



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES



CORPORATE PLAN 2008-11

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CORPORATE PLAN 2008–11¹

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¹ Note: This Corporate Plan is mounted on <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/index.html> and contains hyper-links to forms and related documents that are integral to the Association's plans.



PREAMBLE

In 2006 the Society for South Asian Studies (SSAS) and the British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) applied for funds under the British Academy scheme for Learned Societies. The British Academy indicated it would welcome a joint application from both societies in the wake of which the memberships of both organisations voted in favour of a merger with effect from October 2007. The members approved the British Association for South Asian Studies as the name of the new body.

The two previous organisations were approximately equal in size with only a small overlap in members. The new organisation combines and extends the grant-giving and overseas research project roles of SSAS with the representative and advocacy roles of BASAS. In order for the merger to be conducted in an orderly fashion and in compliance with Charity Commission rules, the executive of both bodies met repeatedly in 2007 and sought the advice of the Charity Commission. The executive also consulted the British Academy, its project directors and membership. There have been no significant costs or legal impediments to the creation of the new body.

This Corporate Plan is the first official planning document of the new British Association for South Asian Studies. It has emerged from detailed consultations with the Association's stakeholders and constituencies.

1. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association are:

1. to provide a framework for the development of programmes of original research and fieldwork of the highest international calibre for UK scholars who work in South Asia in the humanities and social sciences;
2. to encourage and facilitate programmes of research with other UK institutions and with scholars and institutions overseas, including those funded by BASIS;
3. to support specific programmes in partnership with appropriate funding bodies, and to assist in publication and dissemination;
4. to represent, in concert with the Academy's Area Panel for South Asia, British scholarship in the UK and in the countries of South Asia through its programmes of sponsored research and fieldwork, thereby deepening institutional and personal collaboration between academics in the UK and South Asia.

2. ENABLING ACTIVITIES

In the period covered by this Corporate Plan, the Association will seek to achieve these objectives through a strategic research plan which:

1. acknowledges and responds to the need to provide broad coverage of humanities and social science disciplines, time periods and regions;
2. features specific research themes that will provide a clear strategic focus for the Association's research activity;
3. provides for flagship projects that will underpin the theme, enabling the Association to maximise its impact in the research arena and demonstrate its role as a centre of research excellence;



4. incorporates staff projects that enable directors and other key officers to sustain their academic careers;
5. develops and/or facilitates collaborative projects with other partners on topics of wider relevance and interest;
6. enables the Association to attract other sources of funding and broadens the Association's funding base, particularly recognising the challenges faced by members who are unable to apply directly for AHRC and ESRC grants;
7. as appropriate, funds research appointments to develop and maintain the Association's status as an acknowledged centre of regional expertise;
8. includes other activities designed to support the health of South Asian studies and develops the next generation of scholars, by facilitation, pump-priming and other UK and local capability-building activities.

During the period covered by this Corporate Plan (2008-11) these features of our strategic research plan will be facilitated and realised in the following ways.

- 2.1 **Research Groups.** The Association will acknowledge and respond to the need to provide broad coverage of humanities and social science disciplines, time periods and regions by sponsoring a series of Research Groups designed to reflect the range of research interests of UK scholars actively working in South Asia.

The Association's Research Groups, inherited from the Society for South Asian Studies, are integral to the new organisation's identity as a broad-based umbrella-organisation. These Research Groups contribute significantly to the Association's role as a node of research excellence. The Association recognises, based on past experience in the Society for South Asian Studies, that the funding of specific themes and flagship projects (sections 2.2 and 2.3. below) must take into consideration the range of interests and historical expertise within the membership of the organisation. The Research Groups will also serve a strategic purpose in that they will provide a base for emerging researchers and function as 'think-tanks' for new ideas which can be used by the Association to develop themes and flagship projects in the future. This is especially important as the Association's flagship projects will be time-limited. As specific projects end over the period of this Corporate Plan, other projects will have to be devised and put in place. The Research Groups will play an important role in this process.

