

Global Young Academy

Young Scientists Ambassador Programme



Ambassador:
Johan Åkerman

Country of Origin:
Sweden (developed country)
Country of Destination:
Vietnam (developing country)
Time of Visit: May 4, 2011

Mission Report

YSAP Activities Overview. Encourage students and senior scientists to form a Young Academy and initiate research funding programs geared towards independent young scientists.



Background. The Young Scientist Ambassador, Prof. Johan Åkerman, is both a founding member of The Young Academy of Sweden and a member of the Global Young Academy. His research has also benefitted strongly from national funding programs geared towards young scientists. Dr. Anh Nguyen is a postdoc and Mr. Tuan Le is a graduate student in Prof. Åkerman's group, and since both are natives of Vietnam, the three of us decided to try to inspire similar Vietnamese programs during a joint visit to Vietnam.

We visited two institutes: the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) and the Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST). VAST is the largest institute which is a leading scientific and technological agency. HUST is the first and largest technical university in Vietnam.

YSAP Activity: Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)

At VAST, we visited The Institute of Materials Science (IMS) and learned about their ongoing research and were given a tour of their experimental infrastructure. Prof. Åkerman presented the opportunities given to young researchers in both Sweden and the EU and

the impact this is currently having in expanding the possibilities for independent young researchers. Dr. Nguyen shared her impressions from working as a postdoc in Sweden.

YSAP Activity: Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST)

At HUST, we visited The International Training Institute for Materials Science (ITIMS-HUST) and were given a tour of their experimental infrastructure. Prof. Åkerman gave a presentation for graduate students and postdocs, presenting the alternatives available for them should they decide to visit the EU, but more importantly, explaining to them how in particular the Swedish funding system has changed to promote young scientists in setting up research groups early and pursue their independent line of research. The message was geared both towards the students and the senior scientists to try to inspire similar changes over time.



Johan Åkerman displays a slide about the YSAP at the International Training Institute for Materials Science, Hanoi University of Science and Technology (ITIMS-HUST)

YSAP Follow-up

After our visits... Dr. Nguyen shares her time between Sweden (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) and Vietnam (Hung Yen University of Technology and Education) and continues the transfer of knowledge between the two countries, both in terms of research topics and in terms of funding policies.

A brief follow-up visit to Ho Chi Minh City in the south of Vietnam was carried out by the same group in January 2012, where the same questions were discussed with the local scientists at the Laboratory for NanoTechnology (LNT), Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City.

**Johan Åkerman
August 13, 2012**