

# Global Young Academy

Young Scientist Ambassador Programme



**Ambassador:**

Thomas Edison E. dela Cruz

**Country of Origin:**  
The Philippines / Germany

**County of Destination:**  
Serbia

**Time of Visit:**  
25 – 28 October 2018

## Mission Report

**YSAP Activities Overview:**

- (1) Visit research facilities at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade in Serbia
- (2) Discuss and initiate possible research collaboration on edible macrofungi (mushrooms) for pharmaceutical application
- (3) Deliver a lecture on macrofungi of the Philippines to graduate students and professors
- (4) Introduce Global Young Academy, its mission and activities, particularly the Young Scientist Ambassador Programme
- (5) Initiate discussion on GYA's support and assistance in establishing national young academy in Serbia

**Background:**

The promotion of science and the continuous effort to improve education has always been a core activity of the Global Young Academy. GYA members are in key positions to make an impact on science education at both regional and international levels. The University of Belgrade in the Republic of Serbia has recently and swiftly made itself open to the international academic community following a decade of international isolation. It is at the continuing process of enhancing its position as a leading higher education institution in the country. This makes the University of Belgrade an ideal place to conduct this YSAP activity.

**YSAP Activities:**

Hosted by the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Belgrade, Thomas initially met with Prof. Dr. Miomir Niksic and Prof. Dr. Gordana Surlan-Momirovic. He visited the laboratories of Prof. Niksic and met with his graduate students. During this visit, he engaged with the young students as they discussed the

research projects they are doing. Thomas also had an opportunity to meet with other professors and staffs of the faculty.



Thomas with Prof. Dr. Gordana Surlan-Momirovic.

Thomas also delivered a lecture on the Macrofungi of the Philippines to faculty members and at least 20 graduate students. He particularly discussed his researches on the mushrooms utilized by the indigenous peoples (IP) in the Philippines, the IP's beliefs associated with collecting these mushrooms, and how the research findings were used for the mass production of these macrofungi for food and pharmaceutical uses. The lecture also introduced the Philippines – the country and its culture - to Serbian students. This was a great opportunity for science to bridge two distinct cultures from two different countries.



During this YSAP activity, Thomas also introduce GYA, its mission and its activities. An open discussion facilitated exchange of ideas and resulted in great interest by the senior professors and the students to establish a young academy for young scientists of Serbia. GYA can play a big role in assisting the next generation of young scientists in Serbia to organize themselves and start this network.





Following the lecture, Thomas had another meeting with Prof. Niksic and Prof. Surlan-Momirovic on possible research collaboration and academic visits to some universities in the Philippines. If funding will be available, then an academic visit of Prof. Niksic to the Philippines is envisioned for next year.

**YSAP Follow-up Plans:**

This YSAP activity is generally aimed in enriching the knowledge on Philippine macrofungi of students at the University of Belgrade. It is also an opportunity for GYA to assist the next-generation of young scientists (NGS) in Serbia to set-up either a NGS network of PhD students or a Serbian Young Academy.

**Thomas Edison E. dela Cruz**

28 October 2018