

SUMMARY REPORT



Participation of the World Academy of Young Scientists on the World Science Forum



7-10 November, 2003 Budapest

I. WAYS ON WSF

Main objectives of WAYS participation on the World Science Forum:

- to announce the establishment of the World Academy of Young Scientists
- to discuss with the participating young scientists the structure, future operation, membership, partnership and activities of WAYS in the form of workshops
- to elect working group coordinators and a provisional president for the forthcoming year
- to urge the involvement of the young generation in science policy making

II. PARTICIPANTS

37 young scientists (approx. 10% of total participants of the World Science Forum) coming from 19 countries and representing 18 organisations attended the World Science Forum. The young generation of scientists was represented at each level: secondary school, university, doctoral and postdoctoral levels.

Enclosure No. 1: Participant list

III. WAYS WORKSHOPS

In addition to the six parallel thematic sessions, WAYS organized several workshops during the Forum.

20.30, 7 November, 2003 Room Bolyai, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

1. Greetings, introduction of participants, distribution of WAYS folders and silver brooches by Peter Kerey
2. Short description of required activities during the Forum
 - Marta Maczel, head of the WAYS Secretariat assigned co-rapporteurs to take notes in the diverse sessions, especially on issues and comments concerning the young generation of scientists.

- WAYS participants were encouraged to take part in structured discussions and comment on presentations, and therefore also emphasizing the importance of involving the young generation in policy making.
- As the main objective of WAYS participation on WSF, the key elements of the Monday morning speeches were also discussed. Following the argument of Andras Dinnyes, a general consensus was reached concerning the need to raise the effectiveness of the WAYS presentation; the message has to be short and clear. Several topics were brought up, such as gender issues, knowledge-based society and science in the less developed countries. Due to time restrictions, it was concluded that not all aspects can be presented; therefore the speakers must confine themselves to summarizing the main objectives of WAYS. The number of speakers and main guidelines stayed for clarification in the following two days, even though there was agreement on the main issues concerning past experiences and future perspectives.

3. Review of the 1999 WCS satellite event and debate over the necessity of altering the name '*International Forum of Young Scientists*' to '*World Academy of Young Scientists*'.

- Five former participants of the International Forum of Young Scientists, held in Budapest in 1999, were also invited to the Forum. Among them, Mehdi Lahmar pointed out that on the present conference there are more representatives from developing countries than in 1999.
- Christine Heller considered the 'academy' appellation and functions not adequate to a young, dynamic organisation and expressed her fears of losing the forum function, which was declared as the main objective in 1999. Practical reasons led to change the name of IFYS to WAYS, since the latter acronym has a meaning on its own. Unfortunately, the motivation of the young scientists having volunteered to set up a network in 1999 decreased after a short active period. The solution to keep a network alive seems to be assured in the new organisation by the WAYS Secretariat run by two full-time employees.

4. Definition of WAYS objectives

The clear definition of the main objectives was a principal and indispensable task. The participants, one by one, defined the main problems and expectations according to their past experiences and both from the point of view of individuals and organizations.

Enclosure No. 2: Objectives (summarized by Amanda Adeleye)

21.30, 8 November, 2003 Room Bolyai/Café „Tudós”/Lobby, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Debates on the future of WAYS were held in two working groups, meanwhile the finalisation of the Monday morning speeches happened.

Workgroup 1 - 'Structure and Operation' (summarized by Martin Naef)

- The main goal is to have at least 1,000 WAYS 'members' by the 1st General Assembly in 2004.
- The General Assembly should be open for any members with voting restrictions. Distinction between participants with full voting rights and those with rights only for debate is necessary. Delegates need to represent the cross-section of the various career stages. The membership structure of the Space

Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) could be used as a model. Regional representation is a must, which means that each eligible association would be allowed to send one delegate and each region could also send a certain number of delegates. Regions could be defined by continents. The participation of two persons per region has to be guaranteed. For further applicants, the activity rates might be utilised as selection criteria. Over-representation of Europe is a potential problem. Responsible persons should manage the selection, but not having the right to choose delegates. Everybody should try to find additional funding.

