

# Danish Development Research Network

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I have been involved in teaching, research and institution building related to development since 1976 and later also in relation to transition economies. From 1976-78, I was a senior lecturer at School of Administration, University of Ghana (now University of Ghana Business School)

My main research interest is Private Sector Development and the focus is on companies and how they can upgrade and formulate strategies for their development. I have two special interests: One is related to the international issues such as export, alliances, FDI, global value chain position and upgrading, R&D, etc. The other is related to government-business partnerships focusing on various programmes, e.g. export promotion or FDI attraction programmes.

Geographically, the interests started in Ghana moving to East Africa where we – The International Business Centre - has a research project in Tanzania on building entrepreneurs in the agro-business sector. Now, Asia is also on the research agenda, e.g. in Vietnam, where we recently hosted an International Conference on Market and Development (January 2010).

I was active board member of the GEPPA-network and am now the Vice Chairman of DDRN. It takes time to develop a network organisation such as DDRN, but DDRN has developed into a valuable organisation for the promotion and development of research links and links between researchers and development practitioners.

DDRN has a strategic linkage role, creating collaboration between North-South researchers, development practitioners and researchers, and also between researchers of different disciplines. Pursuing this linkage role and doing it in an efficient way will, as I see it, create value to all the parties involved – the broader network, which makes up DDRN.

DDRN has already a good activity portfolio and it is being improved and expanded all the time. Should I point out my favourite activities, then they are:

- Linkages to colleagues in developing countries (and through them to research collaboration and development projects).
- Cross-disciplinary activities where we as researchers challenge our disciplinary borders.
- Improving the collaboration between development practitioners (Danida, consultants, NGOs, local institutions) and researchers, i.e. integrating experience with theoretical reflection.
- Infrastructure (database, overviews, meetings) so that it becomes easy to locate people/researchers, capabilities, research publications outside the small circle of your own.

DDRN faces another challenge now. Partly because of the work of DDRN, Danida and others have seen the value of collaboration and Danske Universiteter (Universities Denmark) has mobilised the universities to collaborate around a number of development platforms. This means that development issues are now on the top list of issues that universities deal with; and the direct link to Danida shows that universities and Danida will collaborate closely in the years to come. This is a challenge we will have to deal with in DDRN in the coming 1½ years.

If you, before the voting, want to have my opinion on a specific issue, please contact me on [ojs@business.aau.dk](mailto:ojs@business.aau.dk)