Dear InterAcademy Partnership members,

In April, we had the pleasure to host back-to-back meetings in Halle, in eastern Germany, where we welcomed many of you to the headquarters of the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina.

The first of these meetings (3-5 April) was to review progress by each of our regional networks on the development of the regional reports planned under the global Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture (FNSA) project being funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research. Some 40 experts from more than 20 countries, representing each of the four regional working groups, compared and contrasted the four developing reports, and began to extract some common themes as well as region-specific issues that will feed into a final global overview report. We are pleased to report that the four regional reports are on schedule to be published later this year, and that we will provide a preview of their contents at the World Science Forum in Jordan this coming November.

Immediately following the FNSA meeting, the IAP for Science Executive Committee met (5-6 April), when our ongoing activities and some new initiatives were discussed and agreed for action.

Our thanks go to the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, for hosting these two meetings.

As you will see in this report, the IAP for Health Executive Committee also met in April, this time in Trieste, so our secretariat have been especially busy of late.

Unfortunately, soon after these meetings, we received news that the Government of Italy has again implemented a cut to our annual core funding. Whereas in 2016 we received USD808,000, in 2017 we are receiving USD714,000 (a 12% cut). This will obviously affect the number of activities that we can undertake ourselves and the funds provided to our members to implement their activities.

Working harder to raise funds to implement new projects, therefore, becomes more important than ever.

In this regard, we would like to introduce you to Radia Sia – the latest member of our IAP secretariat in Trieste. Radia joins us thanks to one-off contributions from the Volkswagen Foundation and the Wallenberg Foundation designed to increase the capacity if the IAP secretariat. She has come on board to help us develop, write and submit major projects to potential donors. We welcome your ideas and intellectual input to build such proposals.

Speaking of funding, you will have received our annual request for voluntary member contributions to help support our fundraising campaign and/or our projects. We have already received some positive responses – so sincere thanks to those academies. We hope other academies that have contributed in the past will continue to be so generous – and those who previously have not been able to do so will be in a position to join them in supporting our common activities.

Volker ter Meulen and Krishan Lal – Co-chairs, IAP for Science


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G7 IN ITALY

On 3 May, the science academies of the G7 nations handed over three joint statements to the Italian government in Rome. The documents were discussed at a conference at the headquarters of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome before being presented to the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella. The three statements have since been presented to the leaders of the G7 nations when they met in Taormina, Italy, at the G7 Summit on 26-27 May.

The joint statements of the G7 Science Conference 2017 are:

- Cultural heritage: building resilience to natural disasters;
- The challenge of neurodegenerative diseases in an aging population;
- New economic growth: The role of science, technology, innovation and infrastructure.

IAP CALENDAR

Launch of EASAC policy report on: Dedicated Electricity Storage @ Brussels, Belgium, 19 June 2017

AASSA- NAST PHL International Symposium on: Realizing the Full Cycle of Research and Development: From Bench to the Community @ Tagaytay, Philippines, 21-23 September 2017

Assessing the Security Implications of Genome Editing Technology @ Herrenhausen, Germany, 11-13 October 2017

World Science Forum @ Dead Sea, Jordan, 7-11 November 2017

For more updates, see Events & News

IAP FOR HEALTH

In April, the IAP for Health Executive Committee met in Trieste, Italy, in a back-to-back meeting with the Council of the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM). In a joint session, two recently published reports were discussed. FEAM presented its report on ‘Human Genome Editing in the EU’, produced with financial support from IAP; while the UK Academy of Medical Sciences presented its report on ‘Improving the development and deployment of rapid diagnostic tests in Low and Middle Income Countries’, the outcome of a workshop co-organized with IAP for Health.

Immediately after the Trieste meetings, Executive Committee member Rajae El Aouad (Morocco) represented IAP for Health at the launch of the Learning Engaging and Advocating for Policy and Systems Research (LEAP) forum on 25 April, in Stockholm, Sweden. LEAP is an international network of organizations whose members believe global challenges facing health systems need a global response. They are dedicated to better harmonizing and coordinating efforts and actions between systems research, policy and implementation communities.

