

To

Sida

The Vice-Chancellor of Lund University

The Director of the International Office, Lund University

**SASNET – Swedish South Asian Studies Network, Lund University**

**Administrative report no. 1**

**Work report for the period August 1999 – 15 February 2001**

Lund 16 February 2001

By Staffan Lindberg, acting co-ordinator and chairman of the working group for SASNET

Assisted by Jan Magnusson

Member of the working group and acting secretary/webmaster until 31 December 2000

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**SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network**

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## **Work report for the period August 1999 – 15 February 2001**

### **Introduction**

SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network, is now being organised by a working group at Lund University. The decision to give this task to Lund University was taken by Sida on 4 May 2000, and was followed by a period of planning and consultations culminating in a national conference in Lund on 14-15 October 2000.

On 8 November 2000, Lund University was contracted by Sida to build a Swedish South Asian Studies Network during 2001 and 2002. The work follows a plan laid down after the conference, which was approved by Sida.

The plan, the timetable, the working group, and the October conference are available at SASNET's preliminary website: <http://sasnet.soc.lu.se>

### **Organisation**

#### **Working group**

The work has been led by the same working group that made the original application to Sida, that is, Staffan Lindberg, Olle Qvarnström, Rajni Hatti Kaul, Shisher Kumra, Jan Magnusson, and Boel Billgren. During the spring 2001, Olle Qvarnström has asked to be relieved from the work due to other engagements. The working group has asked Lisbeth Andersson (acting program secretary) and Alia Ahmad (an economist from Lund University) to join the group for the remaining part of the spring.

From June to the beginning of November, 2000, the working group has met regularly every second or third week. After the contract was signed with Sida in mid-November, there have been three formal meetings on 21 November, 15 December 2000, and 9 February 2001 (with formal agendas and with verified minutes).

#### **Driving force**

Staffan Lindberg has acted as co-ordinator on a part time basis (3 months during 2000), and continues in this position during the spring of 2001. Jan Magnusson has been a full-time program secretary/webmaster for a period of 4 months during 2000. Boel Billgren at the International Office has co-ordinated the organisational efforts. On 1 January, Jan Magnusson has taken leave to work with his doctoral thesis, and Lisbeth Andersson, doctoral student from the department of History of Religions, has replaced him as acting part time program secretary.

#### **Interim reference group**

Until the board has been fully established by the middle of 2001, our work has been monitored by a reference group consisting of Tomas Kjellqvist and Jan Essner (Sida),

Gunnar Jacks (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Bo S Lindblad (ICHAR, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm), Gunilla Gren-Eklund (Dept. of Indology, Uppsala University), Hans Blomkvist (Dept. of Government, Uppsala University), Björn Hettne and Bent Jørgensen (PADRIGU, Göteborg University), Kjell Härenstam (Dept. of Religion, Karlstad University), and Pamela G. Price (Dept. of History, Oslo University), since late November 2000.

### **Organising SASNET**

We have now established an office at Lund University's International Office and are preparing SASNET's organisation and board for the first three years. The co-ordinator and webmaster/secretary positions will be opened for application during the spring, with a deadline on 15 May.

**Directions for SASNET** is now being discussed and will be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor for a decision in March.

**Discussions** of suitable persons for **SASNET's Board** are now going on within the working group. It will lead to a recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor, who will take the formal decision. The process has to be finalised during February – March, so that these members can participate in the workshop on Global Networking in South Asian studies on 27-28 August in Lund.

## **Outward Activities**

### **Planning grants**

We have announced planning grants for 2001 (deadline for application: 15 March, for invitation see our website). The idea is to get some research programs started by providing them with money for networking in the planning. Later these programs can apply for more sustained network money for a period of 3 or 5 years. SASNET's board will decide the length of the program-funding period during the fall (the invitation is now published on SASNET's homepage).

### **Workshop on global networking**

We have invited suggestions for participants in a workshop on global networking in South Asian studies taking place on 27-28 August 2001 (deadline for suggestions: 11 February, the invitation has been published on SASNET's homepage). The idea is to develop our networking capacity. The working committee for the workshop consists of Lisbeth Andersson, Jan Magnusson, and Staffan Lindberg from SASNET's working group, and Catarina Kinnvall from the Dept. of Political Science at Lund University.

