



**GLOBAL
YOUNG
ACADEMY**

Newsletter May 2018

Foreword by the Co-Chairs

Welcome to the May edition of our monthly newsletter – and what a month it was! Our long-awaited Annual General Meeting and International Conference of Young Scientists took place in Pattaya, Thailand from 7 to 11 May, and was the best-attended to date with 95 members, 8 alumni, and a further 78 guests (181 people total) from 52 countries in attendance. We were also proud to offer a two-day Science Leadership Programme to new members, and Presentation Coaching to all members prior to the start of the AGM. We were honoured to have Prof Dr Jutta Schnitzer-Ungfug, Secretary General of the [German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina](#) attending to open the AGM. We are also thrilled to welcome 45 new members, 23 women and 22 men hailing from 34 countries, who were inaugurated at the start of the AGM. This AGM also honoured 11 members who became alumni. We will miss them as active members, but with our alumni numbers exceeding members for the first time this year, we look forward to engaging with them and other alumni for years to come.

This year's conference theme, 'Forever Young? Sustainable and healthy longevity through science and technology', stirred up interesting interdisciplinary and intergenerational dialogue between members and esteemed guests (including a Nobel Laureate!) on the possibilities for, and implications of, ageing for humanity and the planet.

With chants of 'Sleep is for the plane ride home' and 'My other family is at home' being echoed throughout the week, the working spirit of the AGM, and camaraderie of the GYA community, was felt in the corridors, nooks and crannies of the hotel at all hours with working groups and committees making the best of the week to achieve their goals.

Lastly, the AGM marked the end of the Executive Committee's term, and the General Assembly elected a new EC team to lead the organisation over the next year. We thank the previous EC for their dedication over the last year, and look forward to serving members and advancing the goals of the GYA in the year ahead and beyond.

dates of the 2019 AGM and conference (yes we are planning this already!)) in the newsletter below.

Here's to an exciting, inspirational and collaborative year ahead.

Happy Reading!

[Tolu Oni](#) (UK) and [Connie Nshemereirwe](#) (Uganda)

On behalf of the Executive Committee

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GYA News

New Executive Committee and Co-Chairs elected

At the AGM in Pattaya, Thailand, GYA Members elected [Tolu Oni](#) (UK) and [Connie Nshemereirwe](#) (Uganda) as their new Co-Chairs. Members also elected a new Executive Committee (EC), which acts as the GYA's leadership team. The seven female and four male members of the 2018/19 EC (all of whom are newly-elected unless otherwise indicated) are as follows: [Anina Rich](#) (Australia); [Abdalahdi Alijla](#) (Sweden); [Adewale Adewuyi](#) (Nigeria); [Xuan Bach Tran](#) (Vietnam); [Koen Vermeir](#) (France); [Laura Fierce](#) (USA; re-elected); [Rothsophal Nguon](#) (Cambodia); [Yoko Shimpuku](#) (Japan).

Complete bios of the team are available [here](#).

GYA's new members inaugurated at AGM in Pattaya, Thailand

The GYA proudly welcomed 45 new members to its ranks in Pattaya. This year's new members represent 34 countries, among them our first members from Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Lebanon, Panama, Peru, and Albania. Moreover, this year's members are comprised of 23 females and 22 males, which pushes the gender balance of the GYA membership to 57% male and 43% female. Including alumni, the GYA has members in 83 countries. More information and individual biographies are available [here](#).

New Advisory Board members

External Relations, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany); Luiz Davidovich, President of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (Brazil), Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, President of the Royal Scientific Society (Jordan), and Linda Nordling, a science journalist (South Africa). Information on Advisory Board changes is available [here](#), while the Advisory Board bios are available [here](#).

New GYA members participate in first pre-AGM science leadership workshop

Based on the [Africa](#) and [ASEAN](#) science leadership programmes, the two-day workshop, facilitated by KnowInnovation facilitators, aimed to bring together new GYA members and enable them to get to know one another at a deeper level, but also gain an appreciation of the different preferences and styles that members bring to an organisation like the GYA. The workshop helped prepare participants to engage and collaborate with one another during their GYA membership, but these skills are also transferrable to their own careers. More information is available [here](#).

Video interview on cancer prevention with Prof Harald zur Hausen

The Key Note Talk at the 2018 AGM was delivered by Nobel Laureate Prof Harald zur Hausen, who kindly agreed to a follow-up interview with our Press Officer, Jim Curtiss. The interview explores the role of breastfeeding in cancer prevention, as well as the risks involved with consuming meat and dairy from bovines. The video is available on our YouTube channel [here](#).

[Your Feedback on GYA News](#)

GYA in the Media

On 10 May, an [overview of the 2018 AGM](#) appeared on EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion.

