

GEP- Newsmail

September 5th 2011

Dear all,

This is an update of the activities and progress of the Growth & Employment Platform (GEP) since the previous newsletter sent May 4, 2011.

While the previous newsletters have only been circulated among interested Danish colleagues, newsletters will in the future be circulated to colleagues at all the involved universities. The platform also has a homepage where you can get additional information, you find the homepage [here](#).

60 million DKK granted for the first phase of "Building Stronger Universities in Developing Countries" (BSU) hereof 20 million for GEP

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark/Danida approved in late June a 60 million DKK (11.5 million USD) grant for the first phase of the initiative (please see the attached press release of June 30, 2011). The first phase started August 1, 2011 and concludes July 31, 2013 (please see attached "Bevillingsskrivelse" – unfortunately only in Danish).

GEP will be supported by Danida with 20 million DKK for the first phase. The Platform on 'Human Health' will be funded at the same level, while the platforms on 'Stability, Democracy & Right' and 'Environment & Climate' will be supported by Danida with 8 million DKK in the first phase. The remaining funds from Danida are earmarked for across-platform activities and are administered by the Secretariat of Universities Denmark. The division of funding is based on an assessment of the proposals prepared by the four platforms by an International Panel of Experts (the assessment of the Panel of Experts is attached).

The GEP proposal is available from the homepage, please press [here](#).

Platform coordinator in Denmark appointed

GEP has appointed Carl Erik (or Calle which is his Danish nickname) Schou Larsen (Carl Larsen for short) as new platform coordinator in Denmark following advertisement and interviews with a number of candidates. Carl has started on 1st September and is located at the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen. His e-mail is kesl@life.ku.dk. Carl has a long track record of collaboration in tertiary education and research, and GEP will surely benefit from these experiences. A warm welcome to Carl (Calle)!

Visits to KNUST, UG, UDSM and SUA

Platform chairman Christian Pilegaard Hansen visited Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Ghana, University of Dar es Salaam and Sokoine University of Agriculture during the period August 14-24. The visit was implemented jointly with the Environment & Climate platform represented by its Chairman Joergen E Olesen.

The delegation met with representatives of the involved universities management teams and representatives of the platform and discussed:

- Terms of Reference (ToR) of Platform/BSU coordinators to be employed at each South university
- Announcement of PhD scholarships
- ToR for membership of the joint North/South GEP working group at each South university
- Roadmap for inception phase/inception report

As a result of the visit, ToRs for Platform/BSU coordinators have been drafted and positions are in the process of being advertised. Moreover, advertisement-texts of PhD scholarships were agreed, and are in the process of being announced. Finally, members of GEP working groups were nominated by each South university.

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GEP Working Groups

The joint GEP Working Groups at each of the four partner universities will play a crucial role in the further planning and subsequent implementation of the platform activities. The ToR of the GEP Working Group is described in the [GEP proposal](#).

The membership of the joint GEP Working Groups will be announced shortly through a newsletter and on the website. The initial task of the GEP Working Groups will be the preparation of (inputs to) the Inception report, c.f. below.

Inception period and inception report

The period from August 1 to November 15, 2011 is considered the inception period. During this period, GEP must prepare and submit an inception report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida). The inception report must include:

- A detailed Logical Framework Approach (LFA), activity plan and monitoring matrix for the first phase
- A detailed budget
- A signed Letter of Agreement between each South partner university on the one side and the Danish universities on the other.

The funding will only be released upon approval by Danida of the Inception report.

All interested are encouraged to participate in the preparation of the inception report. Inputs and suggestions in this regard should be directed to the members of the relevant GEP Working Group.

In the inception phase, efforts will be made to coordinate the activity plan of GEP with the activity plans of the three other platforms in the BSU initiative to ensure utilisation of synergies and a cost effective and efficient implementation.

Looking forward collaborating on the further planning and implementation of the platform activities!

Kind regards

Carl (Calle) and Christian