

Draft Programme (last update 08/10/2025)

# 2025 IAP Triennial Conference and General Assembly Bridging Science, Policy and Society in an Era of Transformation

Cairo, Egypt, and Online, 8–11 December 2025

**iap** SCIENCE  
HEALTH  
POLICY  
the interacademy partnership



أكاديمية البحث العلمي والتكنولوجيا  
ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
AND TECHNOLOGY

# Programme Overview

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
8 December	Side Events 1-4	Side Events 5-7* Opening Ceremony Keynote	Reception
9 December	IAP Triennial Conference	IAP Triennial Conference	Dinner at TBC
10 December	IAP Triennial Conference	IAP Triennial Conference	Dinner at TBC
11 December	IAP General Assembly*	IAP General Assembly* Conclusion of IAP Programme	Closing Gala at TBC

\*Attendance restrictions may apply. See detailed programme and session description.

## Venue

### The St. Regis New Capital, Cairo

New Administrative Capital, Cairo Suez Road, Cairo Governorate Desert, Cairo Governorate 4850601, Egypt

# Monday, 8 December

08:00	<b>Registration and Badge Collection (All Day)</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>	
08:45 - 09:00	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rania Kosti, Executive Director, IAP-DC Secretariat Office,</li> <li>• Peter McGrath, Coordinator, IAP-Trieste Secretariat Office,</li> </ul>	
09:00 - 10:30	<b>Side Event 1: For People, For Planet: Environmentally Sustainable Health Research</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <i><b>Organiser:</b> Academy of Medical Sciences, United Kingdom</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> Shakila Thangaratinam, Vice-President International, Academy of Medical Sciences, United Kingdom  <b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia Wilson, Wellcome Sanger Institute, United Kingdom</li> <li>• Ying Goh, Public Health Medical Officer, California Department of Health Care Services, United States (TBC)</li> </ul>	<b>Side Event 2: From Metrics to Meaning: How Reforming Research Assessment Drives Innovation, Impact, and Trust in Science</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <i><b>Organiser:</b> The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), The European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA), and the Global Young Academy (GYA)</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> Paweł Rowiński, President of ALLEA  <b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giovanna Lima, Programme Manager, DORA</li> <li>• Mathijs Vleugel, Chair, CoARA National Chapter Germany</li> <li>• Natalia Manola, CEO, OpenAIRE AMKE</li> <li>• Carina Geldhauser, Executive Committee Member, Global Young Academy</li> </ul>
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
11:00 - 12:30	<b>Side Event 3: Science Diplomacy in the AI Era: Bridging Disciplines, Borders and Generations</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <i><b>Organiser:</b> Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA)</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> Muzaffer Şeker, President, Turkish Academy of Sciences, Türkiye  <b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Nuri Yurdusev, President, Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in</li> </ul>	<b>Side Event 4: IAP Young Affiliates Engagement</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <i><b>Organiser:</b> IAP Secretariat</i>  <b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>



	Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ercan Öztemel, Member, TÜBA Artificial Intelligence Working Group, Türkiye</li> <li>• Mürsel Doğrul, President, Turkish Young Academy, Türkiye</li> </ul>	
12:30 - 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00 - 15:30	<b>Side Event 5: IAP Horizon Scanning Exercise</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <i><b>Organiser:</b> IAP Secretariat</i>  <b>Moderators:</b> Rania Kosti, Executive Director, IAP-DC Secretariat Office and Peter McGrath, Coordinator, IAP-Trieste Secretariat Office	
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
16:00 - 17:00	<b>Side Event 6: Unlocking Egypt's Digital Renaissance: The Revolutionary Impact of the Egyptian Knowledge Bank</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <i><b>Organiser:</b> Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), Egypt</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> Eng. Majid M. Al-Sadek, Director of Egyptian National STI Network  <b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gina Elfiky, Acting President of the ASRT</li> <li>• Prof. Moustafa Refaat, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Universities, Egypt</li> <li>• Abdelmajid BenAmara, Head of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils</li> </ul>	<b>Side Event 7: IAP Secretariat and Regional Networks Staff Meeting</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <i><b>Organiser:</b> IAP Secretariat</i>  <b>Moderators:</b> Rania Kosti, Executive Director, IAP-DC Secretariat Office and Peter McGrath, Coordinator, IAP-Trieste Secretariat Office  <b>Attendance:</b> By invitation only
17:00 - 17:30	<b>Conference Opening Ceremony</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>	
17:30 - 18:30	<b>Keynote: Maintaining Academia's Relevance in an Era of Polycrisis</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Diane Negra, Professor of Film Studies and Screen Culture, University College Dublin; Member, IAP Board, Ireland  <b>Speaker</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ismail Serageldin, Co-Chair, Board, Nizami Ganjavi International Center; Emeritus Librarian of Alexandria; former Vice-President, World Bank, Egypt</li> <li>• Phoebe Koundouri, Founder, Alliance of Excellence for Research and Innovation on Aeiphoria-AE4RIA; World Academy of Art and Science</li> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>	