An international workshop on ‘New Steps in Critical Care Medicine’ will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 20-22 September 2017 and is being co-organized by IAP for Health and the Georgian Academy of Medical Sciences. The aim of the workshop is to contribute to tackling a global health challenge while contributing to the Sustainable Development Goal #3 (Good health and wellbeing) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. IAP member academies are invited to nominate one participant per academy to attend the workshop via scaris@twas.org by 16 June.

IAP for Health is seeking candidates for the 7th leadership training workshop of the Young Physician Leaders (YPL) Programme. As before, the event will be held in Berlin in conjunction with the World Health Summit (WHS), 12-14 October 2017. Nominations will be accepted from members of IAP and the ‘M8 Alliance’ of academic centres. Each organization can nominate a maximum of two eligible physicians below the age of 40. The deadline for nominations via iamp@twas.org is 30 June 2017.

IAP FOR RESEARCH

Progress continues to be made on the two IAP for Research projects, ‘Improving Global Policymaking for the Sustainable Development Goals’ and ‘Harnessing Science, Engineering and Medicine to Address Africa’s Challenges’, which are exploring how the academies can contribute more effectively to global and regional policymaking, respectively.

Recognizing that most policy is implemented at the national level, the emphasis of both projects is to engage IAP members and their regional networks, as well as national young academies and the Global Young Academy (GYA). Three pillars underpin both projects: (i) mobilizing academies to support UN (global) and African Union (Africa) policy frameworks through surveys and awareness-raising; (ii) capacity building of academies through practical action and sharing experiences; and (iii) fostering new partnerships with global and regional stakeholders, looking at academies within wider systems of science policy advice and support.

Since the last IAP News Bulletin, both project Working Groups have met for a second time to hear insights – at times provocative – from key stakeholders and to develop project plans to Spring 2019.

The Working Group of the Global policymaking for SDGs project met in Paris, France, in early February, kindly hosted by Sébastien Candel, president of the Académie des Sciences. Guests included Flavia Schlegel and John
Crowley (UNESCO), Sir Peter Gluckman (International Network of Government Science Advisers, INGSA) and Heide Hackmann (International Council for Science, ICSU). Much of the discussion was informed by a survey of academies conducted in late 2016 that has provided a clearer picture of academy initiatives relevant to the SDGs, their future aspirations and barriers to engagement. An online navigation tool – including a guide to the SDGs process and map of the UN landscape – is now being developed, as well as a database of academy initiatives for each SDG. Discussions are also ongoing with academies whose governments are voluntarily reporting to the UN on their progress in implementing the SDGs (‘voluntary national reviews’) to see how they can help support this process, and with IAP regional networks on ways of sharing good practices.

Most recently (15 May), IAP hosted a side-event at the UN STI Multistakeholder Forum in New York entitled ‘Mobilizing the Global Science Community to Support the Sustainable Development Goals’, which served to raise the profile of the project and inform its direction. The Working Group will meet again later this year.

The Working Group of the Africa project, ‘Harnessing SEM in Africa’, met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in late February, kindly hosted by Tsige Gebre-Mariam, president of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences. Guests included Mahama Ouedraogo (African Union), Chux Daniels (Sussex University and member of the STISA Monitoring & Evaluation Committee), Evelyn Namubiru-Mwaaura (African Academy of Sciences) and Bernard Slippers (African Science Leadership Programme, ASLP). A survey of members of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and the African national young academies informed much of the discussion, and a work programme is now being designed around five objectives: (1) mapping academy and AU policy landscapes; (2) building links with AU/New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD); (3) a competitive grants programme to foster regional collaboration among young and senior academies, and other key stakeholders; (4) engaging the diaspora; and (5) building science leadership. The Working Group will meet again in November this year.

