

The InterAcademy News Bulletin



WELCOME FROM THE IAP FOR RESEARCH CO-CHAIRS

Dear InterAcademy Partnership members,

The InterAcademy Partnership held its second Joint Meeting in Beijing, China, on 26-27 September 2016. The meeting, which brings together members of the Executive Committees of IAP for Science and IAP for Health and the Board of IAP for Research, was hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Twenty-two academies of science, engineering and medicine attended as well as the four regional networks, the Global Young Academy and ICSU. The Board of the InterAcademy Partnership also met.



The events in China marked several changes to the composition of the IAP Steering Committee and Board. Mohamed Hassan, who ended his term as co-chair of IAP for Science in March, is replaced by Krishan Lal. In turn, Lal has stepped down as President of AASSA; he is replaced by Yoo Hang Kim of the Korean Academy of Science and Technology. Hosted by the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), IAP for Health also held its General Assembly in Beijing. Lai Meng Looi's term as co-chair of IAP for Health ended, and Depei Liu (CAE) was elected as her replacement. Liu has also accepted to represent IAP for Health as President of IAP, replacing Hassan, whose term was linked to his IAP for Science co-chair position.

The two IAP for Research projects funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY), *Improving Global Policymaking for the SDGs* and *Harnessing Science, Engineering, and Medicine to Address Africa's Challenges*, are well underway. Both of the projects have held successful first meetings, in New York and in Nairobi. Several working group members of the *Harnessing SEM for Africa* project have also attended relevant meetings on behalf of the project, including the African National Young Academies Regional Conference in Mauritius, the Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA) in Johannesburg, and an EU-Africa meeting, also in Johannesburg. The project will also be represented at the South Africa Science Forum in December, while the *Improving Global Policymaking for the SDGs* was presented at the 8th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in Geneva. Preparations are now being made for the second working group meetings, to be held in February 2017.

The unique strength of these projects is that they draw on our academy networks and have the potential to reflect our sustainable development initiatives nationally, regionally and globally. But they can't do this without your help.

All IAP member academies have a chance to inform these projects by completing the survey that has been sent out. This will help us understand how academies see their role in influencing global and regional policy frameworks, what they are doing to this effect, what prevents them from doing more, and how they might best contribute in future.

We encourage **every** academy to respond so that we can gauge interest levels as well as the actual *and potential* capacity of our members to play their part in helping governments honour their commitments nationally, regionally and globally. If your academy would prefer to provide responses via a phone or Skype interview, we would be happy to arrange it. Please contact the project secretariat at projects@iappartnership.org to schedule a time, or if you have any questions.

The deadline for completion has been extended one month to the **end of December**. Thank you very much in advance for your responses.

Robbert Dijkgraaf and Daya Reddy – IAP for Research Co-chairs

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SCIENCE-BUSINESS-DIALOGUE CONFERENCE

The Academy of Science South Africa (ASSAf) and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina are currently undertaking a project to answer the question: How can we strengthen and improve the dialogue between science and business in Africa? The next event will be a [Science-Business-Dialogue conference](#) on 5-7 December 2016 in Pretoria, South Africa, which will be held just before the [Science Forum South Africa](#). The academies are driven by the conviction that a strengthened Science-Business-Dialogue in the southern Africa (SADC) region could make a considerable contribution to developing quality scientific solutions that can shape and improve the daily lives of all people in the region. Southern Africa boasts many excellent research centres and has an outstanding entrepreneurial community. Nevertheless, science and the private sector often sit alongside each other and there are few connections or strategic collaborations. Therefore, the aim of the conference is to bring together the different stakeholders from universities, research centres, the private sector and relevant policy bodies. A broad range of experts are invited to give deeper insights into: early stakeholder involvement, intellectual property rights, innovative funding options, and relevant business initiatives. In order to gain a better practical understanding of a successful Science-Business-Dialogue, workshop sessions will form an integral part of the conference, where case studies of already implemented successful initiatives from across Africa will be discussed.