19:00	Evening Reception TBD
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## Tuesday, 9 December

08:00	Registration and Badge Collection (All Day)
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08:20 - 08:30	Opening Remarks Room: TBA
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### Speaker

- Gianfranco Pacchioni, IAP Board Member

08:30 - 09:30	Session 1: Science Academies and Science Diplomacy in a Tumultuous World Room: TBA
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**Moderator:** Ian Wiggins, Director of International Affairs, The Royal Society, United Kingdom

### Speakers

- Mark Walport, Foreign Secretary and Vice President, The Royal Society, United Kingdom
- Sandeep Sandhu, Executive Director, Global, Investment & Insights, UK Business Connect, Member, UK Young Academy, United Kingdom
- Mohamed Hassan, President, Sudanese National Academy of Sciences, Sudan
- Marcelo Knobel, Executive Director, The World Academy of Sciences, Italy
- Robbert Dijkgraaf, President-elect, International Science Council; Distinguished University Professor, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

09:30 - 10:30	Session 2: Science Diplomacy as a Bridge for At-Risk and Displaced Scholars Room: TBA
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**Moderator:** Saja Al Zoubi, Dalhousie University, Canada

### Speakers

- Encieh Erfani, Perimeter Institute, Canada
- Sverker Lundin, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Sweden
- Amy Kapit, Senior Program Officer, Scholars at Risk, United States

10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
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<b>11:00 - 12:30</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Pastoralism and Grasslands: Science and Policy for Regenerative Rangeland Management</b>  <b>Room: TBA</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Thomas Elmqvist, Program Director EASAC</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gregorio Velasco Gil, Coordinator of the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, FAO</li> <li>• Orsolya Valkó, Scientific advisor at the HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research, Institute of Ecology and Botany, Hungary</li> <li>• Zsolt Molnár, Head of Department, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), Hungary</li> <li>• Joseph Moses Oleshangay, Legal and Human Rights Centre, Tanzania</li> <li>• Batgelder Gantuya, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Mongolia</li> </ul>
<b>12:30 - 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00 - 15:00</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Identifying and Addressing Barriers for Women in Science</b>  <b>Room: TBA</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ourania Kosti, Executive Director, IAP-DC Secretariat Office</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie Wullert, Program Officer, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, United States</li> <li>• Gina El Feky, President, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Egypt</li> <li>• TBC, Gender Equality in Science Organisations Taskforce</li> <li>• Léa Nacache, International Science Council</li> <li>• Palesa Sekhejane, Deputy Executive Dean Faculty of Natural Sciences, Walter Sisulu University, South Africa</li> <li>• Gloria Dubner, Co-Chair, InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences</li> </ul>
<b>15:00 - 16:00</b>	<p><b>Session 5: Transforming Knowledge: International Research Commercialisation 'Market the Mind'</b>  <b>Room: TBA</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Tamer Hamouda, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Egypt</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>
<b>16:00 - 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>

