



BSUEC NEWSLETTER – MAY 2013

The first five months of 2013 have been extremely busy for BSU!

Our BSUEC Phase I activities have been prepared through a joint African-Danish effort and are now running at full speed at all partner universities. The BSUEC Phase II proposal has been submitted to DANIDA and the new BSU Scholarship Programme (Master and MSc studies) has been launched. In addition, stakeholder workshops have been held, targeted at assignment holders of Phase I and, most recently, lead representatives of the upcoming task force on e-learning and problem-based learning have initiated their work across BSU platforms.

Below you will find an overview of key activities and an update for the first half of 2013.

BSU is expanding rapidly

BSU is right now expanding from a single Phase 1 project into four parallel BSU projects running until early 2016:

- Extension of BSU Phase I (PhD scholarships) (Phase I, in total 65 million DKK)
- BSU Phase II (90 million DKK)
- BSU Scholarship Programme (20 million DDK)
- BSU 19 million grant targeted at e-learning, problem-based learning, outreach and dissemination (19 million DKK)

BSU Phase II proposal submitted to DANIDA, April 2013

On 24 April the BSU Phase II proposal was submitted to DANIDA. Prior to submission, the proposal was approved by the Danish Universities Rector's Conference on 23 April 2013. We hope to receive the response from DANIDA during June 2013.

The BSUEC proposal has been several months underway and has involved a comprehensive process including both open calls for sub-activities (subject-specific projects) and intense meetings between stakeholders in Ghana, Tanzania and Denmark. We express our sincere thanks to all contributors for your valuable and constructive input and comments throughout the elaboration of our joint proposal.

The project period is 1 August 2013 to 1 February 2016.

The BSUEC Phase 2 proposal is available at: [BSUEC Phase 2 Proposal](#)

In brief, the key EC activities of Phase 2 are proposed to include:

- PhD scholarships (Continuation of Phase 1, 8 in total)
- Upgrading academic staff primarily through study stays at Danish universities and generic courses
- Upgrading administrative staff on project and financial management and administration
- [Subject-specific Projects](#) (8 in total)
- Educational textbook on 'Climate Change in Sub-Sahara Africa'
- Stakeholder workshops
- Governance including management, coordination and administration

Subsequent to the submission, DANIDA at the end of April granted an additional 10 million DKK to BSU Phase II. The grant is earmarked to the two platforms on Environment & Climate and Stability, Democracy & Rights.



Our EC budget hereby increased from 18 million DKK to 22.75 million DKK. We are therefore in the process of revising the activities and budgets, but this will not be completed until we have the feedback from DANIDA on our proposal.

BSU Phase I - Annual Report 2012 submitted to Universities Denmark, May 2013

On 15 May the Annual BSUEC Report 2012 was submitted to Universities Denmark.

Read the overview of all our tasks accomplished, challenges conquered and lessons learnt during 2012:

[BSUEC Annual Report 2012](#)

BSU Phase I - Activities, Jan-May 2013

We are proud to announce that the following BSUEC activities have been successfully implemented during the last 5 months:

- [PhD course on Multivariate Data Analysis in Environmental Science](#), SUA, 7-13 January 2013
- [PhD course on Simulation Modeling in the Environmental Sciences](#), UDSM, 25 February-1 March 2013
- [PhD course on Climate Change Adaptation](#), UG, 18-22 February 2013
- [PhD course on Change Processes Mitigation and Adaptation](#), KNUST, 11-15 March 2013
- [PhD course on Advanced Analytical Techniques for Environmental Assessment](#), UG, 22-26 April, 2013
- [Scientific writing course](#), KNUST, Module 1: 18-20 January 2013; Module 2: 16-18 April, 2013
- [Scientific writing course](#), UG, Module 1: 11, 14-15 January 2013; Module 2: 19, 22-23 April, 2013
- [ToT PhD Supervision, Ghana](#), Module 2, 28 January-1 February 2013
- [ToT PhD Supervision, Tanzania](#), Module 2, 8-11 April, 2013

The following PhD courses will be implemented during the coming months:

- [Research Methodology in Hydrology](#), UDSM, 27-31 May 2013
- [Environmental and Social Impact Assessment](#), UDSM, 21-26 June 2013



Selected highlights from the implementation of BSUEC activities at African partner universities, spring 2013



BSU Phase I - Activity Completion Reports requested!

