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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020
1. Highlight

1.1 Prof. N. T. K. Thanh participated the World Science Forum 2019

Prof. N. T. K. Thanh – founder of Vietnam Young Academy, co-founder of Global Young Academy participated in the 2019 World Science Forum (WSF) held in Budapest, Hungary from 20-23 November 2019.

The 2019 World Science Forum (WSF) brought together over one thousand scientists and scholars, policymakers, industrialists and science communicators to discuss ‘Science, Ethics and Responsibility’. The Declaration on Guiding Principles of Young Academies was launched at the WSF on 20 November 2019 with a large number of young academy representatives being present; this has been compiled by representatives of many Young Academies from around the globe, based on discussions at the 4th Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies (WWMYA) held by VYA in July-August 2019 in Danang, Vietnam.

At the WSF, Prof. N. T. K. Thanh has discussed about Vietnam to host the WSF in 2025 with President of Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Her Royal Highness Sumaya bint El Hassan – President, Royal Scientific Society of Jordan and received a very positive response.

Right to left: Prof. Nguyen T. K. Thanh, Dr. Connie Nschemereiwe – co-chair of Global Young Academy, Prof László Lovász – President of Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) and Her Royal Highness Sumaya bint El Hassan – President, Royal Scientific Society of Jordan at WSF, Budapest November 2019. Photo: MTA

1.2 New co-chairs and Operation Committee members of VYA

On January 5th 2020, VYA held an Annual General Meeting. Congratulations to Dr Hanh Lam and Dr Nguyen Minh Nam for being elected as co-chairs of VYA, and Dr. Nguyen Thuy Ba Linh and Dr Tran Thi Lan Anh as operation committee members.

The workload of VYA will be carried out voluntarily among members, advisory board and friends.
1.3 **Prof Vo Van Toi is a new advisor of VYA**

We are delighted to announce that **Prof Vo Van Toi** has become a new advisor of VYA. He is currently vice-provost for Development of Life and Health Science, Engineering and Technology, former chair of Biomedical Engineering Department, School of Biomedical Engineering, International University, VNU – HCMC.

Professor Vo Van Toi was known to be a wonderful colleague and educator and also the visionary and founder of the Biomedical Engineering program at Tufts University. Before joining Tufts in 1984, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Biomedical Engineering Center in the MIT/Harvard Division of Health Sciences and Technology. Professor Vo was instrumental in establishing the Department of Biomedical Engineering in 2002. His research in the design of ophthalmic instruments including a device for treating the common condition of dry eye led to his establishment of a small company, Technological Ophthalmic Instruments. He received the Lillian and Joseph Leibner Award for Distinguished Teaching and Advising in 2004.

In 2004 Prof Vo Van Toi was appointed by President Bush to the Vietnam Education Foundation which is a federal agency whose mission is to strengthen ties between Vietnam and the United States through educational and scientific exchanges. In 2007 he received the honor of being named its executive director. Professor Vo has played a key role in establishing biomedical...
1.4 Guest Article from a former Executive Committee of the Global Young Academy

By Associate Professor Martin Dominik, University of St Andrews, Scotland, United Kingdom

Vietnam is currently amongst the fastest-developing countries in the world. However, this is not that widely recognised, despite Vietnam being a sizeable country with a population of around 100 million, because its international visibility suffers from a shadow cast by its gigantic neighbour China. Vietnam started substantial economic reforms in 1986, like China did about a decade earlier, but significant cultural, societal and historic differences mean that Vietnam’s path could significantly diverge from that of China. Rather than straying into false analogies, it is important to understand local specificities for developing solutions that work in practice.

The most important asset of any country are its people, and efficient use of the human potential for the benefit of society is key for progress. If capability and creativity meet opportunity, challenges can be mastered. Crucially, this requires collaborative efforts, facilitated by platforms that encourage the exchange of ideas and expertise.

One such platform is the Vietnam Young Academy, formed of leading Vietnamese scholars, some of which are based in Vietnam, and others abroad. Its model of self-governance means that all activities are chosen and led by its members. A wide range of expertise and experience invites to think beyond specific research areas and towards societal relevance, impact, and responsibility.