IAP FOR SCIENCE

For the IAP ‘Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture’ project, some 40 experts from more than 20 countries, representing the four regional working groups, met at the headquarters of the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, in Halle, Germany, on 3-5 April 2017. Participants from IAP’s four regional networks are now working on finalising their regional reports, while efforts are ongoing to extract some common themes as well as region-specific issues that will feed into a global overview report. A ‘preview’ of the regional reports will be presented at the World Science Forum in Jordan in November.

IAP, the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM), and the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, are convening an international workshop of experts on genome editing, security studies and public policy. The workshop, supported by the Volkswagen Foundation, will examine the latest advances in genome editing and analyse current and potential applications in a wide range of organisms such as microbes, plants, animals and humans. The international event will take place in Herrenhausen near Hanover, Germany, 11-13 October 2017.

IAP is pleased to welcome on board its newest staff member, Radia Sia. Radia has a PhD in experimental high-energy physics from Syracuse University in New York, USA, and worked in a series of public and private institutions in the USA and France before joining IAP in late March. She brings to IAP her experience in fundraising, which she will use to help develop new projects and source new funding for IAP activities. Her appointment is possible thanks to a financial contribution from the Volkswagen Foundation. Meanwhile, the position of Sabina Caris, who has been with IAP as a temporary project assistant for the past year, has been made permanent.

FROM IAP AFFILIATED REGIONAL NETWORKS

AASSA and the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) organized a workshop on the ‘Role of Science for Inclusive Society’ in Tokyo, Japan, 1-3 March 2017. The event aimed at deepening the scientific discussions on the interconnectedness between the social system and individual measures, such as food production, water and health management, among others.

AASSA will hold its Executive Board meeting in conjunction with the AASSA-NAST International Symposium on ‘Realizing the Full Cycle of Research and Development: From Bench to the Community’ in Tagaytay, Philippines, on 21-23 September 2017.

IANAS held a Country Chapter Coordinators Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on 6-7 July 2017. The
on Food and Nutrition Security for the Americas in Lima, Peru, on 13-17 March 2017, in preparation of the IAP project meeting which took place at the Leopoldina in Halle, Germany (see also IAP for Science section).

**IAP Activities Around the World**

Following the first workshop held in October 2016, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Technical Secretariat will organise, in collaboration with The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), the second edition of a workshop on ‘Policy and Diplomacy for Scientists: Introduction to Responsible Research Practices in Chemical and Biochemical Sciences’. The event will take place at TWAS/IAP headquarters in Trieste, Italy, on 12-15 September 2017. The call for applications is open until 1 August 2017 via the OPCW website.

The IAP Science Education Programme (SEP) held its annual meeting in Khartoum, Sudan, in February. As well as the Global Council meeting, a Policy Forum was held that focused on ‘Science Education and the Fusion of Civilisations’, and ‘Global Climate Change, Health and Regional Perspective’. In addition, some 30 Sudanese science teachers plus three from Egypt were trained in the use of IBSE in the classroom by teacher-trainer experts from Malaysia.

Up next for the IAP SEP is an International Forum on Science Education, to be held in Beijing, China, on 2-5 July, where discussions into the fusion of civilisations will be deepened. Then, on 25-29 September, a science teacher-training workshop will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, organized by the ECO Science Foundation.

The leadership of the African European Mediterranean Academies for Science Education (AEMASE) have sent out a call to academies and other organizations in the target region for expressions of interest to host ‘science houses’ where teachers will receive training in inquiry-based science education (IBSE). It is hoped that the first provisional science houses can be presented at the forthcoming AEMASE III conference in Paris, France, this coming October. For more information, contact scaris@iap.org.

