



**Titel:** Symposium der Jungen Akademie zur Nachhaltigkeitsforschung  
*Young Academies Symposium on Sustainability Research (YASS)*

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**Event:** Workshop, Pretoria/South Africa, 15–17 October 2012  
Symposium, Berlin/Germany, 18-19 March 2013

**Abstract:**

The issue of sustainability is nowadays the subject of increasing awareness in many sectors, whether in relation to climate change, health policy, intergenerational justice or finance. On 18 and 19 March 2013 numerous junior scientists from South Africa and Germany will have the opportunity to engage in academic discussion about the latest research findings about sustainability at the symposium "Socio-Ecological Novelty – Frontiers in Sustainability Research", a cooperation project between the Junge Akademie (JA), Global Young Academy (GYA), South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS), German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). The event will place a special focus on the topics of climate change, health and energy. The symposium is aimed at the twenty invitees from the Junge Akademie, SAYAS and GYA, all of whom are highly qualified young scientists from Germany and South Africa. In addition, four European and African experts will also be speaking, so offering an outside perspective and helping to publicise the results of the symposiums beyond South Africa and Germany.

The two-day conference in Berlin will be dedicated to presentations and discussions about the issue of sustainability. The highlight of the event at the close of the second day will be a public panel discussion chaired by a professional presenter. This debate will be attended by 80 invitees from politics, science, business and society, as well as private individuals with an interest in this question. It will be followed by an exchange of opinions about the "sustainable" institutionalisation of Young Academies at the premises of the Leopoldina in Halle (Saale). The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) was not founded until 2011. The JA on the other hand can boast more than ten years of administrative experience, and the GYA specialises in offering support for the set-up of Young Academies. The objective of this part of the event is to provide special assistance to the SAYAS during the early days of its institutionalisation. After the conference a German-South African publication will be issued on the subject of sustainability. This work will describe the key results of the symposium,



contribute to the acquisition of scientific findings and assume an advisory function in terms of politics and society.

The preparations for the symposium took place at a workshop staged at the "Annual Young Scientist Conference" held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 16 –18 October 2012. This event was attended by twelve outstanding junior scientists from Germany and South Africa, mostly members of the JA, SAYAS and GYA, and represented an excellent opportunity for networking.