

# Danish Development Research Network

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## Draft Minutes of DDRN's 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

June 11, 2007 – Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)

Participants: Bente Topsøe-Jensen (BTJ), Mette Kjær (MK), Ole Mertz (OM), Olav Jull Sørensen (OJS), Peter Oksen (PO), Stefano Ponte (SP). Observer: Hanne Carus (HC). Secretariat staff: Lluís Armangué (LA), Marianne Forti (MF) - rapporteur

Apologies: Alex Percy-Smith (APS), Anne Marie Sørensen (AMS), Arne Wangel (AW), Claus Jørgensen (CJ), Henrik Egelyng (HE), Lone Frederiksen (LF), Peter Lund-Thomsen (PLT)

### **Agenda:**

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
3. Briefing on progress of activities by the secretariat
  - Focus themes for website and newsletters
  - Conference themes in 2007 (MGDs, WB report 2008, other)
4. Applications for member activities
  - Presentation of proposals
  - Decision
5. Participation of the South
  - Presentation of issues
  - Discussion and next steps
6. Follow-up on the general assembly and the thematic meeting of 9 May 2007
  - Presentation of proposal for new election procedures by the chairman
  - Discussion and decision
7. A.O.B

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

The discussion on election procedures was moved from Ad. 5 to 6, as shown above.

### **Ad 2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting**

A few changes had been sent by e-mail from board members who could not attend the meeting. A change in a formulation regarding representatives from natural and agricultural sciences in the board was accepted, as well as some minor editorial changes, including a few additions to the description of the board members' areas of work and research.

The procedure for approval of the minutes of the board meetings was briefly discussed and it was agreed that in the future the secretariat would send the draft minutes to OM and MK. After the inclusion of the comments of OM and MK, the minutes will be sent to the rest of the board with a short deadline for further comments by e-mail in order to be able to post the minutes on the website relatively soon after the meetings. Final approval of the minutes will be on the agenda of the following board meeting.

A question had been raised by e-mail regarding the role of substitutes. It was agreed that substitutes are welcome to attend the meetings but do not have the right to vote. This can only be achieved if other members of the board resign and substitutes thus become regular members. It was discussed whether it should be possible for board members to vote by e-mail previous to boards meetings they cannot attend. No final decision was made.

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

LA briefly explained the intention of giving a brief overview with the report from the secretariat. This format was highly appreciated by the board members and a few questions were raised. An overview of the network members indicating the percentage of North and South members was asked for. This overview will be possible to have with the new website

and member database which is being developed. It was suggested to include professionals from Danida and consultants in the planning of inspiration seminars for master students and to consider planning these seminars together with the other Danish research networks. MK and OJS agreed to function as contact persons at the Universities of Aarhus and Aalborg respectively.

**Action 1:** LF continues the planning of the seminars and contacts both universities and development professionals. LF also contacts the water and health research networks to discuss possible cooperation in organising the seminars.

Furthermore, LA oriented the board that a call in Danish had been sent to network members in Denmark to contribute to commenting on the Danish strategy for development in Africa. This approach was chosen by the secretariat because the strategy was only available in Danish. The board suggested that the mail could have been sent to all network members in English in order to keep them informed about the process taking place.

As a comment to the report from the secretariat, OJS expressed interest in having the guidelines mentioned in the report regarding the secretariat's procedures for the establishment of working groups.

**Action 2:** LA sends the secretariat's internal guidelines for establishment of working groups to OJS and, upon request, to other board members.

### **3.1. Focus themes for website and newsletters**

MF gave a brief introduction regarding the establishment of the new website. Four offers had been collected by the secretariat and Framemakers A/S had been chosen to develop the new logo and website as their offer met the functions asked for at the most favourable price. The secretariat had agreed with Framemakers to launch the website on July 1, 2007. In order to prepare the content of the website, the secretariat asked for assistance from board members to identify thematic categories to structure the information on the website and newsletters, as well as to define categories for the member database. The secretariat suggested to choose a few crosscutting themes of main focus and some broad categories for general information, with two different levels of information. This was briefly discussed and the board agreed that the themes should all be at the same level of 'generality'.

**Action 3:** MF writes a revised list of themes for the board to comment with a brief deadline.

### **3.2. Conference themes in 2007 (MGDs, WB report 2008, other)**

HC introduced a proposal for a conference to be carried out in cooperation between DDRN and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is planning a conference in response to the World Bank's report 2008. The report focuses on the productive sector and it could be used as input for discussion on the related governance and agriculture issues. Possible issues to be raised could be the report's implications for the development agenda; the governance implications resulting from the approach applied in the report etc. HC explained that the agenda of the conference was still to be decided upon and that there was room for including several of DDRN's thematic areas. HC proposed to start a planning group to prepare the conference. Interested network members should communicate their participation in the group as soon as possible.

The board agreed on this idea and suggested that the conference could be in November with duration of 1 ½ or 2 days.

Other ideas for future conferences were added. Issues proposed were the trade component of the partnership agreements which EU is finalising with Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Themes in the agreements which could be focused on could be NRM, access to water, productive sector, governance in aid and traditional knowledge. The private sector was also mentioned as

an issue for a possible future conference, as was the evaluation of support to research for development mentioned at the seminar held by DDRN on May 9, 2007. The board suggested that the secretariat should contact Margrethe Holm Andersen in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to follow the development of the evaluation. The secretariat informed the board that AMS already had taken contact to MHA on this issue. The board also decided to send a call to all members for suggestions for themes of DDRN conferences to be carried out in 2008.

