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**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
ACADEMY**

13th International  
Conference of Young  
Scientists  
June 2023  
Kigali, Rwanda

Technological Innovations for Discovering Solutions to the World's Greatest Current Challenges

## AGM 2023 Ticker #4 - Activities, Committees

The Ticker is the newsletter format reserved for bringing you the latest, important and overall necessary information for preparing your participation in the upcoming GYA Annual General Meeting (AGM).

[Visit the AGM Website](#)

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Welcome back to Ticker #4. We're well into May and the AGM is less than a month away. This mailing will be dedicated to the activities of the GYA, be it Working Groups, Incubators, GYA committees, etc.

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### Reminders

**Consider running for Office** – Unlike the GYA's other committees, members of the [Executive Committee \(our governing body\)](#) are elected by their fellow members. Consider running today! Check your inbox, the call should have come to you already.

**Look into visa question now** – You will need to have a visa to enter Rwanda. You can acquire your visa in one of two ways:

- Order and pay for it online through this link (processing time approx. 7 days): [https://irembo.gov.rw/home/citizen/all\\_services](https://irembo.gov.rw/home/citizen/all_services)
- Have your credit card (Visa or Mastercard) or cash (USD) on you at the airport in Kigali to purchase your visa upon arrival. We've been told by the Local Organising Committee that this is an easy and reliable way to get a visa, so if

you are usure about booking online, do not worry: getting a visa at the airport on arrival is easy.

There is a visa fee waiver for many countries; find out more here: [Venue & Travel - 2023 Annual General Meeting and International Conference](#) ([globalyoungacademy.net](#))

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## **Discuss what is close to *your* heart**

The call for GYA-related topics to be discussed at the General Assembly during the AGM has gone out recently. You may have submitted yours already. Yet, there is more to be discussed. Matters of importance, improving the well-being of the global community. Maybe the start of a new incubator? Here is a great example for you to read up on, sent in by [Christopher Paul Barrington-Leigh](#).

*“Why has no one yet collected a group of thinkers to undertake either of these two critical tasks our species must pursue for long-term success or survival: (1) to think-forward about how we would design constitutions and governance institutions at the nation level if we were starting from scratch, in light of new and future technology and in light of the unprecedented pace of technological change; and (2) to think-forward about how a global body/government with true enforcement power and proportionate spending power could ever come about or be sustained.”*

Read more of his thoughts here: [True Global Governance - GYA Agora](#) ([globalyoungacademy.net](#))

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## **Want to be featured in a podcast or video?**

During every in-person AGM, Senior Communications Officer James Curtiss conducts interviews with GYA members to feature in the GYA podcast “[Voices of Young Scientists](#)” as well as the video series “Humans of the GYA”: [Humans of the GYA - YouTube](#)

If you want to share your story with James during the upcoming AGM and conference, [email James Curtiss now](#), or find him in Kigali!



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## **GYA Activities Pt 1: The Working Groups, Incubators etc.**

As with in-person AGMs in the past, the 2023 AGM will be full of opportunities for GYA Activities Groups to come together, plan new projects, meet the new GYA members, transition to new co-leads, and showcase their work to fellow members and guests. GYA groups that are currently on pause can also use the in-person interactions to get re-started!

The [GYA Agora](#) will also be available to share materials and discuss topics of joint interest to group members, and [group websites](#) will be updated to reflect current activities and recent outcomes, as well as plans for the coming months, so that new members can find relevant information, group members can share documents, etc.

**The GYA Activities Fair** - As with previous in-person AGMs, the GYA Activities Fair is your chance to get to know all the working groups, committees and incubators, to recruit new members to your own activities, or to get involved in something new. It is also a fantastic opportunity to meet and mingle and discuss new ideas for projects. The Fair will open on 6 June 2023, and each group will present a poster, which will then stay on the walls until the evening of 8 June.

**The Internal Group Meetings** - Groups will also hold internal group meetings, to discuss next plans for your group, select new co-leads (where relevant) and to welcome new members to your group. These are included in the [AGM programme](#) as “GYA Activity Groups Time”. In addition, groups are encouraged to self-organise at least one post-AGM online meeting, to ensure transition to new co-leads, include members who were not in Kigali, and finalise any plans for the coming months.

**Join a group** - All groups will also welcome new members, who have already received information about how to engage with the GYA groups, and how to make the best of their time at the AGM from the Office at the end of April.

**Special formats** - Additionally, some groups will organise specific workshops during the AGM week; details can be found in the programme. There will also be a Highlights Session on Friday, 9 June, to highlight specific outcomes and finished projects by the various GYA Activities groups over the past year, and share lessons learned for the GYA.

**After the AGM** – Starting from mid-June 2023, groups will finalise their plans for coming months, apply for additional funding, and transition to new co-leads. An online meeting between group co-leads, the 2023/24 EC and the Office will then be organised for early July.

