

SASNET

Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Minutes from the Board meeting, August 27, 2002

Venue: Conference Room 1, third floor, Department of Sociology, Lund University

Members present: Björn Hettne, Boel Billgren, Rajni Hatti-Kaul, Catarina Kinnvall, Bo Lindblad, Gunnar Jacks, Pamela Gwynne Price, and Christer Norström.

Others: Staffan Lindberg and Lars Eklund

1. Election of chairperson, secretary and person to verify the minutes

Decision: Björn Hettne will chair the meeting, Lars Eklund will be the secretary, and Rajni Hatti-Kaul will verify the minutes.

2. Agreement on the agenda. Any other business to be added to the agenda? (see last point)

The agenda was agreed upon after one additional question was added: Point 15 regarding the involvement of SASNET in a planned Masters course in South Asian Studies at Lund University.

3. SASNET work report for 2002. Staffan Lindberg, director/co-ordinator

- **Overall report**
- **Internet gateway**, Lars Eklund
- **Application to Sida for funds 2003 – 2006** (see <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/sidaapp02.html>)
- **Other activities**

Discussion: Staffan Lindberg gave a brief overview of SASNET's activities during 2002, including a report on the Contact Journey to South Asia in the Spring. Lars Eklund reported on the further development of the Internet Gateway, and answered affirmatively on a question by Pamela Price whether SASNET is willing to establish a collaboration with NoFSA, Norwegian Forum for South Asia. Staffan then presented the Sida application, and told about the Baseline documentation on the contents of the Internet Gateway which has been done. Finally Staffan and Lars reported on other activities going on; networking, visiting scholars, the status of the

proposed Masters course, the preparations being made for the SASNET PhD candidates/postdocs symposium at Marstrand in October.

Decision: The board approved the reports presented.

4. Distribution of Planning Grants, Fall 2002

Suggestion: The reference group, consisting of Pamela Price, Neil Webster and Malin Åkerblom, had met the same morning and its decisions concerning the 26 applications were presented at the meeting.

Decision: The board approved the decisions made by the reference group, as follows:

I. Research Planning Grants

- **Bali Swain, Ranjula**, Department of Economics, Uppsala University: "Feminization of Debt: Women Empowerment and Social Impact of Microfinance in South Asia." The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 75 000 (RPG02S:08)
- **Saxena, Anju**, Department of Linguistics, Uppsala University: "Digital documentation of Indian minority languages." The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 110 000 SEK (RPG02S:22)2.
- **Kinnvall, Catarina**, Department of Political Science, Lund University: "Globalization and the State in India." The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 25 000 SEK (RPG02S:20)
- **Lindmark, Gunilla**, International Maternal and Child Health (IMCH), Department of Women's and Children's Health, Uppsala University: "Promoting adolescent reproductive health: Networking in Asia." The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 65 000 SEK (RPG02S:23)
- **Strömquist, Lennart**, Programme on Applied Environmental Impact Assessment, Department of Earth Sciences, Uppsala University: "Environmental management and monitoring from multidisciplinary perspectives as illustrated by the Negombo lagoon in Sri Lanka." The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 65 000 SEK (RPG02S:16)
- **Guieysse, Benoit**, Department of Biotechnology, Lund University: "Combined biophysical remediation processes for the cost-efficient removal of Persistent Organic Pollutants." The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 55 000 SEK (RPG02S:03)
- **Lindblad, Bo**, Department of Public Health, Division of International Health, Karolinska Institutet Medical University: "Pregnancy and Infancy in South Asia." The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 110 000 SEK (RPG02S:07)

- **Nair, Baboo M.**, Applied Nutrition and Food Chemistry, Center for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Lund University: “The development of an interdisciplinary Swedish South Asian Studies Network for research on fermentation of foods in relation to public health and social welfare”. The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 110 000 SEK (RPG02S:04)

II. Education Planning Grants

- **Garreth, Martha J.**, International Maternal and Child Health (IMCH), Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, Uppsala University: “Guidance of Swedish Master’s Students Doing Interdisciplinary Research in International Health in Sri Lanka.” The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 60 000 SEK (EPG02S:01)
- **Swain, Ashok**, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University: “Nordic Centre in India.” The committee decided to fund the activities with SEK 25 000 (EPG02S:02)

5. SASNET network support during 2003

Decisions: The board decided that the same type of planning and networking grants will be given as during the Fall 2002.

