

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GYA members elect new leadership.
- Re-Enlightenment and the role of science in society discussed at the GYA's Anniversary International Conference.
- Workshops and meetings in Brazil, Italy, and Germany highlight GYA regional partnerships.
- National Young Academy network continues to grow.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Read about the GYA's new leadership [here](#).
- Read about the Anniversary Annual General Meeting and International Conference [here](#).
- Download GYA Connections 2019 [here](#).
- Download the 2018 GYA Yearly Report [here](#).
- Subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).

This bulletin provides an overview and highlights of the activities of the Global Young Academy (GYA) in the second quarter of 2019, as well as upcoming events: the purpose is to help identify and strengthen cooperation with our strategic partners. This bulletin complements our monthly newsletters (archive available [here](#)), which provide more comprehensive details. In this issue, we share a selection of updates that includes the election of our new leadership, workshops held in cooperation with partners worldwide, outcomes from our annual conference, and developments in the global national young academy movement.

NEWS**GYA MEMBERS SELECT NEW LEADERSHIP**

The GYA's Anniversary Annual General Meeting and International Conference of Young Scientists, held at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, in Halle (Saale), Germany, successfully concluded on 3 May.

To represent and lead them through the upcoming year, GYA members elected leaders hailing from 5 continents – a majority of whom are women – to the Executive Committee, which is made up of two Co-Chairs and nine further members.

As Co-Chairs for the upcoming year, members chose Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda) and Koen Vermeir (France). Connie and Koen were both re-elected – last year Connie was a Co-Chair, while Koen was a member of the Executive Committee.

Further Executive Committee members are as follows: Nova Ahmed (Bangladesh), Anindita Bhadra (India), Maral Dadvar (Germany), Robert Lepenies (Germany), Sandra Lopez-Verges (Panama), Marian Nkansah (Ghana), Anina Rich (Australia), Michael Saliba (Switzerland) and Yoko Shimpuku (Japan). Both Anina and Yoko were re-elected.

Looking at the year ahead, Co-Chair Koen Vermeir states that, 'Facing today's challenges, GYA members are united in their conviction that they can contribute to change the world for the better. With our diverse membership and global networks of young scientists, we present a different perspective that questions the status quo, brings fresh ideas and is based on evidence and science. In the coming year, we will work hard to give young scientists a voice and to make sure that this new voice is heard on the world stage.'

Co-Chair Connie Nshemereirwe adds, 'As the GYA celebrates 10 years of existence, this year is a good moment to pause and reflect on how far we have come, and be conscious about where we want to go. Our predecessors have done a great job establishing our reputation as a valuable partner in bringing the voice of early-career researchers to the discussions around science for policy as well as policy for science, and we would like to explore all the opportunities that this now presents. We also look forward to expanding our networks with early-career researchers from across the world so as to maximise our joint impact both regionally and globally.'

The Executive Committee members' biographies are available on the GYA website [here](#).

MULTILATERAL WORKSHOPS HIGHLIGHT THE GYA'S REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The GYA co-organised several workshops in the last three months with the aim of either carrying on or establishing new collaborations with its partners in key regions around the world. Notable among these were joint workshops held with the Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH) and the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA), the German Research Foundation (DFG), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Global Research Council (GRC), and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

One day prior to the opening of the AGM, a workshop on science advice for early- to mid-career researchers and scientists was held at IWH, in cooperation with the GYA [Science Advice working group](#) and INGSA. The context of the workshop was the increasing recognition of the role of science advice in the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policy.

During the AGM, representatives from the DFG, including Ingrid Krüßmann (Director), Gerrit Schlepper (Programme Officer) and Raoul Wagner (International Affairs) joined young scientists from the ASEAN

region to discuss scientific ecosystems in South-East Asia to establish new forms of multilateral regional collaboration. Initial reports indicate that the DFG considers young scientists in the ASEAN region to be a strong resource for developing future cooperation, and they are already planning initial steps to realise this.

Another AGM workshop dealt with alumni issues, with the DAAD presenting their respective experiences with alumni programs. Heidi Wedel, Department Leader of Alumni: Policy Matters and Coordination at the DAAD (and also the first Managing Director of the GYA) set the stage for DAAD alumni to also cooperate within the GYA and to consider building up future GYA alumni structures.

GYA Advisory Board member and former head of the Department of Strategic Planning and External Relations of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) Ulrike Albrecht was also present at the meeting, and emphasised the opportunities presented by collaborating with the AvH and the DAAD since they are sister organisations that work with both academies and young academies worldwide.

Switching regions, Egle Sumskiene (Lithuania) represented the GYA at the GRC's 8th Annual Meeting, which took place from 1-3 May 2019 in São

Paulo, Brazil. The meeting was hosted by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), the DFG and the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET).

Approximately 140 participants attended the meeting, with 49 Heads of research councils participating from 45 countries to discuss research funding policy issues. Participants also endorsed the [GRC 2019 Statement of Principles on Expectations of Societal and Economic Impact](#), which addresses impact expectations and how to assess and evaluate the impact of research from the perspective of funding organisations.