<b>16:30 - 18:00</b>	<b>Session 6:</b> Empowering Early-Career Researchers in Times of Polycrisis: Trust, Just Transition, and Resilience Through International Collaboration <b>Room:</b> TBA
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Hiba Baroud, Member, Global Young Academy; Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, Vanderbilt University, United States</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostafa Shawrav, Chair, Marie Curie Alumni Association; former Co-Chair, EU Science Diplomacy Alliance, Austria</li> <li>• Justine Nzweundji, Member, Global Young Academy; Deputy Director, Research, Valorization and Innovation, Institute of Medical Research and Medicinal Plants Studies; Member, Steering Committee, Africa Chapter, International Network for Government Science Advice, Cameroon</li> <li>• Hervé Lekuya, Alumnus, IAP-Young Physician Leaders; Founding Member, DR Congo Young Academy of Sciences, Democratic Republic of the Congo</li> <li>• Aram Simonyan, Member, Global Young Academy; Associate Professor, ISEC National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Armenia</li> <li>• Stella Tsani, Associate Professor, University of Athens; Member, Global Young Academy, Greece</li> </ul>
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

# Wednesday, 10 December

08:00	Registration and Badge Collection (All Day)
08:20 - 08:30	<p>Opening Remarks Room: TBA</p> <p><b>Speaker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asma Ismail, IAP Board Member</li></ul>
08:30 - 10:00	<p><b>Session 7:</b> Responsible and Sustainable AI for Society Room: TBA</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ashutosh Sharma, Indian National Science Academy, India</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rohini Srivathsa, Indian National Science Academy, India</li><li>• Mayank Vatsa, Indian National Science Academy, India</li><li>• Frances Separovic, Australian Academy of Science, Australia</li><li>• Stephanie Burton, Council Member and former Interim President of the Academy of Science, South Africa</li><li>• Ramia Al Bakain, The University of Jordan, Jordan and TWAS Young Affiliate Network</li><li>• Thomas Krieg, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Germany</li></ul>
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 - 12:00	<p><b>Session 8:</b> Novel Discoveries and Meaning-Making: Risky and Challenging, but with a Transformative Potential Room: TBA</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Helen Eenmaa, Estonian Young Academy of Sciences; Young Academies Science Advice Structure; Science Advice for Policy by European Academies, Estonia</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stefan Constantinescu, Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium; Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences; Romanian Academy; Academia Europaea; Federation of European Academy of Medicine; Science Advice for Policy by European Academies, Belgium</li><li>• Adel Daoud, Young Academy of Sweden, Sweden</li><li>• Noel de Miranda, Young Academy of the Netherlands; Young Academy of Europe; Young Academies Science Advice Structure, Netherlands</li><li>• Saana Jukola, Young Academy Finland, Netherlands</li><li>• Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Assistant Professor, Center for Advanced Studies in Bioscience Innovation Law at the University of Copenhagen; Visiting Associate Professor, National University of Singapore, Singapore</li><li>• Jaak Sikk, Estonian Young Academy of Sciences, Estonia</li><li>• Tarmo Soomere, Estonian Academy of Sciences; Academia Europaea;</li></ul>



	International Science Council, Estonia • Heli Valtna, Estonian Young Academy of Sciences, Estonia
12:00 - 13:00	<b>Session 9: Trust in Science: A Policy Agenda for Resilient Knowledge Systems</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Mohammed Hassan, President, Sudanese National Academy of Sciences, Sudan  <b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helena B. Nader, President, Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Brazil</li> <li>• Karen B. Strier, Co-Chair, Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences; Member, National Academy of Sciences, United States</li> <li>• Mahouton Norbert Hounkonnou, President, Network of African Academy of Sciences, Benin</li> <li>• Lise Øvreås, Vice-President, EASAC</li> <li>• Francis-André Wollman, Vice-President for International Affairs, Académie des Sciences, France</li> <li>• Frances Separovic, Foreign Secretary, Australian Academy of Science, Australia</li> </ul>
13:00 - 14:30	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30 - 16:00	<b>Session 10: Building Resilient and Collaborative Science Ecosystems: Strengthening Partnerships Across Government, Academia, Industry and Philanthropy</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> TBC  <b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brando Okolo, Senior Advisor, Science, Technology and Innovation, New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), African Union</li> <li>• TBD Foundation Representative</li> <li>• TBD NPO Representative</li> <li>• TBD Industry Representative</li> </ul>
16:00 - 16:30	<b>Conference Closing Remarks (Stephanie Burton, Peggy Hamburg)</b> <b>Room: TBA</b>
TBC	<b>Dinner</b>

