice of young scientists around the world. This core-funding from the BMBF, which follows the seed funding provided by the Volkswagen Foundation, will only amplify this voice. In his response to the announcement, GYA co-chair Rees Kassen called upon GYA members, alumni, and partners, to view the core-funding announcement as, "an investment in you as the next generation of leaders in global research." The key strategic partners of the GYA – the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the IAP – The Global Network of Science Academies and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation – all expressed their support for the GYA in this new phase of growth and consolidation.

The General Assembly witnessed the induction of 43 new GYA members in 2013. The General Assembly also saw the launch of several new Working Groups to extend the existing range of GYA activities. Among the new projects are *Measuring Excellence in Science Engagement,* which seeks to develop quantitative assessments of outreach activities, and *Think Tank*, which will bring

together representatives from academic, business, and public sectors to examine risk from a multidisciplinary perspective. As at previous General Assembly meetings, Working Group activities continued throughout the entire programme.

In a significant development since the last General Assembly, a number of external bodies have also approached the GYA with proposals for collaboration and support. The US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is looking to work with the GYA on a series of climate change workshops, possibly in a BRIC country (Brazil, Russia, India, or China). The major funders of Grand Challenges projects worldwide, including Grand Challenges Canada, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and USAID, also offered to support a GYA project. Responses to both of these opportunities were discussed at the General Assembly meeting.

As examples of the breadth of talent and expertise among young scientists highlighted by keynote speakers Sattelberger and Berger, selected GYA members presented new findings from their own research. These talks spanned a range of topics, from cell biology and applied mathematics to human decision-making. The presentations showcased outstanding scientific creativity, technical expertise, and communication skills among the membership. They also brought to light shared interests between individuals, stimulating new conversations and friendships that further strengthen the academy. In keeping with the conference theme, many of the presentations focused on demography and global research, its sustainability and influence.

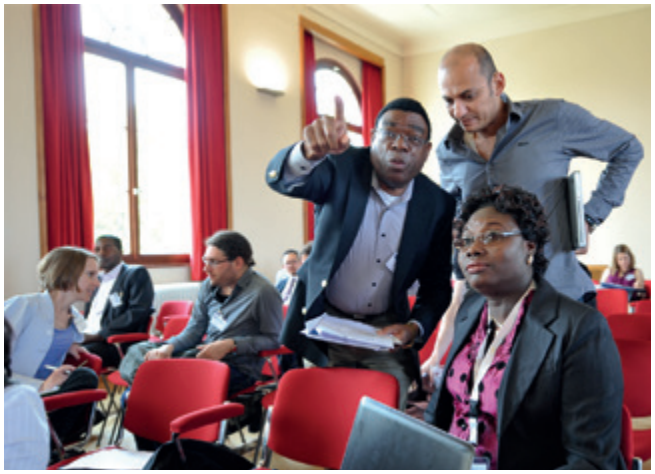
The programme events were held at the distinctive and prestigious main building of the German

National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina – the newly renovated 'White House of Science' in Halle an der Saale. This superb setting, and the illustrious history of the Leopoldina, set the tone for a highly productive and successful General Assembly meeting. The meeting benefitted enormously from the support of Leopoldina staff and facilities, and the grandeur of the building itself seemed to sustain even the most sleep-deprived members through to the final day.

The last day of the General Assembly meeting was devoted to internal affairs and election of new leadership, including Sameh Soror from Egypt and re-elected Rees Kassen from Canada as Co-Chairs. Also elected at the meeting were Executive Committee members Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq (Bangladesh), Bettina Speckmann (Netherlands), James Tickner (Australia), Jose Correa (Chile), Laura Petes (USA), Michael Sutherland (UK), Olanike Adeyemo (Nigeria), Phil Gona (Zimbabwe/USA), and Vidushi Neergheen (Mauritius). The immediate past co-chair Bernard Slippers (South Africa) will continue to contribute to this forum.

The GA was preceded by two voluntary workshops for GYA members on Science Communication and Dialogue with Stakeholders. In the Opening Session on 15 May, the new GYA members were inducted. In 2013 the GYA admitted 43 new members and now has 155 members and 63 alumni from a total of 61 countries on all continents.

The GYA GA 2013 was generously sponsored by the Leopoldina and IAP – The Global Network of Science Academies.



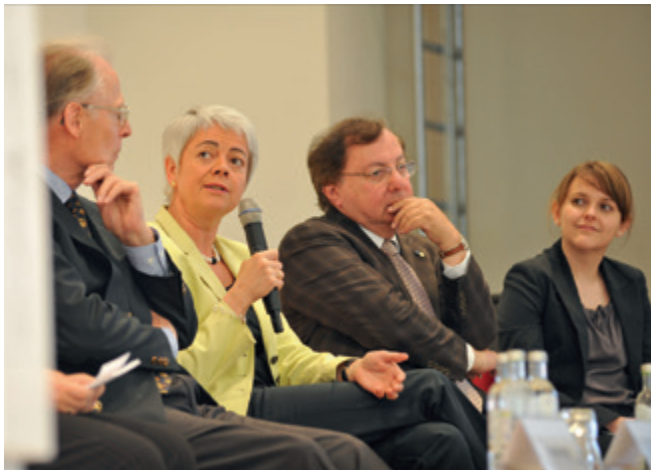


Fig 1: Phil Gona, Sameh Soror, Olanike Adeyemo

Fig 2: BMBF State Secretary Cornelia Quennet-Thielen on the podium with IAP Co-Chair Volker ter Meulen, IAP Immediate Past Co-Chair and GYA Senior Advisory Board Member Howard Alper and GYA GloSYS Project Officer Irene Friesenhahn (from left)

Fig 3: Eva Alisic, Sabina Leonelli, Guruprasad Madhavan and Vanny Narita

Halle/Saale, Germany
15–18 May 2013

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Global Young Academy's Third International Conference of Young Scientists and General Assembly 2013

Demography and Global Research

15 May	Wednesday	INTERNAL DAY
09:00	**Walk from hotel to Leopoldina with guided tour** City guides	From the lobby of Hotel Maritim
09:30-17:00	**Registration upon arrival** Anika Meister, Kirstin Ohlendorf	
10:00-13:00	**2 Training options** Science Communication (from 10:00) Collective Leadership (from at 11:30)	 Seminar room 1+2 Seminar room 3
13:00	**Lunch** recommendations by Leopoldina	Outside Leopoldina no reservation
14:00	**2 Training options continued** as well as	
from 14:00	**WG Unleashing Curiosity and Creativity** Prof. Dr. Martin Dominik	tbd
15:30-16:30	**WG YSAP** Prof. Dr. Stephen Miller	tbd
16:30	**Coffee break** (for all) Arrival of GloSYS participants incl. GYA Co-Chairs and MD	Cafeteria
17:00	**Official start of the GA** Welcome by the Co-Chairs What is the GYA? (goals and activities) Induction of all new members Prof. Dr. Bernard Slippers Prof. Dr. Rees Kassen	Plenary (Lecture hall) Parallel: late registration
17:45	**Working Groups presentation** Prof. Dr. Mathias Kläui Prof. Dr. Bernard Slippers and Prof. Dr. Rees Kassen	Lecture Hall
18:30	**Reception** (buffet) Welcome by Prof. Dr. Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug Secretary General of the Leopoldina	Cafeteria
20:00	**EC Meeting**	Sitzungszimmer Meeting room

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16 May Thursday — PUBLIC DAY

