

# Draft Minutes of DDRN Board Meeting

September 14, 2010 – IGG, University of Copenhagen

*Participants:* Arne Wangel (AW), Carl Erik Schou Larsen (CESL), Claus Jørgensen (CJ), John Christensen (JC), Mogens Buch-Hansen (MBH), Niels Fold (NF), Olav Jull Sørensen (OJS) and Thomas Nielsen (TN), Anne Marie Sørensen (AMS), Lone Frederiksen (LF), Kris Borring Prasada Rao (KPR), Marianne Forti (MF) and Karina Maria Gregersen (KMG).

*Apologies from:* Estelle Fanjaud (EF), Helene Ystanes Føyn (HYF). *Rapporteurs:* LF and KMG.

## **Draft agenda:**

0. Appointment of vice-chair
1. Approval of the board meeting agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of last meeting (June 23, 2010)
3. Briefing on progress of activities by the secretariat (information and discussion)
4. Status and perspectives with regard to DU (with update from Christian Pilegaard Hansen (CPH), DU)
5. Danida's new strategy - How and where can DDRN contribute to its implementation?  
Revisiting DDRN's focal themes (Climate Change, Food Security, Research Communication)
6. DDRN activities 2010-11 reviewed and discussed (Discussion and decision)  
Proposed activities (Research dissemination; Briefing papers; Other?)
7. A.O.B

## **Ad. 0. Appointment of vice-chair**

During the previous board meeting it had been discussed whether a new deputy chairperson should be chosen since Olav Jull Sørensen (OJS) was involved in the establishment of platforms under Universities Denmark (DU) and Carl Erik Schou Larsen (CESL) had chosen to step down as chair of the board because of his involvement with the platforms. Thomas Nielsen (TN) had been proposed as a candidate. OJS was willing to continue as vice-chair and the other board members expressed that they wished him to continue, so he was re-elected.

## **Ad. 1. Approval of the board meeting agenda**

The agenda was approved.

## **Ad. 2. Approval of the minutes of last meeting (June 23, 2010)**

OJS noted that the e-mails about the Development Science Shop, which DDRN had sent out to Danish educational institutions to be distributed to their students, had not been written in English.

<p><b>Action 1:</b> The secretariat sends out e-mails in English about the Development Science Shop to Danish educational institutes to be distributed to students.</p>
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The minutes of the last board meeting were approved.

## **Ad. 3. Briefing on progress of activities by the secretariat**

- AMS gave an update on the DU-DDRN report on capacity building in higher education. Göran Hydén is currently working on the assignment; and AMS and Christian Pilegaard Hansen (CPH) from DU have already commented on the outline of the report. Göran Hydén expects to have a draft ready in October and has therefore proposed two dates – October 6 and October 25 – for a meeting with DDRN and DU to discuss the draft document. It was agreed to propose Oct. 6 to CPH when he joins this board meeting.
- DDRN received visitors from Tietgen International, Odense, on September 7, 2010. The guests were coordinators, agricultural advisors and officials from district cultural offices from Uganda and Bangladesh, following a course in Denmark.
- The 150 percent real increase in members since DDRN's beginning mentioned in the paragraph about the member database was underlined as a key figure. It was clarified that the baseline year for the calculation of this percentage was 2007 and thus that the

percentage was calculated based on the number of members from the networks preceding DDRN.

- The information and dialogue meeting on agriculture and development scheduled for the second week of September has been postponed to October 13. Sven Sommer from the Growth and Employment platform is not able to participate and the newly appointed coordinator will probably participate.
- The board was informed that the network workshop, which DDRN is co-hosting with NGO-Forum on October 12, 2010, was to be announced soon. Other knowledge networks in the Nordic countries, who have expressed interest in participating in the workshop will also be invited.
- The high level ministerial conference on agricultural higher education to be held in Uganda in November 2010 was discussed. AS confirmed that she will participate in the whole conference as did CESL. It was agreed that CESL's participation in the conference would be financed by DDRN as he would participate as a DDRN representative. It was suggested that participation in the conference would be a good opportunity for someone from DU to network and make new contacts.
- AS informed that it would be considered to invite Alex Percy-Smith, who is now working as a freelance consultant and provides assistance to the Secretariat of the European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development, to give a brief on his work, possibly at the Agridev Task Force meeting on October 13, 2010.

