

Danida Fellowship Centre NEWSLETTER



The Fellowship Course Programme for 2012 is out

More courses abroad and faster response time to implement new courses. Director Anne Christensen guides us through the main changes and developments of the 2012 programme.

By Jan Kjær

"We have had a more thorough hearing round for the plan of 2012 where relevant offices in the ministry of Foreign Affairs and Danish embassies have been involved. Earlier years the final plan was more or less just presented to them."

Anne Christensen, Director of Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC), is proud of both the process and the product: The new 2012 course programme is equipped with plenty of interesting new developments.

FASTER RESPONSE

"It is important for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that we can act quickly to new priorities. Therefore we have set aside funds for 3 rapid response courses in our annual plan for 2012, among other things focusing on stability and fragility," Anne Christensen says.

The two first rapid response – or buffer – courses were conducted in 2011. The contents are decided when urgent needs or new political priorities require immediate action.

"It allows us to act faster. Otherwise we are tied down already in September 2011 for the whole calendar year of 2012."

MORE COURSES ABROAD

Another clear trend is that more DFC activities will be carried out abroad by training institutions in the 6 partner countries in Africa (See box page 2).

"We are more and more making use of institutions in the developing countries instead of sending all to Denmark. We began in 2009, and the plan is that in 2012 at least half of our interdisciplinary courses will be conducted abroad," the director explains. "Africa is the focus area of Danish develop-

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ment aid. That is why we choose to conduct our courses there," she adds.

DFC will also start inviting course participants from the Danida partner countries in Asia to join courses in Africa.

DANISH FRONT RUNNERS IN AFRICA

Anne Christensen is happy seeing DFC heading in the direction of conducting courses in the developing countries: "We are front runners in this area. None of the other likeminded donors are moving as fast in respect to cooperate with local training institutions."

There is also an element of capacity building of these institutions, which is now part of the DFC mandate.

For the DFC director, the challenge is to establish good and strong ties with the institutions and secure the quality of the courses conducted in the developing countries.

TWO PROGRAMMES PHASED OUT

Two programmes have ceased to be part of the DFC course schedule, both for good reasons, Anne Christensen thinks.

One is the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Programme (ELSP), earmarked for 5 years



Director Anne Christensen is forging strong ties with local training institutions in the developing countries.

WE WORK TOGETHER

At present DFC co-operates with the following institutions in the partner countries:

- Kenya Institute of Administration (KIA)
– www.kia.ac.ke
- Uganda Management Institute (UMI)
– www.umi.ac.ug
- International Law Institute – African Centre for Legal Excellence (ILI-ACLE) (Uganda)
– www.iliacle.org
- Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)
– <http://www.gimpa.edu.gh/>
- Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) (Tanzania, Zambia og Mozambique) – www.esami-africa.org
- Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature (ENAM) (Benin)
– www.enam.bj.refer.org
- l'Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (ZIE) de Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) – www.zie-edu.org
- Initiatives Conseil International (ICI) (Burkina Faso) – www.ici-burkina.com

and meant for young upcoming leaders of the emerging economies.

"It had a long and slow beginning with only one participant the first year. There were some built in problems in the set up. Participants should obtain 10 per cent of the fee from other sources, but in fact we got a lot of young people financing it themselves, pushing their private economy to the limit," Anne says.

Likewise the Business Fellowships (formerly the Advanced Pledge Scheme) have also come to an end. The programme made it possible for Danish companies to obtain fellowships for their client's employees in the developing countries.

"The objective was to make the Danish private sector more competitive in the developing world, but many saw the scheme as unfair competition, and not the objective of Danish development assistance," the director explains.

Same activity level

The activity level of DFC will be more or less the same in 2012, although the yearly funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will decrease from 60 to 45 million DKK; this is possible due to the trend of shorter courses.

"In addition, we are still administering the activities requested by the sector pro-

grammes for instance Master of International Health and tailor made courses for different sectors, and study tours of 1-2 weeks in Denmark with visits to public offices relevant to the specific sector programmes," Anne explains.

DFC also administers the Danida research projects in Denmark, and here lies new opportunities for new services.

"We are moving into the field of administering the stay of PostDoc researchers, too. Against a fee we would like to take care of these researches' stay as well." ■

Check out the 2012 course programme here:

http://www.dfcentre.com/?Programmes_%26amp%3B_Projects:Course_Schedules

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A Powerful Experience

Fifteen international students met in Denmark 1978-80 to study Urban Planning and Housing. In late August six of the fifteen met again face to face in Copenhagen. The DFC newsletter got the chance to interview two of them about the lifelong impact of their stay in Denmark.



Somsook, Jørgen, Anuradha, Leda and Erik reunite in Copenhagen after 30 years.

By Jan Kjær

Studying in Denmark is a powerful experience! And Denmark offers a new vision to foreign students!

These are the main messages of Anuradha and Somsook, two vocal women reuniting in Denmark with four other students and their teacher after 30 years.

Anuradha and Somsook are sitting around a Danish design table in an apartment owned by their former teacher Jørgen Andreasen close to the waters of Oresund.