# Thursday, 11 December

## IAP General Assembly

Attendance: Open to designated representatives of IAP members and invited observers

Time	Session	Agenda
09:00 - 10:30	Session 1	
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 - 12:30	Session 2	
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:25	Session 3	
15:25 - 15:30	Closing of IAP General Assembly and Handover to New Leadership	
15:30 - 16:30	Coffee & Networking Break	Joint Meeting of the IAP Board (2025 – 2028) & Advisory Committee Attendance: By invitation only

## Conclusion of IAP Programme

Attendance: Open to All

16:30 - 17:00	Remarks TBD
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## Closing Gala

Attendance: Open to All

18:30	Departure from hotel by bus
22:30	Return to hotel

# Description of Sessions and Side Events

## Side Event 1: For People, For Planet: Environmentally Sustainable Health Research

The health research sector is resource and energy intensive; clinical trials contribute millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year globally, laboratories are environmentally intensive to operate, and computational research has a sizeable carbon footprint. As a sector striving to improve the health of populations, the health research sector must lead the way in efforts to improve the health of our planet. This session will present the findings of a policy paper on building environmental sustainability into the health research systems in the UK and the US. This includes actions to be taken by stakeholders at all levels, focusing on alignment, collaboration and working in synergy. The findings are the work of 16 interdisciplinary future research leaders nominated by the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and the US National Academy of Medicine to participate in a joint policy initiative. The initiative aimed to raise new voices on climate change and health and to bridge the gap between science and policy.

Attendance: *Open to All*

## Side Event 2: From Metrics to Meaning: How Reforming Research Assessment Drives Innovation, Impact, and Trust in Science

Traditional research assessment systems, dominated by publication metrics such as h-index and journal impact factor, risk narrowing the definition of excellence and undervaluing legitimate contributions from the research community that advance science and society. This over-reliance on bibliometrics creates a perverse system of academic incentives, and has fueled questionable research ethics, paper mills, and a reproducibility crisis – all of which not only impact the quality of research, but, perhaps more importantly, undermine the credibility and social relevance of science. In recognition of the need for reform, emerging initiatives such as the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) are driving a bottom-up transformation of research cultures by promoting more holistic, responsible, and qualitative evaluation criteria that go beyond publication counts and recognise the wide range of activities undertaken by the researchers, including teaching, science communication, peer reviewing, etc. The objective of CoARA is to (re)build evaluation systems that reward transparency, integrity, and impact in science. In this session, panelists will explore how research assessment can be redesigned and reformed to incentivise research excellence and socially impactful research – and thereby foster greater public trust in science.

Attendance: *Open to All*

## Side Event 3: Science Diplomacy in the AI Era: Bridging Disciplines, Borders and Generations

In an era of global transformation, science diplomacy has emerged as a critical conduit for international collaboration, trust-building and responsible innovation, particularly in the context of the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). This panel comprises distinguished scholars from diverse fields of the

scientific and academic ecosystem, including the President of Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) as moderator, the President of the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA), who represents multilateral scientific collaboration in Asia, a globally recognized TÜBA member AI scholar and the representative from the Turkish Young Academy, who embodies the voice of the next academic generation. The panel will explore the potential of AI to enhance and challenge science diplomacy and governance, as well as its responsible use among young scientists, through interdisciplinary domain. The themes explored in this text include the development of ethical AI, the promotion of equitable global access to scientific knowledge, the navigation of misinformation and the role of science in maintaining unity in the face of political and technological fragmentation. The session will draw on insights from diverse fields to foster a values-driven vision of science diplomacy that is inclusive, forward-looking and equipped to navigate disruption.

Attendance: *Open to All*

#### **Side Event 4: IAP Young Affiliates Engagement**

Recognizing the critical role of emerging scientific leaders in shaping the future of global science, IAP introduced a new affiliation category for Young Affiliates in 2025. This includes young academies and cohort-based early-career leadership programs in science, engineering, and medicine. This side event is designed as an interactive space for Young Affiliates to:

- Connect with one another and strengthen peer networks across regions and disciplines.
- Share perspectives on how affiliation with IAP can support the growth and visibility of young academies.
- Explore opportunities to contribute to IAP's broader mission and activities, including policy, outreach, and capacity-building initiatives.