IAP CALENDAR

[Improving Global Policymaking for the SDGs](#) Working Group meeting, venue TBD, 1-2 February 2017

[IAP Science Education Programme \(SEP\)](#) Global Council @ Khartoum, 6-13 February 2017

[Harnessing SEM in Africa](#) Working Group meeting, venue TBD, 27-28 February 2017

[IAP Food Nutrition and Security and Agriculture \(FNSEA\)](#) project meeting @ Halle, Germany, 3-5 April 2017

[IAP for Science Executive Committee](#) meeting @ Halle, 5-6 April 2017

[Spanish Haematology Meeting](#), hosted by the National Academy of Medicine of Argentina @ Buenos Aires, 20-21 April 2017

For more updates, see [Meetings & Events](#)

IAP FOR HEALTH

[IAP for Health](#) held a [Conference and General Assembly](#) on 27-28 and 29 September, respectively, hosted by the [Chinese Academy of Engineering](#). The theme of the conference was 'Promoting Health'. During the GA, member academies reviewed the last three years' work, as well as focused on the election of a new [Executive Committee](#) and strategic actions for the next three-year mandate. Detlev Ganten (Germany) will continue as IAP for Health co-chair and is joined by newly-elected Depei Liu (China). All presentations of the conference are available [here](#). IAP for Health used the occasion to launch their latest statement on '[Improving the reproducibility of biomedical research: a call for action](#)'.

The [Georgian Academy of Medical Sciences](#) hosted the [8th Tbilisi International Symposium](#) on Critical Care and Catastrophe Medicine on 29-30 October 2016 in Tbilisi, Georgia. On this occasion IAP coordinator P. McGrath wrote an [article](#) introducing the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) organization. McGrath presented this article at the symposium emphasizing the relevance of IAP's engagement with the UNISDR for achieving the goals of the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#).

This year, IAP for Health brought together 24 Young Physician Leaders (YPL) for the annual October [leadership training workshop](#). As before, the event, which took place on 8-9 October, was held in Berlin as a side event to the World Health Summit (WHS). As well as brushing up on and learning new leadership skills, the YPL were tasked with preparing a session to be presented within the core WHS [programme](#).

For the second year in succession, IAP for Health organized a WHS session on the issue of 'One Health'. This time, IAP for Health partnered with the [One Health Platform](#) to co-host a session on 'Tackling emerging infections at source'. Among the speakers was newly-elected IAP for Health Executive Committee member Rajae El-Aoudia (Morocco). IAP Coordinator Peter McGrath noted that the WHS sits between two other major events in 2016 – the United Nations Environment Assembly held in Nairobi, Kenya, in May, and the forthcoming [One Health/Eco-health congress](#) scheduled for Melbourne, Australia, in December.

IAP for Health also supported nominated academicians from the Philippines and South Africa to attend the [11th Workshop and Congress on Kangaroo Mother Care](#) which took place in Trieste, Italy, on 14-15 and 16-17 November, respectively.

IAP FOR RESEARCH

The two IAP for Research working groups, *Improving Global Policymaking for the SDGs* and *Harnessing Science, Engineering, and Medicine to Address Africa's Challenges* have both held their first meetings.

The *Policymaking for the SDGs* meeting was held in New York from 15-16 August 2016. Robert Dijkgraaf, IAP for Research co-chair, attended the meeting. Three invited experts (Susan Avery, Bill Colglazier, Heide Hackmann) provided insights on the key challenges that scientists and science advisors face in global systems, concluding with a discussion on how this project can best add value. The working group (WG) reached consensus on the project objectives and agreed that the project will explore: (1) the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for global science advice in the context of the UN's SDGs and with reference to the role of the science academies; (2) how to optimise regional and national evidence-based implementation of the SDGs; (3) the changing architecture of science that is required to meet these goals; and (4) the most challenging issues in implementing the SDGs to which science and technology can contribute. The project will complement related initiatives of ICSU, the International Network of Government Science Advisers (INGSA) and others. A survey of IAP members, national young academies and regional networks will inform this project. Academies are reminded to submit their input as soon as possible. The WG will meet again, most likely in Paris, on 1-2 February 2017 to analyse the results of the survey and shape the rest of the project.

