

Category 2: Partnerships between young and senior academies for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies

Symbiotic relationships between National Academies and Young Academies: The Sri Lankan Experience

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The Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) was established in 2012 and continues to be closely linked with the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL). From its inception, it has been nurtured by the NASSL, a high profiled, non-governmental scientific body of erudite experts, which has been in existence since 1976. Many scientific events, such as conferences and workshops have been organised in partnership with each other. Such activities have extended to include social events also in the recent past that enable more effective and better quality networking between the young and more senior scientists.

Highlights of such collaborative events include a training workshop on ‘leadership and career development for Women in Science, Technology and Research (STR)’ held in 2017, which aimed to fill an existing gap to enhance professional advancement of women in STR. It triggered a series of activities towards this end, which included identification of factors that prevent women from progressing in their respective fields and provision of a forum to voice their opinions and concerns. One of the key outcomes of this activity was the establishment of the Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (SLNC OWSD) in 2018.