- Provisional Board with at least 3 members need to be elected during this Meeting. Board members should head working groups.
- Proposed working groups:
 1. Conference organisation
 2. External relations
 3. Funding
 4. Constitution
 5. Logistics

Workgroup 2 - 'Membership, Partnership and Activities'

- Since it is difficult to define who is a scientist and particularly what it means to be a young scientist, WAYS should not make any discrimination but should accept any people interested or involved in science, such as policy makers, journalists, general public. The offered activities and projects organised by WAYS could allow for natural selection but might still be open for everyone. As for age limit, the necessity of age restriction comes already from the name, but "past members"/"senior members"/"honorary members" etc. categories have to be elaborated. Due to a credit system evaluating the participation in WAYS projects and different activities, members could be divided into two groups: active and non-active members. Membership fee is not a good idea for the moment.

- Proposed activities:
 - * to organise conferences, meetings, forums, workshops etc.
 - * to support WAYS members in participating at other scientific conferences and make the voice of young scientists heard there
 - * to publish newsletters in developing countries in order to provide equal access to information
 - * to establish strong local contacts
 - * to set up and maintain an internet site
 - * to sponsor young scientists in developing countries
 - * to provide scientific background and forum for young scientists
 - * to build up a system as an alternative of the centre of excellence which might give reference for obtaining EU grants
 - * to provide mentors for "beginners" (the criteria for becoming mentor should be defined, e.g. not on the basis of age, but years of experience)
 - * to elaborate special WAYS projects on different topics
 - * to create an electronic CV database of WAYS members and online library for publications
- Organisation as partners could collaborate in different projects. Their members should decide individually concerning their own WAYS membership.

22.15, 9 November, 2003 Room Bolyai, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

1. Presentations of the three working groups.

Comments:

- proposition of honorary/commemorate/associate/individual membership
- the 1,000 future members foreseen for 2004 should be individuals
- distinction between individual and organisation membership is necessary

2. Workgroups should made the first essential steps until 1st January 2004 the latest

3. Board and workgroup assignment and provisional president election.

Decision was made on the necessity for 5 working groups. Volunteers came forward for participating in the various working groups.

Board:

Amanda Adeleye
Jana Ivanidze
Peter Kerey
Mehdi Lahmar
Marta Maczel
Tshimangadzo Lucky Nedambale
Laszlo Oroszlany
Gyorgy Palfi
David Sehnal
Zsuzsanna Varadi Kalmar

For provisional presidency Marta Maczel was suggested, who due to the coincidence of the coordinating and organizational tasks in the Secretariat and the Organization, accepted the nomination.

IV. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS: COMMENTS, STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS, CO-RAPPORTEURSHIP

1. Young scientists actively participated in the structured discussions during the six parallel sessions: they raised issues and add comments on various aspects of science.

*14.00-17.30, 9 November 2003, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Session 'Information-based society and knowledge'*

Comments:

Judit Gervain (Hungary/Italy)

*14.00-17.30, 9 November 2003, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Session 'Knowledge-based society'*

Comments:

Mehdi Lahmar (Tunisia/France)

Damjan Nemec (Slovenia/The Netherlands)

Zsuzsanna Váradi Kalmár (Hungary)



A group of WAYS participants on the World Science Forum Budapest, 2003



Session 'Information-based society and knowledge' - J. Gervain (Hungary)



Summary and conclusions of the session 'Knowledge and Science' - J. Ivanidze (Germany)

2. Young scientists worked as co-rapporteurs during the parallel thematic sessions. The young scientists' co-operation was particularly appreciated by Mr. Alain Pompidou, chair of the session 'Knowledge and Society', who offered the possibility to a WAYS representative, Jana Ivanidze, to present the summary on behalf of him.

**9.10-10.10, 10 November 2003, Hungarian Parliament
Summary and conclusions of the six thematic sessions**

Speaker:

Jana Ivanidze (Germany)

Summary and conclusions of the session 'Knowledge and Science'

V. "YOUNG SCIENTIST" ISSUE RAISED ON THE FORUM

9.30-10.00, 9 November, 2003

Plenary lecture V.

Julia Marton-Lefevre, Executive Director, LEAD, United Kingdom

She emphasised the importance of involving young scientists at all levels.