Having joined the Global Young Academy in 2012, I found nothing more rewarding than being able to see the snowball effect of an initial spark of an idea growing through the interactions within a strong team into a concrete project that makes a difference and develops its own dynamics of further efforts.

Vietnam is changing. – Now is the time to engage in shaping its future…
 Assoc. Prof. Martin Dominik (second from the left) with VYA advisory board and members at WWMYA 2019 in Danang, Vietnam

**Biography:** Martin Dominik is a Reader in Physics & Astronomy at the University of St Andrews, and has completed his doctorate (Dr. rer. nat.) at the University of Dortmund (Germany) in 1996. Since 1993, Martin's research has focused on applications of the gravitational bending of light, and in particular its potential for studying planets orbiting stars other than the Sun. Martin is a strong advocate of communication being an essential part of science, and science being an integral part of society and culture. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Global Young Academy, and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Vietnam Young Academy, as well as the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Permanent Committee of the International Academy of Astronautics. He is engaged in shaping research environments that make creative minds flourish, and is moreover involved in building capacity in fundamental sciences and improving education in the Middle East, having overseen an extensive programme "Fascination Astronomy" in Qatar.
1.5 New VYA member

We are delighted to announce that Dr Nguyen Thuy Ba Linh and Dr Tran Thi Lan Anh have just joined VYA.

Dr Nguyen Thuy Ba Linh received full scholarships for M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from South Korea and later moved to the UK for postdoctoral work at Oxford University and currently, she is a lecturer in the Department of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, UCL, UK. Be a chemist and being an experienced researcher in Biomedical Engineering & Science for 8 years, she has been involved in several projects of chemistry, biomaterials, tissue engineering and relevant fields.

- Experience in:
  - the synthesis and characterization of biomaterials including biopolymers and bioceramic
  - the development and testing of new biomaterial for bone, skin, neural and blood vessel regeneration
  - three-dimensional cell culture and characterization
  - histology analysis for bone and skin tissue engineering

- Bioreactor technique for tissue culture and stem cell expansion
- Design and build laboratory equipment needed for special research projects
- Supervise, mentor and guide MSc and PhD students
- Examination for PhD upgrade viva and final viva.

Dr Tran Thi Lan Anh's background is in law. She holds a PhD in International Law from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. After completing a PhD in Law in 2009, she went on to conduct post-doctoral research on international human rights law at the University. Her main research interests include Intellectual Property Law, International Human Rights Law, the economic and legal systems of Asian countries.

She has conducted research into the legal and political systems of Asian nations especially Vietnam and China since 1994 when she graduated with a degree in Law from the School of Law, Hanoi National University. She worked as a senior official for the Vietnamese Government for more than 10 years from 1997 to 2013 with periods of official leave granted for studying and working in the...
UK. She worked as an Executive Member of the Executive Council of the Asian International Law Society in 2011-2013.

At present, she works as a consultant in law and country expert in Asian countries, based in the UK, and provide special research to the court in relevant cases. She also conducts tailored (to specific customer requests) research on Asian nations.

### 1.6 VYA Wiki Page:

Dr. Robert Lepenies is a research scientist at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research and an executive committee member of the Global Young Academy. He is working on improving the visibility of global young scientists [https://tools.wmflabs.org/reasonator/?q=Q75833130&lang=en](https://tools.wmflabs.org/reasonator/?q=Q75833130&lang=en)

and created a VYA Wiki page: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:GlobalYoungAcademyTeam/Vietnam_Young_Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:GlobalYoungAcademyTeam/Vietnam_Young_Academy). To help the process and save labour time, we request all VYA members to send your ORCID or Google page to: Dr Nguyen Minh Nam (email: minhnam1984@gmail.com). Wikidata will automatically source all publications without anyone having to input manually.

### 2. VYA Community news

#### 2.1 Prof. N. T. K. Thanh will co-chair the 13th International Conference on the Scientific and Clinical Applications of Magnetic Carriers

June 2-5, 2020 | London, UK

Magnetic particles of nano- and micro-sized dimensions are an area of intense research. To bring together scientists from chemistry, physics, medicine, biology, engineering and materials sciences and discuss in a collaborative manner the applications in technology, preclinical research and diagnostic and therapeutic medicine, a conference about this field is organized every two year.