08:00	**Walk from hotel to Leopoldina with guided tour** City guides	From the lobby of Hotel Maritim
From 08:15	**Late registrations** Anika Meister, Kirstin Ohlendorf	
09:00	**Welcome by the host** **Prof. Dr. Jörg Hacker** President of the Leopoldina	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
09:10	**Introduction into Demography and Global Research: related aims for the conference** **Prof. Dr. Bernard Slippers, Prof. Dr. Rees Kassen,** GYA Co-Chairs	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
09:20	Keynote Speech: **Bones without Borders - the globalization of research into human origins - an exception or a test case?** **Prof. Dr. Lee R. Berger** University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa Introduced by **Prof. Dr. Verena Lepper**	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
10:30	**Coffee break**	Cafeteria
11:00	**WG meetings** Coordinator: **Dr. Vidushi S. Neergheen**	First meeting in Plenary then in separate rooms
13:00	**Lunch**	Cafeteria
13:45	**Group Photo**	In front of Leopoldina
14:00	**The International Young Academy Movement:** Establishment of NYA and cooperation between them **Prof. Dr. Bernard Slippers, Prof. Dr. Arianna Betti** and **Prof. Dr. Bettina Speckmann** From 15:45 break outs	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
16:30	**Coffee break**	Cafeteria

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16 May	Thursday	PUBLIC DAY
17:00	**WG meetings** **Board Meeting with EC**	tbd Sitzungszimmer separate meeting room
19:00	**Shuttle to the museum**	Opposite Leopoldina
19:30	**Evening in the Museum of Prehistory** Dinner followed by guided tour at 21:00 shuttle to hotel at 22:30 and at 23:00	Museum of Pre-History

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17 May Friday — PUBLIC DAY

09:00 — **Session on Demography and Global Research** — Festivity Hall
Chair: **Prof. Dr. Javier Garcia Martinez**

10:00 — **Science-Industry Dialog** — Festivity Hall
Mr Thomas Sattelberger
Chief Human Resources Officer Deutsche Telekom AG until 2012
Prof. Dr. Howard Alper
Chair of the Government of Canada's Science, Technology and Innovation Council
Chair: **Prof. Dr. Mathias Kläui**

11:00 — **Welcome speeches** — Festivity Hall
MC: **Mathias Kläui**
Prof. Dr. Jörg Hacker
President of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
Prof. Dr. Günter Stock
President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW)
Dr. Enno Aufderheide
Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)
Prof. Dr. Volker ter Meulen
Co-Chair of IAP: The Global Network of Science Academies
Mr Marco Tullner
State Secretary Ministry for Science and Economy of Saxony-Anhalt
Keynote
Ms Cornelia Quennet-Thielen
State Secretary German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
introduced by Leopoldina President Prof. Hacker
GYA response
Prof. Dr. Bernard Slippers, Prof. Dr. Rees Kassen, GYA Co-Chairs

12:00 — **Panel discussion on the State of Young Scientists in Different World Regions** — Festivity Hall
StS Cornelia Quennet-Thielen (BMBF)
Prof. Dr. Volker ter Meulen (Germany)
Prof. Dr. Howard Alper (Canada)
Dr. Sherien Elagroudy (Egypt)
Dr. Patrick Arthur (Ghana)
Irene Friesenhahn (Germany)
Prof. Dr. Jose Correa (Chile)
Chair: **Prof. Dr. Lee Berger**

13:00 — **Lunch** — Cafeteria
Meeting between GYA Leadership, BMBF, Leopoldina, BBAW, Saxony-Anhalt — Seminar room 3

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17 May	Friday	PUBLIC DAY
14:00	**Session on Demography and Global Research** Chair: Prof. Dr. Erik Ingelsson	Festivity Hall
16:00	**Coffee break**	Cafeteria
16:30	**WG meetings**	tbd
18:30	**Shuttle to Francke Foundation** at 18:30 and at 18:45	Opposite Leopoldina
19:00	**Francke Foundation** Guided Tour	Francke Foundation
20:15	**Walk to the hotel** 5 min	Hotel Maritim
20:30	**Dinner in the hotel** Dr. Bernd Wiegand Mayor of the City of Halle and City Council representatives	Hotel Maritim in-house restaurant

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18 May	Saturday	INTERNAL DAY
09:00	**Opening of the internal General Assembly Meeting** GYA Co-Chairs	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
09:15	**Presentation of candidates and elections** in at least 2 rounds **Policy discussions and decisions**	
11:00	**Coffee break**	Cafeteria
11:30	**Policy discussions and decisions, announcement of election results**	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
13:00	**Lunch**	Cafeteria
14:00	**WG presentations and decision on future WGs and activities**	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
15:00	**Finalizing a conference statement**	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
15:45	**Closure of the GA** GYA Co-Chairs	Plenary (Lecture Hall)
16:00	**Coffee break** **Portrait photos new EC and group photo**	Cafeteria Seminar room 1
16:30	**Joint meeting of old and new EC** **WG meetings**	Sitzungszimmer separate meeting room tbd
20:00–21:30	**Farewell dinner** Prof. Dr. Rees Kassen GYA Co-Chair	Schad Brew house city centre

We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for their support of the meeting:

iap
the global network of science academies

Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften

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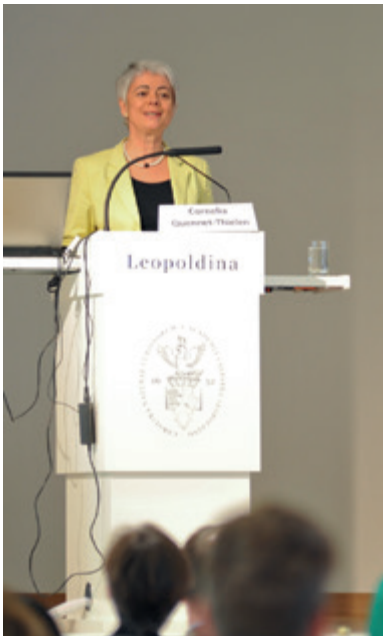
Speech by
Cornelia Quennet-Thielen



State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Professor Hacker,
Distinguished members of the Global Young Academy and the Leopoldina,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to your annual conference. It is a great pleasure for me to be here. I am most curious to hear about your work. After all, the launch of the Global Young Academy in 2010 produced something completely new – instilling a breath of fresh air into the global network of outstanding researchers. It is already clear today that the GYA was not just a storm in a teacup or a squall that passes over as quickly as it arises but a constant wind that brings lasting changes.

When the GYA was founded in 2010 there was no international academy for excellent and committed young scientists. The number of national organizations was almost negligible with just five Young Academies. Three years later, 155 young scientists from 55 countries are now members of the Global Young Academy and it already has 63 Alumni. What is more, the GYA has contributed to the foundation of Young Academies in various countries. You are establishing ties between western industrial nations and emerging countries. And from the very beginning you have taken the line of issuing scientific and science-policy recommendations.

It is only natural and right that you have done so in order to make yourselves heard. At the same time, you are members of a new generation – a generation whose key concern is to pass on scientific know-how. You raised this issue in the "Sandton Declaration on Sustainability", with which you called upon young scientists to seek the dialogue with society and to exert their influence on political agenda-setting.

Mobilizing scientific knowledge is a key issue: On the one hand, science depends on public acceptance – and to gain this acceptance it must enter into a dialogue with the public; on the other hand, we – both the public and policy-makers – need science to understand our complex world and solve pressing issues. We are always saying that we cannot tackle challenges as climate change, information security or demographic change on a national basis alone – or in many cases even on a continental basis. We must tackle these questions globally – and the Global Young Academy has been helping us to do so since 2010.

Your strong commitment and success have brought you respect and support.

The International Academy Panel and the Academy of Sciences for the developing world have provided you with both moral and monetary support.

The Leopoldina has agreed to become the administrative seat of the GYA[1]. Thank you very much for this offer, Professor Hacker!

The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities is providing the GYA with office accommodation. Thank you, Professor Stock!

I would now like to inform you that my ministry, the Ministry of Education and Research, will provide funding for the administrative office of the Global Young Academy for an initial period of three years and I would very much welcome a contribution from Saxony-Anhalt too.

I hope that the office of the Global Young Academy will become the centre of an emerging international young academy movement that attracts and supports young scientists from all over the world.

1 From 2014 to 2016 the GYA will continue to be administered by the BBAW.

We are meeting here in Halle today to discuss two topics: Demographic change as a global challenge, on the one hand, and worldwide working conditions for young scientists, on the other.