14.00-17.30, 9 November, 2003

Knowledge-based society
Co-rapporteurs: Duangjai Boonkosol
Zsuzsanna Váradi Kalmár

Dr. Rainer Gerold, Director “Science and Society” at the Research Directorate-General of the European Commission

He mentioned that the main task is to make science more attractive to the young generation.

9.10-10.10, 10 November, 2003

Summary and conclusions of the six thematic sessions

„...9) the young generation’s interest in science and commitment to the knowledge-led future of their countries should be stimulated by introducing innovative teaching methods, and by changing the image of the scientist, with the help of the media and through involved mentorship...” (*Summary of the session ‘Knowledge-based society’ by Rainer Gerold, Director, “Science and Society” at the Research Directorate-General of the European Commission*)

“There was a common view on the importance of interdisciplinary education, more efficient support for young researchers, free access to information (e.g. online journals, databases, and so on). The building of informal networks can significantly contribute to the demand of knowledge system integration.” (*Summary of the session ‘Information-based society and knowledge’ by Peter A. Freeman, Assistant Director, National Science Foundation, USA*)

10.10-10.30, 10 November, 2003

General conclusions and proposals for the future

„ 4. The responsibility for our future is tantamount to the responsibility for the younger generation. Young scientists should be involved at every step.” (*Recommendations by Norbert Kroó, Secretary General, Hungarian Academy of Sciences*)

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ESTABLISHING THE WORLD ACADEMY OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS

György Pálfi (Hungary)



The major achievement of the young scientists’ participation on the World Science Forum is a general consensus about the necessity of establishing the World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS). As the chair, József Hátori introduced the WAYS presentation in the Hungarian Parliament on 10 November, the session ‘Forum of Young Scientists of the World’ is one of the major highlights of the three-day conference. In this presentation, four representatives of the young generation of scientists summarized the past experiences, the present situation and the future perspectives, emphasized the active participation of young people both in science and policy making, and pointed out the most topical problems. The last speaker, Mr. György Pálfi announced the formation of WAYS, the

World Academy of Young Scientists as a continuation of the International Forum of Young Scientists. He pointed out that this organization, through its various activities, aims at the development of science to achieve a more humane and civilised world.

**10.30-10.50, 10 November 2003, Hungarian Parliament
"Forum of Young Scientists of the World"**

Speakers:

Christine Heller (Spain)

'Active participation of young generation: past and future perspectives'

Serge Sawadogo (Burkina Faso/France)

'From the back of beyond to the heart of science'

Amanda Adeleye (USA)

'Needs of young scientists for quality research'

György Pálfi (Hungary/France)

'Providing 'WAYS' ... a worldwide organization for young scientists'

Announcement of Mustafa El Tayeb on behalf of UNESCO: Tunisian Government proposed to young scientists to host the 1st General Assembly of WAYS.



Speakers of the World Academy of Young Scientists on the closing session of the World Science Forum: A. Adeleye (USA), S. Sawadogo (Burkina Faso), C. Heller (Spain), Gy. Pálfi (Hungary). Chair: J. Hámori (Hungary)

Enclosure No. 3: Four speeches included in the session "Forum of Young Scientists of the World"

VII. MEDIA APPEARANCES (SO FAR)

13-19 November, 2003 European Voice www.europeanvoice.com
'Latest generation of Euro-boffins get themselves connected', Caren Karstens

13 November, 2003 Metro Daily www.metro.hu
"Tudomány nélkül nincs jövőnk" ('No future without science'), Zsuzsa Szentgyörgyi

19 November, 2003 Innovation Reports www.innovations-report.de
'Young scientists organise permanent global network', Press release

