

# Global Young Academy

## Young Scientists Ambassador Programme



**Ambassador:**  
[Javier Garcia Martinez](#)

**Country of Origin:**  
Spain (developed country)  
**Country of Destination:**  
Peru (developing country)  
**Time of Visit:** October 9-19, 2014

### Mission Report

**YSAP Activities Overview.** I contacted the Federation of the Latin-American Chemical Societies (FLAQ) which is one of the largest scientific organizations in the sub-continent and expressed my intention to talk about the GYA, meet young scientists from Latin-American countries and promote the creation of National Young Academies in that part of the World.



**Background.** I have been invited to give a plenary lecture of 45 minutes on “Providing a Voice for Young Scientists in the Sustainability Debate” at the Congreso Latinoamericano de Quimica (Latin-American Chemistry Conference), one of the main scientific gatherings in the region. Thousands of young and senior scientists from Latin-American will be there not only during my talk, but also during the four day conference. That will give me the opportunity of having many meetings with young scientists in a short period of time and it will give a lot of visibility to the GYA in a region where it is not all that well-known.

This is not the first time they know about this. A few months ago, Michael Sutherland and I published an article in Chemistry International with the same title.” The GYA looks for young researchers who are not only current or future leaders in their field of study, but who are looking to make a wide impact through their work and passion for science.”  
[http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2013/3501/1\\_sutherland.html](http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2013/3501/1_sutherland.html)

During those days in Lima, I will have the opportunity to meet face to face some representatives of many Latin-American countries (thirteen countries are members of FLAQ <http://www.flaq1959.org>). Meetings with young scientists from the region will allow me to understand their needs, possibilities, and willingness to get involved in GYA.

As a member of GYA from Spain, I feel that because my connections in Latin-America and our common language, I can help GYA to get more applications from this continent. Also, I am very much involved in the creation of the NYA in Spain so I will be happy to help our colleagues from this part of the World to create the first NYA in Latin-America.

### **YSAP Activity: Invited talk, panel discussion, and meeting at the Academia Nacional de Ciencias (Science Academy of Peru)**

On October 15th I gave an invited talk at the Academia Nacional de Ciencias (Science Academy of Peru) on the role of young scientists in providing solutions to our global challenges. The conference, very well attended by members of the Academy, faculty members, and many young scientists and students where held at the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (UNI). I presented the GYA to the attendees, our goals and activities and invite them to apply as Peru has no members in the GYA yet. Later, a panel discussion was organized where an open debate was held on topics such as the challenges of the young scientists in the area, the role of the GYA providing a voice to young scholars, and how to be involved in these international activities. Finally, I met with members of the Academy to talk more in detail how to promote young scholars, and their application to the GYA.

After the presentation, a debate was organized to openly discuss the challenges of young scientists in the area, the role of the GYA providing a voice to young scholars and how to be involved in these international activities.



*Javier Garcia Martinez introducing the GYA to members of the Academia Nacional de Ciencias (Science of Academy of Peru), faculty members, and young scientists and students, held at the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (UNI) and open discussion with young scientists.*

**YSAP Activity: Plenary talk at the Congreso Latinoamericano de Química (Latin-American Chemistry Conference) and meeting with young scientists from the region attending the conference**

One of the main scientific meetings in the region is the Congreso Latinoamericano de Química (Latin-American Chemistry Conference). I had the great honor and unique opportunity to address the attendees in the plenary talk “Providing a Voice for Young Scientists in the Sustainability Debate”. As the title suggests, in this 1 hour long talk, I talked about how young scientists have a central role in providing solutions to our global challenges. In the framework of the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals, I asked the audience which the new MDG should be, how their work is contributing toward achieving these goals, and how they see themselves as professionals in 2030. During my conference, I presented the GYA, its goals and activities, mentioning those more closely related to the topic of my presentation. Finally I invited them to apply, as the presence of Latin-America in the GYA is still quite limited. After a quite vivid Q&A, I met with several of the young scientists who attended my talk and answer some more specific questions about the GYA and the application process.



*Javier Garcia Martinez presenting the GYA at the plenary talk “Providing a Voice for Young Scientists in the Sustainability Debate” during the Congreso Latinoamericano de Química (Latin-American Chemistry Conference), one of the major scientific meetings in the region.*

**YSAP Activity: Invited talk at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, in Lima Perú**

The Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos is the oldest university in America and one of the most prestigious in Latin-America. Thanks to a personal invitation by my colleague Prof. Ana Maria Osorio, I had the opportunity to give a talk to hundreds of students of this university about their role in defining and providing solutions to our global priorities. The main theater of the Chemistry Department was literally packed, with students standing to learn more about how they can contribute to the global scientific endeavor. I presented the GYA as one of the ways young scholars can organize themselves to coordinate activities that will help them to increase their impact and help others to advance in their careers and provide a voice especially to those scientists living in areas where their daily work is more challenging.

After my talk I met with the Dean and several faculty members to discuss the main challenges of the country regarding science education and research. They had a lot of questions about the GYA and were very thankful for our interest in the region.



*Javier Garcia Martinez introducing the GYA at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, in Lima Perú to hundreds of students and faculty members.*

### **YSAP Follow-up**

Besides these unique opportunities I had to address over one thousand young scientists from the region, meeting with members of the Academy and some of the most prestigious universities of the country, I used many opportunities to speak one to one with a very large number of young scientists that in every case were very excited and grateful to the GYA for thinking of them and for our interest to involve them in our organization and in helping us to achieve our goal to provide a voice to the young scientists.

Now, back after a packed but very rewarding 10 days in Peru, I had the feeling that I was me who was really touched by the excitement, gratitude and many interactions I had with so many young scientists. In many cases, they were asking me to have a picture with them, a topic to devote their research activity to, or some information about the GYA. We, at the GYA, are all very busy with our teaching and research activities, with very little time to devote to others, much less to travel to a distant country and spend 10 days promoting the GYA, but this ambassadorship has been one of the highlights of my experience as a member of the GYA and helped me a great deal to redefine my priorities. Thank you for the opportunity and I hope to have helped to increase our presence in Latin-America and inspire young scientists from the region.

**Javier Garcia Martinez**

**Alicante, November 17, 2014**