**Action 2:** 2007 is indicated as the baseline year for the calculation of the real increase in DDRN members in the briefing document's paragraph on the member database.

**Action 3:** DDRN finances CESL's participation as a DDRN representative at the high level ministerial conference on agricultural higher education in Uganda in November 2010.

#### **Ad. 4. Status and perspectives with regard to DU**

Before CPH joined the meeting to give an update on DU, the board briefly shared their news on the DU platforms with each other. CESL recounted his recent meeting with Tove Degnbol (TD), the new head of TAS, in Vietnam. He had presented TD with the following possible strategies for securing DDRN's competences beyond the current grant period:

1. A laissez-faire strategy in the hope that competences would flow into the new platforms
2. An extension of DDRN's funding period since the new platforms are not yet ready to assimilate competences from DDRN.
3. Keeping DDRN as a central coordinating agency.

Following this meeting, CESL was of the opinion that DDRN would be able to get its funding period extended if the purpose of the extension is clearly communicated. CESL also noted that TD had been positive towards the idea of creating a database over all Danish research within the field of development studies and saw this as an indication of TD seeing a role for DDRN beyond the current funding period.

CPH then joined the meeting to give the board an update on DU's activities. CPH informed the board that DU now has four new platforms:

- growth and employment platform
- environment and climate platform
- health platform
- 'stability' platform focused on democracy and human rights

These platforms are partnered with the priorities of UM's new strategy. Each platform has a steering committee comprised of representatives from the eight Danish universities. The steering committees' members are listed on the DU website. At the time of the board meeting, three steering committees had already held their first meetings and were currently planning larger workshops. Every platform would have an activity plan and budget ready by February

2011 to be assessed by an international panel of experts who would make recommendations and enter into dialogue with the platforms about proposals for improvements. The implementation phase would then be scheduled for March and April 2011.

CPH remarked the following regarding funding of the DU initiative:

- Approximately 53 million DKK have been set aside for the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) initiative for 2011-2012 in the Danish government's budget for 2011. The health platform has also received 5 million DKK from UM in 2010 as well as 10 million DKK for 2011. Thus, 68 million DKK should be available to the initiative at the end of 2012 if the finance bill is approved and UM approves the work plans & budgets proposed
- The initiative should receive approximately 90 DKK per annum in 2013 and 2014.

CPH remarked the following regarding South partners. At present, it appeared that there would be a focus on Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Ghana, but things could still change.

Finally, CPH remarked that there were still several practical issues regarding the cooperation between DU and UM which needed to be clarified, e.g. UM's demands regarding the degree of co-financing, overheads and services to be offered to UM. CPH said he hoped these things would be clearer in a month's time.

The board had several questions for CPH and the discussion of these is summarized below:

- It was asked whether it was realistic to schedule the implementation phase for March-April 2010. It was specified that the implementation phase would start after the international panel of experts finished their work in March and CPH recognized that there could be delays.
- The board wondered whether DU planned to use the 53 million DKK to employ staff for the platform secretariats or to purchase equipment. CPH expressed that, besides salary for one coordinator per platform, the money should go to neither purpose as UM had underlined that the money should go to building research capacity. Other uses for the money would be clarified later on through needs identification.
- The relationship between FFU and the DU initiative were discussed. CPH underlined that the DU initiative was to support longer-term and larger activities than those supported by FFU. Thus, there was room for cooperation between the two. The DU activities should build on needs assessments and dialogue.
- The board wondered how funding would be split between the platforms and what consequences this would have for them. CPH recognized that the economic framework would limit the platforms' options, but also explained that there would be a minimum level of funding for each platform. Also, DU had been working on formulating criteria which should make it impossible for 80 percent of the money to end up in one place. These criteria will be assessed of the college of rectors shortly.
- The structuring of the process for UM's approval of budgets and finances was discussed and CPH noted that several points regarding this remained unclear.
- It was discussed how involved UM would be with the sharing of funds between the platforms. CPH answered that DU had its own wishes for the sharing of funds but that no strategy had been formulated yet. The platforms' action plans should clarify the strategy and the amount of money to be used for competition. JC suggested that the platforms should have mixed solutions, that each platform should have two budgets, and that setting competitions would give possibilities for cooperation between the platforms.
- CPH confirmed that a main coordination group for the DU initiative, comprised of representatives from the eight universities and the platform coordinators, existed.
- The international panel of experts was discussed and CPH explained that the external experts had not yet been appointed, but that there had been talk of what qualifications they should have. CPH expressed that he was open to proposals. At

present, the only clear criterion was that they should not be Danish citizens. It was agreed that CPH would send DDRN a draft version of the ToR for the international experts. Regarding the panel of experts, JC recommended experts from UNITARD.

