

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Global State of Young Scientists (GloSYS) publish GloSYS Africa Report
- GYA members establish Science Diplomacy in Africa group
- Save the date for the 2025 AGM & Conference in Hyderabad, India

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Share the main findings and recommendations of the GloSYS Africa Main Report at your institution.
- Contact our Science Diplomacy in Africa Incubator group if you have similar initiatives in your institution.
- Read GYA Connections 12, which examines the theme Transformation

This bulletin provides an overview and highlights of the activities of the Global Young Academy in the third quarter of 2024, and complements our monthly newsletters (archive available [here](#); [subscribe here](#)), which provide more comprehensive details.

GLOBAL STATE OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS AFRICA MAIN REPORT PUBLISHED

The GYA is excited to share that the [Global State of Young Scientist \(GloSYS\) Africa Main Report](#) has been published. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the experiences and challenges faced by early-career researchers (ECRs) in Africa, with an aim to advise policy for science, and contribute to scholarly discussions in the field of higher education research.

The GloSYS Africa Main Report analyzes survey responses from ECRs born in 42 of the 54 African nations, as well as African nationals living outside of Africa. Additionally, survey respondents in 14 pre-selected focus countries (Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe) were interviewed.

Interview data contributed to the interpretation of survey results in the GloSYS Africa Main Report, as well as to a separately published narrative report on career trajectories in Africa (see [Voices of Early Career Researchers in and out of the Academy: A Pan-African Perspective](#)).

The GloSYS Africa Main Report addresses trends in higher education on the African continent, and in this context ECRs' motivations to pursue a research career, their career satisfaction and workload, inequities in research, mentoring, the funding landscape, and international mobility.

GloSYS Africa builds on previous GloSYS studies undertaken by the GYA that all share a method-

ological framework, adapted to the specific regional context, aiming to provide crucial data for regional comparisons to inform science policy.

The GloSYS Africa Main Report identifies a high motivation of ECRs to engage in research, and a desire to contribute to societal development. Despite this enthusiasm, 80% of respondents considered leaving Africa as an attractive career option, and approximately 60% considered leaving their employment for a different sector.

Some of the challenges highlighted in the report include job security, a heavy teaching load with not enough time and resources to pursue excellent research, inequalities in the research system particularly experienced by female researchers, and lacking resources and support for international mobility, which is considered to be a necessary aspect of a successful research career. Formal mentorship is widespread and perceived as important to career success, but the demand for quality, readily available mentorship still outpaces the supply.

The GloSYS Africa Main Report offers science policy recommendations for African higher education and research institutions and academies, as well as international research funding bodies, focused on these main themes:

- Open Data policies to make research data equally available to ECRs across the continent
- Retain researchers by improving ECRs' working conditions and by improving research evaluation mechanisms to focus on quality of achievements.

- Enhance funding opportunities through increased availability of grants specifically targeted at ECRs, and increasing administrative support for funding applications.
- Improve support systems for ECRs through quality improvement of mentoring, with particular attention to promoting gender equality in research institutions.
- Increase international research collaborations and exchanges, and address barriers such as visa restrictions and lack of funding for international travel.

These recommendations aim to create a more supportive and equitable environment for ECRs in Africa, to contribute to a growing research landscape on the continent, and to the global scientific community.

A launch event for the GloSYS Africa Main Report is in the planning stages - stay tuned for more information!

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY REMAINS A CORNERSTONE OF THE GYA

Science diplomacy is crucial to the GYA for its ability to foster international collaboration, enhance scientific capacity, and support ECRs.

Among other GYA efforts to enhance science diplomacy, the GYA [Science Diplomacy in Africa Incubator group](#) was established in January 2024.

The group aims to explore Africa's diverse scientific landscape, bridge the North-South and South-South scientific gap and foster intra-African collaboration, and establish and strengthen the science-policy interface across the continent.

In August 2024, group members were particularly active. First, the group organized an information session on the GYA's annual call for membership to stimulate interest and answer applicants' questions.

Several members also served as Global Youth Leaders for the Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change (GIYSCC). The Summit was organised on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August. GYA Executive Committee member [Devina Lobine](#) (Higher Education Commission, Mauritius) was a Global Lead of the event (you can see a recording here: [GIYSCC-2024 Region 2](#)).

The GYA is not the only organization involved with science diplomacy of course. Some of our Partners recently collaborated on the first Science Diplomacy Workshop for Early-to-Mid-Career Researchers in ASEAN Plus Three.

The workshop was co-organized by Thailand Science Research and Innovation, the National Science Museum of Thailand, in cooperation with The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Bangkok, Thailand.

This three-day workshop, the first of its kind in ASEAN to pair ECRs with policymakers, was attended by GYA members [Peter Gan Kim Soon](#) (Ministry of Health Malaysia, Malaysia) and [Thao Thi Phuong Nguyen](#) (Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam).

Key takeaways reported by Peter and Thao included the imperative of anticipatory science, and the necessity of capacity building.

[Read their entire report here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE - 2025 AGM & CONFERENCE IN HYDERABAD, INDIA

The 2025 GYA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and International Conference of Young Scientists will take place in Hyderabad, India, from 10-13 June 2025.

The meeting will be hosted by the Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYNAS), and co-organised by the GYA, INYNAS and the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), and the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad.

More information is [available here](#).

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 counts members and alumni from more than 100 countries. The GYA administrative Office is 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. This publication was made possible with the help of GYA's core funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German State of Saxony-Anhalt.

GYA Co-Chairs

[Chandra Shekhar Sharma](#) (Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, India)

[Yensi Flores Bueso](#) (University College Cork; University of Washington in Seattle, Ireland/ United States)

Managing Director

[Beate Wagner](#) (Germany)