Whether your academy is newly established or already well-connected, this session is an opportunity to shape how young voices are represented within the global scientific community.

Attendance: *Open to All*

#### **Side Event 5: IAP Horizon Scanning Exercise**

Using a structured horizon scanning approach, participants will examine near- and long-term issues that demand collective scientific action. Insights from the session will help shape IAP's future strategic direction, inform programme development and guide collaborative efforts across the network. To support an inclusive and impactful dialogue, member academies are encouraged to submit input in advance. Participants will be able to propose topics spontaneously during the session.

Attendance: *Open to All*

## **Side Event 6: Unlocking Egypt's Digital Renaissance: The Revolutionary Impact of the Egyptian Knowledge Bank**

The talk discusses in detail the transformative impact of the Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB) on Egypt's digital renaissance. As a cornerstone of national development, the EKB aims to democratise access to global knowledge resources, reshaping educational, research and innovation landscapes across the country. It explores the strategic vision behind the EKB, highlighting its role in providing students, educators, researchers and the public with access to scientific journals, academic publications, multimedia resources and educational tools from leading international publishers. By fostering lifelong learning, enhancing research capabilities and stimulating innovation, the EKB bridges knowledge gaps and promotes equitable access to information. The presentation also illustrates how the EKB functions as a dynamic catalyst for intellectual and socio-economic advancement, contributing to the development of a knowledge-based economy, a digitally proficient workforce and Egypt's trajectory toward a technology-driven, innovation-focused future.

Attendance: *Open to All*

## **Side Event 7: IAP Secretariat and Regional Networks Staff Meeting**

This closed working session brings together staff from the IAP Secretariat and its four Regional Networks—Africa, the Americas, Asia/Pacific, and Europe—to strengthen coordination and collaboration across the global network. The meeting will provide space to share updates on ongoing and upcoming initiatives, discuss operational challenges and best practices, and identify opportunities for alignment, joint programming, and improved communication. This session aims to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of IAP's work by fostering closer connections among those supporting its core functions at both the global and regional levels.

Attendance: *IAP Secretariat and Regional Network staff*

## **Keynote: Maintaining Academia's Relevance in an Era of Polycrisis**

In the 2020s, universities have been experiencing major and evolving challenges making working conditions for academics unstable and unpredictable. As academia is increasingly affected by geopolitical influences of various kinds, we face institutional uncertainties including executive turnover, the reduction or elimination of faculty self-governance and the emergence of a "predatory" administrative class as well as contracting resources. AI and other technologies are having profound effects on research and teaching.

At the same time – perhaps surprisingly to many in academia – we are seeing a world in which education and research are not always held in the same regard as previously, and in which academia needs to – repeatedly – justify its existence and need for funding. What is at stake when academics are called upon to unexpectedly revisit/defend basic precepts about research as a social good? This session seeks to delineate the nature of the crisis conditions that are re-positioning the role of academics and their work, in some cases re-writing the terms on which we operate while obscuring our social contributions.



Attendance: *Open to All*

### **Session 1: Science Academies and Science Diplomacy in a Tumultuous World**

The concept of science diplomacy has undergone a major re-examination in 2025, as the world grows more dangerous and a number of threats to science multiply. Science diplomacy is practiced by a wider number and range of global actors than ever before, from sub-national entities like cities and states to international organisations to industry, in particular global technology companies. Yet at the same time, the science that underpins it is under attack from ideological agendas, financial pressures, online misinformation and polarised politics. Science academies have a unique vantage point, as they are often well-established institutions which can take a long-term perspective, but at the same time are vulnerable to attacks on perceived elites or scientific consensus. How can science academies best navigate the new landscape of science diplomacy, and most effectively utilise it to safeguard the interests of science and contribute to a more resilient global science system?

