



## **7<sup>th</sup> DDRN Extraordinary General Assembly**

**December 14, 2011 – 16:00-18:00**

Institute of Geography & Geology, University of Copenhagen  
Øster Voldgade 10, 1350 Copenhagen. Room 6.1.611 (area 6, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)

Since the final financial support to DDRN from Danida will end December 2011, this extraordinary General Assembly was held to discuss how DDRN will continue to function as an organisation. The funding possibilities for DDRN and the option for DDRN to become an NGO were among the issues to be dealt with.

### **Agenda:**

1. Registration and tea/coffee
2. Election of chairperson and secretary for the general assembly and approval of the agenda
3. Report from the board
4. Status of current initiatives for the continuation of selected DDRN activities
  - 4.a. Discussion of the possibility for DDRN to become an NGO
5. Decision on the proposed amendments of the Articles
6. Election of board members and substitutes
7. A.O.B.

Participants: Anne Sørensen (AS), Arne Wangel (AW), Claus Jørgensen (CJ), Helene Ystanes Føyn (HYF), John Christensen (JC), Kris Prasada Rao (KPR), Lone Frederiksen (LF), Nick Quist Nathaniels (NQN), Niels Fold (NF), Olav Jull Sørensen (OJS), Sigrid Bjerre Andersen (SBA)

Apologies from: Carl Erik Schou Larsen (CESL), Marianne Hedegaard Forti (MHF), Søren Jeppesen (SJ), Thomas Nielsen (TN)

### **Ad 2. Election of chairman and secretary for the GA and approval of the agenda**

Chairman of the board, John Christensen was elected chairperson and Lone Frederiksen secretary of the GA. The agenda was approved.

### **Ad 3. Report from the board**

Since the latest GA in June 2011, the main activity targeting the members has been the **newsletters** sent out by the student assistant, Cecilia Gregersen, with support from MHF, and the communications group. The task force on organisational set-up for DDRN held a meeting on Skype in November. (AW has written minutes.) AS has sent the DDRN report to the new Minister for Development.

### **Ad 4. Status of current initiatives for the continuation of selected DDRN activities**

**Climate Change Task Force:** KPR reported that recently, there was a meeting at KU/LIFE. Approx. 50 researchers from all over the country exchanged findings and knowledge. The core group will hold its next meeting in January 2012. It was mentioned that NGO FORUM has established a climate group. JC added

that if there is no future funding for the task force, the meetings may be held at and paid for by different universities alternately.

**Global Value Chains Working Group:** The latest meeting was held in December 2011. AW told that the group has decided to contribute to the DDRN GVC newsletter; and that AW is editor of regular news mails. At a meeting in January 2012 the group will plan an after work meeting focusing on concrete VC cases. A conference to be held in the autumn of 2012 is under preparation including attempts to assure external funding. Finally, AW reported that the group is considering forming a Nordic VC network. It was added that Nordic Council has funds for Nordic networks and that BSU has earmarked some money for VC working groups. It might be worthwhile to find out what their conditions are.

**Task Force on Agricultural Development:** According to AS there has not been any activity in the group. AS has received several applications from ERA-ARD for reports from the group. AS will take contact to Danida, who asked DDRN to establish the group, to clarify what is to be done and who will do it.

CJ has obtained accept from NIRAS A/S that they are willing to pay for a student assistant 10 hours per week (52 weeks a year, which will correspond to approx. 14 h/w outside holidays), preferably combined with 4 h/w extra for NIRAS. NIRAS has been waiting for a reaction from DDRN. MHF has indicated that the newsletters cannot be produced in less than 14 h/w. NF has obtained agreement from Department for Geography and Geology (IGG) that DDRN can continue to have our address and an office there. It was discussed whether the student should have her/his working place at NIRAS and/or IGG. It will be best to work at both places, which will offer the maximum of continuity with regard to IGG and contacts and collaboration with NIRAS.

It was agreed that:

The tasks will be discussed in further detail with MHF in view of deciding how many hours will necessary weekly.

AS will ask Cecilia Gregersen whether:

1. She will be able to work approx. 18 h/w
2. She will agree to work in two different places (NIRAS and IGG)
3. She can continue working for DDRN all the year 2012.

#### **Ad 4a. Discussion of the possibility for DDRN to become an NGO**

CESL has asked the Project Advice and Training Centre (Projektrådgivningen) concerning the conditions for becoming an NGO. These are not very demanding: The organisation has to open a bank account, have a CVR-number, a treasurer and an auditor, internal or external depending on the demands of potential donors.

LF will undertake to open a bank account.

NF wanted to withdraw from the board because of too many other duties. All other persons present were interested in contributing to the creation of DDRN as an NGO, for some only to a lesser degree due to heavy workloads for at least the next six months. AS was particularly interested in contributing to the inclusion of South perspectives on the Danish development agenda, and she would try to create/strengthen South alliances and platforms.

#### **Ad 5. Discussion on proposed amendments of the Articles**

Proposals had been forwarded by AW for amendments necessary for DDRN to become an NGO, i.e. election of an auditor at the GA, and of an accountant among the board members. This means that the board will constitute itself with a chairperson, a vice-chair and an accountant. The proposed changes were adopted.

Changes in the objectives of DDRN were discussed, but since no proposals had been sent in advance, this discussion was postponed to the next GA.

#### **Ad 6. Election of board members and substitutes**

The following persons were elected members of the board members, and the board constituted itself as follows:

Arne Wangel – Chairman  
Anne Sørensen – Vice-chair with special focus on South collaboration  
Claus Jørgensen - Auditor  
Lone Frederiksen – Accountant  
Carl Erik Schou Larsen  
Helene Ystanes Føyn  
John Christensen  
Olav Jull Sørense  
Søren Jeppesen  
Thomas Nielsen

The following persons were elected substitutes to the board:

Kris Prasada Rao  
Nick Quist Nathaniels  
Sigrid Bjerre Andersen

LF will write to CESL and SJ and ask them to confirm that they accept to be members of the board.

#### **Ad 7. Any other business**

The communications group will have to be strengthened. AW will edit news within GVC; but besides, people who are willing to send news to the student assistant will have to be identified. Voluntary students might be an option.

AW will make a Doodle to find a date for a board meeting.