



# NFU

NORSK FORENING FOR UTVIKLINGSFORSKNING

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## NFU General Assembly 2009

Time: Monday 23.11.2009, 18:30 – 19:30.

Venue: Auditorium, Gimlemoen campus, University of Agder, Kristiansand

### *Agenda*

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

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

#### **2. NFU Annual Report 2009**

#### **3. NFU Audited Accounts 2009**

- Accounts for 2009: period 01.11.2008 - 30.09.2009
- Auditor's report for 2009
- (for information: Auditor's report for 2008)

#### **4. NFU Annual Conference 2010**

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

(none)

#### **6. NFU Membership fees 2010**

#### **7. Annual Plan and Budget for 2010**

#### **8. Elections**

- NFU Board and Auditor, presentation by Nomination Committee
- Nomination Committee, presentation by the NFU Board

## **NFU General Assembly 2009**

### **Item 2. NFU Annual report 2009**

# **NFU Annual Report 2009**

(Covering the period November 2008 – October 2009)

## **1. General**

The current “year” covers the period November 2008 – October 2009. 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 follows the calendar years.

## **2. The NFU Board members 2009**

The NFU General assembly 2008 was held at 27.11.2008 at NTNU, Trondheim. Following this meeting, the composition of the NFU Board has been as follows:

### Board members:

*Anders B. Asp*haug, Department of Geography, NTNU (prev. deputy)  
*Håkon Fottland*, Semut, University of Tromsø (chair) (re-election, one year)  
*Kathleen Jennings*, FaFO, Oslo (new)  
*Hilde Kjøstvedt*, CMI, Bergen (new)  
*Kristen Nordhaug*, Oslo University College (not on election)  
*Knut Nustad*, NUPI, Oslo (new)  
*Vibeke Wang*, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen (not on election)  
*Poul Wisborg*, Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (not on election)  
*Maren Aase*, SUM, University of Oslo (new)

### Deputy board members:

*Camilla Brautaset*, Dept. of History, University of Bergen  
*Marit Haug*, NIBR, Oslo  
*Arne Olav Øyhus*, Agder University

### Election Committee:

*Olav Stokke*, NUPI, Oslo (not on election)  
*Asuncion Lera St. Clair*, University of Bergen (not on election)  
*Morten Bøås*, Fafo, Oslo, (new)

### EADI representative:

*N. Shanmugaratnam*, Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (not on election)

### Auditor:

*Hans Jørgen Oppi Christiansen*, SUM, University of Oslo

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

The NFU Board has in the period met twice: once in Oslo (11.02.2009) and once by video-conference (16.10.2009): Tromsø, Trondheim, Oslo and Cape Town with SUM/UiO as host. In addition the Board will meet in the evening before the conference. All elected members and deputies were invited to the meetings. In addition the Board has consulted issues on email.

### **4. NFU Members**

By 30.09.2009 NFU had a total of 140 members paying membership fees for 2009 (by 31.10.2008 the figure was 174). Out of these, 20 are student members and retired persons.

During October 2009 72 notifications concerning late payments were distributed. Together with new memberships since 30.09.2009, the number of paying members has reached 165 by 22.11.2009.

### **5. Work plan 2009 and progress:**

#### **5.1 Work to arrange the NFU Annual Conference 2009**

We thank the Agder University for taking a firm lead in realising this event.

#### **5.2: Promote the Forum for Development Studies**

NUPI and the editors Nustad and Borchgrevink has during the year negotiated a five year agreement with Routledge Journals, Taylor & Francis Group to publish Forum for Development Studies. The agreement with NUPI and a Memorandum of Understanding with NFU is due to be signed and scheduled to commence at 01.01.2010.

The Norwegian University Press has published Forum in the year 2009. NFU submitted 216 addresses for distribution of issue 2009-1 in October.

#### **5.3: Participate in national initiatives to improve conditions for development research**

A number of important Government whitepapers has been released during the period:

- St.melding 13 (08-09) Klima, konflikt og kapital - Norsk utviklingspolitikk i et endret handlingsrom
- St.meld. nr. 14 (08-09) Internasjonalisering av utdanning
- St.meld. nr. 30 (08-09) Klima for forskning
- St.meld. nr. 40 (08-09) Norsk humanitær politikk
- NOU 2008: 14 Samstemt for utvikling?
- In addition an evaluation is underway of the NUFU and NOMA programmes

Several NFU Board members have provided individual comments on these documents.