The *Harnessing SEM in Africa* meeting was held in Nairobi on 19-20 September 2016. Daya Reddy, IAP for Research co-chair, attended the meeting. Two invited speakers (Jacqueline McGlade and Caroline Ngugi) provided insights from a UN agency (UNDP) and young scientist's perspective, respectively, generating discussion on how this project can best achieve its objectives. The working group (WG) agreed that their broad priorities include: (1) mobilizing African leaders in science, engineering and medicine through new approaches to addressing shared challenges; (2) strengthening merit-based academies in Africa; and (3) building stronger, sustained linkages and partnerships between African/global expertise in STI and the policymakers and donor organizations working to address Africa's challenges. The first three months of the project are focusing on intelligence gathering through a survey of NASAC member academies and African national young academies (NYAs), as well as participation at relevant meetings and events, including the African NYA meeting, AMASA, TWAS regional events, and the South Africa Science Forum. The WG will meet again in February 2017 to shape the rest of the project.

IAP FOR SCIENCE

IAP for Science and IAP for Health have selected projects submitted by member academies in response to a call for proposals. IAP for Health will support health education activities led by the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*, Italy, and a project aimed at providing research training for young health professionals led by the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. IAP for Science will support 2017 activities of the IAP Science Education Programme and the Global Young Academy, as well as projects to be implemented by EASAC (on 'soil at risk') and IANAS (on 'capacity building dissemination workshops with science journalists'). Other grants will be provided to support the 3rd World Meeting of Young Academies in Gauteng, South Africa (ASSAf), the 3rd AEMASE conference (led by the *Académie des Sciences de l'Institut de France*), to be held in France, and a conference on 'Science, Technology and Innovation in the Caribbean: Strengthening Cooperation'.

FROM IAP AFFILIATED REGIONAL NETWORKS

AASSA and the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) – with a contribution from IAP – held the AASSA General Assembly Meeting and the International Symposium on 'Refugees and Migrants: A Global Problem or an Asset' on 20-23 October in Ankara, Turkey.

Prof. Yoo Hang Kim has been elected President of AASSA for the period 2016-2018.

IANAS hosted a work shop on 'Food and Nutrition Security in the Americas' at the Mexican Academy of Sciences on 18-20 September 2016. The event was part of an IAP/Leopoldina-supported global project on Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture. Approximately 80 scientists from 20 countries of the Americas participated in the two-day workshop where they developed a plan for the production of country-by-country assessments of food and nutrition security challenges in the Americas.

EASAC presented two new reports on the circular economy: 'Priorities for critical materials for a circular economy' and 'Indicators for a circular economy' on 30 November in Brussels, Belgium.

EASAC together with ALLEA, FEAM, Euro-CASE and Academia Europaea, is also taking part in a newly launched project 'Scientific Advice to Policy by European Academies' (SAPEA) which is funded by the EU-Commission programme Horizon 2020.

NASAC, in collaboration with the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, (GAAS) and the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, hosted a communication event for the booklet 'Changing Disease Patterns in Africa: Recommendations to Policymakers' on 5 October in Accra, Ghana.

On the occasion of 12th Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA), 6-8 November, NASAC

IANAS participated in the 'Latin American and the Caribbean Open Science Forum' (CILAC), which took place 6-9 September in Montevideo, Uruguay, including a panel on 'Networking globally to advance women in science: the role of international organizations' chaired by GenderInSITE.

held an event to present the booklet 'The Grand Challenge of Water Security in Africa Policymakers'.

IAP ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

IAP is deepening its engagement with international conventions aimed at prohibiting the use of biological and chemical weapons. On 18-20 October 2016, IAP collaborated with ASSAf and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the first of a series of regional workshops to promote the work of OPCW, especially the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes. Some 30 young African scientists from 16 countries, several of them nominated via their national academies, attended. Because of the links between science practice and policy, the event - titled 'Policy and Diplomacy for Scientists – Introduction to responsible research practices in chemical and biological sciences' - was also held under the auspices of the TWAS Science Diplomacy programme.