19 November, 2003 Science and Development Network www.scidev.net
'Young scientists given a global academy', Ehsan Masood

- 19 November, 2003 NewsTrove www.newstrove.com/topics/Budapest
'Young scientists given a global academy'
- 20 November, 2003 Cordis <http://dbs.cordis.lu>
'Globales Netzwerk für Nachwuchswissenschaftler'
- 21 November, 2003 Science Next Wave <http://nextwave.sciencemag.org>
'Young scientists Call for Voice in Decision-Making', Kirstie Urquhart
- 21 November, 2003 www.internationale-kooperation.de
'Globales Netzwerk für Nachwuchswissenschaftler'
- 21 November, 2003 Kompetenznetze www.kompetenznetze.de
'Globales Netzwerk für Nachwuchswissenschaftler'
- 26 November, 2003 ETH Life www.ethlife.ethz.ch
'Hört hier jemand zu?', Martin Naef
- 26 November, 2003 Universia Brasil www.universiabrasil.net
'Jovens pesquisadores ganham academia internacional'
- 01 December, 2003 Regional News www.regionalnews.com.br
'Jovens pesquisadores ganham academia internacional'
- 02 December, 2003 UNESCO News www.unesco.org/scince/
'Young Scientists get their World Academy', Diana Malpede
- 05 December, 2003 Science Vol 302 www.sciencemag.org
'Nonprofit World, Random Samples People', Yudhijit Bhattacharjee
- 18 December, 2003 Realites www.realites.com.tn
L'Académie internationale des jeunes scientifiques

Enclosure No. 4: Press release

ENCLOSURE No 1
Participant list

Name	Country	Organisation/Institution/Working place
ADELEYE, Amanda	USA	Network of Youth Excellence, Illionis Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA)
BABAYEV, Elchin	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory
BAKK István	Hungary	Hungarian Association for Innovation
BALOGH Judit	Hungary	Society of Pro Scientia Gold Medalists (PSAT/SPSDM), Council of National Scientific Students' Association (OTDT), IFYS Foundation
BOONKUSOL, Duangjai (Ngamsom)	Thailand	Institute of Science and Technology for Research and Development, Mahidol University, Bangkok
CONNOLLY, Peggy	USA	Network of Youth Excellence, Illionis Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA)
CSIZMADIA József	Hungary	Association of Hungarian Ph.D. Students
DINNYÉS András	Hungary	Society of Pro Scientia Gold Medalists (PSAT/SPSDM)
GERVAIN Judit	Hungary	International School for Advanced Studies, Trieste
HARSÁNYI Mária	Hungary	World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS) Secretariat
HELLER DEL RIEGO, Christine	Spain	EuroScience, Marie Curie Fellowship Association (MCFA), Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid
IVANIDZE Jana	Germany	15th EU Contest for Young Scientists
IZSÁK Éva	Hungary	Academic Club of János Bolyai Research Fellowship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungarian Forum of Young Scientists, WSC 1999
KEREY Péter	Hungary	WCS 1999, IFYS Foundation
KUZSELLA László	Hungary	Association of Hungarian Ph.D. Students, University of Miskolc
LAHMAR Mehdi	Tunesia/United Kingdom	WCS 1999
LAJUNEN Timo	Finland/Turkey	Department of Psychology, The Middle East Technical University (METU)
MACZEL Márta	Hungary	Association of Hungarian Ph.D. Students, World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS) Secretariat

MARTELL Meri	Spain/United Kingdom	Marie Curie Fellowship Association (MCFA)
MÉSZÁROS Livia	Hungary	Hungarian Research Student Association, Network of Youth Excellence
MIETCHEN, Daniel	Germany	Eurodoc
NAEF, Martin	Switzerland	Postgraduates' International Network (PI-Net),
NEDAMBALE, Tshimangadzo Lucky	Republic of South Africa/USA	University of Connecticut, Ag. Biotech Center
NEMEC, Damjan	Slovenia/The Netherlands	Postgraduates' International Network (PI-Net),
OROSZLANY László	Hungary	Hungarian Association of Physics Students, International Association of Physics Students (IAPS)
PÁLFI György	Hungary	MZPÖT, Society of Pro Scientia Gold Medalists (PSAT/SPSDM), IFYS Foundation
POLÁK Zoltán	Hungary	
PONGRÁCZ Rita	Hungary	Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Eötvös Loránd University
ROUNCE, Andrea	Canada	Graduate Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students (GSAC, National Graduate Caucus)
ROVÓ Petra	Hungary	Hungarian Research Student Association
SARASOLA Xabier	Spain	Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid
SAWADOGO Serge	Burkina Faso/France	University of Marseille
SEHNAL David	Czech Republic	15th EU Contest for Young Scientists,
TÓTH, Ágnes	Hungary	Hungarian Association for Innovation
URQUHART, Kirstie	United Kingdom	Science Next Wave
VÁRADI KALMÁR Zsuzsanna	Hungarian	Association of Hungarian Ph.D. Students

COMMUNICATION ASPECT

WAYS must give young scientists the opportunity to share their ideas, research and challenges with others in the young scientific community in such a way that a supportive network is created to strengthen the quality of science.

