Striving for a Better World

Strategy for Research, Education and Institutional Capacity Strengthening in Relation to Developing Countries 2012-2015
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1. Introduction

In today’s globalised world, the University of Copenhagen is a dedicated contributor to solving the challenges of the 21st Century.

The mission of the University of Copenhagen regarding issues pertaining to developing countries is to contribute to a global development that will benefit everyone through high quality research and education.

The vision of the University of Copenhagen regarding issues pertaining to developing countries is to further develop its strong position as an internationally leading university within research, education and institutional capacity strengthening. This is to be done in an equal partnership with parties from all over the world, ensuring mutual benefit. Co-operation with developing countries will be based on specific needs and areas of collaboration where we can create mutually acknowledged improvements.

The purpose of the University of Copenhagen’s Strategy for Research, Education and Institutional Capacity Strengthening in Relation to Developing Countries is to outline focal points in achieving the vision and mission, as well as making a short presentation of the university’s profile in this area.

The strategy is accompanied by an action plan for the next two years, which outlines specific actions to be taken to support the implementation of the strategy.

Ralf Hemmingsen
Rector

Thomas Bjørnholm
Prorector
2. Profile of activities related to developing countries

The University of Copenhagen is the strongest Danish research and education institution with respect to activities related to developing countries. The university has a number of internationally recognised research groups that have contributed significantly to solving the challenges of developing countries.

The expertise of the university ranges from social, economic and political conditions of the individual to global issues regarding culture, governance, human health, natural resources, environment, trade and stability.

An important driving force for long-term knowledge creation in developing countries is well-educated students. The University of Copenhagen is currently offering 10 MSc and MA programmes that deal directly with developing country issues. PhD students are integrated into international research groups on a variety of topics.

The University of Copenhagen engages in capacity strengthening not only at the individual level but also at the institutional level, in collaboration with partners in developing countries.

Facts regarding research on developing country issues at the University of Copenhagen:

- More than 300 researchers across six faculties
- More than 150 PhD students from Denmark and developing countries
- More than 100 ongoing research projects
- Annual turnover of approximately 200 million DKK

MSc and MA Programmes at the University of Copenhagen that address developing country issues:

- African Studies
- Agricultural Development
- Agricultural Economics
- Anthropology
- Disaster Management
- Economics
- Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- Geography and Geoinformatics
- International Health
- Parasitology

EU Erasmus Mundus programmes:

- International Health
- Public Health
- Sustainable Tropical Forestry
- Sustainable Development in Agriculture

The University of Copenhagen participates in 2 three-year World-Class Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programmes that address developing country issues:

- Agricultural Transformation by Innovation
- Forest and Nature for Society
University of Copenhagen’s core research areas in relation to developing countries:

**CORE AREAS in relation to developing countries**

- **GOVERNANCE and GLOBALISATION**
  State building in fragile states, conflict management and resolution, law reform, human rights, international law, Globalisation processes, urbanisation

- **ECONOMICS**
  Improved living conditions in developing countries, focusing on the role and opportunities of developing countries in a global economy, international trade, trade rules, development policies and social prioritization, understanding of growth and change processes, individual welfare and the behaviour and opportunities of households and companies

- **CLIMATE CHANGE**
  Climate change and associated ecosystem changes, vulnerability and adaptation of land utilization, mitigation potential from land use changes, adaptation of livelihood strategies, disaster preparedness and management and changes of biodiversity

- **CULTURE and SOCIETY**
  Cultural understanding and intercultural communication, history and foreign languages, history and identity, religion, sexuality and youth

- **MIGRATION**
  Social, economic and cultural aspects of regional and transnational population movements, mobile migration processes, remittances and development

- **HEALTH**
  Prevention, treatment and monitoring of serious and widespread health concerns (incl. undernourishment, malaria, HIV, TB, neglected poverty-related infection diseases, sanitation and hygiene, diabetes and other chronic diseases, reproductive health), the potential and safety of traditional medication and public health implications of the double burden of disease

- **WATER**
  Changes in water supply and impacts of climate change, interactions between water and sanitation, health, nutrition and cultivation, water management and irrigation, assessment of water resources