#### **5.4: Announce the NFU prize and the NFU Master Thesis Competition 2008-09**

Unfortunate circumstances caused the draft announcement for both these prizes to remain unpublished until October. The prizes will be announced at the General Assembly 2009.

#### **5.5: Work to improve the website and the flow of information on development research**

A new website is under development, but it could unfortunately not be put online during the period. The new website will be launched before the end of 2009.

### **5.6: Work with the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) through the Norwegian Executive Committee member and at Directors meetings**

N. Shanmugaratnam is the representative of NFU and Norway in the EADI Executive Committee. Due to fieldwork he was replaced by Gry Synnevåg at the EADI Directors' Meeting in Copenhagen 29-30.10.09. Fottland could unfortunately not attend this EADI Directors' meeting.

### **5.7: Follow-up on the Nordic co-operation initiative**

The Editors of Forum (Nustad and Borchgrevink) participated in the FAU conference in Copenhagen 12.-13.05.09.

FAU also arranged a meeting to discuss Nordic co-operation in connection with the EADI Directors meeting in Copenhagen 29.10.09. Fottland participated. A number of issues were discussed:

- A Nordic conference. FAU is interested in arranging this in 2011, Sweden will arrange a conference late in 2010 to gather Swedish development researchers
- Ways ahead for Forum for Development Studies at a Nordic level
- Issues on approaching development research broadly, or through more focused themes

## **6. The NFU Annual Conferences**

The NFU Annual Conference 2008 was hosted by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim during the days 27-28 November 2008. The conference theme is: *Globalisation: Nation States, Forced Migration and Human Rights*

The NFU Annual Conference 2009 is hosted by the University of Agder, Kristiansand during the days 23-24 November 2009. The conference theme is: *The New Global Setting: Development Challenges and Alternatives*

The NFU Annual Conference is supported by the Research Council of Norway / the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **7. Critical remarks on the activity level during the past year**

The Board is of the view that the activity level during the past year (and a few years back) has been unsatisfactory. To enable the NFU to fulfill its purpose, the Board believes it is necessary to examine the reasons for the low performance during the past few years – and to propose measures to improve the future work of the NFU, starting in 2010.

### **7.1 The current challenges: Five areas which need improvement**

#### *Role of leader*

The role of Board Chair is demanding and has received little or no administrative support. Moreover, the NFU Election Committee has tended to start the work of identifying leaders quite late and suggest few or no alternative candidates for the role. This affected the election of a Chair who took on the post out of duty rather than motivation for action. The NFU has so far not institutionalized a Vice Chair of the Board to take up the responsibilities when the Chair has other commitments, with the result that work may end up pending.

#### *Role of the Board members*

The Board Members have many conflicting commitments in their positions, and the Board role easily gets squeezed. This is partly because Board work for the NFU is not fully recognized as a job-related assignment by their institutions, but also because the leadership has not been responding to requests for action. Furthermore, the Election Committee seems not to have been using the performance of previous Board members as a point of departure for the next elections.

#### *Board meeting practises*

Holding meetings can be challenging as the various member institutions are geographically scattered, and meeting physically is costly in terms of time and travel. Until October 2009, options for virtual meetings had not been utilized.

#### *Vague annual plans and weak follow-up*

The annual plans discussed at and approved by the Annual Meeting have traditionally been somewhat vague, without identifying concrete steps, deadlines and outputs. The Annual Meeting has not been sufficiently active in formulating goals and demanding action. This means that the Board has entered the vicious cycle of down-scaling their responsibilities and still be able to report to the annual meeting without fear of too much criticism. In short, the loyalty to the annual plan has been weak at all levels.

#### *Lack of member benefits and mobilisation*

The NFU depends on the action of its members but has lacked a (communication) strategy to seek to mobilize members (staff and students) to use the organization actively and thereby to put pressure on the Board to be active and to create benefits for other members. The Annual Meetings have not spent sufficient time in discussing the purpose of the NFU and its (possibly lacking) benefits to members. The recruitment work has suffered from a catch 22 in which a low activity level has been a ‘reason’ for not strengthening the recruitment. In short: If the NFU wants more members, it needs to offer more – to broader groups.