### **Gateway**

We have started to construct an Internet **Gateway for South Asian Studies**. The editor of the magazine *Sydasien*, Mr. Lars Eklund, has been employed to do this work during a period of 6 months on a part time basis. The gateway will start from Swedish and Nordic experiences of South Asian Studies (researchers, research projects and programmes, institutions, courses and institutions involved in that, NGOs, foreign policy, Sida, etc.) and then extend into South Asia and globally. This will complement the variety of already existing websites on South Asia. In connection

with this work Jan Magnusson has suggested principles for SASNET's third task, which has been discussed and accepted by the working group on 9 February 2001 (available from SASNET's office on request). Lars Eklund assisted by a working committee consisting of Staffan Lindberg and Jan Magnusson constructs the gateway. The committee is supported by Lennart Badersten and Rikard Malmberg at the Office for Continuing and Distance Education at Lund University and by Mattias Lindberg at Framfab.

### **Newsletters**

We are distributing newsletters and updating the existing homepage for SASNET.

### **Distribution list**

We are working out a distribution list for SASNETSWEDEN, which at present contains 309 e-mail addresses and is continuously being updated.

### **Meetings with researchers and teachers**

We have met with researchers at Karlstad University(1/12-00), Uppsala University (18/12-00), and Göteborg University (7/2-01). In Karlstad we discussed both research and education programs with field studies in India. In Uppsala we discussed plans to start a Master's course in South Asian studies in September 2001. In Göteborg we discussed SASNET and the plan of Göteborg University to sign co-operation agreements with universities in South Asia during the spring 2002. (Reports from the meetings in Karlstad and Uppsala are now available on SASNET's homepage).

## **Results**

### **Results so far**

The work has proceeded according to the plan. We have kept the budget for the year 2000. (See Appendix 3)

### **Evaluation of the work load**

In 2000, Lindberg was employed for 3 months and Jan Magnusson for 4 months full time. Due to our ambitions to launch SASNET in a creative and legitimate way the real workload of Lindberg and Magnusson was much higher than this. In addition, the other members of the working group, especially Boel Billgren have spent considerable time on this work with little compensation in terms of salary. It will not be realistic to expect this high work input to continue at the same rate during the spring.

The ambition for the spring is to focus resources on the gateway and get the board in place. The major part of the work with the gateway will be carried out by Eklund, thus allowing Lindberg some relief in workload. It is important to be realistic about the available resources and proceed step by step and at the speed and magnitude they allow.

Lund, 16 February 2001

/Staffan Lindberg

Chairman of the working group and acting co-ordinator

Assisted by Jan Magnusson  
Member of the working group and acting secretary/webmaster until 31 December  
2000

## Appendix I

### Details about our address

This information can now be found along with SASNET's platform on Lund University's website, [www.lu.se](http://www.lu.se) (under: /Administration /Special Activities/Swedish South Asian Studies Network – SASNET).

### SASNET

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(A website has been registered under the domain: [www.sasnet.lu.se](http://www.sasnet.lu.se) and will eventually be the address of SASNET's gateway)

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Visiting address: Gamla Kirurgen, Sandgatan 3, first floor, room no. 230  
Internal university postcode: 34

**Our office** is now manned weekdays in the afternoon between 13-17, and open to visitors between 13-14. You are welcome to call us then, but we prefer e-mail communication.

### Staff:

Lisbeth Andersson, program secretary, [Lisbeth.Andersson@sasnet.lu.se](mailto:Lisbeth.Andersson@sasnet.lu.se)

Lars Eklund, webmaster, [Lars.Eklund@sasnet.lu.se](mailto:Lars.Eklund@sasnet.lu.se)

Staffan Lindberg, co-ordinator, [Staffan.Lindberg@sasnet.lu.se](mailto:Staffan.Lindberg@sasnet.lu.se)

Jan Magnusson, webmaster, currently on leave

## **Appendix II Detailed work report**

### **i. Background: The Application period August 1999 to April 2000**

On 22 June 1999 Sida invited Lund, Uppsala and Gothenburg to submit a plan for a Centre for South Asian Studies in Sweden. Application deadline was set to 1 October.