**Action 4:** MF sends a call with a short deadline to all members to participate in a working group to prepare the conference on the WB report together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is to be coordinated with HC.

**Action 5:** MF sends a call to all members to suggest ideas for future conferences for 2008.

**Action 6:** At the next meeting on September 12, 2007 the board decides the themes of the conferences to be carried out by DDRN in 2008.

**Action 7:** AMS continues the dialogue with Margrethe Holm Andersen for information on the process of the planning of the evaluation and to identify possible areas for cooperation/contribution.

#### **Ad 4. Applications for member activities**

LA presented the overview sent to the board members prior to the meeting with the two applications for funding of a workshops organised by network members. Themes of the workshops were: 1) air pollution and 2) genetically manipulated crops. Photocopies of the applications were also distributed to the board members, but it was agreed that in future only the overview with a recommendation by the secretariat would be distributed. Applications can be sent to board members individually upon request.

The workshop applications were briefly discussed and both were assessed as relevant and thus granted the amount applied for of DKK 25.000,00.

LA also presented an overview of applications for funding of individual network members to travel and network. The aim of the visits applied for varied very much and included among others funding to attend Master's courses. It was agreed that this kind of activities was not for the network to fund and that the call for applications be more specific about which activities can be financed by DDRN. It was suggested that the applications show how the activities applied for would contribute to strengthening the links between researchers in Denmark and in the South. Four applications were listed in the overview and none was found eligible for funding.

**Action 8:** The secretariat informs the two workshops applicants that they have been granted the funding and the four applicants for individual funding that their applications were not met.

**Action 9:** The secretariat together with OM and MK elaborates a revised version of the call for applications for funding of networking activities to be announced in the next monthly newsletter of DDRN.

#### **Ad 5. Participation of the South**

LA introduced the secretariat's suggestion for guidelines to actively engage members in the South in the network. The proposal included the establishment of hubs in the South as extensions of the Danish network. Furthermore, MF informed the board that at the moment AMS was attending a conference in Johannesburg and had considered distributing flyers (also distributed to the board members) on North/South cooperation to conference participants.

The board found the proposal a good and timely suggestion and briefly discussed criteria to be followed in the establishment of hubs, e.g. regions and numbers according to means at disposal. It was agreed to start by uncovering already functioning platforms, e.g. by reading a report on cooperation with the South by ODI. It was also agreed that it would be important for members in the South to see what they would gain from active engagement in the network. It was also suggested that DDRN consider engaging in partnerships with the South through already established platforms. As for the flyers, the board suggested that AMS could introduce it as a draft while discussing possible cooperation with relevant conference participants, but not distribute it widely at the conference.

**Action 10:** Through dialogue with potential and existing South members and mapping of existing relations, the secretariat further develops guidelines for the establishment of more active engagement of members in the South. In the process the board is willing to give continuous feed-back.

#### **Ad. 6. Follow-up on the general assembly and the thematic meeting of 9 May 2007**

OM presented a proposal for new election procedures for the board. The aim of introducing new procedures was to ensure representation from all thematic fields covered by the network. MK explained that she had contacted a researcher on election procedures who recommended one of the two proposed models (with 1 seat for each thematic area) for granting more democracy and broadness of representation.

It was also argued that other competences than the field of research/work could be important in order to elect members, e.g. networking experience. As a change in election procedures would involve a change in the articles of association, the board agreed to postpone this discussion. It was proposed that a system of voting by mail 1-2 weeks prior to the General Assembly could be introduced, but the decision was postponed to the next Board meeting. Furthermore, the board agreed to inform network members of the possibility to attend board meetings.

**Action 11:** The secretariat informs network members that board meetings are open. A discussion on election procedures for the board will be taken up by the board at a later stage.

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

The next board meeting will be held on September 12, 2007, from 14.00 til 16.30 at the Department of Geography and Geology.

As several board members would not be able to attend the planned board meeting on December 3, 2007 it was agreed that a new date in the beginning of December should be identified by the secretariat.

### **List of actions from 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting**

Reference	Action	By whom	Status 04.09.07
BM6:Act.1	Continues the planning of the seminars and contacts both universities and development professionals. Contacts the water and health research networks to discuss possible cooperation in holding the seminars.	LF	On-going
BM6:Act.2	Send the secretariats internal guidelines for establishment of working groups to AW and, upon request, to other board members.	LA	Done
BM6:Act.3	Write a revised list of themes for the board to comment with a brief deadline	MF	Done
BM6:Act.4	Send a call with a short deadline to all members to participate in a working group to prepare the conference on the WB report together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	MF	Done
BM6:Act.5	Send a call to all members to suggest ideas for future conferences for 2008	MF	Done
BM6:Act.6	Decide the themes of the conferences to be carried out by DDRN in 2008.	All board members	Board meeting 12.09.07
BM6:Act.7	Stay in contact with Margrethe Holm Andersen for information on the process of the planning of the evaluation and to identify possible areas for cooperation/contribution	AMS	Done
BM6:Act.8	Inform the two workshops applicants that they have been granted the funding and the four applicants for individual funding that their applications were not met.	Secretariat	Done
BM6:Act.9	Revise the call for applications for funding of networking activities to be announced in the next monthly newsletter of DDRN.	Secretariat, OM and MK	Done
BM6:Act.10	Develop guidelines for the establishment of more active engagement of members in the South.	Secretariat and board members	On-going
BM6:Act.11	Inform network members that board meetings are open. A discussion on election procedures for the board will be taken up by the board at a later stage.	Secretariat	Done

### **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.	OM and MK	On-going

### **On the agenda of the next board meeting on September 12, 2007:**

- DDRN conferences in 2008