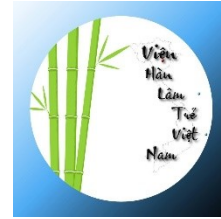




**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
ACADEMY**



## **Fourth Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies (WWMYA)**

**Da Nang, Vietnam**

**31 July – 2 August 2019**

**Host academy: Vietnam Young Academy (VYA)**

**Co-organiser: Global Young Academy (GYA)**

After the successful Third Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies (WWMYA), hosted by the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) in July 2017, the Vietnam Young Academy (VYA) teamed up with the Global Young Academy (GYA) and is now hosting the next WWMYA in Vietnam in 2019. These Worldwide Meetings of Young Academies bring together representatives from existing and from newly-establishing young academies all over the globe.

Currently, almost 50 NYAs or similar organisations exist (see here for current numbers: <https://globalyoungacademy.net/national-young-academies/>), and about 20 young academy initiatives from all over the world are working towards the establishment of an NYA in their country.

The previous three WWMYAs have shown that providing a platform for exchange and future collaboration to the NYAs and NYA initiatives is highly beneficial for them. These meetings provide great opportunities for NYA representatives to exchange ideas and expertise, discuss successful young academy activities, develop common positions and best practices for cooperation both on a global and on regional levels. They also serve to enhance the capacity of young academies and their representatives to engage with policymakers and civil society in their countries and region, and to define priority areas for joint action, e.g. a joint science advice project on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

The Worldwide Meeting in 2019 will take place from 31 July to 2 August 2019 in Da Nang, Vietnam. It will be hosted by the Vietnam Young Academy, with the GYA acting as co-organiser. Eleven NYAs and NYA Initiatives from around the globe have nominated one member each for the Programme Organising Committee, thereby ensuring that the meeting agenda will reflect the global nature of these meetings.

Approximately 60 delegates from NYAs and academy initiatives are expected to participate in the WWMYA, as well as GYA representatives, guest speakers from relevant science networks and international organizations (e.g. IAP, NASAC, AASSA), and senior academy representatives.

The 2019 Worldwide Meeting will further strengthen NYAs around the world and address their role in the process of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). In doing so, the meeting will carry forward the outcomes from the previous WWMYAs and the 2017 WWMYA in South Africa in particular.

The role of young academies both within their national context and on the regional or global levels will be the focus of two keynote lectures (one by a distinguished young scholar, and the second by a senior academy representative).

“Young Academies for Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies” was chosen as the title of the meeting by the Programme Organising Committee. It is intended to help NYAs to develop effective pathways how young academies can further the SDGs. As the UN High-Level Political Fora 2019 (July and September) will focus on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17 under the theme of “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, the meeting will deal with these goals. This will help to direct the attention of the young academies worldwide more closely to the structure of the global discussion processes. This is necessary in order to make the voice of early career researchers heard. More than three years after the SDGs were agreed, one can still see that developing and industrialised countries approach the SDGs each with distinct gaps. Younger scientists are typically not yet working in silos and are more open to address global challenges together. They are therefore better equipped to understand the interconnectedness of the global threats and that the solutions come also only interrelated. This global NYA meeting helps to embrace diversity and to connect younger scientists across borders. The meeting will strengthen the role of NYAs in science advice as intermediaries between the research community and policy-makers. The need for research based evidence for SDG implementation and indicators for monitoring and evaluation will be underscored. The Government of Vietnam has already finalised a first SDG progress report in 2018. The national setting is therefore prepared to discuss topics like quality of education (SDG 4) or decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). The focus for the partnership goal (SDG 17) comes in through the global participation naturally.

Some additional parts of the meeting will be reserved for the discussion and exchange of internal NYA-related matters, e.g. questions of funding, member selection, engagement and equity, providing support and mentoring for newly-establishing NYAs, engaging with diaspora young scientists, how to deal with declining levels of academic freedom and trust in science. Existing and planned NYA activities for at-risk scholars will also be discussed and might lead to further future collaborations. A science outreach activity will further enhance NYAs’ capabilities for science education and communication.

A Meeting Statement with recommendations on the benefits of having a young academy (in countries without or with senior academy), and on engagement by young scientists in regions not covered by IAP member academies will be published shortly after the meeting. A more detailed meeting report will follow by the end of 2019. Furthermore, it is expected that the establishment of further NYAs, particularly in Asia and Africa, will be accelerated through this meeting. For example, after the 2017 WWMYA, the Albanian Young Academy was established and NYA initiatives in a number of countries started their work, e.g. in Bangladesh, Nepal, Hungary, Colombia, Zambia.