The Vice-Chancellor asked Jenny Hällen Hedberg, Boel Billgren and Staffan Lindberg to organise South Asia researchers at Lund and make an application. On 3 September, we gathered as many researchers as we could, and discussed how we could build a national network. We elected a working group (WG) consisting of Staffan Lindberg, Olle Qvarnström, Rajni Hatti Kaul, Shisher Kumra, Anna Lindberg, Jan Magnusson, and Boel Billgren. We asked all researchers to send in their CVs and descriptions of their institutional environments. Anna Lindberg went away to India for field research, so Jan Magnusson replaced her as secretary in the working group.

The WG met several times and developed the network idea. It had frequent contacts with University Director Peter Honeth. We asked the University to grant the centre 1.5 mil. SEK per annum, and the University decided to contribute 0.5 mil. per annum if Lund got the commission from Sida. We made an agreement with Lennart Badersten, FOV, for 100 000 SEK to build an Internet gateway to South Asian Studies in 2001, and an annual support of about 10 000 SEK (mainly access to Internet server facilities). We made contacts with NIAS, Asian Institute (Copenhagen University), Roskilde and Centre for Development Research in Copenhagen, and with Amsterdam University about possible co-operation in starting a South Asia study program and eventually a Master's program. (We also discussed possible co-operation with the Centre for East and South East Asia in Lund with Michael Schoenhals, but since their plans were already fixed for the near future, they could only think of co-operation in the long run, not now. They have good facilities and are located in a new building. They currently run a Masters program in East and Southeast Asian studies.)

We submitted the application at the end of September 1999. Our plan had all the main features of what we wanted to do: Fund networking of research and education programmes, including promoting exchange of students, promoting inter-disciplinary co-operation between all the sciences, and constructing a powerful Internet gateway for communication and information.

In December we got a letter from Sida asking for some complementary information. We replied in January 2000, stressing the national character of the network.

On 4 May 2000, Sida decided to give Lund University the task to build the national network using all Swedish resources. 2000 was seen as a planning period (grant = 700 thousand SEK), and, after a new approval of the plan from Sida, 2001-2002 as the first period of work (1.5 mil. SEK per annum).

## **ii. Planning SASNET**

### **Work during May - October 2000**

#### **May - July:**

1. In May - June the working group started to hold regular meetings:  
 Chairman: Staffan Lindberg, SL, (assignment 3 months in 2000)  
 Secretary/webmaster: Jan Magnusson, JM, (assignment 4 months in 2000)  
 Olle Qvarnström, History of Religions, (and Sidsel Hansson in September-October, totally 1 month assignment)  
 Rajni Hatti Kaul, Biotechnology (15 days assignment)  
 Shisher Kumra, International Institute of Environmental Economics  
 Boel Billgren, International Office
2. We contacted the Vice-Chancellor's office and met University director Peter Honeth and discussed our activities. We made a budget for the year 2000, using primarily the grant from Sida, but with a reserve from Lund University.
3. With help from Martin Sunnerdahl at the Department of Sociology, we launched a preliminary website: <http://sasnet.soc.lu.se>. In the website we presented our plan, our working group, our timetable, Lund South Asian studies, and some useful links.
4. We started to plan a national conference on 14-15 October and sent out invitations. We contacted key persons in Swedish South Asia studies to get mailing lists.
5. On 9 June, Staffan Lindberg and Olle Qvarnström participated in a meeting in Uppsala about the Nordic Centre in New Delhi. Since then we have kept contact with the Nordic Centre's working group and its coordinator Stig Toft Madsen about the progress of the project.
6. Other meetings: On 29 May, SL met the Ambassador of Sri Lanka, Mrs. Sarala Fernando and discussed SASNET and how the embassy could play a role in the network. On 19 June SL met Michael Schoenhals at the Centre of East and Southeast Asian Studies at Lund and again discussed possibilities to co-operate. On 7 July in Copenhagen SL met Per Ronnås, Director of NIAS and discussed co-operation between NIAS and SASNET. Per expressed an interest both in linking up with SASNET's South Asia Activities at Lund University within the overall framework of Öresund University.

