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Danish-Indian Collaboration Program – First call

Dear center leader

Date August 14, 2012
Ref. 26-31

We are pleased to present the first call for our new Danish-Indian Collaboration Program. Centers of Excellence can apply for a grant of 2-4 M DKK, including overhead, for support in 2-3 years. Thus, the Danish-Indian Collaboration Program grants can possibly be a supplementary grant to your DNRF Center of Excellence grant.

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The program will make it possible for Centers of Excellence across all disciplines and with different connections with researchers in India to take advantage of the initiative and enforce a bottom-up approach in defining the collaboration activities.

The program should be seen as part of the DNRF strategy focusing on few funding mechanisms and strengthening the internationalization of Danish research. During 2011, the DNRF investigated the possibilities for a program supporting collaboration between researchers in India and Denmark. We have asked our Centers of Excellence about their experiences in collaborating with Indian researchers and institutions. Many centers have expressed interest in collaborating with India and displayed examples of existing and future projects.

Why India?

India represents strong ties to European research traditions and being part of the BRICS countries, India is a strong and fruitful market with both potential and success. With 162 universities, 32 research institutions and 200,000 diploma, master, and Ph.D. graduates each year, India represents a large and emerging market for international research cooperation.

The Danish-Indian Collaboration Program

The program will support Danish-Indian collaborations, which should generate added value for the partners and frontier research of high international standing in Denmark and India.

As a center leader of a DNRF Center of Excellence, you can apply for a grant on the order of 2-4 M DKK, including overhead, for support in 2-3 years. To apply, seek out one or more internationally high-standing researchers as partners from Indian research institutions. You and the Indian partner(s) should then outline the collaboration, in which mobility and knowledge circulation must be a priority.

In total, up to 50 M DKK are reserved for this initiative, and as of now, annual calls during 2012-2017 are planned. Based on the experiences from this first call, the program may be revised.

Assessment criteria and application process

This letter announces the first call, and all DNRF Centers of Excellence center leaders are invited to apply. Only one proposal per center per call is allowed. To apply, use the attached template with more guidelines and an application form. The deadline is **Friday, November 23, 2012**.

The collaboration between the center and the partner at an Indian research institution must adapt to the existing research plan and organization of the center as agreed upon in the contract between the center leader, the host institution, and the DNRF. Furthermore the quality of the proposed collaboration must meet the standards of the center and the Center of Excellence program, focusing on excellence, research quality, and internationalization.

In addition the Danish-Indian Collaboration Program will particularly focus on collaboration, mobility, and knowledge circulation between the center and the partner in India. Regarding the activities included in the proposal, the Indian and Danish sides are seen as two equal partners with a similar project volume on both sides.

The DNRF board makes its decision on the basis of the proposal. The proposal will not be subject to peer review. When selecting which proposals to support, the board will emphasize the following assessment criteria (not in any order of importance):

- The research quality according to the objective/philosophy of the DNRF Center of Excellence Program.
- The added value of performing joint collaborative research between the center and the Indian partner(s).
- The degree of complementary interactions between the center and the Indian partner(s) in answering research questions.
- A clear strategy for mobility and knowledge circulation from the center to the Indian partner(s) and vice versa.

The board expects to assess the proposals and make its final decision by December 14, 2012. The DNRF may enter into contract negotiations during the beginning of 2013, and new projects may be operating as of early spring 2013.

Eligible costs

A Danish-Indian Collaboration Program grant will, as mentioned above, be of 2-4 M DKK, including overhead, for support in 2-3 years. If you wish to apply, the grant period should, at least for the major part, overlap with your Center of Excellence grant period. Eligible costs follow the same guidelines as the DNRF budget for your center, but since the program makes mobility and knowledge circulation a priority, approximately 50% of the supplementary DNRF

grant should cover salaries and travel expenses related to mobility and research visits at all levels (Ph.D. students, post-docs, and senior researchers). It should also be possible for Indian researchers to carry out sabbaticals as visiting researchers at your center or spend DNRF support on recruiting Indian Ph.D. students (possibly dual degrees) and post-docs as part of the collaboration. Accordingly, your host institution is required to provide the necessary resources, including offices, laboratories, equipment, etc.

Please note that the support is for the Danish-side activities only. All costs will be handled by your host institution. The Indian partner(s) must fund the Indian-side activities, which should be of a magnitude comparable to the Danish-side activities.

Follow-up and reporting

As a Danish-Indian Collaboration Program grant is a supplementary grant to the DNRF Center of Excellence grant, follow-up and reporting will be integrated into the annual reports and the annual follow-up meetings of the centers. In the annual report, an extra page will be reserved for reporting the activities and results of the Danish-Indian Collaboration Program, bearing in mind the proposal and linking to the annual report appendices. Budget and accounts are integrated into the budget and accounts for the DNRF and additionally reported in a similar but separate plan.

Questions may be directed to: Director Thomas Sinkjær, e-mail: ts@dg.dk, Tel.: +45 3318 1950, or Research Adviser Marianne Gauffriau, e-mail: mg@dg.dk, Tel.: +45 3318 1951.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Sinkjær', is written over a light gray grid background.

Thomas Sinkjær
Director, professor