Child Rights, Classroom and School Management

PHASE I IN LUND, SWEDEN, SEPTEMBER 18 – OCTOBER 6, 2006.
PHASE II IN VIETNAM IN MARCH 2007.
Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency responsible for the major part of Sweden’s development cooperation. Focus on long-term knowledge and competence development constitutes a major feature in all development cooperations.

Sida offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development of cooperating countries based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the cooperating countries.

These programmes aim at enhancing managerial and technical skills and cover subjects of strategic importance to economic and social development. The Training Programmes are designed for experienced executives in middle and top management positions in their respective organisations.

With the Training Programmes, Sida aim to contribute to processes of change and development in the participants’ organisations and lines of businesses. The foundation of the entire programme is a project assignment. The assignment shall be well established in the participant’s organisation and is a basic part of the programme concept.

In co-operation with Lund University a programme covering Child Rights, Classroom and School Management has been developed. The right to, in and through education will be the guiding principle in the course and the whole training programme has a child rights based approach. This programme is also designed to give opportunities to compare and share experience with participants from other countries while taking into consideration the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Education for All and other internationally agreed declarations. A child rights based approach has the potential of contributing to the broader efforts of improving educational quality and efficiency. Schools and classrooms that are protective, inclusive, child-centred, and democratic and encourage active participation, have the potential to solve problems such as non-attendance, dropout and low completion rates, which are common in developing countries. Child-centred content and teaching learning processes appropriate to the child’s developmental level, abilities, and learning style promote effective learning. A child rights based approach may also enhance teacher capacity, morale, commitment, status and income. Negative attitudes may be altered through the practice of conflict resolution, democracy, tolerance and respect in the classroom. Lund University will carry out the programme under the auspices of Sida. The training programme, which is to be conducted in English, is designed for those holding positions at School, Intermediate and Central level.

Preferably a team representing the levels mentioned consisting of 3 people from each country should apply. The team is expected to work together throughout the training programme. The number of participants is limited to 30 (from 10 countries) in order to ensure a close working relationship between participants and lecturers. We hereby invite you to nominate candidates.

Maria Norrfalk
Director General
Sida

Invitation

The overall objective of the programme, from a development perspective is: “to enhance the right to relevant education to all – an education that empowers the poor and excluded parts of the population to participate as active and informed citizens in all aspects of development.” The objective is to stimulate the transformation of conventional top-down approaches into participatory rights based, learner-friendly and gender sensitive approaches to teaching and learning.

The goals of the training programme are:

- To develop skills, understanding and attitudes in favour of rights-based educational work at classroom and school level, taking into consideration the experience of the participants, a comparative perspective and the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Education for All (EFA) and other internationally agreed declarations.
- To stimulate and contribute to the development of methodologies in the area of child rights in classroom and school management at country level
- To familiarise participants with Swedish and other international practices at school and classroom levels in relation to democratic principles and human rights.

Policy documents and laws in subject area relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, EFA and other internationally agreed declarations.

Child rights in the classroom context – The training programme will amplify the practical implications at classroom level of introducing protective, inclusive child centred, democratic and participatory education for all.

Child rights in the school management context – this part of the programme will be focused on the concepts of management and leadership and the understanding of the difference between the two concepts.

Study visits – both during the first and second phase of the training programme the participants will

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Study visits – both during the first and second phase of the training programme the participants will
undertake various study visits.

- Project work – during the training programme the participants will work with a project on a relevant task in the home country.

Programme Structure
The training programme consists of two phases. The first phase will take place during 3 weeks in Sweden. The main content of the first phase will consist of studies in the subject area, combined with visits to relevant Swedish institutions, including different schools. During the first phase all participants will be assigned a mentor. Moreover, the participants will be conducting a project work on a part time basis during 5 months within the CRC area in their home country. The project work will be decided upon their stay in Sweden and should have a high degree of practical relevance for the participants and their home organisation. The second phase consists of a follow-up seminar of the project work during 2 weeks in Vietnam. The participants will be asked to develop, discuss and present plans for applying the programme content in their work. Finally, a couple of months after phase two in Vietnam, a follow-up visit will be conducted by the mentor in the participants’ home country.

