Highlights

We look back at our main activities this month and look forward to key events in the coming months.

Vietnam Young Academy welcomes its new members. We are excited to announce our newest members to start 2017. The members highlight the diversity of backgrounds, expertise and geography, including:

- Dr. Abel Polese (Center for Sustainable Development Studies, Hanoi)
- Dr. Cao Cuong (Queen’s University of Belfast, UK)
- Dr. Tham Chi Dung (Vice Chief, Division of Provider Payment Mechanism Management, Department of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Health, Hanoi)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Huy (Hanoi Medical University, Hanoi)

Constitution of Vietnam Young Academy (VYA) and the story of VYA Logo are translated into Vietnamese. Thanks to Dr. Truong Phuoc Nghia, Dr. Tran Quang Huy, Mr. Nguyen Van Phong, and Prof. Nguyen TK Thanh, the VYA constitution and logo story in Vietnamese version are now available on VYA website.

VYA Members to be actively involved in newsletters. VYA will publish its monthly newsletter in the New Year 2017. All members have the right and responsibility to email appropriate updates to VYA <info@vietnamyoungacademy.org> by the 23rd of each month with the subject "newsletter items". The newsletter will be released in the first week of each month.

VYA Members to be actively involved in promoting VYA and recruiting new members. VYA is promoting itself via various networks, including iVAnet, Saigon Scientist, and "Tạp chí Y học dự phòng – Vietnam Journal of Preventive Medicine". As part of the effort, Prof. Nguyen T. K. Thanh has reached out to hundreds of excellent researchers attending "The International Workshop on Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology (IWAMN) 2016" in Hanoi with VYA fliers and discussions. VYA members are encouraged to promote VYA in their professional networks and report outcomes to VYA.

Call for Annual General Meeting. We request that all VYA members manage to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) via Skype at 11 pm (London time) on January 7th, 2017. We will vote for selecting Chair and Operations Committee Members, for amendment of the VYA constitution, and discuss plans and development strategies for VYA activities, as well as roles and responsibilities of each member. Please send detailed items for agenda for AGM to Dr. Tran Quang Huy (huytq.nihe@gmail.com) to compile before the meeting.

Call for nomination of Chair and Operations Committee. We call for nomination for the Chair and four operations committee members. The Chair will deal with daily operations of the affairs of VYA, within the aims and goals set out by the Operations Committee. Any VYA member can nominate him/herself or other members for election to be the Operations Committee Member or the Chair of VYA. Elections for the Operations Committee Members and Chair of the VYA will take place during the AGM. Please send your nomination to <info@vietnamyoungacademy.org> by January 5th, 2017. The nomination form will be available on VYA website shortly.
RECENT ACTIVITIES

VYA selection committee meeting was held in December 2016. After the December 5th, 2016 deadline for membership application, VYA organized the selection committee meeting on December 10, 2016. Despite working from different geographic locations and time zones -- Vietnam, London, California, Florida, and Australia -- the committee members had fruitful discussions. VYA founder, Prof. Nguyen T. K. Thanh and selection committee members including Dr. Truong Phuoc Nghia, Dr. Tran Quang Huy, Assoc. Prof. Phan Manh Huong and Dr. Hanh Lam held a Skype meeting to select new members, and to discuss about VYA activities in the coming months as well as approaches for promoting VYA and broadening its impact.

Dr. Huy, the VYA representative, joined the 1st Asian National Young Academy meeting from 15 – 16 December 2016, Bangkok, Thailand. 30 participants came from 24 countries in the world. Strengthening the linkage and promoting collaboration of the NYAs in Asia is one of the main focuses of the meeting. The meeting addressed important challenges in panel discussions on how young scientists could contribute to the science communication and what challenges young scientists have encountered with the science communication.

At the meeting, Dr. Huy presented the history, challenges, and opportunities of VYA as part of the "success story and Initiative", shared by 11 Asian countries. Dr. Huy met with Dr. Beate Wagner - Managing Director of Global Young Academy (GYA), Dr. Mari-Vaugh V. Johnson, and Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa - Co-chairs of GYA to discuss about the possibility of organizing an international scientific meeting in Vietnam in 2019. During the meeting, Dr. Huy actively interacted with the members of Executive Committee, the members of GYA, and young scholars coming from other countries.

Photo of Dr. Huy with Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj -Minister of Science and Technology (Thailand) and other participants (photo by GYA)
Member Corner:
Congratulations to Dr. Nguyen Tue Anh to a research position at Harvard University.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

VYA Annual General Meeting will take place at 11 pm London time, January 7th, 2017. We will vote for selecting Chair and Operations Committee Members, and discuss necessary refinements for the VYA constitution.

All VYA members will contribute to the "Knowledge Identifier" project. Each member will identify an essential handbook or a textbook in our area of expertise and translate it to Vietnamese to be published in the VYA library. VYA will raise fund for these activities with the help of Mr. Nguyen Van Phong of Vietnam Embassy in London.

The Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies, co-organized by the Global Young Academy (GYA) and South African Young Academy of Science, will be held in South Africa in 2017. We call for nomination, including self-nomination, of one representative of VYA to attend the event. We plan to apply for co-funding the trip, but the applicant also needs to seek his/her own funding as well.

Annual Assembly of Global Young Academy will take place in May 2017 in Scotland. We call for nomination of one representative of VYA to attend the meeting. Self-nomination is allowable. We would like to apply for co-funding the trip, but the applicants also need to apply for their own funding.

Professor Nguyen TK Thanh will visit Ministry of Education and Training in Vietnam and other research institutes and Universities in Vietnam to establish a PhD program between Vietnam and University College London (UCL). The work is sponsored by UCL Global Engagement Office.

The nomination form for selection of Chair and Operation Committee Members of the VYA will be sent out shortly.

VYA members will work together to engage the ghost members to participate in VYA activities. In order to fulfil our scope and mission, each VYA member has the right and responsibility to contribute to VYA activities. Members are encouraged to contact VYA members to get involved in its activities. Member can resign if he/she thinks VYA is not right for him/her, so that no valuable time is wasted by any parties.