

Appendix 7

SASNET – Lund University

Application to Sida SAREC for continued support 2006 – 2008

The new budget is planned by SASNET's board in relation to previous activities of SASNET during 2001 – 2005 and additional activities that we think SASNET's root node should carry out based on the external evaluation and self-evaluation during 2004-2005.

We follow the external evaluation in asking for a 45 % increase in funding from Sida SAREC and Lund University. This implies an increase from the current SEK 2.2 million budget (Sida 1.65, LU 0.55) to SEK 3.2 million. Lund University has already committed itself to this increase in funding.

Principles for the new budget

Expenses will follow the same pattern as during the previous period, but with some additional activities.

The purpose of the **workshop fund** is to organise one or more workshops annually, in Lund or by some network partner anywhere in Sweden. The main thrust of the workshops will be to promote interdisciplinary research especially between on the one hand the natural, technical and medical disciplines and on the other hand the humanities and the social sciences. Another important principle is to involve more South Asian researchers in SASNET activities.

The purpose of the **guest lecture programme** is to invite prominent researchers from South Asia to tour Sweden and give guest lectures and seminars at various network nodes. The decisions about whom to invite will be made after applications at two times of the year by a reference group based at Uppsala, but with members from Stockholm, Göteborg and Lund.

The budget below should be seen as an approximate budget, which should allow for some flexibility when the board takes the decision about the annual budget each year. For example, if there are many good initiatives for interesting workshops and less number of good planning grants applications a certain adjustment in the allotment of funds could be made.

Annual budget for SASNET year 2006 - 2008

Grants:

Sources:

Sida SAREC: SEK 2.4 million, an increase with 750 000 compared to now

Lund University: SEK 0.80 million, an increase with 250 000 compared to now

Total amount per year 2006 – 2008

3 200 000

Expenses:**I. Network root node at Lund**

Salaries

- Network co-ordinator, 6 months, 46 000 per month	(85958111000)	276 000
- Webmaster/secretary, 12 months, 33 000 per month	(85958111001)	396 000
(Subtotal, salaries		672 000)
LKP, 51.6		346 752
Total, salaries		1 018 752

Travel expenses root node, networking in South Asia, Sweden, Europe, etc. (85958112000)		100 000
Travel, board meetings (85958112001)		50 000
Travel and fees, Reference group (85958117002)		70 000
Subscriptions, handbooks (85958113001)		20 000
Expenses, material including 20 000 for publishing information about SASNET (85958113000)		40 000
Gateway (maintenance, training) (85958114000)		50 000
Oresund Network of South Asian Studies, lectures, seminars (85958115001)		40 000
Annual Workshop		100 000
Total, other expenses at the root node		470 000
Subtotal, root node		1 488 752
Administrative charges (Omkostnadspåslag 18 %)		267 975
Total, root node activities		1 756 727

II. Programme activities (anywhere in Sweden): (Total amount available 1 443 273)

Guest lecture programme (85958117002)		150 000
Planning grants, Research programmes (85958117000)	2/3	862 182
Planning grants, Education Programmes 85958117001)	1/3	431 091
Total expenses		3 200 000

Appendix 1: Motivation for the increase in funding

We apply for an increase of the annual funding of SASNET with 45 %, that is, from SEK 2.2 to 3.2 million.

When we applied for funds last time in 2002, Sida motivated the size of its increased funding with the argument that it was proportionate to the increase given by Lund University. We have assumed that the same principle applies to the current application.

The new budget for the period 2006 – 2008 is planned in relation to the results of the external evaluation ('External') and the self-evaluation ('Self') made. At the end of this appendix the new **budget** is presented in relation to the budget for the year 2005.

The increase is motivated by the very positive external evaluation of SASNET's work during 2000 – 2005. The external evaluation uses the phrase 'Remarkable achievements' of SASNET (External p. 1) in building up a large and focussed information and communication network, arranging conferences and workshops, and starting new projects in both research and higher education. SASNET has made Swedish South Asian studies very visible in the national and international arena. At the same time the external evaluation notes that SASNET is a very small enterprise in terms of funding and personnel and suggests a 50 % increase in funding.

The funding of SASNET must take into consideration that SASNET is the only network/centre available for South Asia related studies in Sweden. For Africa there is the big Nordic Centre in Uppsala and the Africa Centre at Göteborg University. For East and Southeast Asia there is a centre in Lund and in Stockholm. For Latin America there are centres in Stockholm and Göteborg. There are two main reasons why South Asia is important for Sweden and Swedish researchers. 1) It still houses the largest poor population in the world and faces the most severe environmental problems that the world has ever seen: lack of water and chemical poisoning of water, soils and air. 2) In the near future South Asia, especially India, will be one of the leading regions in the world in terms of economic and scientific development. The enormous expansion in higher education and research undertaken by South Asians at home and abroad has meant that Indian creativity is conquering the global arena, not just in science and IT, but also in culture and entertainment.

The key to productive networking is the combination of **focussed meetings of people**, a rich **common data base** (focussed Internet Gateway), and fast **electronic communication**. It takes a great variety of experiences to run such a network, including familiarity with the various sciences involved and how they operate. This goes especially for the administration of support directed towards planning of new projects. It is not just the economic support but all kinds of advices that is crucial to the build up of new projects, including the right contacts in South Asia and globally.

