

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GYA Anti-discrimination Statement released
- GYA “Heal the Earth” International Conference Statement published
- GYA Science Advice working group helps shape the G20 Science 20 Summit
- Save the dates: 2021 AGM and International Conference planned for 28 May-4 June 2021

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Download the GYA Anti-discrimination Statement [here](#).
- Download the GYA e-Conference Statement [here](#).
- Visit the GYA COVID-19 resource page [here](#).
- Download GYA Connections “Climate” [here](#).
- Download the 2019 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 third quarter of 2020, and complements our monthly newsletters (archive available [here](#)), which provide more comprehensive details.

NEW GYA FOCUS AREA PRODUCES
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

As a global science organization, we at the GYA re-commit to ensuring that our internal and external work combats racism and systemic bias resulting in discrimination in all its forms, across race, culture, religion, gender, sexual identity and orientation, socioeconomic status, caste, or physical ability. Also of great concern are systemic injustices that silence or erase knowledge because of their authors’ occupations, disciplines, socio-cultural and ethnic backgrounds, gender and sexuality, or political affiliations.

At the e-Annual General Meeting (e-AGM) in June 2020, GYA members decided on three focus areas as priority topics for the GYA to work on towards implementation of the new five-year Strategic Plan launched at the e-AGM.

[Addressing systemic discrimination](#) is one of these areas, and starts from the commitment that the GYA should work against all systemic bias that results in discrimination, and should look into best practices to combat systemic bias.

The [GYA Anti-discrimination Statement](#) is the first output of the group, which is headed by GYA members [Vanessa Schweizer](#) (University of Waterloo, Canada) and [Shalini Arya](#) (Institute of Chemical Technology, India).

According to Vanessa, “Thanks to the tireless work of generations before us who advanced the concept and cause of human rights, we have inherited the responsibility to continue such work. All corners of society, including science and academia, should reflect on their relationship to racial supremacy and other forms of discrimination that diminish a person’s humanity and value.”

Shalini adds that, “Discrimination in any form must be opposed and fought. Through the unique platform of the GYA and its partners, I am proud of our involvement in this noble cause.”

Directions for further activities include working towards increasing awareness about unconscious bias within the GYA, and what practices GYA members and the global research community can adopt to reduce its impact. The GYA will also provide input to the International Science Council on its own anti-discrimination efforts.

Moreover, the group aims to develop guidelines for the GYA, Young Academies and other such Initiatives to use as they strive to eliminate racism and systemic bias through language.

Email [Vanessa Schweizer](#) if you are interested in partnering with the GYA as it addresses systemic discrimination.

LARGEST-EVER MEETING OF YOUNG ACADEMIES

The first-ever online meeting of Young Academies from around the world took place in September 2020. The meeting was the largest gathering of Young Academies to date, with almost 70 representatives from over 40 Young Academies and similar Initiatives attending.

The GYA was represented by Executive Committee members [Yoko Shimpuku](#) (Hiroshima University, Japan) and [Lahcen El Youssefi](#) (Moulay Slimane University, Morocco), as well as GYA Managing Director Beate Wagner and Project Officer Anna-Maria Gramatté. Several more GYA members participated wearing their respective Young Academy hats.

The meeting was organised and facilitated by the GYA, and all Young Academies were invited to contribute to the meeting agenda beforehand.

The meeting offered a great opportunity for Young Academy representatives to exchange experiences as well as to discuss successful Young Academy activities and common challenges.

[Leila Niamir](#) (Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, Germany), co-lead of the GYA working group on [Scientific Excellence](#), gave a short introduction on the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), and its potential relevance for young academics.

Furthermore, participants heard a brief introduction to the [InterAcademy Partnership](#) project on Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences, as well as a short report from last year's survey of Young Academies, which examined structures and processes, funding, communication and international collaboration by Young Academies.

Discussions then focused on the issue of member diversity. Participants agreed that a need for further exchange of best practices and joint activities exists here, and Young Academies will continue working on this in coming months.

GYA COVID-19 WEBSITE SHOWCASES YOUNG ACADEMY OUTPUT

The GYA has established a page on its website ([here](#)) to act as a repository for Young Academies to link their work on COVID-19. This includes any statements or information dissemination activities and initiatives to support scientists and facilitate institutions or governments. Please contact info@globalyoungacademy.net or tweet with the hashtag [#covid19ya](#) if you want to share what your academy is doing, or want to contact other Young Academies for joint activities or exchange experience and best practices.

“The COVID-19 pandemic and art (19and.ART)” PROJECT

The 2020-21 GYA North-South Interdisciplinary Grant was awarded to 7 GYA members for the research project “The COVID-19 pandemic and art (19and.ART)”. This project plans to collect, describe, and analyse artwork of life during the COVID-19 pandemic across the world in relation to the measured intensity of the pandemic. The results will be visible in a database and an open access website that will display COVID-19 art connected to a graph of the spread of the pandemic. Read more [here](#).

