

Danish Development Research Network

Minutes of DDRN Board Meeting 4/2008

December 15, 2008 – Department of Biological Sciences, University of Aarhus

Participants: Arne Wangel (AW), Carl Erik Schou Larsen (CESL), Claus Jørgensen (CJ), Helene Maria Kyed (HMK), Olav Jull Sørensen (OJS), Ole Mertz (OM), Peter Oksen (PO), Thomas Nielsen (TN). Secretariat staff: Anne Marie Sørensen (AMS), Lluís Armangué (LA), Marianne Forti (MF), Lone Frederiksen (LF) – rapporteur.

Apologies: Bente Topsøe-Jensen and Esbern Friis-Hansen.

Draft agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of 3rd Board meeting of September 10, 2008
3. Briefing on progress of activities by the secretariat (information)
 - a) Follow-up on meeting with Danida on October 6, 2008
 - b) DDRN Communication strategy
 - c) ERA-ARD
4. Climate change activities - completed and forthcoming (discussion and decision)
 - a) New climate network initiative for SADC region (workshop/mapping/network)
 - b) Conferences in Denmark March 2009
5. DDRN activities in the first half 2009 – (update, discussion and decision)
 - a) Seminars in the South (VN, TZ, Niger, SA and Zambia)
 - b) Overviews (project management; research-development links in Europe)
 - c) Conference on strategic collaboration on Higher Education and Research in development
6. Applications to fund for member driven activities
Presentation of proposals (decision)
7. A.O.B (including decision of dates and venues for board meetings in first half of 2009)

Ad 1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

Ad 2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes were approved.

Ad 3. Briefing of progress by the secretariat

The secretariat added the following comments to the brief:

LA: The conference on Global Value Chains was successful; and as a follow-up activity the planning group will make a proposal of an interest group. AW and OJS will send an introduction to the planning group.

AMS: The Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Africa, planned to take place in Zambia in February 2009, has been postponed indefinitely.

The secretariat has contacts to another applicant for the mapping of climate and food security besides the ones on the forwarded list.

Comments to the briefing from the board: DDRN has provided an input to Danida/the Africa Commission on research and educational institutions and networks within agriculture in Africa. DDRN's partners and collaborators in Africa, especially FARA, FANRPAN and RUFORUM have provided a useful overview of institutions and links to relevant institutions and networks. AMS has forwarded this mapping to Danida and will circulate the mapping to the Board as well. The Pilot Projects in Vietnam and Tanzania have asked DDRN to assist with communication. Danida supports this. One of the projects in TZ has also requested DDRN to organise a workshop on knowledge sharing and experiences from other countries. The process with the pilot projects may be delayed; and until further information has been received from Danida

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(after Dec. 8), DDRN will not take any further action regarding the pilots. It was added that funds will be allocated for such pilots for another two years. LIFE will organise a course in proposal writing, where DDRN could be involved. The applications received so far (phase 1) have been of poor standard. A 2-step process, where the 2nd step could be assistance from DK, was proposed. When the process is demand-driven, the quality will often be variable. AMS will contact Darriann Riber (UM) with regard to both financing and organising of pilot project related activities. No new countries will be included for some time to come. MF has established links to DFID's communication department.

Ad 3.a. Follow-up meeting with Danida 'DDRN in the Future'

OM, OJS and AMS participated in a meeting with Darriann Riber and John Nielsen on October 6, 2008. One conclusion of the meeting was that DDRN submits an application for a second phase of 2½ years, which has been done. The other two knowledge networks have not submitted their applications; and accordingly we shall not receive any reply in 2008. Funding of the networks is on the Budget (Finansloven) for 2009, so we expect that DDRN will be granted another 2½ years from July 2009. It was mentioned that an overhead of 35 or perhaps even 44 % is very high, also considering that DDRN adds goodwill to IGG. The subsequent discussion brought forward suggestions that the rectors might bring up the issue as a general question with the relevant ministries. It was concluded that the discussion is postponed till the DDRN application has been approved.

Ad 3.b. Communication strategy

MF emphasised that the present document is an early draft and that the final draft will be sent in January 2009. Comments from board members to this draft are to be sent to MF no later than January 5, 2009. A budget for implementation of the plan was asked for. It will be approved together with an implementation plan and the final strategy.

Ad 3.c. ERA-ARD

AMS has participated in a meeting at Danida with Hanne Carus and Alex Percy-Smith (APS). In other ERA-ARD countries a sum has been earmarked for distribution among the particular country's researchers/projects within agricultural research for development. Danida has no money for that purpose, and the only current option would be if the money was taken from the FFU funds. APS has asked DDRN to lobby with Danish ministries for allocation of funds to ERA-ARD. After a little discussion it was decided that given the current priorities and resources DDRN will not be further involved regarding the issue. Priority will be given to support researchers in the South and South-North partnership initiatives, such as PAEPARD.