This venue, the Global Young Academy and these two topics go together better than it would appear at first glance.

Global questions become more graphic at a regional level and it is worth to discuss them in a regional context and not only from the bird's eye view of international politics. Take as example Halle, which is one of those cities that have almost steadily lost population, from 310,000 in 1990 to 233,000 in 2011.

And at the same time, Halle has been a venue for science, for communicating scientific findings and for cooperation across borders of disciplines for centuries. Supra-regional and transnational discourses have been taking place here for so long that Halle can be an inspiration to us all!

One of the most important German universities was founded here at the end of the 17th century. Today its heritage is continued in the work of the University of Halle-Wittenberg.

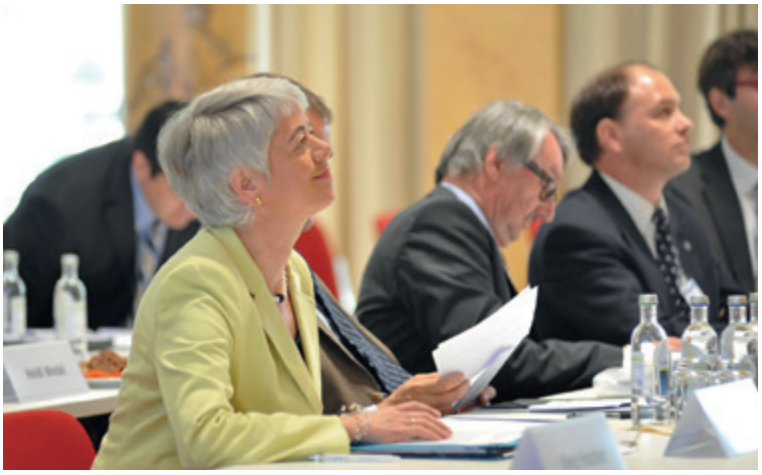
The Leopoldina, one of the oldest academies in the world, is located here in Halle. It became the German National Academy of Sciences in 2008.

The University of Art and Design (Burg Giebichenstein) pioneered a holistic approach to design, comprising painting, graphic arts, sculpture, architecture, textile design, photography and ceramics – and in parts continues to do so today.

And the educator and theologist August Hermann Francke founded several foundations, the “Franckesche Stiftungen”, in the spirit of teaching and educating children from all backgrounds, making knowledge visible in his famous Cabinet of Art and Curiosities.

A lot of things have changed since then, but the ideas of the academy, the holistic approach to problems and the necessary transmission of knowledge persist – what is more, they have been given new life and have gained fresh importance in recent years.

This applies especially to the issue of demographic change. I am not telling you a secret when I say that for many years Germany ignored questions regarding the causes and effects of demographic change and possible political and societal answers. This was despite the fact that Germany is one of the countries most affected by an ageing population and an extremely low birthrate.



But these days are over. The Federal Government has developed a Demographic Strategy and the day before yesterday, Chancellor Angela Merkel presided over the second Demography Summit in Berlin where political and social stakeholders presented the results of a one-year dialogue. Among other things, the focus is on the future of the family, of learning, of rural areas, of our prosperity and of the ability of the state to act. Some people may call for more concrete measures or perhaps believe that certain topics have not received sufficient attention. But one thing is clear: The Federal Government and the Länder are tackling a development which is leading to a situation where we in Germany are becoming older, fewer and more diverse.

My ministry is playing an active role in the process of discussion and action. Each year we focus on a different scientific issue. This year it is the "Demographic Opportunity" – and I am delighted that the GYA is one of our partners for this Science Year 2013.

You will not therefore be surprised by the term "opportunity" in this context. It is our aim not to merely experience change but to actively shape it. This isn't a euphemism but a necessary change of perspective. Let me mention just a few positive examples: Grandparents are able to spend more years with their grandchildren; older people find that they are still being needed as experts; German society is becoming more cosmopolitan thanks to the many people with migrant backgrounds.

However, I am not claiming that we are not also being confronted with huge challenges – even in these same areas. Fewer people paying pension contributions, great expectations regarding health well into old age, problems with integration and educational deficits – this is already the situation today and will be amplified in future.

Here too: We must shape the change. But we can only shape it if we have the necessary knowledge. This is why we need you, the scientists. We need your expertise and an international comparison – and, of course, we need a debate about what is appropriate on a global scale and what on a regional scale. Indeed not all societies are becoming fewer, older and more diverse. Labour migration can be a boon for some countries, but it can also mean the loss of the best brains, know-how and skills for others.

We need science and science needs good working conditions. We will talk about this in more detail in the course of the day. But just so much for now: My ministry has introduced many different measures to promote young scientists and improve their working conditions, both national and international. This work is bearing fruit: Germany has become more attractive for excellent scientists over the last few years. Year for year, tens of thousands of scholarship holders from the emergent nations are coming to Germany to study and conduct research. Hundreds of research projects are supported by various funding agencies such as the German Academic Exchange Service, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Research Foundation and others.

GYA leadership and prominent supporters (from left): GYA Co-Chair Bernard Slippers, IAP Co-Chair Volker ter Meulen, GYA Managing Director Heidi Wedel, IAP Immediate Past Co-Chair and GYA Senior Advisory Board Member Howard Alper, Leopoldina Secretary General Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug, Saxony Anhalt State Secretary Marco Tullner, BMBF State Secretary Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, Leopoldina President Jörg Hacker, BMBF Head of Division Sabine Eilers, BBAW Managing Director Winnetou Sosa, BBAW President Günter Stock, GYA Co-Chair Rees Kassen

The GYA for its part claims to be "the voice of young scientists around the world" and as such "to empower and mobilize young scientists in their creative prime to address issues of particular importance to early career scientists". You are taking up the situation of young scientists worldwide in the GloSYS study, which is financed by my ministry. I look forward to seeing the results.

We have just published the second federal report on young scientists, which focuses in particular on the career paths of this group. We are aware that our action must be evidence-based – as it is in dealing with the great societal challenges.

In 1720, the famous philosopher and chancellor of the university of Halle, Christian Wolff published a treatise entitled: "Rational thoughts on God, the world and the soul of human beings; also all things in general" and another one in 1721 entitled: "Rational thoughts on the social life of man".

This seems fairly ambitious to us today. But on the other hand: We too must learn anew to think and discuss more holistically in this world of global connections and problems.

So I very much hope that we will all have lots of “rational thoughts “on “all things in general” and on “the social life of man” in particular – and good ideas for making them comprehensible and useful for a larger public.

Thank you.

Response by Rees Kassen

GYA Co-Chair

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, colleagues and friends. Today is a very special day for us at the Global Young Academy. We have grown in the past five years from an idea into the beginnings of a global institution. We are thrilled and honoured that we are to continue having a home in Germany. Please allow me, on behalf of my co-chair, Bernard Slippers, our Managing Director, Heidi Wedel, the Executive Committee of the GYA, our members, alumni, and supporters around the world, to offer my most heartfelt thanks to Madame State Secretary Quennet-Thielen for her kind words and to the German Ministry of Education and Research for this most welcome announcement.

This announcement is a testament to the leading role that Germany has been playing in supporting the most promising young researchers both nationally and around the world. It was Germany nearly 13 years ago that began the Young Academy movement through the foundation of the German Young Academy, and with the vision of the senior academies, Leopoldina, our hosts, and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences (BBAW). The GYA is a natural next step for the young academy movement. We are thrilled to be able to take our position alongside these venerable institutions and the many others that support and promote international research excellence in Germany, including the Humboldt Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation. The high esteem with which these German institutions are held internationally is testament to the German federal government's commitment to research excellence and international diplomacy. Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

This announcement comes at a critical time in the growth of the GYA and the young academy movement worldwide. We have grown remarkably in a short space of time. In less than 5 years we have gone from a suggestion into the beginnings of a truly global institution, one that I hope will become as indispensable to the international community as it has been to its members. Increasingly the GYA is being called upon for access to the incredible network of young researchers around the world that we have built, and to take the lead on a number of important and exciting new projects.