- **NATURAL RESOURCES and ECOSYSTEMS**
  Sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, including rights to the resources, cultural values and social relations between poverty, farming, natural resources and local institutions both historically and in the future

- **FOOD SAFETY and FOOD SECURITY**
  Global agro-industrial value chains, sustainable food production, food supply and safety, food safety regulations, nourishment and health for plants, animals and humans
Examples of co-operation on institutional capacity strengthening with partner universities

For several decades, the University of Copenhagen has been co-operating with the University of Ghana on institutional capacity strengthening. The co-operation involves the entire University of Copenhagen (all faculties included) and the University of Ghana.

A long-term joint educational programme on sustainable land use and natural resource management has enhanced co-operation between the University of Copenhagen and ten university partners in Southeast Asia and Southern and Eastern Africa.

Institutional capacity strengthening is also an element of the co-operation between the Faculty of Social Sciences and three ministries in Vietnam, i.e. the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. The co-operation has involved joint research on pertinent issues affecting economic growth in small and medium size enterprises and rural households in Vietnam.

The Faculty of Science has a strategic partnership agreement with three East African universities, i.e. the University of Nairobi, Makerere University and Sokoine University of Agriculture. One element of the strategic partnership is a co-operation on institutional capacity strengthening with the Wangari Maathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi. This co-operation also involves the Faculty of Law at the University of Copenhagen.

The Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences is a leading member in the consortia of partners aimed at building the research and institutional capacity of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College, Tanzania.
3. Research

The University of Copenhagen is pursuing academic innovations of high quality. Only by striving for excellence will the University of Copenhagen be able to make a difference.

Some of the focal points of this strategy will be to improve the quality of cutting edge science and its publication in internationally renowned journals, as well as exploring synergies between faculties and enhancing interdisciplinary research.

Connecting and synthesising the research questions, ideas and outcomes of the many researchers involved is a major goal of the university. Breakthroughs are most often achieved in an interdisciplinary setting and when combining basic and applied research. The University of Copenhagen covers a wide range of topics relevant for developing countries, and the potential synergies of enhanced co-operation between different topics will be exploited to the fullest.

The existing expertise at the university provides a solid foundation for a concerted effort to make this happen – to generate knowledge through new ways of developing and combining theories, methods and empirical evidence across multiple disciplines.

Innovative and applied research to the benefit of developing countries will also be conducted in co-operation with private companies and other external stakeholders, including those in developing countries.

The University of Copenhagen operates a number of graduate schools regarding PhD education relevant for

Examples of internationally recognised researchers from the University of Copenhagen:

Anette Reenberg: Professor at the Department of Geography & Geology, Faculty of Science. Anette Reenberg is a specialist in human-environmental interactions in the West African part of Sahel, especially Burkina Faso. A main research area is land use systems in the semi-arid and arid tropics and their triple exposure to climate change, globalization and demographic pressure, with special reference to environmental degradation and adaptation to climate change.


Ib Chr. Bygbjerg: Professor of International Health at the Department of International Health, Immunology & Microbiology, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences. Professor Bygbjerg is a specialist in tropical medicine and infectious diseases and is the founder of Masters in International Health. Professor Bygbjerg has been involved in capacity building and research collaboration with Tanzania and India for several years.


Professor Tarp is a leading international expert on issues of development strategy and foreign aid, with an interest in poverty reduction, income distribution and growth, micro- and macroeconomic policy and modelling, agricultural sector policy and planning, household and enterprise development, and economic adjustment and reform.

Professor Tarp’s field experience covers numerous countries across Africa and the developing world in general, including longer-term assignments in Swaziland, Mozambique and Vietnam.

Professor Tarp has held senior posts and advisory positions within governments and with donor organizations, and is also a member of a large number of international committees and advisory bodies, including the European Union Development Network and the African Economic Research Consortium.
developing countries. PhD students from developing
countries are attached to graduate schools according to
subject area. The University of Copenhagen will offer
double degrees to PhD students enrolled at partner uni-
versities.