Support for Research Groups from 2008 will be limited to the provision of web-pages on the Academy server. The Association will expect Group members to carry out the initial phases of network-building electronically. For meetings in the UK, Groups will be encouraged to apply to outside sources, for e.g. the Academy's British Conference Grant scheme. From late 2007 Groups currently in place will be asked to update their pages and new Groups focussing on contemporary political, social and economic issues will be asked to join the network.

The Groups that will be carried forward in 2008 are: (a) Early Modern South Asia, (b) Circle of Tibetan and Himalayan Studies, (c) Landscape, Population and Subsistence, (d) PRASADA, (e) South Asian Medicine, (f) South Asian Language and Literature, (g) Relics and Relic Worship in the Early Buddhism of India and Burma, (h) the Vidisha Research Group, (i) the Ancient and Medieval Gandhara Research Group. The objectives and research plans of



these Groups are explained in the relevant pages of the website:
<http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/research.htm>

- 2.2 **Research Theme.** The Association will feature a specific research theme that will provide a clear strategic focus for its research activity in the period covered by this Corporate Plan. The theme is outlined below in section 3.1.
- 2.3 **Flagship Projects.** The Association will provide for flagship projects that will underpin the theme it has selected to enable the Association to maximise its impact in the research arena and demonstrate its role as a centre of research excellence. The projects the Association has selected are outlined below in section 3.2.
- 2.4 **Staff Projects.** During the period covered by this Corporate Plan, the Association will incorporate officers' projects into its suite of research activities. The nature of these project and their proposed funding arrangements are outlined in section 3.3.
- 2.5 **Collaborative Projects.** The Association will develop and/or facilitate collaborative projects with other partners on topics of wider relevance and interest through a 'collaborative project' scheme. These arrangements are described in section 3.4.
- 2.6 **External Funding.** In the period covered by this Corporate Plan the Association will pay special attention to the development of projects containing elements or components which can attract external funding either by application or supplementation. The Association will also seek to broaden its funding-base through research partnerships. These ambitions were achieved in part by the Association's forerunner, the Society for South Asian Studies, which secured Leverhulme Trust, AHRC and BASIS-funding for several projects. From 2008 the Association will build on these successes, paying special attention in the planning stages to those aspects of research projects which can be funded externally. The Association will also anchor its projects in colleges and other institutions which will make them eligible for supplementation which would not otherwise be available. These arrangements were put in train from mid-2007 and it is our intention to develop them further in the coming years.

Research Posts. The Association will develop and maintain its status as an acknowledged centre of regional expertise by funding research posts, in whole or in part. The Association anticipates that these posts will be closely connected with its flagship projects.

The Association's forerunner, the Society for South Asian Studies, funded post-doctoral positions at Royal Holloway College, the University of Sussex, the British Library and De Montfort University. All the recipients of these fellowships have taken permanent posts in South Asian studies, a good indicator that the scheme was a worthwhile exercise in capacity-building. The Association plans to continue this tradition in the period covered by this Corporate Plan, but will focus resources more precisely on research posts connected with its flagship projects. The appointments will not be open-ended (as happened before 1996), but timed to coincide with the completion of its projects. The posts will be anchored in appropriate institutional settings.



Ideally the posts will include a training component so the recipients can be absorbed into the relevant institutions.

- 2.7 **Other Activities.** The Association's portfolio of other activities from 2008 will be designed to support and strengthen the health of South Asian studies in the UK.

These other activities will include:

- a. Language Training Grants, described below in section 4.1.
- b. Conference Grants in South Asia, described below in section 4.2.
- c. Capacity-building Grants for UK institutions. In the past the Society for South Asian Studies provided start-up funding for the establishment of academic positions in South Asian Studies at the University of Durham (archaeology) and SOAS (religious studies). Both posts are now permanent. Because the Academy has called for capacity-building in the UK through the BASIS-funded organisations, the Association will seek to continue this scheme and develop guidelines for its implementation. The Association anticipates that it will seek funds for this purpose in its 2008 or 2009 bid to the Academy.
- d. A programme of publication and dissemination, described in detail below in section 5.

3. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

- 3.1 **Research Theme.** In the period covered by this Corporate Plan (2008-11), the Association has decided to take **Geographies of Power and Development** as its research theme. In pursuing this theme, the Association will encourage research and publication into the economic, environmental, geopolitical and developmental relations between the regions and countries of South Asia and those in Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia. The Association is interested in research from both the contemporary and historical perspectives.

From contemporary perspectives, the Association plans to foster a deeper understanding of the dynamic – and increasingly complex – interactions between South Asia, Africa, the Arab world and South East Asia in the domain of migration, trade, labour, aid and economic development.

Important as these interactions are, they are not taking place against a static situation in South Asia itself. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are undergoing rapid – and in many cases divergent – economic, social, political and environmental change and this is impacting the relationship between South Asia and the countries across the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean. As a result, the Association will devote some of its resources to projects based in South Asia, its traditional core-area of research activity.

Interaction and exchange between South Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia have deep historical roots. European-led globalisation from the sixteenth century was preceded by centuries of trade and



movement between South Asia and her overseas neighbours. As a result, the Association will seek to develop and implement projects which examine both the contemporary and historical dimensions of its research theme.

3.2 **Flagship Projects.**

As will be clear from the précis in the foregoing paragraphs, the Association plans to organise its projects under two general heads: 'contemporary' and 'historical'. Under these heads the Association will make further regional and area subdivisions. In the listing below, Staff Projects and Collaborative Projects are included in order to show how the Association is advancing an integrated research strategy. This integration is needed to widen the impact of the Association and highlight the organisation as a node of high-calibre research.

Contemporary

a. South Asia

In the period covered by this Corporate Plan, the Association intends to develop and conduct a flagship project based in South Asia that will underpin the 'Geographies of Power and Development' theme. The project will use the 'new security agenda' as a framework for analysis by economists, sociologists, political scientists and geographers. The aim will be to stimulate a cooperative rather than unilateral understanding of the regional issues, from migration to AIDS, from natural disasters to river linkages schemes and power supplies.

Theorists of the 'new security agenda' see 'old security' as the preservation of any given Westphalian state by conventional military and diplomatic means. Their governments and their departments are the dominant actors in forging supporting alliances. By contrast, in the era of globalisation, the idea of security is changing. As Sir Hilary Synnott has remarked: 'The "new" label applies to issues which go beyond the confines of individual states, which may cross borders, which are not necessarily state-related, which may be based on networks of actors and which may include non-state actors, phenomena or agencies. In essence, then, the 'new security' relates to people rather than to nations'.

The northeast of South Asia embraces a world epi-centre of poverty – in Nepal, the Lower Ganges and the Bengal Delta – in a region with many porous borders – including between India and Bangladesh, India and Nepal, and between both Bangladesh, India and Myanmar. Illegal migration, insurgency, environmental issues (particularly over water), developmental issues (particularly over energy – again relating in part to water) are simultaneously regional yet international, with a hierarchy of interested actors, from the migrants, through frontier forces, to local governments and national governments, and regional and international companies.

The Association will seek GBP 8,500 from BASIS for the planning-phases of this project in 2008-09 to facilitate the preparation of a larger bid. The



steering committee for the development of this project will be: Professor Graham Chapman (Lancaster, chair), Professor Kunal Sen (Manchester) and Dr Arif Zamman (Henley Management College). They will be joined in planning by the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer from the Association's Council of Management.

b. Africa

Project Title: Changing Global Geographies of Power and Development: Contemporary Indian – East Africa Relations.

Director: Emma Mawdsley, Newnham College, Cambridge

A second flagship project will be developed from the joint project of the Society for South Asian Studies and the British Institute in Eastern Africa. The project has been supported by a grant-in-aid from BASIS, supplemented by funds from Cambridge. The project is described in full in the papers submitted to BASIS in 2007.

This project is concerned with the rapidly changing and increasingly significant economic, geopolitical and developmental relations between India and Africa, focussing on case studies in Kenya and Tanzania. Through a combination of project workshops and coordinated research projects, the BASIS funding is supporting an important contribution to what is at present a relatively neglected issue. The larger context for the study is the emerging challenge from the big emerging economies – notably India, China and Brazil – to contemporary structures of economic and geopolitical power.

