



GEP NEWSLETTER #5 – December 2012

BREAKING NEWS - NEW 19 MILL. DKK GRANT TO BSU APPROVED

We are very HAPPY to share with you the GOOD NEWS that the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA) on 17th December 2012 granted BSU 19 million DKK. The grant is earmarked for capacity building within research communication, dissemination and networking during the project period 1st January 2013 to 31st July 2015.

The project will be implemented through the current BSU platform structures under Universities Denmark with equal budgets (4.75 million DKK) for the four thematic platforms and with the same south partner institutions as in BSU Phase 1. The project will be guided by the same overall conditions as agreed for BSU Phase 2 in terms of co-funding and overhead.

Read: [BSU Proposal 19 million DKK](#)

Read (in Danish): [DANIDA's grant allocation letter](#)

IMPORTANT PRE-ANNOUCEMENT FOR PROPOSALS FOR BSU PHASE 2

The BSU Platforms on *Environment & Climate* and *Growth & Employment* are currently preparing a 'Call for proposals for institutional capacity packages for BSU Phase 2' (project period: August 2013 – July 2015).

The 'Call for proposals' will be officially announced on 1st February 2013 with deadline 1st March 2013.



We encourage all partners from our four BSU universities in Ghana (KNUST and UG) and Tanzania (SUA and UDSM) and Danish Universities to initiate contact and jointly develop ideas in preparation of the upcoming call!

READ: [PRE-ANNOUCEMENT of CALL for PROPOSALS for BSU-2](#)

The pre-announcement has been prepared in collaboration with all four GEP Platform Working Groups at SUA, UDSM, UG, KNUST and the Danish Steering Committee as well as the Platform on Environment & Climate.

UPCOMING PWG MEETINGS – JAN 2013, GHANA & TANZANIA

We are preparing a tight meeting programme for upcoming meetings of the Platform Working Groups (PWG) at SUA, UDSM, KNUST and UG in January 2013.



Our programme is as follows:

- 21st – 22nd January. PWG meetings at SUA
- 24th – 25th January. PWG meetings at UDSM
- 28th – 29th January PGW meetings at KNUST
- 30th – 31st January. PGW meetings at UG

The PWG meetings will follow up on activities under BSU Phase 1 and prepare BSU Phase 2. In addition, financial management and accounting will be given high priority in order to ensure robust and timely submission of the annual report 2012.

Please feel free to contact the GEP Secretariat (kesl@life.ku.dk) if you have compelling issues to be discussed at the PWGs.

The meetings in January 2013 will be conducted in close collaboration with the Platform on Environment & Climate.

The following Danish representatives will participate in the meetings:

- Christian Pilegaard Hansen (Danish Chair, Platform on Growth & Employment)
- Carl Erik Schou Larsen (Coordinator, Platform on Growth & Employment)
- Jørgen Eivind Olesen (Danish Chair, Platform on Environment & Climate)
- Christian Gregart (Expert in Financial and Accounting Management)
- Susanne Lildal Amsinck (Danish Coordinator, Platform on Environment & Climate)

Read: [DRAFT AGENDA PWG MEETINGS January 2013](#)

UPCOMING REVIEW OF BSU PHASE-1

DANIDA and Universities Denmark are preparing a review of BSU Phase 1. The review will focus on lessons learnt. The overall objective is to assess the organizational structure and the performance of the BSU platforms to the extent possible at this early stage of the partnerships in view to make recommendations in preparation for BSU Phase 2.

The review task force consists of:

- Mr Johan Helland, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway, Team leader
- Mr David N. Manyanza, Development Solutions Consultancy, Tanzania, Consultant
- Ms Darriann Riber, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen, resource person
- Mr Arne Skov Andersen, Universities Denmark, resource person

The task force will meet representatives from all BSU platform partners at joint meetings in Denmark mid-January 2013, followed by field missions to Ghana and Tanzania early February.

Read more: [Review Panel TOR](#) and [Program \(tentative\)](#)



PHASE-1 ACTIVITIES – PROGRESS STATUS

WP1: STRENGTHENING OF PhD EDUCATION

GEP PhD COURSES

The plan is to implement 24 PhD courses within GEP. A number of courses have been successfully implemented in 2012 and many more are planned to run in the first half of 2013. Feedback from the first courses has been very positive both from students and faculty staff. Especially the more engaging and dialogue based type of course implementation is considered valuable but also challenging.

ToT PhD SUPERVISION WORKSHOPS

The first Joint ToT workshop in PhD supervision was held from 1st to 5th October 2012 in Kumasi (38 participants in total) and in Dar Es Salaam from 5th to 9th November (47 participants in total). The participants came from all four GEP/BSUEC partner universities (KNUST, UG, SUA, UDSM) as well as from PHH partners in Tanzania/Zanzibar and from the three BSU Platforms (Growth/Employment, Human Health, Environment/Climate). The main organizer was the teaching team under the Growth & Employment platform led by Jens Dolin. In both countries the workshop ran smoothly and received positive feedback from the participants. Follow-up ToT courses are planned for first half of 2013.

Read more: http://www.ind.ku.dk/english/course_overview/tot/

WP2: INCREASING NO. OF STAFF WITH PhD

PhD SCHOLARSHIPS IN OPERATION

All 16 GEP PhD students have teamed up with their principal supervisor at their south university and their Danish co-supervisor. Together they are now elaborating detailed project plans and timetables for their PhD scholarships. Guidelines for PhD supervision, study stay and support by the Danish Fellowship Center have been communicated to the students and supervisors by the Secretariat.

WP3: STRENGTHENING RESEARCH COLLABORATION

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH FUNDING AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION

There has been announced two round of call for joint proposals to strengthen research collaboration by South – North teams of researchers. In total 35 proposals has been submitted: In the first round 15 proposals were approved and in the second round there is room for an additional 7 – 9 proposals to be approved. Final approval of proposals from second call will be on 15th of January 2013.

ToT FUNDRAISING AND PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOPS

Training sessions has been implemented at SUA and UDSM. Feedback from both sessions is positive. This kind of skills upgrading is highly appreciated and of direct relevance to all involved.



BSU WORKSHOP ACROSS PLATFORMS - NOV 2012, CPH

For the first time the Danish assignment holders of three BSU platforms (HH, GE, EC) were assembled under the same roof. The setting was an informal BSU Workshop targeted at knowledge and experience sharing among the assignment holders and clarification of contract conditions and collaboration within the framework of BSU.

The workshop was held at UCPH, Nov 12, 2012 and was organized by the BSU coordinators.

Read more: [Program](#), [Minutes](#), [Overview of DK assignment holders](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT – DFID CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Department for International Development (DFID) is seeking proposals for a range of innovative programmes that aim to build capacity of decision-makers in low and middle income countries to use research evidence and rigorous data to inform their decision-making.

DFID intends to invest £10 million in a suite of up to six new programmes, which will each run for a period of up to 3 years.

Deadline: 13th February 2013.

Read more: [DFID research call](#)

SEASONAL GREETINGS



The GEP team wishes to thank all our partners in Africa and Denmark for engagement and endurance in getting this initiative moving ahead. We look forward to continued joint efforts in 2013 and beyond. We expect an extremely exciting and busy first half of 2013 including the finalizing of implementation of BSU Phase 1 activities, preparation of the joint proposal for BSU Phase 2 and the launch of the new 19 mill. DKK grant!

Seasonal greetings and a happy NEW YEAR, Christian P. Hansen and Carl E.S. Larsen

Kindly let me know if you are interested in being added to or removed from our e-mailing list.

You are very welcome to forward this Newsletter to colleagues not included in the current GEP mailing list.