.WAYS must function as a form of communication between members and to others in the scientific community (Andrea)

.Locate innovative ideas and support them through common scientific interest (Istvan)

.It should collaborate with other established organizations (Atud)

.Involve young scientists in conferences (Petra)

.It must incorporate science education (Mehdi)

.Must establish a strong collaboration between scientists (Atud)

.Must provide way to assist scientist in their studies, perhaps through research network (Atul)

.Should allow for discussion between young scientists

SOCIAL AWARENESS ASPECT

WAYS must have a social consciousness. It should allow young scientists the opportunity to work together and solve pertinent social issues through education and collaboration.

.It must function to encourage young scientists to solve social issues in a way in which science [and humanities] will be key.

.It must create an education and knowledge transfer to inaccessible youth, to provide sources (Lucky)

.It must prevent the "brain drain" It must create a circulation of knowledge and must encourage scientist to bring research back to their homes (Andras)

.Must strive to develop science as a way to bring peace to the world (Peggy).

.Must educate others scientists on ongoing international problems which may be solved by science to better the global environment (Martin)

.Must allow for science to be in the grasp of all people (Mehdi)

.Must provide a form of communication, access to knowledge and a collaboration for all young scientist (Serge)

"SCIENCE FOR SCIENCE"

WAYS must ensure the interest in science is ongoing. It must not stop with our generation and therefore WAYS will be an international model for the positivity of science. WAYS will be a motivation for scientist across the globe.

.Will create better "publicity" for the concept of science (Peter).

.There must be a promotion of continued studies for females in the scientific field (Andras)

.It must motivate scientists to continue work in the scientific field

POLITICAL ASPECT

WAYS must be the connection of young scientist into the general scientific community. With this, WAYS must have a platform, a political voice and an image of excellence in science with which it can be associated.

.Must provide students with the opportunity to present and be represented nationally

.We must create a voice for the young scientist which will be respected in the general scientific community.

.Must create more acceptance of young scientist in the scientific world (Dani?)

.Must be a platform for young scientists to be taken seriously in the scientific community (Sevir)

.Must create a good image of young scientists so that we can refocus science (Damjan)

.Must encourage acceptance in the general scientific community (Peter)

PHYSICAL ASPECT

WAYS must provide solutions to the physical obstacles presented to prevent young scientist from reaching their goals.

.Must provide for a mobility between countries for scientists (Marta)

MINDFUL NOTES

.WAYS must continue with the goals stated in the previous dictations as well (Peggy)

.Will stress the interdisciplinary aspect of the science of the youth (Zsuzsanna)

.WAYS should change the world (Martin)

Christine Heller del Riego

Active participation of the young generation: past and future perspectives

In 1999, the UNESCO-ICSU World Conference on Science called for measures to facilitate the access of young scientists to careers in science, as well as to enhance their involvement in policy making. The first step towards promoting the role of young scientists was to gather 145 young scientists from 57 countries at the International Forum for Young Scientists (IFYS), a satellite event of the Conference. An important outcome of this meeting was a commitment from UNESCO to establish a permanent structure for young scientists.

The last four years, young scientists have been getting organised in various associations EuroScience, the Marie Curie Fellowship Association (MCFA), Eurodoc and PI-Net - and have achieved clearer visibility through the following activities:

- The creation of diverse communication channels between young scientists;
- The preparation of policy papers through survey studies and workshops;
- The organisation of international conferences of young scientists with support from different international institutions, such as the European Forum for Young Scientists in Gdansk (Poland) in 2000;
- Participation of young scientist in the international science policy events, such as the EuroScience Conference "New Science and Technology based Professions in Europe" in Bischenberg (France) in 2002.

Important events scheduled for 2004 are:

- The Early Stage Research Mobility Conference in Lisbon (Portugal) next February, that is a joint project of EuroScience, the MCFA, Eurodoc and PI-Net;
- The EuroScience Career Programme during the EuroScience Open Forum in Stockholm (Sweden) in August.

