

SASNET – Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Minutes for the board meeting 26 August 2008, 13.15-17.00

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

Members present: Gunnel Cederlöf, Per Hilding, Jan Magnusson, Cecilia Stålsby Lundborg, Pernille Gooch, Per Drougge, Ferdinando Sardella and Neil Webster. Root node staff: Sidsel Hansson and Lars Eklund (until 14.30).

Agenda

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

Gunnel Cederlöf was elected to chair the meeting, and Pernille Gooch to be the secretary. Ferdinando Sardella was elected to verify the minutes.

2. Round of presentations

Per Drougge, suggested new deputy board member representing PhD students, was welcomed.

3. Agenda for the meeting, additional points

Lund University should be recommended to appoint Per Drougge to become deputy member of the SASNET board.

4. SASNET work report for 2007 and January-August 2008

by Sidsel Hansson and Lars Eklund

Minutes from the previous board meeting see: www.sasnet.lu.se/board0801.pdf. Work report 2007 see: www.sasnet.lu.se/workreport8.html. The Director reported that the schedule for strategy work was changed due to Anna Lindberg being on sick leave and Sidsel substituting as director of SASNET during her absence. Göteborg University was visited twice, discussions were held with Lund University on the plans for an Asia House, SASNET funded the conference on Nature, Knowledge, Power, held in Uppsala 15–17th August 2008. Work has also been continued on the Karl Reinhold Haellquist book collection. SASNET welcomes Maria Tonini, an Italian MA in Cultural Studies, who works on a voluntary basis to update SASNET web pages.

5. Distribution of planning, guest lecture and workshop

Suggestion: See Enclosure 3: 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 957 000.

Discussion: After the evaluation made by the Reference group (Jytte Agergaard, Ewa Wäckelgård and Arild Engelsen Ruud) nineteen research projects/workshops/guest lecture programmes were selected. No grants for educational projects were distributed this year. The total number of applications was 52. SEK 965 000 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:

Anders Björkman, Malaria Research Unit, Dept. of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet: "Molecular characterization of clinical isolates of *Plasmodium falciparum* in Pakistan". SEK 45 000

- Artur Chodorowski, Department of Signals and Systems, Chalmers University of Technology: "Pattern Recognition methods for early detection of precancerous oral lesions in South Asia". SEK 75 000

- Mattias Larsen, PADRIGU, School of Global Studies, Göteborg University: "Development and Demography in North-Western India: Emerging Contexts of Daughter Discrimination". SEK 75 000

- Abul Mandal, School of Life Sciences, Skövde University: "Development of new varieties of crops for avoiding loss of harvest caused by climatic instability in Bangladesh". SEK 45 000

- Ebbe Nordlander, Chemical Physics, Centre for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Lund University: "Modelling of hydrodesulfurization reactions and development of new molecular hydrodesulfurization catalysts". SEK 75 000

- Camilla Orjuela, School of Global Studies, Göteborg University: "Corruption and Conflict: Challenges for Local Governance in Sri Lanka". SEK 75 000

- Leslie Paul, and Sadhna Alström, AM Technology Centre, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU): "Development of a collaborative research project between Indian and Swedish researchers towards sustainable hillberry production for small farm holders in Himalayan states of India". SEK 75 000

- Joyanto Routh, Dept. of Geology and Geochemistry, Stockholm University: "Biogeochemical signatures and high-resolution paleoclimatic records in speleotherms from caves in Meghalaya (India)". SEK 60 000

Grants for organising an Interdisciplinary Workshop:

- Alia Ahmad, Dept. of Economics, Lund University: Workshop about Designing action research on the development of inland fisheries for poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. SEK 75 000
- Anna Laine, Social Anthropology, School of Global Studies, Göteborg University: "Workshop on The Kolam Practice – in Dialogue with Anthropology and Art Practice". SEK 75 000
- Maria Lantz, Art & Architecture, Royal University College of Fine Arts (KKH): Workshop on DHARAVI: Documenting Informalities. SEK 75 000
- Mikael Schultz, School of Global Studies, Göteborg University: Workshop: Sri Lanka Conference on Peace and Development Research. SEK 75 000

Grants for a Guest Lecture Programme:

- Daniel Andersson, & Åke Sander, Dept. of Religious Studies, theology and classical philology, Göteborg University: Invitation of Dr. Dipak Malik, Gandhian Institute of Studies, Jamui Campus, Bihar, India. Co-invited by: Religious Studies, Högskolan Dalarna; and Dept. of Sociology, Lund University. SEK 20 000
- Neelambar Hatti, Dept. of Economic History, Lund University: Invitation of Dr. T V Sekher, Associate Professor, Department of Population Policies and Programs, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India. Co-invited by: Nordic Centre in India (NCI) to deliver lectures at Umeå University, Stockholm University and Göteborg University . SEK 20 000
- Jan Johansson, School of Global Studies, Göteborg University: Invitation of Dr. Mahbub Alam, Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Arts and Science, Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB). Co-invited by: Uppsala Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD). SEK 20 000
- Diane Pecorari, School for Education, Culture and Communication, Mälardalens högskola: Invitation of Dr. Ashis Sengupta, University of North Bengal, India. Co-invited by: Dept. of Humanities, Växjö University; and School of Arts and Languages, Högskolan Dalarna . SEK 20 000
- Joyanto Routh, Dept. of Geology and Geochemistry, Stockholm University: Invitation of Dr. S P Sinha Ray, Centre for Groundwater Studies, Kolkata, India. Co-invited by: SGU, Stockholm; Uppsala University (Hydrology Section); and KTH (Division of Land and Water Resources Engineering). SEK 20 000

- Ferdinando Sardella, Ferdinando, Dept. of Religious Studies, theology and classical philology, Göteborg University: Invitation of Dr. Ruby Sain, Dept. of Sociology, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. Co-invited by Vårdal Institute, Lund University. SEK 20 000
(Ferdinando Sardella left the room during the decision)

- Ashok Swain, Dept. of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University: Invitation of K V Raju, Professor and Head, Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India. Co-invited by: Dept. of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo. SEK 20 000

6 EU – India Mobility Program

(Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window Lot 15 India).

The Director informed on LU's successful application which was made by Anna Lindberg and signed by her as Director of SASNET. The board discussed the implications, work load, benefits and responsibility for SASNET in the project. The Director reported that Lund University is now very positive and they will construct a new structure for the project (which is huge, SEK 25 millions for four years). The Director was asked to put down in figures how much SASNET-time was used for Lund University in the project. If SASNET is involved in the project there should be additional funding for this. The director highlighted SASNET's role as facilitator. It was decided:

That the legal role of SASNET in the project should be clarified for the next board meeting.

A report should be prepared showing the amount of work and time that has been used by SASNET in the project, and also how SASNET knowledge and network has gone into the project.

The board supports the suggestion that SASNET shall continue to be involved in the project and on condition that the worktime is covered by project funds and that SASNET should get a place in the steering committee.

The board congratulates Anna Lindberg for her very successful work.

7. New model for handling SASNETs administrative costs

The Director informed about the new administrative structure (see enclosure 9) and system for overhead costs at Lund University. She told that in order to respond to these changes and safeguard SASNETs interests, a new model for handling administrative costs at SASNET has been worked out. The director informed on the new net system for administrative costs.

The board discussed the fact that SASNET no longer will be connected to Lund University's International Office (with the costs included) but instead be mainstreamed and directly pay the university overhead of 12%. The Director pointed out the importance of rooting SASNET's position at Lund University. She further informed that the University Director has raised the question of SASNET with 16 other universities and University Colleges in Sweden suggesting that they

support SASNET. A solution could be either a consortium with the ministry of education or a continuation with SIDA. For that we need a letter of content with the Vice Chancellors of other universities in Sweden and in order to obtain that we need to get the information on what SASNET has done for them.

8. Activities autumn 2008

(see enclosures 4-6).

The Director informed on SASNET strategic work: inventory of viewpoints among the Swedish research community on how SASNET can facilitate Indian and Swedish research collaboration, and planning of the application process. It was pointed out that SASNET's strategy group should become more dynamic and work more intensely on how to finance SASNET. Gunnel Cederlöf said she would tie together contacts on environmental issues.

The development of the website was also discussed. Lars informed that he now holds discussions with Lund University's IT section to create more dynamic webpages. The new students Forum website created by Malin Gregersen fits in well.

Sub-network activities were discussed: Reports were given on the "Nature, Knowledge and Power" conference in Uppsala 15-17 August, and the student webpage. "The digital Gandhi" project was also presented, as well as planned lectures/seminars in Lund. Reports were given about SASNET's representation at EASAS, the India Platform, ACRSN, NCI, and NSU. An initiative for building up South Asian studies in Sweden was discussed.

