

## Global Young Academy 3rd International Conference and General Assembly

Lead academy: Global  
Young Academy (GYA)

**The Global Young Academy (GYA) was officially founded in February 2010 with the support of IAP. As a “voice of young scientists around the world”, the GYA aims to empower and mobilize young scientists to address issues of particular importance to early career scientists. Current working groups focus on improving early scientific careers, science-society dialogue, science education, and interdisciplinary research.**

### General assembly

The GYA held a successful and highly productive general assembly in Halle (Saale), Germany, on 15-18 May 2013. The packed four-day programme included keynote addresses by Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Thomas Sattelberger, former chief human resources officer of Deutsche Telekom, and Lee Berger of the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. The meeting brought together 78 GYA members from 37 countries, distinguished members of the GYA advisory board, and senior science ambassadors from around the world, including IAP co-chair Volker ter Meulen and IAP immediate past co-chair Howard Alper. The theme of the meeting was ‘Demography and Global Research’, which encompassed issues such as large multi-investigator research groups, international science networks, and global mobility. Many of the scheduled events and working group activities addressed opportunities and challenges that these issues present for the next generation of scientists.

The general assembly also saw the launch of several new working groups to extend the existing range of GYA activities. Among the new projects are ‘Measuring Excellence in Science Engagement’, which seeks to develop quantitative assessments of outreach activities, and ‘Think Tank’, which will bring together representatives from academic, business and public sectors to examine risk from a multidisciplinary perspective. The last day of the meeting was devoted to internal affairs and election of new leadership, including the co-chairs Sameh Soror of Egypt and Rees Kassen from Canada, who was re-elected. The meeting also laid the foundations for most of the activities of the GYA in the following year. Direct products of the general assembly were a ‘Statement on Global Research Culture’ and the ‘General Assembly Report’.

### Inter-academy cooperation

Upon invitation from the IAP, (past) GYA co-chairs Gregory Weiss (USA), Rees Kassen (Canada) and Bernard Slippers (South Africa) helped organize the IAP general assembly, scientific conference and meeting in Brazil in February 2013, taking the lead in various aspects of the meeting and making important contributions to the format and content of the scientific aspects of the meeting, from suggesting possible topics and speakers to adapting the World Economic Forum’s ‘Idea Lab’ format to fit the conference.

Co-chair Sameh Soror from Egypt also represented the GYA at the IAP Executive Committee meeting in Canberra in October-November 2013 to discuss cooperation between IAP and the GYA and future plans. Many attendees were interested in the ‘Global State of Young Scientists’ (GloSYS)

project report and the GYA magazine, *GYA Connections*, and asked to receive copies.

The GYA also supported the activities of the IAP-IAC Committee on Scientific Responsibility, endorsed statements of the IAMP and translated the joint IAP-IAMP ‘Statement on Antimicrobial Resistance: A Call for Action’ into Arabic. Bernard Slippers participated in the IAMP general assembly in South Africa and Heidi Wedel, GYA director, in the IAMP Executive Committee meeting in Berlin. The GYA also cooperated with the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) in organizing an entrepreneurship training workshop for young scientists and engineers in November 2013 (see page 16).

At the Ninth Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA 9) and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) general assembly in November 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (see page 22), GYA co-chair Sameh Soror, Egypt, and member Peter Ngure, Kenya, presented on the GYA, its plans for the First Regional Africa Young Academies Conference and the GYA GloSYS project.

### Networking with young scientists

Co-chair Soror also attended the first international workshop of the Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists, on ‘Driving Research Towards Economy: Opportunities and Challenges’ on 5 July. In his address, he spoke about the GYA, the national young academies movement and the role of the GYA in international collaborations.

On 28-30 August, GYA members Jorge Huete-Perez from Nicaragua and Tatiana Duque Martins from Brazil represented the GYA in the second meeting of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences affiliates in Brazil. During the three



Participants of the GYA 3rd International Young Scientists' Conference and General Assembly, held in Halle (Saale), Germany, 15-18 May 2013.

days, they presented the GYA's aims and goals to 80 of the most outstanding young minds in Brazil, with the objective of spreading the GYA spirit throughout South America.

In December, Italian nationals Arianna Betti, based in the Netherlands, and Federico Rosei, based in Canada, went to Rome to meet the president of the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* and to discuss the establishment of a national young academy in Italy. They agreed on the goal of launching the Italian young academy, the *Accademia dei Giovani Lincei*, during the Italian presidency of the European Union (July-December 2014).

In addition to the above, the GYA was invited to other national young academy meetings where the travel was funded by the hosts, including in Belgium, Malaysia, Scotland and Zimbabwe. Throughout 2013, the GYA and its members were also involved in the development of new national young academies, in particular finalizing the launch of the Kenyan National Young Academy, scheduled for early 2014.

### Other organizations

Throughout 2013, the GYA was invited to give presentations and introduce the GYA at all regional meetings of the Global Research Council (GRC). These were held between October and December 2013 in Canada (for the Americas), France (for Europe), South Africa (for sub-Saharan Africa), South Korea (for the Asia-Pacific region), and Qatar (for the Middle East-North Africa region). This increased the GYA's visibility among senior organizations of scientists.

GYA co-chair Rees Kassen also attended the Canadian Science Policy Conference in Toronto, Canada, on 20-22 November 2013, and was involved in three panel discussions – on science communication, science diplomacy, and blogging – providing input from the GYA perspective. There was much interest in the GYA in general, and especially the preliminary results of the GloSYS study. He also used the occasion to strengthen GYA partnerships with various Canadian science organizations.

### Global State of Young Scientists project (GloSYS)

2013 witnessed the development of the first major GYA project, a precursor study on the 'Global State of Young Scientists' (GloSYS), funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research. The GloSYS results (scheduled for publication in January 2014) are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the situation of young scholars in both the developed and the developing world. By conducting the first systematic, global study with qualitative interviews and an online survey on the challenges and opportunities that young scholars face in today's science system, the GYA has enhanced the current knowledge about young scholars' career paths and prospects in different parts of the world.