We are here today to announce the establishment of the World Academy of Young Scientists WAYS - in the spirit of the 1999 International Forum for Young Scientists. The proposed mission statement for WAYS is: *a permanent global network for the young scientific community that provides regular input into decision-making on science and technology. Through its different activities it seeks practical and effective solutions in the development of science to achieve a more humane and civilized world.*

Finally, as a concrete point of action we propose that WAYS policy papers be distributed amongst all national parliaments and international science policy institutions.

World Science Day, WSF, Budapest
Monday 10 November 2003
(Dr Christine Heller del Riego, PhD)

Serge Sawadogo

From the back of beyond to the heart of science

As humans we are relative newcomers to the planet: strangers in a strange land. We are not as adaptive to hostile environments as are microbes: Consider SARS and the worldwide panic it created. Our response would have been weaker had we not collaborated. Global collaboration is essential for our survival.

Developing countries have much to contribute to research collaboration: research subjects, disease specimens, tissues, microbes, plants and knowledge of their use, population. If these resources are not exploited to create knowledge for the benefit of science and humanity, they will be wasted. We cannot allow this to happen. This knowledge will solve problems not only of Africa but of the world.

There remains a cruel lack of opportunity to develop our human potential in Africa. In Burkina Faso few have access to basic education; far fewer have access to the single university. I'm doing research in malaria, a disease that ravages my country. There are no facilities in Burkina Faso to study immunogenetics so I conduct my research in France. Like myself, other young people are hungry to learn and passionate to become equipped to solve our own problems. We are discouraged by lack of educational and technical opportunities. Until we develop more scientists and doctors, we cannot create our own future but must rely on other to do it for us.

For example, indigenous plants are used to treat malaria. We should not have to rely on scientists from Europe and America to take these plants from Burkina Faso to study the active ingredients in their labs. We should not have to wait for others to develop new comprehension about the disease and its treatment. We should not have to depend on others to identify more effective responses.

WAYS create a new perspective of global response by the scientific community to resolve problems. WAYS promotes participation of developing countries as equal partners in creating a new scientific reality of collaboration. How much more quickly will disease be eradicated by utilizing the talent, potential, and passion of scientists of developing countries? We are eager to take part in this community which represents an untapped resource in solving our problems. The situation is urgent: during my short speech, twenty people have died of AIDS and twenty have died from malaria and the great majority were Africans.

World Science Day, WSF, Budapest
Monday 10 November 2003
(Mr. Serge Sawadogo)

Amanda Adeleye

Needs of young scientists for quality research

I am from the small town of Aurora, a suburb of Illinois in the United States. Presently I am 17 years old and earlier this year I presented research to the American Society of Echocardiography. There are many students who have stories like mine. I attend a secondary school where at least 300 students conduct their own research within our institution or at excellent universities, corporations and museums. We are all aged 14 to 18 years old. It is not only students at this school that contribute strong research. Members of WAYS and young scientists around the world are contributing as well. There are even more students vying for an opportunity to conduct interesting and in depth research, beginning now.

What young scientist need today is the support of well established scientists that are eager to pass on their knowledge to the next generation; we need you. The success of research done by students in areas such as the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, is based on everyday collaboration. Collaboration of the cross cultural form is especially important to the social sciences and humanities. It is as essential to the researcher as a microscope is to a biologist. Consequently, there are many ways that you may provide support. You might consider mentoring a young scientist. This may be through lab work, clinical work, analysis or even email. Encourage and expect us to do solid explorations in the fields of science. At this moment, in order to begin to recognize the talent and viability of the youth in science, simply fill out the survey in your WSF programme and/or ask us questions after this. If you do not feel that you can commit at this time, it is just as strong to recommend the information of another person that would be interested in assisting WAYS. If anything, please remember that it does not matter if you are 90 years old or 10 years old, the passion for science is a beautiful thing, and it is our responsibility to keep this flame alive.