6. Root node activities during the rest of 2002

Suggestion: The root node will mainly:

- continue to build the **Internet gateway** in close contact with various user groups, especially doctoral students
- on that basis **continue networking** to initiate, stimulate and promote research and education programmes, including giving support to activities supported by SASNET grants
- **organise a symposium for PhD candidates** specialising in South Asian studies at Marstrand in October
- continue working on the Øresund Network for South Asian Studies, including planning a masters programme
- intensify SASNET’s networking in South Asia – plan a new contact journey to South Asia in February-March 2003
- continued media watch

- start organising the NASA conference in October 2003, which we suggest be organised by Lund University and SASNET's root node. A first planning group meeting is scheduled for October, 2002.

Discussion: The board was positive towards all the activities suggested, some of which were going to be discussed more in detail later in the meeting. Pamela Price reminded that NASA board members in all the Nordic countries are supposed to seek funding for the conference from their respective home countries.

7. Information: "Framtid med Asien – en uppföljning av regeringens Asienstrategi". SASNET's root node has given their viewpoints via the International Office, Lund University. Staffan Lindberg.

8. Information: Svensk utvecklingskonferens i Lund, 9-11 January 2003, see <http://www.ukonf03.lu.se/>. Staffan Lindberg.

9. Discussion about networking with researchers in Pakistan and what kind of work that SASNET could launch in Afghanistan. Introduction by Bo Lindblad.

Discussion: Bo Lindblad informed about the excellent possibilities to launch work in Afghanistan through existing Pakistan based research networks, and more specifically the Aga Khan Education Services, the Aga Khan University, and other institutions that have long-standing relations with these, e g Karolinska Institutet.

Decision: The board approved the ambitions.

10. SASNET Symposium with PhD candidates, 25- 27 October 2002

Suggestion: See the organisation of the seminar on: <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/phdsymp.html>

Discussion: Staffan informed about the preparations which are under way for the conference in Marstrand. Pamela Price asked for more time at the symposium being spent for the PhD students to present their own research. Christer Norström suggested that the participants should be encouraged to bring their works with them to the symposium.

Decision: The board approved the plans for the symposium.

11. Contact journey to South Asia

Suggestion: The Director and Webmaster are planning a contact journey to Mumbai, Pakistan, and Afghanistan during late February to late March 2003. If the security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan is not considered safe enough, we

suggest that the trip goes to Bhutan, Gauhati, UP, Punjab, Orissa, and Bangalore besides Mumbai. They will visit institutions that the SASNET network has already interacted with as well as new institutions and centres to inform about SASNET and explore possibilities for co-operation of various kinds. Total cost for the journey is estimated at SEK 85 000.

Discussion: The board was very positive towards the plans presented. Bo Lindblad argued that the journey should go to Pakistan, and Mumbai, but not Afghanistan, and that he has possibilities to plan the journey inside Pakistan with due consideration to safety precautions.

Decision: The board approved the contact journey, and decided to allocate the money needed.

12. Invitation from the Centre de Sciences Humaines of New Delhi for partnership with SASNET, see Enclosure 1.

Suggestion: We make an agreement and announce it to our partners.

Discussion: Several members of the board rejected the idea. Bo Lindblad warned against joining up with a New Delhi based institution, Pamela Price expressed worries about the French connection, and Boel Billgren argued that SASNET's strength lies in its independence. Staffan Lindberg said that it should be possible for individual Swedish researchers to make use of the French Centre even without an institutional partnership.

Decision: The board decided to say no to the proposed partnership, but inform individual researchers of the possibilities given by the Centre de Sciences Humaines of New Delhi.

13. Invitation of South Asian Researchers during 2003. Suggestions are welcome. We should also ask all our partners to come with suggestions of persons. Decision to be taken at the board meeting in January 2003.

Discussion: Staffan Lindberg informed that 60 000 SEK has been proposed for this purpose in the SASNET budget for 2003, and the principles regarding whom the invitation should apply (e g outstanding scholars in an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary field).

Decision: The board approved the plans. Invitations to suggest persons should be announced in a coming Newsletter.

14. Date for the board meeting in January 2003

Decision: The next board meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 January, 2003, 13–17

15. Involvement of SASNET in a planned Masters course in South Asian Studies at Lund University

Discussion: Staffan informed about the ongoing process to launch a Masters programme in South Asian Studies from September 2003, and the role that SASNET may play in this. Lund University is positive towards the proposed programme, but there is a problem to find a suitable institutional affiliation. A good solution would be to put the programme under the umbrella of the Centre for East and South East Asia, which has expressed its willingness to integrate South Asia in its work field, but this integration might take a couple of years to realise. In the meantime SASNET could possibly function as a host for the programme.

Decision: The board approved that SASNET function as host for the Masters course until a final solution can be reached.

Lund den 30 augusti 2002

Lars Eklund.....
Lars Eklund, secretary

Verified by:

Rajni Hatti-Kaul.....
Rajni Hatti-Kaul