



Bridging Worlds through Science: Young researchers from over 40 countries gather for a conference on Science Diplomacy in Eindhoven, The Netherlands

How can Young Researchers develop evidence-based solutions to society?

EINDHOVEN, 18 May 2016 — From **25 to 29 May 2016**, outstanding early and mid-career scholars from over 40 countries are coming together in Eindhoven. They will explore and exchange ideas on Science Diplomacy and Open Data at the Global Young Academy (GYA) conference **“Bridging Worlds through Science”**. The University of Technology Eindhoven is hosting the event with support from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Dutch Young Academy, the University of Utrecht, the Interacademy Partnership (IAP) and other sponsors.

Science Diplomacy can take many forms. Policy-makers can benefit from evidence-based advice when addressing regional or even global challenges. Seeking solutions to humanitarian crises such as those arising from instability in Syria, for example, depends heavily on such [input](#). But making use of and enhancing international scientific cooperation is also a useful approach towards building trust between nations whose political relations are strained or broken. More generally, scientific exchange has a role to play in forging links between countries and contributing to overcoming the North-South and East-West divides.

“With their varied and often multi-disciplinary expertise, international experience, networks, and commitment to making the world a better place, the members of the GYA are particularly well positioned to support these science diplomacy activities,” emphasises Orakanoke Phanraksa (GYA Co-Chair, Thailand). And Eva Alisic, GYA Co-Chair from Australia, adds: “When you bring together scholars from Japan to Nigeria and from Mauritius to Scotland, it sparks creativity. Our members include mathematicians, linguists, physicians, and historians. Their conversations stimulate new perspectives on societal issues that concern us all.”

During the 6th International Conference of Young Scientists and Annual General Meeting of the Global Young Academy, GYA members and renowned international experts will present and debate examples of the possibilities that science diplomacy offers in international negotiation and peace building as well as with regard to open data.

Moreover, bringing together Global Young Academy members with outstanding Dutch young researchers from the Dutch Young Academy and the Young Academy of the University of Twente in Utrecht, the event gives them the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences at both academic and international level.

GYA Conference and AGM 2016: An event for scientists and storytellers!

The GYA's International Conference and AGM is a high-energy event, providing manifold opportunities for journalists. Our media team are happy to help you discover engaging and relevant stories for your readers. Take advantage of this unique opportunity:

- Explore the world's most ground-breaking research and ideas from the best and brightest young minds from countries across the globe.
- Be first in line to get insights on today's most pressing issues and the emerging topics of tomorrow.
- Access leading international scholars for first-hand perspectives and expertise.
- Engage with the current challenges and latest findings from various research fields, gathered at this year's AGM.

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Learn more about the Global Young Academy:

The Global Young Academy was founded in 2010 with the vision to be the voice of young scientists around the world. The GYA empowers early-career researchers to lead international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational dialogue by developing and mobilising talent from six continents. Its purpose is to promote reason and inclusiveness in global decision-making. Members are chosen for their demonstrated excellence in scientific achievement and commitment to service. Currently, there are 200 members and 134 alumni from 70 countries. The academy is hosted at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) in cooperation with the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The GYA received its seed funding from the Volkswagen Foundation, and since 2014, it has been funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and supported by the IAP: the Global Network of Science Academies. The GYA has also benefitted from project funding from a variety of donors and partners.

A report giving insight into the organisation's major achievements as the voice of young scientists may be downloaded at: <http://bit.ly/1L7WbQy>.

Find out more: <http://www.globalyoungacademy.net>

Further information about the GYA:

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Highlights from the programme open to press:

The GYA kindly invites members of the press to the following events:

Panel: “Science Diplomacy for International Negotiation and Peace Building”

WHAT: Unlocking alternative routes for transnational cooperation, the panel-discussion curated by GYA member [Abdeslam Badre](#) will explore the potential solutions that international science diplomacy can offer for scientific and diplomatic challenges that might hinder peace-building processes. The panellists will explore how current East-West-North-South divides can be overcome and how institutional, transnational cooperation can be achieved, even during times of political strain. Pivotal in the discussion of this panel is the question: How can we propagate evidence-based scientific solutions to society through diplomatic channels? Besides hearing shared stories and expertise of the participants with regard to science diplomacy for international peace-building, the audience will have the chance to interact and share their own perspectives with the speakers.

Panel discussion with: [Zafra Lerman](#) (USA), President of the Malta Conferences Foundation, [Helmut Schwarz](#) (Germany), President of the Humboldt Foundation, [Daya Reddy](#) (South Africa), President-Elect of the International Council for Science (ICSU), and GYA members [Abdeslam Badre](#) (Morocco), [Vidushi Nergheen-Bhujun](#) (Mauritius) and [Vanny Narita](#) (Indonesia).

WHEN: Thursday, 26 May, 13:30 to 15:00

WHERE: Auditorium, Room 7, Eindhoven University of Technology, 5612 AZ Eindhoven, Netherlands.

Panel: “Open Science and Science Diplomacy”

WHAT: Data have long moved across countries, as well as across and beyond research settings, often with profound implications for policy and relationships between regions and states. Curated by Open Science expert and social philosopher Sabina Leonelli, this panel aims to situate data sharing practices and associated Open Science mandates in the context of global networks and existing relationships between countries. We will discuss the wide variety of research cultures and work environments within which Open Data guidelines are to be implemented and the implications of current calls to disseminate data for international policy and science diplomacy.

Panel discussion with: [Simon Hodson](#), Executive Director of ICSU CODATA, [Daisy Selematsela](#), Executive Director of “Knowledge Management Corporate” from South Africa, GYA member and Open Science expert [Sabina Leonelli \(UK\)](#), GYA member [Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq](#) (Bangladesh) and GYA member [Sasha Kagansky \(UK\)](#).

WHEN: Friday, 27 May, 10:30 to 12:00

WHERE: Auditorium Room 5, Eindhoven University of Technology, 5612 AZ Eindhoven, Netherlands.

Science Session: “Bridging Worlds Through Science“

WHAT: Members of the Global Young Academy will give insights into their research related to diverse topics around Science Diplomacy.

Speakers: Kai Chan (Canada), Rym Kefi (Tunisia), Paul Mason (Australia), Shabana Khan (Bangladesh), Robert Lepenies (Germany), Milica Pešić (Serbia), Ali Douraghy (USA), Verena Lepper (Germany), Stefan Hild (UK)

WHEN: Friday, 27 May, 13:00 to 14:30

WHERE: Auditorium, Room 2, Eindhoven University of Technology, 5612 AZ Eindhoven, Netherlands.