Ad 4.a. Climate change activities

AMS gave information on the SADC initiative: It is a joint activity between the three knowledge / research networks. One objective of the activity is to bring together researchers from the SADC countries in a cross disciplinary dialogue on climate change in relation to water, health and food security. Another aim is to assure a stronger South representation at the Copenhagen Conference in March 2009 and openings for North – South research collaboration. Among the outputs of the planning meeting held in Botswana was preparation of ToR for three mappings on climate change in relation water, health and food security, respectively. AMS elaborated the final ToR. DWF will pay DKK 200,000, but ENRECAHEALTH can only contribute DKK 30,000 maximum. The networks will apply to FFU for support to the functioning of the climate network in SADC in view of sustainability. The next workshop will be in South Africa. There has been some unsatisfactory variation in the commitment from the three Danish networks, but the collaboration with water is working well now; and the partners of DWF (Global Water Partnerships (GWP)) will be responsible for the practical arrangements in connection with the conference. The mapping is supposed to indicate who from the SADC countries will be invited to the conference; and the activity will have its own website. MF and Jesper Dannisøe from DWF will discuss this. The board found the idea of cross disciplinarity in the South interesting

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as well as the idea of preparing for the climate conferences in Copenhagen and in Aarhus. 12 persons from DK will participate in South Africa. They might be selected based on cross disciplinarity, perhaps based on profiles in the climate overview. The board agreed to use DKK 200,000 for the workshop in SA and DKK 65,000 for the mapping on climate change and food security. The 200,000 will include support of participants from DK and the South. The latter can also apply at the Danish embassies in the SADC region. For follow-up activities the planning group will apply for external funds. To carry out the mapping the secretariat suggested Katharine Vincent from SA. The board accepted the proposal. The conference is planned to take place in week 7, 2009. It was suggested that the activity should be included in the Danida application under partnerships.

Action 1: The secretariat offers Katharine Vincent from SA the task of elaborating the mapping on climate change and food security.

Ad 4.b. Conferences in Denmark in March 2009

Since there will be conferences in both Copenhagen and Aarhus with very few days' interval, DDRN can support participants from the South attending either conference. However, applicants should preferably participate in both. The planning group recommends some presenters for support from IARU, which has some funds for that purpose. Among those that do not get support from IARU, DDRN can select some, who can receive a fixed amount with a maximum per participant. AU will send a list of presenters to the DDRN secretariat. It was decided to grant up to DKK 125,000 for 4-6 participants per conference i.e. a total of max. DKK 250,000.

Action 2: TN asks the people responsible for the climate change conference at AU to send lists of presenters from the South for possible DDRN funding.

Ad 5.a. DDRN activities 2009. Seminars in the South

A thematic seminar in Niger for advisors is in preparation towards the end of April by Hanne Carus (UM). Research will be included in the seminar (Kjeld Rasmussen and Simon Bolvig among others). Hanne Carus is waiting for a brief from the above-mentioned researchers. Communication of research results may also be included. The secretary has not any information about the economy of the seminar, except that members of the secretariat will participate.

The conference in Zambia has been postponed indecisively.

Ad 5.b. Overviews

The overview of project management: Nico is working on it.

AW has offered to prepare ToR for the overview of research-development links in Europe.

Action 3: AW prepares a draft TOR for the overview of research–development links in Europe.

Ad 5.c. Conference on strategic collaboration on Higher Education and Research

In continuation of the draft position paper several ideas were put forward:

- A conference fitting in with the one in 'Landstingsalen' and others;
- Mapping of similar networks in Europe;
- Online journal;
- Other players in Africa or Asia;
- The question of brain drain / brain gain;
- Governance should be included in the theme;
- Specific objectives could be more precise.

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As far as possible the conference should embrace both the focus areas of DDRN and priorities from the South. It will aim at facilitating that Danish universities find their feet in relation to South partners. Besides, the conference should try to link to the Africa Commission, which will present their recommendations in May 2009.

The proposed dates (June 11-12, 2009) and venue (AU) were questioned, in particular since Danida Development Days will be on June 8-10, 2009. No contacts have been made to AU yet; and the issues will be reconsidered.

Comments to the draft position paper should be sent to LF no later than January 5, 2009.

AW and CESL set up a working group together with AMS. The group will elaborate proposals for ToR and budget.

Action 4: Board members send comments to the draft position paper to LF no later than January 5, 2009.

Action 5: A working group initiated by AW and CESL will elaborate proposals for ToR and budget.

Ad 6. Applications for member driven activities

The applications were dealt with under the three headings of the forwarded overview:

1. Workshops and seminars

OJS was not present during the discussion and decisions since he is among the applicants.