Once again, we kindly urge our Phase I assignment holders to submit their Activity Completion Report (ACR) no later than two weeks after activity implementation.

Until now, only few assignment holders have submitted the compulsory 'Activity Completion Report', and very few Danish assignment holders have claimed payment for the assignment and reimbursement for travel expenditures.

It is time to get this settled! We would like to avoid any last minute rush during the summer holidays or that you miss your payment due to late submission. Thus, with reference to e-mails sent to all Danish assignment holders on 17 May 2013, kindly forward your ACR to sla@dmu.dk.

BSU Phase I - Workshop for BSU Assignment holders, Feb 2013

On 27 and 28 February 2013 workshops targeted at Danish BSU assignment holders of Phase I were held at Aarhus University and University of Copenhagen, respectively. The workshops were organized by the three coordinators of the BSU platforms: Björg Elvekjær (Human Health), Carl E. Schou Larsen (Growth & Employment) and Susanne L. Amsinck (Environment & Climate). The workshops were a follow-up to the [joint BSU workshop held on November 12, 2012](#).

The purpose of the workshops was to provide a forum across BSU platforms for sharing experiences and lessons learnt during the process of planning and implementation of BSU Phase I activities. Feedback and ideas for improvement both in terms of quality and impact of activities and collaboration between N-S researchers were put forward and will serve as valuable inputs for optimizing future BSU activities and boosting the N-S collaboration.

Read:

[Summary of the BSU joint assignment holder workshop Feb 2013](#)
[Overview and contacts of Danish assignment holders BSU Phase I](#)

BSU Phase I - External Review of BSU Programme, Jan - Mar 2013

With phase 1 of the BSU programme drawing to an end, an external review was conducted of the BSU activities. The review was carried out in two phases; the first phase covered meetings with key platform representatives (chairs and coordinators) in Denmark during January 2013, while the second phase covered the South partner institutions (including Nepal) at meetings in Tanzania and Ghana during February 2013.

Primarily the organizational structure and performance of the BSU programme was evaluated, with specific emphasis on the quality of the partnerships supported and the added value that the BSU programme can infuse in especially for the South institutions.

The review was headed by Mr. Johan Helland (Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway), supported by Dr. David Manyanza (Development Solutions Consultancy, Tanzania) and Ms. Darriann Rieber (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark) and Arne Skov Andersen (Universities Denmark), the two latter as resource persons.

Read:

[Review Report submitted by Chr. Michelsen Institute, March 2013](#)
[Summary of main findings and conclusion by Universities Denmark April 2013](#)



BSU Phase I - Evaluation of DANIDA Supported Research to Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, May 2013

In order to assess DANIDA's recent support to development research as well as to provide recommendations which will feed into the current process of formulating an overall strategy for this support, DANIDA's evaluation department [EVAL] has commissioned an external evaluation.

The evaluation is limited to support provided for research within agriculture and natural resource management from 2006 to 2011 within the following channels of support: FFU, Pilot Projects, Research Networks and Centers and the BSU Programme.

In Denmark, the evaluation has been extensively discussed among stakeholders, and two southern partner countries, Tanzania and Burkina Faso, have been visited to ensure close interaction with stakeholders.

On 8 May the evaluation team hosted a workshop to give selected key stakeholders the opportunity to forward their views on the principal issues emerging in the evaluation based on past experiences, and with the further aim to contribute to the development of a new strategy for development research.

