



# Minutes, NFU General Assembly 2011

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<b>Time:</b>	12 December 2011, 16:00 – 17:00
<b>Venue:</b>	Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo
<b>Present:</b>	7 members were present.

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## 1. Constitution and agenda

- Knut Nustad was elected Chair of General Assembly
- Reporters: Hilde Kjøstvedt and Maren Aase
- The agenda was approved

## 2. NFU Annual Report 2011

The Annual Report was presented by the Board and approved by the meeting.

- It was suggested that students could be more actively involved in the NFU conferences.
- It follows from the evaluation of the previous NFU conference (in 2010) that a more active involvement by the Board in organising the conferences could be useful. The forms and extent of the involvement should be sketched out in collaboration with the organiser of the conference as early as possible. The meeting was pleased that the 2011-12 Annual Plan makes it a priority to include the NFU Board more actively in the planning and execution of the annual conference.
- It was suggested that a useful way of supporting NFU members in building academic networks in connection with the annual conferences could be to organise a couple of panel sessions that could run for several conferences consecutively. These panels should include researchers who are senior and/or well known within their fields, and their active participation and leadership should be encouraged.
- The Board was asked to look into possibilities of organising, (or facilitate the organisation of), a Ph.D. course in connection with upcoming annual conferences.

### **3. NFU Audited accounts 2010**

Accounts for the 2011 financial year were presented along with auditor's report. The incoming balance was 228,273, the outgoing balance was 174,813. The accounts were approved.

### **4. NFU Annual conference 2012**

- This year, the NFU has experienced an increased interest in organising the NFU annual conference. More specifically the Board has received two bids for the next annual conference, one from UiB Global and one from Noragric/UMB and CICERO. The General Assembly agreed that Noragric/CICERO will be asked to organise and host the 2012 NFU conference.
- With reference to the successful Nordic Development Conference in Copenhagen this year, the Assembly asked to include a new Nordic Conference in the NFU long term plans. The network is already in place and Nordic cooperation can be included in national conferences by inviting Nordic partners to organise panels in the Norwegian conferences.
- At present, the Board should decide on the sequence of Norwegian and Nordic conferences. The longer term plan should be to a) develop a Nordic superstructure with regular tri-annual conferences and b) to extend *Forum* to all Nordic development researchers and make it a Nordic journal of Development Research. Submissions are increasing every year but they are mostly from Norwegian or Norway-based researchers. Submissions from researchers in other Nordic countries should be encouraged.

### **5. Incoming business**

There was no incoming business.

### **6. NFU membership fees for 2012**

The General Assembly supported the Board's suggestion to increase the membership fees by NOK 50 for all members.

- Full membership NOK 450
- Student membership, retired persons NOK 250

### **7. Annual plan and budget for 2012**

The 2011/12 budget is updated on the revenue side to include an increase in membership fees, cf. above. The annual plan and budget for 2012 was approved by the General Assembly.

- The meeting asked the Board to look into how revenues for NFU could be increased. Today, NFU revenue stems exclusively from membership fees. Expenses have gone up in the last two years, (as a result of more activity and outreach), but revenues have

not increased at the same time. It is hoped that the increased activity and outreach will lead to more members and more income from membership fees.

- An additional source of income may be found through external funds giving financial support to activities related to networking, and such funds could be approached for support to continued Nordic cooperation. Other sources of income may be the universities. A Board task force for revenue increase should be formed, and it should also consult the NFU application archives.
- The budget line concerning Forum/Routledge has to be rechecked with Routledge and the edited accordingly by early 2012.

