



LINDAU
NOBEL LAUREATE
MEETINGS



The Horst Köhler Fellowship Programme

Young African Scientists to Meet Nobel Laureates

A Pool of Talents – The Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings

Since their beginnings in 1951, the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings have evolved into a unique international forum for scientific exchange.



Once every year for a week in summer, 30–40 Nobel Laureates convene in Lindau/Germany to meet the next generation of leading scientists: undergraduates, PhD students, and post-doc researchers from all over the world. The Lindau Meetings foster the exchange between scientists of different generations, cultures, and disciplines.

The meeting is alternately dedicated to physiology and medicine, physics, and chemistry – the three science Nobel Prize

disciplines. An interdisciplinary meeting revolving around all three natural sciences is held every five years. In addition, the Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences is held every three years.

The scientific programme of each Lindau Meeting is based on the principle of dialogue. The different sessions – lectures, discussions, master classes, and panel discussions – are designed to activate the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experience between and among Nobel Laureates and young scientists.



Aaron Ciechanover, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2004

“In Lindau, the seeds of a spirit of transnational collaboration are planted in young hearts.”



Shrada Das, Participant 2014

“The people you meet at Lindau are your future colleagues. Networking and inspiring each other are important steps towards collaborations that may help us find solutions to the problems of the world.”

Focus Africa – the Horst Köhler Fellowship Programme



Horst Köhler, Former Federal President of Germany

“Africa is so much more than the stereotypes that many of us still have in our heads. It is a dynamic, creative and diverse continent with an enormous and rapidly growing young population that is hungry for change. This is why I am grateful and excited that the Lindau Meetings will invite young fellows from Africa; some of the brightest minds from the continent. I am sure that not only will they learn a lot from the Nobel Laureates but also that we all will gain from their creativity and persistence.”

Taking part in a Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for every young scientist. With the “Horst Köhler Fellowship Programme”, excellent young scientists from Africa are enabled to participate in the Lindau Meetings. Former German Federal President Horst Köhler is the patron of this Africa initiative of the Lindau Meetings established in 2015. The programme is funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and will be substantially expanded in the coming years.

For all young African scientists, who meet the selection criteria and successfully master the application process, the participation fee as well as the travel expenditures will be covered up to a limited amount by the fellowship programme. The selected Africans will then represent the emerging generation of leading scientists from their country and will get the chance to meet with fellow researchers from all over the world. Apart from taking the one-time chance to participate in a Lindau Meeting, these young scientists become part of a global alumni community.

A Network of Excellence – Academic Partners Worldwide



The Lindau Meetings cooperate with more than 200 of the most renowned science and research institutions worldwide to identify the most qualified participants. In the majority of cases, young scientists have to be nominated by these academic partners in order to be able to apply for participation.

The cooperation with academic partners in about 65 countries is a cornerstone of the on-going internationalisation process of the Lindau Meetings. By means of memoranda of understanding, both sides commit themselves to connect and promote aspiring young scientists and thus disseminate Lindau's "Mission Education" worldwide. The academic partners – such as the African Academy of Sciences or the Academy of Science South Africa – are trustees of the constant pursuit of excellence at the Lindau Meetings – and they are beneficiaries of this process themselves.

One of the main goals of the Lindau Meetings is to expand its network of academic partners on the African continent.

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How to participate – Selection Criteria of the Lindau Meetings

The young participants of the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings are recruited worldwide among (1) undergraduate students, (2) master and doctoral students and (3) young postdoctoral scientists in the natural and economic sciences.

The following standards and criteria have been defined for their selection:

All nominated participants

- shall show a genuine interest in science and research,
- show a strong commitment to their principal field of studies and to interdisciplinary work
- receive strong support of their application by their academic advisor and/or by internationally renowned scientists, through a detailed letter of recommendation,
- be fluent in English and capable of active participation in discussions,
- belong to the top 5 percent of their class,
- not yet have a permanent position (scientists with permanent positions – in particular on the professor level – will in general not be admitted to the meeting),
- not be older than 35 years of age,
- not have participated in previous Lindau Meetings,
- deliver fully completed applications in their online profiles (NAPERS) on or before the respective deadlines in December of the year previous to the meeting (this is the responsibility of the nominated individuals; incomplete applications will not be considered),
- and commit themselves to being present for the full duration of the meeting

It is intended to have a good balance between these three groups:

(1) Undergraduate students, who

- exhibit a solid general knowledge in the meeting discipline
- have done some practical work and/or have laboratory experience.

(2) Master and doctoral students, who

- show excellent academic accomplishments and
- have produced some very good research work.

(3) Postdoctoral scientists, who

- have up to 5 years of postdoctoral experience (optimum about 2-3 years after doctoral degree),
- have published results of their own scientific research in referred journals, preferably as first author,
- and have presented their work at international scientific meetings, preferably as lecturers.

» Application Process

Every year in September/October, academic partners nominate candidates for participation, and young scientists can submit their applications. The web-based application process is then accessible at application.lindau-nobel.org



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»» Supporter

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