The current project is running from July 2007 to December 2008. Outputs will include an edited book, papers in peer-reviewed international journals, policy briefings and a workshop in the UK. Details will be made available through a project web-site, accessible through the Association's main web-pages.

The next phase of project will build significantly on the 2007-8 phase. As well as allowing follow-up to the original work, something especially important within this fast-moving context, it will expand the geographical focus to elsewhere in Eastern Africa (with the intention of projects in Uganda and Malawi, amongst other sites), something that scholars in this field have argued is essential to understanding the range and complexity of contemporary Indo-East African relations. By the end of the whole project, we will have made a substantial contribution to an under-researched but important field. For the 2008-9 period, we are requesting funds for a one-year post doctoral position, to be affiliated with Geography Department, Cambridge, Newnham College, Cambridge and the BIEA (GBP 25,134 + 25% on costs = GBP 31,417.50).

Historical

a. Himalayas and Tibet

Project Title: Tibetan Buddhist Literature: the Electronic Kangyur

Director: Burkhard Quessel, The British Library



The Tibetan scriptural canon, consisting of the Kangyur and Tengyur, are collections of ancient Buddhist scriptures originally composed in Sanskrit and other Asian languages. The Kangyur contains canonical works attributed to various Buddhas and other divine figures, while the Tengyur is a compilation of commentarial texts by historical authors in exegetical explication of the Kangyur. Together, they constitute one of the largest and most important collections of ancient Buddhist literature.

The aim of this project is to offer the entire Kangyur via the World Wide Web. The project was initiated by the Society for South Asian Studies and received support in the 8/2006 funding round from BASIS. The project was also profiled in the Academy's show-case event in London in 2007.

The new Association plans to adopt this project and will seek GBP 8,000 in its 8/2007 bid to complete the project in 2008-09. The Association will maintain a web-page for the project with links to the Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library where the digitised text is hosted. The THDL uses a powerful XML-based system enabling sophisticated searching, flexible displays and downloads.

In addition the Electronic Kangyur, the Association will seek to encourage research on the historical interaction between India and Himalayan regions through a Staff Project. This is described below in section 3.3.

- 3.3 **Staff Projects.** During the period covered by this Corporate Plan, the Association will, in response to Academy guidelines, incorporate staff projects that enable directors and other key officers to sustain their academic careers. Experience has shown that administrative duties running the Association can impede the ability officers to continue research. This is especially true of colleagues in the early to middle phases of their careers. The Association accordingly anticipates that its applications to the Academy over the period 2008-11 will contain bids for this purpose.

The Association will start to support long-serving officers, following their terms of office, through three-month sabbatical schemes. These will be planned so that monies from the Academy's grant-in-aid can, where appropriate, be supplemented with Research Leave Grants from the AHRC. For this see: http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/apply/research/research_leave.asp

The first project to be put forward within this framework will be *Udayagiri and the Establishment of the Gods*. This project has been led by Dr M. Willis who has served as Hon. Secretary and Chairman of the Society for South Asian Studies (1997-2005). The project has benefited from an affiliation but as an officer of the Society (and trustee under Charity Commission rules) Dr Willis was not able apply for direct support. With his retirement from Council in November 2007, the Association will seek support for a sabbatical replacement from the British Museum for a period of three months. This will allow Dr. Willis time to complete the final aspects of his monograph on the Gupta period and see it through publication. For the background of this project see: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/projects/udayagiri.htm>



In 8/2008 the Association will put forward a bid to support Dr Katharine Adeney. Dr Adeney served on the BASAS executive committee from 1999 to 2007, worked as Secretary for three years and additionally organised two annual conferences and one of the annual workshops. Her research on the relationship of community identity and democracy in Pakistan is in harmony with the Association's declared research theme and will help the Association cover the South Asian dimension of its research strategy.