## 8. Elections

The Assembly elected their following representatives for 2011/2012:

### *Board members*

Håvard Haarstad, Chair (University of Bergen)  
Ingunn Bjørkhaug, (Fafo) \*new  
Hanne Haaland, Agder University \*new  
Thomas Sætre Jacobsen, (NTNU) \*new  
Darley Kjosavik, (Noragric)  
Kristen Nordhaug, (Oslo University College )  
Knut Gunnar Nustad, (NUPI)  
Maren Aase, (SUM)  
Ingvild Skage Aagedal (CMI) \*new

### *Deputy board members*

Camilla Brautaset, University of Bergen

### *Nomination committee*

Petter Andersen, UiB (extended)  
Morten Bøås, Fafo (extended)  
Trond Vedeld, NIBR (extended)

### *EADI representative*

Kristen Nordhaug, (Oslo University College)

### *Auditor*

Hans-Jørgen Oppi Christiansen, (SUM)

- The nomination committee (NC) expressed a concern for the lack of Board members from the rest of Norway. The NC encouraged the Board to search their networks in Tromsø and other development research institutions in the northern parts of Norway in order to recruit future NFU Board members.
- The annual meeting authorised the board to find two additional deputy members if needed, but also to start amending the statutes in order to remove the clause on deputy members as it is not seen as needed anymore.



## **NFU General Assembly 2011**

Time: 12 December 2011, 16:00

Venue: Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo 4<sup>th</sup> floor seminar room.

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Constitute meeting and approve agenda**

- Election of General Assembly Chair and two reporters
- Approval of agenda

#### **2. NFU Annual Report 2011**

#### **3. NFU Audited accounts 2011**

- Accounts for 2011
- Auditor's report for 2011

#### **4. NFU Annual conference 2012**

#### **5. Incoming business**

#### **6. NFU membership fees for 2012**

#### **7. Annual plan and budget for 2012**

#### **8. Elections**

- NFU board and auditor, presentation by the Nomination Committee
- Nomination committee, presentation by the NFU Board

## **Item 2. NFU Annual report 2011**

# **NFU Annual Report 2010**

(Covering the period November 2010 to November 2012)

## **1. General**

The current year covers the period November 2010 – November 2011. The General Assembly is as a rule conducted in connection with the Annual Conference and we have for that reason adopted flexible business years for reporting and accounts. NFU membership followed the calendar year.

## **2. The NFU Board members 2011**

The NFU General Assembly 2010 was held at 25 November 2010, at the Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo. Following this meeting, the composition of the NFU Board has been as follows:

### **Board members**

Håvard Haarstad, University of Bergen  
Kathleen Jennings, FAFO  
Peris Jones, NIBR  
Hilde Kjøstvedt, CMI  
Kristen Nordhaug, Oslo University College  
Knut Gunnar Nustad, NUPI (Chair)  
Odd Einar Olsen, University of Stavanger  
Arne Olav Øyhus, Agder University  
Maren Aase, SUM

### **Deputy board members**

Camilla Brautaset, University of Bergen  
Darley Kjosavik, Noragric  
The annual meeting authorized the board to find a third deputy.

### **Nomination Committee**

Petter Andersen, UiB  
Morten Bøås, Fafo  
Trond Vedeld, NIBR

### **EADI representative**

Kristen Nordhaug was elected new EADI representative to follow N. Shanmugaratnam who is retiring.

### **Auditor:**

Hans Jørgen Christiansen, SUM, UiO

### **3. NFU Board meetings**

The NFU Board has met six times in the period: five times by video - conference and once in Oslo. All elected members and deputies were invited to the meetings. In addition, the Board has at times worked intensively through email consultations.

### **4. NFU Members**

**By 31 November 2011 NFU had a total of 166 paying members.** In comparison, NFU had 143 paying members by 24.11.2010.

## **5. Annual Plan 2011 (cf. Minutes from 2010) and progress:**

### **5.1. Increasing the benefits to, and number and activity level of NFU members**

**- The number of members has increased by 16%.**

- Forum has been included as a membership benefit to NFU members.

- A successful Nordic conference was held in Copenhagen, 2011 (for more information, please see 5.4 below).

- The award for the best MA thesis (15 submissions from students) and the best Forum article were announced on the annual conference, at the NFU web pages and through the newsletter.

The target of presenting the MA thesis award before the summer was not met, and this may not be realistic goal unless a) the prize is announced earlier and b) the NFU Board has the capacity to organise a separate student event in connection with the announcement.

