



**Berlin, 6 September 2016**

## **Science's role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

*Academies of science, medicine, and engineering around the world have launched a project to support the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. Early- and mid-career scholars can play a key part.*

The InterAcademy Partnership – the global network of national science, medical and engineering academies – has started a three-year project on scientific advice for global policymaking. Conducted in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS; Princeton) and sponsored by Carnegie Corporation of New York, the project will explore how to strengthen scientific input to the United Nations, governments, and other stakeholders - aimed at achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals involve multiple aspirational targets for sustainable human development, covering issues such as ending poverty and hunger, ensuring healthy lives and quality education, combating inequalities, and protecting the global environment. The goals are strongly connected to each other, and require wide-ranging and substantial national action. Governments are expected to implement and monitor national programs for the achievement of the goals.

IAP President Robbert Dijkgraaf, who is IAS director and Leon Levy professor at Princeton University said: "The UN's 2030 Agenda is a well-articulated, globally adopted framework. It is high-impact, high-stakes, and provides an opportunity to examine the increasingly complex landscape of global science advice."

Eva Alisic, former co-chair of the Global Young Academy and senior research fellow at Monash University, has been appointed co-chair of the IAP project: "This project can help foster dialogue and cooperation between providers of global scientific advice, across all disciplines, and all generations. Both established and early-career scholars are keen to make science work for society." She sees a clear role for early- and mid-career scholars, who are often motivated to contribute to policy-making in their countries, and aims to involve Young Academies from around the world in the project.

Dr Alisic will co-chair the project together with Professor LI Jinghai, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Its steering group consists of 11 eminent scientists representing all world regions. The project will involve a wide range of stakeholders and various working formats in order to not only reflect on, but also test, the strengthening of science advice.



From left to right: Prof. Li Jinghai, Prof. Robbert Dijkgraaf, and Dr. Eva Alisic. Picture courtesy of Tom Arrison, IAP.

### 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>.

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