World Science Day, WSF, Budapest
Monday 10 November 2003

(Ms. Amanda Adeleye)

György Pálfi

Providing "WAYS"... A worldwide organization for young scientists

We have recently witnessed some happy events. A month ago, I was happy to hear at the 32nd session of UNESCO's General Conference that the representative of the Republic of Hungary had announced the establishment of a coordination center for the World Academy of Young Scientists in Budapest and the support provided by the Hungarian Government for this new organization. A couple of weeks prior to this announcement, the organizers of the World Science Forum offered to receive young scientists.

We feel honored that our group of young scientists could contribute to the program of the World Science Forum with a seventh, "virtual session". The topic of "Knowledge and Society" could find its natural continuation in the dimension of "Knowledge and Future", which is our responsibility as the new generation of scientists.

The significance of this invitation was multiplied by the enthusiasm of our young researchers. It took less than two weeks to set up a network of dedicated young scholars. Out of the 36 young participants of the Forum, about two-thirds come from abroad, representing four continents. In the last two weeks, more than 200 young scientists from more than 40 countries have joined up to establish a dynamic scientific and representative organization for young scholars worldwide. The long debates of the past three days, as well as the short talks we have just heard attest to the need for such an institution.

The World Academy of Young Scientists, WAYS in short, was conceived in the spirit of the satellite forum for young scientists of the World Conference on Science, held in Budapest in 1999. In accordance with the original objectives, WAYS is dedicated to provide the possibility for young generations of researchers to actively participate in today's and tomorrow's knowledge-based societies. We have a double objective: to carry out a quality scientific research and actively participate in science policy and decision-making.

WAYS will develop a structure according to scientific disciplines and geographical areas, thus supporting the organization of specialized scientific events and encouraging and promoting the international mobility of young scholars. In other words, we wish to establish WAYS between generations and continents, with special regard to WAYS between developed and developing countries.

WAYS invites young people dedicated to science from all countries and various age groups. With this common goal in perspective, WAYS joins its efforts with other organizations for young scientists.

We fully and happily support the decision that Budapest will regularly host a world forum for science. It is our intention that the scientists of the future be involved in shaping the science of the future. We would be grateful if WAYS would become a partner, and young scientists could participate, as this year, in the "adult" world forum.

For WAYS to fulfill its plenary and international function successfully, it is indispensable that both its scientific events and its strategic meetings be held in

different countries on different continents. It is desirable that the first General Conference takes place outside Europe during the fall of next year.

We are relying on the continuing support of our international partner organizations, UNESCO in particular, the collaborating countries, Academies of Science and other scientific organizations. We also have trust in the present and future Governments of Hungary to provide a solid background for the effective work of the WAYS coordination center in Budapest. I wish to express our gratitude for all their support so far. We would like to thank the Hungarian Academy of Sciences that we could take part in the World Science Forum.

World Science Day, WSF, Budapest
Monday 10 November 2003
(Dr György Pálfi, PhD)

Young Scientists Organise Permanent Global Network

Young researchers in the natural and social sciences and humanities announced the formation of the World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS) on the closing session of the World Science Forum. Speaking in the Hungarian parliament on World Science Day, the young scientists described their mission: to create "a permanent global network for the young scientific community that provides regular input into decision-making on science and technology."

The new organisation grows out of the International Forum for Young Scientists, a satellite event of the 1999 UNESCO-ICSU World Conference on Science. Following this meeting, UNESCO committed to the establishment of a permanent representative body for young scientists. In fulfilling this function, WAYS intends to go beyond it: providing fora, both real and virtual, in which young researchers will have the opportunity to exchange views, not just on issues of science policy, but also on their research.

A crucial aim of the new organisation -open, it is envisaged, to all researchers early in their scientific careers and nominally aged between 15 and 40- is to bridge the gap between north and south. One of the young founders explained the need in terms of his own situation: Serge Sawadogo said, "I'm doing research in malaria, a disease that ravages my country. There are no facilities in Burkina Faso to study immunogenetics, so I conduct my research in France." Through its activities, WAYS will seek to find practical and effective solutions in the development of science to achieve a more humane and civilised world.

WAYS will hold its founding General Assembly in Tunisia during the fall of 2004. Meanwhile it is seeking the active participation of young scientists from all over the world in its development. Interested researchers are invited to contact the WAYS Secretariat (ways@sztaki.hu).

Peter Kerey
13 November, 2003