- Student involvement remains a challenge for the NFU, and the Board suggests that the remaining targets regarding increase in student activity should be readressed in relation with the forthcoming NFU annual conference in 2012. This conference should offer a MA student meeting with the NFU, and a workshop specially targeted at MA students. We suggest to model future student activities based on the interest generated from this conference. We also suggest establishing a MA student activity support mechanism, which students can make use of through applications to the Board.

- Apart from increasing memberships, the Board has not taken steps to improve the funding situation of the NFU.

### **5.2 Procedures and strategy for strengthening role of NFU in relevant public hearings**

In March 2011, NFU submitted a hearing letter to Norad's Evaluation Department, concerning their '*Evaluation of Research on Norwegian Development Assistance*'. NFU's own experiences with development research broadly reflected the findings of the evaluation team, in particular the disconnection between policy making and research communities and the lack of use of research in policy making. In addition, NFU had some important comments and suggestions for revision of the report and the way ahead. Our letter is available upon request.

As part of the Nordic conference, two panels discussed Nordic research and collaboration with state agencies: *Nordic Development research collaboration – Importance to Policy in a Globalised World*, and *Taking Stock of Nordic Development*

## Research

NFU has also, with the help of select NFU members, doctoral student Hilde Reinertsen at the University of Oslo in particular, taken steps to secure the quality of the report on Nordic Development Research, commissioned as a background report for the Nordic Conference.

### **5.3. Improve communication and the visibility of the NFU and development research**

During 2011, NFU has further improved its communication infrastructure to include a pre-formatted newsletter, which has been circulated by email to our members on three occasions. The newsletter has contained information about the Nordic conference, membership benefits, the NFU awards, the NFU General Assembly etc.

The Board has, after consultations with communication adviser and web designer of [www.nfu.no](http://www.nfu.no), moved away from previous visions for an 'interactive web page'. Our new strategy – keeping the web page simple, updated with news which are strictly designed for and by the NFU, and to instead increase the use of newsletters directly to our members – has been chosen to secure an easy mode of continuity and not the least; diversity of the NFU news.

NFU has also recently launched a Facebook page, [<https://www.facebook.com/NFUpage>]. At present, the page has 66 followers, and it will complement the newsletter and the NFU web page in reaching our current and future members.

Circulating the main responsibilities for communication within the Board has been challenging, due to required technical skills by those in charge of communication. The Board has therefore asked MA in human geography, Ulrikke B. Wethal, to assist the Board in securing its flow of information with the members. Ms. Wethal is a promising young student, and our hope is that NFU, by granting her a stipend, also may inspire her to proceed with her academic interest in development studies.

### **5.5 Promoting Nordic Networking, including a Joint Nordic Conference**

A lot of work has been done to plan the Copenhagen conference. Meetings have been held in Finland, Sweden and Denmark. The NFU Board is also very grateful for the time and effort our members have put into this conference, by organising panels, workshops, volunteering for the plenary discussions and by submitting research papers. After the successful arrangement of the first Nordic conference in Copenhagen this year, an important first step has been taken in promoting further Nordic cooperation.

The first Nordic Development Studies Conference, organised by the Association of Development Researchers in Denmark (FAU) together with the Finnish Society for Development Research, The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the Nordic Africa Institute as well as NFU was arranged in Copenhagen from 23 to 25 November. The title of the conference was *The future of development research - exploring the Nordic perspective(s)* and it drew around 170 participants from all the Nordic countries. Among the participants were researchers, practitioners and policy makers and several of the

panels explicitly addressed and discussed similarities between development policy and research in the Nordic countries. The feedback from the participants was unanimously positive and several expressed a wish for closer collaboration in the future. NFUs journal, the Forum For Development Studies, was suggested as an important arena for closer collaboration. NFU members were well represented and the NFU Chair, Knut G Nustad, closed the conference by thanking the Danish organizers and inviting everybody to next years NFU conference in Norway next year.

Forum was promoted actively throughout the Nordic conference, and we hope that this will strengthen the Nordic profile of the journal. The next issue will include contributions from the Finnish society, and its members will be given the offer of including subscriptions in their membership.

### **5.6 Consolidate the functioning of the NFU Board**

The number of meetings has been increased, and the Board still finds the use of video conferencing satisfactory. A system of deputy chairs was established and task groups have been used, for instance in connection with the MA thesis award.

