

SASNET

Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Minutes from the Board meeting 28 August 2007, 13.15-17.00

Venue: Conference room, 1st floor, Centre for East- and South-East Asian Studies (ACE), House Alfa 1, Scheelevägen 15D, Ideon Research Park, Lund

Members present: Prosun Bhattacharya, Gunnel Cederlöf, Pernille Gooch, Per Hilding, Catarina Kinnvall, Bengt Kristiansson, Staffan Lindberg, Jan Magnusson, Ferdinando Sardella and Neil Webster.

Others: Lars Eklund and Anna Lindberg

Agenda:

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

Gunnel Cederlöf was elected to chair the meeting, and Lars Eklund to be the secretary. Jan Magnusson was elected to verify the minutes. Catarina Kinnvall was elected vice chairman for the meeting, to chair point No. 5

2. Presentation of board members and SASNET's new Director

Anna Lindberg informed the board about some of her ideas for SASNET's coming work, see also <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/annabrief.html>

3. Agenda for the meeting, additional points

Staffan Lindberg asked that the issue of Haellquist's book donation should be moved from point 8 to point 5, and include the proposal that SASNET reallocates budget funds to this project. The board decided to make the change.

4. SASNET work report for 2006 and Spring 2007

For 2006,

See SASNET Work Report for 2006, by Staffan Lindberg and Lars Eklund, dated 12 April 2007. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/workreport7.html>

See also, Minutes from the previous board meeting, 29 January 2007. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/board0701.pdf>

Work carried out during spring 2007

- a. Internet Gateway, short report by Lars Eklund
- b. Seven more Newsletters: see, <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/sasnet.html#newsletters>
- c. Preparation to hand over the directorship to Anna Lindberg. The new Director's future priorities, see <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/annabrief.html>
- d. Other activities, reports by Staffan Lindberg and Lars Eklund
 - Visit to Kalmar University College in February, see <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/kalmar2007.html>
 - Visit to Blekinge Institute of Technology, Ronneby, in March, see <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/bit07.html>
 - Seminar on Fish Production and Aquaculture in India and Bangladesh on 15 March, organised in collaboration with Alia Ahmad, Dept. of Economics, Lund University, see <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/sasnet.html - rab>
 - Organising a three-day visit to Lund University by Rajesh Vaishnav, First Secretary, Embassy of India in May, see <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/vaishnav.html>
 - Presentation of SASNET by Lars Eklund at the 2007 conference for international coordinators at the universities in Finland, organised by the Finnish Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) and held in Seinäjoki 14-16 May, see <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/sasnet.html - cimo>
 - Co-organising an India Business Seminar on 23 May at Ideon Research Park in Lund, see <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/indsemlund.html>
 - Development of new South Asia related projects through NIAS, New Centenary Research School, SARTrain, etc. Includes doctoral courses in Lund and Uppsala, a PhD candidate workshop in Amsterdam in September, etc.
 - Masters programme in Asian studies at Lund University. 14 students in the group that started in September 2006. A Guest Lecture Programme organised by SASNET in cooperation with the Masters programme.
 - The India/South Asia undergraduate one-year course at Österlen's folk high school.
 - Other things. Planning the contact journey to India in November, see separate point 7.

Discussion & decision: A discussion of how to recruit new students to the Masters programmes in South Asian studies in Lund and elsewhere evolved and engaged several board members. The board decided that this issue should be discussed as a separate point at the next board meeting (February 2008).

5. Revised Budget for 2007

- a/Support to the Roskilde/Lund Workshop on India, 26 – 27 September in Roskilde;
- b/Support to the environment conference in Uppsala, August 2008;
- c/Support to the Haellquist donation.

Point 5 was chaired by Catarina Kinnvall.

Financial result for spring 2007. See **Enclosure 1**: SASNET Utfall 2007

Suggestion: SASNET should support the workshop with SEK 25 000 to finance the guest speakers' participation in the workshop in Roskilde. **See Enclosures 2** (workshop) **and 3** (revised budget for 2007).

It was suggested that SASNET should support the environment conference in Uppsala with SEK 150 000. The money should be taken from the planning grant fund for 2008. See **Enclosure 4**.

Discussion: Staffan Lindberg presented the Roskilde/Lund Workshop, organised in collaboration between SASNET and Roskilde University.

Gunnel Cederlöf presented the plans for the environment conference in Uppsala. A conference budget of SEK 379 000, of which SASNET's contribution was suggested to be SEK 170 000, was distributed and explained.

Jan Magnusson presented the Haellquist Donation project, asking that SASNET should reallocate SEK 150 000 in the budget to fund further work to get the collection ready to be integrated in a university library. The donation consists of a collection of around 7 000 volumes in South Asian studies, and Haellqvist's private archive.

