Call for Submission of Partnership Proposals for the Building Stronger Universities Phase II

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs hereby invites Danish universities to submit expressions of interest in being partners with selected universities in Ghana, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda under the Building Stronger Universities Phase II.

The implications of the current dialogue with the government of Uganda for the research cooperation has not yet been decided. Hence, the future role of Gulu University in the Building Stronger Universities programme is not yet clear.

The instruction for preparing the Partnership Proposals, with outlines of the expenditure categories eligible for support, can be found at link: http://dfcentre.com/research/building-stronger-universities-bsu/.


You may obtain the full project outlines through Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) using e-mail: research@dfcentre.dk. Please state which project outline(s) you are interested in, and which Danish university and department you represent.

Please note that the Partnership Proposals must be submitted to DFC (to the e-mail above) before April 9, 2014, at 12.00, named “Partnership Proposal BSUII – [Name of Southern Partner University]”. The subsequent procedure for the selection of partnerships is described in the instruction mentioned above.

Queries to the Call and the match-making process can be directed in writing to research@dfcentre.dk. Both questions and answers will be posted on DFC’s web site.

The resumes of the project outlines from the seven universities are the following:

**1. University of Ghana (UG), Ghana**

**Thematic Focus Areas:**
The University of Ghana will develop Centres of Excellence in the following four areas:
- Malaria Research.
- Trans-disciplinary Research into Climate Change Adaptation.
- Enhancing Food Production and Processing.
- Development Policy and Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation.

**Key Output Areas:**
1. **Strengthening Institutional Capacity for PhD Delivery.** Strengthening the quality of PhD coursework; PhD scholarships for academic staff, strengthening faculty research capacity; database for improved tracking of doctoral theses; and enhanced capacity for the communication of research.
2. **Strengthening Capacity to Attract Appropriate Funding for the UG Central Research Themes**. Enhance abilities to source for grants; seed funds to facilitate the designing of research and development proposals toward attracting large-scale funding for the development of the UG Centres of Excellence.

3. **Institutional Capacity Building**. Strengthening of research administrative capacity, strengthening of financial administration capacity, strengthening of research support capacity.

2. **Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana**

*Thematic Focus Areas:*
- **Climate-smart Water and Natural Resource Management** including climate resilient agriculture, enhancing agricultural productivity, food safety and security and environmental health.
- **Entrepreneurship and Job Creation**; market oriented capacity building and entrepreneurship for job creation and sustainable economic growth.
- **Health-care Delivery Systems**; vector control practices, antibiotic resistance studies, health-care seeking/treatment practices, safe sanitation and hygiene practices, pharmaceutics and drug quality studies.

*Key Output Areas:*
1. **Strengthened Research Processes**. Institutionalized guidelines on developing and managing small research projects; innovative specialist and advanced methodologies; improved teaching, research supervision, and laboratory/field research protocols; improved stakeholder engagement.

2. **Enhancing PhD Education**. Institutionalized university-wide PhD courses; university-wide guidelines on PhD thesis supervision; student-centered PhD supervision piloted in three colleges; two new theme-based PhD Programs developed and two existing strengthened.

3. **Direct PhD Training for Younger Academic Staff**. PhDs will be in tandem with the identified theme and be co-supervised by Danish Universities. Research skills acquired during the PhD training to be applied in their own research, teaching, and service to society.

4. **Improved Grant Management and Research Support Services**. Development of management and monitoring system for external research grants; established College Grant Offices; financial management systems for grants management.

5. **Improved University Library Services and Strengthening Management and Quality Control of Central Research Laboratory**. Training modules on proper laboratory equipment use and good laboratory practices; SOPs, and protocols of international standards used in all designated research laboratories.

3. **Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Tanzania**

*Thematic Focus Areas:*
- **Agribusiness Value Chains**; including a new PhD program in Agribusiness to engage graduate MBA (Agribusiness) students who aspire to pursue further studies in business.
- **Market Oriented Agro-ecology**; with functional and trans-disciplinary content, targeting the faculty as a whole, rather than individual departments.
- **Aquaculture**; which in order to be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable requires highly educated, trained and experienced staff.
Key Output Areas

1. **Capacity for Research and Training in Agribusiness Value Chain Strengthened.** PhD training and research capacity in Agricultural Value Chain strengthened, based on Integrating Experiential Learning and Action Research; three PhD courses developed and implemented.

2. **Research Capacity and PhD Education Delivery in Agro-ecology Enhanced.** PhD training and research capacity strengthened; two PhD courses developed and implemented.

3. **Capacity for Research and Training in Aquaculture Strengthened.** Curriculum developed and teaching staff trained; young researchers trained in research methodology and scientific writing; two PhD courses developed and implemented.

4. **The Speed of Processing Financial Transactions Increased and Errors Reduced.** Acquisition and use of a modern Financial Management Information System.

5. **Research Facilities in Aquaculture and Agro-ecology Laboratories Upgraded, and Access to E-resources in the Three Thematic Areas Improved.**

4. **Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUCo), Tanzania**

**Thematic Focus Areas:**
- **Reproductive Health:** including maternal morbidity, pelvic floor disorders, obstetric fistula repairs, cervical cancer studies, the use of innovative technologies (mobile phones); and public health/health promotion, including Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH).
- **Re-emerging Infections:** Malaria, HIV, TH and TB/HIV co-infections.
- **Neglected Tropical Diseases:** including the so-called soil-transmitted diseases [STD] which have a remarkable impact on the health of children and adolescents in the tropics.

