

Danish Development Research Network

Minutes of DDRN's 5th Board Meeting

May 09, 2007 – Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)

Participants: Arne Wangel (AW), Bente Topsøe-Jensen (BTJ) Claus Jørgensen (CJ), Hanne Carus (HC), Henrik Egelyng (HE), Mette Kjær (MK), Olav Jull Sørensen (OJS), Ole Mertz (OM), Peter Oksen (PO), Stefano Ponte (SP)

From DDRN: Lluís Armangué (LA), Lone Frederiksen (LF) – rapporteur.

Proposed agenda for the constituting board meeting:

1. Election of chairperson and deputy chairperson of the board.
2. Decision on dates for future board meetings in 2007.
3. Appointment of members to represent the board in the group for selection of applications for Danida Travel Grants.

Lluís Armangué (LA) was appointed as chair of the meeting until a chairperson of the board was elected.

The meeting was initiated with a round of introduction:

Arne Wangel (AW). Sociologist, working at DTU. AW is a representative of the 92 Group, which is a coalition of Danish NGOs working within the fields of development and environment. Member of the former DDRN board.

Bente Topsøe-Jensen (BTJ). Anthropologist. BTJ has been working with Danida's agriculture programme in Mozambique, among others. Now employed as a consultant at COWI.

Claus Jørgensen (CJ). Director of NIRAS A/S and member of the International Committee of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies. Member of the former DDRN board.

Hanne Carus (HC) is Danida's observer at the board, coming from BFT. Bente Ilsøe may at times take her seat as deputy.

Henrik Egelyng (HE). Researcher at DIIS, specialized in development research on institutional requirements for sustainable development and agriculture related development.

Mette Kjær (MK). Associate professor at Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus, with special focus on public administration in East Africa. Member of the former DDRN board.

Olav Jull Sørensen (OJS). Professor of International Business Economics at Department of Business Studies, Aalborg University, with special interest in the private sector. Geographical focus on Ghana and South East Asia.

Ole Mertz (OM). Associate professor at Department of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen. Research on natural resource management, agriculture and environment, especially with focus on adaptation to climate change. Geographical areas: the Sahel, South East Asia and the South Pacific. Member of the former DDRN board.

Peter Oksen (PO). Associate professor at International Development Studies, Roskilde University Centre. Focus on West Africa and South East Asia within the fields of natural resource management and environment. Member of the former DDRN board.

Stefano Ponte (SP). Senior researcher at DIIS, focusing on governance issues in the global economy and international trade, in particular within agro-food products and eco-labelling.

Ad 1. Election of chairperson and deputy chairperson of the board

The votes for the individual board members at the general assembly were presented:

Board members:

Ole Mertz	27
Mette Kjær	25
Peter Oksen	24

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Bente Topsø-Jensen	22
Claus Jørgensen	21
Arne Wangel	18
Stefano Ponte	17
Henrik Egelyng	16
Olav Jull Sørensen	16

Deputy members:

Alex Percy-Smith	15
Peter Lund-Thomsen	15

After a short discussion of the advantages or disadvantages of choosing a chairperson who is working in the same institute as the secretariat, it was concluded that this could facilitate the daily collaboration. In the former board, the chairperson and the deputy chairperson has functioned as executive committee in cases where quick decisions have been needed.

Consequently, OM agreed to being elected as chairperson, and MK accepted the post as deputy chairperson.

OM took over the chair of the meeting and pointed to the fact that there are no board members that represent the more 'hard' natural and agricultural sciences. Discussions on the implications of and possible solutions to this problem concluded in a decision of including the issue on the agenda of the following board meeting.

Decision 1: Ole Mertz was elected chairperson and Mette Kjær deputy chair person of the board.

Action 1: The issue of non-representation of agriculture in the new board to be on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Ad 2. Decision on dates for future board meetings in 2007

LA informed that the dates proposed were based on the deadlines for applications for member-driven activities, viz. June 1st and September 1st. For the first meeting, Monday June 11, was preferred, but in view of the fact that it coincides with Danida Development Days, the start of the meeting was fixed to 16:00, and the venue at DIIS.

For the other meetings the following dates were decided upon:

Wednesday September 12, 2007 at 14:00.

Monday December 3, 2007 at 14:00.

Decision 2:

1st meeting: Monday June 11, 2007 at 16:00. Venue: DIIS.

2nd meeting: Wednesday September 12, 2007 at 14:00.

3rd meeting: Monday December 3, 2007 at 14:00.

Ad 3. Appointment of members to represent the board in the group for selection of applicants for Danida Travel Grants

OM explained that the former procedure had been that the secretariat of each network had come up with a proposal to be approved by a committee under the board. The board decided that Anne Sørensen (AMS) and LA from the secretariat elaborate a prioritized list with comments on decision criteria. The list is to be sent to all members of the board with indication of a deadline for objections.

Action 2: AMS and LA make a prioritized list of applicants with comments on selection criteria. The list is sent to all board members with a deadline for objections.

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List of actions from 5th board meeting

Reference	Action	By whom	Status
			15.05.07
BM5:Act.1	Put the non-representation of agriculture in the new board on the agenda for the 6 th board meeting	OM, MK and secretariat	
BM5:Act.2	Make a prioritized list of applicants for Danida's Travel Grants and send it to the board members for objections within an indicated time frame.	AMS and LA	On-going

List of pending actions from previous board meetings

Reference	Action	By whom	Status
BM4:Act.1	Hold a meeting with the head of the department of Geography and Geology to clarify the agreement between the University of Copenhagen and the network.	Board	
BM4:Act.5	Ask FAU for a budget of the Conference, and support them with DKK 25,000 on reception of the budget.	Secretariat	Done