



Danida Development Days 2010:

“New Trends in International Development”

Copenhagen, Denmark. June 8th - 9th

The realities of international development are changing. During the past years the socio-economic conditions in developing countries have been severely affected by the food, fuel and financial crises. This has exacerbated already existing challenges in most developing countries.

The outline of a new world order is becoming increasingly visible and generating new opportunities as well as challenges. In response to these new realities traditional development partners are launching new policy frameworks and strategies. These will have an impact on the way in which international development will be approached in the coming years. In parallel, new players are increasingly influencing the socio-economic context in many developing countries. These new players are putting pressure on traditional approaches to development.

Within this new international context a new Strategy for Danish Development Cooperation is being formulated. The Strategy will provide the overall framework for Danida Development Days 2010, with a special focus on two themes:

- **Coherence and coordination of development instruments with focus on fragile states;**
- **Emerging economies with focus on their role in Africa.**

The Technical Advisory Service of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to invite practitioners, scholars, consultants, policy makers, partners and colleagues from Denmark and abroad to join Danida for two days of dialogue and knowledge sharing on the above mentioned themes.

Below you will be able to find additional information on the two themes and be guided on registration. A detailed programme will be made available at the beginning of May.

Coherence and coordination of development instruments with focus on fragile states

Fragile states and conflict prone areas has become one of the most important issues for foreign and security politics, and development politics. Governments, aid agencies, NGOs and others engaged in development, have in recent years put increasing effort into trying to understand and address the complex problems emerging from the planning and implementation of programmes and projects in fragile states.

Fragile and conflict affected states are furthest from reaching the MDGs and account proportionally for a greater share of people living in extreme poverty without access to basic services. Additionally, in most fragile states girls and women are excessively exposed to gender inequality and violence.

Though often grouped together as one category, fragile and conflict affected areas are extremely heterogeneous, each one with its own particular history and root cause of conflict and fragility. This poses new challenges to development agencies in terms of defining new innovative intervention strategies and in adapting to new levels of risks.

The many actors present in fragile and conflict affected states are there with different objectives, mandates, approaches, perspectives, and traditions. Security politics, economic and political interests and development objectives cannot be separated but must all be taken into account when designing and implementing development strategies and programs.

Leading scholars and practitioners will provide new insight and share their experience concerning these challenges and dilemmas.

Emerging economies with focus on their role in Africa

A new group of countries are engaging themselves in international development. This broad and non-homogeneous group includes countries like China, South Korea, India and Brazil. Their approaches to development, and their rationale for engaging in development, often diverge from the approach and rationale of traditional development partners like Danida. The diversification of development partners and the variation of development strategies and modalities has consequences for a partner like Danida in terms of both design and implementation of development programs.

The *Emerging economies with focus on their role in Africa* sessions will explore the specific nature of the phenomenon of new players in development. Leading scholars and practitioners will provide new insight with regard to who the new players are? What drives them? And what the consequences are for development in the partner countries in Africa?

Through the subsequent dialogue and discussion with participants the views of the invited scholars and practitioners will be challenged and new knowledge will be generated.

EU and development

In addition to these two themes specific attention will be paid to EU and development. The EU is not only the world's largest bi-lateral donor but is increasingly coming into focus in the new economic world order where few if any single member country of the EU can match the new big players on the development scene. Following the new policy directions in Danish development assistance there will be increased focus on both influencing EU development policies and strategies and on strengthening coordination and collaboration with both the EU development assistance and that of its other member states.

From the perspective of Fragile States and Emerging Economies a number of sessions on EU will be integrated in the programme for Danida Development Days.

Registration: To participate please send an email to UFT@um.dk stating your name and organisation, including your choice of sessions you want to attend, not later than Friday, 28th May, 2010.