

Universities Denmark Platform on Human Health

Minutes

Enreca Health

Title of meeting: Inaugural Meeting of Working Group on Climate Change and Health

Date and time of meeting: 15 June 2010: 15.00-17.00hrs

Venue: DBL-Centre for Health Research and Development, KU-LIFE

Rapporteur: Pia Pannula Toft (Enreca Health) / Peter Furu (DBL)

		Actions
1. Welcome and introduction	Peter Furu (DBL, KU-LIFE) welcomed participants and explained that this inaugural meeting was convened based on an inquiry by the Universities Denmark Platform on Human Health regarding the formal establishment of a working group (WG) on Climate Change and Health.	
2. Approval of the agenda	A tentative agenda had been sent in advance of the meeting to registered participants. The proposed agenda was approved.	
3. Introduction of participants	Invitation for the meeting had been circulated via Enreca Health and announced at websites. The eleven WG participants were mainly representing academia and it was stressed that special efforts should be made to include NGOs and private sector representatives in the WG.	All members encouraged to participate in recruitment of new members.
4. Formal designation of focal point for the WG	Peter Furu was chosen as a focal point by the present WG members.	
5. Presentation of objectives for the overall University Platforms and the WGs	Reference was made to the overall initiative by Danish Universities to commit themselves to development through cooperation with partners in developing countries on research, research capacity development and education at tertiary levels (see: http://www.humanhealth.dk/).	
6. Other national and international initiatives for research networking in the context of climate change	The WG will act in an existing environment of many other networks and initiatives. It was agreed that it is important to coordinate and collaborate with the existing networks. Four networks were mentioned: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Climate Change Task Force (CCTF), a joint initiative by the three Danish Danida supported research networks (DDRN, DWF, and Enreca Health).	Inform networks about the establishment of the WG. Especially, further discussion with CCTF about common interests, and cooperation should be initiated soon.

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2. Southern African Climate Change Network (SACCNet), a network about the impacts of Climate Change on human health, water and food security in the SADC region.
3. Coordination Forum for Climate Change Adaptation (KFT), a cross-cutting coordination forum for climate change adaptation mainly in a Danish context.
4. International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), global network on best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making regarding policies, programs, plans and projects. IAIA has a "Health Section" interested in impact assessment in relation to climate change.

At least one WG participant is an active member in three of these networks, thus ensuring good entry points for cooperation. CCTF's future after June 2011 is uncertain.

It was proposed that the WG should look into other relevant initiatives, for example the IARU University cooperation (through Prof Kathrine Richardson) and furthermore get in touch with Anthony McMichael, who has an honorary professorship in Climate Change and Human Health at the University of Copenhagen. He is based in Canberra, Australia.

7. Discussion on mode of work for the WG including how we stay in touch

It was agreed that the WG will hold **official meetings** every three months. Meetings should have a theme and relevant presentations to facilitate discussion.

Collect suggestions for relevant themes for presentations - by email to registered WG members.

There might be more frequent informal '**coffee club meetings**' that can take place in different cities. Meetings minutes should be taken from all meetings and shared with the other WG participants.

Various themes were proposed including the opportunity to influence policies and actions leading up to COP 16, Mexico.

Website will be the main tool for sharing information and the process for developing WG's own website should be started. It was proposed that the website has a blog for discussion and sharing information. There should also be links to other networks' websites, events calendar, etc.

Initiate process of WG website development.

Mailing list will be one of the means of staying in touch.

Establish mailing list and circulate.

The importance of being aware of the Danish expertise and activities in the field was underlined. In 2008, an 'overview of Danish research competences and research projects with regard to climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation in developing countries' was prepared. Several initiatives are planned or on-going to update this study for providing a mapping of the "players in the field".

Pia Pannula Toft (Enreca Health) will find out the status of these initiatives and report back at the next meeting.

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8. New ideas for collaboration

- Important to make the WG visible for example through U-landsnyt.dk and relevant networks' websites. Approach to relevant networks and websites for linking.
 - Mapping of different courses and education on climate change and health related issues would be useful. Process should be initiated or linked to the above mapping.
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9. Upcoming activities of relevance for the WG

- CCTF Researchers' Day: Climate Change Impact, Adaptation and Mitigation. Copenhagen 7 October 2010. WG members urged to send details of new events when available.
 - IAIA Symposium: Climate Change and Impact Assessment. Aalborg 25-26 October 2010. WG members encouraged to approach Francesca Viliani (francescav@internationalsos.com) if interested in contributing to the further work.
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10. Any other business

Next meeting in September

Exact date to be established through a "doodle poll"
