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Academy discusses future of Australian science

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Early career researchers to shape Australia's science future

Singapore: The Australian Academy of Science's recently established Early-Mid Career Researcher Forum held its first national meeting on September 24 in order to discuss the future of Australian science.

In recognition of the challenges faced by Australia's emerging researchers, the academy established the forum to advise young researchers on key issues and help inform the academy's policy recommendations to the government.

At its two-day Science Pathways meeting at the Shine Dome, Canberra, the forum examined critical issues for early and mid-career researchers, including career structure, job security, research funding, education, training and gender equity.

"Young scientists today face many challenges when they try to establish a career in research. This Forum brings them together with the politicians and scientists who determine where research funds will be spent," said Professor Bob Williamson, secretary for science policy of the academy.

Forum chair, Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea, said that the forum provides a vital link between eminent Australian scientists and tomorrow's future scientific leaders. "We want to connect with the public and engage with our political leaders and policy makers, as well as those in education, business and industry," she added.