Before the board continued its discussion and made its decisions, Staffan Lindberg, Gunnel Cederlöf and Jan Magnusson left the room

The remaining board members were unanimously in favour of funding the workshop in Roskilde with SEK 25 000 from the 2007 budget, and recommended that the environment conference in Uppsala should be financed with SEK 170 000 from the 2008 budget (to be decided at the board meeting in February 2008).

Some discussion took place about the Haellquist Donation project, and questions were put forward regarding the ownership of the collection, the quality of the books, and the rationale of building a South Asia library in Lund.

Decision: The board decided to revise the 2007 budget in order to allocate SEK 25 000 to support the workshop in Roskilde, and to recommend that SEK 170 000 should be reserved in the coming year's budget for the environment conference in Uppsala, 2008. The board decided to re-allocate SEK 150 000 from the 2007 budget for Programme activities accounting entry to support the Haellquist Donation Project.

6. Distribution of Planning, Guest Lecture, and Workshop grants

Suggestion: See **Enclosure 5**: List of applicants.

The evaluation made by the Reference group earlier the same day was available at the meeting. The total sum available for distribution was SEK 895 000.

Discussion: After the evaluation made by the Reference group (Jytte Agergaard, Ewa Wäckelgård and Arild Engelsen Ruud) nine research and education projects/workshops/guest lecture programmes were selected. The total number of applications was 20. SEK 667 000 were distributed.

Decision: The board thanked the Reference Group for its work, and approved its selection. The following projects received a SASNET grant:

Networking grant/planning for new research projects:

- Maria Andersson, Department of Biotechnology, Center for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Lund University: "Sol-gel encapsulation of biomolecules – special emphasis on developing cost-effective diagnostic tests." SEK 75 000
- Vinod Diwan, Division of International Health (IHCAR), Karolinska Institutet: "Improving maternal health outcomes in Madhya Pradesh, India – bridging the gap between research and practice." SEK 75 000
- Maigun Edhborg, Neurobiology, Care Science, Section for Nursing, Karolinska Institutet: "Impact of maternal perinatal depressive symptoms on infant development and health in Bangladesh." SEK 75 000
- Olof Olsson, and Gokarna Gharti-Chhetri, CMB – Molecular Biology, Göteborg University: "Phytoremediation of Arsenic in South Asian countries." SEK 75 000

Networking grant/planning for new educational project:

- Martha J Garrett, Womens and Childrens Health, International Maternal and Child Health, Uppsala University: "Regional Networking for Information on Child Survival." SEK 150 000

Grants for organising an Interdisciplinary Workshop:

- Eva-Maria Hardtmann, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University: "Conference on Dalits in the Global Justice Movement: Researchers and Activists in Dialogues." SEK 62 000
- Om Prakash, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, School of Technology and Design, Växjö University: "Implementation Strategies for the transfer of hybrid photovoltaic-thermal (H-PV/T) technology from research to lab to field." SEK 75 000

Grants for aa Guest Lecture Programme:

- William Hogland, Department of Technology, University of Kalmar: "Invitation of Sunil Kumar, Kurian Joseph and Anjali Srivastava." SEK 60 000
- Claes-Göran Holmberg, & Per-Erik Ljung, Comparative Literature, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University: "Invitation of Professor Soumyayit Samanta, Dept. of English, North Bengal University, Siliguri, India." SEK 20 000

7. Contact journey to New Delhi, West and Southwest India in November 2007

Suggestion: See **Enclosure 6** for Anna Lindberg and Lars Eklund's travel plans. A main activity is the organisation of a workshop with SASNET's South Asia Reference Group on 3 November at the Nordic Centre in India in New Delhi,.

Discussion & Decision: Anna Lindberg presented the travel plan. It covers Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Mumbai, Loni, Bangalore and Mysore.

The board members were invited to suggest people and institutions that should be visited.

8. Other SASNET activities during autumn 2007 and spring 2008

Suggestion:

- Visits to be made by SASNET's new Director
 - to SASNET partners in Uppsala, Stockholm, Karlstad and Göteborg
 - to the Foreign Ministry (Börje Ljunggren), Sida/SAREC (Berit Olsson, Barbro Carlsson), Sida Asia, and Ministry of Education (Jacob Johansson)
 - to South Asian Embassies in Stockholm
- Staffan Lindberg participates in the Inaugural Meeting of Asia-Europe Alumni Networks in Madrid, 31 August - 1 September. See **Enclosure 7**, Invitation.
- Support networking partners in Uppsala in the planning of the environment conference in August 2008.
- Devise a plan for participation in the 20th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies in Manchester 8 – 11 July 2008
- Local activities in Lund
 - Guest lectures and seminars on Pakistan, Maldives and Bangladesh together with Lund University's Association of Foreign Affairs (UPF)
 - Organise a workshop with Mr. Sten Tolgfors, Swedish Trade Minister, after his visit to India in September 2007. The workshop is planned to take place at Ideon, Lund, in cooperation with Mr. Stig Victorin, SIBC.
 - Plan a guest lecture series about environmental issues at Lund University in spring, 2008.

