Editorial

Nurturing Science Diplomacy: Young Academies' Role in Advancing STI and Global Collaborations

In the realm of international science collaborations, science diplomacy has emerged as a captivating concept. It urges governments to prioritise scientific collaborations, including mega-science projects, and motivates young scholars to pursue research in this emerging area. The increasing number of articles and social media posts featuring science diplomacy keywords and hashtags reflects the growing interest in the field and the involvement of a wide range of actors.

While organisations like the AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy, The World Academy of Science, the International Science Council play crucial roles in advancing science diplomacy, science academies have long been champions of promoting science, technology and innovation (STI). These academies have been instrumental in fostering scientific excellence, providing expert advice to policymakers, and facilitating international collaborations, thus making significant contributions to the field of science diplomacy.

Recognising the importance of involving young scholars, the first young science national academy was established in Germany in 2000, known as the "Die Junge Akademie" or "Young Academy." Currently, there are over 54 National Young Academies worldwide, along with additional similar national bodies, transnational young academies and young scientists' networks forming part of the broader young academies network.

We extended invitations to young academies, urging them to share their invaluable contributions to advancing science education, research, policy and diplomacy. Here, we present the four captivating write-ups highlighting young academies' diverse and impactful roles. The first article underscores the significance of science diplomacy in promoting a responsible global research ecosystem. It emphasises the need for the scientific community to harness science diplomacy through national academies and international organisations. This helps develop strategies tailored to local contexts while supporting globally harmonised and unified research conduct and integrity.

The second article highlights the Indonesian Young Academy of Sciences (ALMI) and its diplomatic roles in strengthening Indonesia's impact in advancing science for the betterment of the global community. The third article sheds light on the journey of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK) and the invaluable platform it provides for young scientists to connect, learn, and engage with the broader scientific community. Finally, the article on the Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) emphasises their commitment to enhancing their understanding of science diplomacy and policymaking.

Collectively, these articles explore the roles and achievements of young academies in advancing STI within their nations through national and international collaborations. Further interlinkages among these academies hold the potential for formulating new approaches that intertwine science and diplomacy, including capacity-building, scientific cooperation, collaboration, technology access and resource sharing.

Additionally, we present an insightful article that delves into India's G20 Presidency in 2023, with a specific focus on healthcare, prevention, preparedness, response to health emergencies, pharmaceutical cooperation, and digital health innovations. Given the G20's significance in terms of the global population, trade, and GDP, India's leadership becomes crucial in driving progress and pioneering solutions for global health challenges.

Furthermore, another compelling article explores the need for a regional dialogue on open science in South Asia, highlighting the potential role of the Open Science South Asia Network (OSSAN) in fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing within the region. By embracing open science practices, South Asia can accelerate efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals while nurturing a vibrant scientific ecosystem.

This issue also incorporates a report on the science diplomacy immersion program organised by GESDA (Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator), held in May 2023. The program aimed to foster collaboration and bridge the gap between science and diplomacy, offering key insights into its activities and outcomes. It highlights the transformative potential of science diplomacy in shaping the future of international cooperation.

We hope that the readers find this latest issue of Science Diplomacy informative and insightful. We look forward to your valuable feedback and comments as we continue to explore the multifaceted intersections of science, diplomacy, and global progress.

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