I might take this opportunity to highlight a few of these: the Global State of Young Scientists project, supported by the BMBF, is perhaps our most prominent at the moment, but there are others. We have been approached by the major funders of Grand Challenges research – USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Grand Challenges Canada – to help them connect more effectively with young researchers. We also have been asked by the National Academies in the US to host a high level meeting on climate change sometime in the next two years. We continue to partner with the World Economic Forum and the *IAP – the global network of science academies* in the development of the Forum's Young Scientist programme. I would especially like to acknowledge at this point, the outstanding leadership and support we have received from the IAP from the very beginning. Thank you.

And increasingly our members are being asked to take on leadership roles both internationally and nationally in their home countries, sometimes through membership on panels and discussions, by contributing to research studies and position papers, or taking over the leadership of important national laboratories and research institutions. The funding announced today and provided so generously by the BMBF will allow us to better coordinate these efforts, prosecute new projects, and, most importantly, continue to be the voice of young scientists around the world.

Allow me to close with a few words of thanks. First to my colleagues who helped launch this idea, and to the German Young Academy for providing the spark that lit the flame. In the space of two and a half intense, exhausting, and exhilarating days in Berlin in 2010, we laid the foundation for the GYA. We have nurtured the idea, seen it evolve and grow and are now in the wonderful position of beginning to see it mature. Thank you, from me personally, and from all the members of the GYA now and to come.

Second, let me say a deep and sincere thank you to the Leopoldina, the BBAW, and the IAP for their support and promotion of young scientists, the young academy movement, and especially the GYA over the last 4 years. It was because of your collective vision, that young scientists deserved to have an independent voice that they themselves determine and that this is important for civil society and development around the world, that provided the initial motivation for the GYA. Thank you for trusting us, and to care enough about our success to continue partnering and supporting us along the way.

Third, to Heidi Wedel, our Managing Director. Heidi, it is a testament to your commitment to the GYA and what it aims to do, not to mention your incredibly hard work and generosity, that we are here today. It is Heidi who has helped open doors, done the bulk of the legwork in discussions, putting together the final proposal, coordinating workloads and schedules, often in multiple time zones, in putting this proposal together and bringing the GYA to today. Heidi, thank you for your leadership, your skills, and your commitment to young scientists and the GYA and, I should say personally, for your friendship.

There are many more of you in the audience and elsewhere around the world that deserve a share of the credit for bring the GYA to this point. I'm sorry I cannot mention you all today, but please know that it is through your hard work that the GYA can celebrate today.

To the GYA membership, I ask that you take this announcement for what I think it is: an investment in you as the next generation of leaders in global research. Let us not squander this opportunity. Let us remind ourselves of the ideals upon which the GYA was founded: excellence, independence, impact. Together with our German partners, help us make the world a better place, both for the generations of researchers that will follow us, and the world as a whole.

Thank you.

GYA General Assembly Meeting, Executive Committee Meetings and Consultation with the GYA Advisory Board

GYA Co-Chairs Rees Kassen and Bernard Slippers and GYA Managing Director Heidi Wedel

The GYA Executive Committee (EC) held several meetings during the General Assembly, including a meeting with the senior advisers on Thursday and a joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming EC members on Saturday.

The EC decided that from 2013/14 the EC will consist of elected members and the MD. The immediate past co-chair will be included in the communication. Non-EC members may from time to time be invited to make presentations to the EC, as needed and warranted. The EC received one, very well prepared bid for the GA 2014, coming from Chile and approved it unanimously. Working Groups that require financial support for their activities and NYA who wish to invite GYA representatives will be invited to do so by submitting a proposal. Decisions on funding for Working Groups will be guided by an initial assessment made by the EC. Assessment categories will be: “key projects” supported by the office and for which financial support is in place or will be actively sought, “high potential projects” that will be supported if possible, and “emerging projects” for which further development and refinement are needed. Emerging projects will not be presented on our website.

The EC also consulted with the Senior Advisory Board members who attended the conference, namely Prof Howard Alper and Prof Lee Berger, who provided insight on strategic directions for the GYA.

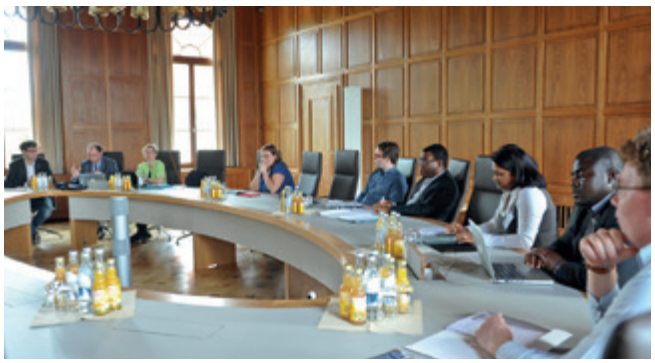
During the internal General Assembly (GA) meeting on Saturday, the GA adopted a revised motion on alumni policy. In the elections the membership confirmed Rees Kassen (Canada) as co-chair for another year, and elected Sameh Soror (Egypt) as the second co-chair, succeeding Bernard Slippers (South Africa), who served the GYA as a terrific co-chair for two years.

The following nine members were elected for the new GYA EC:

Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq (Bangladesh)
Bettina Speckmann (Netherlands)
James Tickner (Australia)
Jose Correa (Chile)
Laura Petes (USA)
Michael Sutherland (UK)
Olanike Adeyemo (Nigeria)
Phil Gona (Zimbabwe/USA)
Vidushi Neergheen-Bhujun (Mauritius)

In the joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming EC members the EC mainly discussed the plans for the year ahead. Focus will be on the nominations for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions, the Africa Regional Meetings, the GloSYS project, the co-operation with and support of the National Young Academies, the Grand Challenges project and the German-Turkish Year of Science. The website and public relations will be improved especially when a media officer will have joined the GYA in January 2014.

The EC was informed that the current office staff in Berlin has contracts that come due in autumn (core staff) or 31 December (GloSYS) 2013. The EC will work on renewal/extension of these contracts. Following the announcement by the BMBF of support for the next three years initially, the GYA is seeking a cooperation agreement with the German academies BBAW and Leopoldina as our hosts and partners. Discussions are on-going but our German partners have made abundantly clear in all our discussions that they value and respect the independence of our work.



GYA EC in consultation with the Senior Advisory Board members

The GYA EC 2013/2014
back row, from left: Jose Correa, Michael Sutherland, Rees Kassen, Sameh Soror, Olanike Adeyemo, James Tickner
front row: Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq, Bettina Speckmann, MD Heidi Wedel, Vidushi Neergheen-Bhujun, Laura Petes, Phil Gona

For the first time the EC members assumed special tasks: James Tickner will head the selection committee supported by Phil Gona; Vidushi Neergheen-Bhujun and Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq will coordinate the Working Groups together with the Co-Chairs; Bettina Speckmann will help the Co-Chairs with questions related to the National Young Academies; Phil Gona and Bernard Slippers will lead the preparation of the Africa Regional Meeting; Olanike Adeyemo will be the EC contact person for the GloSYS project, Laura Petes for the Climate Change workshops and Rees Kassen, Bernard Slippers and Gregory Weiss for the Grand Challenges project; Michael Sutherland will be the Chief Editor of the GYA connections and in charge of design and public relations in general; Jose Correa will be in charge of the GA 2014 with the support of the organizers of previous GAs; Bettina Speckmann will advise on IT questions. The EC meetings will be chaired by the Co-Chairs; minutes will be taken by the other EC members in alternating terms .

Working Groups

During the GA, the working groups (WGs) convened several times. The meeting time was used for further planning the WG activities. Summaries of the discussions and plans for the year coming for each WG are provided below.