#### **August – October**



7. On 14 August we gathered Lund researchers for a meeting about our plan and to discuss possible research programs initiated from Lund. About 20 persons attended the meeting. (Report is available from our office on request)
8. In August and September SL met the ambassadors of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and discussed the plan and future co-operation. There was an enthusiastic reception of our plan for SASNET, and we discussed the necessity to launch a broad programme and co-operate in diverse fields as well as to encourage exchange between Sweden and South Asia. We also discussed the possibility to co-operate in facilitating visa applications.
9. On 24 August, SL met with the three Swedish ambassadors to South Asia, the charge d'Affaires in Sri Lanka, and Joakim Ladeborn from the Foreign Ministry. We discussed SASNET's plans. The ambassadors stressed the need for research on environmental issues, water, etc. We also discussed the need for help in getting swift visa clearance for South Asian researchers and students visiting Sweden. SASNET could possibly be helpful in establishing the authenticity of the visiting scholars.
10. During August-September SL met twice and interacted with prof. Jon Sigurdsson, Stockholm School of Economics, and discussed his planning of the Asia Graduate School funded by STINT and Riksbanken.
11. SL met Tomas Kjellqvist and Jan Essner, Sida, to discuss the plan and the upcoming national conference.
12. SL and JM participated in the 16th Modern South Asian Studies Conference in Edinburgh, 6-9 September in order to inform the participants about SASNET and make valuable contacts. They presented SASNET to the business meeting, as well as at the separate meetings of the European Association of South Asian Studies, the British Association of South Asian Studies (BASA), and the graduate students attending the conference.
13. On 15 September Rajni Hatti Kaul organised a meeting about SASNET with researchers in the Natural Sciences and Medicine. SL presented the plan, which was followed by a discussion about possible themes for research within the field of environmental and health.
14. On 14-15 October we organised a national conference for Swedish South Asia researchers about the plan. The purpose was to give information, discuss and get legitimacy for the program. Altogether 75 South Asia researchers, senior doctoral students, and administrators attended. All presentations and discussions were recorded and typed out. The program and the reports were published at SASNET's website. We tried to start post-conference on-line discussion groups in connection with this, but without much success.
15. After the conference we revised the plan and the budget for 2001-2002 and sent it to Sida, and in November, Sida gave us the contract for the period 2001-2002. This plan is available at SASNET's website.

### **iii. Building SASNET November – December 2000**

From this date, a period of organisation building started. The aim is to complete it by the end of 2001. The work is presented more in detail in our plan and available at SASNET's website. This period will include the drafting of Directions for SASNET to be institutionalised by the Vice-Chancellor of Lund University, and the nomination and appointment of a board to be in place mid-2001. It also means the appointment of a co-ordinator (halftime) and a webmaster (halftime) by the board in August 2001.

The main features and the time table is:

#### **Winter/Spring 2001:**

Formal decision by the Vice-Chancellor of Lund University on the establishment of and directions for SASNET

**January-August:** Constructing SASNET's Internet gateway to South Asian Studies

**15 March:** Deadline for applications for SASNET planning grants

**15 May:** Deadline for applications for positions as SASNET's co-ordinator and webmaster/secretary

#### **Summer 2001**

**June:** Appointment of SASNET's board

**27-28 August:** SASNET workshop: Global networking in South Asian studies between Sweden and South Asia

**29 August:** First meeting of SASNET's first board

#### **Work related to this task:**

16. The working group decided to form an interim reference group to monitor SASNET's work until the formation of SASNET's board in mid-2001. The reference group consists of Tomas Kjellqvist and Jan Essner (Sida), Gunnar Jacks (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Bo S Lindblad (ICHAR, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm), Gunilla Gren-Eklund (Dept. of Indology, Uppsala University), Hans Blomkvist (Dept. of Government, Uppsala University), Björn Hettne and Bent Jørgensen (PADRIGU, Göteborg University), Kjell Härenstam (Dept. of Religion, Karlstad University), and Pamela G. Price (Dept. of History, Oslo University)