The 2018 AGM received extensive coverage in Thai media outlets. Stories (in Thai) are available on the Thai National Science and Technology Development Agency website ([here](#)), News Plus ([here](#)), and Moe Radio Thai ([here](#)).

[UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa](#) recently published a [story](#) about [Binyam Sisay's](#) (Ethiopia) attendance at the AGM.

[The New York Academy of Sciences](#) recently published a [story](#) that included Robert Lepenies' (Germany) views on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the role of science in global sustainability.

A number of articles recently appeared on Vietnamese websites detailing [Xuan Bach Tran](#) (Vietnam) becoming a member of the GYA, as well as his election to the Executive Committee. English language articles are available [here](#) and [here](#).

(If you have written about the GYA and/or come across articles about the GYA in the media, please let us know by clicking the feedback link below).

[Your Feedback on GYA in the Media](#)

News from Our Members

GYA members [Mahesh Kumar](#) (India), [Mirabbos Hojamberdiev](#) (Uzbekistan) and [Adewale Adewuyi](#) (Nigeria), as well as alumna [Amal Amin Ibrahim S. Nada](#) (Egypt) all presented and moderated sessions during The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Young Affiliate Network (TYAN) inaugural TYAN International Thematic Workshop titled 'Fundamentals of Photoelectrochemistry: From Materials Chemistry to Energy Conversion' from 23 to 27 April 2018, in Chascomus, Argentina. More information is available [here](#), while the full report is available [here](#).

GYA Co-Chair [Tolu Oni](#) (UK) recently spoke during the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's international Day of Light at its headquarters in Paris on 16 May 2018. More information is available [here](#).

[Daniel Limonta Velázquez](#) (Cuba) took part in a Regional Workshop on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals co-organised by the [InterAcademy Partnership](#) (IAP) and [InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences](#) (IANAS) from 29 to 30 May in Mexico City, Mexico.

The European Commission Joint Research Centre held a kick-off workshop of its Enlightenment 2.0 Flagship report from 30 to 31 May 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. GYA members [Roberta D'Allessandro](#) (Netherlands), [Robert Lepenies](#) (Germany) and [Koen Vermeir](#) (France) are among the 59 experts that will contribute to the report. More information on the report project is available [here](#).

As representatives of the GYA and the Scientific Excellence Working Group, on 31 May [Laura Fierce](#) (USA) and [Koen Vermeir](#) (France) presented during a panel titled 'International Perspectives on Reproducibility and Replication in Science and Engineering' during the Fifth Meeting of the Committee on Reproducibility and the Replicability in Science, hosted by the [U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine](#). The programme is available [here](#). [Anna Coussens](#) (South Africa) was instrumental in preparing the report.

[Your Feedback on News from our Members](#)

Our Activities

highlights

The [DIY Biology](#) Working Group recently made policy recommendations for guiding synthetic biology to the United Nations. GYA members [Bart Kolodziejczyk](#) (Poland) and [John Malone](#) (USA) contributed a science policy brief titled 'Do-it-yourself biology: an open innovation movement or a threat?' for the United Nations expert group meeting on accelerated technological change and policy implications for the UN Sustainable Development Goals. More information is available [here](#), and the policy brief is available [here](#).

Trust in (Young) Scientists GYA incubator enters video competition

Following a call by the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA), GYA Members [Robert Lepenies](#) (Germany) and [Lisa Herzog](#) (Germany) and GYA alumnus [Martin Dominik](#) participated in a video competition on 'Trust in science'. The videos were shown at the opening session of ALLEA's General Assembly 2018, which took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 16 to 18 May, and formed part of the discussion there. More information on the competition can be found [here](#).

Reminder to apply for the North-South Interdisciplinary Grant 2018/19

The 2018 call for applications for the GYA North-South Interdisciplinary Project Grant is still open: applications should be submitted by 15 June 2018.

This grant scheme, introduced at the AGM 2014, seeks to support the development of small-scale, innovative, curiosity-driven, blue-sky, exploratory research pilots or prototypes that unite researchers in developed and developing countries and cross-disciplinary boundaries. Each year, the GYA can grant up to 10,000 EUR to the best project. Project ideas should innovatively combine research questions from very different disciplines. There is no limit to your imagination and creativity!

With this grant, we aim to provide start-up financing for daring yet promising research projects that demonstrate out-of-the-box thinking and therefore may have difficulties receiving funding under conventional grant schemes. Past recipients can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions about your project idea, you can contact Review Committee Chair [Karly Kehoe](#) (Canada) by [e-mail](#).

The Review Committee invites you to submit your application by **15 June 2018** to GYA Project Officer [Jennifer Plaul](#).

