Learning for Development

Asha Kanwar

Commonwealth of Learning
A community for learning and teaching, research and Innovation in Distance Education
The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)

Learning for Development
The Commonwealth of Learning

WHAT IS IT?

- Intergovernmental
- CHOGM 1987 - Vancouver
- Voluntary $$$ from Commonwealth countries
The Commonwealth of Learning

WHAT IS IT FOR?

To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use various technologies to improve and expand learning for development
WHY EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND DISTANCE LEARNING?

- Economies of scale
- Geographical reach
- Flexible and cost-effective
WHO GOVERNS IT?

• Board of Governors (12 Members)
• Reports to Foreign Ministers at CHOGM
• Reports to Triennial Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEMs)
WHO PAYS?

Major donors:
Canada
India
New Zealand
Nigeria
South Africa
United Kingdom

Up from 27 to 41 in 2006-09
Thank you Australia

- 2004: 455,034
- 2000: 371,577
- 1995: 77,306
- 1990: 53,936
Australian Board Members

• Prof Malcolm Skilbeck, VC, Deakin (1989-90)
• Prof Richard Johnson, ANU (1991)
• Prof CD Blake, VC, CSU (1992-2000)
• Ms Ali Gillies, AusAID (2001)
Australian Staff Members

- Sherrill Whittington (1989-93)
- Mavis Bird (1991-97)
- Michael Cuddihy (2004-05)
WHERE IS IT?

Vancouver (Headquarters)

New Delhi (CEMCA)
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Focal points in 52 countries
- Inform CW HCs in Ottawa & London
...and all over the Commonwealth!
Focal Points, Australia

• Peter O’Connor, Director, Development Banks & DAC
• Leslie O’Donoghue, Asst. Director, DB & DAC

AusAID
Learning for Development
Three-Year Plan 2009-2012

Approved by COL’s Board
(February 2009)

Ratified by Ministers at 17CCEM June 2009
Development as Freedom

Amartya Sen
• “Education is the royal road to freedom: the royal road to that fundamental freedom of the human spirit that underpins other more practical freedoms”. 

Amartya Sen
Development as Freedom

Freedom from
• Hunger & Poverty
• Disease
• Pollution

Freedom to
• Be treated equally
• Be educated and trained
• Choose who governs you
• Express yourself
• Practice your religion
FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMONWEALTH
• Sustainable livelihoods
  = key development challenge

• HIV/AIDS
  = development disaster

• Education/training of women
  = governments’ priority

• Digital divide
  = concern at Malta CHOGM

• Respect & Understanding
  = report at Kampala CHOGM
Evaluation recommendations

• Fewer programmes for longer
• Link to government priorities
• Programme focus: not projects
• Autonomy + teamwork
• Partnerships
Education for All (The Dakar Goals)

Peace
Democracy
Equality
Good governance
EDUCATION

• Open Schooling
• Teacher Education
• Higher Education
• Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
Millennium Development Goals 2&3

• Achieve Universal Primary Education
By 2015: children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

• Gender equality and women’s empowerment
By 2015: eliminate gender disparity at all levels of education
Education for All Goals

• Achieve gender equality
• Improve the quality of education
Three-Year Plan
2009-12

Open Schooling
(Frances Ferreira)
Open Schooling

• Universal Primary Education = progress

• Now a Surge to Secondary
A country will never achieve Universal Secondary Education if Secondary costs more than TWICE as much as Primary.

Keith Lewin
Fostering Collaboration

- 20 sets OERS Print
- 20 sets Online
- 5 sets Multi Media
- 100 Master Teachers Trained
Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Teacher Education (Abdurrahman Umar)
TEACHERS NEEDED

580,000 to 706,000

150,000 to 192,000

41,000 to 75,000

370,000 to 453,000
Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Higher Education (Willie Clarke-Okah)

Quality Assurance with distance learning & ICTs
The World Bank says:

Age Participation Rates (APRs) of 40-50% for sustainable economic development

But

APRs less than 10% in much of Africa
APR ambitions:

- 40% by 2010
- 30% by 2015
- 15% by 2012
HUGE DEMAND:

University of Dhaka
10,000 of 80,000

Public universities
9,000 out of 40,000
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
“negotiated collaborative contents”
Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

(VUSSC Node)
small nations - big project
Working together on free content
An initiative of the Virtual University
for Small States of the Commonwealth

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5 VUSSC Bootcamps

About VUSSC

The Commonwealth Education Ministers conceived the idea of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) at their meeting in Halifax, Canada, in 2000. The Commonwealth of Learning extended a formal invitation to the Education Ministers of the small states to participate in this initiative aimed at expanding access to education enabled by appropriate ICTs. VUSSC member countries met in Singapore on two occasions signing a Letter of Intent as well as the Singapore Statement.