In 8/2009 the Association will submit a bid to support Dr Ulrich Pagel who served as Secretary of the Society for South Asian Studies until 2006. Dr Pagel is working on the understanding of stupas in Mahāyāna Buddhist texts and is preparing a monograph on this subject. His project will appeal to both textual and archaeological scholars, and will address the Association's research theme through the India-Tibet relationship. The building of stupas – as in all Buddhist countries – was a key monumental marker of the new cultural and political dispensation implanted in Tibet during the seventh and eighth centuries. An understanding of the phenomena from the primary sources is thus essential. Dr Pagel's work will make extensive use of the Electronic Kangyur, a flagship project noted above: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/projects/kangyur.htm>

- 3.4 **Collaborative Projects.** The Society for South Asian Studies operated a two-tiered system of projects in past years: 'Society projects' and 'Society-aided projects'. Now that the Academy is placing emphasis on flagship projects in the BASIS-funded organisations, but is at the same time encouraging collaborative projects of various kinds, the Association will revive this two-tiered arrangement.

Flagship projects, a continuation of the older 'Society projects', have been described above in section 3.3. Collaborative Projects, in effect a continuation of 'Society aided-projects', will include a number of programmes inherited from the Society for South Asian Studies, some of which are ongoing. These are as follows: (a) the *Kashika Project*, (b) *Landscape, Water and Religion in Ancient India*, (c) *War Babies and Boundaries of Blood*, (d) *World Corpus of Amaravati Sculpture*. These projects will be expected to secure funding external to the Association for further work.

In addition, the Association intends to maintain a web-presence for a number of projects supported in the past. These projects represent a substantial body of work and the Association is minded to keep these projects in the public eye to highlight the track-record of researchers supported by the Academy and maintain the active participation of project directors who have been involved in the organisation. Projects to be listed are: (a) *Anuradhapura Excavations*, (b) *Kandahar Excavations*, (c) *Archaeological Geography of the Ganga Plain*, (e) *Muslim Architecture in South India*, (f) *Tughluqabad*, (g) *The Electronic Mahabharata*. The Association will inherit no financial commitments to these projects from SSAS.

Looking ahead, more importantly, to the period covered by this Corporate Plan, the Association intends to adopt new Collaborative Projects. The



Association will develop mechanisms through which project proposals are invited from its members and the Association's Research Groups. The projects we will propose for 2008-09 and which buttress our research theme will be as follows:

Contemporary

a. South East Asia

Long-standing connections between India and South East Asia led the Society for South Asian Studies to support research and publications which explored links between these two areas. In 2007 the Society endorsed a proposal from ASEAUK entitled 'Bridges Over the Indian Ocean: Historical and Contemporary Links Between South Asia, Madagascar and Southeast Asia'. This proposal investigates the Indian Ocean as a field of study and concerns the historical and contemporary cultural, political and economic links between Madagascar, South Asia and Southeast Asia and the islands in between. What is being proposed is not a conference concerning the rim of the Indian Ocean, but one that focuses specifically on likely Malay - Indonesian - South Asian - East African - Malagasy connections. What has not been well explored in this context is the connection with South Asia and in particular the Maldives and Sri Lanka. These kinds of connections across the Indian Ocean tend to be overlooked, individual scholarship notwithstanding, and this proposal has been inspired by examples of collaborative work on regions such as the Bay of Bengal and Persian Gulf as zones of cultural interaction. Contributions on the subject will be welcomed from disciplinary perspectives such as linguistics, history, cultural anthropology, botany, zoology, and biological anthropology, and from specialists working on countries such as Madagascar, Comoros Islands, Mozambique, Tanzania, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia and Indonesia.

In the period covered by this Plan, the Association plans to develop a viable inter-regional project of a collaborative nature which can be co-funded by the two bodies; GBP 3,500 will be sought from BASIS to support the planning stages of this project in 2008 or 2009.

Historical

b. Coastal Africa, the Arab World and South Asia

Beginning in 2008, the Association will encourage and facilitate a collaborative project exploring interactions and exchanges between South Asia, the Gulf and coastal Africa. The Association will seek GBP 6,500 from BASIS for the planning-phases of this project in 2008-09.