Africa Regional Meeting

The members of this working group are organizing an inaugural three-day African regional conference in February 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya - with a focus on the further establishment and connection of National Young Academies in Africa.

The conference on "Accelerating science for development in Africa by increasing the momentum and impact of National Young Academies," will bring together representatives from all existing National Young Academies (NYAs) in Africa, as well as NYA initiatives and representatives from countries which currently only have a senior academy with representatives of the African senior academies. The meeting aims to build the momentum, relationships and networks necessary to stimulate the formation of as many NYAs in Africa over the next few years as possible, and to connect them from the founding into a support network.

Objectives

The main objective of this African Regional Young Academies Conference is to engage and empower excellent young scientists/researchers from across Africa to address the challenges that impede scientific development towards a sustainable future for the region. A secondary objective is to bring together the future leaders of scientific research and innovation from across Africa, and so facilitate the development of strong networks of collaboration and cooperation. The conference is organized in cooperation with NASAC and funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

Aims

- Build momentum and networks necessary to stimulate the formation of NYAs in Africa
- Connect NYAs into a support network
- Engage and empower young scientists
- Address the challenges that impede scientific development
- Bring together future leaders of scientific research

WG-Leaders:

Bernard Slippers, Phil Gona

The Global State of Young Scientists GloSYS

The project aims to compile a report on the state of young scientists around the world, drawing on new and established evidence and insights from relevant researchers, experts, and institutions working in this field.

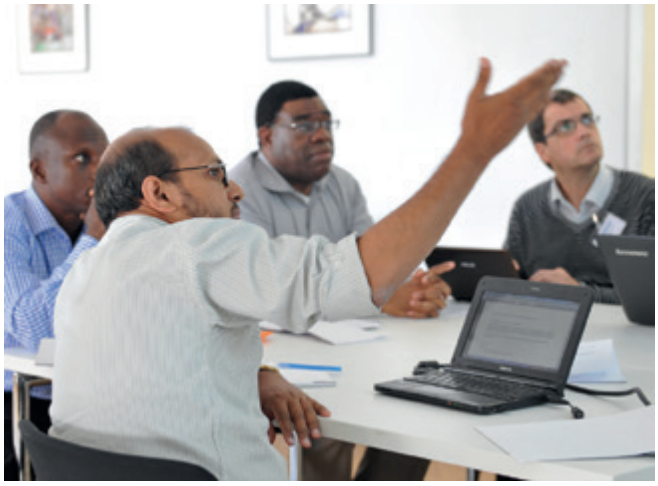
With this project the GYA is compiling a report on the state of young scientists around the world, drawing on new and established evidence and insights from relevant researchers, experts, and institutions working in this field. It collects the current state of the art, outlining areas of insights and knowledge based on evidence and identifying fields where information is not reliable or missing. The report will inform policy makers and practitioners in national and international agencies, governments and scientific institutions on current trends and policy practices concerning scientists between completion of their PhD (or graduate training more generally) and reaching tenured or long-term research positions with independence and responsibility. The report will reflect the increasingly mobile and international careers of young scientists, who work in a profession where knowledge is produced in global competition but also in environments strongly shaped by local and national institutions.

WG-Leader: **Regina So**

Project Officer: **Irene Friesenhahn**

Global Access to Research Software

In the developed world, academics use specialized software licensed by their institutions and research groups for their research. In contrast, in the developing world the institutions are usually unable to afford to purchase institutional licenses at the full price. GYA members work on facilitating the access to research software via a broad range of activities.

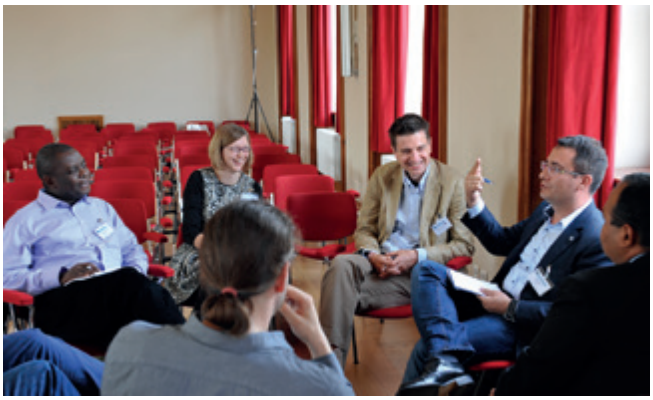


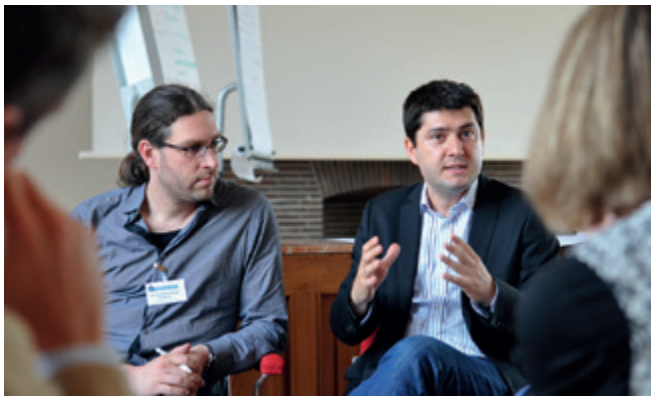
In the developed world, academics use specialized software licensed by their institutions and research groups for their research. In contrast, researchers in the developing world typically work for institutions that are unable to afford to purchase software licenses at the full price. Thus, the market for specialized scientific software in developing countries is quite limited. This project will aim to negotiate substantially discounted licenses for developing country institutions with the aim of expanding the market for such software and decreasing piracy. Parallel to the approach, this initiative will also promote the use of free and open source (FOSS) software alternatives amongst scientists in developing countries.

WG-Leaders:
Peter Ngure, Javier Moguerza, Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq

Global Young Think Tank

Complex global problems require creative solutions and strategies. We propose to bring together outstanding young leaders – entrepreneurs, scientists, policy makers, and journalists – in a highly interactive "think tank" format.





Aims

We propose to bring together outstanding young leaders – entrepreneurs, scientists, policy makers, and journalists – in a highly interactive "think tank" format.

Our specific aims are to help:

- Develop innovative, science-informed, concrete solutions for an urgent global problem.
- Build effective, high-impact connections between these young leaders on a global scale.

Output

Immediate: Statement and press release

Short-term: Articles in top newspapers, opinion/perspective pieces in scientific journals

Intermediate: Proposals for projects addressing the global problem of interest

Long-term: Global capacity and collaboration building of young leaders from various disciplines

Planning and Format

We aim to organize the first Global Young Think Tank in 2014. The event will take place over 2–4 days, preferably ahead of a major international gathering. The program will consist of a few invited presentations by renowned experts/stakeholders on the target problem, followed by intensive break-out sessions with skilled moderators. Participants will be selected based on excellence and commitment, and will engage in a thorough preparation in the two months prior to the event in order to allow rapid high-quality output. We aim for 60–80 participants in order to have representation from four pillars – science, industry, government, and media – and global representation in each subgroup.

Topic

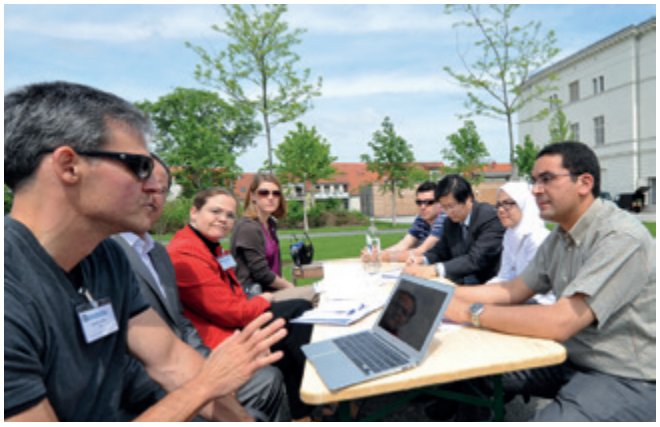
The Global Young Think Tank will focus on a topic that is urgent, of societal importance, and attracts and excites a very diverse group of outstanding young leaders (e.g. related to the risk of a global digital breakdown or the inequality of access to education around the world). We will source a shortlist of three potential topics from the GYA and their networks including representatives from industry, government and media.