For more information, please visit: [http://magneticmicrosphere.com/meeting-thirteenth](http://magneticmicrosphere.com/meeting-thirteenth)

#### 2.2 VYA Community Publication


3. Call for new members

We are inviting high quality applicants to join VYA. There are four application deadlines each year, which are on January 31st, April 30th, July 31st, and October 31st.

The deadline for the next application round is on January 31st, 2020. The application form and guideline are available on our VYA website. Please contact Dr. To Thanh Loan (email: totloan@itims.edu.vn) for more details.

4. Conference news

4.1 International Veterinary Vaccinology Network Conference 2020

The International Veterinary Vaccinology Network Conference 2020, hosted in partnership with CIRAD and the National Institute of Veterinary Research, will be on the 16th – 18th March 2020 in The Melia Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam.

This three-day event will build on the success of the inaugural IVVN conference in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2018 and the UK & International Veterinary Vaccinology Network Conference in London, UK in January 2019. IVVN annual conferences are an excellent opportunity for the global veterinary vaccinology community to meet, and establish novel,
international collaborations that are required to develop vaccines for livestock and zoonotic diseases of importance in low-and-middle income countries (LMICs).

The IVVN Conference will consist of four species-specific themes:

- **Vaccines for Poultry**: co-hosted by **One Health Poultry Hub** and chaired by Professor Fiona Tomley (Royal Veterinary College, UK) and Professor Hualan Chen (Harbin Veterinary Research Institute, China)
- **Vaccines for Aquaculture**: chaired by Professor Sandra Adams (University of Stirling, UK) and Dr Thao Ngo (Biotechnology Centre of Ho-chi Min City, Vietnam)
- **Vaccines for Ruminants**: chaired by Professor Bryan Charleston (The Pirbright Institute, UK) and Dr Yanmin Li (Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, China)
- **Vaccines for Swine**: chaired by Dr Simon Graham (The Pirbright Institute, UK) and Dr Filip Claes (Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases, Thailand)

For more information, please visit: [https://www.intvetvaccnet.co.uk/events/annual-conference-2020](https://www.intvetvaccnet.co.uk/events/annual-conference-2020)

**4.2 The 2nd International Symposium “Functional Nanomaterials in Industrial Application: Academy – Industry Meet”**

Up to five talent PhD students from developing world will have the opportunity to present their work (20 mins oral) at 2nd International Symposium “Functional Nanomaterials in Industrial Application: Academy – Industry Meet” 14th – 16th April 2020, Preston, United Kingdom. Registration fees, food and accommodation for 2 night will be covered from the late Mrs Laxmi Sen memorial bursary. This will also provide an opportunity to publish their work in high impact journals.

**Deadlines: 31st January 2020.**

For more information, please visit: [https://secondnanosymposiumatuclan.net/](https://secondnanosymposiumatuclan.net/)

**4.3 The 8th International Conference on the Development of Biomedical Engineering (BME8)**

The 8th International Conference on the Development of Biomedical Engineering (BME8) will be held from July 20th to 22nd 2020 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The BME8 aims to promote the connections among research, entrepreneurship and education in biomedical engineering with the theme of “Healthcare Technology for Smart City in Low and Middle Income
Countries (LMIC)". Vietnam is a LMIC, yet it has an intellectual workforce of an emerging country. In addition, LMIC have many unexplored research topics very attractive to pioneer researchers to discover. Therefore, this meeting serves as an exciting forum and a model of LMIC to exchange novel ideas, discuss current biomedical issues, propose solutions and develop collaborations on translational research and technologies in healthcare applications particularly for LMIC. The official language is English.

**Abstract submission: Jan 1st 2020 – Mar 1st 2020**

For more information, please visit: [https://bme.hcmiu.edu.vn/bme8](https://bme.hcmiu.edu.vn/bme8)

5. **Funding and award opportunities**

5.1 **UK Research and Innovation**

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), invites proposals for international, interdisciplinary, collaborative research aiming to understand the risks plastic pollution poses in Low- and Middle-Income Countries and to explore which interventions, policies and regulations can mitigate these risks.