Young Scientist Ambassador Programme builds connections in Thailand

On 12 May, GYA members [John Malone](#) (USA), [Alexander Kagansky](#) (Russia), [Shamsun Khan](#) (Bangladesh), [Sergey Kostyrko](#) (Russia), [Mahesh Kumar](#) (India), [Clarissa Rojas](#) (Peru), [Felycia Soetaredjo](#) (Indonesia), and [Abdalhadi Alijla](#) (Sweden) presented research seminars at Burapha University, Thailand, as part of an outreach activity for the GYA's [Young Scientist Ambassador Programme](#). More information is available [here](#).

[Your Feedback on Working Group, Incubator and Flagship Projects](#)

[NYA meeting at the AGM](#)

On 10 May 2018, the third day of the GYA's AGM in Pattaya, a meeting was held of representatives from 12 national young academies, similar bodies and NYA initiatives, including Nigeria, Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, Poland, India, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Hungary, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

The discussion covered NYA-related issues such as how to found an NYA, the young academies and their relationship to senior academies, as well as NYAs' independence, activities and projects. The upcoming NYA survey by the GYA, which focuses on NYAs' structures and activities was also discussed, as were ideas for joint future projects.

Participants were also informed that the next Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies will take place in Vietnam in 2019. More information is available [here](#).

[Your Feedback on NYAs](#)

GYA Strategic Conferences Updates

Events functionality

As mentioned in our April newsletter, the GYA site now offers new functionality in the events section. You can use the 'I'm taking part', which will be activated for most of the events that we publish on our site to inform other members that you'll be at an event.

Please note that you have to be logged in to your account to click the aforementioned link or see who is going to be there. Also note: You may submit new events using the [Event Form](#) (<https://globalyoungacademy.net/new-event/>) specifically designed for this.

United Nations Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation

[Tolu Oni](#) (UK) will present during a United Nations side event on Intergenerational Dialogue, Capacity Building and Lifelong Learning, and [John Malone](#) (USA) will present on the Implications of Emerging Biotechnologies in the Context of Biological Diversity, as well as a [DIY Biology](#) policy brief during the United Nations Third Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum) in New York City.

Both events are co-organised by the GYA and will take place on 5-7 June 2018 in Conference Rooms 4 and 2, UN Headquarters.

In preparation for the STI Forum, a Youth Blast will take place 4 June from 14:00 to 18:00 (UTC -5:00) at the UNFPA Orange Cafe located at 605 3rd Ave, New York, NY 10158. If GYA members or alumni would like to get a sense of the forum's topics and discussions in preparation for the event, please sign up [here](#).

The STI Forum is the main avenue that the UN has to foster science, technology, and innovation cooperation for the implementation of the SDGs.

You can read more about, check in at, or see who is attending the STI Forum using our calendar functionality [here](#). [Yusuf Baran](#) (Turkey) and [Teresa Stoepler](#) (USA) will also be attending the STI Forum.

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth is a space that engages young people in the United Nations throughout the year and across 20+ intergovernmental frameworks. The yearly forum is the central event on STI for sustainable development at the UN each year. The event's organisers are interested in learning about your background, interests, and

International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA)

The GYA, in partnership with the [Young Academy of Japan](#), has been invited to develop and run a capacity-building, science leadership workshop for young scientists attending the biannual global INGSA meeting. This year the meeting, [INGSA2018 Science Advice in a Changing World](#), will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 6 to 7 November. Co-Chair [Tolu Oni](#) (UK) is liaising with INGSA partners to develop this programme in partnership with GYA Co-Chair [Connie Nshemereirwe](#) (Uganda) and GYA member [Binyam Mendisu](#) (Ethiopia) – both of whom have facilitated previous SLP workshops – as well as INGSA workshop facilitators and representatives from the Japan Young Academy.

GYA Annual General Meeting and Conference, 7 to 11 May 2018

As mentioned before, the 8th International Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Global Young Academy took place from 7 to 11 May in Pattaya, Thailand, bringing together 103 GYA members and alumni. The conference addressed the topic 'Forever Young? Sustainable and Healthy Longevity through Science and Technology'.

Below is an overview of the manifold events within the conference, with links to more in-depth news on particular sessions. The conference programme, including all panellists and contributors, can be viewed at the [event site](#).

A special thank you to the tireless local and member-led [committees](#) for making this memorable gathering possible.

Moreover, the meeting would not have been possible without support from the following sponsors: Thai National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (TCELS), Office of Higher Education Commission, National Science and Technology Innovation Policy Office (STI), The Siam Cement Public Company Limited, PTT Global Chemical Public Co., Ltd. (PTTGC), National Science Museum, Pattaya City, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Burroughs Wellcome Fund, the InterAcademy Partnership, and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) [officially opened on 8 May](#) with a welcome by GYA Co-Chairs [Tolu Oni](#) (South Africa) and [Moritz Riede](#) (UK), as well as Prof Dr Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug, Secretary General of the [German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina](#).

