Our Favorite 2023 Memories

International Youth Nuclear Congress
IAEA General Conference: Emerging Technology

IYNC facilitated a discussion among young professionals, exploring the diverse applications of emerging technologies in nuclear sciences. The conversation delved into both the advantageous aspects and potential misuse, featuring perspectives from US Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, IAEA Deputy Director General of the Department of Safeguards Massimo Aparo and IYNC President Kristine Madden.
Engaged in a dialogue with Ben Santhouse, who serves as the Energy Contact Point and a member of the Global Coordination Team for YOUNGO, the UNFCCC’s youth constituency, to discuss the dynamic climate negotiation landscape.

This session was geared towards fostering a meaningful conversation about the challenges and opportunities present in climate negotiations, including how youth can play an active role in influencing the direction of future climate policy.
Engaging beyond the Nuclear Industry

The Energy Working Group of YOUNGO offered its members a platform to ask questions and gain insights regarding the utilization and concerns surrounding nuclear energy to IYNC experts including our N4C co-chair Veeshesh Sunassy and Deputy Climate Change Chair Kelsy Green, engaged in this forum. The objective was to foster an open dialogue, contributing to a more informed global discourse on energy.
IYNC Professional Development Chair Alice Cunha da Silva launched our professional development pilot program, Leaders for Nuclear during the IAEA 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power. Leaders for Nuclear seeks to address the need for a talent pipeline to empower youth participation through facilitating intergenerational decision-making around nuclear applications; nuclear energy; and nuclear safeguards and nonproliferation.
Dinara Ermakova, the IYNC Innovation Chair, participated in the United Nations General Assembly Science Summit. During her address, she discussed strategic approaches to harness existing resources and talent for a transition from coal power to nuclear power.
IYNC President Kristine Madden engaged in collaborative discussions on ‘techno fixes’ in the race to net-zero and fossil fuel emissions phase-out at COY18 alongside esteemed colleagues from the Sustainable Energy for All, Arab Youth Council for Climate Change at the Arab Youth Center, Octavia Carbon and YOUNGO, the UNFCCC’s youth constituent.

They delved into the dynamic role of renewables, green hydrogen, nuclear energy and carbon capture in the race to net-zero with the discussions specifically emphasizing the innovative approaches these complementary elements play in shaping a sustainable future, with a focus on ensuring inclusivity, transparency, mitigating moral hazards, and enhancing technology efficacy.

For the first time, nuclear energy was included in the YOUNGO COP28 Global Youth Statement.
IAEA 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power

During the IAEA Atoms for Next Zero conference, Alice Cunha da Silva, the IYNC PD Chair, underscored the significance of involving young women in climate crisis discussions. In a separate conversation moderated by IYNC President Kristine Madden, the focus persisted on the pivotal role that youth and women play in shaping the discourse on climate issues. Both discussions emphasized that diverse perspectives are crucial to bringing innovation to the forefront, thus, ensuring a more effective and comprehensive approach to addressing the global climate crisis. Recognizing the distinct challenges faced by various communities, especially in the global south, underscores the need for an inclusive and sustainable environmental strategy. By prioritizing the voices of youth and women, a sense of responsibility is fostered, inspiring a new generation of leaders dedicated to positive change in the fight against climate change.
World Nuclear Exhibition

IYNC played a key role at the World Nuclear Exhibition, appointing youth delegates to award juries and having IYNC Past President, Lena Andriolo, as the event moderator. IYNC Past Vice President Cristian Vega also unveiled the results of our first world nuclear thermometer project, providing valuable insights into the current dynamics of the global nuclear industry. These efforts reflect our commitment to youth engagement and knowledge sharing in the international nuclear community.
COP28

Our participation at COP28 highlights IYNC’s mission: uniting youth voices for climate action and recognizing the transformative potential of nuclear energy – an essential element in our dedication to generational justice and the pursuit of a sustainable future. Notably, together with the European Nuclear Society under our Nuclear for Climate initiative, we were proud to send our 70 delegates from more than 20 countries, amplifying our collective impact on a global stage.

In a historic development, the final text of COP28 recognized nuclear energy as a vital component of the solution to address climate change.
IYNC Professional Development Chair Alice Cunha da Silva partook in a nuclear debate hosted by the IAEA in collaboration with YOUNGO, the UNFCCC’s youth constituency during COP28 in Dubai, UAE.

“When I started studying nuclear, I realized that it was in everything. Radiation is in bananas that we eat...radiation is in water. Radiation is the medical treatment that helped prolong the life of my grandma when she was battling cancer. Nuclear technologies offer food security, which we need in many places around the world and Nuclear is clean energy as well,” said Cunha da Silva.
IYNC spearheaded the coordination of a UN side event, in collaboration with NAYGN and WIN Global, which brought together key stakeholders and influential thought leaders to explore the fundamental role of youth empowerment in driving transformative changes, with a specific focus on mitigating climate change. Joining the discussion was Muna Al Suwaidi, the IYNC Climate Change Chair, alongside esteemed youth delegates from the broader energy landscape, including representatives from YOUNGO, the UNFCCC's youth constituency, Student Energy, and the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP as well as NA-YGN.
COP28

IYNC, in collaboration with the YOUNGO Energy Working Group and N4C partners, orchestrated an event designed to provide COP28 participants with a platform to pose questions about nuclear energy and its application in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Additionally, IYNC co-organized an event with the IAEA and Nuclear Energy Institute, centering on discussions with the Next Generation of Climate Leaders. This event underscored the significance of actively involving the next generation in a transparent and democratic energy transition. As they inherit the stewardship of our planet, they play a pivotal role in shaping the role of nuclear energy, ensuring a greener, safer, and more sustainable future for all.
Kristine Madden, the IYNC President, joined distinguished experts Charlyne Smith, PhD, Meera Alblooshi, and Tim Gregory in the nuclear power myth-busting event held at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Atoms4Climate pavilion. The discussion covered various key myths, encompassing topics such as used nuclear fuel, sustainability, radiation exposure and environmental stewardship, new build economics, nonproliferation and safeguards, as well as nuclear energy’s compatibility and complementary use with renewables.

The conversations conducted during the event were and will remain instrumental in cultivating a more profound understanding of the realities associated with nuclear power.
Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Eisenhower’s Atoms for Peace Speech

On the 70th anniversary of President Eisenhower's atoms for peace speech, IYNC President Kristine Madden had the honor of launching Susan Eisenhower’s NICE talk for the Clean Energy Ministerial’s NICE Future Initiative, a crucial IYNC partner.

Amidst today's global security challenges, President Eisenhower's atoms for peace speech serves as a poignant reminder: fostering collaboration and understanding is vital for a safer, more harmonious future. Let's persist in our collective efforts towards a nice future.
Kristine Madden, the IYNC President, engaged in discussions about the future of actinide and fission product partitioning and transmutation with fellow professionals from Belgium, France, the U.K., and the U.S.A. During the dialogue, Madden emphasized the significance of tailoring communications to the audience and highlighted the appeal of the field, especially in addressing intergenerational justice concerns.
New Perspectives on a Changing Climate: Young Voices in Nuclear Energy

Kelsy Green, IYNC Climate Change Deputy Chair, explored challenges and opportunities in nuclear energy, focusing on the evolving policy landscape and youth impact, alongside esteemed colleagues from the Good Energy Collective and Nuclear Innovation Alliance at the Columbia SIPA’s Center on Global Energy Policy.
COP28