The amount of archaeological and historical work carried out around the perimeter of the Indian Ocean over the last forty years is considerable. Some of this work has been conducted by BASIS-sponsored organisations, notably the Society for South Asian Studies and the British Institute in Eastern Africa. To date, however, most of the work has been conceived, funded and published in a regional or local framework. Although international links have been noted as findings have emerged, few efforts



have been made to study of the wider historical picture which will emerge when the data-sets are analysed within broader geographical and historical frameworks. It should be noted that this project will *not* involve the development of proposals for new excavations. Rather it will involve an overarching study of existing reports and the re-examination of existing archaeological collections (some dating back to the mid-19th century) in order to develop a theoretical framework for understanding historical exchange across the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal. The geographical scope is likely to include East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf, Sind and western India as well as the Red Sea. Toward the east the project could well include eastern India and south-east Asia as these regions were all linked by substantial trade networks from at least the fourteenth century. The project will seek to establish research collaborators in each of these areas through mixed funding packages.

The steering committee for the development of this project will be: Dr Michael Willis (British Museum), Dr Derek Kennet (Durham), Dr. Elizabeth Lambourn (DMU, Leicester), Dr Justin Willis and Stephanie Wynne-Jones (BIEA). They will be joined in planning by the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer from the Association's Council of Management. The committee will seek to draw in collaborators with relevant interests from the BIPS, Seminar for Arabian Studies and the ASEAUK networks. If planning goes well, both the Association and BIEA intend to build budgets for this project in their 2009-10 submissions.

b. South East Asia

The Association will encourage research and publication into the historical links South Asia and South East Asia through a Collaborative Project entitled 'Relics and Relic Worship in the Early Buddhism of India and Burma'. This project springs from a Research Group first sponsored by the Society for South Asian Studies. The Group is described in the following page: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/groups/relics.htm>

The director of the project, Prof. Janice Stargardt, has conducted a series of on-site and UK-based seminars over several years with support from the British Academy and the Society for South Asian Studies. Through their fieldwork and research, the project team is creating a new understanding of the cultural transformations engendered by the spread of Buddhism in South and South East Asia. The project is nearing completion and a book of collected papers will be published in the period covered by this Corporate Plan. For 2008-09, GBP 9,000 will be sought for research support for a period of 3-4 months to allow Prof. Stargardt to complete this work and see it through the press.

Once the volume on Buddhist relics has been published, Prof. Stargardt intends to develop a project entitled 'Early Indianization in South East Asia; Imagined Geographies of Empire?' This theme follows naturally from the work of Prof. Stargardt's Research Group on the spread of Buddhism but tackles the much bigger issue of inter-regional cultural relations and the significant assumptions of scholars – European and South Asian. Writing in the context of empires and their aftermath, many writers have presupposed that there are parallels between the Romanization of Europe



– itself now subject to profound revisions – and the Indianization of South East Asia. Many Indian historians are now interested in formulating a new theoretical framework for these complex processes of cultural change, a development that will be welcomed by South East Asian scholars. 'Imagined Geographies', moreover, is an important theoretical concept among cultural and historical geographers world-wide at the present time.

4. GRANTS SCHEME

As part of its programme of facilitation and capacity-building, the Association will offer the following grants over the period covered by this Corporate Plan.

- 4.1. **Language Training Grants.** The Association plans to offer Language Training Grants as a way of fostering the next generation of scholars and of building UK-research capacity. These grants are primarily intended to formal periods of language study in South Asia. In particular they are designed to suit recent recipients of a degree from a UK university who seek to spend an extended period in South Asia in order to acquire a new language or to improve existing language skills in preparation for a research degree. The grants do not support language training directly related to the fulfilment of degree requirements should this work be supported by a funding council or the applicant's institution. See (update due 2008): <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/grants.htm>
- 4.2. **South Asia Conference Grants.** In the period covered by this Corporate Plan, the Association will seek to offer, pending a provision in the grant-in-aid, grants for conferences in South Asia. There is no scheme of this type currently run by the Academy.

