

Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU)

Annual Report

October 2000 – November 2001

The NFU Board has, during the period under review, focused on maintaining the principal activities of the association: consultations with the organisers of the Annual Conference in Tromsø; publication of the association's newsletter (NFU-nytt); involvement in the publication of the Forum for Development Studies; representation within the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and the NUFU Programme Board.

The composition of the NFU board

NFU's annual meeting 2000 was held at the Christian Michelsen Institute, Bergen on October 5. Minutes from the meeting were distributed in NFU-nytt no. 1, 2001. The annual meeting elected the following representatives:

NFU Board

Kristian Stokke, University of Oslo (chair)
Anne Margrethe Brigham, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Benedikte Bull, University of Oslo
Cathrine Brun, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Håkon Fottland, University of Tromsø
Hege Gulli, Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration
Tor Arve Benjaminsen, Agricultural University of Norway
Stein Sundstøl Eriksen, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
Lise Rakner, Christian Michelsen Institute

Alternate members:

Rune Skarstein, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Ingrid Nyborg, Agricultural University of Norway
Bertil Tungodden, Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration /Christian Michelsen Institute
Frank Olsen, University of Tromsø

Auditor:

Guri Stegali, Christian Michelsen Institute

Election committee:

Axel Borchrevink, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
Are Knutsen, Christian Michelsen Institute

Kjersti Larsen, Agricultural University of Norway

The Board elected Stein Sundstøl Eriksen as treasurer, Anne Margrethe Brigham as editor of NFU-nytt and Lise Rakner as editor of the NFU's WWW-homepage. The Board has had two meetings during the period, one in Bergen in conjunction with the Annual Conference 2000 and one in Oslo.

Membership

NFU presently has 260 registered members. The electronic membership database, which has been maintained by the Norwegian Postal Service, is now transferred to an independent internet-based membership service. This has caused delays in the distribution of membership cards for 2001 with subsequent consequences for the associations economic situation.

NFU-nytt

2 issues of NFU-nytt have been distributed to all registered members. The first issue was edited by Cathrine Brun and produced at NTNU. The second issue was edited by Kristian Stokke and produced at the University of Oslo.

EADI

Desmond McNeill, SUM, University of Oslo has served as Norway's representative on the Executive Committee of EADI. The Norwegian representative's expenses are covered by the Norwegian Research Council. McNeill will report on the work within EADI in a forthcoming issue of NFU-nytt.

Economic situation

A separate report on NFU's economic situation will be presented to the annual meeting by the treasurer.

Forum for Development Studies

NUPI in co-operation with NFU, and with financial support from the Norwegian Research Council, publishes Forum for Development Studies. FDS is distributed to all NFU-members and other subscribers. The FDS editor Olav Stokke has participated in one NFU Board meeting.

The NFU Board and the FDS editor have agreed to maintain the practice where papers presented at the annual conference are considered for publication in FDS. The organisers of the annual conference may also choose to publish a separate conference report with reprints of the presented papers.

Annual Conference 2000 and 2001

The NFU Annual Conference 2000 was organised by the Christian Michelsen Institute under the title: "*The State under Pressure*". The conference at CMI on October 5-6, 2000 gathered some 135 participants.

The NFU Annual Conference 2001 is organised by the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (SEMUT), University of Tromsø. The title for the 2001 conference in Tromsø on November 13-14 is: "*Diversity in Development - Universal and Local Discourses*". SEMUT has full economic and administrative responsibility for the conference, but there have been consultations between the NFU board and the organisers in the preparation of the conference.

A proposal for a topic and organiser for the NFU Annual Conference 2002 will be presented at the annual meeting.

The NFU annual conferences are financially supported by the Norwegian Research Council. Consultative meetings have been held with representatives from the Research Council.

NFU Award 2001

As part of the effort to increase the quality of Norwegian development research, the Norwegian Association of Development Research has created a prize for the best scientific article within the area of development research. The prize is handed out biannually. The NFU Award 2001 was announced in NFU-nytt no. 2, 2001. No articles were submitted. The NFU Board will more actively encourage young development researchers to submit articles for the next NFU award.

Research policy

The NFU Board has not had the capacity to play an active role in current debates on Norwegian development research. Håkon Fottland has served as an observer in NUFU and has participated in the meetings of the "NUFU Programme Board".