



## **Da Nang statement of the 4th Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies**

### **Young Academies for Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies**

Da Nang, 2 August 2019

Fifty young scholars representing 31 National Young Academies or similar organizations from all over the world met at the 4th Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies, held in Da Nang, Vietnam, on 31 July to 2 August 2019, to discuss how evidence and knowledge-based approaches can help in finding a solution to global challenges. The thematic focus of the meeting was on how to promote peaceful and inclusive societies aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting was hosted by the Vietnam Young Academy and co-organized by the Global Young Academy (GYA). All National Young Academies and similar organizations have been invited to attend and to contribute to the preparations of the meeting.

A Young Academy is an organization of early- to mid-career scholars who have been recognized for the excellence of their research, their demonstrated impact on science and society and their commitment to service. Young Academies aim at empowering and giving a voice to young scholars in their respective nations or regions, supporting them to initiate new dialogues between science and society. In recent years, there has been a worldwide surge in the number of national and regional Young Academies, testifying to the increased desire of young scholars to positively contribute to addressing societal challenges.

The participants in the meeting agreed to build a worldwide network of Young Academies. Such a global community of early and mid-career scholars will serve to enhance and leverage the impact young academies can make on science and on society. With the increased activity, visibility and prominence of Young Academies, participants in the 4th Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies recognized the need for greater alignment, and clarification of core values that underpin Young Academies. Clarifying these values will be instrumental for future discussion and refinement of the principles that are shared by Young Academies and that may increasingly inform the activities of Young Academies worldwide. As such, Young Academies will be empowered to act with a common purpose, to give a voice to Young Scientists all over the world and in all layers of society, to break through disciplinary and geographical boundaries, and to build collective agency to positively impact society.

At the Da Nang meeting, Young Academies also presented their strategic activities that contribute towards the UN SGDs, including demonstration of the ways in which recent IAP recommendations for Young Academies have been incorporated into their activities. They further discussed their experiences

on the ways in which partnerships between young and senior academies and government can promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Of note, current Young Academy initiatives that give a voice to and peer mentor early career at-risk scholars were shared to encourage others to take up similar initiatives. Finally, participants presented the outreach activities of several Young Academies and they also engaged in local science outreach for more than 70 Vietnamese high school children.

The Da Nang meeting served as the ideal platform to share good practices between Young Academies on governance issues such as selection of members and securing funding, to create tools that support the development of new Young Academies, to get inspiration and learn about improving work processes, and to support regional and international collaborations among Young Academies.

### **About the Global Young Academy**

The [Global Young Academy \(GYA\)](#) was founded in 2010 with the vision to give a voice to early- to mid-career researchers around the world. The GYA empowers them to lead international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational dialogue by developing and mobilising talent from six continents. Its purpose is to promote reason and inclusiveness in global decision-making. Members are chosen for their demonstrated excellence in scientific achievement and commitment to service. Currently, there are 200 members and 258 alumni from more than 80 countries. The academy is hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The GYA received its seed funding from the Volkswagen Foundation, and since 2014, it has been funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and supported by the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). The GYA also benefits from project-specific funding from a variety of donors and partners.

### **About the Vietnam Young Academy**

The [Vietnam Young Academy \(VYA\)](#) was founded in 2014 and aims to promote science and technology, and education, and improve science policy and the research environment in Vietnam by providing a platform for the discussion of topics of national and global importance. The VYA also aims to maintain active links with Vietnamese scientists and international science organisations, and to become a platform of knowledge exchange between Vietnam-based scholars and Vietnamese scholars working globally.

### **About the Young Academies network**

National Young Academies (NYA) are academies typically formed by post-doctoral young scientists and scholars at the beginning of their independent careers who have been selected for the excellence of their research impact and commitment to service. NYAs work as the voice of young scientists for the advancement of issues of importance to society and to young scientists.

The meetings comes at a dynamic time for the NYA network which continues to grow with ever more young academies being established all over the world and up to five new ones expected to start work this year: <https://globallyoungacademy.net/national-young-academies/>

For the GYA, one of its major aims is to support the establishment and development of NYAs and similar bodies, to cooperate with them and provide opportunities for networking. Overall, 42 NYAs and more than 10 similar bodies now exist worldwide, many having been established with support from the GYA and its members.