Closing Remarks

Takeaways, Prospects

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Commonwealth of Learning

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ODL for Development: towards empowerment & transformation
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth can

- help small states prepare for climate change
- provide a portal for publication and research
- promote the use of OER
Demonstration of interactive technologies: radio(inter)active
Developing policies and strategic plans: INVEST Africa
“People are the real wealth of a nation”

Amartya Sen

“Development is about purposeful intervention. It is always values based”

Alan Tait

Narend Baijnath
Opening keynote

“ODL has now been mainstreamed, and face-to-face institutions are adopting it. Who would have imagined that elite institutions like MIT and Harvard will offer ODL type programmes?”

Olu Jegede
Opening Plenary

We must begin to give creativity the status needed to empower citizens, and support an enabling environment to foster creativity and innovation. Creativity can be enhanced through the right tools

Senator Fazal Karim
“We need political will. Politicians need to walk the talk”.

“Education in the single most effective way to improve the quality of life of every family”.

Margaret Mensah-Williams
Conclusions

- Use of ODL for women at local government level
- Use ICT for women’s entrepreneurship
- Create gender sensitive policies
Skills Development

“To use knowledge does not mean to consume it. To transfer knowledge does not mean to lose it”.

Rory McGreal
Conclusions

- Many jobs of 2025 do not yet exist. TVET institutions need to focus on job creators not job seekers.
- Involve employers in the development of courses to ensure relevance and quality.
- Teachers role is critical, and appropriate training needed.
- Organizational change required.
Open Education Resources (OER)

“Sharing learning materials is not new, but the licensing and technologies supporting sharing are”.

“Accessing and analysing information are the most critical skills in the 21st century”.

Jenny Glennie
Conclusions

- Further awareness and research on OER.
- Need for training in online mentoring.
- Right combination of OER, formal assessment and peer-to-peer learning required
“It is learning that matters, and not technology”.

“ICTs increase inequalities. Inequality increases unless we take specific actions to reduce it”.

Tim Unwin

K. Balasubramanian
Conclusions

- Local institutions must use Radio/Mobiles creatively for formal and non-formal learning.
- Innovation lies in placing technology within the context of community learning for empowerment.
- Technology and innovation need to focus on learning and outcomes.
- Community is not seen as passive learners but active participants.
Institutional Development

“Change management is critical. Especially in the dual mode institutions to overcome resistance”.

“Develop a context-specific model, e.g. Nigerian university system supports blended learning and mixed media”.

Julius Okojie
Conclusions

- Balance between academic needs and the needs of the country and national economy.
- Leadership is critical.
- Emphasis on research-based practice
- Need for good governance

Source: http://www.nou.edu.ng/student.html
“The fortunes of open and distance learning have been rising in the Commonwealth in the last ten years and poised to increase by a factor of five in the coming decade. We must ride on the crest of this growth and explore the power of open and distance learning in fostering world peace and environmental security”

Peter A. Okebukola
Hon Burchell Whiteman

“We must see ourselves, thinkers and educators, as important points on the continuum of expanding human knowledge”.

From PCF 6 to PCF 7: how did the world change?

- MOOCs
- Learning Analytics
- OER more mainstream
- Mobile devices
- 21st century skills
The hens that didn’t cluck

- ODL for special needs
- Assessment esp competency-based assessment; prior learning
- Attrition & dropout rates
- Evaluating impact
The road ahead

- Harnessing appropriate technology
- Enriching the teaching-learning experience
- Deploying ODL in the development sector
- Empowering individuals, Transforming lives
THANK YOU, NIGERIA
Thank you Participants
Thank You Prof Tenebe & Team NOUN

Prof. Vincent Tenebe
Global Co-Chair
Thank you, Sponsors
The COL family wishes you
a Merry Xmas,
Happy New Year and
Season’s Greetings
Professor Asha Kanwar, President and C.E.O., and the staff of COL wish you a happy holiday season and all the best for the New Year.