Almost one year has passed with our new school, which today consists of nine institutions of varying size, fields and future challenges. The school's activities in education and research are broad, but can be gathered within the four strengths of materials, environment, energy and health. We got a flying start when we gathered closer to 800 people in Globen on February 22nd.

In February, we received the nice message that in the “SSF - Energy for Energy Applications” project, three grants went to KTH researchers, and two of the researchers are at our school: Professor Ann Cornell and Professor Carina Lagergren. It is particularly pleasing that we in the projects see a combination of the school’s thematic areas materials and energy.

In March, Professor Joakim Lundeberg was awarded The Erling-Persson Foundation, 60 million SEK, over four years in the field of health for the Human Developmental Cell Atlas project. In materials we also received notice of a continuation of Wallenberg Wood Science Center with 40 MKR / year for potentially ten years and as much from industry and academy, ie 806 MKR over a ten year period.

In April, our President and Deputy President visited the CBH School for a full day. We wanted to bring about the personal meeting and had chosen the theme “Education and Science Fair”. They were very impressed by the breadth of the activities at our school and I think that we also have raised the visibility of a number of our infrastructures.

Also in April, the CBH School was revised for five days against the requirements of the new ISO 14001:2015 edition. The accountants especially mention a very good review and update of procedures in the merger of CBH School.

In May, we visited the Children’s Nobel Club, led by the Nobel Museum, and it is not often you get the opportunity to lecture for 60 witty 7-9 year olds. Very funny! CBH also showed up two of our major initiatives TREESEARCH and the Jonasson Centre for Medical Imaging. It’s amazing when it’s possible to communicate our research in a more comprehensive picture. For example, TREESEARCH showed research on new materials and specialty chemicals through a “Science Fair” with 12 stations. The exhibition was visited by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf who showed great interest in the PhD students’ work. The Jonasson Centre for Medical Imaging had their third annual user meeting and we listened to exciting research combining medicine and technology.

In June, we completed our development plan to reflect
KTH’s development plan for 2018-2023. The CBH School has great potential to be an internationally leading and attractive education coordinator, practitioner of research with international impact and a workplace with strong community which creates the conditions for a stimulating and developing workplace. The development plan for CBH is available in English: intrakth.se/en/cbh/interna-dokument/dokument/styrdokument/utvecklingsplan

It is also important to turn our gaze out in the world and during CBH’s first strategic council meeting our Deputy President for Global Relations, Stefan Östlund, presented opportunities for KTH to establish activities together with Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT). The area that we have identified is “Biomedical Engineering”, which suits the CBH school very well. In 2019, work will intensify and we will engage more at CBH School.

During November, the CBH School hosted an education conference with the contact network for foundation year programmes in Sweden. The conference had 63 participants from 17 different universities. It’s all too rare to pay attention to education efforts mainly because it is an ongoing activity and is long-term, but there are examples of how we can calculate the socio-economic benefit of education.

The total value of university education for all university graduates in Sweden over a year corresponds to approximately SEK 1,000 billion. This can, for example, be compared with the total direct state funding for higher education, which in 2014 was just over SEK 23 billion. Higher education would thus generate a value that is estimated to be more than 40 times higher than the actual education investment.

The CBH school can also be proud to have a Swedish master in presenting its research, Rezan Güler. It was clear that the final in the Forskar Grand Prix was settled for the seventh consecutive year at the end of November.

Finally, I would like to wish all the staff a calm and pleasant Christmas holiday.

Thank you very much for a very good cooperation and all the great efforts during the year!

Mikael Lindström
Head of School