In the new budget we want to include two new features based on the conclusions of both the external and our own evaluation:

1. Interdisciplinary co-operation: the evaluations appreciate the SASNET's attempts to promote interdisciplinary co-operation but also note that the results have been limited so far (External p. 2, and 12-13; Self p. 22). The purpose of the suggested **workshop fund** is to organise one or more interdisciplinary workshop annually, in Lund or by some network partner anywhere in Sweden. The main thrust of the workshops will be to promote interdisciplinary research especially between the

natural, technical and medical disciplines and the humanities and the social sciences. Suitable topics for such workshops in a Swedish context, are, for example:

- Biotechnology in society, GMO seeds, etc.
- Primary, preventive and reproductive health in
- Water, infrastructure and environment

Another important aim of the workshops is to involve more South Asian researchers in SASNET activities.

We have allotted SEK 100 000 for this purpose in the proposed budget.

2. A guest lecture/research programme. The external evaluation suggests a guest lecture/research programme based on the experience that it is difficult to get a deeper involvement and commitment of our partners in South Asia, for example the South Asia Advisory Group, unless they are able to come here and interact with researchers and students (External p. 2 and 9). The purpose of the suggested guest lecture/research programme is to invite prominent researchers from South Asia to tour Sweden and give guest lectures and seminars at various network nodes, or stay at some of the nodes for a couple of weeks to work on a manuscript. The decisions about whom to invite will be made after applications at two times of the year by a reference group based at Uppsala, but with members from Stockholm, Göteborg and Lund.

This programme differs from the Linnaeus-Palme Programme, in that it is one-sided and only focussed on inviting scholars from South Asia to visit several Swedish institutions. The Linnaeus-Palme Programme is meant for exchange of teachers and students between two specific institutions. We have allotted SEK 150 000 for this purpose in the proposed budget.

Strengthening the Planning Grant Programme. Both evaluations show that the planning grant programme has been very successful. More than 70 % of the grants given during the first 3 years of its implementation, have resulted in solid institutional funding of the planned projects, either from research councils or from the respective universities (External p. 10-15, and Self p. 10-12). Therefore, we want to strengthen this programme and we have suggested an annual increase of about SEK 350 000, from ca 950 000 to 1 300 000.

Strengthening the root node. Based on the external evaluation, which concludes that 'costs are held down to an extent that might sometimes be counterproductive' (External p. 2), we also suggest a somewhat larger financial allotment for the work carried out at SASNET's root node as can be seen from the budget below.

- We would like to increase the travel budget for co-ordinator and webmaster from 25 000 to 100 000 so as to be able to network effectively in South Asia and globally.
- We would like to arrange a two-day in-house seminar away from Lund for the new board members and deputy members to begin their work in 2007.
- We would like to increase the remuneration of the members of the reference group for planning grants from SEK 5000 to 7500 per application round.
- We have increased the allotment for material to be able to publish strategic information about SASNET activities in various media, for example, in magazines like *Omvärlden* and other similar publications.
- Gateway expenses: The external evaluation suggests that we make a new attempt to start a Chat page for information exchange. To be able to do this we need to engage a consultant to help organising it in the best possible manner. Since Lund University has increased its contribution to the network with 200 000, the budget also has to cover certain costs incurred by Lund University for running the Gateway, including the updating of the Search Function..

The budget below should be seen as an approximate budget, which allows for some flexibility depending on decision taken by the board about the annual budget each year. For example, if there are many good initiatives for interesting workshops and a smaller number of good planning grant applications a certain adjustment in the allotment of funds could be made.

Suggested annual budget for SASNET year 2006 – 2008 compared with the budget for 2005

	2005⁸	2006 – 2008
Expenses:		
I. Network root node at Lund		
Salaries		
- Network co-ordinator, 6 months,	261 000	276 000
- Webmaster/secretary, 12 months,	360 000	396 000
(Subtotal, salaries	621 000	672 000)
LKP, 51.6	320 436	346 752
Total, salaries	941 436	1 018 752
Travel expenses root node, networking in South Asia, Sweden, Europe, etc.	85 000 ⁹	100 000
Travel, board meetings	20 000	50 000 ¹⁰
Travel and fees, Reference group	55 000	70 000
Subscriptions, handbooks	15 000	20 000
Expenses, material including 20 000 for publishing information about SASNET	10 000	40 000
Gateway (maintenance, training)	20 000	50 000
Oresund Network of South Asian Studies, lectures, seminars	20 000	40 000
Annual Workshop	25 000 ¹¹	100 000
Total, other expenses at the root node	250 000	470 000
Subtotal, root node	1 191 436	1 488 752
Administrative charges (Omkostnadspåslag 18 %)	214 458	267 975

⁸ In this budget we have included the 150 000 which was surplus from 2004, and which have been used for the contact journey in November-December, the workshop in Aarhus, and increased funding of planning grants. Thus, these expenses are not normal features of SASNET's typical annual budget which now amounts to 2 200 000.

⁹ Includes the contact journey cost of 60 000.

¹⁰ We are planning to hold a two days extra seminar at a guesthouse outside Lund with the new board to be elected in 2006, in order to inform about and discuss various SASNET activities. It will engage also those elected as deputy members. The cost of travel, board and lodging is calculated at an extra 60 000 and has been distributed over the three year period (20 000 per year).

¹¹ SASNET helped organising a workshop on health at the NASA meeting in Aarhus 3-5 June 2005.

Total, root node activities	1 405 894	1 756 727
II. Programme activities (anywhere in Sweden):		
Guest lecture programme	-	150 000
Planning grants, Research programmes	629 404	862 182
Planning grants, Education programmes	314 702	431 091
Total expenses	2 350 000	3 200 000