The Board has, as mentioned above, secured the assistance of Ulrikke B. Wethal to help with updating our webpages, newsletter and membership lists.

- The NFU has engaged a professional librarian to search for relevant
- journals, and to compile a list that will be used to encourage members to nominate new journals.
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The Board has not been able to secure Board members recognition for time use through informal agreement with home institutions. This should be transferred to the annual plan for 2012, and could perhaps be addressed in connection with the next annual conference.



### Item 3 Audited accounts

	Budget 2011	Accounts 2011	Notes
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	87000	60950,00	1
Interest	100	311,28	
<i>Total income</i>	<i>87100</i>	<i>61261,28</i>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Board meetings	25000	5882,00	
"NFU-news"	0	0,00	
Forum for Development Studies	90000	25245,62	2
NFU Web-site	10000	43932,75	
EADI	5000	2004,98	
MA Thesis and Journal Article Awards	20000	20000,00	
Award event	5000	0,00	
Honorarium auditor	2000	700,00	
Nordic cooperation	20000	14986,74	
MA student field research	0	0,00	
Miscellaneous	2500	1797,80	
Bank fees	500	171,00	
<i>Total expenses</i>	<i>180000</i>	<i>114720,89</i>	
<b>Result</b>	<b>-92900</b>	<b>-53459,61</b>	
<b>Balances</b>			
Incoming balance 01.10.2010		228273,32	
Outgoing balance 31.10.2011		174813,71	

#### Notes

1. Some of these fees have been paid very late and are extended to cover fees for 2012.

The members in question have not received any numbers of Forum in 2011

2. One bill for Forum received during the budget year

Senter for utvikling og miljø

Universitetet i Oslo

Norsk forening for utviklingsforskning v/ Hilde Kjøstvedt c/o CMI  
(Chr. Michelsen Institute) P.O.Box 6033 Bedriftssenteret

5892 Bergen

Revisjonsberetning

Regnskapet for Norsk forening for utviklingsforskning (NFU) for  
perioden fra og med 1. oktober 2010 til og med 31. oktober 2011

er gjennomgått og funnet i orden. Samtlige posterings i regnskapet er  
kontrollert opp mot bilag. Kostnadene påløpt i perioden anses å være  
relevante for driften.

Blindern 5. desember 2011.

Hans-Jørgen Oppi Christiansen

UiO  




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#### **Item 4 Annual Conferences 2012**

Several institutions have inquired about the possibility for holding next year's conference, including UiB Global. The most complete bid came from CICERO and NORAGRIC:

*Dear Knut, we wish to put forward to the NFU board a bid for the co-organization of the next NFU conference by CICERO and NORAGRIC. Please find a title and summary description below. We will be happy to develop the theme and the call for papers further with NFU board's suggestions. We can commit to a conference held in late fall 2012. All the best, Asun St.Clair, Siri Eriksen, and John-Andrew McNeish*

#### ***Development for a Finite Planet: grassroots perspectives and responses to climate change, resource extraction and economic development***

*The conference aims to identify and present academic work that focuses attention on the perspectives and responses of local populations to climate change, resource extraction and economic development. As such the conference studies how local people deal with the impacts of particular environmental changes, but also aims to highlight the way in which climate change merges with other development challenges. Recent expansion of commodity markets, food price swings and economic crises both inspire and limit people's reactions and responses to environmental change and the possibilities to identify technologies and policies for sustainable development.*

*Our goal is to promote and raise awareness of these three interconnections and thus a call for papers will focus on key themes such as: the role of indigenous knowledge and co-production of knowledge; social movements and local institutions as agents of change towards sustainability; analysis of environmental conflicts; examples of the interactions and conflicts posed by adaptation and mitigation measures to local people; examination of the top-down nature of most climate responses and emerging adaptation plans; examples of successful bottom up transitions to sustainable development; a focus on gender and women as agents of change; ethical and climate justice considerations; and the politics of clean energy technologies and policy mechanisms.*

*We propose to use this opportunity to enter into a dialogue among researchers, policy makers and practitioners and to further promote the work of an emergent group called the Norwegian Forum for Climate, Poverty and Development. We also aim to bring to the NFU community the Norwegian team of IPCC Lead Authors for the forthcoming Assessment Report (AR5) by organizing a roundtable discussion about how to integrate into scientific work the views and responses of grassroots and local perspectives. We envision a set of keynote speakers representing the voices from the grass roots as well as those from recognized policy environments.*

## **Item 7**

### **Annual Plan 2012**

#### **1. NFU Board meetings**

The Board will continue to have regular meetings, about six times during 2012, primarily through video-conference, in addition to discussions and consultations by email.