Further, the first skills training workshop for early-career at-risk scientists and scholars in the context of the [GYA At-Risk Scholars Initiative](#) was held in collaboration with the JRC from 9-10 April, in Ispra, Italy. The two-day workshop introduced the research areas of the JRC and discussed research-related career opportunities in the public and private sectors in Europe. Eleven workshop participants currently living in EU countries also toured the JRC Ispra laboratories, receiving insight into the research fields and the policy advice mechanisms of the JRC.

The GYA considers these collaborations vitally important, and works to both extend and strengthen them.

NATIONAL YOUNG ACADEMY NETWORK CONTINUES TO GROW

Since its foundation, the GYA has acted as a supporter and facilitator of the growing global network of young academies by coordinating joint statements and facilitating regional and worldwide meetings of young academies.

This network continues to grow, with young academies in Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Hong Kong, Hungary, and Spain having been established in the first few months of 2019.

Currently, there now exist more than 55 such young scientist organisations, and more than 15 initiatives are currently under development in countries such as Colombia, Mauritius, Nepal, and Switzerland.

Further, the GYA recently participated in the meeting of European Young Academies in Helsinki, Finland, which was organised by the Young Academy Finland and brought together representatives from 16 young academies and academy initiatives. Participants exchanged

experiences and challenges on setting up a young academy, looked into young academies' best practices, and discussed areas of young academy engagement and possible cooperation. A panel on science advice activities also provided insights into young academies as knowledge brokers on the EU science-policy interface.

The GYA continues to bring representatives from young academies together beyond its own membership, for example by nominating young academy representatives for involvement in the InterAcademy Partnership's project on the UN SDGs, which recently published its final report, including recommendations for young academies on how to engage with the UN SDGs.

Moreover, the GYA is currently coordinating the drafting of a joint Young Academy Statement on the core principles and roles of young academies, which will be discussed during the 2019 Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies in Vietnam, and published later in 2019.

RE-ENLIGHTENMENT? THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS IN A GLOBALLY CONNECTED WORLD



GYA members addressed the complex role scientists play when engaging with society to solve local and global challenges at two key meetings recently: at the GYA Anniversary International Conference of Young Scientists in Halle (Saale), Germany, and at the 25th Anniversary Conference of the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA) in May in Bern, Switzerland.

At the GYA's International Conference, which was held at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, GYA members and international speakers interacted in panels and follow-up discussions on questions such as how (young) scientists can engage to increase trust in science, how local and global knowledge and action need to be interconnected, and how open dialogue between science and society is crucial to making meaningful progress.

Keynote speakers Vladimír Šucha (Director-General of the European Commission Joint Research Centre), Martin Frick (Senior Director Policy and Program Coordination, UNFCCC) and Ismail Serageldin (Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina) highlighted the conference, and contributed their unique perspectives to the question of re-enlightenment.

Summarising the discussion results from the GYA International Conference, three representatives of the GYA, Co-Chairs Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda) and Koen Vermeir (France) and Executive Committee member Michael Saliba (Switzerland) held a panel discussion titled 'Re-Enlightenment? Truth, Reason and Science in a Global World' at the ALLEA Anniversary Conference in May.

The panelists stressed the importance of rethinking the relationship between science, policy and the public, arguing that early-career researchers and the GYA have a vital role to play. The panelists also discussed how society should embrace the universality of science while valuing local and cultural differences, and how diversity in science can contribute. Finally, the panel emphasised the potentials offered by universal access to knowledge and knowledge creation, which the coming generation of scientists should harness to help solve the grand challenges of our time.

GYA MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO G7 ACADEMIES MEETING IN PARIS, FRANCE

In March, the Group of Seven (G7) Academies Meeting was held in Paris, France to finalise the joint statements that will be submitted for recommendation to the governments of the G7 nations in late summer 2019.

The Science Council of Japan dispatched young scientists from the Young Academy of Japan, including GYA members Wataru Iwasaki (Japan) and Yoko Shimpuku (Japan), as two of the four delegates. The participation of young scientists in this meeting has not been a regular occurrence, and their participation activated discussion on the issues related to the development of young scientists and young academies in general.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GYA members are invited to attend the SILBERSALZ Science and Media Festival and Conference, Halle, Germany, 20-23 June 2019.

The GYA successfully nominated 3 participants to the 69th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting - Physics, Lindau, Germany, 30 June to 5 July 2019.

The GYA, together with the Vietnam Young Academy, is co-organising the 4th Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies, Da Nang, Vietnam, 31 July–2 August 2019.

The GYA's host academy, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, is holding its Annual Meeting in Halle, Germany, 20-21 September 2019.

GYA members will participate in the World Health Summit, Berlin, Germany, 27-29 October 2019.

GYA Co-Chair Connie Nshemereirwe represents the GYA on the Steering Committee of the World Science Forum, which will be held in Budapest, Hungary, 20-23 November 2019.

ABOUT THE GYA

The GYA was founded with the vision to provide a voice for young scientists around the world. By empowering early- to mid-career researchers to lead international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational dialogues, the GYA mobilises talent from six continents for capacity-building, mentoring, engaging in science policy and improving the existing research environment. Members are chosen for their demonstrated excellence in scientific achievement and their commitment to service. Currently, there are 200 GYA members and 258 alumni from 86 countries. The GYA Office is hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences [Leopoldina](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr Connie Nshemereirwe, GYA Co-Chair
Dr Koen Vermeir, GYA Co-Chair
Dr Beate Wagner, Managing Director