

LUMID Newsletter

Lund University Master of Science in International Development and Management

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Spring semester 2015

Welcome to this edition of the LUMID newsletter!

To kick things off, Director of Studies Johan Sandberg surmises his reflections from his first semester at the helm of the programme. The articles that follow will keep you informed and up to date with recent developments at the LUMID programme.



Editorial

Dear LUMID students, alumni and friends,

My first semester as Director of Studies is nearly complete and I can only emphasize my gratitude for having the privilege to undertake such interesting and challenging work in this inspirational environment. Arvin Khoshnood and Jenny Iao-Jørgensen have performed their managerial tasks in a formidable way and I am pleased to inform you that LUMID is in good shape.

On June 8 LUMID will reach yet another milestone when the Batch 8 students graduate. In the following semester Batch 9 students will pursue their internships in various locations around the world. Once again the list of host organizations for internships is impressive, ranging from multilateral organizations to local NGOs. Furthermore, we will be welcoming LUMID Batch 10 to Lund University. Programme admission was as strong as ever, and we were fortunate to receive in excess of 840 applications from highly qualified and diversified students. In addition, changes are underway in the global Master in Development Programmes (MDP) network in an effort to further enhance collaboration among member programmes, and most importantly to elevate services and support to our students.

However, great challenges lie ahead in order to continuously align LUMID with ongoing and rapid transformations in the field of development and ever-changing requirements in the labor market. This year is particularly

significant for our field, with the closing of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals and the embarkation of a Post-2015 agenda. As we all are aware, the global community is facing a plethora of development problems and challenges that cut across numerous sectors and regions. The global interconnectedness and vast complexity of development issues put great demands on teaching and learning in a development programme. No doubt, anyone involved in the field of international development must take a holistic approach that requires a multitude of methods and perspectives. Our duty is to adequately equip students with the necessary toolbox in order to successfully contribute to development research and management in their postgraduate careers. This has been, and continues to be my number one aim and objective when shaping and driving change in the LUMID programme.

Finally, on behalf of the management team I would like to thank you for your continued support and interest in our programme.

Sincerely,
Johan Sandberg
Director of Studies



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DPS Series Roundup

As development practitioners prepare to pass on the torch, LUMID is preparing the next generation to receive it.

This year LUMID's annual Development Practitioner Seminar (DPS) series featured a wide variety of speakers with expertise ranging from open data projects to climate risk and disaster management and even a half-day UN workshop tailored specifically for LUMID students. Jenny Jörgensen, LUMID's Programme Manager, sees that speakers are carefully chosen to coincide with the thematic material taught in the classroom, whenever possible. In addition, students are invited to recommend speakers with knowledge in specific areas of interest.

The seminar series boasted high attendance rates, especially when hosted in conjunction with the Graduate School. Across the six DPS sessions, LUMID students had a clear favourite, lauding Kim Sundström's candid presentation of field reality versus policy as the most useful and relevant for their upcoming semester in the field. Sundström works for Sida and the Swedish Embassy in Zambia as the Regional HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser and Programme Manager for Africa, respectively.

LUMID student Betsy Ainsworth had this to say about the popular seminar;

"It was really informal and she talked through all her career and why she made her career decisions [...] she was very open and talked honestly about the predicaments she faced, like ethical issues and criticisms against the organizations she worked for, and also how she managed them."

Ainsworth's classmate, Åsa Ljusenius, also commented that she enjoyed Sundström's presentation;



"She was so down to earth and at the same time had many interesting stories to tell from her career [...] I got a lot of inspiration from her about working life as a development practitioner."

Other presentations were also well received, with Cordaid Netherlands' Roderick Besselings' presentation on how development practitioners might incorporate open data sparking a lively debate. Central to the discussion was the role of technology integration within the future of the discipline, and how practitioners might have to adapt in order to use and benefit from such developments. In another inspiring talk, Director of Abila Consultants in Kenya, Joshua Nyamori, shared his commitment to citizen participation in governance, drawing from personal experience to warn students about the repercussions of their actions – Nyamori was arrested at a rally where he was protesting for more accountability and transparency in Kenya!

Other key speakers were challenged by LUMID students to defend their perspectives and found their presentations raised more questions than they answered. Malin Oud, the Managing Director of Tracttwo in Sweden presented her col-



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laborations with Chinese businessmen to integrate human rights into their corporate model. Oud was faced with critical questions concerning whether endorsing philanthropy really addresses the root cause of some of the multi-national corporations' often severe human rights abuses. Similarly, Abdihakim Ainte, Policy Advisor on Diaspora Affairs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Somalia, shared challenges he faces within the dynamic migration landscape of his country. The presentation stoked a heated discussion on integration and raised difficult questions that Ainte was largely unable to answer, concerning the appropriate way to deal with a society that has vast socioeconomic fault lines.