Important notice - All GYA Activity Groups co-leads should have received details of the above via email from Anna-Maria on 31 March. If not, or for any further Activity Groups-related questions, please contact [Anna-Maria](#) at the Office.

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## **Get Involved in the GYA's governance: the committees**

**What is a GYA committee?** - As a member-driven organization, the GYA runs several committees to organize its work, and they are tasked with a wide variety of aspects of the GYA's operations. You can choose what interests you most, and then join directly on the committee's website, or wait for the committee's membership call in June.

Information about all [GYA committees can be found on the website](#), and they will also be present at the GYA Activities Fair in Kigali.

**Opportunities at the AGM** - Similar to the Activities Groups, GYA committees will have ample opportunities to come together, meet the new GYA members interested in joining them, and showcase their work to fellow members. The GYA Agora will also be available to share materials and discuss topics of joint interest online. Anyone who is not yet a member of a committee can take the time and get to know the GYA committees and their work.

**Post-AGM Meetings** - To get everyone started for the 2023/24 period, individual online committee meetings will be organized after the AGM, when new members will have joined, and new committee co-leads will be in place.

**Your GYA Office contact** - For anything relating to the GYA committees and the AGM please contact Anna-Maria ([Anna-Maria.Gramatte@globalyoungacademy.net](mailto:Anna-Maria.Gramatte@globalyoungacademy.net))

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## The GYA and the worldwide network of Young Academies

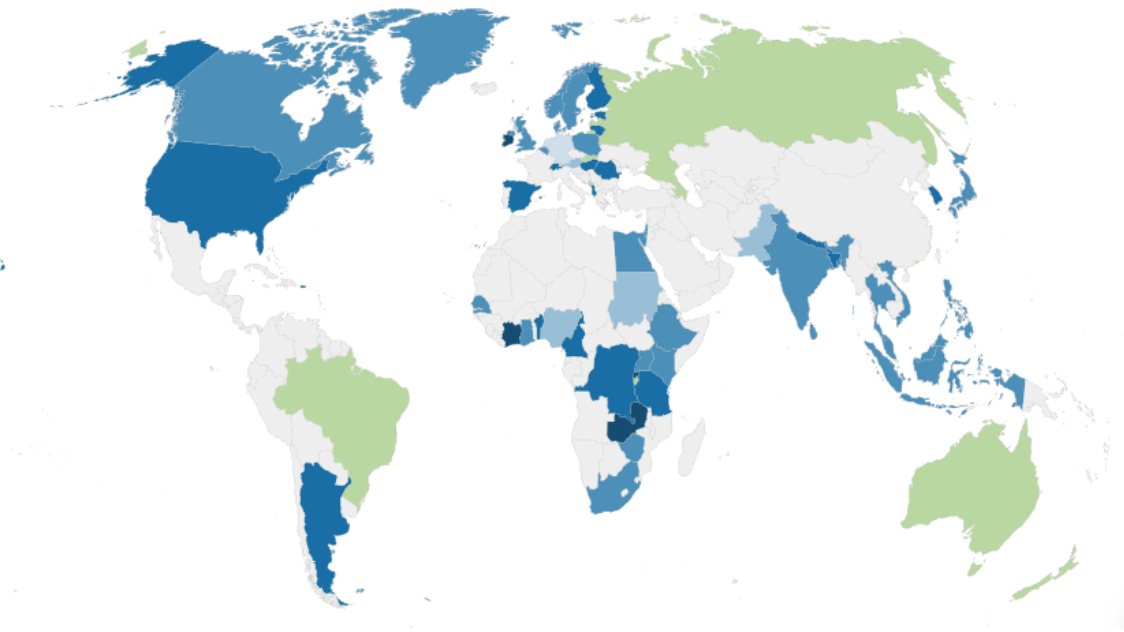
In addition to its work as a member-based, independent young academy, the GYA is also able to act as a network facilitator for the world's young academies through:

- Providing a network for communication and information-sharing among the young academies on our dedicated [Young Academies website](#), or via GYA-maintained mailing lists.
- Collecting and sharing best practices for the creation and [establishment of new young academies](#).
- Acting as (co-)organiser of young academy meetings, e.g., the recent [Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies in 2022](#).
- Acting as convener for joint young academy activities, e.g., the coordination of the drafting of the [2019 Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Young Academies](#).

**Young Academies at the AGM** - In light of our role vis-à-vis the world's young academies, we are delighted to note that a number of representatives from national young academies will join us at our 2023 AGM and Conference. At the same time, several of our GYA members are also members of a national young academy or are currently working to create one in their respective country.

**Relevant AGM Panels** - During the Conference, Panel II on 6 June will look at “Technological innovations for solving global challenges: the role of Young Academies” and will feature speakers from several young academies as well as from GYA partners.

**Discussing Young Academies in Kigali** - Should you want to discuss the GYA's collaboration with the young academies, or should you be interested in setting up a national young academy in your country, or for any other young academy-related question, please come and find Anna-Maria from the Office and EC members [Filippo](#) and [Encieh](#) during one of the coffee breaks in Kigali!