They are both holding executive positions in development organizations and their tight schedule allows just a few days in Copenhagen. But they take their time to explain to the reporter of the DFC Newsletter why they themselves are willing to pay an overseas plane ticket to meet with their former fellow students.

STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Anuradha Desai is originally from India, but now living in USA. She was 27 when she arrived in Denmark in 1978 after finishing her architectural studies and working 3 years in an architect's office. In fact she intended to go to USA for further studies, but a friend introduced her to the Danida fellowship and off she went to Copenhagen. She ended up staying 2 and ½ years studying housing in the Foreign Students Department at Kunstakademiet.

"We weren't just students from the third world. There were students from all around; Yugoslavia, India, Brazil, South Korea, Argentina, Turkey, Thailand, Greece, Spain, and Italy," she recalls.

A NEW VISION

For Anuradha, the socio-economic aspects of housing taught in Denmark was an eye opener.

"Studying housing was not just about design and construction, but also what policies mean to people and their livelihood. Who gets access to housing and how."

Among others, the foreign students created comparative analysis about politics of the different countries and how it affects housing policies.

"In the architecture schools in our own countries there was almost no focus on politics of housing," Anuradha recalls.

Somsook Boonyabancha, a student from Thailand, came to Denmark in 1979 and stayed for almost a year.

She finds that Denmark offered something completely new to her: "It gave me a deeper and broader way of looking at housing development. Not just the technical and financial aspects."

In her country, Thailand, housing is about construction and building.

"You plan to build 10.000 houses and you deliver," she says and continues "We don't think much about community aspects. That we bring people together. That we build a system that people share. Denmark studies offered that vision."

CRAZY DEVELOPMENT

Anuradhi discovered something else during her two year stay in Denmark: Inequality in housing systems.

"What makes some people get access to housing and some don't, and what keeps them in the situation they are in? Why do we have slums in India, gecekondu in Turkey and favelas in Brazil?" she asks.

For Anuradha this meant that bringing up people's economic standards and their political power was a critical piece in the urban development work.

Somsook says that people should be at the center of development: "We come from countries where city developments go crazy. Our model is to let city development go by the market. No city planning. No proper consideration of people."



Somsook in Denmark in 1979, Anuradha and other students on the way to Turkey by train, and Anuradha, Leda and Somsook in Copenhagen 2011.

This results in congested cities with skyscrapers and traffic jams.

"What Denmark can offer is city development with more open spaces and more engagement of people at all levels," Somsook tells.

DON'T BE HUMBLE DENMARK

"Denmark should not be too humble," Somsook continues. She feels that Danida and the Danish government should play a more active role in creating intellectual learning space.

"Other people can learn from this society. What are the good things? I changed significantly. If I can change, more than 100,000 people can change, too."

She advises Denmark to stimulate networking among present and former students. But that is not enough:

"Our world is moving into crisis. We have to provide a more proactive space for learning. We need to contribute the understanding



of how we manage the change in our society better. Danida should play a more active role here!"

Danida should engage people to build on the experience, create powerful networks and sustain a knowledge base.

"The ultimate goal is to create change and we are the agents of societal change. We need the space to come together and think again and then bring the knowledge back to our own work. If you don't allow the time to reflect you don't build the creativity it needs to work so actively."

FACT

From late 1970's up through the -80's foreign students were invited by the Danish government to partake in courses in Denmark, and their stay was administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with International Student Centre (the precursor of Danida Fellowship Centre founded in 1990).

WHAT ARE ANURADHA AND SAMSOOK DOING NOW?

Anuradha Desai after working for nearly 25 years with organizations like Oxfam, Save the Children and Citizenn Schools just completed her tenure as the Executive Director of a Non-Profit organization called International Center for Reconciliation (ICfC) based in Boston, Massachusetts.

In the next phase of her life, Anuradha is interested in working with women, children and education "to let their voices be heard and their full potential materialized."

Somsook Boonyabancha has, for more than 20 years, been the Secretary for Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, a platform of professionals, communities and regional organizations working together on people's housing in Asia. While working in Thailand she has had close ties with Danida and the Danish Environmental Program Danced and has also facilitated in guiding Danish crown prince Frederik, and crown princess Mary, when they were inspecting Danish aid to the rehabilitation of affected communities after the tsunami.

SEEING THE REAL SUBSTANCE

For Somsook the choice was easy when receiving the invitation for the reunion:

"Studying in Denmark was quite a powerful experience in my life. It made a significant change in my understanding and in seeing the real substance. What I have been doing with so much passion all these years has got a significant contribution from this course in Denmark. This is the reason why it is interesting to see all the friends after 30 years."

Anuradha nods and reaches out for a photo of the group travelling to Istanbul by train to study housing development in Turkey in 1979.

"We tell each other that we still look the same, but we don't," she laughs and gets in a nostalgic mood.

"I used to bike a lot here in Denmark and it was a liberating experience. It was not just transportation getting from A to B. It was giving me physical exercise, saving energy and it was also cheap. Now I bike to work in Boston and encourage my friends to do so also."

"Being here in Denmark again is to reminisce about our history, but it also shapes our future. We got the inspiration when we were here and we want to bring back some of that in the next phase of our lives."