**From IAP Member Academies / Observers**

The annual Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Twenty (G20) will be held on 7-8 July 2017 under the German Presidency. The German G20 Presidency attaches great importance to dialogue with different civil society groups. For the first time, the science and research community is included into the G20 process as “Science20”. Under the leadership of the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, the science academies of the G20 countries are developing scientific recommendations on improving global health. At the Science20 Dialogue Forum on 22 March 2017 at the Leopoldina, international experts presented their results and the recommendations were officially handed over to Chancellor Angela Merkel by the presidents of the science academies of the G20 countries.

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) has published a series of recommendations deriving from a workshop held in March this year on ‘Scientific Refugees: Transnational resources’.

Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE, and FEAM are part of the recently launched Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) project, which works within the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). The overall objective of the project is to pull together timely, independent and evidence-based scientific expertise from more than 100 European academies from over 40 countries for the highest policy level in Europe and for the wider public. SAPEA was officially launched in Brussels on 13 December 2016 and has since put in place its working structures concerning the management of science-based policy advice projects, administrative coordination, and communications. With this base established, its scientific activities are now beginning. The €6-million project will initially run for four years.

**IAP Young Scientists Activities & Global Young Academy (GYA)**

The Global Young Academy GYA) held its 7th International Conference of Young Scientists and Annual General Meeting in Aviemore, Inverness-shire, Scotland, from 15-19 May 2017. The theme of the conference was ‘Social Justice in a Rapidly Changing World’. On this occasion, GYA members elected Tolu Oni (South Africa) and Moritz Riede (UK) as their new co-chairs.

The Egyptian Young Academy of Science (EYAS) and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research &Technology organised the 1st International Conference on Woman in Science Without Borders (WISWB) in Cairo, Egypt, on 21-23 March 2017. GYA alumna Amal Amin Ibrahim acted as chair of the conference, which was supported by ICSU, TWAS, the GYA, and the European Commission.

In March, GYA member S. Karly Kehoe attended the ‘Refugee Scientists: Transnational Resources’ workshop in
Trieste, Italy. She was there as a representative of the GYA Global Migration and Human Rights working group and spoke about the work that she, Eva Alisic, Jan-Christoph Heilinger and Liav Orgad are developing around theme of individual responsibility and migrant integration.

The 3rd Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 19-21 July 2017, hosted by the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS), co-organised by the GYA, and co-sponsored by IAP. This meeting will be preceded by the Annual Young Scientists Conference on 19 July 2017 hosted by SAYAS, the Department of Science & Technology (DST), the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and other partners.

The ASEAN Science Leadership Programme (ASEAN SLP) 2017 is co-organised by the Young Scientists Network – Academy of Sciences Malaysia (YSN-ASM), the Global Young Academy (GYA), the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT), National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and the TWAS Young Affiliates Network (TYAN). The programme aims to create an interdisciplinary network of young academic leaders in the region who are trained with leadership skills and are committed towards developing a collective vision that promotes scientific progress. The ASEAN SLP 2017 will be held near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the deadline for fellowship applications is 7 July 2017.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

- **IAP:** Advancing Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment
- **IAP:** Exploring Traditional Medicine: Report of a Symposium
- **UKAMS/IAP:** Improving the development and deployment of rapid diagnostic tests in Low and Middle Income Countries
- **EASAC:** Multi-functionality and sustainability in the European Union’s forests

All IAP and related publications are available online at: [http://www.interacademies.net/Publications.aspx](http://www.interacademies.net/Publications.aspx)

**UPDATES FROM IAP SECRETARIAT**

Inform us: The IAP Secretariat invites all InterAcademy Partnership member academies and affiliated regional networks to contribute to the Meetings & Events page on the website by submitting information and details on workshops and further events they are organizing.

Stay informed: We encourage member academies and individuals to create their own Twitter accounts (if they have not already done so) and to follow IAP on Twitter at @IAPartnership: [https://twitter.com/iappartnership](https://twitter.com/iappartnership). All items posted on IAP’s websites – and more – are shared via Twitter.

Please contact the Secretariat with any queries about IAP activities, other feedback, or items for the next News Bulletin.

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