(Developed by the Global Young Academy with thanks to the Dutch National ThinkTank.)

WG-Leader:
Eva Alisic

Bridging the International Scientific Gap: The Global Young Academy's Young Scientist Ambassador Program (YSAP)

The Global Young Academy's Young Scientist Ambassador Program (YSAP) promotes the efforts of GYA members to serve as Ambassadors between developed and developing countries.

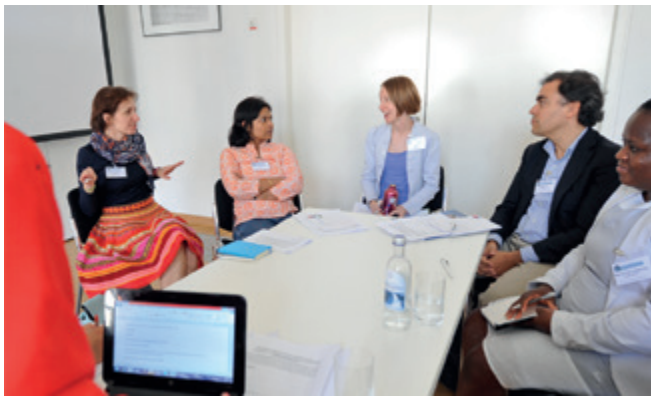


The Young Scientists from the 2010 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions initiated the Young Scientist Ambassador Program as part of their legacy project. Later in 2011, the YSAP was adopted by the Global Young Academy as a formal mechanism to bridge international scientific gaps by facilitating cultural, scientific, intellectual, or educational interactions. The ambassadorships are designed to be non-traditional; that is, interactions should occur between two countries that are at different stages of scientific development, or between two countries that historically have had minimal scientific contact. Several Mission Reports from previous Ambassadors and additional information can be found at the YSAP website: *http://GYA-ambassador.org*

WG-Leaders:
Lynn Loo, Stephen Miller

Women in Science

Over the last couple of years, when the poor female-to-male ratio in science raised broad awareness, numerous programs were started all over the globe. Facing major demographic changes to be expected within the next 20 years, there is great interest by the different governments not to waste the resource of female intellectualism. However, many women are still not receiving the support they need to succeed in careers in science. We would like to use the global and interdisciplinary nature of the GYA, to make a point – to report to the public the limitations of the current measures, based on the firsthand experiences of this excellent group.



Priorities (plans)

- Publication of a perspectives article on young women in a major science journal developed by GYA members
- Developing, distributing, and analyzing a survey on young women in science
- Development and maintenance of an online mentoring network for young women in science, where GYA members serve as mentors. The network could help to facilitate mentoring, discussion, information sharing (e.g. seminars, resources)

- Training workshop on gender-related issues and empowering women in science (issues such as work-life balance, multi-tasking, coping skills); share best practices across countries. The workshop may be part or a session in GYA meetings such as in the GYA Africa meetings and during the next GYA GA 2014 in Chile.

We should get to the point where do not just talk about women in science, but where women do science.

WG-Leader:
Amal Amin

GYA Climate Workshops

The GYA climate initiative provides an opportunity to elevate the visibility of young scientists, as well as young decision makers and leaders, to raise awareness of climate impacts and challenges.

An opportunity has arisen for the GYA to partner with the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the United Nations Foundation on a set of climate events associated with the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Fifth Assessment Report. The partners are interested in including young scientists, including GYA members and/or their colleagues with climate expertise, in these events.

Initial Efforts and Ideas for the Future:

The GYA has met with the NAS and UN Foundation to discuss opportunities for partnership and ways to advance collective goals. As an early outcome, GYA climate initiative members were invited to participate in climate science media training events sponsored by the UN Foundation, and two members participated. The group also discussed the potential for inclusion of GYA members and/or other young scientists in future workshops and events planned by the NAS and UN Foundation. These events provide an opportunity to engage young scientists as leaders in the climate community.

In the future, existing or new events could potentially include young scientists, young decision makers and leaders, and young media professionals to raise awareness of climate impacts and challenges. One possible mechanism would be to have a "dialog" format between the scientists, decision makers, and journalists, which could result in news articles and reports for policy makers. These events could also draw participants from the World Economic Forum communities, such as the Young Scientists, Young Global Leaders, and Global Shapers. The workshops could be paired with training events (e.g. in climate science communication, climate adaptation planning and related policy issues) to help grow capacity and expertise.

WG-Leader:
Laura Petes

Optimising Assessment – Promoting Excellence

The aim of this working group is to identify which indicators are used to measure excellence in science and what kind of environment would be most suitable to unleash curiosity and creativity in science, as well as to foster the development of human potential.

Our very own human potential is our most valuable resource, and societal development crucially depends on the efficiency with which we make use of it. Universities and research institutions should provide an environment in which creative minds flourish. Currently, there is some obsession with quantitative success indicators, but what is true excellence, and how do we evaluate and foster it?

The direction we are heading for is the result of adopted assessment procedures, and it is in our hands to make a wise choice on these. Properly valuing the human potential will also provide a recipe for fairly providing suitable opportunities. This working group aims to compile a report that critically analyses current structures, compares different present approaches, and evaluates promising alternatives with regard to impact and feasibility.

A survey on the perceptions of research excellence revealed that criteria adopted by various individuals are strikingly diverse. It also emerged that assessment procedures could alternatively be based on peer evaluation or multi-dimensional metrics, each approach coming with its specific strengths and weaknesses. We will follow up on a suggested link between excellence and societal relevance, as well as on the optimal balance between trust and mistrust for fostering excellence.

WG-Leader:
Martin Dominik

Mobility & Migration: Action Against Brain Drain

This GYA working group aims at establishing a sustainable platform for academic and intellectual exchange between scientists from developing countries in the diaspora and the local young scientists.

The population of young intellectuals in emerging countries who are interested in academics, research and development (R&D) remains significant. However, R&D in these countries is suffering from inadequate financial and technological support, poor administration of the sector and enabling policies, insufficient capacity and the need of professional scientific soft skills. This situation compels outstanding scientists, young and old, to leave their countries to look for jobs or research opportunities abroad ("greener pastures") in order to satisfy their academic ambitions and life requirements. Many of these scientists in diaspora made great success of their sojourn to the extent that a significant number of them lead research and development efforts in several renowned institutions, international research centers, science academies and large companies across the developed world.

This GYA working group aims at establishing a sustainable platform for academic and intellectual exchange between scientists from developing countries in the diaspora and the local young scientists.

This set goal shall be achieved through a certain number of activities, including creating an online network between young scientists mainly in developing countries and their fellow young and senior scientists abroad.

Tools and Objectives

Designing a professional website, including a social network and scientific mailing group, that could be hosted by the GYA website to satisfy the following objectives:

- Identifying country based experts in diaspora, returnee experts from diaspora, and local specialists with descriptions of their competency skills
- Connecting local scientists with their emerging inquiries for Diaspora
- Identifying opportunities for young researchers and experts including information on international and local funding agencies
- Encouraging mentorship linkages

Improving the skills of young researchers in their home countries through organizing:

- Conferences & seminars: a plan for organizing the "First Global Conference of North African Academics in Diaspora" by the end of December 2014 is being considered as a template for other regions of developing countries including West Africa.
- Lectures & capacity building activities (training courses)
- Summer schools
- Online trainings and information sessions

Outcomes

- A free online database of experts in diaspora, returnee experts from diaspora, and local specialists with descriptions of their competency skills
- Career development and improved quality of young scientists research activities and publications
- Increase awareness and benefit from available scientific opportunities

WG-Leader:
Ala' Al-Halhouli

Measuring Excellence in Science Engagement (MESE)

Scientists are urged to engage beyond academia to improve decision-making, public discourse, and lay understanding of science, and many young scientists are active in these ways. Many institutions supposedly reward such engagement (in promotion, tenure, professional review, etc.), but how?