Other presenters took a more hands on approach. LUMID alumni Engel Tally, Researcher at FLAC-SO Guatemala, complemented his presentation on qualitative research methods with a workshop to teach students how to use NVivo – a qualitative data analysis program that proved useful during his field experience. Likewise, Kathleen Cravero-Kristoffersson and Ulf Kristoffersson, who together have over four decades of experience working in UN agencies, pushed students to think of innovative changes that the UN could make to its structure and mandate to adapt to the changing global landscape.

Reflecting on the positive experiences of the seminar series, and looking forward to the future, Jörgensen intends to invite more LUMID alumni as guest speakers. The use of internet technology and video conferencing will also be explored as a way of saving costs and the environment whilst enabling increased attendance from remote geographical locations.

Monica Ayala-Talavera
(Batch 9)



Letter from the field

Life After LUMID - Six Years on.

It's amazing how seemingly small decisions such as what to study and where to go for an internship can change the course of the rest of one's life. I had worked for eight years as a smallholder agribusiness specialist in Malawi before getting restless; I wanted to do something different. At the urging of a Swedish friend I was hosting at the time, that restlessness led me to enrol into the LUMID Programme, which she assured me, was a great new Masters programme. She was right.

Looking back, this was a pivotal moment in my life. Fast forward to 2015; I am writing this article by a large window overlooking the vast Pacific Ocean. I am on Fiji Islands serving as a Regional Advisor on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Gender for Asia-Pacific, as a representative of UN Women. The title is a mouthful but the job is certainly rewarding. My role supports governments in ensuring that women, who are often more negatively affected by disasters due to systemic inequalities, participate, lead, and benefit from climate change and disaster risk reduction interventions. I have just returned from Vanuatu, a Pacific Island country which was ravaged by the recent super-cyclone Pam. I was part of post-disaster needs assessment team, which supported the government in quantifying the economic impact of the cyclone. Considering that macroeconomic analyses often assume the affected individual to be genderless, my role was to bring to the fore the impact from a gender perspective, ensuring that post-disaster recovery and reconstruction meet the needs of different social groups.

But how did an agribusiness specialist with expertise in rural development morph into a climate change specialist? The LUMID field work cascaded the whole process. I agonised for a long time over what I wanted to research and where.



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While rural development held its lure, I had become increasingly drawn to environmental management, purely because I didn't know much about the topic. To test the waters, I had sent an application to UNDP Cambodia to intern for a conservation project. You know the drill, you send a gazillion internship application letters and you are lucky to get a response. My fortune turned when Kathleen Cravero, the then Director for UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention, had come to give us a UN week talk. With her support, I finally elicited a response from UNDP Cambodia. As it turned out, UNDP was actually desperate for additional staff to support its growing climate change portfolio. I was at the right place, at the right time, with eight years of development experience, which certainly helped. Above all, I was surrounded by a very supportive UNDP team and country director. I led the drafting of the agency's first climate change adaptation project and was invited to come back and manage the project once it got approved. I never looked back.

Since then, I have expanded my scope to include disaster risk reduction and gender equality. The past six years have seen me work for UNDP Cambodia, UNDP HQ in New York and currently for UN Women here in Fiji. I had joined the LUMID programme thinking the course will catapult me into a long-life career in rural development; instead LUMID empowered and offered me the privilege to expand my horizons and branch out into entirely new exciting disciplines and territories.

Cecilia Aipira (Batch 2)

New LUMID website

The LUMID website takes on a new look.

The new homepage is packed with up-to-date information about the programme. It is now hosted by Human Geography. The old address remains accessible and will soon take you directly to the new website. You can follow this link to access the new programme page: www.keg.lu.se/lumid.

Career development

The career development day, 29th May.

The day offers graduating LUMID students strategic and tactical support in the search for meaningful employment within international development. Today's work environment in international development is becoming more challenging and requires more than a simple resume and a handshake. There will be a panel of representatives from UNDP, SIDA and the International Water Management Institute who will share their perspectives of current trends, skills in demand, and practical tips in the job application process.

Graduation

The graduation ceremony, 8th June.

The graduation ceremony of the LUMID Batch 8, class of 2013-2015 will take place on Monday the 8th of June. The event will take place at the main university building assembly hall Aula, between 10.00 -11.00. The event will be followed by a mingle in Pelarsalen in the same building. Due to limited space, the event is by invitation only.