**During the period we have:**

17. met with the Indian ambassador (10 October) and Sri Lanka ambassador (20/11) in Lund
18. helped Folkuniversitet in Lund to organise a two-day course/seminar for teachers on Indian social and cultural development. It took place on 9-10 October at the Museum of Culture, Lund
19. planned a 20-credit undergraduate course on South Asia at Österlen's Folkhögskola, starting in the fall of 2001 (in co-operation with the Department of Sociology, Lund University, and Österlen's Folkhögskola)
20. planned the gateway with advisors Lennart Badersten (FOV) and Mattias Lindberg (Framfab), and formed a preliminary working committee for this work: Lars Eklund (Sydasien editor), Jan Magnusson, and Staffan Lindberg
21. worked out the principles for SASNET's planning grants for networking in 2001 – (deadline 15 March). An invitation was sent out in late December 2000
22. worked out a policy on SASNET's third task
23. formed a working committee for a workshop on global networking in South Asian studies, which will take place on 27-28 August 2001. Working committee: Lisbeth Andersson, Jan Magnusson, Staffan Lindberg, and Catarina Kinnvall (Dept. of Political Science, Lund University). An invitation asking for suggestions for participants have been sent out (deadline: 11 February)
24. met with teachers in the Social Sciences and the Humanities from Lund and Copenhagen to discuss an Öresund Master's course in South Asian studies (12 December). Formed a working committee for this purpose consisting of Olle Qvarnström, Göran Djurfeldt (Dept. of Sociology, Lund University), Lisbeth Andersson and Anna Lindberg (Dept. of History, Lund University)
25. worked out a draft for Directions for SASNET to be issued by the Vice-Chancellor in the Spring of 2001
26. discussed and made an agreement with Catta Torhell, director of the Library of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Lund University, to organise a small reference library for SASNET there
27. interacted with a number of Swedish, Nordic, European and South Asian scholars, primarily via e-mail. There is a big interest in SASNET. At the moment we can help Swedish South Asia researchers and teachers with information about SASNET's activities and plans (the planning grants, the workshop on global networking, etc.). To others, we can only give general information and put them into contact with relevant research groups in Sweden. This part of the networking has to wait until we are better organised at the root node and the gateway is operational

28. started to make a directory of Swedish South Asia researchers and teachers. At the moment, we have compiled a list of 157 persons, with full name, institutional affiliation, address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, research interest/teaching interest, countries studied in South Asia or countries with which the researcher is in contact. (The list is not complete. The main source for this list has been our own knowledge about researchers and teachers in Sweden, Sida-SAREC's register for research funding, contacts that people have made with us, etc. Besides this, we now have a list of 310 persons involved in South Asian studies in Sweden, including government officers and embassy personnel. [As a comparison, NOFSA in Norway lists 111 researchers]. This list contains only e-mail addresses and is currently used as SASNET's mailing list. The directory and the list of e-mail addresses do not completely overlap, since we do not have the e-mail addresses of some of the persons in the directory. Our estimate is that the directory may eventually list about 350 to 400 scholars, teachers, and administrators. The plan is to complete it during the spring of 2001. This is a very time consuming activity. Jan Magnusson has worked on this during the fall, and Lisbeth Andersson will complete the work during this spring. A publication of a searchable directory at SASNET's website will require the consent of each individual, which will also be a time consuming activity for us)
29. organised and suggested two panels to the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Modern South Asian Studies at Heidelberg that are in line with core research interests in Swedish South Asian studies: 1) Gender and South Asian Religions (panel 13), Convener and co-convener: Eva Hellman, Dept. of History of Religion, Uppsala University; Sidsel Hansson, Dept. of History of Religions, Lund University, and 2) State, Community and Common Pool Resources, Convener: Dr. Alia Ahmad, Department of Economics, Lund University and Co-convener Dr. Neelambar Hatti, Department of Economic History, Lund University
30. met with researchers at Karlstad University (1/12) and Uppsala University (18/12). In Karlstad we discussed both their research and their education programs with field studies in India. In Uppsala we discussed their plans to start a Masters course in South Asian studies in September 2001. (Reports from these meetings can be provided by our office, a summary is available on SASNET's website)
31. tried to make Press contacts. The information office at Lund University published an article about SASNET in the 15 December issue of LUM, and sent out a press release on 14 December. The response to that was rather poor: Skånska Dabladet phoned us for an interview and published an article about SASNET on 18 December. Sydsvenska Dagbladet published a short notice between Christmas and New Year. We wrote an article for Dagens Nyheter's cultural section that was turned down. The article has now been sent to the magazine *Omvärlden*

