



August/September 2004

Invitation to mark collaborative teaching in Asian languages and cultures – 14 September, 4:00 pm.



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Cross-Øresund co-operation in Asian studies

In the autumn of 2003, the ØRNAST partnership received a grant of SEK 60,000 from Øresund University's pilot project fund to develop collaborative teaching between the Department of Asian Studies and the Department of History of Religions at the University of Copenhagen, **and** the Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET), Department of East Asian Languages, CTR (History of Religion) and Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies (CFESEAS) at Lund University. The partnership has been dubbed ØRNAST – the Øresund Network of Asian Studies.

The departments involved cover a wide range of studies in Asian languages (Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Tibetan and Thai) and religions, as well as social studies and history, including the new Masters programme in Asian studies at the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies.

The project has now completed its **first and most important phase**. Procedures have been worked out to allow students to register for courses on either side of the Øresund, and it has been decided which courses can be mutually recognised - i.e. which courses Danish students can most easily take in Sweden and vice versa, and the credit/weight that these courses will be assigned in the student's academic career.

The ØRNAST network would like to mark this milestone with a presentation of what has been achieved so far, which will be followed by an Asian buffet with wine, soft drinks, etc.

Date/time: Tuesday 14 September, 4:00 pm.

Place: The new KUA complex, Njalsgade 120/134, 2300 Copenhagen S, building 23, auditorium 23.0.50, followed by a buffet on the canteen balcony.

RSVP by Thursday 9 September to okj@fak.hum.ku.dk, or tel. +45 3532 8063 (Lis Schrøder)

Programme

- Welcoming speech: John Kuhlmann Madsen, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen
- The significance of the partnership: Kenneth Zysk, Department for Asian studies, University of Copenhagen
- Demonstration of Internet website presenting the partnership: Lars Eklund, SASNET, Lund University and Ole Krarup Jensen, University of Copenhagen
- 45 years of Danish-Indian development partnership – a personal report: Steen Folke, senior researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies
- Conclusion: Staffan Lindberg, SASNET, Lund University
- Questions, if any, from the press and assembled guests

At approximately 5:00 pm there will be a buffet for the guests, and for the teachers and students of the ØRNASST partnership.

Project description

Among the reasons for the establishment of the development project is the typically small numbers of students admitted to studies in Asian languages. Such minor subject areas stand to benefit particularly well from partnerships within the Øresund region, as with their limited student admissions they can find it difficult to finance multifaceted teaching and a sufficiently broad academic research environment. Collaboration across the Øresund in these languages creates a broader basis upon which to offer multifaceted teaching and research, while at the same time achieving a number of rationalisation benefits. Religion studies can make appropriate contributions to the language studies, and joint courses can be established, thereby avoiding duplication, etc. Finally, we hope that the partnership will attract international students.

The following collaboration themes have been planned:

1st phase – which has now been more or less achieved:

- A joint credit table must be developed, in which students will be able to see precisely how they can put together their study programmes, and the credits they can gain for the individual study elements on offer in Lund or Copenhagen, respectively. The credit table will also provide further guidelines on how students can "pluck" study programme modules in Lund and Copenhagen, respectively.
- A website must be developed with information on the new study possibilities.

2nd phase – which now follows:

- Besides the website, it may also be necessary to develop some PR and student counselling material
- We should look at whether the range of courses can be rationalised to avoid duplication.

- Joint courses must also be developed
- We must examine the possibility of establishing a summer school – possibly in the form of courses run by the Øresund Summer University.
- We must further examine the possibility of establishing teacher exchanges and co-operation
- Co-operation on guest teachers must be established
- Joint student/research seminars must be developed, including PhD seminars and guidance

This programme partnership is expected to provide the Danish and Swedish students with a common Danish/Swedish identity, which will make them especially well-suited to the common Sealand/Scania labour market that is expected to develop over the coming years. Graduates will be attractive to companies who recruit labour across the entire region, and whose work deals with Asia.

**Reporting of total activities
November/December 2004**

On behalf of the Asia Collaboration

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