Following their remarks, the [2018 new members](#) were inaugurated. This year, the GYA welcomed 45 young scholars and scientists (23 female and 22 male), pushing the GYA's gender balance to 57% male and 43% female. Highlights from the first AGM day included an information fair for members to get to know existing working groups, incubator groups, and member committee activities, and a plenary session on internal reports and discussions looking back at the past year. The AGM proceedings will be minuted. Minutes will be made available on the intranet for members to review.

International Conference

The 8th International Conference opened on the morning of 9 May, inviting public guests to the event and opening up discussions on the conference topic with two panels: 'What does

healthy ageing in the first Lightning Talk session in the afternoon. A [Gala Dinner](#), organised by the local organising committee and eloquently opened by UNESCO Assistant Director General Flavia Schlegel, wrapped up the day.

Day two of the International Conference began with a Key Note Talk by Nobel Laureate Prof Harald zur Hausen, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2008 for discovering that the human papilloma virus (HPV) is the principal cause of cervical cancer. Prof Zur Hausen spoke on the link between infections and cancers. A follow-up interview with Prof zur Hausen on cancer prevention is available [here](#).

A final panel on 'Humans and nature – environmental aspects of sustainable and healthy longevity' contributed a broader perspective to topics at the cross-section of health and sustainability. In afternoon parallel sessions, members presented their work in the second Lightning Talks 'What do you do and why?' Further highlights of the day were a morning [round table discussion](#) on the relationship between the GYA and National Young Academies, and an afternoon science outreach session with the Thai National Science Museum discussing communication of the SDGs to the public and schoolchildren.

Conference Statement

Throughout the conference, members contributed to the drafting of a conference statement, reflecting discussions during the panels as well as provocative questions posed and debated during a world café style session. The conference statement is planned to be published in June 2018.

Outlook

The final day of the AGM was reserved for forward-looking planning. Working groups and incubator groups presented their plans for the coming year, and the [newly elected Executive Committee \(EC\)](#) met with the outgoing EC and with [advisory board](#) members in person and virtually. Outgoing members were given a personal farewell at the final dinner.

Science Outreach

Led by the GYA [Young Scientists Ambassador Programme](#), GYA members [visited Burapha Univeristy in Thailand](#), giving research seminars and answering questions from local university and high school students.

AGM Feedback 2018

Lastly, please take a moment to complete the AGM 2018 feedback form [here](#). Your input will help us make the 2019 AGM in in Halle, Germany, that much more successful.

[AGM and Conference Programme](#)

[Your Feedback on GYA Strategic Meetings](#)

GYA External Partners

Nicaraguan Academy of Sciences

The Academy of Sciences of Nicaragua, out of concern for the grave situation facing its

Nicaraguan people. In its Statement, the Academy of Sciences of Nicaragua reaffirmed its commitment to serve the nation, and its willingness to collaborate in orienting and helping resolve national problems. The official statement is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Upcoming Events

5-6 June 2018	UN Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, New York, USA
24-29 June 2018	68 th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Physiology and Medicine, Lindau, Germany.
25-29 June 2018	AAAS Science Diplomacy & Leadership Workshop 2018, Washington, DC, USA.
3-5 July 2018	Founding General Assembly International Science Council (ICSU/ISSC), Paris, France
4-6 July 2018	Ghana Academy of Sciences-NASAC-Leopoldina Conference on 'Sustainable African Cities', Accra, Ghana
6 July 2018	Young African Scientists in Europe / Jeunes chercheurs africains en Europe Conference 2018, Toulouse, France
9-14 July 2018	European Science Open Forum (ESOF), Toulouse, France.
9-18 July 2018	UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York, USA
20-24 August 2018	AAAS-TWAS Science Diplomacy course, Trieste, Italy
5-7 September 2018	IIASA-JRC-INGSA-GYA Evidence for Policy Summer School 2018 'Science, Policy and Demography', Laxenburg, Austria
10-12 September 2018	IAP Regional Workshop on the UN SDGs – Europe, Halle, Germany
25-28 September 2018	World Social Science Forum 'Security and Equality for Sustainable Futures', Fukuoka, Japan
7-9 October 2018	STS Forum 2018, Kyoto, Japan
14-16 October	World Health Summit, Berlin, Germany
22-24 October 2018	CILAC, Open Science Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama City, Panama
26 October 2018	European Committee of the Regions 'Towards a society for all ages: Why and how should regional authorities combat ageism', Brussels, Belgium
5-8 November 2018	International Data Week 2018 , Gaborone, Botswana.
6-7 November 2018	Third INGSA Biennial Conference, Tokyo, Japan
9-11 April 2019	IAP Conference and General Assembly, South Korea
29 Apr-3 May 2019	GYA Anniversary Conference and Annual General Meeting /Alumni Reunion, Halle, Germany

[Your Feedback on Upcoming Events](#)

Want to learn more about GYA activities throughout 2018 and about upcoming events? [Visit us on our website.](#)

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