The programme is funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) at a maximum of £3.5m for each Project. It is expected that projects will start in July 2020 and have a maximum duration of four years. For this call, collaboration with an UK research organisation is required.

This call has a Notification of Intent to Submit and a Full Proposal application stage. A Notification of Intent to Submit should be submitted using the Online form no later than 20 January 2020.


5.2 **Announcement of Opportunity: Reducing the Impacts of Plastic Waste in Developing Countries**

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), invites proposals for international, interdisciplinary, collaborative research projects under the Reducing the Impacts of Plastic Waste in Developing Countries call. This programme is funded through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

GCRF forms part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, and funding under this call will be awarded in a manner consistent with ODA guidelines.
The aim of this programme is to support the interdisciplinary research needed to understand the risks plastic pollution poses in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) and to explore which interventions, policies and regulations can mitigate these risks. Research to develop new forms of plastic or alternatives to plastic is out of scope for this programme. The outputs of the research will support economic growth and societal wellbeing by enabling a cleaner and more resilient and productive environment.

All projects are required to have a Principal Investigator based in a UK Research Organisation eligible to hold UKRI grants. For this call, standard NERC eligibility rules apply, however it should be noted that PIs and Co-Is from any discipline supported by UKRI are welcomed and encouraged to apply, within the parameters of the call. Projects involving co-investigators and researchers based in LMICs are expected, and are eligible to receive funding via a UK Research Organisation.

This call has a Notification of Intent to Submit and a Full Proposal application stage. A Notification of Intent to Submit should be submitted using the Online form no later than 16:00 GMT on 20 January 2020.

Full proposals must be submitted via the UK Research Councils’ Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system before 16:00 GMT on 17 March 2020.

For more information, please visit: https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/gcrf-plastics/news/ao-reducing-impact-of-plastic-waste/

5.3 Germany: International Climate Protection Fellowship for Young Climate Experts from Developing Countries

Spend a year working with a host of your choice in Germany on a research-based project you have developed yourself in the field of climate protection and climate-related resource conservation. Details here.


Vietnamese researchers may apply.

5.4 MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) funds short-term exchanges of personnel between academic, industrial and commercial organisations throughout the world. It helps people develop their knowledge, skills and careers, while building links between organisations
working in different sectors of the economy, including universities, research institutes and SMEs.

**Proposals must include at least three partners**, which can be academic or non-academic organisations from **three different countries**. At least **two of these should be from the EU or associated countries**.

Exchanges between organisations in **EU or associated countries** must be between different sectors. In worldwide partnerships, exchanges within the same sector are possible. **Details here**

**Deadline: 28 April 2020.**

Partners from non-European countries including **ASEAN can join**.

### 5.5 France: Eiffel Excellence Scholarships for PhD and Master’s degrees in 2020

The Eiffel Excellence Scholarship Program was established by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to enable French higher education institutions to attract top foreign students to enroll in their masters and PhD programs. The Eiffel Excellence Scholarship Program is awarded to two types of studies: Masters (12 - 36 months) and and PhD Scholarships for research periods in France of up to 12 months. **Details here**

**Deadline: 9 January 2020.**

Students from ASEAN are eligible.

### 5.6 Hungary: Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarships for Bachelor, Masters, Doctoral, and Non-degree Programmes

Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme for bachelor, master, doctoral, and non-degree programmes (preparatory and specialisation courses) in Hungary. In ASEAN, the call is open to citizens of Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Apart from the tuition-free education, the Programme provides monthly stipend, medical insurance and housing allowance. **Details here**

**Deadline: 15 January 2020.**
5.7 **UK: Wellcome Trust Doctoral Studentships in Humanities or Social Sciences**

This scheme enables researchers to undertake humanities or social science doctoral degrees in any area of health. Up to 3 years of funding that includes a stipend, research expenses and tuition fees. **Details here**

**Deadline:** 16 March 2020.

5.8 **UK: Wellcome Trust International Training Fellowships in Health**

This scheme offers nationals of low- and middle-income countries the opportunity to receive training in health at postgraduate or postdoctoral level. **Details here**

**Deadline:** 30 April 2020.

ASEAN Countries Eligible.

