



## BSU NEWSLETTER – March 2012

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This newsletter is a supplement to the running news found at [www.bsuec.org](http://www.bsuec.org). It includes a combined overview of activities and progress of the BSU Environment & Climate platform since the previous newsletter of 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2011.

You are very welcome to forward this mail to colleagues not covered by the current BSUEC mailing list.

### BREAKING NEWS - ADDITIONAL 19 MILL. DKK TO BSU

We are very happy to share with you the GOOD news that an additional 19 mill. DKK have been earmarked to the four BSU platforms for the period 2012-14 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA). Universities Denmark received the news mid-February 2012. DANIDA and the Rector's Conference at Universities Denmark have now initiated elaborating funding conditions and procedures together with the four BSU platforms. The Rector's Conference has recommended the funds to be shared equally between the four BSU platforms.

The extra funds come on top of the already approved 60 mill. DKK for 2011-13 and are targeted to support activities within communication and dissemination of research findings at the partner universities in the developing countries.

### BSUEC PLATFORM WORKING GROUPS – FIRST JOINT MEETING HELD JAN-FEB 2012

The BSUEC Platform started off year 2012 by a series of Platform Working Group (PWG) meetings at our four partner universities in Ghana and Tanzania, respectively.

The aim was to add the finishing touches to the BSUEC implementation plan and the Letter of Agreement (LoA). In addition, individual interviews with PhD applicants were held at KNUST, UG and SUA. BSUEC chairman Jørgen E. Olesen and coordinator Susanne L. Amsinck represented the BSUEC Platform.



For meeting agenda, minutes, pictures and signed LoAs, see:

[www.bsuec.org](http://www.bsuec.org).

*Signing of the BSUEC Letter of Agreement at SUA, UDSM and KNUST, Early 2012*



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At KNUST and SUA we succeeded in holding joint meetings together with the Platform on Growth and Employment. However, due to conflicting calendars this was not possible at the other partner universities.



Follow-up meetings have already been held via video conference for the PWG at KNUST in early March, and similar PWG meetings are in the pipeline for UDSM, UG and SUA. Platform partners are hereby invited to send BSUEC relevant issues to be addressed by the PWGs to BSUEC coordinator S. Amsinck (sla@dmu.dk).



*BSUEC Platform Working Group Meetings at UG, SUA, KNUST and UDSM, Early 2012*

## **MATCHMAKING-1 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED - ASSIGNMENTS AWARDED**

We are very happy to announce that the BSUEC Matchment-1 has been successfully completed by the appointment of joint African-Danish research teams targeted at PhD courses, Scientific Writing Workshops and ToT Supervision Courses.

The Danish Steering Committee in close collaboration with the four PGWs reached their final decision on the distribution of assignments in mid-March 2012. Promptly hereafter the decision was communicated to all applicants on 14<sup>th</sup> March and the result was published at our website.

In total, we received 23 'Expression of Interest' from the Danish Universities for the 13 BSUEC assignments. The assessment of incoming EoI's was based on the previously announced and below listed criteria:

(Maximum 100 points)	Points:
Academic capacity within the field	0 – 50
Relevant experience within the field	0 – 30
Relevant development country experience	0 – 20

The competition for the assignments was not evenly distributed. For some assignments we received up to four competing EoI's, while for others there was no competition at all.



Please find below an overview of the BSUEC assignments and the appointed assignment holders.