The board thanked the Director very much for the information and asked her to sum up the strategy work for the next board meeting.

9. Information on the activities planned for spring-summer 2009

The acting Director informed on the activities planned for the spring 2009 (see enclosures 7 and 10).

- Strategy activities: application work in order to secure external funding of SASNET.
- SASNET's participation in the establishment of an Asia House at Lund University.
- Sub-network activity: a SASNET initiated conference on Health and Social issues of Migrant Women, to be organised in Sri Lanka in early 2009.
- Organisation by SASNET of a South Asian Studies conference for young scholars in 2009. The suggested conference should be part of SASNET's efforts to develop a sub-network of young researchers. The organizing committee may consist of Kristina Myrvold, Ferdinando Sardella, Per Dougge, and possibly, Neil Webster and Per Hilding.

Decision: The board approved the suggested activities for 2009.

The board especially supported the recommendation to organize a South Asian Studies conference for young scholars in 2009 with SEK 200 000, the funds suggested by the Director.

10. South Asian Reference group mandate period

The Director suggested a mandate period of 2 or 3 years for the South Asian reference group members with the possibility of re-election for max. one additional period. Present members who by the end of 2008 have served for 2 or 3 years and want to continue, will have to stand for re-election, and those who have served for 4 or 6 years are not eligible for re-election.

The board decided to agree on that. The mandate period should be 3 + 1 year and the starting point January 1, 2007.

11. Swedish India Business Council (SIBC)

(see enclosure 8, <http://www.sibc.se>, and <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/indsemlund.html>).

The Director reported on SASNET's engagement in SIBC, including an evaluation of the degree to which SASNET has been capable of influencing SIBC priorities. The Director suggests that SASNET continues its membership in SIBC (annual fee SEK 4500), but stops being actively involved in SIBC activities during the Fall 2008, in order to be able to prioritize strategy and refinancing work during 2008/2009. The board decided to postpone the decision regarding the SIBC membership for 2009 till the next board meeting in January 2009.

12. The Karl Reinhold Haellquist Memorial Collection

(see enclosures 1,2 and 6). The Director reported on the status of the collection, including "the digital Gandhi" project facilitated by a grant from the Crafoord Foundation. She suggested that the project in consultation with the Asian Library at Lund, may apply to SASNET for further funding at a later date. This point gave rise to heavy discussions. The project has received funds from Crafoord Foundation as well as a planning grant from SASNET.

13. Revised budget for 2008

(see enclosure 1 and 2).

The Director informed that SASNET earmarked SEK 220000 for the Karl Reinhold Haellquist Memorial Collection in its 2008 budget, of which SEK 77000 will not be used in 2008. She suggests that this money can be made available for other purposes such as conference preparations, developing the student webpage, IT support and IT courses in order to update the SASNET webpage technically, and develop it in consistency with SASNET's new strategy goals, and strategy work related expenses).

Decision : The board decided to reallocate SEK 75 000 in the 2008 budget from the Haellquist collection to be used for IT purposes during the Fall 2008, and reserve the same amount from the budget of 2009.

Instead the Haellquist collection project will be given the remaining part of the earmarked money from the 2009 budget.

14. Additional points on the agenda

The board decided to recommend Lund University to appoint Mr. Per Drougge, Dept. Of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University to become deputy member of SASNET's board, as a replacement for Wimal Pathmasiri who has moved from Sweden. Mr. Drougge's CV, enclosure11)

15. Date for the next board meeting.

The director suggests that new dates for board meetings should be September and March. The board however decided that the next meeting should be in the last week of January, on Tuesday, January 27, 2009.

Lund, November 3, 2008

Pernille Gooch

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Pernille Gooch, secretary

Gunnel Cederlöf

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Gunnel Cederlöf, chairperson

Verified by:

Ferdinando Sardella

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Ferdinando Sardella

Enclosures:

1. SASNET financial results January-June 2008
2. Revised budget 2008
3. List of application for planning grants etc.
4. Report on the "Nature, Knowledge and Power" conference, Uppsala, 15-17 August 2008
5. Report on the student webpage
6. Report on the Karl Reinhold Haellquist Memorial Collection, including the digital Gandhi project
7. Report on the planning of a conference on health and migration, to be held in Sri Lanka in March 2009
8. Report on Sweden India Business Council Activities 2007-2008

9. New model for SASNETs administrative costs

10. Project idea - South Asian Studies conference for young scholars 2009

11. CV - Per Drougge