

Senior Academies

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

The Leopoldina brings together the expertise of some 1,500 distinguished scientists to bear on questions of social and political relevance, publishing unbiased and timely scientific opinions. The Leopoldina represents the German scientific community in international committees and pursues the advancement of science for the benefit of humankind and for a better future.

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

ASSAf is the official national Academy of Science of South Africa and represents the country in the international community of science academies. ASSAf was inaugurated in May 1996 by the former President of South Africa and patron of the Academy, Nelson Mandela. It was formed in response to the need for an academy of science congruent with the dawn of democracy in South Africa – activist in its mission of using science for the benefit of society. The mandate of the Academy encompasses all fields of scientific enquiry and it includes the full diversity of South Africa's distinguished scientists.

German-South African Year of Science 2012/2013

The Year of Science between South Africa and Germany stems from the science and technology agreement between the two countries, which was signed in 1996. The agreement aims to strengthen science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation and collaboration in cutting-edge research between the two countries. Germany is a close partner and funder in the implementation of several regional technology transfer and climate change initiatives. The two countries will use the Year of Science as a strategic tool to assist in bringing focused attention to South Africa's science and technology initiatives and to illustrate German-South African cooperation in STI so that key audiences are able to appreciate the benefit for both countries.

Venue

Französische Friedrichstadtkirche; Georges-Casalis-Hall
Entrance from Charlottenstraße, opposite Hotel Sofitel
Gendarmenmarkt 5
10117 Berlin

Due to limited capacity, please register under:

<http://www.leopoldina.org/de/sustainability-research-2013>



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2012 | 2013

Deutsch-Südafrikanisches
Jahr der Wissenschaft
German-South African
Year of Science

BRIDGING TWO HEMISPHERES

POLICY ADVICE AND SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH
IN GERMANY AND SOUTH AFRICA

Panel Discussion

19 March 2013, 6.30 pm

Französische Friedrichstadtkirche
Georges-Casalis-Hall
Gendarmenmarkt 5
10117 Berlin



Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften



About the Panel Discussion

The increasing significance of sustainable development in contexts such as climate change, health and agriculture requires different information strategies in politics. In an unprecedented way, complex global problems call for political approaches based on information beyond conventional knowledge. This dependence on expert knowledge brings up many questions: What role does science have in the process of policy advice? How can science, which is by no means infallible, provide reliable advice on problems affecting the very future of human existence? Are scientists independent while providing policy advice? And finally, how can we integrate diverse perspectives from different continents towards a productive co-operation that benefits all partners?

The panel discussion seeks to explore the conditions, risks and potential of scientific policy advice on sustainable development. It offers an opportunity for politicians, administrative representatives and scientists to engage in a dialogue on the future of science's involvement in political decision making. It also raises questions about the particular role that young scientists can play in the provision of independent, reliable policy advice. The panel further aims to discuss how the growing network of Young Academies around the world can contribute to joint action, both in research and in information politics, on global problems requiring sustainable solutions.

The panel discussion takes place within the "German-South African Year of Science 2012/2013" and rounds up the symposium of the participating academies on "Socio-Ecological Novelty – Frontiers in Sustainability Research".

Programme

Welcome Address

Prof. Dr. Jörg Hacker

President of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Opening Remarks on Sustainability Research

Prof. Dr. Bernard Slippers

*Co-Chair of the Global Young Academy,
Member of the South African Young Academy of Science*

Dr. Silja Klepp

Member of Die Junge Akademie

Panel Discussion

Dr. Thomas Feist

Member of the German Bundestag

Wilfried Kraus

*Head of Directorate "Sustainability, Climate, Energy",
Federal Ministry of Education and Research*

Prof. Roseanne Diab

Executive Officer, Academy of Science of South Africa

Dr. Günther Bachmann

*Secretary General,
German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)*

Prof. Dr. Bernard Slippers

*Co-Chair of the Global Young Academy,
Member of the South African Young Academy of Science*

Dr. Silja Klepp

Member of Die Junge Akademie

Moderation: Dr. Dirk Asendorpf (Freelance Science Journalist)

Concluding Remarks

Prof. Dr. Daya Reddy

President of the Academy of Science of South Africa

The event will be followed by a reception.

Young Academies

Die Junge Akademie

Die Junge Akademie was founded in 2000 as a joint project of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. It is the first academy for the new academic generation worldwide. Incorporated into the budget of the Leopoldina since 2011, it receives its support from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, as well as from the states Berlin, Brandenburg, and Saxony-Anhalt. Its 50 members, young academics from German-speaking countries, are dedicated to interdisciplinary discourse and are active at the interfaces between academia and society.

The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS)

SAYAS was launched in September 2011 and represents a diverse range of talent in terms of race, gender and scientific discipline. SAYAS aims to represent the voice of young scientists on national and international issues and give them a platform to influence policy decisions; contribute towards the development of scientific capacity in South Africa through mentoring and role-modelling of future scientists, and by fostering opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations; promote science awareness among learners, young scientists and society in general in South Africa; and to provide opportunities for South African young scientists to interact internationally.

The Global Young Academy (GYA)

As the "voice of young scientists around the world," the GYA aims to empower and mobilize young scientists in their creative prime to address issues of particular importance to early career scientists and to advance science-society and science-policy dialogues. The GYA is an international academy that bridges the gap between the developing and the developed worlds. The GYA was founded in 2010 after discussions amongst top young scientists at the World Economic Forum "Summer Davos" meetings in 2008 and 2009. Today, it has 155 members from 55 countries on all continents.