PhD Course	Assignment holder (DK)	Assignment holder (GAN, TZ)	Partner universities
Research methodology in environmental science	Dean Jacobsen <a href="mailto:Djacobsen@bio.ku.dk">Djacobsen@bio.ku.dk</a>	Prof Ofori	KNUST, KU
Climate change processes, mitigation and adaptation	Jørgen E. Olesen <a href="mailto:JorgenE.Olesen@agrsci.dk">JorgenE.Olesen@agrsci.dk</a>	Prof Rev Mensah Bonsu <a href="mailto:mensabons@yahoo.com">mensabons@yahoo.com</a> Prof Charles Quansah	KNUST, AU
Climate change adaptation	Mathias N. Andersen <a href="mailto:MathiasN.Andersen@agrsci.dk">MathiasN.Andersen@agrsci.dk</a>	Dr. Kwadwo Owusu <a href="mailto:kowusu@ug.edu.gh">kowusu@ug.edu.gh</a>	UG, AU
Advanced analytical techniques for environmental assessment	Torben Lund; John Mortensen <a href="mailto:tlund@ruc.dk">tlund@ruc.dk</a> ; <a href="mailto:john@ruc.dk">john@ruc.dk</a>	Prof. Chris Gordon <a href="mailto:cgordon@ug.edu.gh">cgordon@ug.edu.gh</a>	UG, RUC
Simulation modeling in the environmental sciences	Niels Holst <a href="mailto:niels.holst@agrsci.dk">niels.holst@agrsci.dk</a>	Amos Majule <a href="mailto:amajule@udsm.ac.tz">amajule@udsm.ac.tz</a>	UDSM, AU
Adaptation to biotic and abiotic stresses in ecosystems	Anders Ræbild; Erik Dahl Kjær <a href="mailto:are@life.ku.dk">are@life.ku.dk</a> ; <a href="mailto:edk@life.ku.dk">edk@life.ku.dk</a>	Agnes Nyomora <a href="mailto:anyomora@hotmail.com">anyomora@hotmail.com</a>	UDSM, KU
Environmental and social impacts assessment	Andreas De Neergaard <a href="mailto:adn@life.ku.dk">adn@life.ku.dk</a>	Razak Lokina <a href="mailto:rlokina@udsm.ac.tz">rlokina@udsm.ac.tz</a>	UDSM, KU
Research methodologies in hydrology	Brian Kronvang; Hans Estrup Andersen <a href="mailto:bkr@dmu.dk">bkr@dmu.dk</a> ; <a href="mailto:hea@dmu.dk">hea@dmu.dk</a>	Felix Mtalo <a href="mailto:mtalo@wrep.udsm.ac.tz">mtalo@wrep.udsm.ac.tz</a>	UDSM, AU
Multivariate data analysis in environmental science	Anders Sanchez Barfod; Anne Mette Lykke <a href="mailto:anders.barfod@biology.au.dk">anders.barfod@biology.au.dk</a> <a href="mailto:aml@dmu.dk">aml@dmu.dk</a>	Prof Ngunduru <a href="mailto:ndungurupc@yahoo.com">ndungurupc@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:pcndunguru@mzumbe.at.tz">pcndunguru@mzumbe.at.tz</a>	SUA, AU
Simulation modeling in the environmental sciences	Dennis Trolle; Hans Thodsen <a href="mailto:dtr@dmu.dk">dtr@dmu.dk</a> ; <a href="mailto:hath@dmu.dk">hath@dmu.dk</a>	Prof Mwamakimullah <a href="mailto:mwama@suanet.ac.tz">mwama@suanet.ac.tz</a>	SUA, AU
<b>Scientific Writing Workshops</b>	<b>Assignment holder (DK)</b>	<b>Assignment holder (GAN, TZ)</b>	<b>Partner universities</b>
Scientific writing workshop	Henrik Balslev <a href="mailto:Henrik.Balslev@biology.au.dk">Henrik.Balslev@biology.au.dk</a>	<i>To be decided by PWG UG</i>	UG, AU
Scientific writing workshop	Peter Furu <a href="mailto:pfu@life.ku.dk">pfu@life.ku.dk</a>	Prof. R C Abaidoo <a href="mailto:abaidoorc@yahoo.com">abaidoorc@yahoo.com</a> Prof S. N. Odai <a href="mailto:snodai@yahoo.com">snodai@yahoo.com</a>	KNUST, KU
<b>Tot PhD Supervisor Course</b>	<b>Assignment holder (DK)</b>	<b>Assignment holder (GAN, TZ)</b>	<b>Partner universities</b>
ToT PhD Supervisor Course	Jens Dolin; Lene Møller Madsen; Robert Evans; Jan Sølberg; Sofie Kobayashi <a href="mailto:dolin@ind.ku.dk">dolin@ind.ku.dk</a>	<i>To be decided by the PWG-GE and PWG-EC SUA</i>	SUA, KU

All assignment holders will soon receive contracts by the BSUEC Coordinator to be signed by the contract holder and their Head of Department. The contract serves as documentation to DANIDA of co-financing from the involved department and is aligned with the other three BSU platforms.

