

## **Danida has announced plans for major organizational changes to BSU with effect from Phase II**

You may already have been informed that Danida has announced plans to reorganize and refocus the BSU initiative with effect from Phase II.

In brief Danida is calling for a more lean and simple management structure on the Danish side, and more responsibility and influence placed among Southern partners. Thus the intention is not to discontinue the support to research capacity building at universities but rather to increase the impact of the efforts.

As a result of the new Danida policy the thematic platforms and platform secretariats in Denmark will be phased out by the end of December 2013 when the no cost extension of phase I ends and Danida will take over the BSU programme from here delegating a greater responsibility for management, coordination and administration to the South institutions. Unfortunately five BSU South partner institutions will no longer maintain an independent partner status in the future BSU, including Zanzibar College of Health Sciences and National Institute of Medical Research from the Platform on Human Health (PHH). The main reason for leaving out these two institutions is that they don't hold a university status.

Another major change is that a number of activities developed during Phase I will no longer qualify for support for the next phase of BSU including new PhD scholarships, and activities aimed at supporting master programmes. However, Danida has agreed to fund the completion of all PhD studies already initiated during Phase I, also meaning that all co-supervisor agreements shall be extended to cover the full PhD study period in line with the framework and intentions formulated in the agreements covering phase I.

As a result of the new developments no funds will be available to support the continuation of the Thematic Working Groups under PHH. In addition, as of 2014, resources are no longer available to manage and update the PHH website including the sub-sites.

An external process consultant, Arne Disch from Scanteam (Norway) has been appointed to assist in the formulation of a revised BSU phase II. 26-27 August he will consult the Danish platform representatives in Copenhagen and Aarhus. During September 2013, he will visit the seven remaining South partner universities to discuss and agree on the future BSU organisation and programme. To the extent possible, phase II will build upon the positive experience of phase I and the activities included in the proposal submitted to Danida earlier this year.

During the next phases of the BSU individual university departments or a consortia of university departments (or university centers) in Denmark can submit CVs and brief proposals in response to the work packages developed by Southern BSU partners. In this way we hope for a continued involvement of Danish research and administrators in the BSU, including from the field of human health.

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**Concerning the Communication and Dissemination Grant (also called 19 mill.)** funds will remain earmarked for the original purposes and partners, and will be handled via designated Task Forces and bilateral agreements with each of the partners.

**For further details regarding the overall decision and background for the re-design of the BSU Programme follow these links:**

[General letter to all BSU partners from Danida 12 July, 2013](#)

[Information to BSU partners from Universities Denmark 16 August, 2013](#)

We will keep you updated on the latest developments on [www.bsuhh.org](http://www.bsuhh.org)

In the mean time please feel free to forward any questions for clarifications and/or pending issues related to the assignments or interests you may be holding.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

We use the opportunity to remind you about

**The 8<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) taking place in Copenhagen 10-13 September 2013.**

ECTMIH will look with critical eyes on current achievements in international health with a focus on the link between scientific knowledge and practice.

The comprehensive programme includes a special session on North-South collaboration and institutional capacity building, addressing challenges and impact of ongoing efforts. The session will be chaired by Flemming Konradsen, the chairperson of PHH. There will be two main presenters at this session: Prof. Richard Adanu, PHH Implementing Committee leader at the University of Ghana , and Prof. Imelda Bates, Liverpool School of Global Health. In addition there will be a panel with representatives from key donor agencies and institutions.

Quite a few of our colleagues from the PHH partner institutions are joining and we look forward to use the opportunity to meet and share reflections and ideas about how we can use the new set up in the best way.

**Check the full ECTMIH programme and register here: <http://www.ectmih2013.dk/>**