Key Output Areas:

1. **Ph.D. Candidates Apply Theoretical and Practical Skills in Their Research Work.** An increased number of research consultancies at KCMUCo, the application of problem-oriented and cross disciplinary teaching approaches; action research approaches applied; and faculty members applying mentorship & supervision skills in postgraduate (master &PhD) training.

2. **Strengthened University-wide Services and Facilities to Support Research Activities.** Outputs include:
   - PhD students use the PhD resource centre and their research/studies improved.
   - Research laboratories able to conduct GCP-compliant clinical research/trials.
   - Improved e-library facilities are used by students and staff.
   - Financial reporting and audit reports are clean and up to standard.
   - Grant management improved, incl. application process and consortia formation.

5. **State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), Tanzania**

**Thematic Focus Areas:**
- **Environmental/Public Health:** including (a) food safety (b) waste management (c) water quality and sanitation (d) dengue fever as well as (e) mental health.
- **Environmental Sciences/Studies:** including (a) environmental conservation & protection, (b) coastal resources management, (c) land use and (d) energy.
• **ICT in Education** with the focus in (a) e-learning in education; (b) social media for research, learning and teaching (c) technological support for higher education.

**Key Output Areas:**

1. **SUZA Research Capacities in the Area of Environmental/Public Health and Environmental Sciences/Studies Enhanced.** PhD study for a staff member; research project proposals in the priority themes; e-learning and social media in education and research. Research management and fund raising skills enhanced and grant applications jointly prepared and submitted.

2. **Quality Standards and Criteria for Graduate Education and Research.** Policies, guidelines, protocols and support systems regarding graduate studies and research; enhancing staff’s graduate/PhD supervisory skills; gender mainstreaming policy approved.

3. **SUZA Outreach Services Established.** Outreach policy approved; improved SUZA staff capacity to communicate research results; community outreach services in solid waste management, water and sanitation services as well as food safety and hygiene.

4. **The Financial Management System and Capacity Strengthened to Satisfy International Standards.** Upgrade of accounting software; revision of business processes pertaining to financial and grant management; training, on-the-job training and supervision of staff.

5. **SUZA Library Services Upgraded to Provide Direct Access to International Research Databases.** Library staff trained in acquisition from and management of international databases; SUZA online catalogue and services for students/researchers.

6. **Laboratory Facilities Strengthened.** Lab equipment installed; lab protocols developed; 3 lab technicians trained; lab accreditation; laboratory maintenance services provided.

**6. Gulu University (GU), Uganda**

**Thematic Focus Areas:**

• **Stability, Democracy and Rights (SDR)** through further exploration of political, economic, socio-cultural dimensions of stability, democracy and rights in (Northern) Uganda that has grossly been undermined by armed conflict.

• **Quality Management, Equity and Innovation in Education.** Throughout the war-affected areas of northern Uganda, major questions remain about the type and nature, quality, and equity and performance management of the educational system.

• **Culture, Education and Development:** After the years of war and confinement in camps, there is widespread reflection on local cultures and education.

**Key Output Areas:**

1. **Gulu University’s Research Capacity Strengthened.** Development of PhD programmes and assistance to faculty members to undertake small-scale research projects.

2. **University-wide Research Policy and Procedures Approved.** Procedures for approval processes, ethical clearance processes, rules for research supervision and examination (for supervised researches) etc.

3. **PhD Supervision Strengthened.** A detailed guideline on PhD (and Masters) research supervision, and training of supervisors.
4. **PhD Courses Developed.** Curriculum PhD (crosscutting) courses, primarily for the social sciences and humanities.

5. **Improvement in Learning through Innovative Pedagogic Approaches.** Integrating problem based learning and e-learning into the traditional teaching approaches.

6. **Output Areas in Relation to Services and Facilities Supporting Research.** Access to library e-resources; access to ICT facilities improved based on a thorough needs assessment; institutional financial management capacity; enhanced access to Internet.

7. **Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal**

   *Thematic Focus Areas:*
   - **Governing Nepal’s Urban Futures,** initially with a focus mainly on access to urban health services.
   - **Renewable Energy/Hydropower and Sustainable Development** in the context of both the pressures of growing population and a lack of fossil fuel resources.

   *Key Output Areas:*
   1. **Development of a Research Grant Management Centre.** Strengthening/reviewing the university’s focus, practices and capacities related to grant management.

   2. **Development of Research-based Curriculum/Module in PhD Courses.** The initial key fields are (i) sustainable urban development in Nepal (ii) renewable energy/hydropower and sustainable development.

   3. **Research Methodology and Proposal Development.** Designing of research methodology and scientific writing courses and developing joint research proposals with Danish partners.

   4. **Development of New Linkages with Stakeholders.** Improved stakeholder relations for consultations, disseminations and policy dialogues. Institutionalising the lessons learned in policies, good practices notes, and training courses for faculty and postgraduate students.

   5. **Improved Grant and Financial Management, Access to On-line Research Resources.** Development of grant management procedures; strengthening financial management systems and procedures; upgrading on-line resources for better research.