#### iv. Getting better organised Spring 2001

32. Jan Magnusson went on leave by the end of December (to work on his doctoral dissertation), and Lisbeth Andersson (doctoral student of the History of Religions) is working part time as program secretary until August 2001.
33. In January we opened an office at the International Office at Lund University. From 22 January we are housed in a room with two working places, a space for small meetings, and enough room for files, reference books and periodicals for information work at the main network node. The office is open between 13-14 weekdays, and manned all afternoons (13-17). The phone number is + 46 46 222 73 40. We have a permanent e-mail address (sasnet@sasnet.lu.se) and a website address ([www.sasnet.lu.se](http://www.sasnet.lu.se)). The latter will be used for constructing SASNET's gateway to South Asian Studies. Lars Eklund has also brought a number of magazines on South Asia and from South Asia to the office.
34. Lars Eklund, journalist and editor of the magazine Sydasien, has been appointed for a half-time assignment to construct the gateway to South Asian studies, from 22 January until 22 August. He will work afternoons in the SASNET office.

#### v. Tasks priorities

- 1) **Planning Grants:** Deadline 15 March. Select a committee to handle the applications together with 3 referees. The evaluation and selection should be ready by 1 May. We expect more applications than we have money to fund, so a choice has to be made whether to distribute small amounts to many programs or give more substantial amounts to a few programs. In the announcement we have said that the maximum is 125 000 SEK (which has to include administrative fees at the host institutions).
- 2) Organisation of the **workshop on Global Networking** on 27-28 August.
- 3) **Directions for SASNET** has been discussed, and is now being translated into Swedish to be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor for a decision in March.
- 4) Nomination and **selection of the SASNET's Board** has to be done so that the members can participate in the workshop on Global Networking on 27-28 August. This process should be completed as early as possible.
- 5) **Construction of the Internet gateway:** An inventory of existing websites on South Asia, questionnaires and interviews with researchers and students to find out the basic needs in services and communication, etc.

- 6) **Increase knowledge about persons active in South Asian studies in Sweden** in order to facilitate interaction. How do we get the consent of the people on our mailing list to publish their names on the Internet?
- 7) More general efforts to help **networking around various research programs**. This is part of our national task, which means that we are now helping anybody who is looking for people to collaborate with.

## Appendix III: Economic report

Below is given the budget that was submitted to Lund University and Sida in September 2000. The final economic report is not yet available, since there are some pending items to be settled.

A preliminary conclusion is that we have kept the budget. Estimated actual total expense for salaries, incl. LKP is 360 000. A small surplus has been accumulated, which will be transferred to the budget for the year 2001.

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### Budget for the fall 2000: Planning the Network

**Funding:** 700 000 from Sida, additional resources from Lund university if needed

#### 1) Personnel: Working group:

Chair, Staffan Lindberg, 3 months, 32 500, incl. of LKP		146 250
Secretary, Jan Magnusson, 4 months, 21 500	129 000	
Other working group members	123 750	
Total salaries:		<b>399 000</b>

**2) Conference expenses, ca 150 000** **150 000**

**3) Other expenses:** **80 000**

Material

Travel costs for members of the working group

**4) Administration charges, 10 %** **70 000**

**Grand total** **700 000**