Science is supposed to be in the public interest, but the benefits of science cannot be realized fully without engagement and communication between scientists, citizens, decision makers, and the media (see the GYA Sandton Declaration). Many GYA members are actively involved in these engagement processes – but primarily through the goodness of our hearts, with little explicit recognition from our institutions, even though they may encourage such engagement, e.g., as a component of service. Current practices of evaluation generally assess science engagement and its impacts in a one-dimensional and non-transparent way, separately and inconsistently inventing the 'wheel' of appropriate assessment approaches. This unfortunate status quo has three important effects:

- Broken feedbacks by which rewards are disconnected from the activities they are intended to encourage;
- Non-transparent, non-replicable, unstructured assessment processes that leaves worthy candidates insufficiently recognized due to judgment errors from cognitive biases; and
- Missed opportunities for cross-institutional learning in this emerging challenge.

The MESE working group will address this critical gap of assessing effectiveness of engagement through several planned activities.

WG-Leader:
Kai Chan

Best Practices in Grant Application Mechanisms

Funding research represents a vital global issue, in particular when Young Scientists are concerned. The WG focuses on the improvement of grant mechanisms, on the development of international research networks and on the increase of the funds allotted for the projects of Young Scientists. The multitude of issues connected and triggered by these mechanisms calls for a general proactive approach that requires expertise, commitment and community.

The frustration with grant application and management appears to be universal amongst scientists and in particular young scientists around the world. In many cases, it is young researchers who are most negatively affected, but science as a whole suffers from the consequences. Strangely, this problem is recognized widely; by those supplying funds for scientific research, those administering the granting process and the scientists applying for the funds. Yet, there appears to be little engagement amongst the various stakeholders to find answers that can be universally applied. Expert knowledge and adequate technology clearly exist to prevent such a costly waste of energy and money, as many good grant application examples illustrate. You can help make a change!

Please download the GYA statement and cover letter on this topic and send it to relevant officials.

WG-Leader:
Alexandru Simon

Global Young Academy
The voice of young scientists around the world

Towards a Global Research Culture

Following the General Assembly of the Global Young Academy (GYA) in May 2013, members identified three key challenges – inclusivity, capacity building and sustainability– standing as barriers to achieving a truly global and open research culture. This statement discusses these challenges and ways to confront them in the future.

At the heart of the scientific enterprise lies a set of core values including equality, equal opportunity, and inclusivity that, together, allow the scientific process to work most effectively. Efforts to support and promote these values have proven challenging and, at times, controversial in the face of the economic disparities among nations and enduring discrimination against specific groups. There remain major imbalances in the distribution of education, infrastructure, and support for science across countries around the world. This is most starkly seen in the divide between the developed and the developing world, where the bulk of scientific training, output, and funding flow from the former to the latter.

These disparities have started to shrink over the last thirty years, thanks to five major developments that signal an expansion in the global reach of scientific research:

1. increasing numbers of individuals, institutions and stakeholders are involved in scientific research and diplomacy;
2. projects and outputs are more geographically distributed through the establishment of multinational networks and the rise of centers of excellence in the global south;
3. standards for science training, recruitment and promotion are increasingly transparent;
4. new information and communication technologies, particularly those devoted to data generation and sharing, support rapid communication and international collaborations; and
5. open access to publications and data, increasingly promoted by governmental policies, facilitates participation in research and fairness in publication and credit mechanisms.

At the General Assembly held in May 2013 at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, GYA members discussed these developments and agreed that, encouraging as they are, they do not guarantee that science functions as a truly global endeavor. Effort is still required from both scientific and policy organizations to identify key remaining obstacles to the development of excellent research and widespread education around the world, and find ways to overcome them. Young Academies around the world have a crucial role to play in this effort as they provide the emerging generation of scientific leaders a forum to articulate what they see as the main challenges of current research and participate in shaping policy landscapes. Members of Young Academies are also the first generation of researchers to

experience the institutional, technological, and demographic shifts identified above as integral parts of their training and career paths, and their viewpoint needs to be considered as complementary to the views of Senior Academies. The GYA, comprising emerging scientific leaders from 55 countries around the world, is particularly well positioned to provide a unique perspective on efforts to achieve a truly global research enterprise.

GYA members have identified and discussed three key challenges to achieving a global research agenda. The first is ***inclusivity*** in the global research enterprise. Despite welcome advances such as the inclusion of South Africa in the Square Kilometer Array initiative, developing countries remain largely excluded from the development and implementation of key scientific endeavors. The GYA encourages efforts to integrate developing countries directly into 'big science' projects, which increases the scope for training new talent as well as the means available to researchers in those countries. Further, inclusivity is compromised by discrimination in terms of seniority, gender, religion, ethnicity and location. Such discrimination strongly impacts hiring, promotion and publication practices. The GYA proposes that discrimination can be countered via increased transparency in the criteria and practices used to foster career paths in academia; the streamlining of funding applications, which will make it easier for talented individuals with family responsibilities and/or limited research time to ask for support; and the implementation of gender shares on scientific committees and panels, so as to facilitate the inclusion of women in decision-making processes across the globe.

The second challenge concerns ***capacity building*** in science. Despite the recent emphasis on openness and data sharing, vast disparities remain in publication regimes, credit structures, access to relevant technologies and the provision of key infrastructures across different nations. Such barriers, due partly but not exclusively to economic conditions, must wherever possible be removed, particularly in terms of access to research and knowledge; and the steps taken to remove them should be sustainable in the long term. The GYA recommends that Open Science be promoted in terms of access to data, rights to re-use and access to resources required for reproducing the results. This means fostering cross-national collaborations around research infrastructures and tools, rather than solely around research outputs, so as to support capacity building in developing countries with little to no extra-cost. Increased support for research visits across nations, and particularly south-south collaboration, is another way to enhance the use of existing resources, so that countries where investment in capital equipment is still minimal can benefit from the efforts of others.

The third challenge is that of ***sustainability*** in the career trajectories of researchers. Current disparities in the financial, political and cultural support for science across countries are hampering the labor market for science and engineering. At a time when financial constraints are pushing governments to cut science funding, early career researchers end up being the most vulnerable workforce in the research enterprise. The average age for early career investigators in securing their first independent grant award is increasing; and increasingly high numbers of postdoctoral researchers compete for few academic positions. The GYA recommends that research careers outside academia should be promoted as options for early stage researchers, so as to increase employability and promote interactions between science and society. One way to do this is to involve young scientists in policy discussions, as promoted for instance by National Young Academies (NYAs); to this end, the GYA recommends that NYAs be established in every country.

This statement was prepared by GYA members Sabina Leonelli (UK), Guruprasad Madhavan (USA/IN), Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq (BD), Rees Kassen (CA), Rob Jenkins (UK), Sameh H. Soror (EG) and Arianna Betti (NL) and approved by the GYA EC in October 2013.

Press Releases

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research announces funding for the Global Young Academy

Halle, 17 May 2013 – German State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Ms Quennet-Thielen announced funding of the Global Young Academy (GYA) initially for three years. The announcement was made at the Third International Conference of Young Scientists and General Assembly of the GYA hosted by the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, in Halle, Germany. The support, which involves a partnership with the Leopoldina and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), allows the GYA to expand its activities supporting young researchers.

The announcement was a highlight for the over 100 attendees at the GYA's annual meeting. "We are deeply grateful for the support we have had in Germany to develop the Global Young Academy," said Bernard Slippers, co-chair of the GYA from South Africa, "first from the Volkswagen Foundation and now so generously from the Ministry of Education and Research. We at the GYA applaud Germany's leadership for the advancement of global science, and young scientists in particular."