Date and place
The programme will take place during the period September 18th – October 6th, 2006 in Lund, Sweden, including a field trip to Stockholm. The second phase of the programme will take place during March, 2007 in Vietnam.

Teaching
The programme comprises lectures, workshops, study visits and a project work. Lectures by invited experts on the key areas will be held. The project work will go on during the whole period of the training programme and will be carried out in groups of 2-3 participants.

Management and staff
The training programme will be given by the Department of Education and the Department of Sociology of Law at Lund University in cooperation with the School of Teacher Education at Malmö University.

Participation
Target region:
- Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Target Group:
Preferably a team consisting of 3 people from each country representing the levels mentioned in the following should apply. The team is expected to work together in the project work. The target group for the training programme are persons working with pedagogical support and pedagogical development at three levels:
- At school level: headmasters, inspectors and educational advisers who are working with the development of methodology and management at school and classroom level in a number of schools (clusters);
- At intermediate level: officers and trainers responsible for educational activities at district or province level;
- At central level: teacher trainers, headmaster trainers, staff at institutes working with educational development and at Ministries of Education. In addition to the above the programme will be open to professional NGO staff, working in the field of Education and Human Rights based in developing countries, as one member of the team. Necessary prequalification is B.A, B.Sc. or equivalent degree. Work experience of at least 2-5 years is also required. Women are encouraged to participate in the programme.

Due to the character of the programme family members are not allowed to accompany participants to the programme.

Application process
Closing date for application is May 16th, 2006

Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered. Application should be written on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and required information and documents. Application should preferably be filled out in the application form on our website http://www.education.lu.se/sida/child. It can also be obtained from the nearest Swedish Embassy. An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her/his ability. The Swedish Embassy/Consulate does not carry out language tests but may be able to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests. When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country. The application should be submitted to the nearest Swedish Embassy/Consulate. If there is no Swedish Embassy/Consulate in the applicant’s country, the application should be submitted directly to the Program Secretariat at Lund University Education. Selected applicants will be notified by email or telefax. Once accepted, you must confirm your participation. An invitation letter containing additional information on the programme and the practical arrangements will then follow.

Cost of Participation
The cost of the programme is divided between a participation fee and accommodation cost. The participation fee covers all training costs such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities as well as accommodation costs include board and lodging. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover these costs. International travel cost to and from Sweden will also be covered by Sida. The participant carries costs incurred in travelling to the nearest international airport. Sida always pays international travel cost in connection to the second phase of the training programme. Personal expenses are not included.

Accommodation
All participants will be accommodated at the Hotel Sparta. All participants will have a single room with shower and toilet. At Hotel Sparta
participates have access to a kitchen with a fridge, storage space and cooking facilities.

Visa
Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary for their journey and stay during the training programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period of the programme and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. Inquires should be directed to respective Swedish Embassy / Consulate alternatively other Schengen representation as soon as possible after acceptance into the programme. Participants visiting other countries on their way to or from Sweden must ensure that correct visas are obtained before leaving home country, especially for countries not included in the Schengen agreement. The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the participant. For more information, these website offers Swedish visa information: http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.htm

Insurance
All participants are covered by a group insurance while in Sweden and on organised tours during the programme. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident. Medical and dental checkups are not included.

Presentation of Programme Secretariat
Lund is situated in south-western Sweden, in the province of Scania (Skåne). The city was founded in the tenth century and still possesses a quaint, old-town atmosphere with winding streets and picturesque houses. Today, the city of Lund has approximately 100,000 inhabitants. Lund University was inaugurated in 1668. Located at the threshold of continental Europe, Lund University is now a major international institution. It is the largest single establishment for research and higher education in Scandinavia, comprising seven faculties (theology, law, medicine, humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and technology) as well as schools for social work, physical therapy, education, music and drama. Approximately 35,000 students, including 3000 post-graduates, are enrolled at the University. A number of research institutions, hospitals, research based industries, libraries and museums are also located on and around the university grounds.

Lund University Education
Lund University Education is a wholly owned university company specializing in the marketing, sale and quality assurance of commissioned education from Lund University. The university departments are responsible for the content of the training programmes, while the Lund University Education functions as a distinct portal towards the outside world, taking care of the administration of the training programmes.