#### **2. NFU Membership**

The Board has the ambition of increasing NFU membership to 220. There are a lot of old members that have not renewed their membership in the past year, many of these have probably become members to get reduced rates for an NFU conference. We are including all of these that we have email addresses for on the newsletter list, hoping that they will become regular paying members. Improved website, high quality publications in the Forum and an attractive annual conference, are intended to gain more members.

We will also address increased membership and activity level of students, through announcing funds for MA student activities (upon applications) and by asking the organiser of the 2012 conference to give high priority to developing a set of activities, specially targeting MA students, during the conference.

#### **3. Increase the benefits to, and number and activity level of NFU members**

NFU will continue to offer Forum for Development studies to its members. The Board will send out regular newsletters to members to keep them up-to-date on the annual conference, NFU-related issues and events. We will also strive to make the website an information point on issues of interest to Norwegian development researchers.

#### **4. Procedures and strategy for strengthening role of NFU in relevant public hearings**

We will continue to provide input to hearing documents when we are asked for input, and will be better at drawing on the broader membership in providing this input. We will also strive to have panels that include policy makers and development practitioners in the annual conference.

#### **6. Strengthen and consolidate the Nordic Networking**

The Board will consult NFU's sister organisations in the Nordic countries and initiate the planning of a new jointly organised Nordic Conference, to be held in 2013 or 2014.

#### **5. Improve communication and the visibility of the NFU and development research**

NFU will increase the number of newsletter to 4 each year, and also plan and promote smaller activities than its 'traditional' events such as the conference and the NFU awards.

The NFU web portal and the NFU page on Facebook will be updated on a monthly basis.

## 6. Consolidate the functioning of the NFU Board

The addition of an assistant function to the Board is intended to make the Board operate more professionally and efficiently. This will help the us keep the website more updated, send out the newsletter more regularly, and enable the Board members to focus more on organizational rather than administrative tasks.

## 7. Budget

The budget for 2011-12 builds on incomes and costs for last year. But we will not have the same expenditure on the website, since the new design of the website has been paid for. And the coordinator function will be a new, relatively large, expenditure (but one we intend will partly pay for itself through increased membership). We have also allocated 16000 for MA student activities support. We calculate a deficit of 51500, which will reduce our bank balance to about 120000.

**The budget for the next year is in yellow, here compared to last year's budget and accounts:**

	11/1/11		
<i>Start of financial year:</i>	11/1/11		
<i>End of financial year:</i>	10/31/12		
	Budget 2010-11	Accounts 2010-11	<b>Budget 2011-12</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	87000	60950.00	80000.00
Interest	100	311.28	300.00
<i>Total income</i>	<i>87100</i>	<i>61261.28</i>	<i>80300.00</i>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Board meetings	25000	5882.00	8000.00
Forum for Development Studies	90000	25245.62	25000.00
NFU Web-site	10000	43932.75	10000.00
EADI	5000	2004.98	5000.00
MA Thesis and Journal Article Awards	20000	20000.00	20000.00
Award event	5000	0.00	0.00
Honorarium auditor	2000	700.00	1000.00
Nordic cooperation	20000	14986.74	20000.00
MA student activities	0	0.00	16000.00
Miscellaneous	2500	1797.80	2500.00
Bank fees	500	171.00	300.00
Assistant			24000.00
<i>Total expenses</i>	<i>180000</i>	<i>114720.89</i>	<i>131800.00</i>
<b>Result</b>	<b>-92900</b>	<b>-53459.61</b>	<b>-51500.00</b>