The University of Copenhagen manages or is involved in
a number of research schools. 20 of these address issues
of special relevance to developing countries. The research
schools may be grouped into the following topics:

- Food and Health
- Natural Resources
- Basic Sciences and Environment
- Social Sciences

THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN WILL

- Improve the quality of cutting edge science and its
  publication in internationally renowned journals.
- Explore synergies between faculties in development
  research and enhance interdisciplinary research.
- Conduct innovative and applied research to the benefit
  of developing countries in co-operation with private
  companies and other external stakeholders, including
  those in developing countries.

Lene Jespersen: Professor in Global Food Microbiology
at the Department of Food Science, Faculty of Science.
Professor Jespersen is a specialist in microbial physiology,
genotyping, biotechnology and the application of food-
borne microorganisms, as well as dealing with health pro-
moting microorganisms and strategies for the prevention
of food-borne pathogens. One of her main research areas is
in food security and the safety of African fermented foods
and beverages.

Many projects are conducted in collaboration with the pri-
ivate sector. Professor Jespersen has 20 years of experience
with capacity building and has headed several research
projects, mainly in West Africa, including Ghana, Burkina
Faso, Benin and Mali.

Susan Reynolds Whyte: Professor at the Department of
Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences.
Professor Whyte carries out anthropological research in
East Africa on social efforts to secure well-being in the
face of poverty, disease, disability and conflict. She has
published books on the understanding and use of phar-
maceuticals, including “Social Lives of Medicines”, Cam-
bridge University Press, 2002. Susan Whyte’s most recent
manuscript on this topic is “Second Chances: Living with
Antiretroviral Therapy in Uganda.” For two decades she
has worked with African colleagues on Enhancement of
Research Capacity projects.
4. Education

The University of Copenhagen has some of the best educational programmes to address developing country issues in Europe. This is due to the high quality of research as well as to the approach to learning. The learning approach is primarily student-focused and dialogue based.

Among the focal points of this strategy will be to ensure the high quality of the educational programmes, e-learning and the establishment of joint programmes with strategic partners at universities in developing countries.

Joint programmes – designed to meet the needs of developing countries – will be developed together with partner universities. Joint programmes enable the academic stakeholders to develop common curricula, learning and teaching methods.

Furthermore, joint programmes have the potential of reducing the costs of educating developing country nationals, thus providing the possibility to train more. It also offers Danish students better insights into the problems at hand, thereby increasing the quality of their education.

E-learning is also a focal point of this strategy. E-learning holds the potential for a revolution within knowledge sharing in and with developing countries. Developing high quality, research-based e-learning programmes and teaching to developing country students without physically moving the lecturer or the students is a priority for the University of Copenhagen in the coming years.

Establishment of joint programmes of high quality and e-learning will enhance inter-faculty co-operation at the university and increase the availability of educational programmes related to development in the long run.

Examples of opportunities offered for cross faculty education:

The recently established Copenhagen School of Global Health makes it easier for students at MSc level to plan a career in the field of the development of human health.

Since 1999, the University of Copenhagen has offered a cross faculty MSc within sustainable land use and natural resource management, as well as joint field courses with international partners and another Danish university. More than 1500 students have taken part in this programme, which is a benchmark in interdisciplinary, applied education within developing country issues.

The well-established Centre of African Studies offers a comprehensive and interdisciplinary Africa related graduate education programme. This includes a two year Masters in African Studies, a professional Masters degree and various optional courses that contribute to graduate education in African Studies across the University of Copenhagen.

Examples of e-learning courses:

- *Climate Change Impact, Adaptation and Mitigation* with focus on the human response to climate change as well as on efforts to avoid or reduce the negative impacts of climate change.
- *Applied Socio-economics in Tropical Forestry* including subjects such as tropical forest resources, deforestation, global forest policy processes, and national level forest legislation and policy.
- *Non-Communicable Diseases* covers the main aspects of NCD prevention and control with special focus on global and national strategies.
THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN WILL

- Ensure the high quality of educational programmes on development issues.
- Develop high quality, research-based e-learning programmes and teaching.
- Establish joint programmes with strategic partners at universities in developing countries.
Engaging in research and education efforts with partners in developing countries should always include a mutual element of strengthening institutional capacity. The University of Copenhagen believes that this should be an explicit part of any institutional agreements which the university ventures into.