Grants will be made toward the expenses of organising conferences in South Asia and toward the cost of bringing key speakers from the UK or from overseas countries to conferences in South Asia. The main conference organisers and principle applicants must be based in the UK and the proposed conference should be designed to advance the profile of British research in Asia, and linked to the Association's research themes or priorities. For further particulars and forms (to be updated in 2008), please see: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/grants.htm>

It should be noted that the Association encourages applicants to work with the Association's institutional partners in South Asia when organising conference and to conduct their conferences in their facilities. The Association will not give funding to conferences in the UK or for bringing South Asian scholars to conferences to the UK. For these activities, applicants will be directed to the relevant grants offered by the Academy.

5. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

The Association regards the proper and timely dissemination of research as a central aspect of its mission. In the period covered by this Corporate Plan, publication and dissemination will be through the channels outlined below.

- 5.1 **Annual UK Conference and Workshops.** The BASAS annual conference, held at different venues in the UK each Easter, is a distinctive feature of



the organisation and integral to its identity as a learned body. In the Autumn, a workshop on South Asia is held in collaboration with a disciplinary society, for example Political or Development Studies. Over the period of the Corporate Plan, the Association will continue to organise both the conference and workshop, and seek to support them financially specifically by providing an annual subvention from the Academy's grant-in-aid for general organisation and facilitation, and ten travel grants for younger scholars of £50. This support is at the same level as that provided by SSAS in earlier years. We will also support the new network for South Asian Studies in the North (SASIN) which is providing annual workshops for staff and postgraduates in universities in the north of England.

- 5.2 **Contemporary South Asia.** A special edition of *Contemporary South Asia* has been published each year featuring the best papers submitted to the preceding BASAS conference. This organisers of the annual conference serve as editors. The publication has been done without direct cost to the Association and in the period covered by this Corporate Plan the Association intends to maintain this arrangement. The journal is described here: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/carfax/09584935.html>
- 5.3 **South Asian Studies.** The Association attaches great importance to its annual journal *South Asian Studies*. This publication is peer-reviewed and highly-regarded, being the *only* periodical devoted exclusively to the visual and material culture of South Asia. The journal is described here: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/journal.htm> This provides tables of contents, abstracts of past issues and sample downloads.

In past years the Academy has urged that *South Asian Studies* broaden its thematic scope and reform its operations. Operational and editorial reforms have been instituted by the new editor Dr Adam Hardy (Cardiff). It should be noted that the cost of the journal is met by subscription in conformity with Academy guidelines; in the period covered by this Corporate Plan, the Association will continue this arrangement.

With regard to thematic scope, the previous Chairman of SSAS conducted a series of consultation exercises. The research community uniformly agreed that *South Asian Studies* should maintain its established niche and, more especially, recommended that the Society's journal should not compete with or undermine the *Bulletin of School of Oriental and African Studies*, the *Journal of Royal Asiatic Society* and *Contemporary South Asia*. The Association has accepted this recommendation.

Looking ahead and taking into consideration the development of electronic resources such as JSTOR and the ATHENS network, the Association will, over the period covered by this Corporate Plan, investigate a web-base for *South Asian Studies*.

- 5.4 **Bulletin.** The *BASAS Bulletin* includes member-news, discussion of issues of importance to South Asian studies and a directory of members' research interests. In the past this has been circulated annually to BASAS members. After the combination of BASAS and SSAS, the new Association intends to extend the circulation of the Bulletin to the combined membership. The *Bulletin* will be published and circulated electronically.



- 5.5 **Website.** The websites of BASAS and the Society for South Asian Studies have functioned as crucial nodes for the dissemination of information about conferences, awards, academic networks, research groups and projects. The SSAS website has also played an important role in promoting the journal *South Asian Studies*.

In 2007-08, the Association will develop an amalgamated website drawing on the best features of the websites developed by the two parent organisations. Maintenance costs for the new site are estimated at £2000 per annum and will be met from the Academy grant-in-aid.

The new web-site will maintain its relationship and support of Indology as an interactive node for research resources and specialist concerns (<http://indology.info>).