The announcement caps a busy year for the GYA and its German partners. The GYA co-organized a joint symposium on 'Socio-Ecological novelty: Frontiers in sustainability research' with the Leopoldina and the South African and German Young Academies, and recently completed an international workshop on the Global State of Young Scientists supported by the VW Foundation and the BMBF.

The funding from the BMBF ensures the continued operation of the GYA office in Berlin. The office plays a central role in coordinating the global activities of GYA members and works to support the activities of national young academies world-wide.

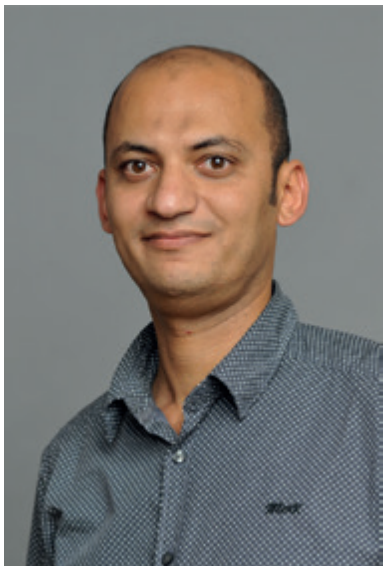
Third International Conference for Young Scientists and 2013 General Assembly of the Global Young Academy

Berlin, 10 May 2013 – The Third International Conference for Young Scientists and General Assembly of the Global Young Academy (GYA) will be held from the 15-18 May 2013 and hosted by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina in Halle (Saale), Germany, with support from IAP: the Global Network of Science Academies. The GYA expects to welcome over 100 scientists from across the globe, including some 80 top young scientists and a panel of distinguished senior scientists and science administrators from around the world, including the heads of academies of sciences and German State Secretary Ms Quennet-Thielen.

The meeting's theme is Demography and Global Research. "Research is becoming increasingly global and collaborative," says GYA Co-Chair Rees Kassen from Canada, "and young researchers are especially aware of this as they are more mobile than ever before." The conference will explore the impact that an increasingly mobile and connected research landscape has for the future of knowledge creation, innovation, and economic growth.

The conference theme links directly to on-going activities at the GYA, in particular a BMBF-funded "Global State of Young Scientists (GloSYS)" project that held a high level expert workshop earlier in the week. The conference also offers an opportunity for GYA members from both developed and developing countries the chance to meet in person to discuss the challenges and opportunities they face in their research careers.

Egypt taking the lead of the Global Young Academy (GYA)



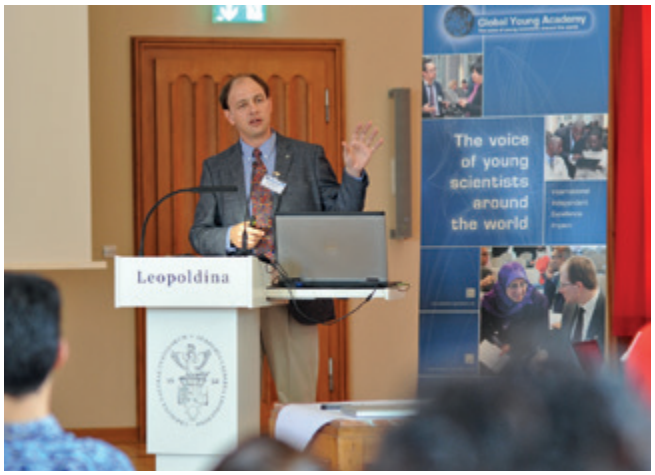
Berlin, 22 May 2013 – The Global Young Academy completed its General Assembly last week hosted by the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, in Halle (Saale), Germany. During the meeting members from more than 50 countries elected their new leadership, including two co-chairs, for the coming year. The election brought to the head of this global academy for the first time an Egyptian young scientist, Dr Sameh Soror, alongside the re-elected co-chair Prof Dr Rees Kassen (Canada).

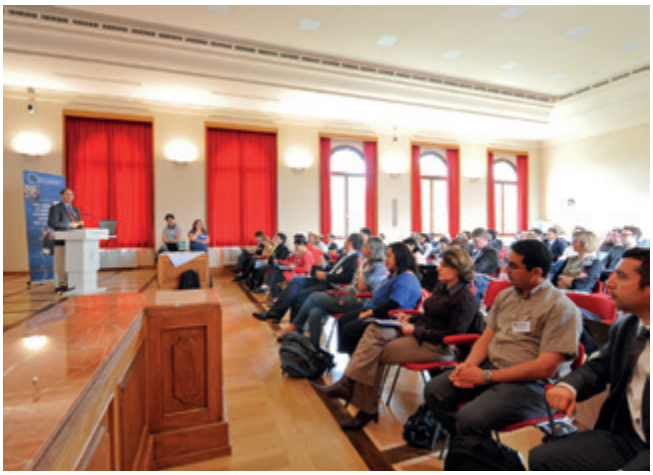
"The position will no doubt contribute hugely to Dr Soror's personal development as a leader in the scientific community" said outgoing co-chair Prof Dr Bernard Slippers (South Africa) "and offers unparalleled opportunities to connect his science, and science in Egypt, internationally."

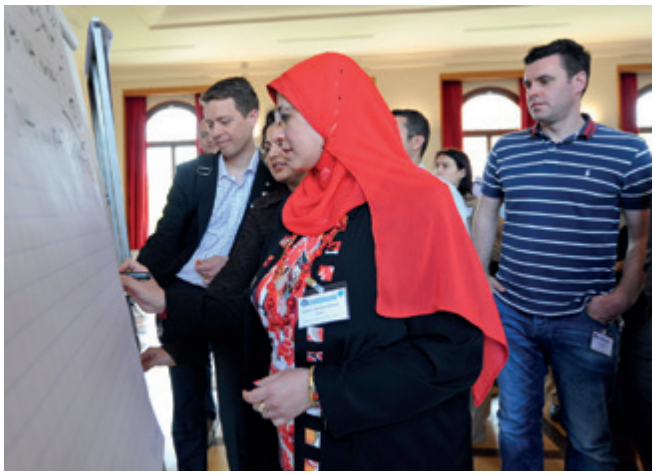
Having spent a large part of his life in Germany and Belgium as a graduate student and researcher, Dr Soror returned to Egypt in 2011 to participate in rebuilding the country. Dr Soror is currently establishing a new research center for scientific excellence for structural biology and drug design in Cairo.

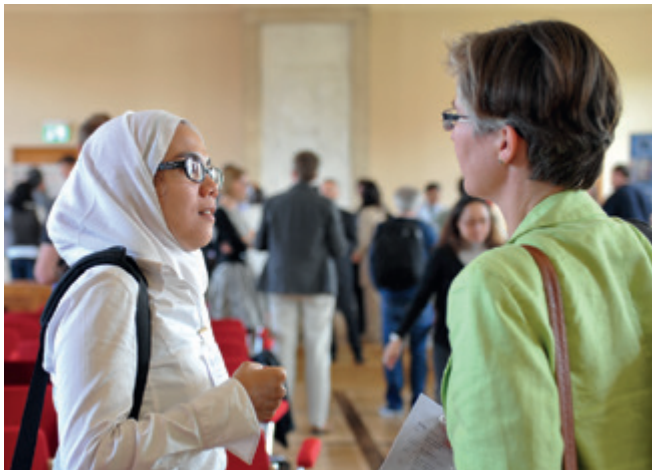
The newly elected chair, Dr Soror, is committed to his new position, saying, "I will do my best to help the GYA achieve its goals and will work hard with my colleagues to be the voice of young scientists through this Academy."


Global Young Academy


Global Young Academy
The voice of young scientists around the world
Leopoldina







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We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for their support of the meeting:

Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

iap
the global network of science academies

Publisher: Global Young Academy c/o Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW)
Editorial Coordination: Anika Meister and Heidi Wedel
Design and Layout: Thorsten Probst, angenehme-gestaltung