Attendance: *Open to All*

### **Session 2: Science Diplomacy as a Bridge for At-Risk and Displaced Scholars**

This panel explores how science diplomacy can support scholars at risk due to conflict, persecution or displacement. As global crises increasingly disrupt academic communities, science diplomacy provides a crucial, non-political means to preserve knowledge, defend academic freedom and build international solidarity. Through fellowships, institutional partnerships and advocacy, it offers displaced scholars opportunities to continue their work and contribute to global scientific challenges. The discussion will highlight science diplomacy as both a humanitarian and strategic tool, showcasing best practices from global initiatives and institutions that support at-risk academics. It will examine the roles of international organizations, universities and governments in fostering inclusion and protection. Emphasis will be placed on the lived experiences, agency and contributions of displaced scholars themselves. The panel will also spotlight the Global Young Academy's At-Risk Scholars Initiative and its efforts to integrate displaced scholars into international research networks while defending academic freedom under threat.

Attendance: *Open to All*

### **Session 3: Pastoralism and Grasslands: Science and Policy for Regenerative Rangeland Management**

The UN General Assembly has declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) to increase worldwide understanding of the value of grasslands and pastoralism for food security, economy, environment and cultural heritage. Semi-natural grasslands are among the most species-rich ecosystems on Earth, offering a unique example of how long-term, low-intensity human

activities can enhance biodiversity.

Their ecological value is closely tied to traditional management practices, such as grazing and mowing, which help maintain their open structure and biodiversity. Steppes and other drylands also harbour outstanding biodiversity that is shaped by the herders and the one billion people living in these ecosystems globally. Today, grasslands are rapidly disappearing in many regions of the world, due to climate change in combination with land use changes including abandonment that leads to secondary succession toward shrubs or forests, or, through intensification (use of fertilizers, frequent mowing, or sowing monocultures) causing biodiversity loss. This session will contribute to the aims of the IYRP and through taking a global view of grasslands and focussing on how to bring multiple knowledge systems together at the table to discuss what policy options and actions are available in different regions for reversing current trends.

Attendance: *Open to All*

#### **Session 4: Identifying and Addressing Barriers for Women in Science**

Globally, 33 percent of researchers are female, yet women only comprise 12 percent of science academy members. The InterAcademy Partnership and its members have long championed the inclusion and participation of women in science. IAP continues this work through a series of initiatives focusing on identifying barriers facing women in science. These initiatives include a global workshop on assessing and addressing sexual harassment of women in academia and partnering with the International Science Council and the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science to update the landmark 2016 IAP survey on the participation of women in scientific organisations. This session will discuss the impacts and challenges identified through these initiatives, present the preliminary results from the global gender survey, highlight ongoing work by IAP members and regional networks and propose possible approaches to prevent gender discrimination in academia.

Attendance: *Open to All*

#### **Session 5: Transforming Knowledge: International Research Commercialisation "Market the Mind"**

This talk will discuss the critical domain of global research commercialisation, exploring the triumphs and challenges inherent in transforming ground-breaking scientific discoveries into marketable innovations. Titled "Market the Mind," this presentation emphasises the strategic imperative of bridging the "valley of death" – the gap between academic research and viable commercial products. Furthermore, the presentation will introduce essential lessons learned from both successes and failures in global commercialisation efforts. We will address common hurdles such as regulatory complexities, funding gaps, cultural differences in innovation ecosystems and the challenge of scaling novel technologies to international markets. Strategies for fostering effective collaborations between academia, industry and government, alongside the importance of entrepreneurial mindset development within research institutions, will be critically examined. Ultimately, "Market the Mind" aims to provide actionable insights for researchers, policymakers and industry leaders seeking to

maximise the societal and economic impact of scientific endeavours on a global scale, fostering a more robust and interconnected innovation ecosystem.

Attendance: *Open to All*

### **Session 6: Empowering Early-Career Researchers in Times of Polycrisis: Trust, Just Transition, and Resilience Through International Collaboration**

The world is navigating a complex web of interconnected crises: climate change, social inequality, environmental degradation, public health challenges and geopolitical instability. In this era of transformation, international collaboration among members of young academies (YAs) and global science associations plays a crucial role in promoting trust and resilience among early-career researchers (ECRs). These collaborative networks facilitate the exchange of best practices, provide mutual support and empower young scientists to navigate systemic challenges while contributing meaningfully to global science systems. This session will highlight concrete case studies where YAs have collectively addressed barriers faced by ECRs through joint initiatives. It will focus on how such efforts foster a culture of resilience and credibility in science — particularly in contexts where systemic support is limited. Additionally, this session will explore how co-production of knowledge by engaging scientists, policymakers and civil society actors can generate inclusive, actionable solutions for a just and sustainable transition.