- It was discussed where the funding for the DU initiative had come from. According to CPH, two things had happened. Firstly, FFU funding had been cut so that it returned to the 2007 level. Parallel to this, UM has ended its result contracts with KU-LIFE which has freed funding. AMS wondered whether DDRN's money was also involved. The board noted that this was probably the case.
- The question of integration of DDRN's capacities in DU was discussed. Since the last meeting between DDRN and DU had been held in May, it was agreed that it was time for a new meeting. CPH encouraged DDRN and maybe even all networks to put forward a presentation for a future meeting and some thoughts on a cooperation with DU. It was agreed that the meeting should be held as soon as possible and that it should be with DU's political management as well as Per Holten Andersen and the platform coordinators. CPH agreed to come up with some possible dates and contact the platforms. Moreover, JC noted CPH mentioning the importance of cooperation between the DU platforms and remarked that DDRN maybe could assist DU with this as DDRN had a lot of experience with working across different fields. CPH responded that the coordinators were already having internal meetings focusing on administrative matters and soon also on academic matters. Also, a central coordinator for the platforms would hopefully be appointed.
- DDRN's participation in the DU platforms' meetings was discussed. It was noted that DDRN had had difficulties getting information about the meetings and registering for them. CPH then said he would make sure that DDRN received information on and invitations to the meetings in the future. JC commented that the Climate Change Task Force were holding a meeting on November 22 or 23, 2010, in Eigtveds Pakhus and said that flyers should be sent out to the platforms.
- The date for the meeting on Göran Hydén's draft was discussed. CPH agreed to have the meeting on October 6. It was agreed that the board members and the DU platforms' heads and coordinators should be invited to attend the meeting.
- Finally, OJS mentioned that there might be cross-cutting activities that it would not be evident for all platforms to develop. It might be relevant to utilize DDRN competences for such activities. It was suggested to include this issue in future discussions. CPH mentioned that the platform coordinators currently are discussing administration issues.
- With regard to the selection of partner countries, the question of whether platforms could make the choice themselves. CPH replied that preferably a number of platforms should have the same partner countries.

**Action 4:** The secretariat informs the DU platform on Climate and Environment about the Climate Change Task Force's meeting in Eigtveds Pakhus on November 22-23, 2010.

**Action 5:** The meeting on Göran Hydén's draft report will be held on October 6, 2010, and the secretariat sends out invitations and the draft report to the board as well as to CPH, who forwards them to the DU platforms' heads and coordinators.

#### **Ad. 5. Danida's new strategy "Freedom from Poverty – Freedom to Change"**

It was agreed to postpone this item till a later meeting.

#### **Ad. 6. DDRN activities 2010-11 reviewed and discussed (Discussion and Decision)**

Since this point was discussed after the point regarding DU, the discussion of DDRN activities 2010-11 was very much focused on DDRN's activities with regard to DU.

Firstly, the two forthcoming meetings with DU were discussed. Regarding the first meeting about Göran Hydén's draft report on October 6, its purpose was clarified and several board members confirmed that they would be able to participate. The format of the meeting was also discussed. AMS suggested that one could arrange for Göran Hydén to hold a talk prior to the meeting. Regarding the second meeting with DU, it was agreed that DDRN should prepare a presentation for the meeting, and the board gave various inputs to the content of this. The discussion of the meetings with DU led to a broader discussion of what DDRN's strategy with regard to DU should be. It was noted that it was important to decide whether DDRN should define itself in relation to DU and that DDRN would be able to help DU with coordination across the platforms and dissemination of information to stakeholders within the development community. It was suggested that DDRN could approach the respective DU platforms and offer to disseminate information on their events for them. This would be a simple way to show the platforms what DDRN can do. It was remarked that DU would probably not be able to stick to the time plan which it had set itself and that DDRN therefore should be able to get its grant period extended until the DU set-up was more clearly defined. It was agreed that a meeting with Tove Degnbol, the new head of TAS, should be arranged as soon as possible since the outcome of such a meeting would have an important influence on the strategy adopted towards DU. It was also agreed that the meeting with Tove Degnbol should be held before DDRN's second meeting with DU. At the end of the discussion, it seemed that there were two viable strategies to adopt towards DU:

1. DDRN tries to secure further funding from UM and defining itself independently of DU.
2. DDRN focuses on working with DU to integrate DDRN into DU's platforms.

Afterwards it was discussed whether DDRN should work on securing funding from alternative sources. It was noted that this could be very complicated and time-consuming and might entail DDRN registering as an NGO. It was therefore thought best to postpone pursuing this option for the time being.

Finally, the production of information material promoting DDRN was discussed. The board agreed that the secretariat should produce a series of fact sheets/briefing papers about DDRN and JC and CJ would provide good examples of such materials for inspiration. The fact sheets' specific content and their target group was discussed. The board also agreed that the secretariat should promote DDRN's work with research communication more actively. Moreover, it was suggested that the secretariat could make a SWOT analysis comparing DDRN and the new set-up before the second meeting with DU. Furthermore, it was proposed that the secretariat should liaise with DDRN's partners both in North and South and asking them to be active spokesmen/women for DDRN, and communicate the benefits and competences acquired through DDRN. At the close of the discussion, MF mentioned that the secretariat was going to taking a course on lobbyism on September 29 from 10 to 15 hrs and that board members were welcome to participate.

**Action 6:** The secretariat will arrange a meeting with Tove Degnbol as soon as possible. The meeting should be held before DDRN's second meeting with DU.

**Action 7:** After the meeting with Tove Degnbol, the secretariat starts preparing a presentation for DDRN's second meeting with DU.

**Action 8:** The secretariat produces proposals for fact sheets promoting DDRN. JC and CJ will provide good examples of such material for inspiration.

**Action 9:** The secretariat sends out the programme of course in lobbyism to the board.

**Items 5 and 6** were postponed to a later meeting when the situation in relation to DKUNI is more clarified.

**Ad.7. A.O.B.**

The board agreed that it would be a good idea to move ahead with the work on establishing a database over all FFU research in collaboration with DIIS and NIAS. It was noted that the database would be very useful to UM.

**Action 10:** The secretariat will start working on establishing a database over all FFU research.

As to the question of how much and in what the board should be involved in future activities related to DKUNI and DDRN's future, it was agreed that the board would be involved primarily in strategic decisions and activities.

**List of actions from 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting 2010**

Reference	Action	By whom	Status
BM1/10 act 1	The secretariat will send out e-mails in English about the Development Science Shop to Danish educational institutes to be distributed to students.	AS	Done
BM1/10 act 2	2007 is indicated as the baseline year for the calculation of the real increase in DDRN members in the briefing document's paragraph on the member database.	MF	Done
BM1/10 act 3	DDRN finances CESL's participation as a DDRN representative at the high level ministerial conference on agricultural higher education in Uganda in November 2010.	KPR	Done
BM1/10 act 4	The secretariat informs the DU platform on Climate and Environment about the Climate Change Task Force's meeting in Eigtveds Pakhus on November 22-23, 2010.	KPR	Done
BM1/10 act 5	The secretariat sends out invitations and the draft report to the board and to CPH	AMS/LF	Done
BM1/10 act 6	The secretariat will arrange an meeting with Tove Degnbold before the second meeting with DU.	AMS	Done
BM1/10 act 7	After the meeting with Tove Degnbold, the secretariat starts preparing a presentation for DDRN's second meeting with DU.	AMS/MF/KPR?	Done
BM1/10 act 8	The secretariat produces proposals for fact sheets promoting DDRN. Board members will provide good examples of such material for inspiration.	AMS/MF/KPR/Board	On-going
BM1/10 act 9	The secretariat sends out programme of course in lobbyism to the board.	LF	Done
BMI1/10 act 10	The secretariat will start working on establishing a database over all FFU research.	MF	Done