5.9 **Belgium: Global Minds Doctoral Scholarships Programme at KU Leuven for Developing Countries**

As one of its contributions to development cooperation, every academic year KU Leuven selects exceptional students from developing countries, including Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam, as scholarship candidates to obtain their PhD from the largest university of Belgium. The Global Minds Programme is managed by IRO, the university's Interfaculty Council for Development Cooperation. **Details here**

**Deadline:** 15 January 2020.

5.10 **Denmark: AIAS-COFUND Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships in a Wide Range of Research Fields**

Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) is pleased to announce that up to 15 AIAS-COFUND fellowships are available for the most talented researchers from around the world including researchers from countries in ASEAN. The scheme is funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (grant agreement no 754513) and Aarhus University Research Foundation. **Details here**

**Deadline:** 17 January 2020.
6. News on Global Young Academy

6.1 Global DIY Biology survey & Risk Perception survey

Here are two surveys from the GYA working group on DIY Biology. These are part of the group’s project on developing a report on the global DIY Biology research landscape:

1. Global DIY Biology survey

This survey is conducted by the GYA in collaboration with Sunway University and funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The aim is to explore the global landscape of DIY biology and understand the challenges and opportunities in the field. We plan to use this information to inform policies that can help support the maximising of benefits and minimising of the associated risks related to the DIY biology field. This survey will take about 10-20 minutes of your time. Please follow this link to access the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/diybio

2. Perception of Bio-Risks survey

This survey is conducted by the GYA in collaboration with Sunway University and funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The aim is to understand the perception of bio-risks associated with Do-it-yourself (DIY) Biology. We plan to use this information to inform policies that can help support the maximising of benefits and minimising of the associated risks related to the DIY biology field. This survey will take about 10-20 minutes of your time. Please follow this link to access the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/biorisk

Please participate in these surveys before 31 January 2020, and disseminate to your contacts and relevant stakeholders outside the GYA.

6.2 The First Tsukuba Conference

The first Tsukuba Conference took place from 2-4 October 2019 in Tsukuba, Japan, and aimed to provide young researchers, scientists and entrepreneurs a platform to discuss and debate global issues, to put together action plans and proposals, and to reach out to the global community.

In addition to the conference-wide contributions of nearly a dozen other GYA members, GYA Co-Chair Koen Vermeir (France), GYA Executive Committee member Yoko Shimpuku (Japan), and GYA member Karly Kehoe (Canada) wrote and signed the “Tsukuba Declaration” as an affirmation and a proclamation from future-shapers to the world to help solve global challenges and to sustain our world. The Tsukuba Declaration is available here.
6.3 First World Young Scientist Summit held in Wenzhou, China

On 26 October 2019, the First World Young Scientist Summit was held in Wenzhou, China. The meeting was unprecedented in China for its focus on young researchers and scholars, and covered all possible academic areas. Attendees came from over 70 countries, and very much resembled the GYA in both spirit and agenda.

The aspiration of the hosts, Dr. Meng WANG, President of the YES Network, and GYA member Alexander (Sasha) Kagansky (Russia), was to include young scientists in decision making, and invite them to take responsibility for reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in China, Asia, and worldwide.

Read more here.

6.4 GYA members make a splash at the World Health Summit

At this year’s World Health Summit, which is one of the world’s leading strategic forums for global health, GYA member and immediate past Co-Chair Tolu Oni (United Kingdom) spoke
during the opening ceremony, and several other GYA members were on hand to organize and participate in sessions throughout the three-day event.

Each year the World Health Summit (WHS) takes place in Berlin, Germany. This year 300 speakers and 2,500 participants from 100 countries, including 20 ministers from around the world and the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), took part.

GYA members organized “The New Voices in Global Health” (NVGH) session, Chaired by Stefan Kohler (Germany), and GYA Co-Chair Koen Vermeir, which explored the (dis)connection of various sciences with global health research, policy or advocacy. GYA members from diverse disciplines discussed how their work relates to global health and how their field relates to broader global challenges that usually require interdisciplinary expertise and collaboration.