Activities and achievements in 2015

The International Science Programme (ISP), at Uppsala University, Sweden, aims to contribute to the growth of scientific knowledge in low-income countries, by engaging in long term collaboration with institutionally based research groups and regional scientific networks in chemistry, mathematics and physics. ISP’s activities are mainly funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Uppsala University and Stockholm University provide additional support. This is a summary of the achievements of ISP and supported activities in 2015.

**SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES**

In 2015, ISP provided support to 39 research groups and 20 regional networks. One group and network received first time support, whilst support to two research groups and one network were concluded. Supported groups are located in eleven countries in Asia and Africa; Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Laos, Mali, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The regional networks are coordinated from countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Groups and networks together utilized close to 27 million SEK.

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS**

**Registered.** In 2015, 983 postgraduate students were reported as active in ISP supported groups and networks, 347 students on the PhD level (20% female) and 636 students on the MSc, MPhil or Licentiate level (29% female). About 33% of the PhD students and 4% of the other postgraduate degree students were trained on a sandwich basis, spending part of their research training at home and part at a host university abroad. The remaining students pursued their postgraduate studies locally. A majority (86%) of the PhD students from previous year has either continued their studies or graduated.

**Graduated.** Supported groups and networks graduated 196 students during the year, 53 PhD students (15% female), and 143 MSc, MPhil and Licentiate students (25% female). The PhD students took, on average, 5.5 years to complete.
DISSEMINATION

In 2015, the supported groups and networks published 257 papers in international journals out of which 43% were in high impact journals, listed with Thomson Reuter (TR) impact factors. Group and network members gave 349 conference contributions out of which 215 were in Africa, 121 in Asia, and 13 in the Americas; 36% were at international conferences. They arranged 95 scientific meetings, attracting more than 8,500 participants.

EXAMPLES OF USE OF RESEARCH FINDINGS AND SKILLS IN POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Bangladesh. A member of a supported group at Department of Chemistry, Dhaka University, was assigned for four years to the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), and another member is part of a BFSA committee. They contribute to the government’s efforts to establish a modern food safety system in Bangladesh.

Kenya. Meetings between the Energy Regulatory Commission and a supported group at Department of Physics, University of Nairobi, has influenced on the legislation in the PV and solar thermal subsector. Home owners are now encouraged to feed into the national electricity grid from solar home systems and to install solar water heaters to reduce dependence of heating on the national grid.

Uganda. The results of infectious disease modeling of malaria, HIV, hepatitis E, and sleeping sickness carried out by the supported Department of Mathematics at Makerere University, have been utilized by the Ugandan Medical Research Council to advice on the best investment strategy to fight infectious diseases.

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2015

On assignment by Sida, ISP is managing a number of activities related to the Sida Bilateral programs. In 2015 these assignments comprised coordination of the programs with Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda and the administration of subsistence allowances to students from Bolivia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, while in Sweden. In addition, ISP is engaged in the subprogram on Research Management with Linköping University and the Directorate for Planning and Development at University of Rwanda.

ISP’s coordination of Uppsala University’s cooperation with Al Baha University (ABU), Saudi Arabia, aiming to strengthen the academic staff and the higher education programs in sciences and related fields, continued in 2015. Also the collaboration with the National Mathematics Center in Abuja, Nigeria, aiming to train NMC staff at Swedish universities, continued.