



BSUEC NEWSLETTER – DEC 2013

BSU Phase I is coming to its end. Consequently, this is the final newsletter of the BSUEC Platform.

BSU Phase II granted 100 million DKK by DANIDA

We are very HAPPY to share with you the **GOOD NEWS** that the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29th November 2013 granted **100 million DKK to BSU Phase II** (2014-2016).

As in BSU Phase I, the development objective of Phase II is to strengthen the capacity of universities in DANIDA priority countries to undertake high-quality research.

DANIDA has selected the below seven institutions as eligible partners of BSU Phase II:

- University of Ghana (UG, Ghana)
- Kwame Nkrumah University (KNUST, Ghana)
- Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA, Tanzania)
- Kilimanjoro Christian Medical College (Tanzania)
- State University of Zanzibar (Tanzania)
- Gulu University (Uganda)
- Kathmandu University (Nepal)

In brief, the modalities of Phase II are envisaged as follows:

- South partners will take over the full responsibility and accountability for programming, implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- South universities will select partners among Danish universities based on an assessment of their ability to support them in their endeavors.
- Danish Fellowship Center (DFC) will take over the responsibility for the overall administration and coordination of the BSU programme as well as the match-making between south and Danish collaborators.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Technical Advisory Services) will take full management responsibility for the overall BSU Programme.

Read: [Proposal for BSU Phase II](#) (as presented to the External Grant Committee on 29th November 2013).

BSUEC Phase I successfully completed

BSUEC Phase I has been successfully completed. All goals have been effectively and timely achieved, excepting only a few minor activities.

The feedback by our south partners of the EC capacity building activities has been very positive, highlighting in particular the excellent training, both in terms of relevance, content, standard of delivery as well as output.

By joint south and north efforts, we have managed within the short time span of only two years to programme and implement a wide range of EC thematic and generic activities including:

- 8 EC thematic PhD courses
- 4 EC thematic PhD programmes
- 8 EC thematic PhD scholarships
- 2 scientific writing courses (2 modules) (EC/GEP joint activity)
- 2 trainer-of-trainer PhD supervision courses (2 modules) (EC/GEP/HH joint activity)
- 6 stakeholder workshops
- 2 assignment holder workshops



In total, ca. 250 academic staff members and students have received formalised research education and training in Ghana and Tanzania, respectively.

EC operational bodies (project officers, accountants and the platform coordinator) have worked closely together on a daily basis to programme, coordinate, staff teams, administer, monitor and report on activities. At the same time, EC decisions makers (platform working groups and steering committee) have met on a frequent basis to discuss and agree on modalities of activities, to follow-up on progress and to prepare for BSU Phase II.

We would like to express our **SINCERE THANKS** to **ALL** contributors and donors to BSUEC Phase I. **TOGETHER** we have achieved **SIGNIFICANT RESULTS** and provided valuable and solid **BUILDING BLOCKS** for the **BSU FUTURE!**

19 million DKK BSU Communication Grant

The 19 million DKK BSU Grant targeted at 'Research Communication, Dissemination and Networking' will continue as an independent BSU Project (2013 – 2015) and will include the original partners (UG, KNUST, SUA and UDSM) beyond 31 December 2013.

During the last months, task forces have been established and project leaders/coordinators have been appointed, who will be responsible for the writing up of project descriptions, LFA and budgets on the three components of; 1) E-learning; 2) Problem based-learning; and 3) Knowledge Sharing, Research Dissemination and Communication.

In order to optimise synergies and costs, the three platforms on Human Health (HH), Growth & Employment (GE) and Environment & Climate (EC) have set up a joint task force for E-learning and Problem-based learning. The Danish coordinators of this joint task force are Henrik Bregnhøj (University of Copenhagen) and Mona Lisa Dahms (Aalborg University).

As to 'Knowledge Sharing, Research Dissemination and Communication', the partner institutions SUA, UDSM and KNUST have set up a joint EC and GE task force, whereas UG have established a joint GE and EC task force for their own university. The Danish heads of the joint SUA/UDSM/KNUST task force are Kirsten Thomsen and Arne Wangel (Technical University of Denmark), and the UG EC/GE task force is headed by Paul Yankson and Robert Hinson.

Deadline for submission of project description to the Secretariat of Universities Denmark was 2nd December 2013. The project descriptions will be forwarded to DFC and DANIDA for further evaluation.

BSUEC Phase I extension – PhD scholarships

All PhD scholarships initiated during phase I will continue as planned after January 1, 2014.

DFC will take over the administration of the 40 PhD scholarships at the onset of 2014. Mrs. Bente Ilsøe has temporarily been appointed by DFC as contact person on financial matters of the BSU PhD scholarships. This applies to both the African and Danish team partners. All relevant partners have been informed individually of this via separate e-mail communication.

In order to ensure a smooth administrative transition from platforms (in Phase I) to DFC (in Phase II), financial measures have been adopted, including maintenance of a positive cash flow on both southern and northern accounts by early 2014 and elaboration and forwarding of updated detailed accounts and budget information for each scholarship to DFC.

Concluding remarks

The BSUEC Platform is closing down by the end of December 2013. The Annual Report 2013 and Project Completion Report are currently under preparation by the project officers and the platform coordinator. The reports will be available at our website (www.bsuec.org) upon submission to Universities Denmark and DANIDA.

Once again, I **WARMLY** thank you all for your **constructive, inspiring and fruitful** collaboration over the last three years. It has been **GREAT** working with you all, and I wish you all and the **BSU program the VERY BEST FOR THE FUTURE!**

All the best and Merry Christmas,
Susanne Lildal Amsinck

Selected highlights of BSUEC Phase I (2011-2013)