The VUSSC is a network committed to the collaborative development of free content resources for education.

News Releases

- Online community creates learning content for small states - August 06

VUSSC coordination nodes
LIVELIHOODS & HEALTH

• Skills Development
• Learning for Farming
• Healthy Communities
• Integrating eLearning
Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1

- Poverty and Hunger

By 2015: halve the proportion of people living on less than one $ a day and those who suffer from hunger.
MDGs 4, 5 & 6: Health

• **Reduce Child Mortality**
  By 2015: reduce by $\frac{2}{3}$ the mortality rate for under fives

• **Improve Maternal Health**
  By 2015: reduce by $\frac{3}{4}$ the ratio of women dying in childbirth

• **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
  By 2015: halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
Education for All Goals

• Promote learning and life skills for young people and adults
Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Skills Development (Alison Mead Richardson)
Nursing group working on content for the general nursing course, AMREF, Kenya
Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Learning for Farming (Kodhandaraman Balasubramanian)
Lifelong Learning for Farmers

4 Principles:
• Mobilise farmers to define their vision
• Link them to knowledge networks
• Facilitate access to ICTs
• Link to Banks and Markets
L3 Farmers: Testing the quality of milk
Kakamega, Kenya

L3F Initiatives in:

Jamaica
Papua New Guinea
Kenya
Uganda
Mauritius
India
Sri Lanka
Lifelong Learners
Goal: to provide communities with a learning tool based on voice mails using mobile phones
Overview of The System

• Students register

• LIVES detects newly uploaded lectures/quizzes and calls the students at their preferred time

• The user progress tracking by user-profile database
Reaching the Unreached

• LIVES has a strong feedback and performance tracking system.
• A comprehensive data base on learning materials in various languages
• Reach more than 1000 learners at a time
Three-Year Plan
2009-12

Healthy Communities
(Ian Pringle)
**Phukusi la Moyo - Bag of Life**

- **Mchinji District, Malawi**
  - 380,000 pop., 80% rural
  - High maternal & child mortality

- **Programme design and team integrates**
  - Community health project
  - Women’s health groups
  - Community radio
  - District health office

- **Message matrix**
  - Key learning objectives

- **30-minute weekly radio programme**
  - Field recordings and interviews
  - Stories & local case studies

- **200 learner support groups**
  - 600 women trained as facilitators
  - 3,500+ women engaged now in learning
  - Target 15,000 pregnant women & 125,000 children

- **Resources**
  - $28,000 + in-kind: concept, development, 1 year running
  - Funding through District Health Office for years 2 & 3

- **Plan to**
  - Scale up in Mchinji, Malawi and the region
  - Integrate mobiles, video

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**Malawi statistics**
- 5% access to electricity
- 2 internet users and 12 mobiles/100
- 80 radio sets/100 in Mchinji
- 12% HIV infection
- 65% adult literacy
Commonwealth Computer Navigator’s Certificate

- Module 1 - Basic Concepts of ICTs
- Module 2 - Using a Computer and Managing Files
- Module 3 - Word Processing
- Module 4 - Spreadsheets
- Module 5 - Database
- Module 6 - Presentation
- Module 7 - Information and Communication
WikiEducator: Learning4Content Workshops

Community
- Grown to 11,000 registered users

Capacity developed
- 3,349 educators trained

Gender distribution in workshops
- Online w-s: 53% male; 47% female
- F2F w-s: 52% male; 48% female
Three-Year Plan
2009-12

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) in New Delhi
(Ramamurthy Sreedher)
Easynow

- Uses open source and easily available ICT tools to create multiple media content.

- Cost-effective and quick upload

- Easy to understand and use by teachers
Click on the link
Three-Year Plan 2009-12

COL eLearning for International Organisations
(Angela Kwan)
THE SIXTH PAN-COMMONWEALTH FORUM ON OPEN LEARNING
November 24-28, 2010
Kochi, India

Conference Theme:
Access and Success in Learning:
Global Developmental Perspectives

Sub Themes:
Social Justice
Community Development
Skills Development
Formal Education

www.col.org/pcf6
Our Work in the Pacific 2006-09

VUSSC (9 CW Member States)
Learning for Farming (PNG)
DFL Policy (Solomons)
Community Media for Health (Tuvalu, Solomons)
Legislative Drafting (USP)
Skills Development (PATVET)
WHAT COL PROVIDES:

- Expertise in learning + technology
- Collaboration & Networking
- Open and free content
- Successful and transferable models
AREAS FOR COLLABORATION?
THANK YOU