Attendance: *Open to All*

### **Session 7: Responsible and Sustainable AI for Society**

The session will explore ethical and sustainable governance of emerging technologies, particularly AI, digital platforms, biotechnologies, and genetic engineering. While these innovations offer significant opportunities for growth and wellbeing, they also raise urgent ethical, social, and environmental concerns—especially in regions with evolving policy frameworks. Speakers from diverse regions and institutions will share case studies, highlighting how technological advances align or conflict with local values, economic priorities, and sustainability goals. The discussion will generate actionable recommendations for science academies, policymakers, and stakeholders, aiming to strengthen global partnerships, build capacities, and guide responsible research and deployment. Expected outputs include a policy brief, white paper, and report, contributing to IAP's future agenda and fostering international cooperation in science and technology policy.

Attendance: *Open to All*

## **Session 8: Novel Discoveries and Meaning-Making: Risky and Challenging, but with a Transformative Potential**

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement, shifting political climates and evolving academic structures, the question of how to foster and evaluate novel scientific discoveries and meaning-making around them has become urgent. Ultimately, science advances not through papers or grants, but through real discoveries. While knowledge creation entails risk and failure, it can also shift scientific paradigms and transform societal and research-related structures. In this session, we explore the nature and value of novelty in scientific research—highlighting its importance, potential, systemic constraints and the timeliness of evolving discourse on these. We focus on three topics. (1) Novelty and technological change. We begin by examining how technology acts as an amplifier, enabling ground-breaking discoveries while reinforcing echo chambers and incentivising mediocrity. This duality prompts reflection on the structural conditions shaping scientific progress. (2) Novelty and challenges to academic freedom. Next, we address growing pressures on academic freedom. Political trends focused on short-term goals and marginalising high-risk research threaten discovery, often prioritising conformity over challenges to established paradigms. (3) Novelty and young scholars' career paths, research funding and evaluations. Finally, we consider academic career structures and evaluation metrics—especially for early-career researchers—which rarely reward curiosity-driven exploration, instead favouring predictable outcomes. We examine how research funding models support or neglect high-risk proposals, thereby influencing breakthroughs. Drawing on philosophy of science and social epistemology, this session invites participants to consider how to support novelty in science—not only in funding and evaluation, but also in defining success and excellence, valuing diverse outputs and justifying unequal opportunities to pursue risky ideas.

Attendance: *Open to All*

## **Session 9: Trust in Science: A Policy Agenda for Resilient Knowledge Systems**

Political polarisation and widespread misinformation are undermining public trust in science at an alarming pace. This is happening at a time when the need for science-based solutions to ensure the future of humanity and the planet's biodiversity has never been greater. The most existential threats, such as climate change and food insecurity, are global in nature, yet the development and implementation of cooperative international responses are being severely impeded by the spread of nationalism, xenophobia and isolationism, which are also antithetical to democracy. Our panellists, who represent Regional Networks or Science Academies across five continents, will bring their expertise spanning the physical, biological and social sciences to address solutions to the challenge of rebuilding trust in the scientific enterprise at local, regional, and global scales. Each panellist will give a brief presentation and then discuss points of convergence and a roadmap for next steps.

Attendance: *Open to All*

## **Session 10: Building Resilient and Collaborative Science Ecosystems: Strengthening Partnerships Across Government, Academia, Industry and Philanthropy**

Building resilient, inclusive and future-ready science ecosystems requires deliberate collaboration across sectors, including bringing together government, academia, industry and philanthropy to co-design research agendas, share risk and align investment with societal needs. This session brings together leaders from across these domains to explore how structured, trust-based platforms for cross-sectoral collaboration can be designed and sustained. It aims to address questions such as: How can science academies act as effective conveners of cross-sector partnerships? How can persistent barriers to coordination between public, private, and academic institutions—such as misaligned incentives, limited communication or lack of trust—be effectively addressed? The discussion will also explore existing models within academies for engaging government, industry and philanthropy and will examine what insights can be drawn from these approaches to guide others seeking to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration.

Attendance: *Open to All*





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