The latest additions to the Young Academies network – the Swiss Young Academy and the Nepal Young Scientists Forum – were also represented at the meeting.

Representatives from the Young Academy Initiatives from Argentina, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius and the UK also attended to learn about existing Young Academy models and structures, areas of Young Academy engagement and possible cooperation.

YOUNG ACADEMIES OPPOSE HORIZON EUROPE FUNDING CUTS

The GYA, together with 18 European and associated Young Academies, recently signed an [Open Letter](#) to the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and national governments raising concerns over cuts to Horizon Europe funding from 2021 onwards.

As a global organisation, the GYA is particularly concerned that the proposed cuts to European research funding could jeopardise Europe's leadership as a highly developed scientific region and could send the wrong message to other regions in the world about the importance of scientific research in the development of human societies.

The letter, whose drafting was led by the Polish Young Academy, urges MEPs and national governments to act against the proposed cuts in the budget of Horizon Europe in 2021-2027, which were suggested by the European Council in July 2020. The letter proposes that funding should be restored to at least the initially agreed €94.4bn and funding for Pillar 1 initiatives prioritised.

Early-career researchers deem the proposed cuts particularly detrimental, given the undeniable role of science and innovation in coping with global challenges including but not limited to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The authors argue that cutting the budget for science and innovation, and in particular funding for Pillar 1, which covers European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, will permanently and deeply damage European science.

The proposed cuts will also lower the EU's competitiveness and weaken its ability to develop innovative technologies, create associated jobs and respond to future global challenges.

More information is available [here](#).

GYA E-CONFERENCE STATEMENT EMPHASISES NEED TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In June 2020, 240 young scientists and researchers, along with representatives from GYA partner organisations, participated in the GYA's first virtual International Conference of Young Scientists "Heal the Earth: Sustainable Development Goals in a Changing World".

The Conference Statement was recently released, and includes detailed recommendations from each of the four panel discussions. One crucial theme that ran through all topics was the importance of sharing resources through Open Science, science diplomacy and global cooperation.

Establishing trust in science through quality science communication, science journalism and improved public science literacy was also viewed as key to harnessing public interest and engagement in global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and in the face of diminishing natural resources.

Finally, investment in research (applied, fundamental, inter- and transdisciplinary, across disciplines) as well as openness to technologies and innovation were understood to be essential for building and maintaining preventative systems and sustainable societies.

Detailed recommendations provided in the Conference Statement are intended for several groups, including higher education institutions, research organisations and funders, and policy makers.

With these recommendations, the GYA reconfirms its commitment to excellent and innovative science and research, and to combining efforts to find solutions to the most challenging problems - that is, to Heal the Earth for future generations.

The full Conference Statement is available [here](#).

Videos from the E-Conference are available on our [YouTube channel](#):

- Pre-Conference workshop "[Open Science from a Global Perspective](#)"
- Playlist for "[Beyond Boundaries: COVID-19 and Global Health](#)"
- Playlist for "[Diminishing Resources and Environmental Sustainability](#)"
- Playlist for "[Higher Education Institutions Teaching and Research: All in different boats but in the same storm](#)"
- Playlist for "[Engagement at Large: Science Communication to and with the Public](#)"

GYA SCIENCE ADVICE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS HELP SHAPE G20 SCIENCE 20 SUMMIT

In September, [Yoko Shimpuku](#) (Hiroshima University, Japan), the Executive Committee (EC) portfolio responsible for G7/G20 relations, was appointed as the Co-lead of the Science 20 Taskforce 4, "Connecting the Dots". Science 20 is an engagement group of the G20 established in 2017 that fosters dialog within the scientific community.

After extensive consultation with GYA [Science Advice](#) working group members, Yoko presented findings from a survey that included the GYA's recommendations during two S20 webinars, as well as the final S20 Summit.

As a result of this and previously successful collaborations between the Young Academy Japan and the GYA, the Science Council of Japan signalled their intention to further support capacity building among young scientists.

Further details are available [here](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - 2021 AGM AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "TRUST IN SCIENCE"

An early decision has been taken by the GYA Executive Committee to hold the 2021 GYA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and International Conference of Young Scientists virtually from 28 May–4 June 2021 due to the ongoing uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virtual meeting and conference will address the topic "Trust in Science".

ABOUT THE GYA

The vision of the GYA is science for all; science for the future, and its mission is to give a voice to young scientists and researchers around the world. The GYA, founded in 2010, is an independent science academy of 200 outstanding early- to mid-career researchers from six continents who are selected from across disciplines based on their academic excellence and commitment to engage with society. GYA members serve five-year terms, and the GYA presently counts members and alumni from 86 countries. The GYA administrative Office is publicly funded and hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The wide array of GYA activities are supported by a range of international public and private funders.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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