

# Danida Fellowship Centre

- sustaining development through research and learning

# NEWSLETTER



The participants at DFC's pilot scholarship programme 'One Health' under Partnering with Denmark at University of Copenhagen's Taastrup Campus. Naphtali Nguyo, 2<sup>nd</sup> row, 4<sup>th</sup> from left. Jiameng Liu, 1<sup>st</sup> row, 1<sup>st</sup> from left. PHOTO ANDERS DALSGAARD

## New Scholarship Programme under Partnering with Denmark

22 participants from the veterinary and food sectors in Vietnam, China, Kenya, Colombia and Mexico are in Denmark to attend a 'One Health' specialisation course at University of Copenhagen. It is Danida Fellowship Centre's first scholarship programme under Partnering with Denmark.

**W**hen Birgit Nørrung, Head of Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, University of Copenhagen, welcomed the 22 participants at the reception 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017, it was with great contentment.

*We are very happy to welcome you to the 'One Health' post-graduate specialisation course. 'One health' is about approaching disease-control from a holistic perspective across different disciplines. You come from different sectors and countries. You represent*

*the very reason for the 'One Health' course, she said.*

The 'One Health' specialisation course is Danida Fellowship Centre's first scholarship programme under Danida's 'Partnering with Denmark' initiative. It provides scholarships for master degree programmes and more 'tailored' education programmes in collaboration with Danish universities. The goal is to complement and support the work of Danish authorities and Danida's growth »

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1: New Scholarship Programme under Partnering with Denmark
- 2: Promoting human rights in Vietnam
- 3: Danida alumni wins University of Ghana award
- 4: New DFC Governing Board
- 5: 1<sup>st</sup> local alumni network meeting in Uganda
- 6: New staff

#### CONTACT DETAILS:

Danida Fellowship Centre  
Hostrupsvej 22,  
DK-1950 Frederiksberg C, Denmark  
Tel. +45 3536 1322  
E-mail: [dfc@dfcentre.dk](mailto:dfc@dfcentre.dk)  
or [newsletter@dfcentre.dk](mailto:newsletter@dfcentre.dk)  
[www.dfccentre.com](http://www.dfccentre.com)

#### Editors:

Anne Christensen, Director  
Lene Christina Mosegaard, Programme Manager  
Vibeke Quaade, Communications Consultant

« counsellors based in 14 partner countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

*We are pleased that Danida Fellowship Centre now adds further value to Partnering with Denmark through its Scholarship Programme – the 'One Health' course being the pilot project, said Ms Marianne Vestergaard, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the reception.*

'One Health' is a methodological approach that combines research in animals, humans and the environment, and takes a holistic, cross-disciplinary and collaborative approach to disease control and prevention.

During the coming three months, the 22 participants from Danida partner countries will join Danish final-year students at a three-month specialisation course in the 'One Health' methodology. They will acquire tools to improve or rethink disease prevention and control mechanisms in their home countries.

*I hope that the course will help me single out some of the key obstacles that we have in Kenya's dairy sector to avoid the spread of diseases, says Mr Naphtali Nguyo Kanegeni, Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO)*

Ms Jiameng Liu from China is also looking forward to the course. In China, one of the greatest challenges concerning food safety is an efficient surveillance of the use of antibiotics.

*Before I applied for the course, I researched on the surveillance of antibiotics in Denmark. I found that it is of a high standard. My expectation is to learn how to build an efficient surveillance system, says Ms Jiameng Liu, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. ■*



PHOTO: BENT-OLE ANDERSEN

*The welcome reception for the 'One Health' course at University of Copenhagen.*



“ We hope that our new Scholarship Programme will become an integrated part of the 'Partnering with Denmark' initiative. It has the potential of contributing and complementing the many Strategic Sector Co-operation projects by adding new opportunities for partner authorities to up-grade the competencies of their staff adding skills and expertise to their organizations.

Maya Lindberg Brink, Capacity Development Advisor, DFC

*Danida Fellowship Centre and the Growth Counsellors at the Danish embassies have worked hard with us to realise this first 'One Health' post-graduate specialisation course under Partnering with Denmark.*

Anders Dalsgaard, Professor, Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, University of Copenhagen and 'One Health's' Course Co-ordinator

“



PHOTO: BENT-OLE ANDERSEN

## THE NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME SUPPORTS 'PARTNERING WITH DENMARK'

In 2017, 10 million DKK is earmarked for Danida Fellowship Centre's new Scholarship Programme to support the 'Partnering with Denmark' initiative. Danida Fellowship Centre will grant a number of scholarships in 2017. The earmarked budget will more than double from 2018. The Scholarship Programme is 'need based' and closely linked to the Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) projects under 'Partnering with Denmark'. Scholarships under the programme are only granted through applications endorsed by the Danish Growth Counsellors in the partner countries.

'Partnering with Denmark' started in 2015. It covers 27 projects and supports partnerships between Danish and local authorities in 14 partner countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition to raising the capacity of key institutions in Danida's partner countries, the programme aims at facilitating improved access for Danish companies in emerging markets.

Danida Fellowship Centre is currently working with Danida's Growth Counsellors, Danish authorities and Danish universities to pin down the needs for continued education and learning among partners of the 'Partnering with Denmark' initiative to match them with opportunities at Danish universities and university colleges.