The aim of institutional capacity strengthening is to enable universities to become stronger drivers of the development of their societies through better management, better infrastructure and better support functions, resulting in a higher quality of research, education and outreach.

The University of Copenhagen is strongly committed to engaging in mutual institutional capacity strengthening with partner universities on performing research and higher education of international standard and local relevance.

The University of Copenhagen will establish long-term partnerships on institutional capacity strengthening with a limited number of partner institutions with which co-operation on research and education already exist. At the same time, the University of Copenhagen will maintain the diversity of research partnerships across the developing world.

It is the aim of the University of Copenhagen to continue to be a strong player in The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Universities Denmark’s initiative Building Stronger Universities regarding capacity building in developing countries. The University of Copenhagen is a key player in the initiative and participates in all four platforms: “Growth and Employment”, “Environment and Climate”, “Human Health” and, “Stability, Democracy and Rights”. The University of Copenhagen hosts two of the platforms, “Growth and Employment” and “Human Health”.

5. Institutional capacity strengthening
At the University of Copenhagen, institutional capacity strengthening is addressed at all levels:

- Political and legal framework
- Governance, Leadership and Management
- Administration
- Infrastructure
- Research
- Education and Teaching
- Training at all levels within the organisation
- Dissemination and outreach

THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN WILL

- Establish long-term partnerships on institutional capacity strengthening with a limited number of partner universities and institutions.
- Be a strong player in The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Universities Denmark’s initiative Building Stronger Universities regarding capacity building in developing countries.
6. Knowledge communication

The University of Copenhagen aims to effectively communicate research findings and innovations to scientific and non-scientific stakeholders in Denmark and globally. This includes a special effort together with partners in developing countries to ignite utilisation of the generated knowledge – for example in collaboration with business, private entities and governmental institutions.

The University of Copenhagen firmly believes in strengthening the knowledge triangle, i.e. the interaction between education, research and innovation, as a key driver for development of society. The university will play an active role in the knowledge triangle interactions by creating and disseminating knowledge valuable for society and businesses as well as by linking education, research and innovation through collaboration with the broad community including developing countries.

It is our ambition that the knowledge we produce in international partnerships will provide policymakers at all levels with science-based information that enables them to make informed decisions.

THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN WILL

- Effectively communicate research findings and innovations to scientific and non-scientific stakeholders. This includes a special effort together with partners in developing countries to ignite utilisation of the generated knowledge.
- Create and disseminate knowledge valuable for society and businesses by linking education, research and innovation through collaboration with the broad community in developing countries.
Contact

Entry points regarding developing country issues:

The University of Copenhagen
Contact: development@adm.ku.dk
www.ku.dk/english

Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences
Contact: development@sund.ku.dk
www.healthsciences.ku.dk
www.globalhealth.ku.dk

Faculty of Humanities
Contact: development@hum.ku.dk
www.humanities.ku.dk

Faculty of Law
Contact: development@jur.ku.dk
www.jur.ku.dk/english

Faculty of Science
Contact: development@science.ku.dk
www.science.ku.dk/english
www.science.ku.dk/development

Faculty of Social Sciences
Contact: development@samf.ku.dk
www.socialsciences.ku.dk

Faculty of Theology
Contact: development@teol.ku.dk
www.teol.ku.dk/english
www.teol.ku.dk/cas
Facts about the University of Copenhagen

Founded in 1479, the University of Copenhagen is today the largest knowledge institution in Denmark, with 37,000 students, 1,800 PhD students and 7,500 employees. The university’s most important contribution to society is outstanding basic research, and education of graduates to the highest international standard. Innovation and dissemination of knowledge to the society at large are two other important activities of the university. In providing these core services, the university enters into close co-operation with the rest of society, from cultural institutions to private companies and public bodies.

The University of Copenhagen is host to more than 2,000 international exchange and full-degree students every year. The students come from approximately 65 different countries.