We are happy to observe that several of the teams (listed above) have already managed to establish first contracts and initiated planning of activities. We friendly encourage the remaining contract holders to do the same in order to get the planning of the activities rolling.



## **EXPECTING LAUNCH OF MATCHMAKING-2 – EARLY APRIL 2012**

We are planning to launch our BSUEC Matchmaking-2 targeted at PhD co-supervisors at Danish Universities in early April 2012!

Similar to Matchmaking-1, the assignments for PhD co-supervisors will be distributed using a marketplace concept for Danish researchers. The idea behind using this concept is to promote both the transparency of the BSUEC activities and the commitment among researchers at the Danish Universities, as well as to manage the BSUEC activities with the best qualified researchers.

The second round of BSUEC assignments focuses on PhD co-supervisors for our eight BSUEC PhD students at our partner universities in Ghana and Tanzania. More information will follow early April.

## **TWELVE MASTER'S DEGREE SCHOLARSHIPS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE BSU**

Aarhus University (AU) has made twelve scholarships available for the Building Stronger Universities initiative. Five scholarships are dedicated to the BSUEC platform and are made available for students at our four African partner universities. Each scholarship includes a two year full-time Master's degree programme at AU and the students will be granted free tuition and a full stipend equal to the stipends received by a Danish student. Study start: 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2012. The call was made jointly for the Environment & Climate and Growth & Employment Platforms. It was announced the 8<sup>th</sup> March at the four partner universities as well as at our BSUEC website. The call received great interest, receiving more than 50 applications. More information see: [www.bsuec.org](http://www.bsuec.org)

## **EVENTS – CROSS BSU PLATFORMS**

*Financial Management Workshops* led by the BSU Platform on Human Health (BSUHH) were held during January - March 2012 for all four African partner universities targeted at BSU accountants and project officers across the four BSU platforms. Ahead templates for the financial management of the BSU grant (2011-2013) had been developed by the four BSU coordinators and Project leader Arne S. Andersen (Universities Denmark). A one-day workshop targeted at the Danish BSU platform coordinators and accountants is in the pipeline for mid-April 2012.

*Shared BSU website system* is under development for all four BSU platforms. The coordinators of the BSU platforms have decided to align the BSU websites in order to strengthen coordination and communication between the platforms and enhance BSU branding. The web system is hosted and serviced by Aarhus University. The web system especially the intranet unit is to facilitate enhanced South-North and South-South dialogue, collaboration, and information and document sharing. A workshop led by Jens G. Hansen and Margit S. Jørgensen aiming at joint development of design, content and common framework of the four platform websites was held at the AU Agroecology 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The new websites are expected to launch April 2012.



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## EVENTS – CROSS BSU PLATFORMS (continued)

A new BSU logo has been designed in connection to the development of the new websites (see above)

GREENEXPO 2012 will be held in Horsens as part of the Danish presidency of the council of the European Union 2012. The BSUEC Platform together with the BSU Platform and Stability, Democracy and Right will be represented by the respective coordinators at the Conference from May 27 -28. Further information:

[GREENEXPO 2012](#)

## CLOSING WORDS

We are continuously aiming at improving our BSUEC activities. Your feedback and suggestions for improvement are warmly welcome. Please send directly to S. Amsinck ([sla@dmu.dk](mailto:sla@dmu.dk)).



Best wishes for a Happy Easter,  
Susanne Lildal Amsinck

*Coordinator of The Platform on Environment & Climate*

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