# Promoting human rights in Vietnam



PHOTO: LINDA NORDAHL JACOBSEN

*Ms Vu Phuong Thao, former Danida fellow and Deputy Director, Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment, iSEE.*

**Ms Vu Phuong Thao participated in Danida Fellowship Centre's short-term course 'Role of Civil Society in Aid Effectiveness' in 2011. She is now using her skills to promote human rights in Vietnam with a strong focus on minority and LGBT rights.**

**Linda Nordahl Jacobsen interviewed Ms Vu Phuong Thao while visiting Vietnam in October 2016 as part of the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs's press delegation.**

Vietnam has officially lifted its ban on same-sex marriage. This happened following many years of struggle and advocacy to promote LGBT rights and to change the public attitude and the political opinion - and thereby the legislation. One of the organisations that promote LGBT rights is Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment, iSEE.

*We started to work with the LGBT rights issues in 2007 when it was still a much stigmatised theme to talk about and to work with in public,* says Ms Vu Phuong Thao, Deputy Director of iSEE. She explains that iSEE works to promote human rights in Vietnam, but focus mostly on minority rights.

*It's an area where it is obvious how human rights are expressed. Therefore, we have a strong focus on the promotion of LGBT rights,* Ms Vu Phuong Thao says.

## PIONEERS OF MINORITY RIGHTS

As one of the pioneers in the year-long struggle to promote LGBT rights, iSEE has made surveys and research into family norms, social norms and sexual identity.

When iSEE surveyed 3,000 gay, lesbian and transgender individuals in Vietnam in 2008, 20 percent of respondents said that they had been beaten by family members because of their sexuality. Another survey conducted by iSEE in 2009, found that a majority of gays and lesbians in Vietnam choose to keep their sexual identity hidden for fear of social repercussions.

*To promote LGBT rights as basic human rights, we started by organisational capacity building of the community. Then we encouraged appointments of representatives who can speak up for LGBT rights in public,* Ms Vu Phuong Thao says.

The next thing was to initiate an open discussion about marriage, love and 'gentleness' and how you can experience this between same-sexes. iSEE worked a lot with public opinion mainly through campaigns and the media.

*To initiate public dialogue and acceptance of same sex relationships and marriages as legitimate, we have worked a lot with the media,* Ms Vu Phuong Thao says.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Ms Vu Phuong Thao herself has very good experiences from capacity building and working with civil society organizations. She is beaming with joy when she talks about her Danida Fellowship Centre's short-term course Role of Civil Society in Aid Effectiveness, in 2011. She explains how it taught her the fundamentals of working with civil society organizations, capacity building and advocacy work.

On the question of how you work with state controlled media in Vietnam, she says that the state control is not a big problem regarding this issue.

*When it comes to the LGBT rights it is not really a hot topic politically. It's considered more of a social and cultural issue; you can work directly with the media and the journalists who have their own perception and opinion of the issue. Through the media, you have a chance of changing the public attitude,* she says.

Read more about iSEE's and the work to promote the rights of LGBT, ethnic minority and civil society at <http://isee.org.vn/en> ■



PHOTO: THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT (ISEE)

*Participants in iSEE event's BUBU town in Hanoi to raise awareness of LGBT right in Vietnam.*

# Danida alumni wins University of Ghana award

## Danida Alumni News

**D**anida alumni, Seth Kwabena Amponsah, on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 won the University of Ghana Vice-Chancellor's Award for the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in the Sciences. His research focused on optimising drug treatment of infections among newborns at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana.

Dr. Amponsah's PhD was sponsored by the Health Platform of Building Stronger Universities (BSU) in Developing Countries Initiative, a DANIDA funded collaboration between Danish Universities and University of Ghana. ■



*Dr. Seth Kwabena Amponsah (to the right) receives the University of Ghana Vice-Chancellor's Award for the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation for his PhD thesis in the Sciences.*

## New DFC Governing Board

**D**anida Fellowship Centre's new Governing Board was constituted on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. The board consists of

three members appointed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as an employee representative. The board

serves for a three-year period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and meets a minimum of four times a year. ■



*Chairperson  
Ms Margrethe Holm Andersen  
Senior Advisor, Aalborg University*



*Mr Stefano Ponte  
Professor, PhD, Copenhagen  
Business School*



*Mr Verner Kristiansen  
Consultant, Strategic Communica-  
tions and International Development*



*Ms Helle Jørgensen  
DFC employee representative*



PHOTO: DANISH EMBASSY, UGANDA

*The Danish Ambassador in Uganda, Mogens Pedersen with Danida Alumni at the embassy in Kampala.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> local alumni network meeting in Uganda

### Danida Alumni News

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, the Danish Embassy in Uganda hosted its first Danida Alumni Network meeting. It brought

together Ugandans from many regions, government, private sector, academia and civil society. The idea is now to establish a local Danida Alumni Network to promote cooperation, networking and sharing of ide-

as among Ugandan professionals, who have studied in Denmark. If you have studied in Denmark and did not receive an invitation, please get in touch with the Danish Embassy in Uganda, Email: [kmtamb@um.dk](mailto:kmtamb@um.dk) ■

## New staff

DFC's new Digital Communication Officer started on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. Jakob Brus graduated with a Master of IT in Digital Innovation from the IT University of Denmark in 2014. During his studies he enrolled in two exchange programmes both focusing on entrepreneurship and IT in Reykjavik, Iceland, and in Hong Kong, China.

Jakob Brus has previously

worked in early start-ups and for an advertising agency. As Campaign Manager, he was responsible for distributing video content and designing video overlays for brands such as Lego, Opel and L'Oreal.

Jakob Brus responsibilities include:

- Digital communication activities related to the run-

ning and development of the new initiative Danida Alumni Network

- Recruiting new members to the alumni portal
- Maintaining and developing DFC's web platforms
- Maintaining and developing social media channels
- Providing IT support for employees at DFC ■



*Jakob Brus  
Digital Communication Officer*