OPEN LEARNING FOR DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

Professor Asha Kanwar
President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning
SEVENTH PAN-COMMONWEALTH FORUM ON OPEN LEARNING (PCF7)

National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)

Prof. Vincent Tenebe
Global Co-Chair
Prof. Mba O. Okoronkwo, OON
Chair, Local Organising Committee

Dr. Venkataraman Balaji
Chair, Planning Committee

Mr. Dave Wilson
Principal Coordinator

SEVENTH PAN-COMMONWEALTH FORUM ON OPEN LEARNING (PCF7)

Organising Committee
Programme Committee

Mrs. Anne Gaskell
Prof. Israel F. Adu
Mr. Ian Pringle
Dr. Abdurrahman Umar
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COL Vision

Access to Learning is the Key to Development

Created by the Heads of Commonwealth at CHOGM 1987

Intergovernmental Organization

1987 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Vancouver, Canada
The Commonwealth

THE COMMONWEALTH COMPRISSES 54 DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Map Published by the Communications and Public Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2010.
The Road to Abuja

- PCF 1 - Brunei Darussalam
- PCF 2 - Durban, RSA
- PCF 3 - Dunedin, New Zealand
- PCF 4 - Ocho Rios, Jamaica
- PCF 5 - London, UK
- PCF 6 - Kochi, India
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Open Learning for Development: Towards Empowerment and Transformation

Abuja, Nigeria
Education for All
(The Dakar Goals)

Peace
Democracy
Equality
Good governance
African women’s decade

- **Theme:** Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE): A bottom up approach

Learning for Development
Learning for Development

- Development:
  - as freedom
- Freedom:
  - ‘to be and to do’
Capability approach: A. Sen

- From outputs to outcomes
- From capacity to capability
- From skills or ‘functionings’ to the ability of exercise freedom
Learning develops Capability for

- Personal autonomy/independence of thought
- Paid Work
- Social relations/identity

Walker, 2006
Towards empowerment & transformation

- Increase the freedom of choices
- Expand assets and capabilities
- Promote learning which encourages critical thinking; respect and understanding
How can ODL & ICT help?

- Accelerate progress towards achieving MDGs & EFA Goals
- Enhance access and equity by reducing costs
- Improve quality
- Reach the unreached
Open Learning for Development: Towards Empowerment and Transformation

5 sub-themes

- Girls’ and Women’s Education
- Skills Development
- Promoting Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Innovation and Technology
- Institutional Development
Girls’ and Women’s Education

- 31 million girls are still out of school around the world

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics Education Database
http://stats.uis.unesco.org
Skills Development

Youth Unemployment

- 1.2 billion youth in the world aged between 15 and 24
- 40% unemployed

Dr. Alison Mead Richardson
Theme Leader

Dr. Caroline Seelig
Theme Leader
Promoting Open Educational Resources (OER)

- OER is poised to influence mainstream education
  - 40 percent of K-12 educators in the U.S. are using OER to supplement their core materials.
  - Open textbooks
  - OER policies in 4 Commonwealth Countries

Source: The Hewlett Foundation White Paper - Open Educational Resources
Innovation and Technology

- The Maturing of MOOCs
- The rise of mobile devices
- Learner analytics

Dr. K. Balasubramanian
Theme Leader

Dr. George Ubachs
Theme Leader
Classroom without walls

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Classroom Without Walls

Tablet computers are becoming more widely available. The education community has been considering m-learning as a supportive paradigm in informal learning and Tablets have the potential to make a significant contribution in this area. However, Tablets are designed as appliances that help users access a variety of applications and...
Institutional Development

- The crisis of Quality,
- Leadership and
- Governance

Mr. Vis Naidoo
Theme Leader

Dr. Madhulika Kaushik
Theme Leader

Prof. Israel F. Adu
Theme Leader
Our task over the next four days

- Role of ODL & ICT in support of development
- Innovations for social inclusion and impact
- How learning can lead to empowerment
- The link between empowerment & transformation
THANK YOU!