

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

International Experts on Solid Waste Management and Green Economy gather at Halle (Saale)

Halle, 20 October 2015 – The Global Young Academy (GYA) in cooperation with the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) will host a workshop on “Solid Waste Management and Green Economy” on 22 and 23 October 2015 in Halle (Saale), Germany.

International experts from 12 countries and six continents discuss their studies relating to topics such as enabling conditions for greening the waste sector including financing, economic incentives, policy and regulatory measures; institutional arrangements; and investing in benefits from greening the waste sector. Besides focusing on regional aspects such as local perceptions and business involvement in exemplary cases such as South Africa, Australia, west Asia, Nairobi and Kampala, the interdisciplinary workshop aims to demonstrate how green investment in the waste sector can create jobs and contribute to economic growth, while simultaneously addressing environmental issues, in a pro-poor and equitable manner.

“Greening of waste is not generally a drag on growth but rather a new engine of growth; it is a net generator of decent jobs, and also a vital strategy for a better environment. Our report seeks to motivate policy makers to create the enabling conditions for increased investments in a transition to a green economy,” says project leader Dr. Sherien Elagroudy from Egypt.

Background Information:

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in June 2012 (Rio+20) ranked the green economy as one of the major international priorities. The conference highlighted that current consumption and production methods relating to economic and population growth have led to overexploitation of natural resources and seriously damaged the environment and ecosystem balance. Good environmental governance and the optimization of scarce resources are even more crucial in such a context that is highly vulnerable to climate change and economic and budgetary constraints.

The project “Solid Waste Management and Green Economy”, led by the Egyptian young scientist Dr Sherien Elagroudy, started in February 2015. A call for case study reports encouraged active participation of junior and senior experts in the fields of solid waste management, environmental science, the green economy and sustainable development. In response, proposals were received from around the world showcasing studies from different countries. The authors were willing to share knowledge on relevant policies and ongoing initiatives in their region as well as their analysis of perceptions, practices and business expectations relating waste management to the green economy. Moreover they highlighted the role of the industrial sector in the development of the green economy.

Project Goals:

Beyond appraising the state of solid waste management in different national and regional contexts, based on the most recent data, the project will produce a policy-oriented report that evaluates the progress towards the realization of sustainable waste management targets and assesses current policies. Ultimately, the report will propose alternative and/or best-practice policies and remedial action. It will cover waste management and green economy in three world regions; (1) countries with advanced economies (G8), (2) transition and emerging economy countries (BRICS), and (3) developing economies. Groups of experts and research assistants have been established to develop the report based on each of these three groups of countries.

About the Global Young Academy:

The Global Young Academy was founded in 2010 with the vision to be the voice of young scientists around the world. The GYA empowers early-career researchers to lead international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational dialogue by developing and mobilizing talent from six continents. Its purpose is to promote reason and inclusiveness in global decision-making. Members are chosen for their demonstrated excellence in scientific achievement and commitment to service. Currently there are 200 members and 101 alumni from 67 countries. The academy is hosted at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) in cooperation with the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The GYA received its seed funding from the Volkswagen Foundation and has since 2014 been funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and supported by the IAP: the Global Network of Science Academies. The GYA has also benefitted from project funding from a variety of donors and partners.

A brief report giving insight into the organization's major achievements as the voice of young scientists may be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/1L7WbQy>.

About IAP:

IAP - the global network of science academies, is based in Trieste, Italy, and counts 111 national, regional and global academies of science as members. It works by bringing together its academy members to work on issues at the science-policy interface, especially with relation to sustainable development and the global scientific enterprise. It is currently in the process of re-branding itself as 'IAP for Science' as it enters into an umbrella agreement with the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) and the InterAcademy Council (IAC). For more information, visit www.interacademies.net and www.interacademies.org.

About the Leopoldina:

Founded in 1652, the Leopoldina is one of the oldest academies of science in the world. It is dedicated to the advancement of science for the benefit of humankind and to the goal of shaping a better future. With some 1,500 members, the Leopoldina brings together outstanding scientists from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and many other countries. The Leopoldina was appointed as the German National Academy of Sciences in 2008. In this capacity, it represents the German scientific community in international committees and speaks out on social and political questions, providing a nonpartisan, factual framework for discussion. Under the auspices of the Leopoldina, interdisciplinary groups of experts publish policy-guiding statements on issues of current interest. The Leopoldina also releases joint statements with other German, European and international academies. It promotes scientific and public debate, supports young scientists, confers awards for scientific achievements, conducts research projects, and campaigns for the human rights of persecuted scientists.

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