Read:

[Workshop Concept Note on Emerging Issues 8 May 2013](#)

[Workshop participants list 8 May 2013](#)

Launch of the BSU Scholarship Programme, Feb 2013

On 25 February 2013, the Minister for Development Cooperation, Christian Friis Bach, the Minister for Science, Innovation and Higher Education, Morten Østergaard, and the Rector of Universities Denmark, Jens Oddershede, launched the 'BSU Scholarship Programme' (20 million DKK) in Copenhagen. The BSU Scholarship Programme is part of the 'Building Stronger Universities' initiative and is supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In total, seven MSc scholarships were announced at the four BSUEC core partner universities (SUA, UDSM, KNUST, UG) during spring 2013 (deadline expired 15 March) and awarded to talented students holding a bachelor degree. Each scholarship includes a two-year full-time master's degree programme at a Danish University. Expected study start is 1st September 2013. The applications were assessed by the study administrations of the Danish Universities in close collaboration with the Danish Fellowships Center (DFC).

[See overview of awarded BSU students 2013](#)

BSU 19 million grant – Meeting targeted at preparing kick-off, May 2013

On 13 May, key resource persons across the BSU platforms met at University of Copenhagen to discuss how to prepare the kick-off phase regarding the BSU 19 million grant. The meeting was focused on e-learning and problem-based learning (PBL). Prof. Arne Remmen and Coordinator Susanne L. Amsinck represented the BSUEC Platform at the meeting.

At the meeting the following subjects were discussed:

- 1) Launching of a task force across BSU platforms to be led by Henrik Bregnhøj (Platform of Human Health). Each platform is allowed to appoint to the task force two Danish skilled and experienced resource persons within the fields of e-learning and PBL, respectively.



- 2) Once the Danish resource persons across platforms have been appointed, the task force will meet, expectedly in early summer 2013. Urgent matters to be dealt with are how to involve the partner institutions in Africa and Asia and development of the terms of reference, strategy and activity plan.
- 3) The task force has the mandate to define and implement the activities on e-learning and PBL across platforms.
- 4) The task force will decide whether a task force combining e-learning and PBL activities or two separate task forces should be launched.
- 5) The third component of the 19 million grant, 'Knowledge sharing, research dissemination and communication', is highly complex, and the exact activities to be conducted regarding to this component will be decided at individual platform level.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Danish Steering Committee of BSUEC has appointed Prof. Arne Remmen (Aalborg University) and Prof. Søren Lund (Roskilde University) as BSUEC resource persons on e-learning and problem-based learning, respectively. The remaining BSU platforms are currently in the process of appointing their Danish representatives for the task force and forwarding the names to Henrik Bregnhøj.

BSU Staff Update

UG, Ghana

Mrs. Selasie E. Agamah is replacing Ms. Empi Baryeh as BSUEC Project Officer at UG until Empi returns from her maternity leave. Mrs. Agamah is a senior administrative assistant working at the Office of Research, Innovation & Development (ORID). Her contact details are: sagamah@ug.edu.gh, phone (o): +233 302 944 973/4, phone (c): +233 246-838-186.

KNUST, Ghana

Mr. Richard B. Lamptey replaced Mr. Robert Aidoo as BSUEC Project Officer at KNUST during March 2013. Mr. Lamptey's contact details are: phanerosis75@yahoo.com, rlamptey.lib@knust.edu.gh

We welcome Mrs. Agameh and Mr. Lamptey to our platform and hope for a fruitful collaboration. At the same time we wish Mrs. Baryeh all the best during her leave and thank Mr. Aidoo for his effort so far as Project Officer at KNUST.

Denmark

During recent months two of the major drivers of BSU, Carl Erik Schou Larsen (Coordinator on the Platform on Growth & Employment) and Pia Margrethe Larsen (Coordinator on the Platform on Stability, Democracy & Rights), have resigned from the BSU Programme.

We warmly thank both of you for a close and very inspiring and fruitful collaboration. It has been a highly rewarding experience collaborating with you both. We wish both of you the very best for the future!

All the best,

Susanne Lildal Amsinck

Coordinator of The Platform on Environment & Climate

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