IAP representative Tracey Elliot, along with Jo Husbands (US NAS) and Liz Bohm (Royal Society) – members of the IAP Biosecurity Working Group (BWG) – attended part of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) Eighth Review Conference that took place in Geneva (7-25 November 2016). In a side event, the three academy representatives highlighted IAP's new project on the SDGs, the BWG's S&T trends analysis report for the BTWC, and related work, such as inter-academy initiatives on genome editing.

Earlier, in June, IAP collaborated with US NAS and the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Morocco, to host an event in Morocco. Researchers and lab managers from across the Arab-speaking Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region, especially those involved in biosafety/biosecurity issues, were invited to sessions on interactive teaching of responsible research practices and presentations of IAP and other relevant publications translated into Arabic, including the recent IAP book on 'Doing Global Science' (Arabic version).

FROM IAP MEMBER ACADEMIES / OBSERVERS

A new Council has been elected at the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) for the cycle 2016-2020. The academy elected Jonathan Jansen as its new president, succeeding Daya Reddy. New office-bearers were also elected. They are Brenda Wingfield and Barney Pityana who were elected vice-presidents, Himla Soodyall as general secretary and Eugene Cloete, elected treasurer.

The Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS) welcomes a new president, R. Bandii.

On 7-8 and 8-10 November, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (BAS) hosted two major symposia to bring together what is known about the Zika virus: 'The Zika menace in Americas: Challenges and perspectives', and 'One year after the announcement of the national public health emergency in Brazil: Lessons, achievements and challenges', respectively. IAP was represented by Marcelo Barcinski (BAS), Jorge Neira of the Academia Nacional de Medicina (Argentina) and newly-elected member of the IAP for Health Executive Committee, and Jeremy McNeil, IAP for Science Executive Committee member and co-chair of IANAS.

The Rwanda Academy of Science was formally launched during the TWAS Annual Meeting, held in Kigali, Rwanda, 14-17 November. The new academy will support the role of science in Rwanda and provide evidence-based analysis to national leaders.

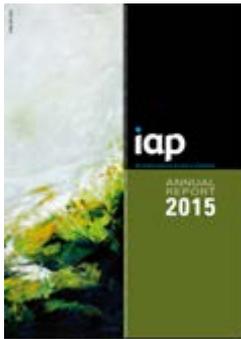
IAP YOUNG SCIENTISTS ACTIVITIES & GLOBAL YOUNG ACADEMY (GYA)

The headquarters of the GYA, currently located in Berlin, will be moved to Halle by the end of the year 2016, where they will be hosted by the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina.

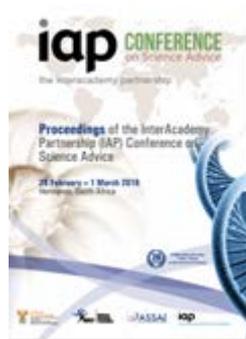
The Second Africa Young Academies Regional Conference was organized by the GYA with support from the University of Mauritius and the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology and took place 24-26 October in Mauritius. It brought together representatives from all existing National Young Academies (NYAs) in Africa, as well as NYA initiatives and young scientists from the other countries in the NASAC network and representatives of NASAC member academies. The main objective of the conference was to engage and empower excellent young researchers from across Africa to address the challenges that impede scientific development towards a sustainable future for the region.

The GYA has also published its report on 'Municipal Solid Waste Management and Green Economy' that was financed with support from IAP and the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina (see below).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



IAP:
Annual Report 2015



ASSAf:
Proceedings of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) Conference on Science Advice



GYA:
Municipal Solid Waste Management and Green Economy

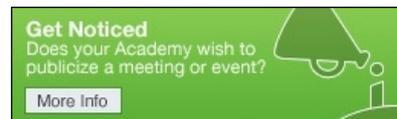


IAP for Health:
Statement on Improving the reproducibility of biomedical research: a call for action

All IAP and related publications are available online at: <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.



Be 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 @IAPPartnership: <https://twitter.com/iapartnership>. All items posted on IAP's websites are shared via Twitter.

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

CONTACT

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