Anuradha and Somsook leave the table and join Leda from Brazil, who is reading a magazine on the sofa. A few minutes later, Eric, a Dane working in Brazil arrives. Now only Rosaluz and Licha from Mexico and Dragana from former Yugoslavia are missing.

In the Oresund apartment past, present and future meet. ■

New Introduction for Fellows

More electronic information and less mouth to ear! That is the trend at Danida Fellowship Centre where new fellows now are acquainted with Denmark and the various places of study in a different manner.

By Lene Mosegaard, counsellor at DFC



DFC fellows are gradually becoming more conversant with IT. Therefore DFC is changing its information to be more electronic and less oral.

As a result we have also decided to change our procedures for welcoming new DFC fellows.

PLACES OF STUDY HOST THE WELCOME INTRODUCTION

In the beginning of 2011, we began to out-source the welcome introduction to fellows on the shorter courses to the various places of study.

Previously DFC took care of the introduction in the morning and in the afternoon the fellows were accompanied to the places of study.

Now the new fellows and a DFC junior staff will go directly from their lodgings to the places of study where the teaching takes place. Here the course coordinator together with the DFC junior staff will make the introduction.

FILMS AND DFC SOCIALIZER

During the introduction the new fellows will watch the DFC film on Danish culture with comments and experiences from former fellows – and a film on health and the Danish health care system.

At the same time they will get acquainted with the DFC Socializer, a social network for DFC fellows. Here they have the possibility of reading the Fellowship Post with information about the cultural and social activities which DFC is offering during their stay in Denmark.

MEET AN MP AND VISIT A SCHOOL

DFC continues to offer debate evenings on 'Danish Family Life' and 'Danish Democracy'



Fellows being welcomed in Copenhagen in September 2011.



among other Danish members of parliament as lecturers. Furthermore, all fellows on shorter courses will pay a visit to a Danish primary school.

These elements of the program have not changed because they are vital to secure the very best outcome of the fellows' stay in Denmark and their understanding of Danish culture. It is also seen as an important part of the 'Public Diplomacy' objective of the stay in Denmark.

MORE EMPHASIS ON INTRODUCTION OF MASTER STUDENTS

In the beginning of September, DFC hosted a one-day orientation course for all new

Master students and researchers staying more than 3 months in Denmark.

Researchers staying in Denmark less than 3 months will watch the DFC films, and be informed about the social network and the cultural and social activities, as described above.

We have chosen to prioritize the introduction of Master students and long term researchers because experience shows that they to a larger extent are able to make use of a thorough introduction to each other and to the Danish society. During their stay this will be of great importance to their personal wellbeing. ■

News from the Administration

Meet the new staff at the Danida Fellowship Centre - and get familiar with the important new procedures for obtaining health information and new rules when applying for a residence permit.

Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) welcomes one new staff member. One will be back in office after maternity leave and others have merely changed desk.

Lisbeth Juel Sørensen began her work as a new Office Trainee on the 16th of September. She is taking over after Ahsan Iqbal Khan, who had his last working day at DFC on the 12th of August.

On the 1st of August, Anna Jeppesen, former Receptionist, became Research Administrative Officer in the research department.

Sara Etlersø Gøtterup, Administrative Officer and Project Coordinator, returned from maternity leave on 1st of August.

Githa Bruun, Receptionist/Administrative Officer/Project Coordinator, who took over after Sara Etlersø Gøtterup during her maternity leave, is back in the reception.

NEW PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING HEALTH INFORMATION

DFC has decided to introduce new procedures for obtaining health information from candidates applying for a Danida fellowship in Denmark. Therefore, the use of the Declaration of Health form will be phased out.



Anna Jeppesen became Research Administrative Officer in the research department on the 1st of August.



From January 2012 there will instead be a statement about health conditions in the 'Fellowship Application for Training in Denmark' to confirm that no reasons of health will prevent the applicant from participating in the proposed study.

You will find the new application form here: http://www.dfcentre.com/?About_Us:Forms.

In the administration guidelines for research fellows, the project contact person will be made aware of his/her responsibility of informing DFC of a research fellow's health issues.

Before implementing the new procedures, DFC will provide all embassies and other interested parties with more detailed information.

NEW RULES WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT

On January 1st 2011 the Danish Immigration Service introduced a processing fee when applying for a residence permit (stays over 90 days). DFC will always prepay this fee when DFC is responsible

of the administration. Likewise, DFC will fill in part two of the application form. The fee has to be paid before the application for a residence permit reaches the Danish Immigration Service.

In addition to this, when applying for a residence permit, a fellow will no longer receive a residence permit sticker in his/her passport. Instead the Embassy will issue a long-term visa which is valid for 3 months. Please note that this can only be done, after the Embassy has received the authorization for residence permit from the Danish Immigration Service.

Once in Denmark, DFC will make sure that the fellow registers at the local national registration office within the time limit of 5 days. When this is done, a residence card will automatically be issued and sent to the fellow's residential address in Denmark. It may take up to 4 weeks to receive the residence card.

The fellow should at all time carry their residence card together with their passport or a copy of their passport. ■