### **7.2 The way ahead: Measures to improve performance**

#### *Role of the Leader*

We propose that the Election Committee starts its work earlier in the period, especially if the organization is in need of a new leader. It should also play a more active role by requesting minutes from the Board meetings and paying attention to performance and goal achievement. The Annual Meeting should consider prioritizing administrative support to Board Chair by

student or part time staff, especially for work on the website. We further propose that the Board, on its first meeting in a year, elects a Vice Chair who will share responsibility for supervising Board activities.

*Role of the Board members*

We propose that our member institutions should be encouraged to secure Board members recognition for time use (3 to 4 weeks per year). During its first meeting in the year, the Board should assign members the responsibility for following up and reporting on strategic goals in the Annual Plan.

*Board meeting practises*

We propose that in the coming year, the Board will plan and commit to a regular program of meetings with at least two physical and two virtual meetings (telephone or video conference) during the year in addition to the end-of-year meeting.

*Annual plan, work plan and follow-up*

We propose that the Annual Plan, which is discussed and approved by the Annual Meeting, should be more specific and strategic than what has previously been the case. This way we hope to return some of the responsibility and power over decisions and the activity level back to the members of the organization. Moreover, we propose that a more specific Work Plan with goals, targets and time frames should be developed by the Board on the basis of the goals and decisions in the Annual Plan approved by the Annual Meeting. The Work Plan for the year will assign a Board member to each strategic goal. This member will follow up and report on progress concerning this goal at Board Meetings. Finally, we propose that the Election Committee should use the Annual Plan and the Work Plan in their considerations of goal achievement before suggesting new members or re-election of members and/or leader.

*Member benefits and mobilisation*

We propose that the Board should increase the activity level and visibility of NFU with the aim of growing and having greater impact – and that this should be done strategically on the instruction by the Annual Meeting. We further propose that MA and PhD students will be a priority target group in the development of new membership activities. NFU should aim to provide more benefits, and NFU members who want a strong organization must be active in using it as a channel for their contributions to promote development research.

**NFU General Assembly 2009**  
**Item 3. NFU Accounts 2009**

*Start of financial year:* 01.11.2008  
*End of financial year:* 30.09.2009

	<b>Budget 2009</b>	<b>Accounts 2009</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	75 000	53 565,00	
Interest	100	222,47	
<i>Total income</i>	<u>75 100</u>	<u>53 787,47</u>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Board meetings	36 000	8 518,70	1
"NFU-news"	-		
Forum for Development Studies	30 000		2
Homepage	10 000	415,00	
EADI	4 000	1 278,26	3
NFU-prizes	15 000		
Honorarium auditor	2 000		
Nordic co-operation	20 000		4
Miscellaneous	2 000	3 371,00	
Bank fees	300	196,00	
<i>Total expenses</i>	<u>119 300</u>	<u>13 778,96</u>	
<b>Result</b>	<u>-44 200</u>	<u>40 008,41</u>	

Balances  
 Incoming balance 01.11.08 174 192,55  
 Outgoing balance 30.09.09 214 201,06

**Notes**

1. We have only held one board meeting this year
2. The bill for Forum has not come yet
3. EADI-bill paid but will be booked coming year
4. Activity took place after closing of accounts



**UNIVERSITETET  
I OSLO**

Norsk forening for utviklingsforskning  
v/ Håkon Fottland  
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## **Revisjonsberetning**

Regnskapet for Norsk forening for utviklingsforskning (NFU) for perioden

1. november 2008 til 30. september 2009

er gjennomgått og funnet i orden.

Samtlige posteringer i regnskapet er kontrollert opp mot bilag.

Kostnadene påløpt i perioden anses å være relevante for driften.

Blindern 19. november 2009.

Hans-Jørgen Oppi Christiansen



**SUM**  
SENTER FOR UTVIKLING  
OG MILJØ





UNIVERSITETET  
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## Revisjonsberetning

Regnskapet for Norsk forening for utviklingsforskning (NFU) for perioden

1. oktober 2007 til 31. oktober 2008

er gjennomgått og funnet i orden.

Samtlige posteringer i regnskapet er kontrollert opp mot bilag.

Kostnadene påløpt i perioden anses å være relevante for driften.

Blindern 16. januar 2009.

