

■ News

Prof. Kano Elected as Executive Committee Member of Global Young Academy

At the Fourth International Conference for Young Scientists & Annual General Meeting of the Global Young Academy (GYA)*, an international academy of young scientists which aims to contribute to society through science and technology, held in Santiago de Chile, Chile, from 21 to 25 May 2014, Prof. Mitsunobu Kano, Department of Clinical Evaluation and Development of Pharmaceutical Biomedicine, Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, was elected as a member of the Executive Committee (EC).

Prof. Kano, who is also the Vice Chairman of the Young Academy Committee, Science Council of Japan (SCJ), ran for the EC. In his speech as a candidate, Prof. Kano emphasized the importance of new value creation through collaboration across borders, cultures, and academic fields, thereby contributing to society. Prof. Kano won the highest confidence of 70% among 18 candidates and notably, Prof. Kano is the only Japanese member. Last year there was only one EC member from Asia. Consequently the GYA EC is composed of 9 members from 8 nationalities: US, UK, Egypt, Netherlands, Kenya, Turkey, Japan and Bangladesh. It is anticipated that cultural background of East Asia will be better understood and taken into account in order to lay foundation for a system in which each region can make equal contribution.

“I wish to create new values in collaboration with the GYA and its splendid members and ultimately to contribute to the global society. Through this experience, I would also be more than happy if



Prof. Kano speaking of new value creation and contribution to society



Prof. Kano elected as a member of the Executive Committee (fourth right)
(c) the GYA/Florian Wiencek



Participants of the GYA General Meeting
(c) the GYA/Florian Wiencek

I could contribute to the values of a variety of initiatives underway to promote Japan's advanced science and technology to the world and to make use of its capability, such as initiatives to strengthen research capabilities of universities including the program for promoting the enhancement of research universities by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology," said Prof. Kano.

* Global Young Academy (GYA)

Founded in 2010, the Global Young Academy (GYA) is an international academy of young scientists which aims to contribute to society through science and technology. The GYA is the only international academy of its kind which has close relations with the Inter Academy Panel (IAP), a global network of science academies around the world. In 2014, members of the GYA were invited to speak at the Opening Ceremony of the Scientific Advisory Board created by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.