Four applications have been received:

1. "Consultative Forum on Eco-villages as an Option for Settling Internally Displaced Farmers". The application cannot be supported because there is no North-South linkage. In the reply the applicant should be encouraged to link to a Danish researcher; and if this is in place, he may apply again.
2. Workshop in connection to the First African Organic Conference. To be supported.
3. Seminar "Inter-Cultural Management in Development". To be supported.
4. "Transnational forms of cooperation and inter-cultural dialogues: Towards alternatives to development and human rights". Further clarifications are necessary before support can be granted. The concept note is too vague and must be recast. Besides, participation must be open; and the applicant should inform of what she intends to do in case she does not receive other funding applied for. If these conditions are met, the activity can be supported.

Action 6: The secretariat informs the applicants that applications 2 and 3 have been approved, that application 1 cannot be approved, and that application 4 can be approved on condition of further and satisfactory clarifications.

2. Participation in meetings and seminars

Four applications have been received:

1. Erasmus Mundus conference: "Higher Education and Climate Change". To be supported.
2. International conference: "Sustainable Animal Production in the Humid Tropics". To be supported.
3. IARU Scientific Congress on Climate Change. Applications for support for participation in this climate conference should be directed to IARU, not to DDRN. Not to be supported.
4. "Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Coastal Management in Developing Countries". The application falls outside the thematic areas of DDRN and cannot be supported. It has been forwarded to DWF.

Action 7: The secretariat informs the applicants that applications 1 and 2 have been approved and that application 3 and 4 cannot be approved.

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3. Other activities

One application has been received:

Urban Climate Change in South Asia (Information consolidation, publication and online platform of knowledge sharing). LA explained that the secretariat had the following reservations: There is no description of sustainability and ownership after the seven months' funding period. The project is interesting; and it was decided that the dialogue on the above issues should continue in view of possible funding.

Action 8: The secretariat informs the applicant that further clarifications are needed before funding can be granted.

In relation to possibly increased DDRN support to the FAU conference in May 2009, the issue will be discussed when DDRN receives an inquiry.

Ad 7. A.O.B.

The following dates and venues for board meetings in the first half of 2009 were settled:

First meeting: Wednesday March 18, 2009 at Roskilde University.

Second meeting and General Assembly: Monday May 25, 2009 at DIIS.

It was decided that the secretariat sends the Briefings on progress of activities and the board meeting agendas to Danida and asks whether they want to receive the minutes as well.

Action 9: The secretariat sends the Briefings on progress of activities and the agendas to Danida and asks whether they want to receive the minutes as well.

List of actions from 4th board meeting 2008

Reference	Action	By whom	Status
BM4/08: Act.1	The secretariat offers Katharine Vincent from SA the task of elaborating the mapping on climate change and food security	AS	Done
BM4/08: Act.2	TN asks the people responsible for the climate change conference at AU to send lists of presenters from the South for possible DDRN funding	TN	Done
BM4/08: Act.3	AW prepares TOR for the overview of research–development links in Europe	AW	Done
BM4/08: Act.4	Board members send comments to the draft position paper to LF no later than January 5, 2009	Board members	Done
BM4/08: Act.5	A working group initiated by AW and CESL will elaborate proposals for ToR and budget	AW and CESL	Done
BM4/08: Act.6	The secretariat informs the applicants that applications 2 and 3 have been approved, that application 1 cannot be approved, and that application 4 can be approved on condition of further and satisfactory clarifications	LA and LF	Done
BM4/08: Act.7	The secretariat informs the applicants that applications 1 and 2 have been approved and that application 3 and 4 cannot be approved	LA and LF	Done

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BM4/08: Act.8	The secretariat informs the applicant that further clarifications are needed before funding can be granted	LA and LF	Done
BM4/08: Act.9	The secretariat sends the Briefings on progress of activities and board meeting agendas to Danida and asks whether they want to receive the minutes as well	LF	Done

List of pending actions from previous board meetings

Reference	Action	By whom	Status
BM2/08: Act.2	The climate task force is encouraged to screen ongoing climate activities at other Danish institutions and presents this to the board.	LA	Done with regard to task force members' institutions
BM3/08: Act.4	The secretariat will take contact to communications departments and international offices at the Danish Universities in view of increased collaboration.	MF	On-going
BM3/08: Act.7	The secretariat will make a proposal on visits to Danish institutions before the next board meeting	AS and MF	Pending
BM3/08: Act.8	Terms of Reference for an overview of experiences from other countries with collaboration between research and development will be elaborated by the secretariat and sent to the board for comments	AS and AW	Done

16.1.2009

Up-dated 19.3.2009

LF