

Copenhagen, 18.3.2009

ADI seminar
11 March 2009, 9.30-12
NIAS, Leifsgade 33, 3.

MINUTES

Present: Peter B. Andersen, Denise Gimpel, Birgitte Refslund Sørensen, Morten Axel Pedersen, Jørgen Delman, Timo Kivimäki, Lars Højer, Marie Roesgaard and Marie Yoshida (minutes)

1. Welcome

Marie Roesgaard, Chair of the ADI steering group

2. ADI – report 2008

Based on the ADI report for 2008, Marie Yoshida, Coordinator of ADI, gave a brief account of activities and initiatives within ADI since the kick-off in September 2008.

3. Organization of ADI

MR explained how ADI up to now has been organized by a steering group comprising mostly heads of departments from the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences. The original idea was to replace the heads of departments with Asia researchers with the appointment of the new ADI professors (South Asia, Security, Economics, Anthropology, Central Asia). However, it has been extremely efficient to have the heads of departments represented in the steering group, and therefore the steering group recently proposed a change in the structural organization. The deans have accepted the proposition.

From now on the steering group with its existing members will function as an *administrative management board*. The steering group will be in charge of strategy, reporting, running evaluation as well as overall financial, budgetary and administrative issues.

To ensure academic development a *panel of advisors* (or *academic panel*) comprising researchers working on Asia will be established. The panel will be responsible for developing, recommending and implementing academic activities. The new academic staff under ADI will be obligatory members of the panel, while other researchers working on Asia are free to join in. Two members should be elected to represent the academic panel in the steering group.

4. Discussion

MR's presentation of the future organization of ADI gave rise to a number of questions mostly concerning power, responsibility, and structure of the panel.

The participants more or less agreed on the following points:

- It has to be clear what the function of the panel is: advice, recommendation, possibility/power to define research and activities ...? This must be stated in a 'terms of reference' document.
- The motivation to be active in the panel is the chance to impact on future activities/developments. There has to be a certain degree of authority to make decisions.
- as little bureaucracy as possible
- the panel should be a forum where researchers can work on and develop their research
- the importance of staying true to the 'bottom up' idea
- the steering group and the panel should be two parallel entities
- a proposed definition:
steering group=administrative management; panel=academic leadership
- the steering group should facilitate the work of the academic panel
- the 'terms of reference' for the steering group must be rewritten in order to incorporate the academic panel

5. ADI's research themes

The participants then discussed how to kick-start activities revolving around the ADI research themes. The following ideas, aims and conclusions came to light:

- Interdisciplinarity – a key word of ADI – can be strenuous and long-winded. One way of doing fruitful, interdisciplinary research is to – not necessarily find researchers totally different than yourself – but rather look for people who are like you, but who are not your department colleagues. ADI and the themes open up for this kind of collaboration.
- Other keywords/phrases: coordination, pulling resources together, cross topical but also cross regional research
- The new Danish university in China should be made a topic of research.
- Academic scholarly meetings – it is necessary to get together and present research to each other in order to find out where and when to collaborate.

6. Current research

The participants then gave a brief introduction to the research and activities they are currently engaged in.

7. Regular ADI activities

After some discussion on format, time, regularity etc. the participants agreed on taking turns in organizing an ADI research seminar or an ADI workshop – the activities need not be named after one of the 7 ADI research themes – researchers should not be bound by the themes. The themes might very well evolve along the way.

On the **2nd Thursday every month at 2 pm** there will be an ADI event – alternating between research seminar and workshop. At the research seminar a researcher will present a paper followed by Q&A and discussion – 2 hours. For the workshop one person should choose a topic and invite 3-4 researchers to speak on the topic (around 30 minutes each) followed by Q&A, discussion and exchange of ideas – approx. 3 hours.

Furthermore it would be a good idea to arrange brainstorm seminars that deal with one (or more) of the research themes.

It might be useful to appoint an anchorperson to each theme.

8. Terms of reference

MY will work on a draft document with terms of reference. The draft will be sent to members of the steering group as well as the academic panel (participants at this seminar) for review.