Hans-Jørgen Oppi Christiansen



**SUM**  
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**NFU General Assembly 2009**

**Item 4. NFU Annual Conference 2010**

(no input yet)

**NFU General Assembly 2009**

**Item 5. Incoming business**

(none)

**NFU General Assembly 2009**

**Item 6. NFU Membership fees 2010**

The following membership fees are suggested, being same as for 2009:

- |                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| • Full membership                  | NOK 400 |
| • Student members, retired persons | NOK 200 |

**NFU General Assembly 2009**

**Item 8. Annual plan and Budget for 2010**

**Strategic goals**

The NFU will continue to be a dynamic professional association of development researchers in Norway and a meeting place for others with an interest in development. The work in 2010 will pursue the following strategic goals:

1. Increasing the benefits to, and number and activity level of NFU members.
2. Improving communication and the visibility of the NFU and development research.
3. Promoting Nordic networking in development research.
4. Improving the functioning of the NFU Board.

**Annual Plan 2010**

***Increasing the benefits to, and number and activity level of NFU members*** (target: Increase the number of members by 10% during 2010, 35% by end 2012.

1. Continue to offer Forum for Development Studies as a member benefit.
2. Promote and strengthen the NFU Conference 2010 through increased Board support and follow-up of the organisers.
3. Give an award for the best journal article by a young development researcher.
4. Increase the information and support to students in development studies, including:
  - 4.1. Present the award for the best MA thesis submitted in 2009 before summer 2010.
  - 4.2. Explore options for supporting field research and other student activities from 2011.
5. Explore possibilities for improving the funding situation of the NFU.

### **Improving communication and the visibility of the NFU and development research**

6. Improve the NFU portal by:
  - 6.1. Assigning student support to the Board Chair in publishing on the portal.
  - 6.2. Identifying web-editors and dissemination officers at key institutions to provide material for the portal.
  - 6.3. Use member email-list to provide alerts on events, portal information etc.
  - 6.4. Make a facility for policy news and member viewpoints.
7. Explore possibilities of creating a list/database of Norwegian development researchers with contact details, thematic and geographical keywords and links to CVs at institutions.
8. Arrange a NFU logo competition and present one or more new logos for the adoption by the Annual Meeting 2010.
9. Profile the NFU through inputs to national media (*target*: at least 2 during 2010).

### **Promoting Nordic networking**

10. Promote *Forum for Development Studies* to Nordic institutions; subscriptions/contributions
11. Create a list of Nordic development research institutions and contact persons to share on the portal and invite Nordic partners to the NFU conference 2010.
12. Make a funding proposal for a Nordic Network for Development Research.

### **Improving the functioning of the NFU Board**

13. Hold at least 5 meetings, physical or virtual, during the year.
14. Provide part-time administrative support to the Board Chair through an agreement with home institution.
15. Secure Board members recognition for time use (3 to 4 weeks per year) through informal agreement with home institution.
16. The Board will prepare a detailed Work Plan for the year and assign a Board member to each strategic goal. The member will follow up and report on progress concerning this goal at Board Meetings.
17. Use task groups from time to time.

**Proposed Budget 2010:**

	Accounts 2009	Budget 2010	Notes.
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	53 565,00	87 000	1
Interest	222,47	100	
<i>Total income</i>	<u>53 787,47</u>	<u>87 100</u>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Board meetings	8 518,70	25 000	
"NFU-news"		-	
Forum for Development Studies	-	90 000	2
NFU Web-site	415,00	10 000	
EADI	1 278,26	5 000	
MA Thesis and Journal Article Awards	-	20 000	
Award event	-	5 000	
Honorarium auditor	-	2 000	
Nordic co-operation	-	20 000	
MA student field research	-	-	
Miscellaneous	3 371,00	2 500	
Bank fees	196,00	500	
<i>Total expenses</i>	<u>13 778,96</u>	<u>180 000</u>	
<b>Result</b>	<u>57 469,03</u>	<u>(92 900)</u>	

Incoming balance 01.10.2009

214 201,06

**Notes**

1. Target 2010: 210 members (35 students); 2008: 176 members (26 students). Budget is adjusted for NOK 10.000 membership fees for 2009 after closing of accounts 2009.
2. According to agreement with Taylor and Francis, Forum will cost Euro9 per issue for 3 issues per year. Exchange rate 25 October 2009: 1 Euro = NOK 8.34. Euro27 = NOK225. 210 members = NOK47.288. Included in budget is NOK 40.000 payment for Forum 2009, equal to positive result 2009

**NFU General Assembly 2009**

**Item 9. Elections- proposal 2010**

(presented at the meeting)