Danish Development Research Network

FAU-DDRN Public Meeting 7th November 2013
November 7, 2013 – 16:00-18:00 – Copenhagen Business School

Chairperson: Søren Jeppesen from FAU and Arne Wangel from DDRN
Rapporteur: Lucy Gregersen

Agenda:
1. Welcome and coffee or tea
2. Introduction to Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) and the Association of Development Researchers in Denmark (FAU)
3. Tove Degnbol and/or Lasse Møller, DANIDA: The emphasis on South driven research
   DDRN financial report (Lone Frederiksen)
4. Q & A
5. David Christensen, Access2Innovation, Aalborg University
6. Q & A
7. Arne Wangel, DDRN: The DAAD (German DANIDA) alumni network
8. Survey: Needs assessment for future networking
9. Closure

Ad. 1 Welcome and coffee or tea:
Søren Jeppesen (SJ) and Arne Wangel (AW) welcomed all the participants.

Ad. 2 Introduction to Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) and the Association of Development Researchers in Denmark (FAU):
SJ and ARWA introduced FAU and DDRN to participants.

Ad. 3 Lasse Møller, DANIDA: The emphasis on South driven research:
Lasse Møller (LM) presented on the new DANIDA strategic framework and DANIDAs overall support to development research.

Ad. 4 Q & A:
A participant asked LM to elaborate on the HRBA, as they were puzzled on the implementation of this in development research. LM explained that many have questioned this. If one reads the DANIDA strategy "The Right to a Better Life", it implies four principles in practice; the PANT-principles (Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination and Transparency), which need to be considered when designing overall structures and projects. One does not have to apply all four principles in each implemented activities, but where it seems natural, it should be applied. For example, in research, in relation to transparency, there has to be access to results and that the process is transparent. All principles are thus also relevant for development research.

Katherin Reyes (KR) commented that when needing to apply knowledge of DANIDA programmes in research, she has experienced difficulty in receiving a response from DANIDA, and suggests there could seem to be a lack of accessibility. KR questions how DANIDA might make better use of researchers and students. LM agrees DANIDA is not utilising researchers
and students sufficiently. DANIDA are still working on this. In practical terms, DANIDA needs to bring together researchers and embassies. The barriers related to this are capacity and resources. LM welcomed input from participants, for any concrete events or methods DANIDA could utilise to solve this. It was suggested that the programmes could become more transparent, and LM supplemented that they are changing this, with the transparency programme where you can follow programmes online. Draft papers are also available online, as DANIDA wishes to invite people to comment on these. Though LM agrees, that having those documents online, does not secure that researchers' comments are taken on board by the embassies. Another issue can also be that embassies are not responsible for research, so contact may not be their top priority.

Jane Kitanda (JK) thanked LM for the presentation, and questioned what DANIDA’s stance was on participatory research. LM answered that the overall objective is to strengthen capacity in DANIDA’s target countries. They receive many applications that lean more towards being development projects. LM presented that the issue is how to ensure that results from development projects and research are applied. If one applies for funds for this sort of activity, it would be denied, as they do not find it to belong to the research funds. But they need to combine the two.

Don Macintosh (DM) asked about the objective of institutional capacity development and the five-year strategy, from his experience this type of capacity building can take 10-15 years. He questioned what DANIDA’s plans were after the five-year strategy was completed? LM was not able to give a definitive answer, as it depends on the government shifts and yearly finance bills. Though this does not mean DANIDA does not want to move in this direction and want indicative figure for the next 3-4 years. DANIDA hopes to be a catalyst for long-term cooperation. DM further asked about the constraints for priority countries if they do not perform well, exemplifying Vietnam. LM responded that this was not the reason for not continuing with Vietnam, more so that DANIDA’s focus has changed from development cooperation towards trade. A new priority country is now Nepal, where DANIDA hopes to nurture a future development as with Vietnam.

**Ad. 5 David Christensen, Access2Innovation, Aalborg University:**

David Christensen (DC) from Access2Innovation presented on perspectives from the private sector.

**AD. 6 Bente Ilsøe, DANIDA Fellowship Centre:**

Bente Ilsøe (BI) presented on the DANDA Fellowship Centre and the use of researchers educated within the DANIDA supported projects. The DANIDA research portal was presented as a website one can utilise to distribute research knowledge. ([http://drp.dfcentre.com/](http://drp.dfcentre.com/))

**AD. 7 Q & A:**

Ransom Lekunze (RL) noted that he has experienced students in need of an opportunity or platform where they can actively engage and network. RL asked BI how one might create a platform where students who have studied in Denmark, can get in contact with each other? Or whether there might be a more formal platform that DANIDA could help facilitate? BI could not think of a solution. Andrew Bende (AB) further questioned whether there was a possibility for students on exchange in Denmark, for example through DFC; to network and gain more connections during their stay here? BI replied that DFC does not do this, but can help a student in finding methods for companies to meet them. SJ further commented that DFC is not meant as a focal point for networking. The stipends have a full schedule during their stay in Denmark. SJ noted that the issue is what one can do on the back of a Masters programme and how this can be organized. It was suggested that the DANIDA Research Portal maybe could be
used to distribute relevant knowledge (e.g. Masters Thesis’). BI agreed this could be done, and one can also upload links to each of the ongoing projects. KR agreed with this solution, but further noted that this is a good beginning, but that there still is a need for a portal where all development related entities can meet. BI acknowledged this need, but could not think of how to facilitate it. DC commented that the Access2Innovation website has a link to a forum, which is meant to be a forum for anyone to voice their needs. Access2Innovation have considered being a knowledge facilitator, but it is still small scale. It could possibly become a joint project with another facilitator. A participant noted that the internship culture is not as prevalent in Denmark, as in other countries. One should contact universities and businesses; as to also get these involved in the preliminary stages. LM highlighted an initiative from 2009, the UniBrain programme (Link: http://www.fara-africa.org/our-projects/unibrain/). The idea is to utilise knowledge and research from research institutions and universities, and commercialize this information through entrepreneurs. There are no obvious links to Danish companies, but the incubator link is there. If one is interested in this sort of initiative, do contact DANIDA, whom are happy to help.

**AD. 8 Arne Wangel, DDRN: The DAAD (German DANIDA) alumni network:**

AW presents on the German DAAD alumni network as an example of a possible type of facilitation/facilitator. The alumni portal could be an option to consider.

**AD. 9 Survey: Needs assessment for future networking:**

Needs Assessment for future networking surveys were handed out to participants and filled out.

**AD. 10 Closure:**

SJ and AW thanked participants for coming to the meeting, and announced that the presentations, results from the Needs Assessment and Minutes from the meeting will be sent to participants via e-mail. LG will look into establishing a group for participants and interested persons to connect via e.g. DDRN's LinkedIn or Facebook profile.