Discussion and Decision: Anna Lindberg presented the activities planned for fall, 2007, and planned projects for 2008. The board approved the plans.

9. New Member of the South Asia Reference Group

Suggestion: It is suggested that Dr. J. Devika, Research Associate with Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram becomes the sixth member of the group. She has been recommended by Anna Lindberg. See **Enclosure 8** for her CV.

Discussion & Decision: The board discussed how representative the reference group is, with regard to countries, gender, and disciplines, and that Dr. Devika would be an excellent addition to the group. The board decided to appoint Dr. Devika as a new member of the South Asia Reference Group.

10. Membership in Sweden India Business Council

Suggestion: SASNET should become a member of the Sweden India Business Council at a cost of SEK 4 500. See <http://www.sibc.se>. A membership will facilitate contacts and cooperation.

Discussion: Some board members expressed their hesitation, fearing that SASNET's integrity might be damaged by joining a business association, and that SASNET's capacity to influence decisions in SIBC would be extremely limited. Other members differed in opinion, arguing that joining SIBC as a full member does not involve binding engagements for SASNET, but means better possibilities for a dialogue with the business community and extended opportunities, not the least for students. Two proposals were put forward: 1) To join immediately and then evaluate the process after one year. 2) To search for more information and postpone the decision until the next board meeting.

Decision: After a vote the board decided to become a member of Sweden India Business Council for 2007. Five members voted in favour of suggestion 1, and three members voted in favour of suggestion 2.

11. Discussion of "Resource mapping" and "Sub-working groups" within SASNET

The issues of resource mapping and creating sub-working groups were discussed at the January 2007 board meeting, and ended up in a wish that these issues ought to be dealt with during the spring, and presented to the board meeting in August.

Discussion: Staffan Lindberg summarized his views on the issue, where the formation of sub-groups is seen as a way for SASNET to market its knowledge and thereby create external economic revenue for SASNET. The board was of the opinion that this would be an unrealistic option for the root node to manage. Staffan also dismissed the idea of resource mapping, since it would require that universities have to pay to be members of SASNET, and that the access to the Internet gateway would have to be restricted.

Gunnel Cederlöf argued that the proposed sub-groups and resource mapping are not primarily meant to generate money for SASNET, but to create a knowledge base. She said that these ideas should be part of a general policy discussion about how SASNET's Director should work and what focus SASNET should have in its future activities. Jan Magnusson added that the focus must be to get the Swedish universities more involved in SASNET activities, and making SASNET more relevant for them.

Anna Lindberg informed the board about her priorities as Director. She wants to strengthen the Swedish network, and put more efforts into promoting Swedish research and education about South Asia. Sub-groups, if formed as bottom-up networks, might be a good idea, she said. She added that time-consuming contact journeys are less relevant in the future. At this stage, the money used for these contact journeys can be used better for other purposes.

Neil Webster agreed to this, saying that for the same cost as one contact journey, SASNET could organise several thematic workshops.

Staffan Lindberg supported the idea of arranging thematic workshops in the coming year, and said that they can be funded by surplus money from the unused part of the 2007 planning grants.

11. Any other business

The board warmly thanked Staffan Lindberg for the years he has been SASNET Director. He left this position on 1 July. At the same time, Anna Lindberg was formally welcomed to take over as Director.

12. Date for next board meeting

The board decided that the next board meeting should be held on Tuesday 5 February 2008, 13–17.

Lund, 12 September 2007

Lars Eklund

Lars Eklund, secretary

Gunnel Cederlöf

Gunnel Cederlöf, chairman

Verified by:

Jan Magnusson

Jan Magnusson

Enclosures:

1. SASNET Utfall January-May 2007 (Excel document)
2. Roskilde Lund Workshop on India, 26-27 September 2007
3. Revised Budget for 2007
4. Uppsala Environment Conference August 2008
5. List of applicants for planning grants, etc.
6. Plans for the contact journey to India in November 2007
7. Invitation for the Inaugural meeting of Asia-Europe Alumni Networks in Madrid
8. CV for suggested new member of the South Asia Reference Group