

**Minutes of the 70th
UNU-FTP board meeting
held on September 8, 2011 at 14:00**

Present: Jóhann Sigurjónsson (chairman) (JS)
Tumi Tómasson (TT)
Ögmundur Knútsson (ÖK)
Guðrún Pétursdóttir (GP)
Erla Kristinsdóttir (EK)
Þór Ásgeirsson (took minutes) (TA)

Absent with apology: Sveinn Margeirsson and Hermann Ingólfsson

The chairman welcomed the board and called the meeting to order. The chairman greeted a new board member from the fishing industry Ms. Erla Krsitinsdottir who is the managing director of Sjávariðjan at Rif.

1. Presentation and discussion of the evaluation report

JS welcomed Ms. Mary Frances Davidson and Ms. Caitlin Wilson the authors of the pre-evaluation report. JS raised the issue whether the managers of the UNU-FTP (TT and TA) should be present during the discussion of the report since some aspects of the report deal with the management of the UNU-FTP and the performance of the managers. The board agreed that the managers should be present during the discussion. JS briefly reviewed the back ground of the evaluation, but the evaluation is done in relation to changes in the operational environment of the UNU-FTP. The ministry for foreign affairs has revised its development assistance policy and UNU has also revised its strategic policy. So the internal review of the UNU-FTP was thought to be appropriate considering these changes.

The evaluators gave a brief description on how the evaluation was carried out followed by general discussion about the main findings and recommendations. GP points out that we need to be careful regarding changes on the programme, and that the profile of the UNU-FTP needs to be raised within UNU. JS points out that any expansion of the programme requires money and that issue is not addressed properly in the report. He also raised the issue of if we are getting our money's worth. TT discussed the twinning concept which is part of the revised strategy of the UNU, and thought the UNU-FTP is approaching that concept through the cooperation with training and education institutes. TT also agrees with the recommendations of the report regarding raising the profile of the UNU-FTP and that the scholarship programme must be improved, but points out that we get limited credit from UNU for the short course programme. JS and TT discussed the scholarship programme.

The board agreed that the scholarship programme can be improved by making demands on the scholarship recipients by, e.g. having them mentoring fellows and giving presentation on their topics of study.

With regards to the point raised in the report on improving the selection process (i.e. is the programme focusing on number of countries or on the critical mass from each country) the board thinks that developing a critical mass in one country is better than working in many countries.

With regards to the networking issue in the evaluation report the board agreed that communication with former fellows is important and that the managers should look into the possibility of creating a newsletter on a regular basis to convey information to both former fellows and other partners. A wider network of partners should be developed.

With regards to the potential growth of the UNU-FTP the board agreed that a comparison is needed of the strategic visions of the UNU and UNU-FTP

The Chairman thanked the evaluators Mrs. Davidson and Ms. Wilson which left the meeting

2. *Minutes of the last meeting*

Approved

3. *Matters arising*

- With regards to communication with the UNU about the evaluation TT informed the meeting that he has contacted the UNU head office but so far no response.
- TT informed the board that the UNU-GTP will renew the contract with the UNU this year and next year UNU-FTP contract is up for a renewal.

4. *Preparation for the intake in 2011*

TT informed the board that 21 fellows are expected to start the training this year and one of the fellows, the participant for Oman, will only attend the introductory course as a special guest. As so often happens, several fellows that had previously accepted to come and even had sent in their applications decided to withdraw from the programme for various reasons. Sometime this may cause problems, especially if housing has been arranged and computers being bought for these people. There is very little the UNU-FTP can do about this except for inviting more people that actually the programme can support hoping to end with a suitable number of fellows. A special case this year is the candidate from Bangladesh who in the last minute did not get ministerial clearance to go for the studies. This is the second year in a row that this happens in Bangladesh. No particular explanations are provided for the withdrawal from the fisheries authorities despite several attempts by the UNU-FTP to get explanations. The board agreed that such behaviour of a partner country does not call for further cooperation and suggests that Bangladesh is put on ice for now as a partner. The board also agreed that a scholarship support to former Bangladesh fellow that is suppose to start his doctoral studies in January 2012 should be withdrawn.

5. *Short courses in partner countries*

TT informed the board about the status of short courses:

- a) Malaysian course on Management and Leadership in AFAs will be held in October
- b) Last week a workshop on aquaculture course in Mozambique in cooperation with INAQUA and Eduardo Mondlane University was held at Holar
- c) The second part of the stock assessment course in the Caribbean will be held in September
- d) An aquaculture course was held in Uganda in cooperation with the fisheries department, Makerere University and a Chinese aquaculture farm
- e) A preparation meeting on Project Cycle Management course was held in Jamaica in August
- f) A course (3 weeks) on Quality Management has just been held in Uganda for inspectors.
- g) A course on quality management has been developed for NAMFI in Namibia. It is expected that Icelandic experts will travel in September to Walvis Bay to help out in the implementation of the course at NAMFI

6. *AOBI*

TT informed the board that two MSc scholarship had been granted this year but neither of them could come. This year three scholarship recipients will be studying in Iceland.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked the board and closed the meeting at 12:05 and announced that the next meeting will be on October 31st. At 10:00