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## Introducing the Rwanda Young Academy

One of the world's youngest national young academies is the [Rwanda Young Academy of Science](#) (RYAS), which officially launched in 2022 to bring the voice from the country's early-career researchers into the national debate and contribute towards the development of Rwanda's scientific capacity through mentoring future scientists, providing role models, and fostering opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations. So far, they have partnered with local organizations to organize workshops on science communication and scientific writing, and some of their members are currently actively supporting planning and organizing the GYA 2023 AGM and Conference in Kigali. The GYA is looking forward to meeting the RYAS members in Kigali in June!



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## Ticker Travel Tips - Rwanda edition pt4

Get around Kigali (on foot, public transport, cars?)

Kigali has city buses with a 'Tap and Go' card to get around. Taxis are available but pricey and not too frequently visible. Then there are Motos. Looking these up will have you find different accounts of what it's like to ride one. Use at your own risk – remember, it's mandatory to wear a helmet and not a custom to hold on to the driver while on the back of one. Bikes are also rather popular and using either cash at a station or an app, you can rent a bike to get around Kigali. Last but not least, there is the option to walk.

### **Food, and drink: What's good?**

If you are interested in truly Rwandan specialities, have a look at this article, we found for you: [A Taste of Kigali: Uniquely Rwandan Dishes \(theculturetrip.com\)](https://theculturetrip.com)

Eat out? Where to?!

After a long conference day, sometimes all you want to do is sit down with something to drink and a bite to eat while continuing the great talk with your fellow GYA members and alumni. Kigali has quite a number of places to offer. Here is an article from November 2021, listing quite a variety of different places and what you can get there. Note that it even lists vegetarian and vegan options: [The Best Restaurants in Kigali - Living in Kigali](#)

### **How about tipping?**

Sure go ahead. But there are a few things to know when choosing whom and how much to tip while in Rwanda. There is comprehensive guide on it to be found here [Tipping in Rwanda | Expert Africa](#)

### **Sightseeing: What to see and where to go when you have a moment**

The week will be extremely busy and yet, you might find yourself with a bit of time to go see something while in Kigali. Places and things to do often mentioned are for example:

- Pay your respects at the Genocide Memorial (there is a visit to the Memorial scheduled as part of the programme)
- Visit the Presidential Palace
- Check out the Gaddafi Mosque

But there is more. Check out this guide for more ideas: [11 Top Things to See and Do in Kigali \(theculturetrip.com\)](#)

### **Beautiful places worth a walk**

If you're downtown, check out the Kigali CarFree Zone, which has been transformed specifically for pedestrians. The areas often recommended to go for a walk are Gaculiro and Nyarutarama roads as they are quieter and not so busy with traffic.

### **National Parks**



Rwanda has 4 national parks to visit. Find information about all four here: [National Parks – Visit Rwanda](#). You can book Safaris online if you are interested in going on one after the AGM. They range from a single day trip to two or even three days. Get in touch with other AGM members to plan and organise for going on a Safari together (to share and lower costs). One option to do that is posted here for you on the Agora: [Staying on in Rwanda past the AGM? Let's coordinate! - GYA Agora](#) ([globalyoungacademy.net](http://globalyoungacademy.net))

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## **Inspirational Words: Why attend an AGM**

Together with members and alumni who attended the 2018 and / or 2019 AGMs, let us reminisce a little and be inspired by what an in-person AGM is like.

These are excerpts, and the full quotes can be found here:

[Inspirational Quotes - 2023 Annual General Meeting and International Conference](#) ([globalyoungacademy.net](http://globalyoungacademy.net))



### **Paulina Carmona**

*"[...] little did I know in that time, that alumna Dilfuza Egamberdieva would become my partner in a grant that we were to be awarded a year later! The bond we formed happened thanks to all the experiences we shared during that AGM, and it created a collaboration that we still carry on, with many successful stories on the journey."*

Paulina's quote is [here](#).

### **Sandeep Kaur**

*"My selection as a GYA member and then attending my first in-person AGM in Halle in 2019 has been an unforgettable experience which I recall even today. Attending the Lightning Talks, making new friends from diverse backgrounds and cultures from around the world has helped me both personally and professionally."*

Sandeep's quote is [here](#).

### **Stefan Kohler**



*“I asked some of the many questions I had about the GYA. I felt a shared open-mindedness and curiosity that continued throughout the bus ride, the AGM, and ever since.”*

Stefan’s full quote is [here](#).

### **Shalini Arya**

*“I know you are extremely busy with your obligations but believe me, attending GYAs AGM and having fun with your GYA friends is all the therapy you need.”*

Shalini’s full quote is [here](#).

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So, this is the final regular Ticker. The next one will come to your inboxes right before you leave for Kigali. It will be chock full of all the things you will need to know We are looking forward to seeing you in Kigali.

Hope to see you in Kigali.

Take good care.

The GYA Office



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