- 5.5 **Monographs.** The Society for South Asian Studies inherited a backlog of unfinished reports from earlier directors, some of whom have retired and are unable or unwilling to remain research-active. All of these commitments were dealt with in 2006-07 before the amalgamation of SSAS and BASAS. Some projects have yielded project monographs, notably Conningham (inherited from R. Allchin, FBA), *Anuradhapura*; Shokoohy, *Tughluqabad*; Branfoot, *Gods on the Move*; Shaw, *Buddhist Landscapes*. Others have been completed and will be published separately, either by research partners or in *South Asian Studies*, notably Shimada (inherited from Blurton et al), *Kandahar*; and Kennet (inherited from Howell and Macdowall), *Paithan* (to be published by the Archaeological Survey of India).

These outputs mean that the new Association will not be encumbered with a legacy of unfinished reports. Nonetheless, a key challenge ahead will be finding financial support for monographs (and occasional papers) within the funding framework of the new Learned Societies Programme. The Association will seek to meet this challenge by (a) ring-fencing monies for monographs within its Flagship projects, (b) using funding from monograph-sales to support future monographs and (c) seeking external support for the monographs it decides to publish. Monographs are planned to be self-funding in line with Academy policy.

- 5.6 **Occasional Papers.** The Association will seek to continue publishing a series of Occasional Papers in the period covered by this Corporate Plan. These will report work in progress, specialist conferences and/or seminars organised on particular themes. The first Occasional Papers will include some of the communications read at the Congress of the European Association for South Asian Art Historians and Archaeologist (held at the British Museum in June, 2005). The funding for this and future Occasional Papers will come from sources external to the Association.

6. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 **Membership.** With minor fluctuations, the Society for South Asian Studies has retained about 200 members over the last five years; BASAS also has a membership base of about 200. Because the amalgamated



membership is bound to involve some overlap, the new Association anticipates that it will start operations with a membership base of about 350 members.

- 6.2 **Assistant Secretary.** The plans for an amalgamated membership, demands for detailed reporting and monitoring, the expanded role of the Society's Research Groups and the Society's increasing reliance on its web-site to provide access and information, will add significantly to the work of the self-employed Assistant Secretary. In the period covered by this Corporate Plan, the Society anticipates increasing the contracted hours from 8hrs/week to 16hrs/week.
- 6.3 **Headquarters in South Asia.** In lieu of premises in South Asia, the Association has forged partnerships with a number of organisations in South Asia which will be responsible for co-ordinating Society programmes in the sub-continent and for links with government, research institutions and academic networks. For the relevant links, see the following page: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/activitiesSA.htm>

The Association will seek to maintain and develop these links and offer a modest grant-in-aid of up to £500 per annum to each of collaborating intuition. This is intended for general facilitation and the maintenance of web-link with the Association. Over the period of this Corporate Plan the Association will seek to exchange a memoranda of understanding with each organisation. This has been specifically requested and is essential for putting informal arrangements on an institutional footing.

7. COST OF OPERATIONS

The Association's detailed budget is given in the attached spreadsheet. Below is an overview for 2008-09 intended as a support for the narrative portion of this Plan.

Projects

Flagship Projects	
Africa & S. Asia (Mawdsley)	31,417.50
Electronic Kangyur (Quessel)	8,000.00
Staff Projects	
Establishment of the Gods (Willis)	10,000.00
Collaborative Projects	
Relic cult in India & Burma (Stargardt)	9,000.00
Project Start-up	
Modern S. Asia (Chapman, Sen, Zamman)	8,500.00
S. E. Asia (with ASEAUK)	3,500.00
Indian Ocean (Kennet et al with BIEA)	6,500.00

Grants

Language Training Grants	10,000.00
South Asia Conference Grants	5,000.00

Publication and dissemination

Annual UK conference etc	2,000.00
Web-site	2,000.00

Administration

Assistant Secretary	18,000.00
Headquarters in South Asia	1,000.00



8. FINANCIAL PLAN 2008-2011

Please see attached sheets.

9. REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN

The Association will normally review its Corporate Plan every second year during the summer months.

2 August 2007